

From the Back of the Boat

By: Bob Garfinkel

There have been many features in the national, state and local news concerning adults who have learned how to read, especially late in life. I would like to share two stories that have recently inspired me.

The first story is about a fisherman who learned to read and write at the age of 91 and went on to write his memoirs at the age of 98! James Arruda Henry of Mystic, CT, was encouraged to pick up literacy skills by his granddaughters after his wife passed away. James worked hard with a tutor to learn reading and writing skills and when the time was right, James and his tutor collected James' stories (written on legal pads) and put together a book called, "In a Fisherman's Language." I bought the book and enjoyed reading the autobiography. It is truly amazing what a person can do at any age if motivated and has some help.

The second inspiring story appeared on the CBS series "On the Road", called "Beating Illiteracy". An 89 year old man named Ed in Crookson, Oklahoma, kept a secret for over 80 years that he couldn't read. Ed was a WWII veteran with 2 purple hearts and a dozen other metals who said, "I have all these metals and cannot read what they are for!" Ed worked on an air force base and had a fellow worker cover his lack of reading skills. Ed vowed that he was going to read at least one book before he died. Once again, working with a volunteer tutor, Ed worked on flash cards and basic primary school skills. At 89 years of age, Ed read his first book. It was about George Washington. His advice to those who cannot read is, "Get in there right now, baby! You won't learn to read in that pine box!"

The previous two stories are fairly common. What's uncommon are the ages of the two gentlemen. Over the years, we've featured inspiring stories of our students who have overcome tremendous odds against them and have learned how to read and write. I have been in a position to meet, evaluate, and watch the progress of countless adults who have achieved great things in our program. The ingredients for literacy success is the student's desire to learn, a compassionate, trained tutor to show the learner the way, available resources to provide learning, and a community that understands the importance of literacy. We are blessed to be in Kewaunee County, a place where all things are possible.

This edition of "The Star" is our final newsletter for 2013. On behalf of our Board of Directors and the newsletter staff, I'd like to wish you and your family the best for the upcoming holiday season. Let's look forward to a happy and healthy New Year!

THE STAR

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**Literacy
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Tutor Training-Fall 2013



Our fall tutor training class was our largest class ever and by far had the most challenges. Ten new tutors have been certified and matched with excited students. Bob Garfinkel, President of Literacy Partners said, “We needed a large class at this time to address a large student waiting list. Some have been waiting for a tutor for 2 years!”

The large class was extremely exciting to have, but had its challenges. Trainers Barb Baldwin and Nancy Lamack spent many hours preparing for these sessions, since it was the first time they had to present the old series, Laubach, and the new series, Ventures, to the entire group. When training started, we were unsure which tutor would use which series. This was due to one of our evaluators having several health related set-backs, including an operation. So, the new tutors had a dose of both textbook series. Then, Barb broke her ankle just before training, which slowed her up a bit. She is a real trooper, and never lost a step! Finally, we were ready for the four presentations, and our lap top computer didn't work! A few adjustments later and we were back on track. The power in our room went out at the start of one of the sessions, but was quickly taken care of. What next? Both of our translators were unavailable for tutor/student matching (one translator had a baby (congratulations, Danielle!) and the other had an unexpected family tragedy.

The 2013 tutor training class will surely be one to remember. And, you know what? This class may turn out to be our best class ever!

Student Success

Betsy Rossberg

Genesis Mahinay arrived in the United States in 2012. He lives with his sister, her family and a brother in southern Door County. Genesis initially set 4 goals for himself: learn English, get a job, get a driver's license and buy a car.



In October 2013 Genesis achieved one of his goals – a full time job. Genesis is now 2/3 of the way to achieving another goal by passing the knowledge portion of the driver's test.

The State of Wisconsin provides citizens and immigrants the knowledge portion of the driving test in two languages: English and Spanish. Genesis came to the United States from the Philippine Islands. He must take the test in English. Genesis and I worked extremely hard to understand driving rules and regulations in Wisconsin. According to Genesis, driving in Wisconsin is very different from driving on his native island. He has worked extremely hard to understand what a driver's responsibility is in Wisconsin. Merging onto a highway and yielding the right of way were difficult concepts for Genesis to learn. However, he has passed the knowledge portion of the driver's test. He is now working to pass the behind the wheel portion of the test.

