



# LITERACY MATTERS

JUNE 2022



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

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## THE GRATIFYING EXPERIENCE OF MY PRESIDENCY

(by Judy Beckman, Board President)

It was both an honor and a privilege to serve as the President of the Board of Directors of Literacy Nassau from June 2019 through June 2022 and it's hard to express how proud I am of our achievements during that time. We managed to stay open and relevant during a time when many small non-profits shut their doors. We were also able to innovate and thrive! Thanks to the awesome efforts of Karen Micciche and staff, as well as the commitments of tutors and students, we have so many accomplishments to crow about.



Perhaps the most lasting shift is that our physical space grew by about 50% during the pandemic. We built an outdoor pavilion to accommodate tutors and students in the open air quarters of part of the parking lot so that our tutoring services could continue safely in a face-to-face environment. That was so successful that we built a second, larger pavilion for small group use up on the hill adjacent to our building. We

recently upgraded all of the outdoor spaces to include electricity, fans, permanent heaters, and vinyl windows, so that the structures can be used throughout all four seasons. We also utilized the Zoom platform for our adult basic learners and English as a Second Language classes. We are currently slowly switching back to a live format.

Prior to the pandemic, we started using Orton-Gillingham methodology to teach dyslexic children to read and write; this is a multisensory, structured, sequential approach to literacy. In 2019, we had a contract with one school district and now we are serving seven different school districts, thus increasing the chances for so many more students with learning disabilities to get the assistance they need from properly trained therapists. Last summer, we launched our OG Summer Intensive Program for children, enabling them to continue to learn and grow their skills and avoid the "summer slide." Similarly, this past winter, we developed and piloted our Saturday English Immersion program for ESOL children, to

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## THOUGHTS FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Hi everyone,

For her 10th birthday, Haley decided she wanted to donate her hair to an organization that makes wigs for children with cancer. When we made the appointment, Julie begged me for a haircut, too. The beautician mentioned that her hair might be long enough to donate as well. She was so excited! The mere idea of doing something selfless to help another little girl made them both so happy.

I marvel at people who have the spirit of giving in their soul, and in this issue, I'm proud to highlight some thoughts from one such person: our outgoing Board President, Judy Beckman. She has been a gift to our organization since joining us in 2014. Judy and I first met at a gala honoring influential women called the Athena Awards - we were both finalists - and after hearing about our organization, both Judy and her husband, Richard, joined as tutors. She went on to become our Board President, and will likely remain involved with us for many years to come. She is called to help others by donating her time, talent, and treasure. Judy is an inspiration to me, reminding me every day of the woman I strive to be.

*Karen* 😊



I know I like to brag about my kids (what mom doesn't?), but every now and again they do something that really takes my breath away. Pictured above, Haley and Julie hold up their hair donation to Wigs for Kids.

