



OPENING THE WORLD THROUGH WORDS

# Literacy Matters

A Quarterly Newsletter Presented by

Oakland Literacy Council

Summer 2015

*“Oakland Literacy Springs into Action!”*



Photo's from top left:

1. Alpaca Literacy field trip to Woodcreek Farm

2. Bookstock-Yoon Jung Ham and Nina Kent gear up for Bookstock  
3. Tutor Training-trainers Joan Allesee and Cam Manilla inspire new tutors

4. ESL Conversation Group is always full of surprises!

5. Force for Good- Chuck Gaidica's *Force for Good* spotlights the OLC

6. The International Potluck dinner featured amazing food from around the world.

**Spring  
into action**



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## A few words...



I call it "bulletin time"-- every three months I'm asked to write column that best represents what's going on in the Council during that time period. Sometimes the process takes a day to formulate but this time I knew without hesitation!

The entire Oakland Literacy "family" is fortunate to have two amazing and talented women running the day-to-day operations. Julie Hoensheid and Shari Barrick work tirelessly to bring the very best to our students, tutors and board. For our idiom lovers, Julie and Shari wear a multitude of hats, put out fires, juggle a dozen or more balls in the air and never hide their heads in the sand. This creative duo is the face and soul of the Oakland Literacy Council and we all owe them a round of thanks and applause!

Thank You

Changing gears for just a second-- in our last issue, Judy Bryce mentioned a new program that she is spearheading called "What's Next". We are hoping to find opportunities to raise funds and awareness --that will not tax our overworked employees, board members or volunteers (see the story on page 9 as an example). But, for this to succeed, we need your help. So without further ado:

The OLC is looking for individuals who think "outside the box", are creative, and have the follow through "gene". Examples for our "What's Next" include: contacting companies regarding dress down days; restaurants who will sponsor us for the day; organizations like churches who will have a chili cook off, etc.

If you fit the bill, please contact the office at 248.258.1617 and say "yes" to this opportunity!

Judy Lindstrom *Judy* President OLC

## An Orchid Escapade!

By Wendy Gao and Laurie Cline

Wendy Gao and Laurie Cline became student and tutor through the Oakland Literacy Council. Wendy is very adventurous, and likes to learn how to do things for her home and family. Learning to speak and read English has made it possible for her to accomplish many projects and pursue many interests on her own. She feels her life in the United States has opened up for her since her English has improved.

When Laurie saw an article on the Oakland County Orchid Society's 60th annual show, she knew it would make a good lesson. She and Wendy read the article, learned the new words (seminars, displays, vendors, raffle, door prizes, etc.) and drew a map of a possible layout to reinforce the concept of activities that are involved in the show. After reading the article, Wendy decided she wanted to go to the show with her husband.



At the show, Wendy saw that orchids interest many people. She guesses over 100 people were attending the show while she was there. The one hour seminars, offered every other hour, were always packed...not even standing room was available.

There were many types of orchids that Wendy had never seen before. Some were very small, some very large, in all colors, and some so beautiful that they didn't even seem real. These were not the orchids you usually see in the store! Orchids are certainly unusually beautiful and varied!

The show made Wendy decide to learn more about growing and propagating orchids. She got the postcard announcing next year's show, and has already decided she will go!

## No Library Card Required!

There are many famous libraries across the United States. There are presidential libraries, large libraries and small libraries tucked in a corner of a city or county building. At Oakland Literacy Council, ours is closest to the latter but our sense of pride makes us feel it is a presidential library.

Over the last two years, we have worked to revamp the broom closet into a resource room for our tutors. We have received grants and donations to increase the offerings we have. We have received monetary grants specific for this from North Woodward Community Foundation and Christ Church Cranbook. Lake Orion Library provided a donation in the form of books. Further, tutors have given us good recommendations of materials they have found as effective tutoring tools.

