

OPENING THE WORLD THROUGH WORDS

Literacy Matters

OAKLAND
LITERACY
COUNCIL



A Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2013



L to R: Ji Young Park, Nanshil Grady, Eunae Ko, and Hye Min Mun.



"Korean table setting"



At another luncheon. L. to R: tutor Michelle Dishaw, Ann Brown, Eunae Ko, tutor Sharon Brunetti, Hye Min Mun.

PRACTICING ENGLISH WITH KOREAN DELIGHTS

When Julie Hoensheid heard from a tutor, Michelle Dishaw, that she and her Korean student had gone to a Korean restaurant with some other students and their tutors, the lights went on! "What a great idea!" she said. Informal gatherings like these are good opportunities to practice English pronunciation and gain vocabulary.

Then she found out that Michelle had invited another Korean friend of hers to join the group and the Korean friend, in turn, invited all the ladies to her home for another lunch date. The Korean students and Michelle's friend made all Korean food and the tutors brought dessert.

Ann Brown, one of the tutors involved, has reported that the lunch was awesome! "I walked away thinking it was the best meal I've ever had! The presentation was beautiful. The table setting was all Korean -- beautifully embroidered placemats, Korean chopsticks, etc. HGTV would love this."

Ann continued, "It was impressive. The food was incredible. I've become a Korean food fan." She concluded, "The students were gracious and thoughtful and, as I said, it truly was a wonderful meal with wonderful company."

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OLC Board Member Wins Award

Maryanne Thorndycraft, a long-time OLC board member and volunteer, recently was awarded special recognition at the 2013 Michigan Adult Education and Training Conference. The awards recognize those who are "Building a Better Tomorrow" for adult learners. Those who receive this award are credited with "unwavering commitment, loyal dedication and outstanding contribution toward collaboration in adult education."

The word "collaboration" describes Maryanne very well. Both Cathryn Weiss Hallisy (former director of OLC) and Judy Lindstrom (current



president of OLC) praise her and use the word "diligent" to describe her work. Cathryn says she is "quiet, always thinking, and easy to work with." Judy adds that Maryanne worked very hard to get OLC under the umbrella of

Pro Literacy America, the accreditation organization for literacy education. She also remarked that she is the go-to person with regards to obtaining state grants. "She serves on the OLC board and has been a wealth of information and an anchor in regards to adult education," Judy says.

Maryanne is currently the director of Lake Orion Adult Education, not only supervising adult education but also serving as GED chief examiner and district K-12 ESL coordinator. She is also involved in many organizations throughout the area dedicated to helping adults advance their learning skills. She has always worked at advancing her own skills, too, by continuing to take classes and earning degrees. But it's not all work for Maryanne. She enjoys reading, camping and being with her family especially her two young grandchildren!

A few words...



Admit it, some of you were getting worried. Worried that Ma Nature would skip right past Spring into Summer. Well, she hasn't disappointed us this week. All of our senses are awakened.

Spring is the time when we reorganize, de-clutter and reenergize. That 'mantra' is in full swing at the Council. We are streamlining procedures, whittling down our wait list of students-- all thanks to the dozens and dozens of new volunteer tutors--thank you-- and even updating our decor. We have a new website in the design phase that will provide tutors, students and literacy advocates a much better view into what we do and why we do it day after day. We continue to offer new tools and techniques that will assist our students to reach their literacy goals. So, to follow our spring theme, we will continue to plant the seed of knowledge so that we can all reap what we sow.

Now my 'bushel of thanks': To **Cathy Hodson**, for hosting a Literacy Home Party at her lovely home. ~To the **Village Club Foundation** for awarding us the June Shea grant of \$8,000! We are so pleased with this generous gift. Special thanks goes to **Camille Breen, Judy Bryce and Julie Hoensheid**.

Many of our volunteer tutors also belong to the Village Club in Bloomfield Hills so applause to all of you for your continued support and for talking with club members about the work you do for the Council.