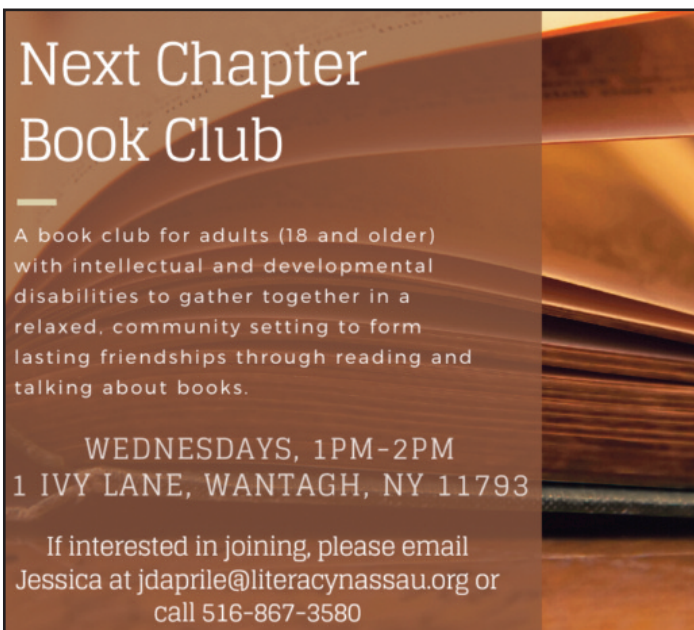


## THE GRATIFYING EXPERIENCE OF MY PRESIDENCY

*(continued from cover)*

improve and enhance their reading and writing competence. We reinforced our tutor training by utilizing frequent Zoom calls to offer professional development, and modified our live models for teaching online. Even a pandemic couldn't stop us from growing!

I believe it is very important to give to your community and help improve their lives. To that purpose, I have served on many non profit board of directors, but I feel the most enthusiasm, passion and gratefulness for having had the opportunity to serve with Literacy Nassau. I congratulate my fellow board members for their commitments and participation in such exciting endeavors. The rewards of seeing memorable work done every day are so satisfying and uplifting.



**Next Chapter Book Club**

A book club for adults (18 and older) with intellectual and developmental disabilities to gather together in a relaxed, community setting to form lasting friendships through reading and talking about books.

WEDNESDAYS, 1PM-2PM  
1 IVY LANE, WANTAGH, NY 11793

If interested in joining, please email Jessica at [jdaprile@literacynassau.org](mailto:jdaprile@literacynassau.org) or call 516-867-3580

## WANTAGH NCBC

*(submitted by Jessica D'Aprile)*

Summer is right around the corner, and so is the start of one of our newest Next Chapter Book Clubs! COVID took a toll on our book clubs, many of them ceasing to meet due to safety constraints. Now that things are starting to go back to normal, we have been working tirelessly to reopen some of our book clubs, starting with one located at our office in Wantagh! This club will be able to meet outdoors, in the comfort of our shady pavilion. This club will be a great step back in the right direction for our book clubs, as we hope to restart more book clubs throughout the summer and into the fall. Our NCBCs are always a wonderful time, and they also help to form lifelong friendships! These clubs are a great opportunity to get back into the flow of things post-pandemic. Our new club in Wantagh will meet Wednesdays, 1:00pm-2:00pm. If you are interested in joining this club please email Jessica at [jdaprile@literacynassau.org](mailto:jdaprile@literacynassau.org). We can't wait to see all of our new club members and facilitators!