Our library contains hundreds and hundreds of materials created especially for adult learners. There is a wide range of materials from books with reading and learning exercises, classic stories, daily life skill workbooks, etc. Some of the series of books we have available are:

**Voyager** - teaches the essential reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical-thinking processes, skills, and strategies that everyone needs in today's world.

**Challenger** - uses phonics, controlled vocabulary, and sequential skill development in the context of diverse fiction and nonfiction passages relevant to adults.

**Venture** - features an integrated-skills approach that teaches practical communication in an educational

workplace, family, or community setting.

**All-Star** - standards based series for adult English learners featuring a Big Picture-dictionary approach to vocabulary building.

**Penguin Readers** - carefully graded collection of readers that enable English language learners to enjoy reading whatever their language level.

**Who Was** - series of nonfiction books offers friendly accounts of important historical events and famous figures. (Series recommended by Tutor Stan Wise)

Our books are numbered and tracked to maintain inventory and control costs. Tutors may check out books for as long as needed for use with their student. No late fees apply! Either the tutor or student may also purchase the books at our cost. However books that are borrowed may not be written in. We do ask that all library resources be returned when they are no longer being used so they are available for other tutors.

One area of focus is adding audio resources to our library. This is especially important for our ESL learners. We have two grants submitted and under review for materials that include workbooks with cds. We are keeping our fingers crossed for favorable responses.

Tutors can review materials in the library during regular business hours. Please call ahead!

### MY LIBRARY By Varda One

It's only a room with shelves and books,  
but it's far more magical than it looks

It's a jet on which I soar  
to lands that exist no more.

Or a key with which I find  
answers to questions crowding my mind.

Building my habit of learning and growing,  
asking and researching till I reach knowing.

Here, I've been a mermaid and an elf  
I've even learned to be more myself.

I think that I shall never see  
a place that's been more useful to me.





## From the Water Cooler



My student wants to work on obtaining his GED. His skills are far below what is needed to achieve that currently. What should I do?

Goal setting is an important part of tutoring. We encourage the tutor and student to discuss and set goals in their first meetings. And then revisit goals periodically through tutoring.

A student with lofty goals is a good thing. And obviously we don't want to discourage that student. It may be helpful in this scenario, as well as other similar student scenarios, to set milestones or incremental goals to attain on the path to the large, long-term goal. This should be done in discussion with the student.

For example, if the student is currently at a third grade level in reading, an incremental goal may be to increase their reading level two grades in a defined period of time. Included in the discussion should be what it will take to reach that goal e.g., reading, practice of so many hours a week, completion of Challenger level 4 workbook. You can also incorporate small parts of GED related activity to keep the end goal in line of sight.

The test information provided to both the student and tutor is an objective tool for a point of reference in goal setting. (These test levels are comparable to levels in other academia settings.) Making progress in testing should be part of goal setting as well.



## Tutor Tip- Two Minute Talk

**Millie Minkow's** ESL student, **Heajung**, needs practice using her English skills. Each week Millie gives her a "Two Minute Talk" assignment. Here is how it works: Millie gives Haejung a topic to think about, and then next time they meet, Haejung needs to be able to talk about it for at least two minutes. She always tries to find something her student is interested in and will be able to use in future conversations. Some of their past topics have included: *Why do you like to travel?*, *Why do you enjoy driving your new car?* and *Nice things about the month of May*. Millie is considering having her write her ideas down next time in order to give her practice in that area too. The possibilities are endless!

## SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES TUTOR WORKSHOP

Irene Sinclair is back, sharing her 30 years of Basic and ESL teaching experience in an interactive and informational workshop for tutors. In the *Successful Strategies* workshop, Irene will focus on the connection between reading and writing, along with many other helpful tips and ideas. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn, explore and share instructional strategies to enhance your lessons and your student's learning.

