

Celebrating  
**25** Years



**OAKLAND  
LITERACY COUNCIL**

**Oakland Literacy Council**

# The Reader

Special Edition Spring 2009

Our mission: To provide quality, individualized basic reading and English language instruction to adults

## 2009 Calendar of Events

March 21,23,25

### **Tutor Training**

Royal Oak

March 31

### **Breakfast Club**

Auburn Hills

April 26-May 3rd

### **Bookstock Used Book & Media Sale**

Laurel Park Place

May 4,6

### **Tutor Training**

Farmington Hills

May 30

### **Recognition Event**

Birmingham

June 6,8,10

### **Tutor Training**

Bloomfield Hills

July 27,28

### **Tutor Training**

Southfield

## *Opening the World Through Words*

### **Letter from the Director**

This year the Oakland Literacy Council proudly celebrates its 25th year of service to the community.

We owe a great deal of thanks to the hundreds of volunteers, learners, staff, board, donors and libraries who have supported the Oakland Literacy Council over this past quarter-century.

This milestone, however, means more to us than just celebrating our longevity. This year marks the 25th anniversary of opening our first learner's world through words.

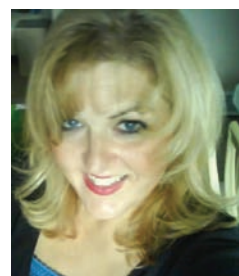
We are constantly astounded by the determination, perseverance, humor, patience and kindness demonstrated by volunteers and learners. You are the heart and soul of the Oakland Literacy Council and the key reason for our success.

All of the little victories along the way have culminated to this point.

It is so gratifying to see goals come to fruition and lives forever transformed. We're very humbled and privileged to be a small part of it.

There was only one way for us to reach this auspicious milestone...Together.  
Cheers!

Carol



Carol Moraniec

*"The Oakland Literacy Council has given me the courage to believe anything is possible."*

*~Gayle F.*

## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS 1984-2009

Founded in 1984 by a determined group of advocates, the Oakland Literacy Council has developed into a strong, independent organization.

Since 1984, the Council has worked with over 7,500 adult learners, and Council volunteers have provided more than 554,000 hours of volunteer service. Calculated at the modest sum of \$40 per hour the Council has contributed \$22,160,000 worth of service to Oakland County.

Several community awards reflect the quality of the Council's service and management. The Michigan Partnerships for Education Award recognized the Council for "Distinguished Efforts in Developing an Effective Partnership between Education and the Community." The Detroit Metropolitan Chapter of the American Society also named the Council "Outstanding Organization" for Public Administration.

### Looking Back...

#### We're Still the Best Bargain in Oakland County

##### Cost of Living in 1984

Yearly Inflation Rate	4.3 %
Average cost of new house	\$86,730.00
Average Income per year	\$21,600.00
Average Monthly Rent	\$350.00
Movie Ticket	\$2.50
1 gallon of gas	\$1.10
1 gallon of milk	\$2.26
<b>Literacy Instruction</b>	<b>\$0</b>

##### Cost of Living 2008

Yearly Inflation Rate	3.43%
Average cost of new house	\$187,000
Average income per year	\$62,345
Average monthly rent	\$800.00
Movie ticket	\$9.50
Gallon of gas	\$1.99- \$4.00
Gallon of milk	\$3.05
<b>Literacy Instruction</b>	<b>\$0</b>

#### 1984-2009: From Low-Tech to High-Tech on Chocolates and Laughs

The Council first used file cards to capture data, not computers.

Our greatest piece of technology was a typewriter.

We received used computers in 1987.

We bought database software in 1987 and ditched our file cards.

We bought 4 Apple iMac Computers in 1998.

We came online via dial-up connection in 2000.

Our website was created in 2000.

We moved our office space 5 times – 3 of the 5 spaces were in a basement.

We've had 5 different phone numbers.

We have chocolate in the office at all times.

We still laugh everyday.

