



LITERACY MATTERS

JULY 2018

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



What You'll Find in this Issue:

Barbara Bush.....	2
Summertime Lessons.....	2
Happy Birthday.....	2
Faculty Search.....	3
Save the Date.....	4
Press Conference.....	4

Our Staff Team

Karen Micciche, Executive Director
 Anne-Marie Poliviou, Executive Assistant
 Renae Katz, Bookkeeper
 Kim Nau, Regional Director
 Cindy Cabrera, Regional Director
 Kelly Siry, Regional Director
 Digna Johnson, Workforce Development
 Kate Quijano, Literacy Specialist
 Sara Izquierdo, Literacy Specialist

Our Board of Directors

Stephen Bendernagel, President
 Judith Beckman, Vice President
 Jordan Freundlich, Secretary
 Susan Santoro, Treasurer
 Iris Grover
 Michele Ingrassia Haber
 James Kinney
 E. Christopher Murray
 Craig Weintraub

BUILDING A NEW LEGACY

(submitted by Karen Micciche)

*"Many hands make light work."
 "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."
 "If you build it, they will come."*

As you can imagine, my head is spinning. I have one season to build an entire tutoring center and I have hit my first glitch: the contractor quotes are higher than I thought they would be.

I am all for the idea of thinking outside the box, but I can't magically make money appear with very little time and a tight construction schedule. So I have had a good number of sleepless nights. Here's what I've come up with. I feel like I need to play offense and defense at the same time. I need to work to get the quotes lower while coming up with new ways to raise money fast. (Shameless plug: see page 4 and save the date for our first annual 5k!) I'm writing to celebrities with dyslexia trying to get them involved. I'm contacting big contractors on Long Island (like Alure in East Meadow) and asking for room-based donations (like a bathroom, or the kitchenette). I'm contact authors who've written about dyslexia or who are familiar with Orton-Gillingham. But I know there's more I can do.

THOUGHTS FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Hi Everyone,

Graduation season is nearing a close, and I would like to share a story with you. When I started in the non-profit world, I was the Teen Director at the Cross Island YMCA. Maybe a month or so into the job, I met a young man named Chris Fields. He was funny but self-deprecating, and he was surrounded by negative influences in his neighborhood and at his school. His mom, Judi, was not going to let her son fall through the cracks, so she dragged him to the Y to join all my programs. I took every chance I could get to lift him up. When the kids in Leaders Club thought he was shady, I made him Treasurer. When I heard he liked spray painting, I made him spray paint t-shirts and sell them at Teen Center. I gave him his first paid job as a counselor, and then a unit Leader, at our camp. Now, 15 years since I first met him, Chris Fields is an inner city teacher of troubled high school kids. He had 2 tickets to his graduation from Hunter College for his Masters Degree so he gave them to his 2 best girls: Judi and me.

So here I am, asking you all to join me in my "outside the box" journey. Who do you know? Do you have a great (licensed, insured) electrician who might be willing to donate some time? Is one of your grown children a skilled carpenter looking for some great publicity? Does your best friend own a drywall company?

We are looking for any and all donations of time, building supplies, manpower, and more as we embark on this journey. I will gladly name rooms, bookshelves, tutoring pods, or even the entire building after people who help us out.

Similarly, as projects come up, I will be putting together e-blasts and getting them out to you. For example, let's say we need volunteers to help us paint. You might not be great at painting but maybe you can bake cookies for the volunteers or bring down some bottles of water. Anything you can offer will make a difference. This is our chance collectively to create a beautiful new tutoring center for children across Long Island and if we all work together at it, the legacy will be one we all can share proudly!

If you would like to get involved or know someone who can help, please get in touch with me directly at kmicciche@literacynassau.org. Thank you!



A little bit of love goes a long way. Just ask my friend, Chris Fields. Happy Graduation to a truly inspiring young man!

Karen 😊





HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Warm *belated* wishes to the following tutors born in **June!**

Adolph Anglade - Janet Bazuro - Judy Beckman – Stephen Bendernagel – Teresa Benedetto – Mel Breshin – Margaret Cangero – Marilyn Clarke – Marla Cohan – Nadine Connors – Carol Davan – Denise Dressler – Betty Engel – Michele Fielding – Dianne Fraiman – Sheila Frank – Edward Garfinkel – Daniel Goldschmidt – Vicki Goldstein – Coleen Graziose – Robert Greenberg – John Guerin – Denise Hibbert – Maureen Hogan – Jennifer Hopper – Valerie Ignatowitz – Joan Kaufman – Kathleen Kelty – Lisa Kornberg – Sean Lai – Paulette Lalljee – Muriel Leonard – Carolyn Meditz – Irene Meier – Brianna Meurer – Maureen Miller-Calamo – Edward Paley – Susan Santoro – Celeste Pomerantz – Jennifer Power – Kimberly Richardson – Maxine Schmerzler – Kathryn St. Juste – Monique Thomas – Matilda Tobin – Sandra Villatoro – Eileen Watts

