

From the Back of the Boat

Bob Garfinkel

Happy Birthday Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County! You are now five years old! We have gone through the infant stage of an organization and have learned how to crawl and walk. The question right now is, "Are we ready to run?" There are some real positive signs on the horizon. We have a strong board of directors and an outstanding coordinator. Our tutors are dedicated and, as a whole, is as good a group as I have ever had the honor to be associated with. Many would have bet that by now we would have folded our tents and would have pulled up stakes due to a bad economy, lack of resources and community support, and public apathy. Yes, the economy has a long way to go before recovery, but our donors and supporters remain strong and involved, community support is building due to our numerous articles in the newspapers, exposure in the community has been excellent, and the decision to open our major health care programs to the public have been successful. Individuals and organizations are starting to approach us for fund-raising opportunities and we are building our resources with four fundraisers this year. What is particularly noteworthy is that two literacy groups just starting out have sought our help.

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Back of the Boat, continued.

I have been impressed with the helping hand and involvement that our students and tutors have given us this year. Participation in tutor in-service programs and events such as our Dental Day, and Health Care seminar, were excellent. Tutors and students have come forth as volunteer interpreters, and sign ups for the pig roast and both brat fries have been impressive. Going back to the original question — Are we ready to run? (See the article called, "Running for Literacy." Russ would say that we are ready!) For those who know me, know that I have severe foot concerns. My answer to this question is, "If you are ready to run, so am I!"



Literacy Partners Lends a Helping Hand

Bob Garfinkel

On June 20th, several board members, tutors and students met with representatives from Manitowoc and Marinette/Oconto Counties to give advice as to how to start up literacy organizations in their area. Mary Novak discussed our start-up and early history, while Bob commented on what to do to ensure success as an organization. Barb Baldwin described our tutor training program and Maureen Kinnard told about tutor/student evaluation and matching.

The second part of the program provided our guests the opportunity to meet real, live tutors and their students. Tutors gave a brief description of their tutoring experience and the students did the same. Our guests saw the close connection we have with our students which had to be experienced to be understood. This program was highly informative and entertaining.

Special thanks to Suzanne Luft and Kate Phillips, and their students for enlightening our guests. Thanks also to Maureen, Barb, and Mary for excellent presentations.



Participants in the Manitowoc and Marinette/Oconto Literacy Meeting.

Bob and Mary have been asked to attend a community gathering in Manitowoc to present a literacy program to a community group interested in moving their literacy group forward.

Introducing Our Tutor of the Season



Suzanne Luft, mother, teacher, tutor, grandma.

Suzanne and her husband Lee are Wisconsinites. They met when Suzanne was teaching first grade with his mother in the Elmbrook School District. They grew up in the western suburbs of Milwaukee, living in Waukesha early in their marriage and then making job moves with stops in Madison, Chippewa Falls, DePere, and finally coming to Kewaunee. They are enjoying making new friends, and being “mostly” retired with no plans to move in the foreseeable future.

They have twin daughters, both engineers (ability inherited from their Dad). Laura and her husband are Air Force Academy grads presently based in the Boston area. They are parents of Benji and are expecting a little girl this fall. Stephanie and her husband met at work and just married this May. They are in the Chicago area, and we head there whenever we get a chance.

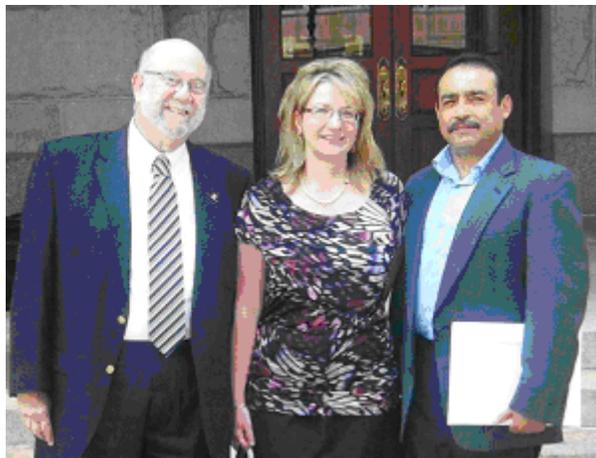
Suzanne tells us, “I loved teaching elementary school, particularly my years with first graders. It was always special to see the growth students made in reading and writing from the beginning of the year to the end, and the pride they felt in learning. I get the same satisfaction tutoring my student. I look forward to each meeting with my ESL student where we try to conquer the many challenges of learning our English language. I am impressed with the diligence and effort that my student gives to our classes and her homework. The best part is getting to know each other, starting a friendship, and sharing our different cultures and interests. We laugh, have fun and learn together and it doesn’t get any better than that.”