#### Milestones

1984 The Council began with one part-time employee.

1991 Evaluation Process Established: Personal Student Interviews and testing began.

1993 Guidelines were put in writing, establishing rules for tutors and students.

1993 We Expanded program to include English as a Second Language (ESL) students.

1996 The Council launched Reading Seeds© Family Literacy Program.

2001 New Volunteer Training was developed.

2003 The Council received ProLiteracy America Accreditation.

2004 We established The Literacy Partnership of Southeast Michigan a collaboration with Macomb & Detroit.

2007 We relocated to our new office in Bloomfield Hills.

2008 The Council became a stand-alone 501c(3) non-profit, not affiliated with a parent organization.

## With Thanks

The growth of the Oakland Literacy Council's twenty-five years can only be attributed to all the wonderful, dedicated tutors and donors. These benefactors are the Council's unsung heroes.

We would like to thank those who have so generously donated their time and resources throughout the years. Because of your support, we have been able to educate and train thousands of volunteers and learners.

The Council acknowledges each and every person with admiration and gratitude.

### Board of Directors

Judy Lindstrom, President; Bob Gaylor, Vice-President; Bev Papai, Secretary; Carol Herbst, Treasurer; John Almstadt, Member-at-large; Judy Bryce, Member-at-large; MaryAnne Thorndycraft, Member-at-large

### Staff

Carol Moraniec, Director; Bob Bechler, Student Services Coordinator; Hamida Rahman, Administrative Assistant; Julie Hoensheid, Training Specialist; Pat Ojala, Training Specialist

## THE OAKLAND LITERACY COUNCIL: Building a Community of Learners

Founded in 1984, the Oakland Literacy Council is the only public service organization in Oakland County, Michigan, devoted exclusively to providing free, one-on-one literacy training to residents age 18 and over. The Council provides, free of charge, student assessment, instructional materials, training for volunteer tutors, and ongoing support throughout the tutoring process. Drawing adult learners from throughout Oakland County, the Oakland Literacy Council has, since its founding, instructed thousands of students in basic literacy and English language skills, and maintains an active waiting list of prospective learners.

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### Donor Information:

One size fits all when you celebrate special events by giving the gift of reading.

<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas	<input type="checkbox"/> Hanukkah	<input type="checkbox"/> Wedding	<input type="checkbox"/> Anniversary	<input type="checkbox"/> Memorial	<input type="checkbox"/> Retirement	<input type="checkbox"/> New Job	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher Gift
<input type="checkbox"/> Bar/Bat Mitzvah	<input type="checkbox"/> Engagement	<input type="checkbox"/> Birthday	<input type="checkbox"/> Graduation	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Father's Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

☐ Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Mr. Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to The Oakland Literacy Council is enclosed.

☐ Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my credit card. ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send an acknowledgement to: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Your donation is tax-deductible as provided by law MICS/OT 101225  
Oakland Literacy Council ~ 2550 S. Telegraph Road, Suite 114 ~ Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302 ~ Office : 248-253-1617 Fax: 248-253-1637



Bob Gaylor

When Bob Gaylor heard a presentation on literacy at an American Library Association Conference in 1984, he thought, “We don’t have an illiteracy problem in Oakland County. It’s one of the wealthiest counties in the nation.” When he voiced his thoughts to staff at the Oakland County Library, they said, “Oh yes we do!”

It was this conversation that set Bob in motion and marked the beginning of the Oakland Literacy Council. Affectionately referred to as our “Founding Father,” Bob

## Three Cheers to Bob Gaylor - A Man of Vision

is still knee-deep in Council activities after all these years.

An invaluable Board member for 25 years, Bob’s easy-going attitude and terrific sense of humor have made for some highly productive and very lively meetings. “One of the great things about Bob is that he never misses an opportunity to promote the Council. He cares about the organization so much that Bob has persuaded most of his friends, family, acquaintances and even complete strangers to contribute to the Council in one capacity or another,” laughs Council Director Carol Moraniec.