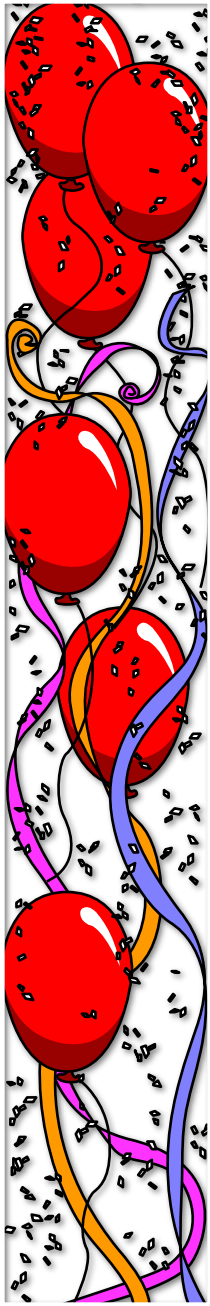
Join us on:

**Wednesday, July 22, 2015**  
**from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the OLC.**

**Reservations are required, space is limited.**

# Oakland Literacy Council

## Student Goal Achievements - 2015



Achievements  
continue on  
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January 2015	MC GRADUATED from OLC.
January 2015	TA GRADUATED from OLC.
January 2015	YJ finished reading her first book in English.
January 2015	JK became a regular volunteer at her children's school.
January 2015	KD learned the Library Dewey Decimal System and has begun to do research into topics of interest.
January 2015	HY finished reading Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons.
January 2015	JL is volunteering in her son's classroom.
January 2015	XL completed the first draft of her resume.
January 2015	RP finished reading the biography of Jane Goodall.
January 2015	SH attended a conversation group for the first time.
January 2015	HK searched the Internet for a snow removal company, called and hired them to clear the driveway.
January 2015	JK provided English instructions to his tutor on how to use chop sticks at a Japanese restaurant.
January 2015	SH researched how to acquire a dog and the requirements to allow the dog to be taken back to Japan.
January 2015	RE wrote a resume, interviewed for a job and is now working part-time.
January 2015	MH got a job.
January 2015	SG obtained a library card and checked out a book.
January 2015	YK was able to hail a cab comfortably.
February 2015	SL passed the Citizenship test.
February 2015	AH completed 100 word vocabulary worksheet.
February 2015	JB watched Bridge of Madison County and walked her tutor through the movie during the tutoring session.
February 2015	JW completed reading two Amelia Bedelia books.
February 2015	YL went to a theater and watched a movie in English understanding much of the story.
February 2015	MK registered her son for soccer camp which included talking through a refund.
February 2015	DC watched a full English movie without the sub-titles.
February 2015	SK learned the answers to the 100 naturalization exam questions.
February 2015	AH GRADUATED from OLC.
February 2015	YJ GRADUATED from OLC.
February 2015	JK GRADUATED from OLC.
February 2015	FM GRADUATED from OLC.
February 2015	JS GRADUATED from OLC.
February 2015	KY GRADUATED from OLC.
February 2015	JK GRADUATED from OLC.

"Graduation is a time of completion, of finishing, of an ending, however, it is also a time of celebration of achievement and a beginning."

*Catherine Pulsifer*



# Students, Tutors and Friends Alpaca Adventure

By Ann Nazareth Manning

May 9 was quite an international day for the Oakland Literacy Council, as students and tutors representing Japan, Korea, Brazil, Iraq, Germany and the U.S. dropped in on some alpacas from Peru, Bolivia, and Chile.

The Oakland Literacy Council believes in rewarding hard work and celebrating reading success with a bit of fun every now and then, so a group of students, tutors, and volunteers took a field trip to visit the alpacas at Woodcreek Farm in Davisburg.

**Nancy Lopez**, one of our literacy tutors, has been operating Woodcreek Farm since 1995. She shared many interesting facts about her herd and then led the group into the pasture so the animals could nibble carrots right from their hands! Afterward, Nancy demonstrated how to turn the wool into yarn on a spinning wheel. She also

brought out her loom and showed everyone how to weave the yarn into a rug, letting students and tutors give it a try.

