

# From the Back of the Boat

Bob Garfinkel

The poor economy has impacted individuals, small and large businesses, foundations, charities and non-profit organizations in Wisconsin and the US as a whole. Although Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County, Inc. like many literacy organizations has found it more of a financial challenge this year than in the past, we have chosen to step to the plate and invest in our future, as well as the future of our students. With the help of new and old supporters, along with several board members and tutors who opened their wallets and gave generous donations, we raised enough funds to hire a coordinator. Anne Laurent (see article), our new coordinator, will make a huge difference in the effectiveness and productivity of Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County. Not satisfied to stop there, one of our tutors is studying hard to pass the tutor trainer's exam to complement trainer Barb Baldwin, who has been doing an excellent job training our new tutors. I feel we are getting stronger and our future looks bright.

In the most difficult economic period since the Great Depression, Literacy Partners has trained another class of new tutors, hired its first salaried position, and continues to challenge and meet the needs of our students. As long as our tutors, supporters, and board members feel we are in this together (are all in the same boat), we will continue to be a major force fighting illiteracy in Kewaunee County.

# THE STAR

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## Literacy Partners Hires New Coordinator!!

The Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County, Inc. has reached a new milestone: hiring our first position. Anne Laurent, of Bellevue, and long-time Literacy Partners volunteer, has been hired as coordinator. As coordinator, Anne will play a key role in keeping communication flowing within the organization. She will also be heavily involved in tutor and student recruitment. Being a non-profit organization, fundraising will be key. "I have big plans to get Literacy Partners financially secure for the future," says Laurent.



Anne is excited about the new position, and looks forward to working with board members, tutors, and students alike. She plans on creating more classes and seminars for tutors and students, as well as implementing another "social" event, to add to the already successful Recognition Day.

"Literacy Partners is an amazing organization, and I am so proud to be a part of it," Anne adds.

# Introducing Our Tutor of the Season

Jerry Waara, tutor, former English teacher, Literacy Board Member.

This is an exciting time for the literacy program in Kewaunee County. We have hired a part-time coordinator. There are about 50 tutors with various backgrounds and 55 students from different parts of the world in the program. The future looks bright! History is in the making.

Following is a little of my own history. I have participated in the literacy program for the past four years. The first student I tutored was from Mexico. I worked with him for about four months and then he abruptly quit showing up. I learned later that he had returned to Mexico.



Another student, whom I am still working with, is from Scotland. He was interested in becoming a U.S. citizen so I acquired the necessary materials and helped him study for the citizenship test. I relearned a lot about our early history along the way. Also, at the same time, I am helping him do the necessary coursework to receive his high school equivalency certificate, of which he is about half way through. Since his English is good, he mainly had to study for the test which he passed. He became an American citizen last summer. I was fortunate to be able to attend the session where he took his oath to become a citizen of our country. It was rather impressive!

I am currently working with a student from Germany who has already passed the test to become a U.S. citizen. She will be sworn in this summer. We are now working on expanding her knowledge of English by doing grammar exercises. Vocabulary building is another goal. We enjoy doing crossword puzzles and other vocabulary exercises. It is amazing to me that many immigrants have such a good grasp of the English language.

After having taught in public high schools for over 30 years, it is refreshing to work with appreciative adults. They are very motivated and thankful for the effort and time put forth by tutors. It is difficult for immigrants to comprehend that people here actually do this job for no pay. Should we let them in on the secret?

In summary, I just want to say that it's dedicated people that make any program work. We are very fortunate in having a concentration of highly talented and conscientious individuals in our organization. I am happy that I am a part of Literacy Partner's of Kewaunee County!

## The Trainer's Corner

Barb Baldwin

Did you know that 5 to 10 percent of the population may have dyslexia? Dyslexia is caused by impairment in the brain's ability to translate images from the eyes or ears into understandable language. The dyslexic person uses his right hemisphere instead of his left to read and spell.

Although no correlation has been found between the incidence of dyslexia and nationality, income, ethnicity, race, or IQ - it does have a genetic component. A test can reveal the presence of the DCDC2 Gene now known to be linked with dyslexia. A simple cotton swab is used for this test.

The following websites provide excellent insight into dyslexia and the implications the latest findings have on teaching reading.