“The Council has given me the pleasure to know that I’m helping people. At least, when I leave here, I will know that I’ve done something good for someone else,” says Bob.

“Bob has never walked away, and he has always had goals,” says retired Council

Director Cathryn Hallisy. “He’s a visionary, always looking ahead, always formulating the next goal. He’s a great personality, easy to work with, enthusiastic. He’s a testament to the fact that in 1984 we walked in with \$5,000, and 25 years later The Council is still here.”

Bob last served as Associate Director of the Oakland University Library, retiring in 2004 after 37 years serving the University in a variety of capacities. He also worked part-time at the Oakland Schools Library. Bob has lived in the Rochester area exclusively, including 30 years at Meadowbrook Hall’s charming Gate House.

In his rare, brief moments of free time, Bob enjoys restaurant hopping, trivial pursuit, traveling, tooling around in his convertible, and spending time with his many friends, family and his beloved four legged friend, Ty.

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## Our First Director’s Career-Long Focus: Adult Learners

“I used to think I was stupid because I couldn’t read, but now I know I’m as smart as anyone.”

Feedback like this from one of Oakland Literacy Council’s successful adult learners kept Cathryn Weiss-Hallisy well motivated throughout her career as the Council’s first director. “The many positive comments from our learners convinced all of us involved in Oakland County literacy training—staff, volunteers, partners, and donors—that we were truly making a difference in peoples’ lives,” she said. “And that made all the difference in the world to us.”

Cathryn became the Council’s director in 1984, the same year the organization was formed. Among her qualifications for the job were an outstanding record of accomplishment in helping adults read and a lasting belief in her students’ infinite desire and capacity to learn. She had discovered these attributes as a teacher in Madison Heights’ Adult Basic Education prior to joining the Council.

“All I needed to know about teaching people to read came from my Adult Education experience,” recalled Cathryn. “The many other skills we needed to run a successful organization, we learned on the job. Yet everything we did was with one objective in mind: improving our programs and services for our adult reading learners.”

Cathryn, known for her “scathingly brilliant ideas,” was always willing to look at things from every angle. “She was a pleasure to work with and I couldn’t have asked for a better mentor and friend,” says current Council Director Carol Moraniec.

Cathryn, her staff and tutors took great pride in the achievements of their reading graduates. Her favorite memories include one of a woman who was a Council “Student of the Year.” She enrolled in Oakland Community College’s culinary arts program and, after graduation, became a chef in a prominent Detroit restaurant. Another was of a learner who became a tutor—and then

helped an entire Vietnamese family learn how to read. To honor Cathryn for her 24 years

Cathryn Weiss-Hallisy of invaluable vision and leadership, the Oakland Literacy Council established the Cathryn F. Weiss-Hallisy “Literacy Legacy” Endowment Fund in 2008.

Today, Cathryn resides in Clarkston with her husband, Tom, and their cat, Spike. They enjoy travel, sailing, biking, and spending time with their two grown daughters, Carly and Leah.

“Most of all,” says Cathryn, “I love the freedom to wake up each day and decide what I want to do with it. But each day, I also think of the wonderful people at Oakland Literacy Council and the thousands of people they’ve helped...and are still helping after 25 years.”





