

Reading. For Life.



**LITERACY**  
N A S S A U

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

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## ENGLISH PROGRAM FOR KIDS AND THE GURU KRUPA FOUNDATION

(by Izabella Katz, Program Manager)

In January, we relaunched our Saturday English Immersion Program for Kids - all thanks to the generous donation from the Guru Krupa Foundation. Classes will run until the end of June. This program provides support to children trying to navigate their regular school coursework while not having a strong command of the English language.

This year the program is being taught by one of our own Orton-Gillingham trainees and full time reading teacher, Rebecca. She has added a new level of teaching to the program incorporating her own classroom experience and her OG training. Here are her experiences so far:

"We are having so much fun in our Saturday sessions! It has been wonderful getting to know each other and building our classroom community. In addition to having fun and building camaraderie, we are working very hard, too. The students are actively engaged in reading and writing activities using a direct, explicit, multisensory, structured, sequential, diagnostic, and prescriptive approach. Along with reading and writing, we have been developing our speaking, listening and vocabulary acquisition through discussion, group work and multimodal engagements. Students are constantly engaged in learning opportunities that feel more like playing

games and having fun! During instruction, it is not uncommon to hear comments like "I wish I could come every day" from Zachary or "I don't want to leave" from Diego. Meanwhile, friendships are growing strong with students stating "I feel happy" and "my new best friend is here in this class" like Zoey and Yilin. We are looking forward to more Saturday fun to come!"



The Guru Krupa Foundation helps support a broad range of educational, social, environmental and religious/cultural charitable causes across India and the United States. We are proud to have been their partner since 2012. Thank you for your ongoing support!

## FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Hi Everyone!

Well, I'm nearing the end of an era of sorts as we move from the darkness of winter to the light of spring. For the past 7 years, I've been working tirelessly on becoming a Fellow of the Orton-Gillingham Academy, a process that involves many tiers of certification, along with (literally) countless hours of practice. As I put together the pieces of my application, I find that I've been reflecting a lot on not only how much I have grown, but how much my own children have benefited from this exercise. My daughter Haley will be 12 years old next month. Some of you reading this knew me before I was even pregnant with her. She's an avid reader, and dreams of becoming an author, despite being dyslexic. And my darling Julie, who is 10, continues to work through her struggle with dyslexia every day. To say that I am proud would be an understatement. I am in awe.

All this to say, keep striving. The needle is moved in tiny increments, but over time, the changes we can make are immeasurable.



**Karen** 

# MARCH IS NATIONAL READING MONTH

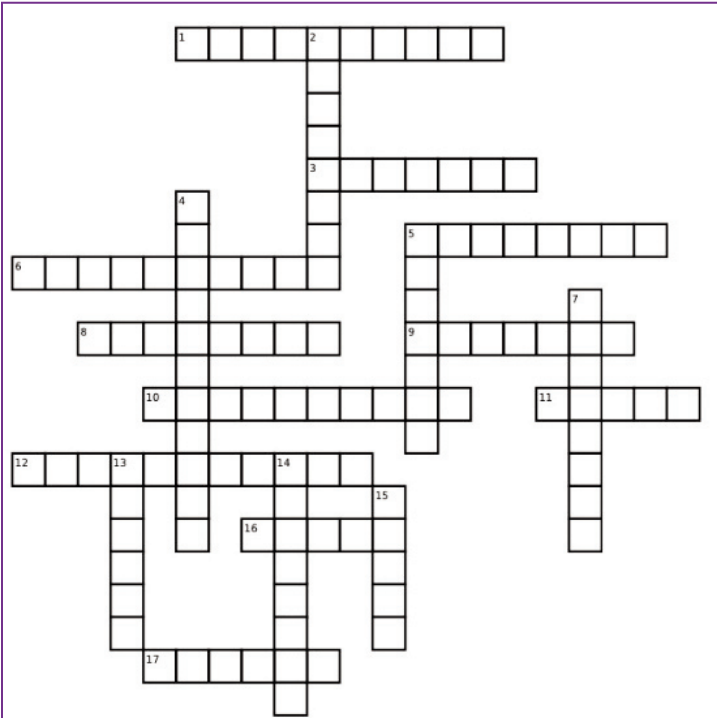
(submitted by Izabella Katz, Program Manager)

The importance of reading is year round with extra celebration in the month of March. The National Education Association recognizes March 2nd as Read Across America day. Having access to books of all kinds allows for personal growth through the stories of others. This month, we encourage all ages to pick up a book and read! Reading plays an important role in expanding our knowledge, critical thinking skills and helps you relax. We like to not only acknowledge readers but those who provide access to reading and teach those reading skills this month. Some activities you can participate in include:



- Visiting your local library
- Creating a story of your own
- Find and complete a reading challenge
- Explore a new genre of books
- Listen to an audiobook or download a digital book
- Create a list of new books to read