~To **Patricia Peck** who has become our poster woman for Bookstock. She has spent countless hours working on this project. We are truly indebted to her. Also kudos to the dozens of volunteers who ventured out to Livonia to work at the sale.

~To **Ellie Robertson**, who continues to produce *Literacy Matters*. I continue to hear from a number of you telling me how much you appreciate this e-bulletin.

~Finally to the many of you who responded to my e-mail a month back asking for your assistance in sponsorship for our Run2Read event, Dress Down Day and other fund raising ideas.

I'm off until next time....enjoy Spring!

Judy Lindstrom
President



Dear Pat and Julie

I have had a little difficulty in clarifying goals with my student. What do you suggest?

Often students will come into the program with the goal of “wanting to read better,” but as a tutor, where do you start? When a goal is that broad, you will need to break it down into smaller more manageable, specific chunks. Each of these chunks becomes a goal.

Your LitStart book has an excellent section on goal setting in Chapter 3. It explains how to generate a Master List of goals with your student, and then how to prioritize them based on your student’s immediate wants and needs.

Also remember, goals will continually change and grow. Be sure to keep an open line of communication with your student and review their goals with them often.

Tutor Tips

USING BOOKS...

Nancy Hinz is tutoring a South Korean student, Joon Hee, and said that the two of them read books by a South Korean author together. They are at a middle or junior high school level.

Nancy suggests that the books by Sook Nyul Choi should be read in the following order: *Year of Impossible Goodbyes*, *Echoes of the White Giraffe*, and *Gathering of Pearls*.

USING MUSIC...

Tutor Sharon Wagner brought in the lyrics to some popular songs and she and her student, Winnie Chang, went over them together. Then Winnie (and her kids) could sing with the radio at home for practice. Sounds like fun!

IN THE BAG...

Faye Schuett used “portrait” bags to get to know each other and practice vocabulary and sentences. Faye brought a golf ball, a patch for Point Pelee, a song book, a book pin, and a pack of seeds – all representing things she likes to do: golf/golfing, watch/watching birds, sing/singing, read/reading and garden/gardening. The next session Faye’s student, Eunseon, brought her “portrait”

bag to talk about together.

GETTING MOTIVATED...

One tutor remarked that her student has shown little incentive to do more outside class. Simple homework assignments often weren’t done. So a few weeks ago the tutor gave her student a homework assignment to plan a lesson teaching her (the tutor) Chinese or something about China. “We spent about 15 minutes on her lesson. She has responded and I am trying to master the pronunciation!” Hopefully, this reverse-strategy will work by putting the responsibility of learning back on the student.

ON THE WEB...

Gerry has found a wonderful on-line resource called *Jenniferesl*. The website is www.englishwithjennifer.com but he first discovered it on You Tube. The videos have been invaluable in helping his Thai student with her speaking and phonics issues. Gerry thinks these videos would be very useful in working with any Asian student.

THE EYES HAVE IT

In January, the Oakland Literacy Council was approached by Dr. Morrie Dubin of Vision Specialists of Michigan. Dr. Dubin felt strongly that vision problems play a role in a person's ability to read. His desire was to provide free eye examinations to the students of OLC to aid in their learning.

Since February, free eye examinations have been performed by Dr. Dubin for nearly a dozen of our students. In the majority of the cases, the examination has determined that the students have needed glasses. Dr. Dubin offered to provide eye glasses in these cases at a significantly discounted rate (near cost).

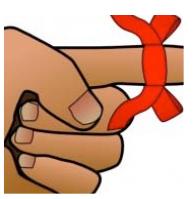
Dr. Dubin's fear is that students will see this as a sales pitch. There is no catch or fine print to read with the free eye examinations. This is simply a kind man offering his services in the hopes that seeing more clearly will help students reach their literacy goals. One student who was helped by Dr. Dubin is Norman Cox. He said the "glasses have made a big difference." For example, he couldn't read road signs clearly before, but now can. The eye exam was, of course, free, but the glasses would have cost \$400. Norman was only charged \$60.

