



LITERACY NASSAU

KEY WORDS

The State of

Adult

Literacy:

“A Quiet Crisis”

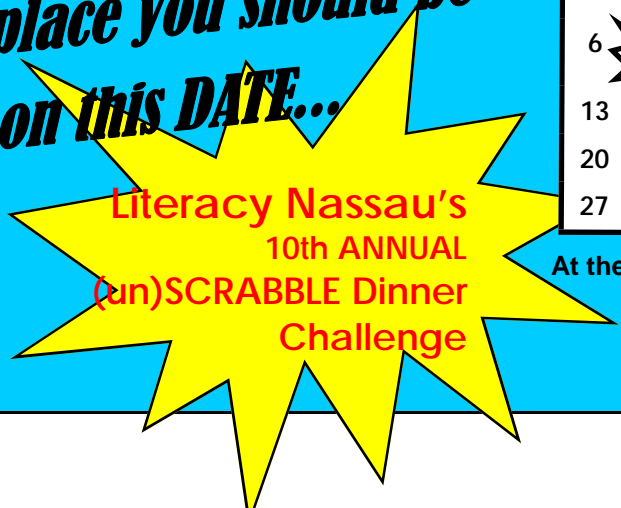
The exhilarating roar and rumble of the staggered line of single engine planes as they took off, soaring into the early blue of a November sky became not only a physical backdrop for the Literacy Nassau / Literacy Suffolk Legislative Breakfast in November, but also a metaphor for the exhausting surge of energy needed to give wing to the invisible pandemic of illiteracy on Long Island. As legislators, community leaders and other island decision-makers gathered at the Molloy College Suffolk Center for the first ever all-island discussion on the issues surrounding illiteracy, keynote speaker Martin G. Murphy, Director of Long Island’s Regional Adult Education Network, appealed to the audience to commit to the *need* to make literacy an Island-wide priority or “risk a quiet



Keynote speaker Martin G. Murphy addressing L. I. legislators on the “quiet crisis” of illiteracy on Long Island at the Literacy Nassau/Literacy Suffolk State of Literacy Legislative Breakfast and Symposium at Molloy College in Farmingdale in November.

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***There is only ONE
place you should be
on this DATE...***



**Literacy Nassau's
10th ANNUAL
(un)SCRABBLE Dinner
Challenge**

APRIL 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6		8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

At the “NEW” L. I. Marriott Hotel & Conference Center
April 7, 2008
6 pm - 10 pm

Welcome to Key Words!

Dear Friends,

What a great year it was! 2007 was a year of many outstanding accomplishments.

As always, the successes of our students and tutors are our greatest source of pride and evidence that Literacy Nassau does indeed open doors for adults, directly impacting the lives of our students, their families, our volunteers and the community as a whole.

We're delighted by the continued growth of long-standing partnerships with community-based organizations like Nassau BOCES, Westbury Even Start and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County. Those partnerships enabled us to develop and pilot our new Mothers' Circles conversation program

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LN Executive Director Tina Sanacore at left and Board President Marian Conway, above, speaking at the Literacy Nassau / Literacy Suffolk Legislative Breakfast.



At right, Literacy Nassau board members Rich A. Mills and Patricia Hartigan flank LN's Director of Communications and Development Karen J. W. Williams at The Literacy Nassau / Literacy Suffolk Legislative Breakfast on the State of Literacy in November 2007.



KEY WORDS

Editor: Karen J.W. Williams
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LITERACY NASSAU STAFF

Tina Sanacore, *Executive Director*
Karen J. W. Williams, *Director of Communications & Development*
Brenda Alui, *Director of Program & Volunteer Services*
Leslie Carter, *Office Manager*
Tenaya Parchment, *Program Coordinator*
Susan Bastian Stallone, *Records Administrator*
Helene Weiner, *Program Coordinator*

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Fax 516.486.0064 / email: mail@literacynassau.org / www.literacynassau.org

Many thanks to



for printing this issue of
KEY WORDS

Adult

The State of Literacy: “A Quiet Crisis”

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crisis that will affect the quality of life” in Long Island from now to twenty years into the future.

This legislative breakfast and symposium, the brainchild of Literacy Nassau and Literacy Suffolk, the two county-wide volunteer literacy service providers on the Island, came at a fortuitous time to garner the ear of legislators, said Tina Sanacore, Executive Director of Literacy Nassau.

“In an election year, it is up to the people to determine what the issues are and then raise a banner to get lawmakers to pay attention,” said Sanacore.

As high school dropout rates continue to climb on Long Island and the number of new immigrants to the region continues to increase, Murphy estimates that



Amy Hagedorn, President of Sustainable Long Island, speaking to Long Island legislators at the Literacy Nassau/Literacy Suffolk State of Literacy Legislative Breakfast and Symposium at Molloy College in Farmingdale in November.



