

From the Back of the Boat

Bob Garfinkel

Building Bridges

In my 50+ years spent traveling around our beautiful state of Wisconsin boating, fishing, and enjoying nature, I have found bridges to be an invaluable link from place to place – a definite time saver, and magnets for schools of fish having lunch and educating (in schools) each other on new fishing techniques and bait offerings. Likewise, Literacy Partners is building bridges every day. We are bridging the gap between cultures and installing bridges between our students, their children's schools, and the community as a whole. We also have built bridges extending to all of our tremendous donors and supporters. Like all bridges, they need occasional maintenance and attention. We understand the importance of all the bridges we have built during the past five years.

Think about all of the bridges, you have constructed with the relationships with your students and family and people in our community. We are in the bridge building business. Let's continue to build bridges together and maintain them along the way.

THE STAR

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Community Quarterback

Bob Garfinkel was among 19 fellow honorees attending a ceremony at Lambeau Field on Friday, March 4, 2011. The Green Bay Packers recognized 20 volunteers from across the state of Wisconsin in all areas of community service.

News at a glance:

Successful Recognition Day
Awards – Community Quarterback
Wisconsin Literacy
Trainer Certification
Coming events – Fund Raisers

Features:

“From the Back of the Boat”
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Board members



Bob and Anne display the Community Quarterback Award at Lambeau Field.

Jenny Spude, nutritionist with UW- Extension led the 2nd half of the program. She had a very interesting and interactive presentation which focused on how different foods impact your teeth. She had samples of different foods (jelly beans, celery, soda, etc) to show how they feel on your teeth, and how some of the “bad foods really can cause your teeth to have problems.

Everyone was given healthy snacks (huge, fresh strawberries, cheese & bottled water), as well as a dental care package filled with a bunch of free goodies (new toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, timers for brushing, stickers, and info packets). Dental Day was a huge success, and we would like to thank all of our extra volunteers that came out for the occasion to help!

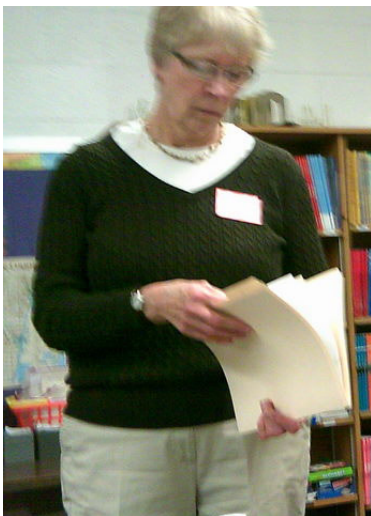


Jodi Kinnard (right), translated Jenny's presentation into Spanish

Healthy Communities will be an ongoing Literacy Partners project. If you were not able to attend these two events, keep your eye out for more events coming later this year, as well as in 2012!

Successful Tutor Training and Trainer Certification.

According to Bob Garfinkel, our spring tutor training session was one of the most successful in the organization's history, both in number and quality of the tutors. Seven quality tutors were certified with as diverse backgrounds as we had ever seen including a newspaper reporter, businessman, former (Spanish) interpreter for a clinic, and a graduating high school senior. All tutors have been matched with excited students and are doing extremely well.



Nancy Lamack is our new tutor trainer

The new tutors are Emilie Addison, Bernadette Bellin, Bonnie Hoffman, Michelle Kuemmet, Danielle Metzger, Kurt Rentmeester, and Scott Savage.

This tutor training session was special because it was the debut and certification of our second tutor trainer, Nancy Lamack. Nancy, a member of the original Steering Committee that founded Literacy Partners, also served on the Board of Directors and as a tutor.

Bob commented that, “Nancy is a wonderful complement to veteran tutor trainer Barb Baldwin. Both are talented trainers and we are looking forward to many successful training sessions to come.

Trainer's Corner

If you are looking for stories that are age and reading level appropriate for your students, Marshall Adult Education has a website that helps adults become better readers and more informed consumers, parents, employees, citizens and community members. The stories are on such topics as Civics, Employment, Health, School, Money, and Government. In addition to being able to read the story online, the student can listen to it or print it as well as do the comprehension exercise.