Free examinations will continue to be offered for now on the second Tuesday of the month to OLC students. To schedule an appointment, students need to call the Vision Specialists office at 248-258-9000 and identify themselves as an Oakland Literacy Council student. The Vision Specialists office is conveniently located next door to the OLC office in Suite 100.



KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

If you shop at Kroger, please consider signing up for the Kroger Community Rewards Program. If you sign up and select the Oakland Literacy Council as your charity, we will get a percentage of the total amount of your grocery bill. Since the start of our participation, we have raised more than \$4000!



It's easy for members to enroll or re-enroll in Kroger Community Rewards. Visit www.krogercommunityrewards.com, click on "Michigan" and click on "Enroll" or "Re-enroll." All participants must have a valid online account at www.kroger.com and must sign up online to participate.

Step by step instructions to enroll :

Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com.

Click on "Michigan"

Click "Re-enroll" if you were registered in the program last year

Put in your e-mail address.

Put in your password.

Find our organization by typing in the NPO number: 82755.

Click "Select your Organization."

Click "Save changes."



Reports, Tests and Homework...Oh My!

Monthly reporting, homework, testing. What is all the fuss about? Success!

The Oakland Literacy Council program requires that students and tutors commit to meet a minimum of two hours a week for one year. We also require that tutors report in monthly on three areas: instructional hours (which includes hours spent tutoring, as well as any time the student has spent doing homework or practicing), the tutor's preparation hours, and any significant goal accomplishments.

This is a requirement of our program, but also supports the information we are required to provide to the state as part of a grant we receive. The state makes available certain grants monies under the Michigan Adult Education program. By complying with the state requirements for reporting and testing as well as other conditions, we receive grant money from the state. This is one of our significant funding resources which allow the lights to stay on and our free tutoring programs to continue.

While the monthly reporting is mandatory, we want to make it as easy as possible. We accept the information via email or telephone. We have also provided a friendly Excel spreadsheet for those who prefer to track the hours electronically.

A student's homework and practice time are very important parts of hours reporting. We ask that tutors cover this with their student during weekly meetings to determine additional hours they are working on literacy outside of tutoring sessions. The homework and practice hours then should be included in the instructional hours the tutor reports each month to our office.

Once a student has reached at least 40 hours of instruction (tutoring hours combined with homework and practice) they are scheduled for a test. While many people perceive a test as a negative and testing may cause anxiety, we view it differently. We actually refer to it as a "review assessment" which provides feedback to the student, tutor and Council. It is an invaluable tool that can confirm the diligent work being done by the student and tutor and/or help redirect tutoring sessions to the areas identified in the testing results as needing improvement. It is important to note that the review

test is not a pass or fail.

Please feel free to call the Oakland Literacy Council office with any questions about hours and testing. We thank all the tutors who report on time and faithfully each month.

RECENT STUDENT

ACHIEVEMENTS



November 2012

- J** read a recipe book and cooked for Thanksgiving.
- C** wrote a letter to her cousin.
- J** ordered food in English.
- L** learned to use her GPS.
- S** obtained a part-time job working at a deli.

December 2012

- D** read her first book.
- R** got a library card.
- B** completed reading a book about hurricanes.
- K** wrote thank you and birthday cards to friends.
- S** e-mailed her first English communication to her tutor.

January 2013

- W** finished reading *The Three Musketeers*.
- S** was able to go to the bank, deposit a check with the teller and use the ATM for a withdrawal.
- N** passed the TOEFL.

February 2013

- S** read three books in three days.
- M** along with his three children obtained library cards.



Dishing out Food, Friendship, and Fluency

The much anticipated **International Potluck Dinner** is just around the corner!

Last year was a smashing success! The food was delicious, the company outstanding and the people beyond compare. This annual event is one that tutors, students and volunteers anticipate all year long, and there's a good reason.