LN Tutor-Trainer Mary-Rose Waldron, Roslyn Savings Foundation’s Cindy Krezel and LN Board President Marian Conway at the Legislative Breakfast.

approximately one million adults in Long Island need help, while the money allocated for adult education realistically can cover only 30,000 students. He said that helping adults build basic skills has “a double impact” in that literate parents are better equipped to raise literate children.

The two organizations have teamed up to form The Literacy Nassau / Literacy Suffolk

Collaborative to provide a platform from which a regional literacy discussion can ensue. In 2008, the 30th and 40th anniversary years for Literacy Suffolk and Literacy Nassau respectively, the larger issues of literacy - access to adequate healthcare, immigrant rights and the technology skills needed for basic employment - have begun to thunder and roar against the metaphoric runway that is Long Island. Will the conversations become short-lived flights of fancy, or will they take off and become palliative measures of strategic success and coalition building, able to be accepted, replicated and ultimately used to eradicate a debilitating disease of our society?

Celebrating 40 Years of Literacy Success!

Below: 30-year veteran tutor
Kathryn Seaman



Left: Sean Peavey, grandson of LN Student and national delegate
Johnny Gilchrist; Bottom: Diana O'Neill, LN Board Member



The Faces of Literacy Nassau

What a Great Year it Was!

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which we expect to expand and adapt to other themes in 2008.

We're equally thrilled by the success and prospects for new partnerships forged in recent months.

New relationships with local colleges and high schools have enabled us to engage young people in our mission, bringing a new source of volunteers and energy to our work. Our budding relationship with Literacy Suffolk is founded on a mutual commitment to make literacy an island-wide priority, a movement that has already begun building momentum.

Technology is now an important ingredient in our recipe for success. Our technology initiative was launched with generous support from IBM, Verizon and Roslyn Savings Foundation and with the guidance and work of Louis Marketing and technology consultant Bay Village Computers.

Literacy Nassau's new website, re-

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Upcoming Literacy Nassau Tutor Training Workshops

Oceanside Winter Workshop

Mondays / February 25, March 3, 10, 17 & 31

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Oceanside Jewish Center

2860 Brower Avenue

Oceanside, NY 11572

Syosset Winter Workshop

Thursdays / February 28, March 6, 13, 27 & April 3

6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Midway Jewish Center

344 South Oyster Bay Road

Syosset, NY 11791

Freeport Winter Workshop

Saturdays / March 1, 8 & 15

All Sessions 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

First Baptist Church of Freeport

195 Pine Street

Freeport, NY 11520

Locust Valley Spring Workshop

Mondays / April 7, 14, 21, 28 & May 12

11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Locust Valley Library

170 Buckram Road

Locust Valley, NY 11560

Call Literacy Nassau for more information!

516 - 486 - 2789

Use what talents you possess. The woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang the best. *Henry Van Dyke*

Literacy Nassau's Computer Toolbox Filled by VERIZON Foundation Grant

It's time for Literacy Nassau's Computer Camp again! Through a grant of \$8,500 from the Verizon Foundation, Literacy Nassau tutors and students have another opportunity to increase their computer knowledge from answering the most basic questions - "How do I get online?" - to satisfying more advanced queries - "How can I organize websites by subject?"

Bill Martin, Director of Community Affairs for VERIZON, chose to fund the Computer Toolbox, an in-house project at LN to assess the needs, habits and desires of our tutors and students

on their computer use and to increase that use as a literacy learning tool.

Literacy Nassau and its dedicated college interns, Jami Cantwell (York College, Pennsylvania) and Eden Solomon (SUNY, Old Westbury), distributed, tabulated, and analyzed the results of a computer survey in 2007 and created a series of Computer Camp classes on varying skill levels to meet the personal needs of the tutors and students and to encourage the use of technology as a literacy tool.

"This grant allows LN to do a number of things at one time," said Tina Sanacore, Executive Director. "It increases the technical knowledge of our tutors and students, it gets tutors and students to incorporate the computer into the literacy studies and it allows the many students waiting for tutors to get a head start on their literacy studies."

VERIZON is a long-time supporter of Literacy Nassau. The VERIZON grant will provide a first step to providing literacy services to adults at the lowest levels of literacy.



William D. Martin is the Director of Community Affairs for VERIZON on Long Island.

"Supporting literacy, especially through the use of technology as a tool, goes to the heart of what VERIZON's philanthropic efforts are all about."

Celebrating 40 Years of Literacy Success!

The October 2007
Long Island Bridge School
Charity Event for Literacy Nassau
Going Strong for Six Years!



What a Great Year it Was!

