

# From the Back of the Boat

*Bob Garfinkel*

Literacy Partners is 2 ½ years old and for me it has been a wild ride. In that short time span, we have trained over 60 tutors, set up a respectable Resource Center, established and revised this newsletter, certified a tutor trainer, sponsored four seminars, a cultural dance and two Recognition Day events, helped both libraries obtain a lap-top computer and the Rosetta Stone program, created a web site, started four students in the 509 GED program and are in the final stages of a 5 year business plan. The preceding could not have taken place without a strong board of directors, outstanding tutors, generous supporters, and willing students. There has been a lot of self-sacrifice from all of the above, but having a common mission and vision has motivated us to move past the obstacles in our way.

Our committee reorganization is this month. If you would like to forward our cause and be on a committee, please call me at 676-2061. We need help on the tutor and student support, student evaluation, fundraising, and outreach committees.

Together we are making Kewaunee County an even better place to live!

## THE STAR

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### Frank Bernard, Jr. 1939-2008

Reverend Howard Batt, in his eulogy for Frank said that, “Frank truly believed that anything worth doing was worth doing well.” Frank lived those words and passed them on to his children, grandchildren, his foreign exchange students and everyone he had contact with.

Frank was a student in the first tutor training session held in this county in 2006. Even at that point in his life, he had several health concerns that made tutoring difficult. He saw the value of the tutoring program and his student progressed well until Frank’s health was too bad to continue.

Frank was a boat builder, avid boater, operated the Algoma and Kewaunee city marinas, and helped his wife in the operations of Harbour View Realty. Frank was very approachable and kind-hearted – two traits that made him an exceptional father, grandfather and tutor. His foreign exchange students felt so close to Frank and his wife, Adeline, that they called them mom and dad. He will be greatly missed.

## Board of Directors

The Annual Meeting of Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County, Inc. Board of Directors was held on November 6, 2008. At this meeting, members reviewed the activities of the past year, passed the budget for next year, and elected new officers and board members.

The 2008-2009 Board of Directors are: President – Bob Garfinkel, Vice-President – Maureen Kinnard, Secretary – Judy Delain, Treasurer – Barb Porath. Members are Sandy Ehren, Mary Gotstein, Sue Hingst, Marietta Kenzik\*, Kate Phillips, Jerry Waara, Jackie Yon\* and Jan Zenner. (\* new members)

Thank you to Nancy Lamack for two years of service on the board and one year on the steering committee. Nancy will continue with her tutoring.



2008 -2009 Board of Directors

## Introducing Our Tutor of the Season

*Marietta Kenzik, tutor, board member*

In much of the world, people speak more than one language. For many years in the U.S., we have been content to speak only English. This intrigued Marietta. Attending a small high school that offered no language classes, however, made it impossible for her to study a second language at that age. After retirement, she took her first Spanish class at UWGB in the Learning in Retirement Program, and continues her language study at NWTTC. Marietta commented, "That being able to speak and read Spanish will be very helpful to me since we often travel to Spanish speaking countries. There are also many Spanish speaking people to meet locally."

Friends, involved with the Brown County Literacy Council, talked about their experiences in teaching English. This peaked her interest in becoming a tutor. Brown County was too far to travel to tutor someone, so she was very happy when Kewaunee County started a Literacy Council. "I signed up and took the Laubach Training in the spring of 2006."

"Now I am helping two Spanish families to speak and to read English. They are truly a delight. It is so rewarding seeing them improve and become more confident in English language skills. The joy that I receive from being their tutor is ten times greater than the happiness and gratitude that they express to me. They have become a part of my family."

## The Trainer's Corner Using Cognates to Develop Comprehension

Barbara Baldwin

Cognates are two words in two languages that share a similar meaning, spelling, and pronunciation. Thirty to forty percent of all words in English have a related word in Spanish. Your Hispanic student may benefit from an awareness of these similarities.

[www.colorincolorado.org](http://www.colorincolorado.org) offers interesting insights into the use of cognates in building communication skills.

This link provides a helpful list of English/Spanish cognates

[www.colorincolorado.org/pdfs/articles/cognates.pdf](http://www.colorincolorado.org/pdfs/articles/cognates.pdf) that can be shared with your student. (A helpful hint to find this site: go to the site's home page and type cognate in the blank rectangle on the top right. Click the arrow and scroll down to English Spanish English Spanish and click that. You are now there.)

When teaching cognates, one must be aware that false cognates also exist. These are words that look

alike but do not have the same meaning in English and Spanish. Exploring and identifying false cognates may also provide a fun diversion for you and your student. An example of a false cognate is the word *embarrassed* in English and *embarazado* in Spanish. (In Spanish, *embarazado* means pregnant.) Helpful activities are also suggested to help students identify false cognates.

