



LITERACY MATTERS

AUGUST 2018

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



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BUILDING PROGRESS

(submitted by Karen Micciche)

Construction is officially underway in our new space at 1 Ivy Lane in Wantagh! In June, we rounded up family and friends to do demolition of the current space. This included breaking down existing walls, removing old lockers, taking out cabinetry and more. As that was going on, we spent a large amount of time soliciting bids from local contractors, which took more time than expected because of the amount of work in the new space that involved sub-contractors (electricians, plumbers, etc.).

As of early July, we have decided on a contractor and now the crews are busy at work. We are excited to have some help from MSC Industrial Supply, who will be sending over their associates for two

volunteer work days later in the summer. One work day will be dedicated to planting new landscaping, and the other day will be spent painting.

Right now, we need donations!! We are looking for donations of supplies including (new) paint, rollers, brushes, gardening gloves, tarps, new garden hoses, sprinklers, organic potting soil, mulch, gift cards to Home Depot/Lowe's/Ace Hardware, and so much more! Do you have a pickup truck and want to spend a day with us? Do you have gently used wood furniture you might like to give away? Have you made a gift yet to our capital fund? We need your help!

They say, "It takes a village to raise a child." In our case, it takes a village to build a tutoring center. To get involved, please e-mail kmicciche@literacynassau.org.



Husbands and dads helped out with demo. Pictured above: Marty Siry, Greg Micciche, Mike Nau and Chris Micciche.



Kim, Karen and Kelly standing atop a pile of construction debris. We'll do anything for Literacy Nassau!

THOUGHTS FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Hi Everyone,

Have you ever been starstruck? Last week, I met my favorite author, Elin Hilderbrand. She was hosting a signing for her new book, *The Perfect Couple*, at the bookstore in Cape Cod by our summer house. I had never been to a book signing before - but it was so cool! She showed up with her sister in a Honda mini van (just like a regular, normal person) and was friendly and funny and nice. She even took pictures with each of the people whose book she signed.

Most people get starstruck when they meet TV or movie stars - but I am a literacy geek, so this was definitely one of the most exciting moments of my summer. I have always been in awe of authors: the discipline they must have to write every day, the creativity and imagination their job must require and their masterful command of vocabulary and grammar. Since I was a little girl, I have dreamed of writing a book.

Who knows? Maybe I'll start working on my first manuscript this summer...



Meeting my favorite author was an exciting experience for Haley too! (Julie was surprisingly too shy to join us for a picture.)

Karen 😊



SUPPORTIVE LEARNING GROUPS

(submitted by Kim Nau)

Literacy Nassau staff members have been intensively studying Orton-Gillingham (OG) for the past two years for our work with children with dyslexia. We recently started thinking about ways to improve the Basic Literacy program for adults while still incorporating OG principles and also making the training more user-friendly for our volunteers to implement.

Basic Literacy Learners (BLL) are mostly English speaking, American born adults who struggle with deficiencies in reading, writing, spelling and/or comprehension. These students either were not afforded the appropriate chances to be educated or had undiagnosed learning disabilities as children that prohibited them from keeping up in school.

With adult BL students, the struggle is not only educational, but social as well. BL students often have trouble being on time and keeping appointments. Often, this has led to BL tutors working hard to put together lessons, only to find a student who leaves them waiting at the library and never shows up. We believe that the introduction of a group setting for BL will fix this issue. Peer support is essential so students know that they are not alone. OG is phonics-based instruction that teaches students how to decode and encode words more efficiently. We believe these two components will solidify a supportive model of instruction.

Basic Literacy Small Group Instruction will be co-facilitated by two volunteers with no more than five BL students per class. Volunteers can support each other, as well as differentiate instruction, to meet the needs of their learners. These groups will meet 1.5 hours, twice per week in private meeting rooms in local libraries, or in our new Wantagh office. An Orton-Gillingham-based curriculum will be provided at the training workshop. Please visit our newly re-energized website to register for a training workshop today.



Warm wishes to the following tutors born in August!