In addition to her tutoring, Suzanne has several other interests. She reads widely, has expanded her sewing interests to include quilting and doll/toy making, and is putting family history books together as she does her genealogical research of her families. She gardens and enjoys the results of vegetable and flower gardens. One can hear her passion as she says, “And I really love being a grandma.”

Rafael Sanchez – New Citizen

Bob Garfinkel

On Thursday, June 16, 2011, Rafael Sanchez took the Oath of Citizenship along with 80 others from 35 countries at the Federal Building in Milwaukee. Accompanied by his tutor, Ingrid Weitzel, and mentor Bob Garfinkel, Rafael became our fourth naturalized citizen (from four different countries) in the past two years. The much anticipated day finally arrived, but the journey was launched six months earlier when Rafael told Bob that he wanted to study to be a citizen. No tutor was available: it was suggested by a literacy board member to have Ingrid tutor Rafael for the test since she passed the test in June of 2010. Ingrid proved to be an excellent, demanding, and effective tutor which allowed Rafael to pass the test on the first try in under nine minutes (average time is 15—20 minutes).



Bob, Ingrid and Rafael pose in front of the Federal Building in Milwaukee.

The threesome stopped for the traditional celebration lunch at what else, an authentic Mexican restaurant in the Latin Quarter of Milwaukee. The food and company was outstanding since my only contact with Mexican food up to that point was Taco Bell! The highlight of the meal was not the food, but two mature (age, not behavior) women wearing sombreros riding a motorized red chili pepper! Everyone in the restaurant went wild watching the two gals hold on for dear life! June 16, 2011 was far from another day in the lives of the three travelers from Kewaunee County, Wisconsin. We are more than a student, tutor and mentor. We have become close friends—

friends for life. For Rafael, Mexico will always have a place in his heart and he is proud to be an American Citizen ready to accept both the responsibilities and privileges of citizenship. Rafael deeply appreciates all the help he was given by Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County and said, "There is no way I can thank you enough. I will remember this day as long as I live."

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Resource Center – “What To Do” Series is Here!

Newsletter Staff

Thanks to a generous grant from the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation, Literacy Partners has been able to purchase the award winning series, “What to Do When ...” Books are written in English (3rd grade level) and in Spanish. Students could either read books they are interested in on their own or read and discuss books with their tutor. Tutors must withdraw books, but are welcome to meet students at the Resource Center to see the books.

Books are in the Resource Center right now ready for check out. Bob has copies at his house in Luxemburg which may also be checked out. Call first at 920-845-2516.

Book choices are:

- What to do When You are Having a Baby
- What to do for Heavy Kids
- What to do for Kids with Asthma
- What to do for Senior Health
- What to do for Healthy Teeth
- What to do When Your Child Gets Sick
- What to do for Teen Health

Help Needed!

With the help of a grant from the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation, Literacy Partners has expanded its Healthy Communities Program to include the Kewaunee County Back to School Program on August 18, from 1:00 pm – 5:30 pm in the Hillcrest School Gym, Kewaunee. We need help handing out dental supplies and staffing our booth for a 2 hour shift or the entire afternoon.

The Back to School Program provides low income families with school supplies to start the new school year. Our goal is to increase dental information to families and send students back to school with a new smile! Call Bob if you are able to help (920-845-2516).

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Student Success

Joan Dalebroux – tutor

This spring my student, Luz, completed Laubach Level Four. When I asked her what her next goal was she indicated that she would really like to learn more about using a computer. I checked into the class schedule at the NWTCL Learning Center in Luxemburg. There was a 6 week beginning computer class starting in March. She had just started an early morning job, but she felt she could commit to a 3 hour evening class weekly. I had taken the class earlier and I thought she could handle it. I offered to attend with her for a little extra support. She did very well, in fact, a couple of times she was giving me the support. We really enjoyed the class together. Paul Jerabek is a very patient teacher.