Check out www.marshalladulthoodeducation.org. Navigating the site: The left hand column has two sets of online lessons, "Student Lessons" and "Reading Skills for Adult Readers." Both are good, but I particularly like how the "Reading Skills for Adult Learners" is set up. It has multiple reading levels and pre-reading activities. The student is able to hear the stories read: first at a very slow speed and then the student has the opportunity to hear the selection read two more times at increasingly more normal rates.

(Hint: It was necessary for me to remove my pop-up blocker to successfully access the stories. The icon for doing this was on the bottom of the page.)

Reprinted From: Wisconsin Literacy Winter 2011 Newsletter



Tutor and LPKC President Bob Garfinkel and new citizen Oksana from Ukraine

How long has Literacy Partners provided services in Kewaunee County and what services does the organization provide?

We have provided services for 4.5 years in ELL, basic education, citizenship, GED and some job training skills.

Is there a specific story or major accomplishment of Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County (LPKC) that you would like to share?

We have received local and state recognition for our accomplishments. However, the accomplishment we are the most proud of is that three students achieved U.S. citizenship in the last year and a half with the help of their tutors. The students' former homes were Germany, Scotland and Ukraine. At our Recognition Day dinner, the three students were given framed personal congratulations from Senator Kohl, a U.S. flag pin and a pocket copy of the U.S. Constitution. A crowd of about 175 gave them a standing ovation after each gave a short thank you.

Who are LPKC's literacy partners?

We have a very close partnership with the Algoma and Kewaunee public libraries and couldn't function without them. They provide space for tutoring, computers and friendly help when needed. The three school systems in the county have been instrumental in providing free learning areas for us, and their ELL instructors have helped get the word out to potential students. Our technical school has provided space, computer access, speakers and students for our program. The Dominion Energy Foundation, Robert and Rita Krause Foundation, Greater Green Bay Community Foundation, Wisconsin Public Service, United Funds of Kewaunee County, Kewaunee Rotary, Lions Clubs in Algoma and Kewaunee, and other service organizations have been strong supporters of our program. We value their support and keep these groups

informed because we want them to share in our accomplishments. We realize we cannot accomplish our mission and vision without them!

How did YOU become involved in literacy?

Being a former teacher, I always was aware of the large number of students that drop through the cracks in our educational system. I am a third generation U.S. citizen and remember the struggles my grandparents had with the English language. I also had learning difficulties while in school, overcame most of them, and taught school for 13 years. I am aware of the feelings of frustration our basic ed. students have, which is why we provide them with kind, understanding tutors.

I am on the Kewaunee County Board and when the opportunity presented itself to start a literacy group, UW Extension became involved. We set up a needs assessment group, spent a year studying the situation, did the federal and state paperwork, and found 30 eager tutors. With the help of Literacy Green Bay, we trained our new tutors. They have been one of our best partners!

What is it you like best about the work you do at LPKC?

I love being around other volunteers. There is something about people doing what they want to do without being paid that inspires me and keeps me going. I also enjoy running into our students in a store or on the street and speaking English to them. They appreciate everything we have done for them and I think they understand what we have received from them in return.

What is your greatest need to improve literacy services?

Our greatest need right now is more tutors. We come from a small farming community and many of our residents either work on a farm or travel to work and do not have the time.

Is there any additional information you would like to share about LPKC?

On May 1, 2010, we hired our first paid staff member at 10 hours per week. We could not exist without a strong board of directors, the previously mentioned partners and giving tutors. Literacy Partners has been a community effort from the start and we are proud of what has happened here in the last 4.5 years.

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Healthy Check-up Books for the Resource Center

Thanks to a Greater Green Bay Community Foundation grant, Literacy Partners will be adding a “Healthy Communities” selection to our Resource Center library with the most popular adult health-related program in the country. The program is specifically directed toward lower level reading adults and English as Second Language students. The series is written at about the third grade level in English. We will also have copies written in Spanish for each topic. Tutors will be able to checkout books for their students, read books together, or students may read them on their own. Books should be ready for tutor withdrawal by mid to late May.

Titles for this series include:

- What to Do When Your Child Gets Sick**
- What to Do for Heavy Kids**
- What to Do when you are having a Baby**
- What to Do for Teen Health**
- What to Do for Senior Health**
- What to Do for Healthy Teeth**
- What to Do When your Child Has Asthma**

Website Updated

www.literacykewauneeco.org

Our website has been recently updated by our ace computer expert, Steve Laurent.

