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WHAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO TODAY?

READ LITERACY NASSAU'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN THIS ISSUE.



The Tutor Guru Returns

The staff was settling into Literacy Nassau's wonderful new offices. With the smell of fresh paint lingering, they were busy setting up their desks, arranging files, and making a new home. The Guru, however, retreated up to a quiet corner of the house and simply repeated the mantra...what to do... what to do...what to do... Then the Guru thought...I don't know what to do. Funny, the tutors always know what to do with their students. Every week they come up with a plan. But that can't be easy. Maybe I can help! So the Guru poked around and found a few new ideas for tutors...

The next time you receive the Quarterly Report (which will be in about 2 weeks), take special note of the last page titled, "Short Term Goals and Accomplishments." (See the insert in this issue.) It is a list of life skills which

you are asked to report on for each of your students. You may not have realized it can be an inspiration for lesson ideas!

Here are a few easy ways to make use of the list:

Assess your student and identify new goals. Review the list (or parts of it each week) with your student. Ask your student whether he or she has performed the items during the last week or last month. Keep track of those items so when you receive the Quarterly Report you already have the information. (You may want to make a few copies of the list.) Were there items your student did not do? Are they things your student would like to work on? Are there new goals? Did your student understand the items? If not, this could be a teaching opportunity.

Create a vocabulary list. When you and your student reviewed the list, were there any unknown words? Why not create a vocabulary list to work on?

Become familiar with the list and listen carefully to your student.

In a less formal way, you can assess your student. Put on your Guru hat and listen closely to what your students tells you. They really do tell you a lot. Be insightful about what they say. Begin by becoming familiar with the list and listen carefully to your student. For example, did your student tell you he or she was sick last week and took medicine? If so, ask if your student is able to read a medicine bottle (which is a life skill on the list). If not, in the following weeks you can work together on learning how to read a medicine bottle.

The Guru retreated back to the comfortable corner feeling deeply satisfied and enlightened. If however, you have questions about how to use the "Short Terms Goals and Accomplishments List," please to call or email Brenda.

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TUTOR RESOURCES

The Center for Alternative Learning is run by Dr. Richard Cooper. Dr. Cooper's expertise is in the area of learning differences. He works frequently with the LI-RAEN (Long Island Regional Adult Education Network), which provides technical assistance and professional development to adult literacy programs funded by the New York State Education Department.

Dr. Cooper offers a free online course on Characteristics of Learning Differences. The course "details the perception, processing and communication differences that can limit the acquisition of basic academic and life skills."

Visit the website at www.learningdifferences.com for additional information on the Center and to register for the on-line course.

Attention Tutors: Please share your resources with your tutor colleagues. Email balui@literacynassau.org or call Brenda at 516.867.3580, extension 13.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

We welcome help with mailings, photocopying and other office projects. Times, days, and frequency vary. If you'd like to be added to our list of office volunteers, please email mail@literacynassau.org and enter "Office Volunteer" in the subject line. We'll contact you when opportunities arise.

Do you have tutoring experience? Would you like to help support other tutors? We're looking for volunteers with time each week to contact tutors to provide information about tutoring and other program activities. This is an excellent opportunity for anyone who enjoys working with other volunteers. For more details, please contact the office.

WE WELCOME IRIS GROVER,

our newest office volunteer, joining us as Literacy Nassau's Basic Literacy Testing Coordinator. Iris, a retired middle school guidance counselor, was also an elementary school teacher and a reading specialist in the course of her career. In addition to her new responsibility, Iris also volunteers as a tester, performing both Basic Literacy and ESOL assessments, and as a trainer conducting Tutor Training Workshops. She was instrumental in developing the pilot program for our Mothers' Circle Conversation Groups and is currently assisting in developing supplemental trainings for the professional development of Literacy Nassau tutors. Iris has been a member of the Literacy Nassau family since 2006.



A VERY SPECIAL EVENT

Please join us on **Thursday, October 15, 2009 from 5 - 7 pm** at Literacy Nassau's "Harvest House Warming" and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, as we mark the official opening of Literacy Nassau's new, permanent home.



Festivities will begin at 5 p.m., with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 5:30 pm. Refreshments and conversation will continue, open house style, until 7:00 pm.

Meet others from across Long Island who support adult literacy and the Literacy Nassau mission: Through personalized instruction, we open doors to opportunity and success for adults in our communities who seek help with reading, writing or speaking English.