Everyone had a great time mixing with the furry residents and feeding them treats. Thank you to Nancy for sharing her knowledge, home and herd with the Oakland Literacy Council!



Nancy demonstrating on a spinning wheel

## Student Goal Achievements continued from page 5

March 2015	CA read 35 pages of a book assigned by his tutor and gave a comprehensive oral report of his reading.
March 2015	SY ordered a "tall vanilla latte" by herself at Starbucks.
March 2015	DC spoke English with the dentist and doctor regarding her child's care.
March 2015	CB GRADUATED from OLC.
March 2015	DK GRADUATED from OLC.
March 2015	BS GRADUATED from OLC.
April 2015	RK and his tutor took a field trip to Belle Isle, RenCen and Eastern Market.
April 2015	JL GRADUATED from OLC.
April 2015	MN GRADUATED from OLC.
April 2015	KZ GRADUATED from OLC.
April 2015	GZ GRADUATED from OLC.
April 2015	XL GRADUATED from OLC.
April 2015	ZY GRADUATED from OLC.
April 2015	HC GRADUATED from OLC.
April 2015	SS GRADUATED from OLC.
April 2015	QL finished his first English course at OCC.
April 2015	ZT got an office job at an apartment complex. She was complimented on her English in the job interview.
April 2015	MH got her driver's license
April 2015	SL completed the Certified Nursing Assistant(CAN) course.

## Country Spotlight:

Country:	France
Location:	Europe
Capital:	Paris
Population:	66,259,000
Size:	248,573 (slightly smaller than Texas)
Primary Language:	French
Climate:	The southern climate has cool, moist winters and hot, dry summers. The north and west are temperate and rainy. The central, east, and upland areas have fluctuating temperatures; in the mountains, thunderstorms are prevalent in summer.
Greetings:	When greeting someone other than a friend, a handshake is customary. The French handshake is a light grip and a single, quick shake. Women customarily are kissed on both cheeks by male and female friends. Men only kiss the cheeks of males who are relatives or close friends. When people give kisses, they generally just touch cheeks and "kiss the air." The number of kisses given varies by region and ranges from two to four.
Gestures	French are careful about their personal habits, being discreet when sneezing, blowing the nose, etc. They do not use personal items, such as combs and toothpicks, in public. It is improper to speak with one's hands in one's pockets or to chew gum in public. Sitting with legs spread apart is impolite for women; one should sit straight with knees together or with legs crossed at the knee. Feet are not placed on tables or chairs. The "okay" sign used in the United States (a rounded index finger touching the tip of the thumb) means "zero" to the French. The French gesture for "o The kay" is the "thumbs up" sign. Slapping the open palm over a closed fist is vulgar and should be avoided
Eating:	In Paris, a light lunch is usually eaten around noon or 1 p.m., and dinner often is not before 8 p.m. In other parts of the country, particularly rural areas, people eat earlier. Families usually gather for dinner; cooking together and sharing meals is a bonding experience for many French families. Etiquette is important to the French. Both hands remain above the table at all times. A man may rest his wrists, and a woman her forearms, on the table edge. One does not place the elbows on the table. The French eat with the fork in the left hand and the knife in the right. Bread, eaten with every meal, is broken with the fingers and used to wipe the plate. It can also be used to push food onto the fork holding the bread in the left hand and the fork in the right. One places the knife and fork parallel across the plate when finished.
Holidays:	The French celebrate several holidays each year, including New Year's Day (1 Jan.), Mardi Gras (Shrove Tuesday), Easter Sunday and Monday, Labor Day (1 May), Le Huit Mai (French Armistice Day, 8 May), and World War I Armistice Day (11 Nov.). They also celebrate Catholic holidays, such as Ascension, Pentecost, Assumption (15 Aug.), and All Saints' Day (1 Nov.).



Student **Audrey Belhaj** misses the good French cheese and pastries. Similarly, student **Lise Debuigne Lemarchand** misses the unpasteurized milk, camembert cheese, the sweetened chestnut puree and certain cakes. Both ladies have found products that are similar to their French favorites at various stores in the area. Lise adds that the French creams and soap without paraben are also things she misses.

