

From the Back of the Boat

Bob Garfinkel

In the 1930's, French scientists determined that bees could not fly! According to their calculations, this feat was aerodynamically impossible. They based their theory on the so-called fact that bee wings are too small and could not produce enough lift to allow the heavy bodies to get off the ground. Technically, the French made false assumptions concerning the honey bee wing motion and overlooked the bee's tremendous effort and desire to succeed. Aerodynamically, the bumble bee shouldn't be able to fly, but the bee doesn't know that it can't---so it does!

Likewise, Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County was only expected to last a few years and die a slow death! Like the honey bee, we were too weak and would not be able to get our program off the ground. Like the honey bee, we reached down deep and found the effort, desire and inspiration not only to get off the ground, but to start achieving some of our organizational goals and mission points.

THE STAR

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Back of the Boat, continued.

Our quest for sustainability is nowhere near complete. We need tutors and supporters to not only get involved in fundraising, but to participate on the Textbook Review Committee, review and revise Recognition Day, help us with our next Strategic Plan, and get involved in tutor workshops. Please call me at 920-845-2516 to see how you can get involved and help us to continue to make a difference in Kewaunee County.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, we'd like to wish you all the best in 2012.

Happy New Year!

Recognition Day 2011

Anne Laurent

On November 13th, Literacy Partners tutors, students, and supporters gathered for an evening of acknowledgement, appreciation, and most of all, FUN! Students and tutors were honored for their dedication and supporters for their generosity. It was a fabulous night filled with laughter and excitement for all who attended.

The special awards recognized this year were as follows:



Citizenship

Rafael Sanchez, right, the new citizen, with his tutor, Ingrid Weitzel and Bob Garfinkel



Wisconsin Literacy's ELL Student of the Year

Bob Garfinkel presented the award to Ingrid



250 Hour Tutoring Awards

Bob Garfinkel, with tutors, Sandy Ehren, Jerry Waara, and Julie Thoreson. Mary Naumann, JoAnn Werner, and Kate Philips were not available.



500 Hour Tutoring Awards

Barb Baldwin and Sr. Lorraine Aspenleiter with Bob Garfinkel

The main course of the meal for Recognition Day was provided by CJ's and everyone brought a wonderful array of ethnic foods to share. It was a smorgasbord, indeed! At the end of the night, there was a group picture, and everyone went home with new books. Thank you to all who attended—it was outstanding!



Frank Bernard Award for Tutor Excellence
Jerry Waara is presented with the award by Addy Bernard



Recognition Day 2011 Group Photo

Maria Razon Awarded G.E.D.

Kathy Hutchison

Two and one-half years ago, Maria and I started working on her G.E.D. We covered 10 areas of study, including: math, social studies, science and reading. When we finished a section, Bob Garfinkel would always mail us the next one.

Last month she went for her exit interview to finish the program. When I picked her up to go to the interview, her daughter Samantha said, "It's alright if you don't pass, mom."

When we returned and told Samantha that her mom had passed the G.E.D., she was all smiles and said, "That's great, mom!" Maria later received her diploma in the mail.

Everyone who knows Maria is very proud of her. We spent many hours on the program and Maria was a great student. Congratulations to my student and my friend.

President's Note: *Kathy and Maria epitomize everything that Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County is all about.*



Tutor Kathy Hutchison and Maria Razon.

They worked over 2 ½ years as a closely knit team and overcame many personal and health-related obstacles to capture an elusive, long-term goal. Congratulations to Maria and Kathy. I feel honored to call them my friends.

Health Literacy Anne Laurent



Marietta Kenzik and company enjoyed the very informative flu shot presentation.

Andrea Pease, NE Regional Consultant for Wisconsin Literacy, held a flu informational clinic on Monday, December 5, 2011. The event was held at

the LC Middle School. In total, 17 students and 4 tutors attended this event. Participants learned about the flu, symptoms that accompany the flu, and how to best protect yourself against contracting the flu this winter. Andrea stated ways that you can reduce your risk of getting the flu, as well as passing on the virus to others. Things that you can do on a daily basis would be to sneeze into a Kleenex or your elbow, if need be. Also, sanitize your hands multiple times daily. Finally, the most important line of defense you can give yourself is a flu shot! All participants were given a certificate for a free flu shot at Walgreens, along with an insulated thermal tote. The tote was filled with multiple health care items, including a digital thermometer, Kleenex, cough droops, and hand sanitizer. It was a wonderful event. Thank you to all of the participants who made the trip out!

The flu shot workshop was sponsored by Wisconsin Literacy (Health Literacy Wisconsin), Anthem Blue Cross and Shield, and Walgreens.

Tutor Training

The need for talented tutors increases every year in all parts of Kewaunee County. Orientation and four sessions will be held in our Resource Center at Hillcrest School in Kewaunee. If you know an adult 18 yrs of age or older, who would enjoy the tutoring experience, please call Bob at 920-676-2061 or email garfinkel.bob@gmail.com to sign up for training.

