

From the Back of the Boat

Bob Garfinkel

From my view from the Back of the Boat, there are three heart-warming events of the spring and summer of 2009 that I will always remember. Spring began on a high note when one of our students became an essay winner in the MATC (state) adult essay contest. He received a certificate and was published in a collection called, "The Fabric of Life." Copies can be found in our two public libraries and in our Resource Center.

A second event that made this summer special for me was attending the oath of citizenship of one of our students (story in this issue). The special effort of tutor, Jerry Waara and his student, Raymond Colquhoun was tremendous. The sacrifices made by Raymond to get his citizenship were inspiring.

Lastly, the third memorable event was watching and participating in the Kewaunee County News interview with JoAnn Werner and her student, Mina. JoAnn and Mina talked about their classes together, how much Mina had learned in such a short amount of time, and some of the student's goals. Over everything else, what struck me most during the interview was the deep respect and friendship between the student and tutor. This special ingredient is one that must not be over-looked for tutoring success and success of our program. For true learning/teaching to occur, this connection is of vital importance. Be sure to read the article in the Kewaunee County News in early September (front page).

THE STAR

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There are many other successes of tutor/student accomplishments that could be cited, but will have to wait. For me, it is personally gratifying to read tutor monthly reports concerning the accomplishments of short and long term student goals. We have a lot to be proud of, but in reality we have only scratched the surface of ending illiteracy in Kewaunee County. Our ever growing waiting list of students is a constant concern, since the longer a person is on the list, the more chance the potential student will lose interest in taking classes. This issue of the “Star” contains the dates of three open houses and a tutor orientation intended to raise interest in tutoring. If you believe that what we are doing is important, please help us promote the fall session of tutor training by talking to friends and relatives about this wonderful opportunity.

Thank you.

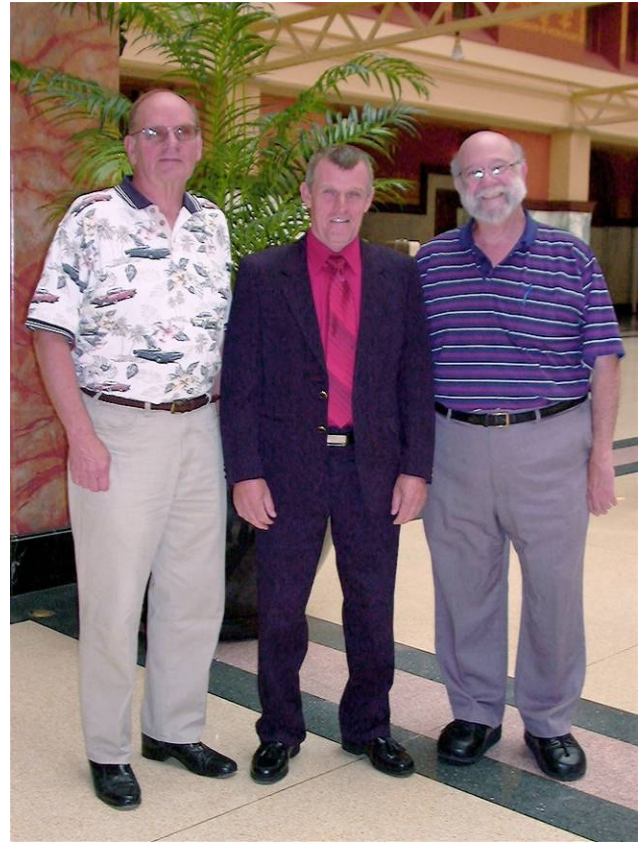
Student Becomes U.S. Citizen

On July 22, 2009, Raymond Colquhoun took the oath of citizenship at the Federal Courthouse in downtown Milwaukee. Heidi Colquhoun, Mimi and Jerry Waara (Raymond's tutor), and Bob Garfinkel proudly watched the federal judge administer the oath of citizenship to seventy-four new American citizens from 44 different countries. The judge gave an inspiring and heart-warming speech telling the story of how her immigrant parents came to this country and became citizens. She concluded by telling the new citizens not only their new rights, but also their new obligations to the United States.

The group from Kewaunee County was impressed with the ceremony, the beautiful ornate courtroom, and the exciting atmosphere of the moment. Bob commented as President of Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County, "I was both honored to be present at this great event, and proud to know Raymond and Jerry. They have been a great team for well over a year. I knew Raymond would pass the test on his first attempt with Jerry's support."