A simple search of English/Spanish cognates will yield many interesting sites dealing with this topic.

If you do not have access to a computer, contact Bob and the cognate sheets will be mailed to you. Cognates could add hundreds of words to your student's vocabulary.

## Check our New Website

So far, our web site has been a big hit with tutors, board members, and a few residents in the community. After several key adjustments on the tutor report page, Steve Laurent, our ace webmaster, has the site problem free. Comments have been positive about the site and there have been some interesting blogs posted.

Perhaps the most interesting addition has been to the donation page. A parent of a first grade student inquired about donating to Literacy Partners as a Christmas present to her child's teacher. She went through [info@literacykewauneeco.org](mailto:info@literacykewauneeco.org).

The request came directly to Bob's e-mail. With the aid of Anne Laurent (website master back-up), we designed an attractive card that can be sent to donors who would like to give the "Gift of Literacy" for birthdays, anniversaries, memorials, holidays, etc.

Thanks to Anne and Steve for all their hard work on our web site!

At the January board meeting, the Board will finalize the web site. A web site is never really finished and it will evolve as time goes on. If you have a comment or possible change for the website, please contact a member of the web site committee: call Mary Gotstein (536-0046), Jerry Waara (388-3737) or Bob Garfinkel (676-2061)

## New at the Resource Center

The first thought that comes to mind is that two out of the three windows have been replaced in Room 110 at Hillcrest School. The room is semi-warm, and thanks to Barb Baldwin, the room is clean. Window number three should be replaced soon.

Some new conversation materials have arrived and are listed below. These materials resulted from a tutor survey taken in early 2008. A second need identified by the survey was books on CDs. Finding exciting titles is the next project for our committee. Better yet, if you would like to be on our tutor/student support committee, please call Bob.

New materials as of January 1, 2009 are:

1. A Dictionary of Homophones
2. English for Everyday Activities (Basic ESL)
3. English for Work Activities
4. Look Who's Talking!
5. Conversations for Work



Anne and Steve Laurent

6. Talk-A-Trivittes
7. Communications Spot Light
8. Mathematics for New Speakers of English
9. Citizenship Test information – See Bob for this.

For a complete description of the above materials and all materials in the Resource Center, stop at Hillcrest School, Room 110 and pick up a copy of our Resource Center Guide (on the book shelf near the window) or call Bob and one will be mailed to you.

## Coming Events

### “Beginning Writing” workshop for tutors

**Date:** January 26, 2009, at 6:30 pm  
**Place:** Luxemburg-Casco High School  
**Room:** 126  
**Response due:** January 19

Shawn Jenson will lead a “Beginning Writing” workshop for our tutors on January 26, 2009 at the Luxemburg-Casco High School. Shawn will give a power point presentation called, “Just in Time Writing Classes!” She will provide sample writings from students and explain how she gets students to start writing. The material Shawn will cover will be relevant for all of our students. This program is on the cutting edge and Shawn has given this presentation across Wisconsin during the last several months.

Shawn is an ELL (English Language Learner) Instructor at NWTC and a Workforce Development Coordinator for Literacy, Green Bay, where she teaches ELL and Spanish in the workplace.

If you would like to attend this informative workshop, please call Bob (845-2516) or e-mail ([rgarfinkel@centurytel.net](mailto:rgarfinkel@centurytel.net)) to insure that we have enough room and handouts for all in attendance. Please respond before January 19, 2009.

If you would like to help with refreshments, please call Maureen Kinnard at (837-7478).

### “Anything You Wanted To Know about our Latino Neighbors, but Were Afraid to Ask”

**Date:** April 22, 2009 at 6:30 pm  
**Place:** Luxemburg-Casco Middle School (319 Church Ave, Casco)  
**Room:** 103  
**Question deadline:** April 1, 2009

Gema Garcia, Coordinator for the Multicultural Center at NWTC, will provide a question/answer session called, “Anything You Wanted to Know about our Latino Neighbors, but Were Afraid to Ask” on April 22, 2009 in Room 103 at the Luxemburg-Casco Middle School (319 Church Ave, Casco) at 6:30 pm.

Last April, Gema’s presentation on Latino Culture had most of us sitting on the edge of our chairs laughing while learning about our Latino neighbors. We have brought Gema back by popular demand with one change. We are asking tutors to prepare questions ahead of time and forward them to Bob (see contact information below). Questions should pertain to the Latino culture (family life, customs, traditions, attitudes, etc.) and be received before April 1, 2009. These questions will be forwarded to Gema (without your name) so the program can cover specific interests of our group.