Both Audrey and Lise miss their family and friends. Lise shares this is especially true at holiday times and birthday parties.

While France hosted 3.22 million Americans in 2014, Audrey says most Americans do not really know France outside of Paris and Normandy. Many Americans are curious to discover the Old Continent. Audrey prefers the French cities with shops on the street to walk to versus the American shopping malls.



Our cookbook, ***Sharing our Best*** includes a number of French recipes including: Pots De Creme Chocolat, and Breast of Chicken Normandy. It makes a wonderful gift. Pick up your copy today!





## Do You Hear What I Hear?

Do you think there is a difference between hearing and listening? If you said yes, you are right! There is a huge difference between hearing and listening. Hearing is simply the act of perceiving sound by the ear. Hearing requires little to no concentration. This is a passive process. Listening, however, is something you consciously choose to do. Listening requires concentration so that your brain processes meaning from words and sentence. This is an active process. Listening leads to learning.

ESL students of OLC are eligible for tutoring services for listening in addition to reading. Testing is used to determine an ESL student's listening level. These competency-based tests measure the listening skills that English language students need to function successfully in today's society. Test questions are relevant to the everyday lives of today's adult learners. Further, these tests have been approved by the state of Michigan and the National Reporting System (under the Department of Education) for our program.

When we talk about listening with our students, it is important to make the distinction between hearing and listening. All of our students obviously hear conversations and talk around them. However, their ability to process and understand what they hear refers to listening. Being able to listen, understand and respond appropriately are key for the students.

Often times we shake our heads when people speak without taking the time to understand. This head shaking demonstrates hearing not necessarily listening. Responsible decision making requires a person to listen and understand. Adults need the ability to understand conversations they would encounter in daily activities i.e., at a grocery store, at a workplace, on a telephone call requesting home service.

Irene Sinclair, OLC tutor and 40 year educator, reminded a group of tutors at the Successful Strategies Workshop about the seven second rule. After you hear something, wait seven seconds to respond. This allows time for understanding. We challenge you to try this!

Stephen R Covey says, *"Seek first to understand, then to be understood"*

Ernest Hemingway said, *"When people talk, listen completely. Most people never listen."*

Stephen R Covey says, *"Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply."*

Listening  
=  
Learning



## OLC Community Partners

Many companies offer non-profits the opportunity to raise funds through community participation programs. These programs are important to Oakland Literacy Council to contribute to our program costs. Such funding allows us to continue offering free tutoring to adults with literacy needs.

The irony is that Oakland Literacy Council gives to the community through educating adults so they become more confident and productive employees, educated consumers, involved parents and overall contributing community members. So while we feel our program gives to the community, via these programs we receive from the community! The three programs below are currently active at OLC. We are always looking and working on other funding opportunities.

### **AmazonSmile**

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to OLC **at no cost to the buyer**. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same prices, selection and shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Update your account today by going to [AmazonSmile.com](https://AmazonSmile.com) and designating OLC as your charity for donations. Thanks to tutor Susan Lipson for recommending this!

### **Barnes & Noble Book Fair**

In the Works, more to come!

### **Kroger Community Rewards**

This program pays money to approved non-profits when registered customers spend money. So each time you buy milk, eggs, bread, etc. Kroger will give credits to OLC and include that amount in a check sent quarterly. Other than buy your favorite food and drinks, you simply need to register once a year (each May) and list OLC as your charity of choice. Registration is at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](https://www.krogercommunityrewards.com).

### **Macy's Shop for a Cause**

Macy's annual event "Shop for a Cause" will be held Saturday, August 29. This event raises money for non-profits and OLC is part of the event this year. We sell coupons for 25% off all purchases on the 29th. The coupons sell for \$5.00 each and can be used at any Macy's store. All the proceeds from the coupon sales OLC gets to keep.

Call the OLC office and buy your coupon today!