WE'D LOVE YOUR STUDENTS TO ATTEND THE OPEN HOUSE. PLEASE INVITE THEM AS YOUR GUEST!

We're located at **187 Smith Street, just west of the corner of South Ocean Avenue in Freeport** (south of Merrick Road/north of Atlantic Avenue). Parking is in the rear, where the building is handicapped-accessible.

Please RSVP: Call 516.867.3580 or write to: mail@LiteracyNassau.org.

A STUDENT WRITES WITH IDIOMS

"Youth/Old Timer"

by Mary Maria Cornielis
Tutor: Maryann Fogarty

Each new generation doesn't know that they are going to face the music in the future for their actions of today. Each new generation must learn by heart about how man left the cave and became civilized. The new generation found an imprint of the older generation that showed them the era of the caveman was over. The younger people have to see eye to eye with the older generation and stick their necks out to make change. Sometimes the new generation doesn't respect the old hand because they think they have everything under their thumb. The young people have to keep their feet on the ground and hit the nail on the head to be successful.

Senator Kemp Hannon's Annual Health Fair at Hofstra University will be held on Tuesday, October 29th from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. Literacy Nassau is participating in the event. If you are interested in helping staff our booth or want additional details, please call the office.

LITERACY NASSAU'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 2009

Mon. 10/5	1:30–2:30 pm	LN Office	Nassau Educator's Federal Credit Union's Pizza Lunch
Tues. 10/6	6:30–8:30 pm	Glen Cove Library	New Student Orientation
Thurs. 10/15	5:00–7:00 pm	LN Office	Harvest House Warming & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
Fri. 10/16	2:00–4:00 pm	Jericho Library	Tutor Roundtable
Tues. 10/20	6:00–9:30 pm	LN Office	Refresher for Current Best Plus Administrators
Wed. 10/28	12:30–3:30 pm	LN Office	Conversation Group Facilitator Training
Thurs. 10/29	6:00–8:00 pm	LN Office	TABE for Tutors
Thurs. 10/29	9:30 am–4:30 pm	LN Office	Test Administrator Training - TABE

November 2009

Mon. 11/2	evenings	Farmingdale Library	Tutor Training Workshop Begins
Thurs. 11/12	9:30 am–4:00 pm	LN Office	Test Administrator Training – Best Plus
Sat. 11/14	11:00 am–1:00 pm	LN Office	Tutor Roundtable
Wed. 11/18	6:30–8:30 pm	Farmingdale Library	New Student Orientation
Wed. 11/18	1:30–3:30 pm	LN Office	Test Taking Anxiety and Stress Reduction
Fri. 11/20	12:30–3:30 pm	LN Office	Refresher for Current Best Plus Administrators

December 2009

Tues. 12/1	12:30–2:30 pm	LN Office	TABE for Tutors
Wed. 12/9		LN Office	Literacy Nassau Holiday Party

January 2010

Thurs. 1/7	afternoons	Bethpage Library	Tutor Training Workshop Begins
Fri. 1/15	2:00–4:00 pm	Bethpage Library	New Student Orientation

March 2010

Sat. 3/6	mornings	UUCSR at Shelter Rock	Tutor Training Workshop Begins
Tues. 3/9	1:00–3:00 pm	Hillside Library, New Hyde Park	New Student Orientation

