

# From the Back of the Boat

Bob Garfinkel

Another successful Recognition Day has come and gone with a celebration centered on our students' accomplishments, the hard work of our tutors, and the involvement of our wonderful supporters. A large production such as this cannot be accomplished alone and the more effortless it looks the more effort actually goes into it. I'd like to thank our Tutor and Student Support Committee for help revising our program and selecting more meaningful books for our students and their children. Thanks also to our set up and clean up crews, along with our student greeters, Ryan and Mary. They made our guests feel right at home from the start! Of course, the program would not have been nearly as entertaining without the help and guidance of our coordinator, Anne Laurent. She collected over 50 gift certificates that livened up the afternoon for everyone. And how about our event program and the book bags given to each tutor and student? The event brochure cover was drawn by my student, Oksana Kurowski, featuring a scene from her home town in Ukraine. Anne did the lay out of the brochure and made arrangements for the donated book bags. I have been to hundreds of events over the years, and our event brochure was as nice as I'd ever seen! (Continued below.)

## THE STAR

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New supporters

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### Back of the Boat (continued)

I was surprised and will be forever grateful to Wisconsin Literacy for the award presented to me, as well as the framed picture everyone signed at the Recognition Day registration table. Ryan, our greeter, cleverly kept me out of the loop to preserve the surprise.

The final set up before people arrived at the event took six people about an hour to tie up loose ends. When finished, I looked over the event and wondered if the weeks of planning the event were worth all the time and effort. My answer hit me like a slap in the face from a Musky's tail when I circulated through the audience during the program and thanked our supporters for their help. To my surprise, I thanked them and they thanked me right back for the outstanding work being accomplished by our organization. Furthermore, the smiles and pride our students and tutors showed when receiving their folders lit up the room. I know most of our students and it was a pleasure and thrill to see them again and notice their progress in English. Was it worth all the effort we put into Recognition Day? You bet it was!

# Recognition Day 2010

Anne Laurent

October 10 has come and gone, but the memories of Recognition Day 2010 sponsored by Dominion Energy will live on for a long time. It was a fantastic night filled with laughter, joy, and the sharing of accomplishments by all. The event was held at the Kewaunee Grade School and catered by CJs Restaurant and Banquet Hall. There was also a lot of ethnic food brought by our wonderful students, and tremendous food brought by our tutors, as well. All in all, it was a fabulous success!

I would like to congratulate a few tutors on some outstanding accomplishments. First at all, Bob Garfinkel and Sister Mary Anne Albert were our first tutors to join the 500 hour club. Congratulations on a remarkable accomplishment. Your dedication to your student(s), as well as this organization is extraordinary.

Three new tutors have hit the 250+ hour mark. Congratulations to Maureen Kinnard, Mary Gotstein and Jan Zenner for achieving this truly amazing accomplishment.

We also honored our new citizens, Oksana Kurowski and Ingrid Weitzel, as well as our new citizen from 2009, Raymond Colquhoun. They were all presented with a framed letter written to them personally by Senator Herb Kohl. What an honor!



Tutor Bob Garfinkel and new citizen Oksana Kurowski.



Tutor Jerry Warra with new citizen Heidi Weitzel.



Tutor Jerry Waara with new citizen Raymond Colquhoun

For everyone who attended, I hope you won one of the small prizes from our games that we played. It was interesting to see who knew how many different countries we have students from. Can you name all 9? I hope that everyone enjoyed all the little extras we had. We wanted to make it more of a celebration this year, keep everyone on their toes, and show you that we really do appreciate all that you are doing for your student, as well

as your county! Thank you again!

# Congratulations Bob

Mary Anne Albert

The members of Literacy Partners know that Bob does many things to make the organization run as smoothly as it does. There are numerous things that

need to be done that the rest of the membership may take for granted or are oblivious of the need. Bob is there, taking care of this organization. Others, also involved in such organizations, know the great number of details that need to be tended to. Wisconsin Literacy has noticed, and has sent the following Certificate of Appreciation to Bob. He was really surprised when it was presented to him during the Recognition day program.

**Presented by Wisconsin Literacy on the tenth day of October 2010**

**This certificate is presented to Bob Garfinkel  
In recognition of the invaluable contributions  
you have made  
to the quality of life of Northeast Wisconsin  
residents  
through your tireless work with  
Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County.**



Bob Garfinkel holds his certificate from Wisconsin Literacy.

## Recognition Day continued.

There were so many wonderful cultural dishes at our Recognition Day celebration. The most requested recipe was the dark red salad that is a favorite in Ukraine. If your student would like to submit a favorite recipe of their family, we would like to share that. Email or send it to Bob.