We all want to congratulate Genesis for achieving his goals!



The following note was recently placed in the Little Free Library in front of CenturyLink, Casco!

“Thank you so very much. I just lost all my books because of a move. I'll add books to the library when I find any that might help someone else.”

POTAWATOMI RUN WILD 2013

Written by: Ricardo Sierra, Student



The day has come, the event: Potawatomi Run Wild 2013. I was so excited, because I trained hard for this competition. The weather wasn't so good, it was cold and it was raining too. I woke up early and I ate a little breakfast, fruit and energetic bar. When we arrived at Park, there were a lot of people there, around three-

hundred runners. It was awesome.

When I was in the start line I was nervous, but when I finished I received a medal and a big family hug, it was great. Well, finally I did my first race in Sturgeon Bay. I ran 3 miles and I got 2nd general place and 1st place by age group. I felt very good running in the wild, definitely. It was a great experience and I took a lot of pictures.

For an individual who began learning English in the middle of August this year, he has done very well. Ricardo is a hard worker and seems to enjoy everything in life. Ricardo will be returning to his home in Mexico early in 2014 and will be taking with him his new found knowledge of English and plans to use it when he looks for employment. ~Betsy Rossberg, tutor

Buy Local Cares Day

The Kewaunee County Economic Development Corporation's Buy Local Initiative organized a service day to

help out non-profit organizations in Kewaunee County and kick off October as Buy Local month. This year, volunteers from nine businesses donated their time and talents to benefit nine local non-profits. Literacy Partners was one of them.

Baylake Bank, a long-time supporter of Literacy Partners, provided 3 people to help Barb Baldwin inventory supplies from our latest "Back To School Day" and did a number of tasks in our Hillcrest Resource Center that we just don't get to.

Thank you KCEDC and Baylake Bank...and, of course, Barb Baldwin for taking *more* time out of her busy schedule to be there with the volunteers!



Baylake Bank's Krystal Thibodeau, Gail Ihlenfeldt, Becky Massart, along with Barb Baldwin of LP

Tutor of the Season

Robin Nelson

Wife, mother, chiropractor & tutor

I have been married for 32 years to my husband, Chuck. We have two sons, Brandon, who is a Captain in the Air Force and Tyler, a legislative assistant at our State Capitol. I am a chiropractor and have a doctorate in chiropractic science and a Bachelors of Science in Biology. Six years ago, Chuck and I became certified kayak instructors. Through that experience, I realized how much I love teaching. I also like riding my bike, kayaking, reading, woodcarving, and taking care of my 90 year old mother!

I am a friend of Kate Phillips and Barb Baldwin, both are tutors and Literacy Partners Board members. I've talked to Kate about tutoring for a long time, have always been interested in other cultures, and love people. At this time, I've been tutoring for about 5 months. Honestly, I don't have time to tutor, but I make time because I love it so much!

I love tutoring and find that not only does my student benefit, but I benefit from the experience, as well. The enlightenment and enrichment another culture adds to my life is incomparable. My student, whose life revolves around simple pleasures, reminds me to live in the moment. When I began tutoring Angelica, she told me she wants to understand and be understood. I thought about this. How much more effective would life be if I truly valued every word I said and every word that was said to me? Angelica is brilliant.



Robin and her student, Angelica, speaking to the new class of tutors this past October.

Tutor Corner

Bob Garfinkel

Health Literacy

Living in a new country and not knowing the language sets a person up with all kinds of challenges. Most people are able to learn key phrases like, "Where are the restrooms" without much difficulty. Dealing with our health care system is challenging for most of us, let alone a non-English speaker. Our web page at www.literacykewauneeco.org has an extensive section on Health Literacy. It has been improved greatly thanks to the efforts of our Coordinator, Anne Laurent.

On our website, you and your student can get help with any health related question or find a source to help you out. Later this fall/early winter, we will



include hospital registration forms from 3-4 area providers. The forms will change periodically, and hospitals have told us to use them as samples ONLY. In any effect, the forms will be excellent practice.