Joyce Adderley • Traci Agius • Andrew Agosta • Anthony Albensi • Corenna Aldrich • Corenna Aldrich • John Almstadt • Zoe Alpern • Steven Andrews • Michelle Areeda • Lorraine Armstrong-Walsh • Arvin Meritor • Rosemary Atkinson • Beverly & Edward Avadenka • Adia Bagayoko • Rebecca Bagnall • Tianbo Bai • Lianrun Bai & Xinru Sun • Olina Bailey • Juanita Baker • Paula Balwinski • Alan Barman • Gary Barnas • Greg Barnas • Janice Barry • Roz & Ara Basherian • Nancy Batlemento • Jeanne & Robert Bechler • Thomas Benner • Carol Benson • Karen & John Berardi • Judy Betts • Linda Binkow • Michael Bishop • Roz Blanck • Sarah Bleich • Bloomfield Township Library • Jane Blumberg • Janice Bolton • Gail Bordt • Monica & Gary Boulan • Pam Brady • Darrell Bratt • Camille & Don Breen • Roberta Bresette • Laura Brickley • Eileen Britsky • Marilyn Brooks • Carol Brown • Judy & Dennis Bryce • Carol Burkett • Barbara Burns • Mary Bush • Mary Jo & Roger Byrd • Yuzhen Cai • Edward Callaghan • Bonnie Cannon • Carla Nettle • Jane & Doug Carvell • Jessica Cheshire • Clannad Foundation • Lucinda & Robert Clement • Keith Collin • Comerica • Rose & George Cooper • Ellie & William Couch • Mary Alice & Gene Cowie • Mary Jane Croissant • Jennie & Robert Cross • John Cuckovich • Arlee Cunningham • Brenda & Joseph Cunningham • Deborah & Ralph Castelli • Iliana Castello • Charles Cerutti • Roberta Chapman • Deborah Chene • Sally & John Dauer • Gaby Davis • Julia Dawson • Dwight Dean • Donna DeButts • Barbara Delozier • Souhayla & Emmet Denha • Detroit Free Press • Nancy & Charles Dettloff • Rosemary Dickerson • Roy Dickerson • Brian Dietz • Josephine Dohany • Sandra & Jim Donlon • Paula Donnellon • Dryden Family Foundation • Deborah & Dwayne Drys • Charlotte & Harold Dubin • Phillaire Dudley • Victoria & Matthew Durack • Michael Durant • Linda & Jay Eastman • Betty Eliassen • Sue & Donald Eller • Patricia Ellis • Sharon Elster • Suzanne & Thomas Ensich • Eileen Evans • Leila & Martin Evelev • June Everett • Betty Everson • Ralph Fader • Adele Farabi • Hazel & Garry Felty • Kimberley Fisher • Dorothy Fisher • Beth & Ron Flannery • Michael Flora • Carol Foster • Virginia Fox • Richard Frankel • Patricia Frey • Shelley & Alan Droz • Rosemarie Gancer • Aaron Garrison • Trevor Garrison • Barbara Sue Gaves • Robert Gaylor • Judy & Steve Geppert • Mossad Ghobrial • Derrick Gilford • Anne Ginsberg • Margaret & Edward Glatfelter • Doris & Stephen Goethals • Carolyn Googasian • Patricia Gosik • Myong Gouthro • Pat & Nick Grad • Judith Greenwald • Corrine & William Greer • Jill Greimel • Melinda Grix • Alma Guzman • Carol & Don Haas • David Hackett • Linda Hackett • Jeanne Hackett • Christine Hage • Alice Hagerman • Brenda Hall • Cate & Tom Hallisy • Jessica Hallmark • Craig Hanson • Chris & Bruce Harris • Brigitte & Morton Harris • Richard & Teresa Hartle • Jennifer Harvey • Louis Heavenrich • Carol & Jay Herbst • Jennifer Herbst & Scott Funston • Rowena & John Herring • Karen & Dan Hess • Judith & Vaughan Hetem • Hewlett Packer • Patricia Hill-Burnett • Julie & Craig Hoensheid • Marie Holcomb • Helen Betty Holmes • Freda & Norman Hunstad • Gennie & Dale Hunter • Denise Hurd • Susan & Martin Inglis • Iroquois Industries • Harriet Israel • Dorothea Izant • Claudia & Jim Jackson • Jane, Kate & Thea Jacobs • Nadine Jakobowki • Christopher Jameson • Donald Jensen • Mary Jewett • Jewish Community Council • Nelly Johnson • Connie & Lenard Johnston • Mary Jolliffe • Janice Jones • Phyllis Jose • Siu Ling Kan • Kanelo Kastran • Eliza Kauder • Gerry & William Keane • Charles Keith • Velda Kelly • Maureen & Peter Kelly • Elizabeth Kelman • Paul Kennedy • Jody Kerbyson • Susan Kerekes • Dorathy & Don Ketai • McArthur King • Virginia Kirkwood • Barbara & Edward Klarman • Machiko Koichi • Stella Koshkarian • Barbara Krieger • Richard Kuhn • Fikret Kuric • Val Kushman • Myron LaBan • Kamtim Lai • Lake Orion Community Schools • Linda Lambert • Metta T. 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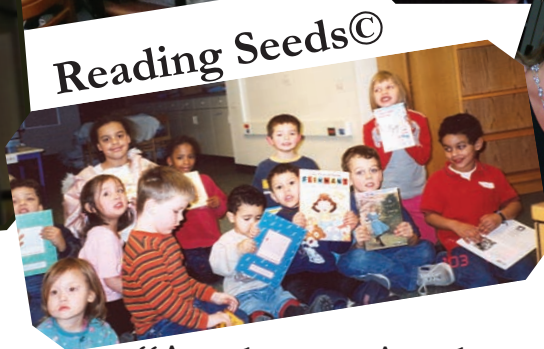
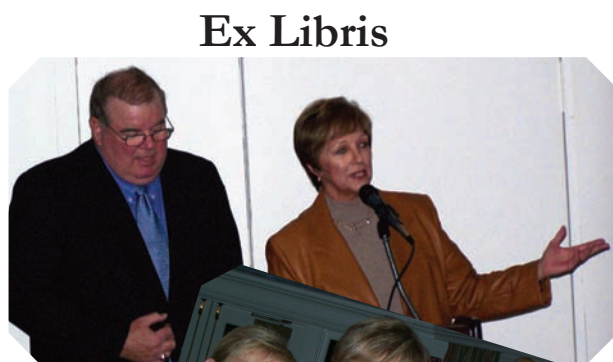
**Oakland Literacy Council is pleased to present a wide variety of programs and events throughout the year. These include:**

