

Reading. For Life.



LITERACY
N A S S A U

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

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 Anne-Marie Poliviou, Executive Assistant
 Renae Katz, Bookkeeper
 Kate Quijano, Senior Program Director
 Izabella Katz, Program Manager
 Stephanie Trees, OG Tutor
 Cristina Morales, Program Assistant

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Mary Baumgarten	Donna Rocco
Christina Boughal	Melissa Sansobrino
Helen Dawson	Jodie Schnalzer
Jane Hartigan	Judy Fouad-Schoepp

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CASE MANAGEMENT FOR THE NEW YEAR

(by Kate Quijano, Senior Program Director)

Literacy Nassau recently hosted the first Case Management training created and required by NYSED. It was delivered by our own Executive Director, Karen, who volunteered to become a trainer in order to get the most up to date information and to have the opportunity to deliver it turnkey to other educators. She has hosted trainings at our office, at the Great Neck Adult Learning Center, and will be hosting a training in Long Beach in January.

The big focus of the training is that we need to have a more robust intake process for students, do more site visits, provide students with referrals to services, and work to improve student retention. Based on this training and our new expectations, we will be implementing some of the following procedures beginning in our winter session:

1. New students will apply to our program through our website and will have to answer questions that will gauge their ability to attend regularly and to make sure they are qualified for our program. We will also look at previous records of returning students to evaluate whether they are eligible to return based on their prior attendance record and long term commitment to the program.
2. Once they complete this process, we will follow up with them to answer any questions, and to make sure we have class in a location they are able to attend regularly. We will then give them an appointment to attend a registration.

3. At registration, we will no longer accept walk-ins. We will only register and test students with appointments and work to place them in a class close to their home. We will go over the requirements of the program and assess potential barriers to learning and other support they may need from us in order to be successful.

4. We will work towards having a case manager visit each class twice during the session, to provide resources to students based on their barriers to learning and to follow up on their progress.

5. We will also request that our volunteer tutors keep us more informed about absent students so that we can contact them sooner and address whatever concerns are keeping them from class.

We have all been working hard to roll this out in January. I have focused on evaluating our current classes, planning for the number and level of classes in different locations, booking classes with libraries, and assigning volunteer tutors to the classes. Anne-Marie has revamped the website to include the new application and registration process. Izzy is reviewing applications and following up with students to make registration appointments. Cristina has been researching resources in all the communities where our classes meet for our resource guide for students.

We are excited about the changes to our program and the opportunity to visit our classes more frequently to be able to interact with our tutors and students in-person.

FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Hi Everyone!

This time of year is all about gratitude. We can list things we're grateful for around a Thanksgiving table or during a quiet moment of reflection at a religious service, but how much do we actually consider what we have on a daily basis?

This is an important practice I'm working on. Every morning, before racing off to start the day, I consciously take a moment to be grateful for all that I have. So often, we are focused on what we want or what we think we need - but practicing gratitude turns what we already have into enough. It's a good reminder during a holiday season that is already overwhelmed with excess, and by practicing gratitude, we can become more cognizant of the needs of others.

Volunteers give their time and their talent to make people's lives better. At Literacy Nassau, we are grateful for you! Thank you for your daily gifts to our students. They make a world of difference.



Karen 😊

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER: MELISSA GOLFO

(submitted by Karen Micciche, Executive Director)

Melissa Golfo was born and raised on Long Island and currently lives in Oceanside. She has spent the last 16 years working at Merrill Lynch in a variety of client facing and leadership roles, most recently serving as Director, Client Service Development Manager. Melissa is passionate about charity work and giving back to her community.



Many of her friends and family members are in the education field, including her mother who was an elementary educator for over 30 years. Her desire to give back, coupled with the dedication her mother had to education led her to seek out a role in board service with a local not-for-profit whose mission was aligned with her personal values. Literacy Nassau is a perfect fit because of our commitment to serving those who are hardest to reach. Melissa is excited to be joining the Board of Directors, and is eager to bring visibility, awareness, and funding to our worthy cause.



Reading For Life
LITERACY NASSAU

Adult English Classes

Winter session January 16th - March 30th

To **APPLY** for classes. Visit the link below
<https://www.literacynassau.org/student-application>

If eligible, You will receive an **e-mail** to make an appointment to register **in person**
January 3rd -9th

WALK-INS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

SCAN HERE
ENGLISH

Thank You



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension

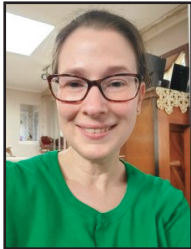
*for sharing your knowledge
with our students!*



SAVE TIME. SAVE MONEY. EAT HEALTHY.