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-designed to rave reviews, provides a portal to internet-based software that our tutors and students can access anytime and anywhere – including in our on-site lab -- to support and supplement the learning that takes place in tutoring sessions. ‘Computer Camp’ training sessions teach the basics of computing and the internet and are open to all members of the Literacy Nassau community. More are on the way! New email blasts, engineered by volunteer Herb Aldrich, allow us to communicate more easily and timely. Interested in receiving email blasts? E-mail: news@literacynassau.org and we’ll put you on the list!

As we look forward to 2008, the successes of 2007 and the past 40 years propel us into an even greater future. That future is only possible because of the hard work, dedication, and support of people like you who champion the cause of adult literacy.

Thank you!

Tina & Marian



INSIDE LITERACY

Administration & Board Notes

Barbara Behrens, Vice President of the Board of LN, has retired from Nassau BOCES as Senior Manager, Department of Communication and Agency Planning, after 24 years. Barbara will continue on the LN Board and is instrumental in incorporating LN’s 40th Anniversary activities into the special events throughout 2008. She will stay on at BOCES as a consultant for the Department of Communication and Agency Planning. Congratulations Barbara! ...

New Grants & Awards

Nassau Grants for the Arts has awarded LN a Literacy Through the Arts grant to have teaching artists work with English Language Learners to learn how artistic expression through manual manipulation of different materials can have a powerful effect on their literacy learning. *Pieces of a Dream: The Collage Project* will begin in February 2008 and the first exhibit of student’s work will be at LN’s Recognition Night at Nassau Community College, May 29, 2008.

Roslyn Savings Foundation will be the GOLD Level Sponsor for LN’s 2008 (un)SCRABBLE Challenge on April 7, 2008. RSF has been a long-time sponsor of this LN event.

Bloomingdale’s annual multi-charity event, “*The Shopping Benefit*,” in October 2007 netted a special grant for tutor supplies in addition to the funds raised by ticket sales to the event. LN tutors were on hand to greet shoppers at the Roosevelt Field location and enjoy the specially scheduled activities.

Mephram + Literacy = A Volunteer Match

Michael Carolyn, Isaac Deganio, Kyle Donohue, Ryan Doyle, and Sabba Hussain, shown at right, are among the more than 30 Mephram High School seniors who donated their time and talents to Literacy Nassau over the past two months as part of their 2007 community service requirements. In addition to copying, folding and compiling LN's volunteer newsletter and training packets, they also inventoried the over 900 volumes donated to the organization from McGraw-Hill and ran a bookswap to raise awareness and funds for Literacy Nassau.

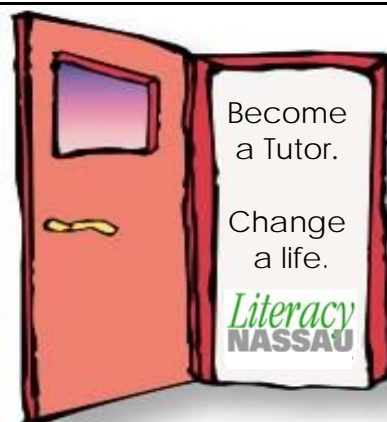


McGraw-Hill Donates 900 Volumes For Tutor Development Campaign

"The mark of The McGraw-Hill Companies is spread across financial services, education and business information ... we share a common goal: to foster economic growth and to help individuals, markets and societies perform to their potential. It's how we leave our mark on the world".

—Harold McGraw III

Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer



McGraw-Hill's philosophy isn't very different from Literacy Nassau's. Our mission of providing personalized instruction to adults who seek help with reading, writing or speaking English, fosters economic growth by helping individuals to reach their potential, driving the engine that enables society to reach its potential.

Our tutors are essential members of this equation, inspiring us to continually support their skills as tutors as *they* strive to support their students increasing skills.

Thanks to the generosity of the McGraw-Hill companies we have a few new resources to help our community members. We recently received nearly 900 books featuring 24 topics and titles including basic grammar, motivating learners, computer instruction and more. This donation has allowed us to update and expand our library and to provide tutors and students with new materials that support and enhance the learning that takes place in one-to-one tutoring sessions, in small conversation groups and in our computer lab classes.



250 Fulton Avenue
Suite 514
Hempstead, NY 11550

Phone: 516-486-2789
Fax: 516-486-0064
Email: mail@literacynassau.org
www.literacynassau.org

*Opening doors of opportunity and success
through the power of literacy*

Celebrating 40 Years of Literacy Success!



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Read our cover article on **The State of Literacy: Legislative Breakfast & Symposium** hosted by The Literacy Nassau/ Literacy Suffolk Collaborative, held in November at Molloy College-Suffolk Center. At left are Gini Booth, Executive Director of Literacy Suffolk, Martin G. Murphy, Director of LI-RAEN and Tina Sana-core, Executive Director of Literacy Nassau.