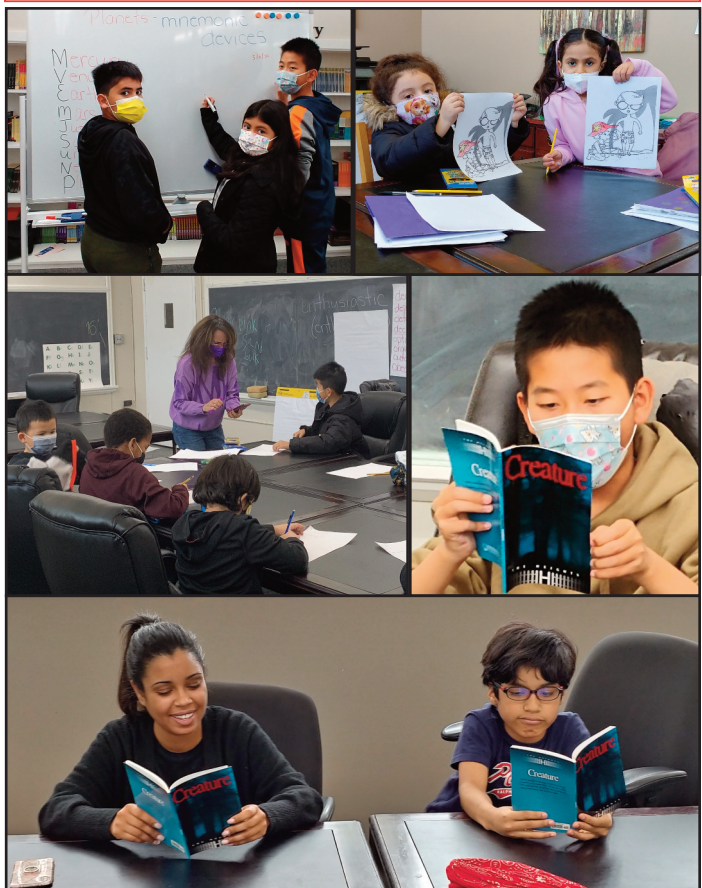
## SATURDAY ENL IMMERSION PROGRAM

*(submitted by Ms. Perper and Ms. Sanchez, ENL Teachers)*

The Saturday English Immersion program for kids has definitely been a rewarding experience for the both of us. The students were so eager to learn and seemed to really enjoy interacting with other kids from different schools and different cultures. We have seen such growth in their reading, writing and verbal/communication skills. The enthusiasm demonstrated by the students carried over to almost all of the lessons we presented them with. We knew we were successful in structuring a creative and engaging program when they would tell us that they loved coming here and wished that we were their teachers in their respective schools. We look forward to working with them again next year and hopefully expanding the program so we can reach more students.



*Thank you to the Guru Krupa Foundation, our teachers Jennifer and Carina, students, and parents for making this program a success!*







## RESOURCE CORNER: INCREASING RIGOR IN THE ESL CLASSROOM

(submitted by Kate Quijano)

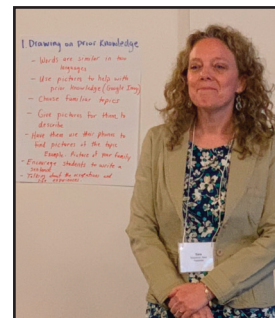
Every year, we are required to attend 14 hours of professional development workshops approved by NYS Ed. As I was reviewing the list of offerings and trying to squeeze something into my already tight schedule, I was surprised when I recognized the name of one of the presenters: Sara Izquierdo! For those of you who are new to Literacy Nassau, Sara was a Literacy Specialist and ESL teacher of ours for several years. I know that she's a great teacher so I made sure that I signed up for one of her workshops.

Sara's workshop focused on increasing the rigor in our classrooms and gave a lot of great examples of how to do just this. Increasing rigor means creating challenges for our ELL students to get more practice with academic language, learning strategies, and critical thinking. The audience was engaged in several activities that they could repeat with their students. Participants got to share ideas and collaborate with other teachers from many different adult education programs across Long Island.

We talked about having students read passages and respond to literal reading comprehension questions first to ensure that they understand the basics. Then, rigor can be increased by asking deeper questions, having students make inferences, draw conclusions about the text, sequence or categorize information in new ways, and share their opinions or how the information applies to their lives.

Sara also introduced us to some resources from [lincs.ed.gov](http://lincs.ed.gov) that I think would be very useful for our classes. I hope you all have a chance to take a look at these resources and try them out with your students. One sample activity that I really enjoyed was watching a short clip of a [Coca-Cola UK: Grandpa: Living a Healthy Lifestyle](#) on YouTube then asking students to discuss what changed from the before/after portions of the video, discuss vocabulary, give their opinions on who was living a healthier lifestyle and why, discuss who created the commercial and why, what their real goals are, how they want us to feel after watching, and how successful advertising is and why. Students can also be reminded to always look for the sources of the information they receive. They can assess the credibility of the source and determine if they can trust the information.

I enjoyed the interactive workshop and the chance to break up into groups and brainstorm ideas. I also enjoyed having the chance to catch up with a former colleague. I am so glad to know that Sara is doing well and that she has continued to help adults on Long Island learn English. She was glad to hear updates from Literacy Nassau and wishes everyone well.



