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STUDENT AUTHORS WANTED FOR OPEN DOOR 2010

Whether your student is a new writer or a more advanced writer, here's an opportunity for him or her to become a published author! Literacy Nassau's annual anthology of student writing, *Open Door*, is loved by students, tutors, and friends. Wouldn't your student like to share a special story and be part of the history that lives on through this unique book?



You can use this opportunity to work through the writing process together with your student to prepare a piece. (If your student makes a submission, you receive points toward your Tutor Recertification!) Submissions from emerging new writers are encouraged regardless of the length or sophistication of the writing. To celebrate the beginning of a new decade, this year's theme is "The Next Decade – Wishes, Goals and Dreams."

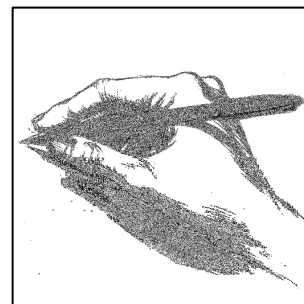
Open Door is presented at our Recognition Night Celebration on the evening of May 27th, where the writers are invited to autograph their work for attendees. This is one of the highlights of the evening! Please encourage your student(s) to submit their work as all the voices together make a rich collection of writing.

When preparing submissions, please follow these simple guidelines:

- Theme:** The Next Decade – Wishes, Goals, and Dreams
Deadline: April 16, 2010
Length: A few sentences by a new writer are fabulous. Advanced writers should not exceed 500 words.
Submissions: We prefer submissions be typed in Microsoft Word and attached to an email. In the Subject Line please type "Open Door." Submit to mail@LiteracyNassau.org or send by snail mail to Literacy Nassau. If your student prefers to remain anonymous, please call Brenda for instructions.
Questions: Contact Brenda at balui@literacynassau.org or at 867-3580, ext 13.

Writing Resources

- In the book *Tutor* from your Tutor Training Workshop, Chapter 5, Writing.
- Online try www.esl.about.com
- Stop by the office and check out the writing section of Literacy Nassau's library. Here are a few books in the collection you may find helpful:
 - *I Wish I Could Write: Activities to Inspire Beginning Writers*, by Joan Barasovska
 - *Writer from the Start*, by David M. Davidson and David Blot
 - *Teaching Writing to Visual, Auditory, and Kinesthetic Learners*, by Donovan R. Walling
 - *Write Right: An English Handbook*



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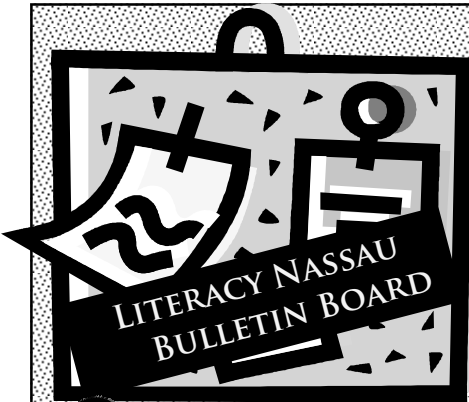
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Please submit your
comments and
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**URGENT REQUEST!**

If you have not submitted your quarterly report, due back January 29th, please do so **immediately**. If you did not receive one please alert the office. Not returning your quarterly report could impact your service to the organization.

**GET READY FOR THE FUN EVENT OF THE SEASON...
LITERACY NASSAU'S (UN)SCRABBLE 2010
CHALLENGE**

March 15, 2010 at 6:00 pm at the Chateau Briand in Westbury.
Come alone, bring a team, whatever you do, don't miss it!

Everything you need to know to participate is on our website.
Type this link into your browser and register today:
<http://literacynassau.org/2010-UnScrabble.pdf>

DID YOU KNOW?

Literacy Nassau's volunteers (YOU!) contributed 24,276 hours of service last year. This and many other interesting facts can be found in Literacy Nassau's 2008-09 annual report. Please visit www.literacynassau.org to view the report, or call or visit the office for a printed copy.

STUDENTS' E-MAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED!

In our on-going effort to simplify and improve communications with students we are compiling a student e-mail list. At your next tutoring session, please have your student (or you) e-mail his or her name and e-mail address to mail@literacynassau.org, writing MY E-MAIL in the subject line.

AVAILABLE:

Space for tutor/student pairs to meet at the Literacy Nassau office. Call ahead to reserve a room.

WE BELIEVE IN RE-GIFTING!

Did you receive a holiday present and have no use for it? Consider donating it for raffle baskets for Literacy Nassau's upcoming events.

COMING NEXT ISSUE - "THE HERB BLURB"

A column devoted to a closer look at resources available in the Literacy Nassau library.