**Breakfast Club** - An opportunity for volunteer tutors to get together with our tutor trainers to share their learners' experiences and successes. Typical topics include best practices, accomplishments, problems and solutions, and suggestions for program improvements—all served up with plenty of good humor, energy and enthusiasm.

**“Applause, Applause!”** - Our annual recognition event has been lovingly known as our “Kleenex moment.” Volunteer tutors, students and friends gather as we celebrate goals and accomplishments. Awards, praise, fun and food are on hand. Don't miss this year's event as we celebrate our 25th anniversary with an event for family and friends. Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 30, 2009, at Springdale Park in Birmingham.

**Reading Seeds©** - The importance of reading to a child from infancy on has been well documented. This free program works with parents and children so that a child finds magic in the written word. The Council provides free children's books, along with our Reading Seeds handbook that is filled with valuable tips and techniques to improve reading and promote lifelong learning.

**Ex Libris** - The flagship in our fund-raising activities will celebrate its 19th annual dinner in 2009. Our 2008 Ex Libris welcomed Robbie Timmons and Jim Brandstatter as our keynote speakers. We were also pleased to recognize our “Student of the Year,” Vickie Wilbourn, and her tutor, Julie Hoensheid. Their words were truly inspirational.



**“Applause, Applause!”**



*“The Oakland Literacy Council is a destination for your dreams.”*  
~ Karen B.