Jerry commented, "The ceremony was a wonderful experience. I have been teaching for 33 ½ years and Raymond is the most motivated student I have taught. It is very gratifying to see the progress he has made."

Attaining citizenship is a goal that our students with proper documentation are able to achieve with the help of our literacy tutors. The cost of the citizenship process is both time-consuming and financially draining. The application cost is \$675.00 plus the cost of three weekday trips to Milwaukee. For further details pertaining to US citizenship, call Jerry at 920-388-3737 or Bob at 920-845-2516.



From left: tutor Jerry Waara, Raymond Colquhoun, and Bob Garfinkel wait for the oath of citizenship to begin.

Recognition Day 2009

Recognition Day 2009, Literacy Partners' event of the year, will celebrate the accomplishments our students, dedication of our tutors and board members, and the generosity of our supporters, on Sunday, October 11, 2009 (Packer's bye week) at 4:00 pm in the Kewaunee Grade School Cafeteria. All tutors, board members and supporters of Literacy Partners have received the details of this event already. Call Bob if you have any questions.

Please call Bob if you are able to help set up before the event or clean up afterward. We also need three or four students to be greeters to help as everyone arrives. If your student is willing to help, please contact Bob by September 15, 2009

Strategic Plan Endorsed by Board



2008-09 Board of Directors reviewing the 5 Year Strategic Plan with Claire Thompson (back left).

The main emphasis of the July Board of Director's Meeting was to focus on the Five Year Plan that Mary Novak, Maureen Kinnard, Jerry Waara and Bob Garfinkel worked on since the spring of 2008. Under the excellent leadership of the UW-Extension's facilitator, Claire Thompson, the committee held numerous meetings that also included a meeting with our supporters and stakeholders.

The plan includes a discussion of present and future facilities, staffing, public relations, a 3 year budget, fundraising and more. The most important part of the plan is the hiring of a half-time literacy coordinator. If grants are awarded, interviews for the position could be as early as mid-fall.

Bob Garfinkel, addressing our Board of Directors in early 2008 stated, "The growth and development of Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County, Inc. has been extremely rapid. We must look to the future and plan for it." The Strategic Plan was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors at the July Board Meeting. Copies of the 20 page document are available by calling Bob at 845-2516.

Tutor Recruitment—Fall 2009 ***Please promote these events!***

"Check into Literacy," our fall promotion to sign up new tutor,s will once again be sponsored by Verizon and will officially begin the week of September 7, 2009, during International Literacy Week. As last year, we will have a literacy booth set up at three locations. We will have informal discussions with potential tutors to let them know what we are all about, distribute the orientation and tutor training schedule, and answer questions concerning tutor training. Volunteers are needed to work at these booths. If you are able to help, call Bob 845-2516. Refreshments will be served.

Locations and times are:

Kewaunee Library	September 9, 2009	2:30 – 3:30 pm
Algoma Library	September 9, 2009	4:30 – 5:30 pm
Luxemburg Village Hall	September 10, 2009	6:30 – 7:30 pm

Tutor Orientation & Tutor Training Dates Set

We need your help to promote Literacy Partners. No, we are not asking for a donation (although that would be nice) or raise money to support our mission and goals. We are asking you to talk to people who you think would be good tutors and have the desire to help someone change his/her life by learning how to read, write or speak English. Please have prospective tutors call Bob or email him with contact information. Tutors are needed in all areas of Kewaunee County.

Orientation	September 22, 2009	6:00 – 7:00 pm
Class 1	September 29, 2009	6:00 – 9:30 pm
Class 2	October 1, 2009	6:00 – 9:30 pm
Class 3	October 6, 2009	6:00 – 9:30 pm
Class 4	October 8, 2009	6:00 – 9:30 pm

Introducing Our Tutor of the Season

Mary Anne Albert

We have a delightful person for the “Tutor of the Season,” Rosalie Tassoul. She allowed me to interview her on the phone one morning. As she talked, I realized how her whole life contributed to her being an excellent tutor. She so wants to give others the opportunity to learn English and to feel comfortable being active in our society.

Rosalie is a third generation Walloon-Belgian who remembers her grandparents struggling because they could not speak English. Without knowing the language of the country, there was discrimination, and ridicule from many sides. Even in her day, there were “put-downs” in school because of her nationality. That atmosphere makes learning very tough.

