

## From the Back of the Boat

By: Bob Garfinkel

After a long, cold winter and miserable, wet spring, finally the weather seems to have turned around. Sitting in the back of the boat, I finally had the opportunity to get reacquainted with the local fish population-I know them all by name! While trying to figure out how to trick the fish, it hit me. This July is Literacy Partners' 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Many thought we wouldn't make it this far. In fact, some wanted to bet me that we'd fold in 3 years. The lesson here is never underestimate a small group of dedicated people with a strong will and vision. I'm not going to list our awards and recognitions, but I will say it's been impressive and it has been a team effort. Our achievements are known state-wide. What impresses me the most is, for the most part, we are all volunteers. Skill positions that normally require trained professionals have been mastered by volunteers.

Financially, we could have made excuses that our county is void of chain stores, large corporations and foundations, etc... Instead, we rolled up our sleeves and got to work on brat fries, pig roasts, and Advantage Cards. Key local donors stepped to the plate and made this organization a reality.

The most important lesson I learned in private business was you cannot gain success alone. If you receive this newsletter (over 80 do) you are an important and valued member of our team. Please share with us the past, present, and future successes of our students.

# THE STAR

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### **Writing Workshop**

Bob Garfinkel

Shawn presented a beginner's writing workshop to about a dozen Literacy Partners tutors on May 7<sup>th</sup> at NWTC Luxemburg. In the opinion of this reporter, our time was well spent and the experience was stimulating and motivating. In short, Shawn's enthusiasm spread through the room like wildfire!

Shawn's presentation included: writing techniques, journals, dictation, revising, contextualized writing and portfolios. If you did not attend and would like to learn more, email or call me and I will send you an outline that includes some interesting websites.

On a related note, please send me a story (any topic) written by your student before the end of January. We'd like to put together a book of student writing and hand it out to those attending Recognition Day 2014. Any length or subject is fine. Multiple stories are welcomed!

## Brat Fry

Bob Garfinkel

Our brat fry at Festival Foods East was a huge success—best yet by far! Thanks to the volunteers that came out and made the day so enjoyable for us all—Kathy Garfinkel, Mary Gotstein, Judy Delain, Kate Phillips, Maureen Kinnard, Jerry Waara, Anne Laurent and Bob Garfinkel.



## Become a United States Citizen.

If you have a student that is interested in taking the path to citizenship, this may be very beneficial to you. Literacy Partners also provides help in studying and applying for citizenship, but this is a tremendous resource to see if your student is eligible, etc.

**Come to a Road to Citizenship Orientation at Catholic Charities**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month, 5:30 -7:30 pm, or 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month—10 am – 12 pm.

If you have questions, please contact the NWTC General Studies Office at (920) 498-5421.



## Little Free Library Memorial

Bob Garfinkel

The Little Free Library in Fireman's Park, Luxemburg, has had a welcomed addition—a memorial park bench in memory of Ray and Dodo Liebl. Ray's wife, Dodo, donated the Little Free Library in memory of Ray. It was installed in May 2012. She loved watching the excited children gather around the library and exchange books. Daily, I'd stop and see her and catch up on the happenings at the library. Dodo passed away last winter and the Liebl Family decided that a memorial bench was the right thing to do.



Ray and Dodo gave so much to Luxemburg and Kewaunee County. Individually, both were named "Man of the Year" (poor Dodo) by the Luxemburg Chamber of Commerce. The library and bench are a wonderful remembrance to two wonderful people. Reading and learning were of utmost importance to them. This Little Free Library will feature kids story time this summer, sponsored by 4-H and Literacy Partners.

## *A Very Special Thank You*

Literacy Partners would like to extend a very special "Thank You" to the Robert & Rita Krauss Foundation for a wonderful donation. The donation was made to Literacy Partners in memory of Rita Krauss. The funds will benefit both our tutors and students.





## Happy Birthday Literacy Partners!

*7<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Success Stories*

Below are some student success stories and achievements in our short history. Only first names were used.

I became a tutor in the fall of 2009. Three and a half years later I am still tutoring, and enjoying every minute of it. My student's name is Elvira. Our relationship has changed from tutor/student to being friends. She is a very bright and ambitious young lady. She has evolved from being a shy person, not wanting to participate in the Recognition Day, to speaking in public at the same event 3 years later. Somewhat like a cocoon to a butterfly, she has wings and is ready to fly to higher ground. She is not afraid to share her dreams with others. She has great expectations for herself, and is excited about all she might achieve. I took a few months off from tutoring this past winter, and Nancy Lamack graciously accepted an invitation to tutor Elvira. Nancy has continued to work with Elvira to obtain her GED. I continue to work with Elvira in Ventures 3. She is a very bright and motivated student, a pleasure to work with, and I am proud to call her my friend.