### Oksana's Beet Salad

Ingredients: beets, beans, potato, big carrots, onion, pickles (better with salt, garlic and dill. Oksana used "Kosher Dill Pickles" – Milwaukee's brand), and olive oil.

Cook everything separately: beans, beets, potato, and carrots (in skin) until soft. Cool down; clean the skin of the carrot. Cut each ingredient, (fresh onion, pickles, and cooked beets, potato, and carrots) in equal sized cubes, about 1/4 in. Drown beets in the oil for a couple minutes. Mix together all ingredients; add seasonings (salt, olive oil and brine from pickles) to taste.

For two servings: 2 beets, 2 potatoes, 2 big carrots, 1.2 cup fresh beans, 1 onion. Olive oil, pickles and brine from pickles to fit your taste.

# Kewaunee County Advantage Card

Literacy Partners is still selling our Kewaunee County Advantage Cards. They are filled with 26 Kewaunee County businesses who have generously offered a deal to anyone who buys them. The cards are good until **9/1/2011** and each deal listed on the card can be used UNLIMITED times by the cardholder. That means, you can use it EVERYDAY if you so desire. Do you go to Subway? How about Village Kitchen? Parallel 44 Winery? Café Tlazo? Quali T Screening? Augies Bar & Grill? The Fishmonger? You would be surprised by all the deals on there!! The cards are only \$10 each. You will get your money's worth very quickly! Please buy one today if you haven't yet. It's a fabulous way to save some money and support Literacy Partners in the process. We get 100% of the proceeds. Your donation will help us continue to assist and inspire Kewaunee County residents in the future!!!

**Cards can be purchased at Baylake Bank in Algoma, Union State Bank in Kewaunee, M&I Bank in Casco, and the Bank of Luxemburg in Luxemburg.** You can also contact Bob at [Garfinkel.bob@gmail.com](mailto:Garfinkel.bob@gmail.com) or 920-676-2061 or Anne at [annielaurent@gmail.com](mailto:annielaurent@gmail.com) or 920-676-9162 if you would like us to personally get you one. You can send a check and we will send you a card back in the mail the next day! We will find a way to get you one if you want one!

PS: Advantage Cards will be great stocking stuffers.... the holidays are just around the corner!!!



## Introducing Our Tutor of the Season



Jane Ries, teacher, librarian, tutor

Our chosen Tutor of the Season for this issue is Jane Ries. Jane lived her early life in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with one sister and a twin brother. Her father owned a factory in Cedar Rapids, which he sold to move the family to Casco in 1945.

In Casco, where The Village Kitchen is now located, they owned an apple orchard, and a factory that made overhead garage doors. Hall Enterprises, the combination of the garage doors and the orchard, kept them busy.

Jane met her husband at Cornell College. He became a pilot in the air force, and after that, joined her father in the family business.

Jane has always been interested in people, involvement, and literature. She earned her degree in English, which she taught for some years, then earned a Master's degree in library science. For many years she was the librarian in the Middle School in Casco.

As a good librarian, she knew the children, and could suggest books that would both challenge and interest them. That interest and enthusiasm for both children and books did not diminish when she retired from the school system. She continues to look for ways to incorporate that interest and enthusiasm. When

Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County began, Jane became involved quite early. "I like to be useful, and knew that I could help somewhere," she said

One of the things that Jane enjoys doing with her student is to use some children's books to increase the student's vocabulary. There is an added advantage. That same book can be used by the student at home. She can practice her English reading by reading that book to her child.

## A Computer Aid

For those of you who might be looking for an online learning resource for tutors/students to explore, here's a link to a free educational site that offers instructional activities in various curricular areas such as "Math and Money," "Everyday Life," "Work and Career" and a few other broad areas. Plus, learners get an opportunity to increase their familiarity with basic computer skills while navigating through the lessons. . Here's the link:

[www.gcflearnfree.org](http://www.gcflearnfree.org)

By tutoring in this program, Jane is not only giving of herself, helping people new to this country to learn English, giving them a way to improve their life here, but also is experiencing the satisfaction that what she values is continuing to be useful. She enjoys getting to know her students. She recognizes that they "are such interesting people," and challenges herself to keep giving, sharing with those in need.

## Ask LaCucaracha

From under the rug, I see many things. I see many good things happening during thee meetings with your students. But I have some questions:

What would you like **LaCurcaracha** to speak to ?  
Have you been to the Resource Center in Kewaunee?  
Have you investigated some of the bilingual books? They offer lots of good vocabulary/Checkout the Junkyard Dan series.