It is clear to Rosalie how important it is to be able to keep one’s heritage, and yet participate in the culture in which one is living. She understands how important education is, and really encouraged, even insisted that her children, two boys and a girl stay in school and be capable of contributing to the activities of the town in which they live. She is proud to see how her children have carried that out.

Over many years, they had renters who were Hispanic, and saw how difficult learning English was for them. Since she felt so good about being neighbors to their renters, and feeling blessed with the people she connected with, she wanted to give something back to society.

She attended the training for tutors, and began teaching. Knowing how demanding it is to learn English, she often tells her student how well she is doing and seeing her face light up gives her a big thrill.



It is clear that the student of Rosalie is very fortunate to have her for a tutor. And it is also clear that when we teach others, we are also taught, taught lessons that we could learn no other way.

New at the Resource Center

Barb Baldwin and Bob Garfinkel reviewed two interesting grammar books at the Wisconsin Literacy Regional Meeting this summer. The books are the same except one is written in English and the other in Spanish. The titles are, "English Grammar Step by Step" and "Gramitica del ingles: Paso a paso." Two copies of each will be available in our Resource Center after September 10th. Please let Barb (776-1541) or Bob (845-2516) know what you think of these books. If reviews are good, we will order more copies.

Several tutors have been checking out quite a few books on CD. Mary Gotstein reported that her student enjoyed her first book on CD, "Gloria Esteban." We are waiting for more reviews and will pass them on.

From the Tutor's Point of View

The most consistent request tutors submitted in the recent tutor survey was to find out what other tutors are doing and what "works." In order for this column to continue, we will need tutors to come forward and submit a short description of a technique that had positive results or something you tried that was fun and achieved your instructional goals. Our next newsletter deadline is October 24, 2009. Please forward your story to: Sr. Mary Anne Albert, Editor, 506 Church Ave., Casco, WI 54205, or email to: malbert7@centurytel.net.

Our first "From the Tutor's Point of View" was submitted by tutor Bob Garfinkel. For more information about the Language Experience Approach, contact Bob at rgarfinkel@centurytel.net or 845-2516.

The Language Experience Approach

The Language Experience Approach is a wonderful way to start students on the adventure of reading, and later writing. Primary school teachers have used this approach for over 100 years and teachers of students with learning disabilities and tutors of English as a Second Language students have used it for decades.

The student decides the topic to be experienced. Tutor and student discuss the topic and develop and expand ideas. The student decides on a title and the experience begins. If the student hesitates, the teacher may say, "Where will we start?" The student dictates the story and the tutor prints everything the student says exactly how he/she says it. Everything is spelled correctly, using periods and capital letters. Grammar and punctuation are put on the back burner for now. This is a time when the student cannot make a mistake, use his/her own experiences, and gains confidence.

The story is finished when the student says it is finished. With practice, you will find your student's ideas become more fluent. Stories may take up an entire class or may be worked on for 15 minutes segments during multiple classes.

Upon completing a story, the tutor and student can read it together orally or the student may opt to read it alone to the tutor. Eventually, the student should read the story alone. As stories progress, and the tutor feels the student is ready, grammar and punctuation may be added to the instruction. When the tutor feels the student is ready, the student writes the entire story using the tutor only when needed.



Of This and That...

- Thanks to Anne Laurent (Bob's daughter), an avid scrap-booker, has taken our collection of pictures and clippings and has put together a beautiful Literacy Partners historical legacy that will be available for viewing this fall during, "Check into Literacy," tutor orientation, and at Recognition Day. Be sure to check it out!
- Congratulations to Marietta Kenzik, Muriel Seidl, and Bob Garfinkel and their students for finishing a level in Laubach.
- Thanks to Laura Krzysiak and St. Mary's School in Algoma for providing computer time and babysitting for our students this summer.
- Thanks you to the Casco Lionesses and Algoma Lions for generous donations to Literacy Partners.



Algoma Lion President (and tutor) John Ingrisano and Bob Garfinkel after an exciting Lion's meeting.

- Thank you goes to the tutors who took the time to fill out our latest survey. The November "Star" will have our survey results.

Our Board of Directors:

Bob Garfinkel -- President, Maureen Kinnard, -- Vice- President, Judy Delain – Secretary, Barb Porath – Treasurer, Sandy Ehren, Mary Gotstein, Sue Hingst, Marietta Kenzik, Kate Phillips, Jerry Waara, Jackie Yon, Jan Zenner

Advisors:

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

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