Gema’s biography and an RSVP will be included in our March 2009 newsletter. Contact Bob 845-2516, PO Box 203 Luxemburg, or [rgarfinkel@centurytel.net](mailto:rgarfinkel@centurytel.net)

## Scam or Sham?

It seems like every time the economy takes a hit, or we approach a holiday like Christmas, scammers come out of the woodwork. The world of literacy is not exempt from people who misrepresent their products. The husband of one of our students may have fallen victim to such a scheme in the purchase of a learning English program.

After the purchase of a product, it is often difficult to return many materials due to fine print of the return policy, no guarantee, or loss of a receipt. Very few of our students have a credit card which adds to the difficulty of the return. If your student has been scammed, check the return policy. In many cases, all you might be able to do is file a complaint with the Better Business Bureau ([www.bbb.org/online](http://www.bbb.org/online)) or the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer protection (DATCP)

<http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/cp/consumerinfo/cp/complaint-form/CPComplaintForm.jsp> If you want some action, e-mail Glen Lloyd ([glen.loyd@datcp.state.wi.us](mailto:glen.loyd@datcp.state.wi.us)) or call DATCP at 1-800-422-7128.

The best scenario, if possible, is for the tutor to preview the material before the item is purchased. Check both sites mentioned previously for product credibility, and examine the return policy. Our students and spouses should be reminded that "Rosetta Stone" software is available free of charge at both libraries and "Tell Me More" is online. Spouses wanting to learn or improve their English should be encouraged to enter our literacy program. Large amounts of money should not have to be spent to purchase material that might be helpful.

The saying, "Let the buyer beware" has never been truer than it is today.

## Of This and That...



Ed Dorner, Kewaunee County Administrator, received an award at Recognition Day from President Bob. At the November Kewaunee County Board Meeting, Mr. Dorner told the full Board how impressive our Recognition Day was and what a great service Literacy Partners of Kewaunee county was doing for the residents of our county.

- Congratulations to Peggy Wussow, Julie Thoreson, Dorothy Weedman, William Weedman Jr. and their students for completing a level in Laubach.
- Thank you to the Algoma Lions for sharing the profits from the "Brat Fry for Literacy" held this past fall.
- A big thank you goes to Union State Bank and the Wisconsin Technical College for renewing their financial support for Literacy Partners.
- Jerry Waara and Bob Garfinkel attended a citizenship seminar. The test was revised October 1, 2008. Contact Jerry or Bob if your student has documentation and would like to study for the test.

- Peggy Wussow is moving to the Madison area this month. She has been a wonderful tutor for two years. We will miss her.
- Mike Urmanski and Bob Garfinkel's students became pen pals last month practicing their letter writing skills and having fun while doing it. If you want your own pen pal, call Bob to help you get started.
- If you are starting to organize your receipts for your 2008 taxes, remember that Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County is a 501(C) (3) organization. Your mileage to and from meetings, seminars and tutoring sessions, donations of money, and the purchase of materials for your instruction are tax deductible. It all adds up and could make a difference in your return.

## **Ask “La Cucaracha”**

Dear La Cucaracha,

I have been tutoring a woman in her home for about a year. She cannot get a babysitter and I cannot tutor in the evening when her husband is at home. She has three children ages 6 months, 2 and 3 years of age. The two older kids are driving me nuts! They don't listen to their mother and they are all over us when we are trying to have class. When things are quiet, my student makes excellent progress. La Cucaracha, what can I do? I think I am losing my mind! Anxious.

Dear Anxious,

I have been watching this from under the carpet for some time. I am amazed that it has taken so long for you to complain to me about it. I suggest that you talk to your student. Consider the possibility of waiting until the children go to preschool, and then begin your classes again. Another suggestion might be to promise that if they sit real still, La Cucaracha might come out from under the rug and they could step on him, and he would squish. Maybe some other toys could entertain them. Could they sit in front of the TV? La Cucaracha

Tutors, what else might you suggest? Send your comments in to Bob. He will send them on to me. Do you have a tutoring problem or concern you would like La Cucaracha to tackle? Call, write, or email Bob.

Advisors:

Mary Novak, UW-Extension, Jill Jorgensen, UW-Extension

Supporters:

Dominion Foundation, Green Bay Packer Foundation, Wisconsin Public Service, East Shore Industries, N.E.W. Technical College, Walmart East, United Funds of Kewaunee Cty, Inc, R. W. Baird Foundation, Centurytel, Baylake Bank, Union State Bank, Kewaunee School District, Herbert Kohl Foundation, Kewaunee Rotary Club, Algoma Lions, Casco Lions, Kewaunee Lions, LensCrafters, M&I Bank, Verizon, Friends of Kewaunee Library, Algoma Library, Kewaunee Library, Kinnard Farm Inc., Wiesner & Massart, Harbor Credit Union, Evaleen Neufeld, Martin Evers, UW Extension, James Barlow, L-C Middle School, Accent Business Solutions.