



LITERACY MATTERS

MARCH 2021



Literacy Matters is a recurring publication of Literacy Nassau, Inc.

What You'll Find in this Issue:

(un)Scrabble Contest	2
Our Book Review Winner	3
Happy Birthday!	4
Amazon Smile	4

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NCBC UPDATE

(submitted by Jessica D'Aprile)

Our Next Chapter Book Clubs offer adults with learning disabilities the chance to gather in a social setting and form friendships, while discussing different novels with peers. These clubs have grown to be loved by all who are lucky enough to be involved in them. Whether a member or facilitator, all who take part in these clubs form life-long memories and friendships.

The pandemic has taken a large toll on our NCBC and JID groups. A majority of our clubs were put on hold due to inability to meet. But this didn't stop everyone. Thanks to the flexibility of our wonderful volunteers we have been able to make modifications and flex some creative muscle to find new ways to meet. We have even been able to start up new clubs meeting solely on virtual platforms during this time.

Recruiting new members with the capability to meet via Zoom has been a noteworthy challenge, but with the help of libraries and relatives of the club members, we have gotten the word out. Referrals are a great source of growth for our NCBC membership. Posts on social media have also been a great way to get the word out.

Our biggest challenge for virtual book clubs is book distribution. Many of our members have had to obtain copies of

books on their own, through the use of their library, local bookseller, or Amazon. Some of our facilitators have gone above and beyond, delivering books to each of the club members after obtaining a set from Literacy Nassau.

At the beginning of the pandemic we had one book club meeting virtually, now we're up to eight different clubs meeting virtually. With eight clubs running, there has been a chance for the members to still get some of the social interaction that they have missed so much. It is our hope that in the near future we will see even more clubs return to meeting. As the weather gets warmer, we look forward to welcoming clubs into our outdoor space for live meetings. Local parks are also a viable option. With all that is going on in the world, having a NCBC or JID club to be a part of is a great reprieve, with plenty of friendly faces to see.

If you or someone you know would be interested in becoming a member of one of our Next Chapter Book Clubs feel free to contact me at jdaprile@literacynassau.org or call 516-867-3580

THOUGHTS FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Hi Everyone,
 Happy March!

Between the rollout of the vaccine and the leadership of a new President, I think things are finally starting to look up. As a society, we've developed new coping methods and strategies for efficiency during this past year. We've found innovative ways to fight boredom, loneliness, and stress amidst a world full of cancelled plans.

Those of you who have been around the block with Literacy Nassau know that March is the month where we usually host our annual (un)Scrabble tournament. Of course, this year, that's not possible, but we're bringing a little bit of the event straight to you via our (un)Scrabble at Home Challenge on page 2 of this newsletter! I hope it brings you some joy.

Better days are coming! Until then, stay vigilant, safe, and healthy.



Our kitten, Cici, is learning to be a literary kitty by resting on bookshelves throughout our house!

Karen 😊





PLAY AT HOME ^(un) SCRABBLE TUTOR CONTEST!

HOW TO PLAY: Create words using the “tiles” opposite this page (write your words directly onto the Scrabble board). Please write the point value of each letter in the lower right hand corner of each box. When your board is complete, add up all the tiles for each row where words have been built. Put those totals in the spaces provided in Column A (to the right). Then, add up all the tiles for each vertical column where words have been built. Put those totals in Row A (below). Record your grand total at the bottom of the page. (Don't forget to add extra points for Double Letter Score, Double Word Score, Triple Letter Score, and Triple Word Score boxes. Those appear as “2L, 2W, 3L, and 3W” on the board. The star in the center of the board counts as a Double Word Score box.)

MYSTERY WORD AND THE 4 CORNERS: Below the board, you will find a definition for our mystery word. If you correctly identify the word and incorporate it into your board, it is worth an extra 200 points! Also below, you will notice the 4 corners of the board have already been assigned to certain letters. These letters are randomly chosen and you must work them into your board – you cannot change them!

Unlike regular Scrabble, there is no limit to how long your words are. The only limit is the number of letters you have. The goal, however, is to use all your letters up. Any letters you don't use will be subtracted from your total score. When your board is complete, mail it in to Literacy Nassau. The highest scoring board wins a DELUXE SCRABBLE BOARD GAME!

GAME BOARDS ARE DUE TO US BY MARCH 31ST!

FINAL SCORES WILL BE MAILED TO ALL TUTORS WHO PLAY AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE GAME!