<http://www.dyslexia.org/index.shtml>

<http://www.wikihow.com/Understand-Dyslexia>

# Rosalie Tassoul 1942 – 2010

Bob Garfinkel

I called Rosalie on Monday, March 29, 2010 at Froedtert Memorial Hospital after her surgery. She passed away on Tuesday, several hours after we spoke. Our last conversation centered on her condition and led to her anticipation of returning home and foremost resuming tutoring with her student who she sincerely loved. Even in her last hours, Rosalie was enthusiastic, positive, and thinking of others. That was the way she lived, and that's the way she passed.

I knew Rosalie for about 2 years, but she was the kind of person you spent an hour with and you felt you knew her forever. You could never stop at her house for a minute and drop off some books. You planned your schedule to allow 1-2 hours of talking about tutoring, immigration issues, and life in general. She was a true fighter for the underdog. Numerous times she went to court defending her student and one of her tenants.

Rosalie's laugh and enthusiasm were contagious. Sometimes, feeling sad, I'd call her or stop at her house and make up some excuse for stopping. No excuse was ever needed. I will miss her smile, her laugh, and her positive nature.

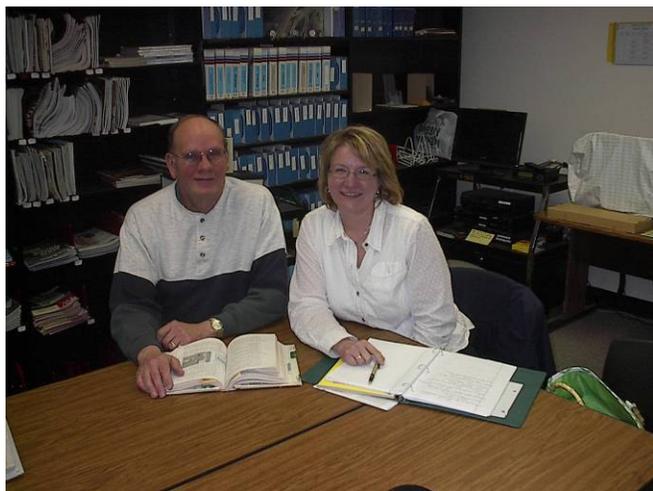
The funeral ceremony reflected Rosalie's life: a celebration rather than a tragic end. After giving my last respects, I wanted to see the pictures of Rosalie on a make-shift bulletin board. I was stopped in my tracks when I saw our September 2009 newsletter right in the center of the display featuring Rose and her picture as "Tutor of the Season." She was proud of her student and being a tutor. I will sincerely miss her.

Literacy Partners has made a donation to the Algoma Library in Rosalie Tassoul's memory.

## Literacy Student Passes US Citizenship Test

Bob Garfinkel

Last August, Ingrid Weitzel was reading the Kewaunee County News when all of a sudden an article caught her eye that was about to change her life. The article told about Literacy Partners' first student to gain US citizenship and Jerry Waara, the tutor that helped the new citizen pass "the test." Ingrid, an employee of Union State Bank, contacted Barb Porath, also working at the bank (and one of our board members) to set up a meeting with Jerry to plan the "road to citizenship." Jerry and Ingrid worked well as a team studying US history, the constitution, and grammar for nine months until Ingrid felt confident that she could pass the test. In short, she passed the test on her first try on April 6, 2010 and is now waiting for a date to take the oath of citizenship.



Jerry and his student, Ingrid

Ingrid spent her first 20 years of life in Germany and the next 18 years in the US. When asked why she wanted to become a US citizen, she said, "I want to belong. When I meet someone, I am introduced as

Ingrid from Germany. My two children (13 year old daughter and 17 year old son) are citizens. I also want to be able to vote and have other benefits of citizenship."

Even though Ingrid's goal to become a US citizen has been achieved, she will continue to work with Jerry to improve her reading and writing. Ingrid praised Jerry as an excellent teacher who has helped me "enhance" my vocabulary and improve my grammar. She said, "I use new words I have learned with customers at the bank and in my daily life." Jerry has nothing but praise for his student saying, Ingrid is a hard worker, excited to learn, and comes thoroughly prepared for every class. She learns lots of new words and her grammar is coming along well." Barb Porath adds, "I am very proud of Ingrid's accomplishment. Her commitment to obtaining citizenship required additional class work while she continued to be an outstanding employee at Union State Bank."

This May there will be a caravan of family, friends, and several Literacy Partners leaving Kewaunee on their way to downtown Milwaukee to witness a proud moment in time—Ingrid taking the oath of citizenship. Speaking for our Board of Directors, "We are proud of Ingrid's accomplishment and Jerry in assisting his second Kewaunee County resident to a dream come true – becoming a citizen of the United States of America."