Warm wishes to the following tutors born in **July!**

Janet Baram – George Bleckman – Eric Bonge – Sid Burgreen – David Caines – Janis Caravello – Deborah Cavalieri-Arden – Lisa Cavanagh – Carol Ann Ceraldi – Andrew Corsi – Marcie Denberg – Maria DiCroce – Barbara DiPalmo – Jackie Eill – Susan Fitzgerald – Ed Friedman – Gloria Glick – Audrey Green – Anna Maria Iannetta – Elise Knauer – Carmen Lloyd – Margaret Manusch – Christine Martin – Roseann Michelson – Phyllis Modiano – Camille Mowatt – Kathy Mullen – Lynn Newman – Nancy Reedy – Mary Jane Regan – Patricia Regan – Susan Risberg – Kevin Ryan – Dianne Saccone – Susan (Peedee) Shaw – Claudia Silbert – Cynthia Spiletic – Trish Szendrey – Gail Weinstein – Susan Woodward – Anne Zajac – Nathalie Zephirin

BARBARA BUSH'S LITERACY LEGACY

(submitted by Sara Izquierdo)

We said goodbye to a former First Lady in April. Barbara Bush was the wife of George H.W. Bush, and was First Lady from 1989 to 1993. Barbara Bush understood the importance of literacy, to a child, a family, a community, a nation. She stated, "If more people could read, write, and comprehend, we could be much closer to solving so many of the other problems our country faces today."

She started the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, an organization that works to increase literacy among children and adults in the United States, in 1989. One of her children struggled with dyslexia, and she knew how important it was for families to support each other by learning and reading together. Having raised more than \$110 million for literacy programs, part of Barbara Bush's lasting legacy will include her commitment to literacy education.

You may have noticed George H.W. Bush sporting a pair of literacy-related socks at Barbara Bush's funeral. These socks were created by a company right here on Long Island. John's Crazy Socks (www.johnscrazysocks.com) is a small business in Melville, NY started by a young man with Down Syndrome who loves colorful, playful socks. To honor his wife's commitment to literacy, President Bush requested a pair of Crazy John's "Library Socks for Literacy". 100% of the profit from these socks is donated to the Barbara Bush Foundation for Literacy.

It is great to know that we are part of a community that includes members as diverse as a small business right here on Long Island, and a former First Lady, that believes that literacy can lead to a better world.

CREATIVE SUMMERTIME LESSONS

(submitted by Cindy Cabrera)

Sunny skies and rising warm temperatures are what we've been waiting for. Summer is a time when kids are out of school and families go on vacation. It can be a difficult time to focus on our studies, especially for our student population. Some may have children, others may have planned a vacation, or some just want to relax. Regardless, I know many of our tutors and students are determined to keep going. Here are some ideas to spruce up your summertime lessons.

Vocabulary: Teach vocabulary based on summer activities, for example: beach, playground, vacation, park, etc. to connect your student to activities he/she has participated in.

Travel: Some of your students may be planning to travel. Activities about maps and navigating new places can be a great reminder of their fun plans!

Video: Encourage your student create a selfie video project. He/she can choose any topic and can record themselves speaking English. During my time teaching, I had the students describe their definition of the "American Dream" in 2 minutes. It was a blast.

Show and Tell: Have your student bring something to class that represents something he/she did during the summer. This is a great way to practice speaking as you ask for details about what they brought in, why they chose it and what it signifies.

Survey: Have your student practice interviewing someone who has traveled. Some questions your student can ask are: "Where was your last trip?," "How long was it?," "Did you travel alone?," or "Why did you travel to your destination?" Hope you enjoy your summertime activities with your student. Your Literacy Specialist is always available to help you with ideas and information for planning your lessons!



Pictured above, Barbara Bush reads to kids. Below, George Bush's literacy socks.





THE SEARCH FOR A PILOT FACULTY TEAM

(submitted by Karen Micciche)

If you have been volunteering with us and have always wanted the chance to work at Literacy Nassau in a paid role, the following training information might be of interest to you!

Orton-Gillingham (OG) is a multi-sensory approach that engages multiple pathways in the brain to help students learn to read and write. This means we use sight, hearing, touch, and movement to help students connect language with letters and words. Orton-Gillingham, developed by Samuel Orton (neuropsychologist) and Anna Gillingham (educator and psychologist), has been helping children with dyslexia for almost a century. OG is highly structured and breaks reading and spelling down into smaller skills involving letters and sounds. These skills build over time. There is a strong emphasis on understanding the how and why behind reading. The English language can seem complicated but it is almost 90% phonetically regular. This means that once we explicitly teach students the rules and patterns, they are able to decode words more successfully.