My most memorable moment was Mina's citizenship ceremony. Mina was an inspiration! She worked and studied so hard on her own...never giving up. The courthouse in Milwaukee is a beautiful building and the court room so austere, but the real memory is seeing Mina (and her daughter, Nelly) receive their papers. That day made me realize that I should never take our freedoms for granted...to cherish them and all this country stands for.

Another memory of mine is of my first student, Noel, a 24 year old farm worker, who has since returned to Mexico. He accomplished his goal also. He worked here for 3 years sending most of his paycheck home to his family. He once told me that he could make as much in a day as his father and brothers could make in a week. He helped them financially, but also used his money to build a house for himself and his fiancée back home. He first paid for the foundation, then when he had enough money, the walls, then later the windows and doors, etc. His

father and brothers did the work and when he returned, he had a beautiful home. He proudly showed me a video of it at our last meeting. Wow!

Angelica and I are still getting to know each other so we are both laughing a lot and I am not always exactly sure what we are laughing about.

A couple of weeks ago I told her I wanted to test texting with her. So I texted her and she responded while I was with her. Later that day she texted me a picture of her and her daughter. I responded by telling her thank you for such a beautiful picture. She responded by telling me to have a pretty day. Her text made me smile.

My student's name is Ofelia. We were matched up about two years ago. My best tutor / student memories are when things make sense and my student understands the concept or meaning of something that will help her with her English studies and culture.

We are the same age and like to do many things together. We have had outings to art galleries, gardens, church and walks on the lake. Also, cooking our ethnic foods together, with many Mexican/ German dinners. I have been invited to many of her family parties, like Quinceaneras, birthdays and other occasions. In return I have introduced Ofelia to German Oktoberfest and Dirndls. Because we can only communicate in English, we consider it good English practice with much fun.

In this first year of tutoring Bernadino (Nino), we (he & his family & myself) have become good friends. [amigos]. I am enjoying this more than I thought I would.

A special moment: Seeing my student complete Laubach Level 4 and go on to attain her license as a hair stylist/beautician which lead to employment and a feeling of self-worth.

I became a tutor with Literacy Partners to help an adult learn English. I didn't expect that I would get so much from it...friendship and a sense of family—I look forward to seeing Juana every week and to the summer when her daughter, Melanie, is with us.

I enjoy the laughs that often come with our efforts at conversation which (the ones beyond the Laubach vocabulary) sometimes involves picture drawing and hand-speak. I enjoy the days we spend at the zoo, or picking strawberries, or baking cookies or playing Go Fish, or adding pictures (with English captions, of course! Yes, tutoring is so much more than teaching and learning...it's caring and sharing!



Perhaps my most rewarding moment with my student was the day she came to class with a terrible toothache. She could only hold her jaw and try to concentrate. After making about 5 phone calls to agencies, dentists, etc. I was able to get an appointment for her. She came back the next day with smiles and all gratitude. I felt we meant more to each other than only teacher – student. Her trust level rose and we were friends more deeply than ever before. The tooth was pulled and she never complained of pain.

When I began the training in the Literacy Program of Keweenaw County, I had the intention of using the training to help some of my mentally challenged clients to improve their reading and speaking abilities. My client, Jeff, is a 45 yr. old diagnosed with down-syndrome. During his developmental years he had attend schools in the Special Education Classes where he did learn some living skills and taught the basics of reading. When I began working with Jeff, he was reading on the pre-first grade level. In his daily life, he attends a day-treatment center that is to reinforce his living skills and sometimes has 'sheltered industry' work that involves him.

Jeff expressed a desire to read and tried to sound out words that he saw. He has managed to learn the words of danger signs, but very little else. We began working with the basic concepts learned in literacy training. I used flash cards with words that he may encounter either in reading or in everyday life. After the first year of working with him, he had reached the third grade reading level. However, I took leave of absence for a shoulder operation and was incapacitated for three months. The agency that provides service to Jeff, replaced me, but nothing more was done on his reading skills. When I returned to work, I found that he had regressed back to the first grade reading level. I continue to work with him at the library where we will select a book of interest to him and sit in an area where he will read to me. Many times, I prompt him when he has difficulty identifying the word. After nine months of work, he has reached the second grade reading level and often will look at the daily newspaper and read the weather report.