TUTOR SPOTLIGHT: STACI

(submitted by Kate Quijano, Senior Program Director)



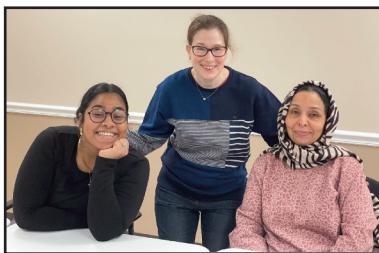
Staci began volunteering as a Literacy Nassau tutor in 2022. She has worked with our adult ELL students on Saturday mornings at the Farmingdale Library. Staci is a dedicated educator who spends time getting to know all of her students, finds out their education and career goals and plans her instruction accordingly.

1. How did you get involved with Literacy Nassau?

As a full-time academic advisor, I interact with adult learners and international students on a daily basis. During the pandemic, I recognized my desire to connect with students in a non-traditional classroom setting. I decided to sign up for an information session at Literacy Nassau and my met my first student in April 2022.

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

It's been an awesome privilege to witness student growth as well as the improved confidence level.



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

I teach on Saturdays and recognize that I have to compete with weekend activities amongst other family obligations. I try to incorporate games/activities such as MAD LIBS, play Hangman in addition to the traditional lessons. Additionally, I bring along some treats related to topics discussed to help engage student interest.

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

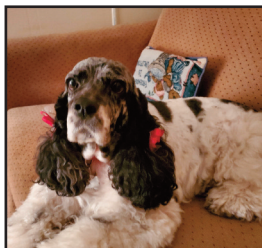
Adult learners are eager to succeed and bring a different level of energy into the classroom. They are curious and ask meaningful questions.

5. What would you advise a new tutor just starting out?

Be patient with yourself and don't try to reinvent the wheel. Take time build a rapport with your students and get to know their habits and learning styles. Lastly, know that direct and honest communication is a very effective method to build student engagement.

6. What are some of your interests outside of Literacy Nassau?

If I am not reading or working you'll usually find me in a museum exploring all different types of exhibits. I am a dog owner and spend some quality time walking Daisy and hanging out with dogs in the neighborhood.



HOLIDAY RESOURCE CORNER

(submitted by Kate Quijano, Senior Program Director)

Happy Holidays! I'd like to share some ideas of activities you could do with your students during the holiday season.

Print the lyrics to some popular holiday songs, read the lyrics, then sing the songs together as a class.

1. www.chabad.org/multimedia/music_cdo/aid/218974/jewish/Chanukah-Songs.htm
2. www.songsforteaching.com/kwanzaasongs/
3. www.loving2learn.com/Activities/Holidays/Christmas/ChristmasCarols.aspx

Create holiday cards in class.

Apply the new grammar skills that you have been learning in class. Beginners can decorate and write short messages and advanced students can write a longer, letter-like card. Students could pull a name out of a hat to determine who they should create their card for- then pass them out at the end of class.

Create a holiday poem.

www.teachervision.com/creative-writing/holiday-poems

Play a dreidel game.

www.scholastic.com/content/dam/teachers/blogs/alycia-zimmerman/migrated-files/how_to_play_dreidel_game_directions.pdf

Read about and discuss traditions around the world.

Students could work in small groups or with partners to compare the traditions in two countries of their choice. They could create a diagram and present what they learned to the class.

1. www.santas.net/aroundtheworld.htm
2. www.studenthandouts.com/graphic-organizers/relationships/blank-venn-diagram-printables-with-instructions.html



Warm Birthday Wishes to our Tutors!

Anita Achkhanian – Zainab Ansari – Linda Bernstein
Laura Blanca de Silva – Anita Bloom – Mercedes Scudero
Fran Dowling – Lauri Englert-Sacco – Johanna Esposito
Helene Fleisig – Fran Fox – Peter Genet – Patricia Goldberg
Julie Goldstein – Kathleen Gyves – Georgene Harrison
Georgine Hartenfels – Maryann Harvey – Nancy Keegan
Helene Klipera – Leslie Leber – Lilianna Carolynea Llanos
Maureen Lomangino – Janice Mazzari – Bridget McFadden
Andrea McLaughlin – Susan Molinelli – Neil Moran
Salvatore Morici – Kathie Novak – Robert Palleschi
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Timothy Reedy – Leslie Rosen – Shivani Devi Singh
Barbara Spun – Harshini Suresh – Sheldon Wald



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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

DONATE



or scan the QR code.



Happy Holidays!

Wishing Joy and Peace during this holiday season and a Happy New Year!

The office will be closed December 23rd - January 1st.
We will return on Tuesday, January 2nd.

Follow us on Social Media!



Instagram: @literacynassau
Facebook: Literacy.Nassau
Twitter: @LiteracyNassau