Amina Ahmed - Susan Astre - Eleanor Blackman - Phyllis Blum - Elinor Brown - Evelyn Chevalier-Richards - Kathy Clarke - Natalie Colaneri - Maryann Deveau - Juliana Dwyer - Eileen Eder - Judy Elfenbein - Barbara Entes - Jerry Fitzgerald - Laura Fuentes - Marcie Granick - Anita Greenman - Maureen Gunderson - Robert Hackett - Patricia Hanlon - Cheree Himmel - Harriet Kaufman - Fran Kistler - Harriet Klein - Debbie Levine - Angela Milora - Jazmin Mooney - Mike Moran - Mary Ellen Nardiello - Janet O'Keefe - Victoria Perrone - Anthony Pustorino - Nancy Riebling - Patricia Rossi - Ann Scavetta - Claudia Stern - Reed Toscano - Eleanor Turino - Suzanne Valls - Bridget Ward - Patricia Whitney

RESOURCE CORNER

(submitted by Cindy Cabrera)

Group activities offer a great way for students to authentically practice English. They create a relaxed atmosphere where students can interact with peers, giving them the chance to learn from each other. If you have a student who is a strong speaker or writer, he or she can help other students who are weaker in those skills and vice versa. Below are some suggested group activities for you to try!

Oral Storytelling

Begin telling a story by only saying one sentence aloud. Then the student next to you should add to the story by saying a second sentence aloud. The next student should add the third sentence, and so on.

The goal is to create a cohesive and creative story. To make it more engaging, you may elect a student to write down the sentences, and do this as many times as needed until everyone has had a chance to write down a story.

Unscramble the Song

Choose a popular song and print out the lyrics. Cut the lyrics into small sections or even just into words. Play the song and have your students put the written lyrics into order. This is a great way to transition into different topics about cultural media including movies and music.

Call My Bluff

Have each student write two things about themselves. One must be true and the other false. Once everyone is done, starting with yourself (tutor), tell your truth and your lie. Have your student guess which one is a lie, and then share which one was true. Move on to the next person, and so forth. This is a great ice breaker which can help students to get to know each other.

For more group ideas, visit www.eslcafe.com and look for "Idea Cookbook." Happy studies!

**JUST LIKE YOUR CHILD,
LITERACY NASSAU
IS GROWING.**



Donate to Literacy Nassau's capital fund to help us build our donation-based tutoring center for children with dyslexia.

WWW.LITERACYNASSAU.ORG/CAPITALFUND



MANHASSET COMMUNITY FUND GRANTS

(submitted by Kelly Siry)

Literacy Nassau was recently the recipient of two grants from local foundations: Manhasset Community Fund and Greentree Foundation.

The Manhasset Community Fund brings needed support and services to the residents of Manhasset. On June 11th, we attended afternoon tea where the Manhasset Community Fund presented us with a check for \$2,000. This grant will enable us to serve adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Manhasset area by expanding our Next Chapter Book Club program with the addition of a new site.



Manhasset Community Fund Co-Presidents John Morse and Linda Clarke pose with Kelly Siry at their grant recipient tea.



Nicholas Gabriel, President of Greentree Foundation, pictured above with Kelly Siry.

In July 2003, the Greentree Foundation, founded by the late Mrs. John Hay Whitney of Manhasset, established the "Greentree Good Neighbor Fund" at the Manhasset Community Fund. This fund addresses the needs of residents of the Town of North Hempstead. Through a generous grant of \$8,000, Literacy Nassau plans to pilot a program called, "Navigator Workshops for New Americans." This program will encompass a series of workshops ranging in topics from navigating the Long Island public school system to healthy eating habits and home buying in the U.S.

It is through the generosity and support of organizations like the Manhasset Community Fund and Greentree Foundation that we are able to serve the literacy needs of those who need it!

For a dyslexic child, learning to read can be like climbing a mountain.

Join Literacy Nassau and become Orton-Gillingham certified to help a child make it to the top.