Menus Online

Many of our students eat out at Mexican restaurants, fast food establishments, or buffets to take the sting and embarrassment out of ordering. They can easily say "buffet" or "I'll have a #1". One of our tutors worked diligently with her student on ordering food from McDonalds. They practiced and practiced and practiced! The student arrived at the restaurant and ordered a Big Mac, fries and a drink. The anxious tutor called the student later that day to find out how the exercise went. The student, when asked how it went said "NO GOOD!" It turned out that the student went to Burger



King by accident! So, to help our English learners, Anne Laurent has contacted the Kewaunee County Economic Development Corporation/Buy Local Initiative to send us menus from various local restaurants. Menus provide an interesting reading activity, provide an opportunity for local dining, and give students a real life experience. The menus should be on the website in about a month! If you have a particular restaurant that you would like to use the menu for, email Anne @ annielaurent@gmail.com and let her know.

AddVentures Supplemental Lessons (for Ventures students) Available ONLINE!

Anne Laurent

Add Ventures is an innovative, flexible tool that helps you meet the needs of a multilevel classroom. These easy-to-use worksheets offer additional in-class practice once a lesson has been covered.

Each of the three worksheets is an alternative version of the same activity, but at a different level. The first worksheet is presented below the level of the Student's Book, providing support for the student who is struggling to keep up with the class. The second is presented right at the level of the Student's Book, and the third is above the textbook level, for students who might benefit from more challenging activities. *Add Ventures* has the added benefit of a single answer key for each lesson's three worksheets!



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AddVentures supplements are now available on our website in the Tutors Only section once you login. They are separated by levels 1-4. Click on the link for the level that your student is currently working on. This will open up the document in Adobe Reader as a PDF. You may then print the necessary pages that you are working on through the Adobe Reader program.

Important: Make sure to specify only the pages that you want to print, otherwise the entire book

will print. If you need help specifying what pages to print, please contact Anne or Bob.



Anne Laurent



Come out for a fun filled night of holiday candy making, visiting with friends, shopping and support Literacy Partners in the process! Literacy Partners will be holding a Tupperware *fundraiser* at the **Kewaunee Inn on Monday, November 18 @ 6 pm!** Kim Doell, of Luxemburg, will be there demonstrating Tupperware products. There will be items available for cash n' carry sale, raffle prizes, gifts (if you bring a friend or outside order), snacks and *more!* Up to 40% of the sales will go directly to Literacy Partners. RSVPs preferred by Nov 16, but not required. Email Anne to RSVP at annielaurent@gmail.com or call Bob @ 676-2061. Please come join us, have fun and kick off the holiday season!

Health Literacy

Anne Laurent



On Monday, November 11, the Health Literacy Committee kicked off its final event of the year. Cindy Kinnard, RN, taught basic First Aid to 25 members of the LC-PTA (*and possibly future LP tutors*). Sunburns, sprains, strains, shock, ticks, rabies infections, heat exhaustion and when to see emergency attention were just some of the topics covered. The talk has been given 4 times throughout Kewaunee County (I have attended all 4), and is still my favorite health literacy event!

A big THANK YOU to our sponsors-United Funds of Kewaunee County, Shopko Foundation and Robert & Rita Krauss Foundation.

Thanks to Maureen Kinnard, Judy Delain, Bob Garfinkel, Cindy Kinnard, Renee Koenig & Mary Novak for working with me to help educate our students, as well as the rest of Kewaunee County on a variety of health related topics this year. The

committee will be meeting November 15 to plan for 2013. I can't wait!

English for Emergencies

© www.litnetwork.org

August 2013 Newsletter

A fire alarm goes off in the middle of the night...you come across a car crash on the Beltline...a friend suffers sudden chest pain...you suspect an intruder has entered your home...your child falls on slippery ice and loses consciousness...

We all hope we never have to deal with situations such as these. At the same time, we know it's important to be prepared in case of emergency. Students in the Spring 2013 "English for Emergencies" class, held in partnership with the Latino Academy of Workforce Development at Vera Court Community Center, gained the vocabulary and confidence needed to address these types of safety challenges and more.

Using excerpts from the Talking with the Police curriculum, we highlighted two primary communicative competencies: Calling 911 and Reporting Emergencies. The first topic, Calling 911, began with a discussion about what constitutes an emergency...and what doesn't! New vocabulary terms were integrated throughout five short emergency scenarios with accompanying 911 telephone conversations: house fire, heart attack, home intruder, car crash, and injured child. After practicing in pairs, students demonstrated what they'd learned by completing a "capstone" task. Each student place da telephone call to a Literacy Network volunteer assistant, who played the role of an emergency dispatcher and rehearsed the dialogue in a simulated scenario.