Key features of the update include:

- Deleting of obsolete information

- Adding "Latest News" section

- Updating of supporter list and awards

- Adding a citizenship area under "becoming a student"

- Update of the Calendar and Links pages

- Adding a "Tutor Log In" section which sends you to a "Tutor only" page which allows access to monthly tutor reports, board meeting minutes (new), the Resource Center Guide and much more:

Contact Bob or Anne for password information.

Our website has been a highly effective tool for obtaining grants; keeping tutors and supporters informed, and is providing educational links to Literacy groups and schools across the country.



Bob Garfinkel accepts the donation check from CenturyLink representatives Mike Repinski and Mary Gotstein.

Thanks to the input from a tutor and board survey, the generous grant from CenturyLink, our longtime supporter, and special thanks to Steve for his time and efforts to make this the best website!

Fund-Raising Events

Anne Laurent

Volunteers for Events

Summer 2011 is going to be a busy and exciting time for Literacy Partners! In addition to all the wonderful strides you are all making with your students, our organization is going to be more involved in the community as a group – and we are hoping to let Kewaunee County know who we are and what we are doing. ***If you have already contacted us about volunteering, we will be contacting you soon with the final details.***

Dairy Dash

To begin the summer, Literacy Partners will be volunteering for the Luxemburg Dairy Dash 5K run/walk. Volunteers will be needed to help at the registration tables, handing out timing chips, preparing the food (cutting up bananas and oranges) collecting chips at the finish line, scooping ice cream, manning water stations and directing traffic at select intersections. Start time for volunteers will be sometime between 6:30 – 7 am. The race begins at 8 am. You should be done volunteering late morning. You also get a free 7-shirt for volunteering! Please contact Anne or Bob (contact info listed below) if you are interested in helping us out! In the email or phone, please provide us with your desired t-shirt size. Literacy Partners will receive a portion of the money raised at this event.

Festival Foods Brat Fry

We have two brat fry fundraisers scheduled for this summer. Both will be held at Festival Foods on the east side of Green Bay (right next to Menards). We are looking for half day volunteers (either to set up and work through lunch or to come after lunch and work until the supper hour). The dates are: August 6, 2011 and August 26, 2011. Please contact Anne or Bob if you want to help!

Pig Roast with Kewaunee County HCE

On Saturday, July 23, 2011 Literacy Partners will combine efforts with another great Kewaunee County organization, HCE, and hold a pig roast fundraiser in Kewaunee. The event will be held in the Nancy Lazansky Memorial Shelter down along the Kewaunee Harbor. Sales will be open to the public from 10 am until 2 pm, or until the food is gone. Please tell everyone you know! Pork plates will consist of pork, rye bread, sauerkraut, and baby red potatoes. Drinks and desserts will be available a la carte. If you are interested in volunteering, we are looking for people to come early (from 8 am–noon) and later (from 11 am - 3 pm). It is going to be a fun day---and hopefully we can both raise funds for our given organizations!

In addition to the pig roast sales, we are also looking for volunteers to bake pies and donate them to Literacy Partners for the pig roast day event. We will sell the pieces of pie *a la carte*. The only thing we ask is that the pies not be custard or cream pies (those don't work well with the July heat). We would like to stick to fruit or nut pies (cherry, strawberry, blueberry, pecan, etc...). Please contact Anne or Bob and let them know if you can make one so that we can have a total count. HCE will also be asking their members to do the same, but we need everyone's help! Thank you in advance!

Contact information for all volunteer efforts is as follows:

Anne Laurent, Coordinator
annielaurent@gmail.com
920-406-9162

Bob Garfinkel, President
Garfinkel.bob@gmail.com
920-845-2516 or 920-676-2061

Thanks in advance!!!

Introducing Our Tutor of the Season

Muriel Seidl, mother, farmer, volunteer, tutor

Coming to know Muriel, is an experience of seeing someone who is very quietly involved in many things.

Muriel is a mother of 6 children and has 5 grandchildren. For most of her adult life, she has been involved with farming. Farming is the opportunity to be your own boss, to experience the differences in each season in a very important way, and to have the family working together in an important undertaking. At the present time, besides tutoring for Literacy partners, she volunteers at a school as an aide.