CONTACT KAREN TO LEARN MORE:
 KMICCICHE@LITERACYNASSAU.ORG
 516-867-3580 EXT 11

TUTOR SPOTLIGHT: CAROLANN CERALDI

(submitted by Kate Quijano)

CarolAnn Ceraldi has been tutoring with Literacy Nassau for the past three years. She is a dedicated tutor who always works to individualize instruction for her student. I enjoy exchanging e-mails with her and hearing about the progress her student is making and the new things CarolAnn is trying out with her.

CarolAnn was a librarian when she came across a recruiting flyer for Literacy Nassau. She had always been fascinated by the topic of language literacy in immigrant populations and had even thought about teaching English at the college level at one point. When she saw that we were looking for volunteers to work with English Language Learners, she decided to volunteer as a one-to-one tutor. This experience helped her to realize how much she enjoys working with adult learners and gave her another way to serve her library patrons.

After three years, CarolAnn is still motivated to continue tutoring. She says that it allows her to pursue her academic interests of teaching English and Creative Writing. Her best experience is when her students move up a level in their English development. She even has some advice for new tutors: be well organized, keep written records, and have ample patience with yourself and your students.

CarolAnn keeps busy outside of Literacy Nassau as well. She enjoys fundraising, watching live horse racing, reading, writing, cooking and learning new skills. In addition to helping her students learn a new language, CarolAnn is always learning something new herself! She is currently a student at Molloy College working on obtaining a paralegal certificate.

She has also recently attended a few new trainings at Literacy Nassau and is looking forward to taking on a small group of students. About moving to a small group model, CarolAnn says, "This is an exciting time to be a tutor at Literacy Nassau and is a wonderful opportunity to find out what kind of teacher you would like to be, the population that you want to serve, and the specific subject matter you would like to master. The small group model will be a nice challenge and is a great way to obtain some experience tutoring more than one person at a time. The small group model will most likely speed up and increase our student population's learning curve in acquiring English language skills with other students on the same journey of discovery. Small groups are ideal for ESL tutoring for adults because sharing skills and practicing English with others can be a stepping stone to better conversational English skills. Practice makes perfect!"

Upcoming In-Service Training

Pronunciation and Phonics: How Are they Related?
 (presented by Kim Nau)

Friday, August 3rd from 12:00-2:00 pm

Poor pronunciation affects students' spoken comprehension as well as their writing. Phonemic awareness impacts a student's ability to read and write. This workshop will provide both BL and ELL tutors with hands-on, multi-sensory techniques to help students increase their speaking skills and develop their reading and writing.

Register online at www.literacynassau.org!



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NEW BOARD MEMBERS

(submitted by Karen Micciche)

Every June, we nominate and vote on new Board Members. The role of the Board of Directors is to provide governance and oversight for our non-profit organization. This year, we are fortunate to have found 3 community-minded individuals who were eager to join our Board.

Irwin Scharf is a retired business owner who has been volunteering with Literacy Nassau (along with his wife, Alice), for the past year. Irwin has a large amount of volunteer experience in various leadership capacities – particularly in fundraising. Of joining the board, Irwin shared, “Tutoring adults for the U.S. Citizenship interview and examination gives me the opportunity to help them achieve a lifelong dream to become an American citizen. Volunteering in this capacity has shown me the need for expanded services in this area. I feel my business background as well as my experience in various areas of non-profit fundraising can bring to Literacy Nassau ideas and methods to help provide additional means to continue this and the other important services it provides to our community.”

Sean Miller is the branch manager of the Floral Park TD Bank. Sean was the recipient of the Community Partner of the Year award at Recognition Night due to the \$5,000 grant he helped us get from the TD Bank Charitable Foundation. Sean and his team have also delivered many financial literacy workshops for our ONA classes, and they presented at our Annual Tutor Conference. Sean’s knowledge of the financial concerns of our service population brings a valuable new perspective to the Board Room.

Melissa Grote is the Vice President of the North Bellmore Board of Education. She is also Julianna Grote’s mom. (Julianna is one of my practicum subjects for OG.) She brings a wealth of knowledge about school districts, politics, etc., and (as an adult who has lived with dyslexia as well) brings a perspective about our Orton-Gillingham work.

Welcome to all of our new Board Members!



Pictured L-R: Irwin Scharf, Melissa Grote and Sean Miller. Welcome!