



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

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THE FUTURE OF ALE

(by Karen Micciche, Executive Director)

As you may know, this spring marks the end of the fifth and final year of our current state Adult Literacy Education grant. This grant is managed by the New York State Education Department and makes our adult ESOL programming possible. We are in the process of applying for more funding for the future, but there will likely be some changes. Right now, everything is up in the air because the grant announcements will not take place until the very end of June, or perhaps even early July.

However, there are some things we can share:

- 1) Our intention is to continue serving our lowest-level adult ESOL learners in a very similar fashion to what we're all used to.
- 2) Should we receive funding, we will be required to continue hosting our literacy programming live in libraries, and given the current political climate, some of our students might not feel safe. So it is also our intention to create an online course for people who feel more comfortable learning English from home.
- 3) There was some language in the new grant process that will shift the roles our volunteers will be able to play moving forward. Literacy Nassau is committed to utilizing volunteers across our programs and because we have many different

funding sources, we plan to focus on new opportunities for our volunteer corps moving forward. There will be lots more information to share about this in the coming months, so stay tuned!

As ever, we are committed to our adult population and to making sure they have access to the very best programming possible. We look forward to seeing what the future brings for Literacy Nassau!

THANK YOU TUTORS!



NATIONAL TEACHER DAY!

MAY 6, 2025

Thank you to all the tutors for the amazing work you do with your students.

We truly appreciate you all!

FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Hi Everyone,

Spring is a time for rebirth. In our home, it's a time of celebration, as Haley's birthday is right smack in the middle of April. This year, she turned 13 years old, and I find myself wondering where the time has gone. This April also marked my 15th anniversary as Literacy Nassau's Executive Director. It's crazy to think that when I started at this job 15 years ago, we were just a tiny non-profit located in Freeport. So much has changed since then, but I'm so happy that this has been my life's calling.

It's not that often that we step back and look at how far we've come. I'm so proud of everything we've accomplished in the last 15 years.

Wishing you and your family a very happy spring!

Karen



It's so hard to believe that 15 years ago I wasn't even married! Time flies!

SATURDAY ENGLISH IMMERSION PROGRAM FOR KIDS

(by Shamika Lilavois, Saturday Program Coordinator)

What an amazing year it's been! Our young learners have worked so hard and grown so much in their English skills. Throughout the class, students learned new words, practiced using them in sentences, and became more confident when speaking and writing in English.

We explored fun stories, played word games, and did creative writing activities that helped everyone build strong vocabulary and better grammar. The children practiced making clear, complete sentences and learned how to share their thoughts in a way others can understand.

One of the biggest successes this year was seeing how confident the students became when speaking in front of others and expressing their ideas. They learned that making mistakes is okay and part of learning, and they supported each other every step of the way.

This class was more than just learning English—it was about helping each child become a better communicator, a good listener, and a proud speaker. These are skills that will help them not just in school, but in everyday life.

We're so proud of all the hard work, creativity, and kindness our students showed this year. We can't wait to see how they continue to grow and shine! We would like to thank the Guru Krupa Foundation for their ongoing support to helping us on with our mission to support literacy in the community.



Quotes from our students:

"I learned how to make sentences stronger." - Lorenzo

"I learned how to improve my punctuation and I liked learning about the kinds of sentences." - Stephanie

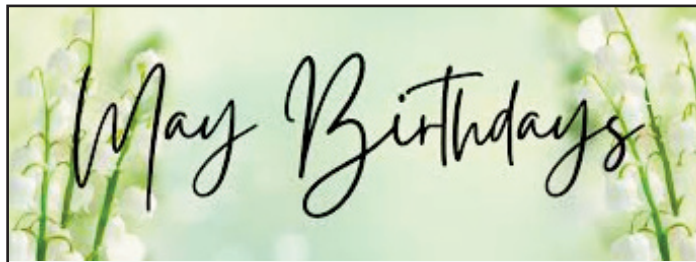
"We like how you teach us!" - Whole Class

"I enjoyed learning how to fix my run on sentences because I used to do that a lot." - Isabella

"I like playing four corners." - Lorenzo

"I like that we got to talk about our favorite things with our partners." - Genesis

"We like journaling in our notebooks!" - Whole Class



Warm Birthday Wishes To Our Tutors Celebrating In May!