Attendees brought their favorite dishes to share and spent the evening sampling delicacies from around the world -- from Spanish empanadas to Singapore noodles, from Greek orzo salad to all-American potato salad, from Japanese rice with chicken and vegetables to Hungarian stew with sausage and green peppers, and from blueberry dumplings to baklava.

One tutor came up with a great way to tie this fun night into her lesson plans. Because her student is interested in cooking, the tutor plans on bringing in a recipe and using it to explain vocabulary, differences in measurement and build comprehension. She is also going to ask her student to bring in a recipe from her native country and explain it to her. (Having the student teach the tutor is a great confidence builder that taps into the student's prior knowledge and experience!).

Then, they will each make each other's recipe and bring it to the potluck!

Come with your student, come with a friend, or come alone! We hope you will join us.

Bloomfield Township Public Library
1099 Lone Pine Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

International Potluck Dinner
Wednesday, May 8, 2013
5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

R.S.V.P. by May 3rd
To register call or email the Council:
248.253.1617 or
info@oaklandliteracy.net

Calender OF Events

MAY 2013 THROUGH JULY 2013

May 8th ~ International Potluck Dinner 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

(See story above for more information.)

May 16th ~ ESL Conversation Group 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

June 8th ~ Third Annual Run 2 Read Event 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

June 6th ~ ESL Conversation Group 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

June 20th ~ ESL Conversation Group 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

June 22nd ~ 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

June 24th ~ 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. ← Tutor Training at OLC

June 25th ~ 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. ←

July 9th ~ 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. ← Tutor Training at OLC

July 11th ~ 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. ←

2013 Honor Role of Tutors, Volunteers, and Students

Every year tutors and students are asked to nominate a candidate for the Honor Role. Tutors are asked to reflect on all the work they've done with their student and share the progress made and success achieved with the Council. Students are asked to share similar stories about how their tutors have helped them achieve their goals. After careful study of program and goal completion, the office staff and the Board make the selections of student, tutor and volunteer of the year. All nominees receive a letter of congratulations and a certificate at the annual Reach for the Stars recognition event each January. Below are the nominees for 2013.

Carol Foster, Volunteer of the Year

Ashley Mungons, ABE Student of the Year
(ABE: Adult Basic Education)

Dinah Brinson, Tutor of the Year

Hristian Kolchakov, ESL Student of the Year
(ESL:English as a Second Language)

Tutors

David Barnes
Barbara Bolton
Carol Brichford
Dinah Brinson
Eileen Britsky
Carol Burkett
Bob Clement
James Depaoli
Calix Laura Drebuss
Ruth DuFresne
Paul Godishian
Sandy Grider
Marilyn Haralabakas
Deborah Lemons-Jackson
Paul Jacques
Ursula Jaques
Ewa Jankowiak
Leslie London
Maria Markova
Indira Murlidhar
Mike Patch
Harvey Pearlman
Jenny Pedersen
Leela Rao
Joan Reddy
John Reddy
Don Robinson
Marilyn Rose
Tim Sheridan
Sue Stratton
Dee Vermeulen
Gayle Weakland
Frank Wilson
Kathleen Wilson



Students

Unju An
Missy Buckner
Susan Dufour
Lilian Faranso
Bruno Feo
Corene Ford
Maha Haddad
Sherry Hatcher
Kyoung Soon Hwang
Shukri Kabbash
Juok Kang
Thair Kassab
Kyungmi Kim
Sun Hee Kim
Yu Kyoung Kim
Hristian Kolchakov
Pashka Ljukovic
Henry McDonnell
Janay Muckle
Ashley Mungons
Yunjung Sin
Naeem Shakoor
Min Young Song
Eddie Thomas
Yuko Tsunekawa
Dominique Warrick
Min Zhu

Volunteers

Carol Foster
Kathie Glezen
Cathryn Hallisy
Ann Weber
Donna Yost

*The more that you read, the
more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the
more places you'll go.*
Dr. Seuss