In Muriel's words, "I took tutor training with Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County as a result of a suggestion from a friend, and began tutoring." This is a reminder of how important it is to invite others to

tutor. She says it is rewarding to help someone to improve, to come to know the student, to appreciate their sense of humor and eagerness to learn.



Muriel Seidl meets with her student Brian

She taught a man from Honduras for a year and a half. “He was a teacher in Honduras, and wanted to learn English. He was a very good student, and I enjoyed meeting with him each week. “ When he left to return to Honduras, Muriel really missed him, but was glad that she could be part of his life, and hoped that what she taught him was helpful when he returned home. Muriel took a year off after her first student left, but is now teaching a new student. She expects great things of him as well, and enjoys watching him improvement from week to week.

Of This and That

- ***Wisconsin Literacy will present the “Language Learner of the Year Award (2 categories – ELL and Basic Learners) at the Wisconsin Literacy State Convention in Appleton in October. I know we have students deserving of this recognition. To nominate your student, send Bob the nomination in writing by May 25, 2011 stating the student accomplishments and why the student deserves this prestigious award. If you are not sure if your student qualifies for the award, call Bob for a description of last year’s winners.***
- Our Recognition Day Committee is searching for one or two student artists to share their talent and beautiful artwork for our Recognition Day brochure. Call Bob for topics, size and format requirements before July 4, 2011.
- Congratulations to Sue Hingst’s student who was recently promoted to kitchen manager at a Kewaunee County hotel.
- Check out the following website for a hot handwriting source: www.gotoforms.com/pen-to-paper-handwriting-Resources-for-kids-a/249/htm
- Congratulations to Mike Urnanski and his student for completing Level 3 and passing the entrance exam in welding at NWTC.
- Thank you goes to Michael Conard of Kewaunee for his second donation to Literacy Partners that was deducted from his paycheck through Brown County United Way. If your friends and family are able to contribute at work, please fill them in about us.
- For those interested in buying Literacy Partners sweatshirts, polo shirts or T-shirts, please contact Anne Laurent at 920-406-9162. Our next order will be placed this fall. Our first purchase was for over 60 shirts!
- Thanks goes to Melissa Huizinga, for her donation of a gas card making it possible for one of our students to drive to Milwaukee to take his U.S. Citizenship Test.

Student Successes

Oksana Kurowski would stand out in any crowd in Kewaunee County as someone special and probably from another location. Her dress is usually more formal than what you would expect for any occasion, her speech has a definite Ukrainian accent and there is a politeness that gets a second glance. This is by no means a criticism of Oksana, a Kewaunee County resident, who has brought with her nothing but achievements, success, and respect from everyone who has come in contact with her.

Oksana and her husband Dr. Kurt Kurowski, moved to Kewaunee from Chicago about two years ago after living there 4-5 years. Oksana learned English and took some technical school classes there. Moving to Kewaunee was quite a cultural shock for Oksana, a person who enjoys the excitement of the big city, extraordinary shopping and entertainment. Early in our sessions, we talked about the cultural difference in Ukraine, Chicago, and Kewaunee. She joined HCE, made many friends, and socially became somewhat accustomed to the slower paced life in Kewaunee County.



Oksana presenting, "Ukraine, My Home"

In early April, Oksana presented a wonderful slide show to HCE (open to the public) entitled "Ukraine, My Home." The audience was treated to an outstanding presentation demonstrating the similarities and differences in Ukrainian and American cultures. Oksana provided Ukrainian food at the end of the presentation that amazed those present.

Oksana was my student for about a year and a half and proved to be a quick, intense, and dedicated student. Her reading comprehension, and spelling improved greatly, but writing remains a challenge. Oksana, like any "English Language Learner," thinks in her former language and this is evident in her placement of words.

During the time she was my student, Oksana studied for and passed the U.S. Citizenship Test, studied for and passed the State of Wisconsin Real Estate Exam and did exceptionally well in two classes at NWTTC. Her last class required an extensive essay on a topic and a presentation to an audience. Osaka, once again, had a marvelous presentation.

Oksana's interests include modeling in bridal shows and parades for Tina Marie, listening to music, playing with her cat, gardening, fishing, and speaking English to her mother Svetlana (who is also our student.).

Oksana is presently working in Chicago and returns to Kewaunee on her days off. She is a student I am proud of and will watch her future with great interest. Oksana, I feel, can achieve anything she sets her mind to.

Bob Garfinkel - tutor

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