Roslyn Armstrong Powell – Sr. Mary Alice Aschenbach
Donna Bennett – Lynne Borah – Carl Boruso
Marjorie Brown – Christopher Cantanno
Kathryn Cassidy – Regina Dallensandro – Nicolas DeMarco
Kate Dickson – Joanne Finochiarro – Johnny Gilchrist
Maryanne Gogolinski – John Gomes – Laura Graves
Daniel Henick – Sandra Herman – Mary Howard
Sherry Jagels – John Jansen – Mindy Kaiser
Daniel McCarthy – Stephanie Mesiti – Kaitlyn Migliore
Evelyn Monaco – Meena Natarajan – Grazia Norton
Francine Olivera – Sandy Palma – June Prisand
Alisa Promakul – Barbara Randall – Ryan Rodrigues
Frank Roggenkamp – Sheila Saad – Kathy Scheiner
Mahendra Shah – Lanie Spencer – Harriet Studness
Merin Thomas – Ernestine Warner – Madeleine Weinberg
Sherika Wheatley – Meryl Weisenberg



Warm Birthday Wishes To Our Tutors Celebrating In June!

Adolph (Al) Anglade – Janet Bazuro – Teresa Benedetto
Mel Breshin – Harriet Cabelly – Janet Caraisco-Alloggiamento
Marilyn Clarke – Kathleen Cleary – Marla Cohan
Lisa Collins – Alexander Cruz Reyes – Carol Davan
Denise Dressler – Beth Dyckman – Cheryl Egger
Michele Fielding – Carol Fletcher – Sheila Frank
Edward Garfinkel – Daniel Goldschmidt – Coleen Graziose
John Guerin – Margaret Heller – Denise Hibbert
Maureen Hogan – Jennifer Hopper – Valerie Ignatowitz
Stanley Karolewicz – Kathleen Kelty – Lisa Kornberg
Carolyn Meditz – Brianna Meurer – Edward Paley
Alison Picarella – Cindy Podell – Celeste Pomerantz
Patricia Ryan – Emmanuella Sainvilus – Maxine Schmerlzler
Robert Silver – Kathryn St. Juste – Carolyn Stone
Lauren Thomas – Monique Thomas – Matilda Tobin
Sandra Villatoro – Eileen Watts

TUTOR APPRECIATION

A Heartfelt Note of Gratitude

Dear Literary Nassau Community

It is my hope this message finds you well. As I sit down to pen these words, my heart is overflowing with a wealth of gratitude that I can scarcely put into words.

To the many Nassau and each one of you, but especially the volunteer teachers, I owe a debt of gratitude that I will carry with me always. Your selfless dedication has not just been a means of help; it has been a life-changing force. It has gently but firmly guided me toward a better understanding of the English language and, in turn, a brighter perspective on life.

My journey with Literary Nassau has been a remarkable one, filled with unique experiences. This began my first time attending the English class, each instance has felt like a revelation on my learning path. The first class was like a spark in the dark, lighting my passion for English. It was a moment of revelation that set me on a quest to absorb as much knowledge as possible. The enthusiasm and energy of that class were contagious, and I left each session hungry for more. The second time around, having the privilege of being taught by Master Jeff was a game-changer. His choice of curriculum was extraordinary, carefully chosen to challenge and inspire. It was his teaching method that truly made the difference. He had a way of making even the most complex grammar rules and vocabulary seem accessible. His engaging style encouraged me to go deeper into the language, to explore its nuances, and to express myself more fully.

Now, thanks to my neighbor's kind invitation, I find myself in this current class. It has become a second opportunity for me to learn and reinforce all that I have learned over the years. Master Steve, our current teacher, is a gem. His passion and high level of education are evident in every lesson. What truly touches my heart, though, is his deep-seated respect for (1) my education as a learning environment. This respect creates a sense of warmth and acceptance. It encourages me when I am reluctant to take risks, to make mistakes, and to grow. His consistent approach to teaching ensures that no question goes unanswered and no concept is left unclear.

I am acutely aware of the challenges that lie ahead in my language-learning journey. With a vocabulary of around 1500 words, I know there is still a long way to go. My speaking and listening skills, especially when it comes to the tricky realm of English connected speech, require significant improvement. But I am not deterred. Because I have the unwavering support of all of you at Literary Nassau, I am fortified with a renewed sense of belief. I believe that with your help, I will be able to overcome these obstacles and make substantial progress.

Once again, from the very bottom of my heart, thank you for providing me with this amazing opportunity. I am excited to continue this learning journey with all of you. Each class is not just a lesson in English; it is a chance to grow, to connect, and to become a better version of myself. With warm regards,



Steve's Jericho Library class is held in a theater and consists of over 40 students. Steve is pictured above on the right with Weidong (the author of this note). On the right is Steve's Freeport class celebrating his birthday in April.






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