April 2010

Tues. 4/20	mornings	St. Rose of Lima Parish Massapequa	Tutor Training Workshop Begins
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<p>Conversation Group Facilitator Training: Having great fun with your ESOL student? Love learning about other cultures? Consider becoming a conversation group facilitator! Attend this training to see what is involved in facilitating a small group of English Language Learners. Learn about group dynamics and techniques that allow the group to feel comfortable and safe enough to practice English together while making mistakes. Many different activities will be presented.</p> <p>New Student Orientations are held for adult learners interested in LN's tutoring program. Information will be given on our programs and the commitment required of students. Assessments are made to determine the competencies already mastered by potential students and what additional work is needed. If your students have friends and relatives interested in receiving services, they are encouraged to attend.</p> <p>Refresher for Current Best Plus Administrators: Best Plus Recertification is required annually. If you have not taken this refresher, now is the time to do it! This session provides an opportunity to fine-tune your understanding of the Best Plus scoring rubric. In the interest of limiting potential scoring subjectivity, participants will view sample video assessment questions and discuss the rationale behind each scoring element of the test. Please review the materials (especially the rubric) in your Best Plus Test Administrator Guide before attending, as you will be assessed at the end of the session. ALL CURRENTLY TRAINED BEST PLUS TESTERS MUST CALL THE OFFICE AND REGISTER FOR THE REFRESHER TRAINING! YOUR CERTIFICATION CLOCKS ARE TICKING!</p> <p>TABE for Tutors: Gain an understanding of Literacy Nassau's Basic Literacy assessment instrument, the TABE. We will cover how the test is given and how to interpret the results, and will discuss appropriate instructional strategies to use with students.</p>	<p>Test Administrator Training: Are you looking for new challenges as a volunteer? Consider training to become a certified test administrator to help in assessing our current and prospective students. For additional information, call Brenda at 516.867.3580, extension 13.</p> <p>Test Taking Anxiety and Stress Reduction: Everyone experiences anxiety – a trigger to the body to send out a surge of adrenalin. That surge is helpful when our survival depends on it – the fight or flight instinct. The same surge happens when we feel everyday anxiety, but can become an obstacle to performance in situations when sitting quietly and concentrating is necessary. Come discuss understanding everyday anxieties and learn techniques and relaxation methods that can help anyone cope with a stressful situation. Worksheets and techniques will be available.</p> <p>Tutor Roundtables provide the opportunity for insightful discussions and the exchange of creative ideas about different techniques and general thoughts about the tutor/student relationship.</p> <p>Tutor Training Workshops: All tutors are welcome to attend sessions of currently scheduled Tutor Training Workshops. You can refresh your memory about different techniques, get out of a rut you may have stumbled into, or just be among energetic new tutors! Scheduled workshops are noted above. Call the office or check the website for details.</p>
<p>COME WITH AN APPETITE. You're invited to Nassau Educator's Federal Credit Union's information session and pizza lunch on October 5th from 1:30 – 2:30 pm at the Literacy Nassau office. Please RSVP by calling LN at 516.867.3580.</p>	



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**Visit Us on the Web at
www.LiteracyNassau.org**

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE VALUE OF A THANK YOU

We send many thanks to **Ed Carter** and **Matt Sanacore** for helping beautify our new offices! They both invested quite a bit of "sweat equity" in our new home.

We also extend our appreciation to the volunteers from the **First Presbyterian Church of Freeport** for helping us settle into our new digs.

Have you noticed our beautiful new logo? We have the generosity and talent of **Dorothy Cardi of Cardi Design Studio** to thank for donating her services to Literacy Nassau.

We will miss the calming telephone voice of **Violet Tai-Fatt**, our program assistant, who is moving on to another opportunity with the Urban League's Mature Workers Program. Thank you, Violet, for your dedication to Literacy Nassau.

Special thanks to our summer interns, **Abbey Silverman, Naomi Volk & Jenna Weinstein**, for a job well done!

We acknowledge the following Foundations for their very generous support of Literacy Nassau's adult literacy program:

BJ's Charitable Foundation for their grant of \$10,000 to conduct a Tutor Training Workshop.

The Bank of America Charitable Foundation for granting Literacy Nassau \$5,000 for operating support.

The National Grid Foundation for underwriting new Conversation Groups in Elmont and Uniondale possible through their \$7,500 grant.

The Hyde & Watson Foundation, which funds projects related to facility relocation, generously awarded Literacy Nassau \$5,000 for the purchase of new furniture upon our move to

SAY HELLO TO OUR STAFF



Standing above, left to right: Violet Tai-Fatt, Scott Omene, Volunteer Herb Aldrich, Tenaya Parchment, Helene Toner, Leslie Carter, Tina Sanacore & Maria Reed. Seated in front: Eden Solomon & Brenda Alui. We welcome Theresa Parker (not pictured) and Helene Toner from the Urban League. Also not pictured is Liz Mayers, who shot this photo.



CONGRATULATIONS TTW GRADS

We have a bumper crop of new tutors from our July workshop held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock. Seated left to right: Linda Kanfi, Annette Paley, Nancy Benchimol, Jim Hand, Eva Shmoys & Max Bonfeld. Standing, left to right: Kimberly Carr, Laura Dziomba, Trainer Iris Grover, Tutor & Student Services Director Brenda Alui, Trainer Heather Rugel & Marcy Zoll. Not pictured: Renwick Yusef Andrews, Marie Flaherty, Toba Hartmann, Donald Heyman, Amelie Obas, Abbey Silverman, Latifa Woodhouse & Martha Chimienti.