## Read Across America Day Contest



### Warm Birthday Wishes to our tutors celebrating in March!

- Tahara Anderson – Frank Annese – Alissa Belize
- Marilyn Benson – Joan Borruso – Kristen Brennan
- Stephanie Budhan – Donna Cattano – Harvey Caust
- Alisa Clark – Claire Deroche – Linda Diamond
- Nancy Doyle – Eleanor Feingold – Alan Freeman
- Mary Greenfield – Linda Hanson – Carol Horvat
- Margaret Kemp – Craig Kennedy – Robert Lanzisera
- MaryLou Laurie – Maureen Lonergan – Mindy Mangot
- Cynthia Marquez – Nichola Meadows – Harri Meyers
- Deborah Monteko – Carol Morris – Justine Mulvihill
- Aruna Paingankar – Anne Picone – Lauren Quinn
- Janice Raven – Jennifer Reedy – Charlene Serenita
- Sophia Shapiro – Staci Seigel – Mary Smith
- Vickie V.Y. Stanco – Gladys Stuart – Sara Beth Tornis
- Peter Walsh – Christian Wrigley – Carolyn Zaremba

Complete the crossword puzzle and mail your responses to our office. A winner will be randomly selected and a prize will be mailed to you.

Entries must be received by March 29th.

- Down:**
2. The problem in a story that must be overcome
  4. The leading character
  5. A retelling of the main ideas in a text in a shorter version
  7. Where Literacy Nassau was located before moving to Wantagh
  13. The most intense, exciting or important point
  14. Who you submit attendance to every month
  15. Central topic

- Across:**
1. Author of The Book Proposal
  3. A room containing a collection of books
  5. A text structure that arranges events or steps in the order of time of occurrence
  6. An adversary
  8. A figure of speech that compares two unlike things by stating one thing is the other
  9. Type of fiction related to a series of crime
  10. A body of words used in particular language
  11. A specific type of artistic composition with similarities
  12. Explains a topic, idea, person, place or thing to give the reader a mental picture
  16. National Reading Month
  17. A figure of speech that compares two unlike things using like or as



## TUTOR SPOTLIGHT: RICHARD

*(submitted by Kate Quijano, Program Director)*

Richard began volunteering with Literacy Nassau this past summer when he taught a level 4 ELL class at the Hicksville Library. He is currently teaching a level 3 class at the Hicksville Library during the winter session. We are so thankful to have Richard as one of our volunteer tutors and appreciate his dedication to his students. We asked him some questions to get to know him better:

### **1. How did you get involved with Literacy Nassau?**

I worked as a magazine editor for many years, and when I retired, I knew I wanted to deal with literacy. I did a Google search, and Literacy Nassau sounded just about perfect.

### **2. Describe some of your most rewarding experiences as a tutor.**

My favorite part is when we can spark some conversation and the students ask questions about America. There are so many things they don't understand about this country. It's a real joy to fill them in on our history, whether it's the Civil War, our love of pizza or 401K's.

### **3. What are some challenges you have faced while tutoring and how did you overcome them?**

Many of the students are somewhat shy about expressing themselves in English. This makes conversation (see above) difficult. I try to open them up by getting them to write and read essays and asking them about their native countries, especially the FOOD.

## RACHEL AND APRIL'S NEXT CHAPTER BOOK CLUB

*(submitted by April Lim, NCBC Tutor)*

### ***Tell a bit about what you do.***

Rachel (my partner) and I facilitate a reading group at our local library. We meet every week to read and socialize.

### ***Q: What book have you read recently?***

We read Sherlock Holmes and Robin Hood. We are just about done with Frankenstein!

### ***Q: How do you help your group?***

We help improve the group's literacy as well as help them find joy in reading. We each take turns reading a page and discuss what happens in the book. Rachel has been with this group for so much longer than I have, and I have learned a lot from her on how to interact and guide my peers into having better reading habits. Honestly, I also find myself learning from my group as well! It's amazing to see their dedication and patience towards reading. Sometimes, they even help each other out!



### **4. What keeps you motivated to continue working with adult learners?**

I really want to help people, and seeing students understand new words, new slang, new facts provide instant gratification.

### **5. What would you advise a new tutor just starting out with Literacy Nassau?**

Take advantage of all the resources Literacy Nassau offers, and also Google other ways to teach ELL. I've found a great video series, Learn English With (they play songs by Taylor Swift, Michael Jackson, Whiz Kalifa, etc. with captions, then break down the lyrics and explain how phrases and pronunciations are being used. They do the same thing with scenes from Friends. Really popular.) I've found lists of ELL-approved songs. (We play them with captions, then recite the lyrics as a group.) I also use the Articulate game, available on ESL Active, a lot.

### **6. What are some of your interests outside of tutoring?**

I play some guitar, badly, and write fiction and sell it on Amazon. I don't make much money, but it's a really satisfying hobby.



Richard (2nd from left) enjoying some selfie time with his class!

Thank you for your dedication to your students.

## Someone interested in joining?

### Next Chapter Book Club



**Do you love to read? Want to work on your skills?  
Do you want to make new friends?**

**Next Chapter Book Club is a program for adults (18 years and older) with developmental/intellectual disabilities who meet weekly to read and socialize and**

**it's all for FREE!**

Scan Here for more information



**www.literacynassau.org  
516-867-3580**



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We make literacy services accessible to disadvantaged populations of all ages by providing donation-based language-building programs. You may continue to make this possible by donating to us directly on our website at [www.literacynassau.org/donate](http://www.literacynassau.org/donate) or scan the QR code.

**DONATE** 

**Sunday, March, 10th**

Don't forget to move your clock 1 hour ahead for daylight savings time.

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