During the time working with Jeff, I identified many words in his speaking that I showed a letter or sound substitution. We have identified the words and made corrections in pronunciations, listed them on the flash cards, and incorporate them in our reading exercises.

Besides working on Jeff's reading, he expressed an interest in music and has used a keyboard that has musical selections played at the touch of a button.

Jeff has played some of the offerings to a point where he looks like he is playing the music with his hand coordination. With this in mind, over the past two years, I have been working with him to learn to play the keyboard. He is able to identify where some of the notes are located on the keyboard and we are attempting to have him learn to read music and play simple songs. The first attempt was to identify the notes on the keyboard, write the name of the note on the sheet music for the melody only, and have Jeff read that music and play it on the keyboard. He is able to play the melody of several pieces of music. Now, there is the challenge of teaching Jeff several chords to play along with these simple tunes. He can play the chords by themselves and is slowly able to play the chords with the corresponding melody.

Our goal is to increase his reading skills again to the third grade level, identify and speak compound words by saying the syllables and continuing to increase his ability to play a keyboard or piano. Any tutor that experiences the met goals of students knows how thrilled I am to see Jeff's accomplishments.

The most satisfying event for me has been attending 6 of the 8 Oath of Citizenship Ceremonies. I cannot express the joy, pride, and excitement in the courthouse. It is something you have to experience.

My greatest moment with my students Raymond and Ingrid was when they said the Pledge of Allegiance in Milwaukee while receiving their citizenship. People from over forty different countries came together for this event. What an accomplishment! The pride of becoming an American citizen was very evident. I felt proud of them and I felt proud to be an American.

It was very exciting and a well earned sense of accomplishment for both of us to finish the first section of the GED. It makes it seem like we can do the rest.



## Student & Tutor Major Achievements in a nutshell

*Over the past seven years, we have accomplished so much as an organization. In addition to the overall good we are doing in the community, there are some standout achievements. Below is a summary of some of the student and organization achievements and awards that have been above and beyond things we ever initially envisioned.*

1. 8 new US Citizens
2. 4 GED (one more is pending an exit interview)
3. CDL Truck Driving written tests passed
4. State Real Estate Certification passed
5. State Cosmetology Certification Exam passed
6. Student named English Language Learner of the Year in the state of Wisconsin
7. Wisconsin Hero Award
8. A day in Wisconsin named after/dedicated to one of our students
9. Winner of the Algoma Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award
10. Student finalist in statewide technical school writing contest
11. Mary H. Wells Award for Diversity (UW Extension)
12. Green Bay Packer Community Quarterback Award
13. Buy Local "Vocal Local" Award Recipient
14. Two students passed drivers test
15. Many short and long term goals have been achieved

## Tutor of the Season

Marietta Kenzik

*Wife, mother, grandmother, teacher, tutor*

Education has always been a huge part of my life. I taught in the middle grades at St. Mary School, Algoma for 36 years. After retiring in 2002, I served on their Board of Education for 2 terms and helped out at the school tutoring students who were in need of extra help.

When the Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County was organized, I became very interested and excited about joining and becoming a tutor. In the spring of 2006, when the first tutor training class was held, I signed up and took the training. From 2008-2012, I served on the Literacy Partners Board and also on the Health Literacy Board. I am thoroughly thrilled to be a part of this great organization that has helped so many people with their English skills, so that their lives can be better.

The student that I now have is a real joy to me. Before we begin each class, we spend a little time on personal discussion. This gives us a time to share what has been going on with our families in the past week. It allows her to practice her English communication skills and as I listen it has taught me so much about her culture. It is so heartwarming to not only see the progress she has made in speaking English, but also how she has improved in lessons on reading, comprehension, grammar skills, and writing. Knowing that I have helped make a difference in her everyday life is very rewarding.

Everyone deserves to be able to communicate in the place where they live. In the United States there is a great need to be able to speak English. My goal is to get more people interested in becoming a tutor.