## BASIC LITERACY SPOTLIGHT: MARA AND MARIA

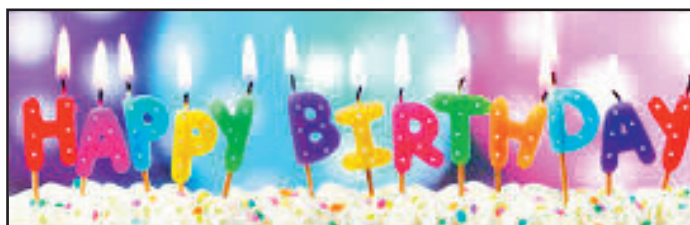
(submitted by Kate Quijano)

Mara Jacobowitz has been tutoring with us for several years. We are always impressed by her dedication to her students and her ability to differentiate instruction to each student's unique needs. She is one of our Basic Literacy tutors who has worked with adult learners with low reading/writing skills. I am always happy to hear updates on her students and to see all the progress they have made in their reading and writing and the impact it has made in their lives, allowing them to be more independent and to rely on family/friends less to read to them.

Mara has been tutoring Maria Brathwaite for the past few years and has this to say about her experience: "Several years ago I was blessed with being paired with a wonderful learner. Having failed with a number of volunteers, I had to convince my student that she and I would fulfill her dream and passion of learning to read. Taking a moment to read what she wrote about our experience, I am humbled. I hope all volunteers and students reading what she wrote will be inspired."

Maria had limited letter/sound knowledge and struggled with forming letters appropriately. She submitted the following reflection, "When you are upset you need to pray and God will answer your prayer and you will be happy. I know that when I couldn't read I ask God to help me to read. I had a lot of people who did not help me to read so I pray and ask God read now I have the right teacher to read."


We thank Mara for her continued work with Literacy Nassau students and we congratulate Maria on her great strides in literacy.



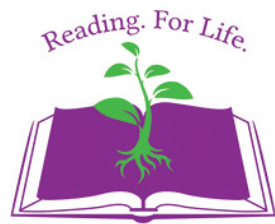
### Warm Birthday Wishes to our Tutors!

Adolph (Al) Anglade – Janet Bazuro – Teresa Benedetto  
 Mel Breshin – Harriet Cabelly – Marilyn Clarke – Marla Cohan  
 Carol Davan – Denise Dressler – Beth Dyckman – Cheryl Egher  
 Betty Engel – Michele Fielding – Sheila Frank  
 Edward Garfinkel – Daniel Goldschmidt – Vicki Goldstein  
 Coleen Graziore – Robert Greenberg – John Guerin  
 Denise Hibbert – Maureen Hogan – Jennifer Hopper  
 Valerie Ignatowitz – Stanley Karolewicz – Kathleen Kelty  
 Muriel Leonard – Carolyn Meditz – Brianna Meurer  
 Lauren Ostrow – Edward Paley – Alison Picarella – Cindy Podell  
 Celeste Pomerantz – Jennifer Power – Patricia Ryan  
 Maxine Schmerlzler – Robert Silver – Kathryn St. Juste  
 Lauren Thomas – Monique Thomas – Matilda Tobin  
 Sandra Villatoro – Eileen Watts



**THANK YOU**   
**for the clips,**  
**hand sanitizers, and**  
**wipes. Tutors please feel**  
**free to drop by our office**  
**for some samples.**






**LITERACY**  
N A S S A U

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT :)**

*Tutors, are you interested in taking a refresher training?*

**TUTOR TRAINING WORKSHOPS**



**ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER (ELL) TRAINING**

Friday, June 3rd  
10:00am-12:00pm

Saturday, June 11th  
10:00am-12:00pm

**BASIC LITERACY (BL) TRAINING**

Wednesday, June 15th  
10:00am-12:00pm



 **Sign up for these online trainings at [www.literacynassau.org/new-volunteers](http://www.literacynassau.org/new-volunteers)**



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