HOLIDAY PARTY PHOTOS –AND MORE – NEW ON OUR WEBSITE

Holiday party photos, upcoming events and forms.
Type this link into your browser to view the photos:
<http://literacynassau.org/2009-holidayparty.htm>

NOW OPEN:

The Literacy Nassau library is open with 1,700 books and additional resources. Come visit!

JANUARY WAS NATIONAL PUZZLE MONTH

Did you know puzzles enhance the capacity for learning and memory, working the left (analytical) and right (intuitive) sides of the brain. Try working one with your student and see what happens!

LETTERS, SPACES AND CHARACTERS

Dear Readers,

All this media talk of volunteering and service...

Our volunteers, YOU, have been doing just this for over 40 years! All of you have that "just do it" spirit, that began not with Nike, but in pioneer days. Everyone does their part to make the community a better place. Literacy Nassau has a wonderful community of volunteers, all knowing change comes one determined person at a time, both tutors and students alike. We all know how gratifying it is to see someone "get" something. It clicks, the light goes on.

Our emphasis this year will continue to be on empowerment through education – both yours and your student's. Literacy Nassau's goal is to keep you on top of your game and connected with other like-minded folks. I know whenever tutors gather their conversations eventually get around to stories about their students.

Please take advantage of supplemental trainings, in-service workshops and tutor roundtables to connect with our community of remarkable volunteers and staff. They will help you to stay current, alive, invigorated. A collateral benefit is that attendance at events and workshops gives you points to apply toward tutor recertification!

Recognition Night is our night to strut our stuff. Let's showcase what we do best – inspire others. You can help by making plans to attend the event, encouraging your student to attend and to write for *Open Door* and inviting others to come and be inspired.

Until then, continue to educate and empower!

Brenda

Brenda Alui
Director of Tutor & Student Services

STUDENT WRITING

by Nora Hinojosa (Tutor: Miriam Cohen)

Christmas Decorations

My name is Nora. I was born in Bolivia. When I was 24 years old I moved to Argentina. I lived 18 years in that beautiful country. Then, in 1979, I came to the U.S.A. This country is blessed from God. Everything is so beautiful. Christmas time the decorations in the city, the windows in the stores, the streets, the trees are so colorful with shiny ornaments. I never saw in my life something like that, so I enjoy every year in Christmas time.

Congratulations!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENTS!

To...**Peter Connolly** for improving his literacy skills so that he has successfully completed the Literacy Nassau program!

To...**Mitsuko Marume** for completing the Literacy Nassau program with her increased progress with English!

To...**Yvette McCants** for her hard work allowing her to complete the Literacy Nassau program!

To...**Dany Delva** for completing the Literacy Nassau program and her plans to continue to further her education!

To...**Margarette Andre-Hyacinth, Jane Kang and Lucenda Williams** for new job opportunities!

To...**Miok Lime and Ever Valle**, wishing continued success on pursuing other educational avenues!

Keep calling the office with updates on your student's goals! Give them an opportunity to be featured in this column!

To...all volunteers, students, staff, board members and other donors who responded to our Winter Fundraising Appeal. Your generous contributions help Literacy Nassau fulfill its mission in this extremely challenging economic environment.

To...**The William E. and Maude S. Pritchard Charitable Trust** for a \$35,000 grant for general support.

To...**Sue Brewer, Bob De Soucey, Bob Nuxoll and Kirsten Schiffer** for all their time spent becoming new Tutor Training Workshop Leaders.

To...**Mary Koenig**, who is retiring from being a Tutor Training Workshop Leader after many, many years!

Thank You

THE TUTOR GURU IS ENLIGHTENED ABOUT NOMINATIONS FOR STUDENTS OF THE YEAR



The Guru rang in the new decade at Literacy Nassau's home with good cheer but was saddened to say goodbye to 2009. The Guru thought happy thoughts about all of the accomplishments Literacy Nassau students made this year. Some learned the alphabet, some became US citizens, some got better paying jobs, and some learned how to use the library. "Now shouldn't these student achievements be celebrated," the Guru thought. So the Guru plodded downstairs (heavily), ready to straighten this out. Ooops! The Guru was given an earful (i.e., enlightened). All students are recognized for their accomplishments at Recognition Night. Two students are given the added and special honor of being named **Students of the Year**. And how does that work? It was explained to the Guru (again...) and the Guru thought it would be wise to pass it along.

At Recognition Night, Literacy Nassau honors a Basic Literacy Student and an ESOL Student for their commitment to improving their literacy skills and progress toward achieving their defined goals. As a tutor, you've worked diligently each week helping your students towards these goals and this is an opportunity to show off their efforts, determination, and accomplishments. Here's how to nominate your students.