The second topic, Reporting Emergencies, introduced vocabulary to provide ad description of a person's physical appearance. Students used their word lists and photographs from magazines to fill in suspect description forms. We then invited the Vera Court Neighborhood Intervention Officer, David Dexheimer of the Madison Police Dept, to visit the class and talk with students about crime prevention and reporting.

Officer “Dex” did a terrific job presenting information about keeping safe at home and in the community. He spoke about common crimes (theft from autos), the process of self-reporting, and easy effective ways to prevent crime. After handing out materials and brochures, Officer Dex listened to students’ concerns and answered their questions.

Continuing the effort to connect the classroom with real world, the class next worked with three “WiscAlerts” sent out when a safety situation arose on the UW-Madison campus. UW police issued these text alerts to communicate in real time with community members about an armed suspect that was eventually apprehended in the Eagle Heights area. The brief written messages included a suspect description and other pertinent details, a perfect “real life” example to reinforce our work on these themes in class.

As a final Crime Prevention and Reporting language activity, students read an email sent via community listserve LaSup from the Residential Services Manager at Madison Gas & Electric. This informative message highlighted scams that have been targeting the Latino community in the Madison area, including fraudulent phone calls in which false representatives of utility companies threaten to disconnect utilities unless consumers provide sensitive financial information or further payment. Students identified new vocabulary, analyzed information and presented summaries of the preventative actions suggested by MGE.

English for Emergencies is essential for a safe community. By the end of our course, students felt more comfortable making those nerve-wracking telephone calls in English, more at ease communicating with law officers in person, and more knowledgeable about current safety issues that affect them and their families. It’s exciting that together, motivated students and dedicated volunteers connect at Literacy Network to make our neighborhoods safer!

Do you think your student would benefit from a program in Kewaunee County like this? If so, please check the box in the upcoming Tutor Survey. It will be sent out in December.

Thank You 2013—Bring On 2014!

Anne Laurent

As we approach the end of this year, I’d like to take a minute to thank everyone who makes Literacy Partners the amazing organization that it is.

To begin—our Tutor Trainers—Barb Baldwin and Nancy Lamack. These ladies had a particularly trying year. With a new text series underway—not completely replacing, but *in addition to* our Laubach series—they had to find a way to keep tutor training somewhat short, yet as relevant as possible. But, Barb and Nancy did a fantastic job with what was put before them. And, for that, we should all say “Thank You”!!!

Next, our Board of Directors—Maureen Kinnard, *Vice President*, Judy Delain, *Secretary*, and Ingrid Weitzel, *Treasurer*, Jerry Waara, Sue Hingst, Sandy Ehren, Mary Gotstein, Kate Phillips, Jackie Yon, Jan Zenner and Barb Baldwin. *New additions in 2014: Betsy Rossberg, Ryan Diederich and Erendida Barrera!* This board works extremely hard to make decisions affecting Literacy Partners and has helped make it one of the best non-profit organizations in Kewaunee County!

Finally, our President—Bob. No need for a last name here. You have to be living under a rock to not know who this man is. What you may not know is the extent he goes to for this organization. Bob has Literacy Partners on the brain 24/7. He serves on all board committees, and is chair for almost every one. He attends tutor training every year (even though we have *more than capable* tutor trainers). He gets to know all volunteer tutors and most of the students. He constantly answers questions, drives to Kewaunee to get resources and books for tutors, helps write the newsletter, and fixes issues that arise as quickly as possible. He is passionate about this organization in a crazy, yet inspiring way. He is the best PR any non-profit could ask for. And, he does it **ALL** as a volunteer. Next time you see Bob, pat him on the back, and tell him “Thank You”. Literacy Partners would not be what it is today without his dedication.



Thank you to all of our donors & supports in 2013! We are able to make an impact in our community because you believe in us enough to support our hard work. Through your donations, we are able to provide workshops for tutors and students, educational clinics on various literacy topics to the general public, buy new resources for our tutors and students to use, help those students buy materials who cannot afford them themselves, and continuously train new tutors to meet the growing needs of our organization. We hope you see the good that is coming out of our organization, as well as the positive changes in our community Thank you, again, for helping us make Kewaunee County a better place to live, work & play!



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