3W			2L				3W			2L			3W	Col. A:
	2W				3L			3L					2W	_____
		2W				2L		2L					2W	_____
2L			2W				2L				2W		2L	_____
				2W						2W				_____
	3L				3L			3L					3L	_____
		2L				2L		2L				2L		_____
3W			2L			★				2L			3W	_____
		2L				2L		2L				2L		_____
	3L				3L			3L					3L	_____
				2W						2W				_____
2L			2W				2L				2W		2L	_____
		2W				2L		2L				2W		_____
	2W				3L			3L					2W	_____
3W			2L				3W				2L		3W	_____

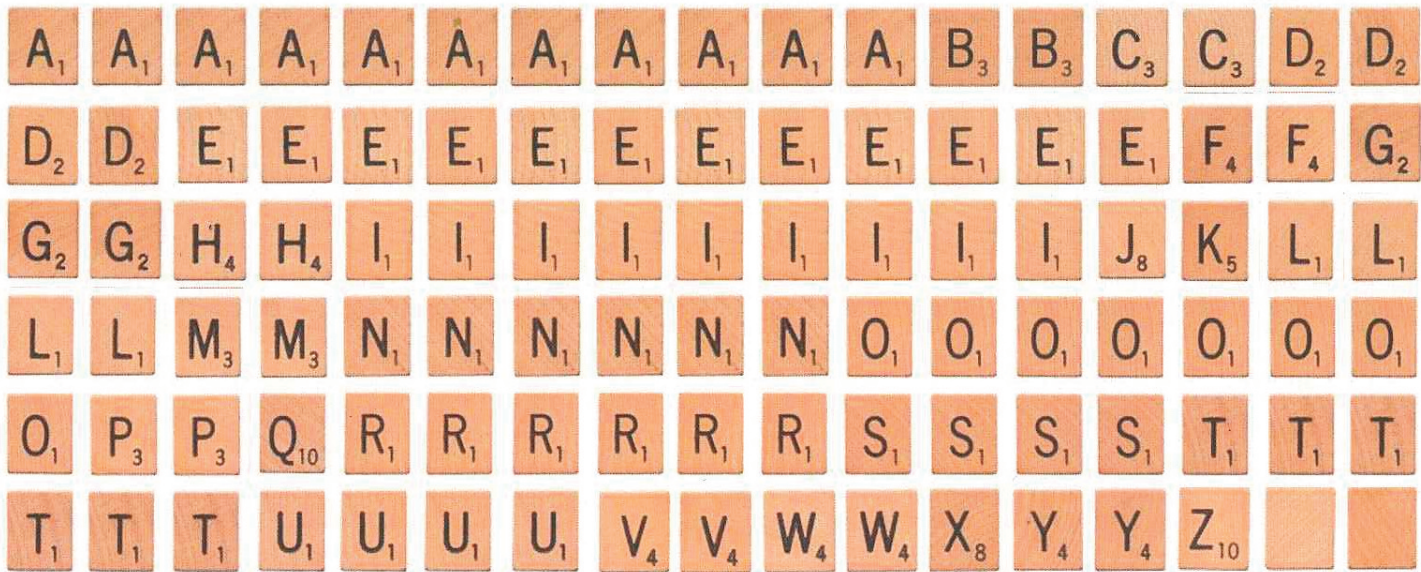
Row A: _____

GRAND TOTAL

Mystery Word Definition: A noteworthy happening or occasion. **4 Corners:** R (top left), E (top right), L (bot. left), H (bot. right).



LETTERS FOR (UN)SCRABBLE GAME (FROM PAGE 2)



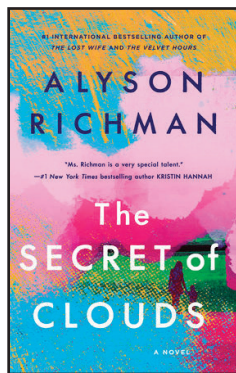
**Literacy
Nassau's Book
Review Contest
Winner!**

**Astaire
Greenberg**

Thank you to all the participants for their submissions. We look forward to adding some great new books to our reading lists.

BOOK REVIEW CONTEST WINNER

(submitted by Astaire Greenberg)



I would highly recommend *The Secret of Clouds* by Alyson Richman. It is a beautiful and sweet story. It involves a wonderful and caring young teacher. She truly feels committed to her students. She mentors a very young student who is seriously ill. She encourages this bright and gifted boy. Due to her relationship with the youngster she learns a great deal about his immigrant family. The warmth and depth of love between the teacher and the youngster is so touching.

"An exquisite story...Richman's great strength in designing the emotional ebb and flow of her engaging narrative should win accolades and a heap of new readers."
— Washington Independent Review of Books

"A truly beautiful, heartfelt story... I couldn't put it down once I started it. Ms. Richman is a very special talent."
— Kristin Hannah, New York Times bestselling author

CONGRATULATIONS, ASTAIRE!

Here is a complete synopsis of this wonderful book:

Katya, a rising ballerina, and Sasha, a graduate student, are young and in love when an unexpected tragedy befalls their native Kiev. Years later, after the couple has safely emigrated to America the consequences of this incident cause their son, Yuri, to be born with a rare health condition that isolates him from other children. Maggie, a passionate and dedicated teacher agrees to tutor Yuri at his home, even though she is haunted by her own painful childhood memories. As the two forge a deep and soulful connection, Yuri's boundless curiosity and unique wisdom inspires Maggie to make difficult changes in her own life. And she'll never realize just how strong Yuri has made her—until she needs that strength the most....A novel that will make readers examine what it means to live life with a full heart.



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Warm Birthday Wishes to our Tutors!

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Harvey Caust – Alisa Clark – Claire Deroche
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