## A History of Recognition

<b>“Tutor of the Year”</b>	<b>“Student of the Year”</b>	<b>“ESL Student of the Year”</b>	<b>“Volunteer of the Year”</b>
1988 Nancy Johnson	1988 Moses Moss	1997 Mei Chen	1993 Richard Thompson
1989 Nancy Geddes	1989 Arthur Covell	1998 Lien Beyrand	1994 Sue Inglis
1990 Barry Garon	1990 Barbara Seton	1999 Sandrs Aoun	1995 Teckla Rhoads
1991 June Ferguson	1991 Larry Ogles	2000 Myung Yi	1996 Phyllis Jose
1992 Ina Donnelly	1992 Maxwell Thompson	2001 Sung Im	1997 Billy Graham
1993 Richard Minch	1993 Bill Engel	2002 Lieu Ngugen	1998 Nadine Jakobowski
1994 Gail Conley	1994 John Battles	2003 Ilean Castillo-West	1999 Eddie Stein
1995 Robert Moran	1995 Warren Bright	2004 Chang Ching Yau	2000 June Everett
1996 Gordon Wheaton	1996 Donna Warner	2005 Iwona Jandrzejczak	2001 Carri Burke
1997 Cee Himes	1997 Eugene Garland	2006 Andrey Sukoterin	2001 Judy Lindstrom
1998 Sherry Stewart	1998 Viola Waugh	2007 Ramzi Hadeed	2002 Carol Herbst
1999 Dorathy & Don Ketai	1999 Bonnie Thompson	2008 Helem Bozaan	2003 Donna Yost
2000 Gaby Davis	2000 Derrick Gilford		2004 Rochester Hills Public Library
2001 Mary McGraw	2001 Ruthie Golden		2005 Altrusa Club of Birmingham
2002 Pat Peck	2002 Kevin Kucsulain		2006 MaryAnne Thorndycraft
2003 Joyce Uzelac	2003 Linda Parker		2007 Bev Papai
2004 Mary McGraw	2004 William Greer		2008 Mary Rosenbusch
2005 Evelyn Cogan	2005 Charlie McClaster		
2006 Julia & Frank Wilson	2006 Joan Arioli		
2007 Barbara Van Syckel	2007 David Mullins		
2008 Ralph Fader	2008 Vickie Wilbourn		



2008 Awardees:  
*Volunteer of the Year*, Mary Rosenbusch;  
*ESL Student of the Year*, Helem Bozaan;  
*Basic Literacy Student of the Year*, Vickie  
 Wilbourn.  
 \* Not Pictured: *Tutor of the Year*, Ralph  
 Fader

### Student Honor Roll

Bushra A•Su Bae•Helem Bozaan•Consuelo DaCunha•Sacha Dedivanaj•David Delasko•Igumi Fujii•Doreen Grot•ShiJun Jia•  
 Insook Jung•Siu-ling Kan•Unmi K.•Jong Keum Kim•Seung Hee Kong•Christine Lee•Robert Little•Laurie Miller•Victor Mulbauer•  
 Jung Ho Oh•Earline Perkins•Rong Rong•Petra Vrbova•Lily Wang•Vickie Wilborn•Andrew Woolen•Chunyan Xu•  
 Ivy Yang•Susan Zhang•

### Tutor Honor Roll

Susan Anderson•Laurie Akidas•Karen Beger•Gary Berndt•Brenda Bowers•Marilyn Brannigan•Eileen Britsky•Mari-  
 ano Cadiz•Doris Chase•Deborah Chene•Patricia Claerhout•Carolyn Darling•Charlotte Dubin•Ralph Fader•Lana  
 Fredericks•Richard Friedenberg•Rosemarie Gancer•Pat Gillam•Sandy Gilmore•Linda Grabinski•Nancy Hinz•Julie  
 Hoensheid•Tina Holland•Stella Koshkarian•Linda Lambert•Michelle Lapanowski•Val Lea•Ralph Lee•Sheila Loggin•Bonnie  
 Luternow•Jean Lutz•Betty Maltz•Efren Mojica•Nadine Nikols•Ila O' Connor•Joanne Osaka•Meg Osborn•Bonnie  
 Pomeroy•Margaret Preston•Joan Reddy•John Reddy•Margaret Riley•Thomas Rowe•Mary Sloan•Dianne Sievers•Ellen  
 Stefanovich•Barbara Stewart•Mary Ellen Stucky•Pat Surd•Mary Topf•Barbara Van Syckel•Ann Weber•Vivian Wheeler•Jim  
 Wheeler•Glynette Wolf•Elaine Zack•Renee Zimmerman



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Celebrating  
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