In our new tutoring center, all faculty who work with children will need to be certified (or in the process of becoming certified) by the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators (AOGPE). To achieve the first (associate) level of training, practitioners must:

1. Complete 60 hours of training, comprised of a 30-hour introductory course (to be held at Literacy Nassau on August 20-24, 2018) followed by 6 seminar classes spread over the course of the year. Seminar classes are 5 hours each and are held on Saturdays, typically once per month from September through June.
2. Complete a supervised, 100-hour practicum with a student who has dyslexia. This includes 10 observations by supervising AOGPE Fellow, P.K. Sanieski.
3. Complete an application to the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators. Applications can only be submitted twice a year, in July and January.

The Associate Level of certification can take up to 2 years to attain. However, it can be done in as little as 9 months. We are here to help you gauge a time frame that works for you. Once you complete your Associate level of certification, you will be offered the opportunity to join our faculty at a pay rate of \$25 per lesson. This is a lucrative opportunity as a second job for educators, as an Act 2 for retirees, or as a full-time profession. AOGPE certification is an incredible asset for an educator to have on his/her resume and is a tremendous value-plus for school districts, particularly considering the fact that the training has not yet been mandated by New York State.

Karen Micciche and Kim Nau are both members of the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators (AOGPE) who have achieved their associate level of certification. They are currently studying for their certified level and they are supervised by AOGPE Fellow, P.K. Sanieski, to assure adherence to best practices. They are the day-to-day staff who will be here to support you on this journey.

To be selected for our program, candidates must demonstrate a sincere interest in learning the Orton-Gillingham approach and a dedication to completing the training program. Candidates will first complete a week-long initial 30-hour course from

August 20-24, 2018. After completion, Karen Micciche and Kim Nau will work to match each candidate with an appropriate student for practicum work. Each candidate must create space in his/her personal schedule during after-school, evening, and/or weekend hours to regularly meet with a student at our facility in Wantagh for 100 hours of unpaid practicum. Candidates will be expected to create lesson plans for meetings, schedule observations with Mrs. Sanieski, and attend 6 additional 5-hour seminars (30 additional hours total) over the course of the 2018-19 school year. Candidates will also be expected to complete all mandatory readings from the AOGPE Associate Level Reading List (enclosed) and write/submit a brief report on each reading. Finally, upon completion of all requirements, candidates will be expected to complete and submit an application to the AOGPE. Please note: There is an application fee of \$175 payable to the AOGPE which is non-refundable.

Additionally, before being accepted to the program, candidates must complete a background check and pass a drug test. Prior to meeting with a student for the first time, each candidate must complete a Mandated Reporter (child abuse prevention) course through the NYS Office of Child and Family Services.

Each lesson is approximately 40-60 minutes and is customized for the student's individual learning needs. All materials and lessons are created by the tutor. Lessons will be held after-school, evenings, and/or on Saturdays, two to four times a week for a minimum of 100 hours to fulfill the requirements of the tutor's OG practicum. Parents are encouraged to be present at the lessons and are welcome to ask questions or request feedback.

To apply for this exciting new program, please contact Karen Micciche at kmicciche@literacynassau.org to request an application packet. This training is funded by the John and Janet Kornreich Charitable Foundation, however, all applicants who are accepted into the program must put down a deposit of \$750. This deposit will be refunded to you upon completion of the certification. The deposit will be forfeited if you decide during your practicum to stop tutoring. The purpose of the deposit is to ensure only serious applicants to participate. The training costs \$3,000 per person, and by the end of it, you will pay only the \$175 out of pocket application fee to the AOGPE.

We hope that many of you will apply for this exciting and lucrative opportunity with Literacy Nassau. Similarly, if you know of a child who can benefit from our services, please direct his/her parents to contact Kim at knau@literacynassau.org.





187 Smith Street, Freeport, NY 11520
(516) 867-3580 ~ www.literacynassau.org

NON PROFIT RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Freeport, NY
11520
Permit No. 376

SAVE THE DATE!

Literacy Nassau's First Annual 5K Walk/Run

Sunday, November 4th

Eisenhower Park

All proceeds will go towards our capital fund!

GOVERNOR CUOMO PRESS CONFERENCE

(submitted by Kelly Siry)

On April 25th I attended a press conference held by Governor Andrew Cuomo. At this press conference Governor Cuomo spoke about his decision to issue a cease and desist letter to ICE (US Immigration and Customs Enforcement.) He demanded the immediate stop of reckless and unconstitutional enforcement actions. He has threatened to sue ICE if they do not stop operating in this manner. The press conference followed increases in ICE raids affecting the agricultural industry. It built on the governor's prior plan to expedite funding to immigrant legal services. He also spoke about the budget for fiscal year 2019 and discussed his plans to increase the Liberty Defense Project Investment by \$10 million to improve and expand free legal support services for immigrants across New York State.

For Information and Legal Counsel call the New Americans Hotline:
1-800-566-7636