2012 Spring Training Dates:

Orientation:	Monday, February 27	9:00 am -- 10:30 am
Session 1:	Monday, March 5	9:00 am – 12:30 pm
Session II:	Monday, March 12	9:00 am – 12:30 pm
Session III:	Wednesday, March 14	9:00 am – 12:30 pm
Session IV:	Monday, March 19	9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Snow Date: Wednesday, March 21 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Introducing Our Tutor of the Season

Michele DeBaker – Wife, mother, nurse, tutor



In this issue we introduce Michele DeBaker as the tutor of the season. She has been a registered nurse for 34 years and is currently working very part

time at an assisted living facility. She has worked in home health/hospice area for 30 years. At the present time, she and her husband own an electrical contracting business which is run from their home. As one can tell, Michele never runs out of things to do. Family is important. Her daughter and family live in Suamico. Michele is grateful that they are close enough to be able to help out with the three children. One son lives in Green Bay, but the other, in Florida. Florida is a good place to visit family, especially in winter.

Michele explains how she became involved with tutoring. "My friend since grade school, Mary Gotstein, who is a Kewaunee County Literacy Board Member, encouraged me to become a tutor. Since my three children were grown and gone, I had wanted to do some volunteering. The literacy program turned out to be a good fit." Michele has worked with her student, Lorenzo, since early 2009. Now they are working on the U.S. Citizenship Test Program. Lorenzo hopes to be ready to take the test sometime in the future. Michele said, "I find tutoring very rewarding and know that I learn a lot from my student as well. In my free time I like to golf, read, garden and take long walks. My husband and I hope to travel more as we get older!!"

Committee Report

Tutor and Student Support Committee

The Star Staff

The committee has been busy planning the 2012 "Calendar of Events." Using the 2011 Tutor Survey as a guide, the committee is making contacts for at least two tutor workshops, several sharing sessions, fundraising, and at least one or two dynamite "Healthy Communities" programs for our students and community members. The calendar for 2012 should be released on our website sometime between mid-January and the beginning of February. Notices will be sent to those without internet access.

Textbook Committee

The Star Staff

The 2011 Tutor Survey revealed that although most tutors using Laubach as a text found it adequate, the overwhelming majority also felt that we should review other textbooks. At least 6 popular textbooks have been obtained and are ready for review. If interested in being on the Textbook Committee, please contact Bob by email (Garfinkel, bob@gmail.com) or phone (920-845-2516). Meetings would begin in late January or early February. Your input is important!

Salsa Committee

Bob Garfinkel

Recognition Day 2011 was a success featuring tremendous tutor and student accomplishments. Not to downplay the celebration of these accomplishments, this special day does need to be revised as indicated by reduced numbers (about 150 this year) every year of tutors, students, and especially children of our students. The celebration is no longer a family event, since the program of recognition is way too long for children under 8 years of age to enjoy. "Spice" needs to be put back into this important day. Our students can help put the "salsa" back into Recognition Day in 2012. Please ask your student if he/she would like to help out with ideas and planning this new adventure. English speaking ability is NOT important. Please include student phone numbers since they change so frequently. Tutors, if you would like to be on the new "Salsa Committee" and help us make Recognition Day 2012 be the best event ever, please contact me before the end of January at (920-676-2061).

Literacy Partners Apparel is BACK!

Anne Laurent

We are going to once again be offering Literacy Partners apparel this year! In order to keep prices down, we would like to get a total of 24 pieces ordered before we submit it to Quali T, Inc. Below is a snippet of what the clothing looks like and what the prices are.

We will **NOT** have an inventory of extra clothing. We are *only* ordering what people commit to purchase.

To keep the cost as low as possible, Literacy Partners is making these items available at cost. We will make no profit from these sales. However, we would like our group to be able to collectively wear these at fundraisers and events in the future-so please take advantage!

Payment will be due upon pick up. We will make picking up your items as convenient as possible.

Stone Blue T Shirt \$10 (add \$3 for 2x and up)

Women's Polo Shirt \$17.50 (add \$5 for 2x and up) (Grey or Stone Blue (pictured below))

Men's Polo Shirt \$17.50 (add \$5 for 2x and up) (Grey or Stone Blue (pictured below))

Women's Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirt (add \$5 for 2x and up) \$36.50 (Royal Blue or Heather Grey)

Men's Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirt (add \$5 for 2x and up) \$36.50 (Royal Blue or Heather Grey)



Also, please remember that women's sizes are cut differently than men's, and tend to run a little smaller and shorter. The products are excellent. I have washed all of mine numerous times, and they still look awesome.

To order, please call or e-mail Anne (annielaurent@gmail.com / 920-406-9162) or Bob (Garfinkel.bob@gmail.com / 920-676-2061). Please indicate a color when ordering polos or sweatshirts.

As mentioned before, items will be at cost. If we receive a larger order the cost will go down. You will be informed of this via email or phone when they come in. We will not charge anything over what they cost us. Thanks!!!

Of This and That....

Bob Garfinkel

1. A special "congratulations" to Kathy Hutchinson and her student, Maria, for completing the GED program.
2. Best wishes to Kate Phillips on her retirement from teaching in the Kewaunee School District.
3. Needed are volunteers to help several of our board members work on our next Strategic Plan (5 Year Plan). Call Bob for details.

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