Attaining citizenship is a goal that our students with proper documentation are able to achieve with the help of our literacy tutors. For further details pertaining to US citizenship, call Jerry at 920-388-3737 or Bob at 920-845-2516.

# Cultural Event – Bi-Okoto Drum and Dance Theatre of Cincinnati

Lorraine Aspenleiter

We applaud another great cultural evening. Three performers of the group provided information, participation, as well as entertainment, for an audience that filled a large section of the bleachers in the Kewaunee School gymnasium. Part of the uniqueness of this performance was the degree of participation that involved many of the children who attended.

The group stressed that there are many countries in Africa. Each has its own language, customs, dances and art. Three countries in particular were included. For each country a simple song was taught, some information about the country was given, and then, as the dance proceeded, we were encouraged to travel in imagination to that country. In 90 minutes, we traveled to Nigeria, Guinea, and Togo.

One of the dancers leads participants of various ages in a dance from Nigeria. The other two presenters played colorful drums and provided input concerning each country.



## The Tutor's Point of View

Susan Braun

During a seminar for the tutors, we learned a rule for pronouncing “ed” endings. I’m sure we’d all agree that past tense verbs with “ed” ending are a stumbling block for our students to pronounce with confidence.

The letters of the alphabet make voiced or voiceless sounds as listed below:

voiced: a, e, i, o, u, b, d, g, j, l, m, n, r, v, w, x, y, z

voiceless: c, f, h, k, p, q, s, t, ch, sh

If the sound before the “ed” ending is voiced, it will say /d/. If the sound just before the “ed” ending is voiceless, it will say /t/. If the word ends in the letter “d” or “t”, the sound for “ed” is /ed/. In these verbs /ed/ is pronounced as an extra syllable. Example: rest ---- rested

To practice the rule, I started with 30 – 40 verbs (just the base word of each verb). Then with a different colored pen, I added the “ed” endings, doubling consonants when necessary. By using a different colored pen, I think that I helped my student concentrate on the ending sound of the base word.

On a separate sheet of paper, I made three columns: “ed” “d” “t” Looking at one verb at a time, I stressed the sound just before the “ed” ending. I referred to the voiced and voiceless sounds chart. My student wrote each verb under the correct heading.

I urged my student to keep the voiced, voiceless chart nearby when reading on his own time. This is not always practical. By placing the hand a few inches from the mouth and speaking the sound just before the “ed” ending, one can distinguish between voiced or voiceless. With the voiceless sound, one will feel the breath pushed between the teeth and lips. (Remember, d and t are not included.)

For further practice, I had my student write many “ed” words from his free reading. Later, in class, he placed them under the correct sound /ed/, /d/, or /t/.

This is not a foolproof method. The word “crooked” does not fit the rule. There are probably many more.

## Of This and That...



We have new tutors: Left to right – Beth Fox, Suzanne Luft, Trainer Barb Baldwin, Ken Lionarons and Richie Zaborowske. Missing is Kelley Giese. All have been matched with students and are enjoying the experience.

- Please help and encourage your students to submit a story, essay, poem, etc. for our Recognition Day booklet. Mail ( to our PO box), or email student's writing to Bob ([rgarfinkel@centurytel.net](mailto:rgarfinkel@centurytel.net)) . Deadline is September 1, 2010.

Our Resource Center has two new cassette tape recorders ready for check out thanks to a donation by Barb Baldwin. Barb, thank you for all you do for us!!!

- Best of luck to Nancy Lamack who is studying to take the tutor trainer examination.

### 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

### Supporters:

Dominion Foundation, Greater Green Bay Community 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, Paul Hoagland and Karen Hoffman Hoagland, Richard and Chris Hanneman.

- Congratulations to Maureen Kinnard and her student for finishing a level in Laubach.

Recognition Day, 2010 for our students, tutors and sponsors has been set for Sunday October 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm (Packer game is at noon). More details in the next newsletter.

- Congratulations to tutor Renee Koenig and her husband Jeff on the birth of their daughter, Trinity June.

Congratulations to board member, Jackie Yon for being added to the Kewaunee High School Wall of Fame. Thanks for the kind words you said about Literacy Partners at this event.



Thanks to CenturyLink for their generous donation. Bob accepts the donation check from Mike Repinski and Mary Gotstein. This donation has been used to purchase a lap-top computer for our new coordinator.