Luz’s next goal is to start studying for her GED. That will take a lot longer, but she is determined to begin next week.

If you would like to share your student’s success story with our readers, please contact Bob at Garfinkel.bob@gmail.com or 920-676-2061

FUND RAISING

Dairy Dash

Newsletter Staff

The "Dairy Dash," sponsored by the Luxemburg Chamber of Commerce, was a huge success with about 600 participants on June 5, 2011. Literacy Partners supplied 24 out of about 70 volunteers. Bob Garfinkel commented, "Our wonderful tutors give their time unselfishly and made time to support a community event such as this run." This year Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County was the non-profit organization selected to receive the proceeds from the event. Bob gratefully accepted a check for more than \$1500 from Chamber of Commerce representatives.

Thanks to those who donated a Saturday morning to help out and a huge thank you to the Luxemburg Chamber of Commerce for selecting Literacy Partners as a 2011 recipient of the funds from this event.



Bob receives the Dairy Dash check from the representatives of the Luxemburg Chamber of Commerce.

Running for Literacy

Bob Garfinkel

Russell Flemming is willing to go the distance to volunteer to raise funds for Literacy Partners by running in the 50 mile Door County Ultra Marathon on October 22, 2011. In the past, Russ has raised funds running for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. With the help from Russ, Anne and Steve Laurent, a donation and information page will be added to our website soon. 100% of each donation will come to Literacy Partners. Information about the run will have links from our website if you would like to get involved in volunteering or running in the event. Donations may also be sent to Bob Garfinkel, PO Box 203, Luxemburg, WI, 54217. Please tell everyone you know to make a tax deductible donation to Literacy Partners.

Russell, a retired Army Colonel, and his wife Pam, recently moved to Luxemburg. Russell grew up in the Pacific Northwest and holds a Master's degree in Health Care Administration from the University of Washington. Russ served 30 years as a Health Care Administrator and Medical Planner and retired from the Surgeon General's office last September.

Russ Flemming is an accomplished runner and coach. He has run the Boston Marathon and is a certified running and walking coach with Road Runners Club of America. Russ has coached walkers and runners all over the world. Presently, he is planning to set up a 501c3 organization to train runners and walkers in Kewaunee County.

Mr. Flemming's feeling toward Literacy Partners is sincere and genuine. At some point in the future, Russ would like to become a tutor. When I met Russ, he told me that, "If it weren't for volunteer tutors helping me to learn how to read, write and do basic math, I would never have gotten my GED. Their dedicated efforts made it possible For me to go to college and have the opportunity to serve my country as a US Army officer."

If interested in running with Colonel Flemming, or making a tax deductible donation, visit our website later this month or call Bob Garfinkel at 920-676-2061 for details. If you would like more information about the Door County Ultra Marathon, go to www.fall50.com.



Russell Fleming

More Help Needed!

Volunteers are needed for each brat fry at Festival Foods East from 2:00pm to 5:00pm. Call Anne if you can help (920-676-9162).

Pies are needed for the Pig Roast Fund Raiser on July 23 at Kewaunee Harbor. No cream based pies, however, due to the summer heat. Call Anne Laurent if you will back a pie for us. (920-676-9162)

Coming Events



July 23 Pig Roast 10 am – 2:00 pm, Kewaunee Harbor City Marina Shelter, Adults \$8, Kids \$4. Please bring your family and friends to support two great Kewaunee County organizations.

August 6 Brat Fry Fundraiser – East Side Festival Foods 11:00 am – 5:00 pm

August 26 Brat Fry Fundraiser – East Side Festival Foods 11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Of This and That

- Thank you to the Luxemburg Chamber of Commerce, the Shopko Foundation, WS Packaging, and Russell Fleming for their generous donations to Literacy Partners. Your support will help assure that our programming needs will be met for the rest of 2011.
- Congratulations to the Anne and Steve Laurent family on the birth of their third child, Zoey Marie born on June 11, 2011.
- Help is needed for the brat fry on August 6 and August 26 from 11:00 am – 5:00 pm
- We also need pies for the Pig Roast on July 23. Call Anne Laurent if you will donate a pie. (see above for phone no.)

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