Write one to two paragraphs telling us why your student is deserving of this honor. Here are some items to consider:

- Why did your student come to Literacy Nassau?
- What obstacles does your student have to deal with in order to pursue tutoring?
- Describe the attitude your student displays towards tutoring.
- What kinds of literacy skills has your student achieved?
- What goal has your student achieved that is work-related?
- What goal has your student achieved in terms of home and family?
- What goal has your student achieved in terms of life skills?
- In what ways has tutoring affected your student's life?
- How has your student affected your life?
- How has your student used what he/she has learned to help others?
- Has your student become active in Literacy Nassau as a speaker, volunteer, mentor or in some other way?

Deadline: April 16, 2010 (We are sorry that extensions cannot be granted due to time constraints – please don't let your student miss out on being considered for these honors.)

Submissions: We prefer submissions be typed in Microsoft Word and attached to an email. In the Subject Line please type, "SOTY." Submit to mail@LiteracyNassau.org, or send by snail mail to Literacy Nassau.

Questions? Contact Brenda at balui@literacynassau.org or 867-3580, ext 13.

Enlightened and anticipating a festive Recognition Night Celebration, the Guru lumbered back upstairs to hunker down for the rest of the winter.

A HEARTWARMING NIGHT OF CELEBRATION

Contributed by Kathy Levine, Tutor

Just as Hollywood has its Oscar Awards and Broadway boasts its Tonys, Literacy Nassau's annual Recognition Night celebrates the year's achievements with glitter and style. Whether you're new to the organization or just looking for some fresh inspiration, students and tutors will enjoy this opportunity to honor those who made special contributions to Literacy Nassau in 2009. You won't want to miss it this coming May 27th!

Last year, as a new volunteer seeking information for a writing assignment, I attended Recognition Night for the first time and found a spirit of community and friendship awaiting me. The evening was sweetened by an array of delicious desserts and raffle prizes – from beauty products to themed gift baskets. But the highlight was seeing the joy in the celebrants' faces.

Categories included Basic Literacy Student of the Year, ESOL Student of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, and Tutor of the Year. As recipients accepted their well-deserved awards, I was moved by their personal stories of courage, challenges, determination and dreams come true. Students beamed as they told of earning a GED, becoming a citizen, or reading a newspaper for the first time. Tutors described the gratifying rewards of sharing their time and talents. How could I resist? I signed up for tutor training soon after!



Authors' Table—Recognition Night 2009



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SAVE THE DATE!
RECOGNITION NIGHT
DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2010
TIME: 7—10 PM
PLACE: UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION AT SHELTER ROCK

LITERACY NASSAU CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2010

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Tutor Roundtable: Successfully Engaging Your Student(s)
Bethpage Public Library
Come and share stories and resources that work with students.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15
President's Day – **Office closed**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
(Session 1 of 5)
Tutor Training Workshop begins at Farmingdale Public Library
Current tutors are invited to monitor workshops. *Refer a friend!*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Literacy Nassau Office
Pronunciation: Exercises & Techniques To Help Your Student
This class is designed to provide useful tools for tutors to use when teaching pronunciation to their students.

MARCH 2010

SATURDAY, MARCH 6 (Session 1 of 5)
10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Tutor Training Workshop begins at UUCSR
Current tutors are invited to monitor workshops.
Refer a friend!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10
Working on Citizenship: Best Practices
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Literacy Nassau Office
Suggestions, resources and firsthand stories from a tutor whose student successfully obtained her United States Citizenship.

MONDAY, MARCH 15
(un)SCRABBLE (See website for ticket information)
6:00 pm
Chateau Briand, Westbury

SATURDAY, MARCH 20
Tutor Roundtable
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Literacy Nassau Office
Come share stories, techniques and resources to use with your student. We will focus on ESOL learners.

THURSDAY, MARCH 25
Foundations in Literacy
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Literacy Nassau Office
Come and review Basic Literacy skills, from alphabets and phonics to reading comprehension.
Learn suggested techniques for helping learners grasp key concepts.

APRIL 2010

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7
Volunteer Appreciation Open House
4:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Literacy Nassau
Come to the office and celebrate YOU, our volunteers. Be sure to invite your student!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14 (Session 1 of 5)
10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Tutor Training Workshop begins at Lynbrook Public Library
Current tutors are invited to monitor workshops. *Refer a friend!*

FRIDAY, APRIL 16
Open Door Deadline
Student of the Year Nominations Deadline

Remember to RSVP for all scheduled events. (This is important so we can notify you of schedule changes.)

Tutor recertification points are awarded for attendance at workshops and events (and for referring friends to our Tutor Training Workshops)!