## First Aid Success!

Anne Laurent



Over the course of last fall and this spring, the Health Literacy Committee was busy implementing their First Aid program plans. Programs were held at the LC Primary School, LC Middle School (for our students and tutors) and Algoma Public Library. We then sent out a survey, and the results are listed below:

1. Did you feel more confident in making first aid related decisions than you did before our seminar?	100% of Respondents chose YES
2. Are you able to find the help you need when dealing with healthcare issues and emergencies?	100% of Respondents chose YES
3. What Aspect of our First Aid presentation did you find most important? (check all that apply)	<u>Top Choices:</u> Sun Burns – 60% Puncture Wounds - 56% Bites/Stings/Ticks – 50% Cuts/Scrapes/Bruises – 50%
4. Is there any topic we should improve on or include in future seminars?	Farm accidents CPR Class

Finally, the last question read *“Please let us know your comments so we can forward them to the wonderful funding organizations that make programs like this possible!”* The response was overwhelming, and we wanted to share them with our organization, to let you all know what a fantastic job you are doing! You are not only changing the lives of your student, but you are helping Kewaunee County as a whole. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication!

Here are some (not all) of the responses:

It is amazing how many kinds of literacy there are. These programs you provide touch in on so many that are very helpful to us, and especially to those whose experience has not encountered them before. This is a very good service. Thanks.

Amazing effort by Literacy Partners, as well as other participating agencies. I especially found the dry erase

board a useful tool. Thank you for the knowledge and the gifts.

Excellent presentation, well organized and informative.

The class was wonderful and both of my students came away with new information. One student was shocked at how easy it was to choke on a balloon and another found nose bleed information had changed over the years. Those are just two things that come to mind, but of course there was much more. Thank you again.

Thank you for supporting Literacy Partners. They are a great group of volunteers making a world of difference not only for their students, but for all the residents of Kewaunee County!

Thank you so much for taking the time to present this. Much needed information for all county residents!

Very, VERY interesting! Thank you!

Thank you so much for supporting Literacy Partners, and Kewaunee County as a whole. Even though we are small, all residents sure do appreciate volunteer groups like this that go out of their way just to try to make this an even better place to live. I can't think of anyone else who is making as big of an impact on the community as Literacy Partners. Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU!

Fantastic presentation! Very well planned and laid out. I only wish I would have brought my teenage daughters. I think they could have gotten a lot out of it, as they are home after school alone. I do keep the manual and first aid kit very accessible and have shown them how to use it. Thanks!

Being a mother of two boys, there is always need for first aide. I appreciated the reminder that items like balloons and marshmallows pose a choking hazard. We have also put that first aide kit to use on several occasions. Thank you!

Very, very interesting. Excellent job by Cindy the presenter. She has stories about everything possible! It is so nice to relate medical lingo to real life scenarios. It makes is so much easier to remember. And the tick information was wonderful-especially for all of us in this area.

What a wonderful event to attend with my son who will be attending college in the fall. It makes a parent feel more comfortable knowing he has more basic knowledge before he leaves home! Thank you!

Literacy Partners is doing wonderful things in Kewaunee County. The impact your organization is making is tremendous. We can't thank you enough for all the time you are putting in to educating our community.

*A big Thank You should once again be extended to the funders of our Healthy Communities projects: Greater Green Bay Community Foundation, Shopko Foundation and United Fund of Kewaunee County. Without them, our programming would not be possible. Thank you!!*

## Pies

Anne Laurent



Literacy Partners 3<sup>rd</sup>

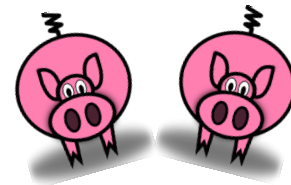
Annual Pig Roast

Fundraiser with HCE is coming quickly!! This year, it will be held on Saturday, July 20 in Kewaunee. As in previous years, we are asking members to donate a pie for us to sell at the event. The pie can NOT be custard based due to health regulations and spoiling. Fruit pies (apple, strawberry, cherry, blueberry, etc) are the best.

If you would like to donate a pie to help us, please email or call Bob (920-676-2061, [garfinkel.bob@gmail.com](mailto:garfinkel.bob@gmail.com)) or Anne (920-632-4911, [annielaurent@gmail.com](mailto:annielaurent@gmail.com)) by July 12. Thank you!

## Pig Roast

Anne Laurent



As stated in the previous article, this year's annual HCE/Literacy Partners Pig Roast Fundraiser will be on Saturday, July 20. The event will be held in the Nancy Lazansky Memorial Shelter in the Kewaunee Marina. It is located just north of the bridge off of HWY 42 (you will see signs). We will be serving pork plates, pork sandwiches, homemade pies and drinks from 11-3 (or until we run out of pork). Please consider coming out to support Literacy Partners by enjoying a wonderful meal!

Prices: Pork Plate (pork, sauerkraut, baby red potatoes) \$8, Pork sandwich \$5, slice of homemade pie \$2.50, whole pie: \$10, drinks \$1.

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