## Book Dedicated to Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County

Bob Garfinkel

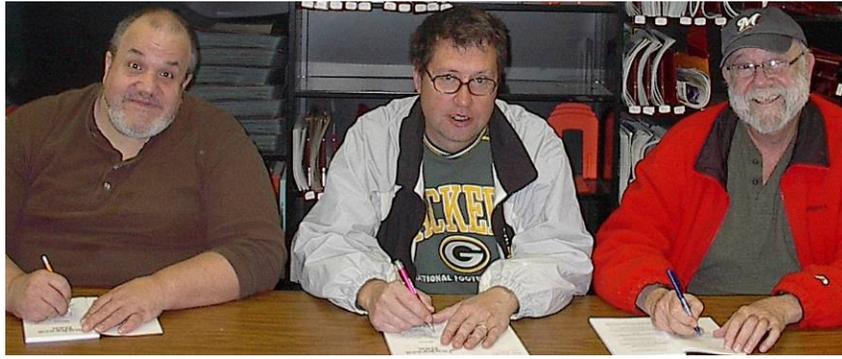
Elise Leonard, author of the Junkyard Dan series, has honored Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County and in particular, two of our tutors and a student by dedicating her latest book to us in the junkyard Dan series called, "Mercy." Elise is the author of 36 books specifically written for adults learning how to read. She is also the author of many novels under another name (ghost writer).

I have had a pleasure of getting to know Elise on the phone the last couple of years. Even though she lives in Florida, our conversations have never been on the short side (I have unlimited long distance). We have a lot in common being former teachers dedicating part of our lives teaching students with reading concerns. One day, I told her that the Junkyard Dan series was starting to take off and how much our students enjoyed her books. I told her about how well a particular student was doing with his tutor in her series and she asked if she could dedicate her most recent book to us? I told her that I'd have to ask the other guys and the rest was history. This is truly an honor and does not happen every day. I am proud to be in the picture with Mike and Ken.

"Mercy" is in our Resource Center and can be checked out. It is suggested that students reading the junkyard Dan series start reading Book 1 called, "Start of a New Dan" since this is an introductory book and each book builds on previous events. The dedication is below:

*I would like to dedicate this book to Literacy Partners of Kewaunee, Wisconsin. Your dedication to literacy is noteworthy! (I say that because I think you actually have more tutors in your county than cows. And your county has a lot of cows!)*

*This book is also dedicated to a cool bunch of guys: Bob Garfinkel, Ken Brydon, and Mike Urmanski. (You guys know what you did to earn my respect.)*



Signing copies of the new Junkyard Dan book is Ken Brydon, Mike Urmanski and Bob Garfinkel

“Mercy” can be purchased for \$8.00 by calling Bob at 920-676-2061

## Trainer's Corner

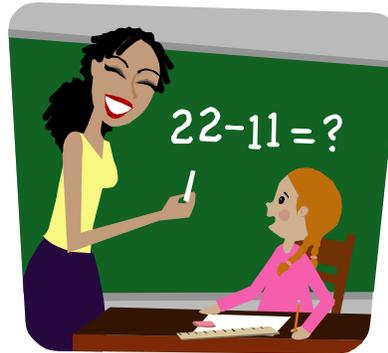
Barb Baldwin

This month, I'm asking more questions, than providing answers.

“Numbers + Literacy = Numeracy,” was the topic of one of the sessions I attended at the 2010 Literacy Conference in Appleton. Numeracy or quantitative literacy is the type of math skills needed to function in everyday life, in the home, workplace and community.

Literacy councils have traditionally focused on teaching language and reading skills, but what about math? Just spend a portion of one day thinking about all the times you see or must interpret numbers. How would not being able to interpret numbers affect your day to day decisions? If a

student enters our program with a third or sixth grade education in their native country, what is the level of their math skills? Should we also be concerned about their level of math literacy/



## Denny's and A & W Support Literacy

You can support Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County and buy your groceries at the same time. Denny's of Algoma gives many charitable groups a % of their profit. Just inside the store entrance, on the right as you walk in, is a wall of slots. Recently Denny's has supplied us with one of those slots. All you have to do is put your Denny's receipt in our slot and we will receive a check several times a year for a % of our total amount. Our slot is on the lower right corner under Kewaunee County Literacy. Thank you Denny!

Saturday, October 16, 2010, A&W at 2646 Manitowoc Road, Green Bay, donated 10% of the total amount of food they sold between 6:00pm—9:00pm. Thank you to everyone who went out of their way to make this fundraiser a success. Thanks A&W!

## Of This and That

- Tutors, contact Bob if you didn't attend Recognition Day and you or your student did not receive a book bag. We have book bags for everyone.
- Congratulations to S. Mary Anne Albert, Julie Thoreson, JoAnn Werner, Ken Lionaroms and their students for completing a level in Laubach.

- Be sure to let your friends know about our Advantage Card—see article in this newsletter or check it out on our web site at [www.literacykewauneeco.org](http://www.literacykewauneeco.org).
- Be a friend of Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County on Facebook!

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