

# From the Back of the Boat

*Bob Garfinkel*

The last three months have been a very intense experience, yet highly rewarding and a productive time for our students, tutors and organization as a whole. Three students passed the US Citizenship test, we received 2 local awards, sponsored two workshops for tutors, and certified and matched 5 tutors with students. We are presently planning to install two Little Free Libraries (see article), and have started to plan Recognition Day 2012, as well as planning three fundraisers for this summer/fall. Our Strategic Plan Committee has started a series of meetings to plan the direction of LP for the next 5 years, and a committee of 8 has made some major decisions (see "Of This or That") for the selection of a new textbook. This certainly has been a stimulating adventure!

Personally, what energizes me is the enthusiasm of our tutors, students, board members and supporters. I have often visited our public libraries or NWTC Luxemburg and have seen and visited with two or three sets of students/tutors having class. It is truly an inspiring experience to watch the learning experience and see the glow in the eyes and the faces of our tutors and learners. I am truly proud to be a tutor and President of Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County.

Congratulations to Sandy Ehren for winning a gift certificate to Billy's on Main in the "From the Back of the Boat" contest. Simply, Bob named this article "From the Back of the Boat" because that is where you have the best vision of where you are going, and also where you have been. In Bob's boat, the energy (motor) is also found in the back of the boat.

## THE STAR

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### News at a glance:

Successful Seminars  
Coming events – Fund Raisers  
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### Workshop – Cultural values

*Mary Ann Albert*

Working across cultures is a very enriching experience; however, it can also be a very confusing one. At times, there seems to be a senseless gap. One hears, "They came here. Why can't they be like us?" Understanding that culture gap in order to be more respectful of individuals is important, not only for the tutors, but also for anyone working with people of a different culture. Individuals from many areas of the community were invited to attend the workshop. The group present was very diverse: tutors, farm owners, teachers, social workers, a nurse and a funeral director.

Father Bill Ribbens (Norbertine) and Sister Guadalupe Munoz (Sister of Our Lady of Charity) came ready to present their observations of the Hispanic Culture at the March 7th workshop. Sr. Guadalupe had a pack of notes. She informed us that there was enough material for a couple days, but first she wanted to address the questions of the group. Much of her material remained for another workshop.

## Cultural Values (Continued)



Father Bill Ribbens and Sr. Guadalupe Munoz speaking at the workshop

The two presenters worked well together, giving us a combination of data and stories to illustrate the concepts. The examples were helpful for those present to understand that in the US, we work more from a doing culture, whereas in the Hispanic culture, feelings and heart are more important.

### Questions from the participants:

***“If one is invited to an event, what is the expectation of gift giving and promptness?”***

Accepting an invitation, being present, and sharing food, can be more important than a gift, or being able to speak the language. So much is said by being there. Presence is the first gift. It indicates respect and care. Hospitality is high on their list... but arriving at the time given is not polite.

***“How can they leave their family and come here?”*** The family has a high priority. Care for the family, providing for them is critical. This explains that they can leave their country in order to get work to be able to feed their children and care for them. They trust in God, that somehow God will provide if they cooperate. Their attitudes of enthusiasm, loyalty, celebration and hard work all work together to contribute to family living.

***“Why don’t they follow the process and come here legally?”*** There was some clarification about the process needed to become legal, and how difficult, or how impossible it frequently is. Much work needs to be done here. Every person has the God given right to be able to get the necessities in order to feed a family and care for them. This can sometimes come up against the laws of a country. Getting help to negotiate those laws sometimes opens them to very expensive scams. Much caution is needed. Wise counsel is imperative.

Fears often determine how a person responds or reacts. Some of the things our students may fear are:

- being detained, put in jail or deported.
- being mistreated, profiled
- having conflicts with the drug cartel at the border
- being embarrassment at making mistakes in speaking.
- not being understood
- having the woman of the house out working

The last word in a Hispanic family is the father’s. However, family dynamics often open to the mother, ways that give her influence while saving face for the father. Working with the family, it is necessary to be patient as the family works through the family process.

The workshop was helpful, interesting, and at the same time entertaining.

## Pronunciation and Spelling Workshop

*Mary Ann Albert*

It has been two years since our last workshop on pronunciation and spelling. Since there are a number of new tutors, and many “old” ones that wanted their skills refreshed, Shawn Jensen and Monica Thao teamed up for this workshop on April 12. About a dozen tutors attended this excellent presentation.

Using a power point presentation and handouts, Shawn emphasized the need for good pronunciation, and the help that it is for correct spelling. English has so many words that are difficult to pronounce, and many sounds for many letters. Without good pronunciation, understanding is compromised. Speaking correctly also builds confidence in the student.

Shawn spoke of the various problem areas for Spanish speakers.

- 1) the multiple sounds for vowels, and the confusion in naming the vowels and sounds when English is compared with Spanish.
- 2) the sounding of the /ed/ endings
- 3) the /th/ sound and position of the tongue
- 4) the initial sound /s/
- 5) the /v/ vs. /b/ sound

She also brought along some suggestions/tricks to help the tutors. A mirror is sometimes helpful for the student to see his mouth formation compared to that of the tutor. Sometimes holding a lollipop in front of the lips can help to bring out the tongue to form the /th/ sound. She also provided a list of websites that have suggestions for many problems that the tutor might encounter.



Monica Thao at the workshop

In the second part of the workshop, dealing with spelling, Monica packed in much information. We received many handouts:

- rules for spelling
- spelling tips
- websites with resources and lesson plans.
- worksheets

The responses of those participating were very positive. The tutors appreciated the many handouts especially since there

was so much information available in a limited amount of time. Taking notes was not needed. They appreciated the concrete examples and the little tricks and techniques that were presented.

We were reminded that the Resource Center has good resource materials. A list of websites that offer helps are also available at our Resource Center.

## Health Literacy 2012

*Anne Laurent, Coordinator*

The health literacy committee has been busy over the last few months. We have been planning this year's events, as well as updating our current health literacy program. Listed below are our projects for 2012.

In August, Literacy Partners will once again be a part of the annual "Back to School" program. This program is essential to many of our students in preparing their children for the 2012-2013 school year. Last year, Literacy Partners gave all students dental supplies to start the year. This year, we will be doing the same once again--but adding to our giving. With the help of an amazing organization, *Soles4Souls.org*, Literacy Partners will be able to provide these children with a new pair of shoes to start the school year! We are also looking into grants to provide the kids with a personal hygiene care bag (soap, shampoo, sponge, deodorant, etc). Once again—Literacy Partners is helping our students, their families, and the community in so many different ways!

Our primary health literacy focus this year will be on basic First Aid. Our committee has teamed up with the Luxemburg PTA, and will be holding a free First Aid clinic on October 1, 2012 at 6:30 pm at the LC Primary School. Anyone can attend. This will be a great way for parents to learn more about first aid in the home, ask questions, and have hands on experience with the Kewaunee County Public Health Nurse, Cindy Kinnard, RN. More to come in late summer/early fall. It is our hope that we can replicate this clinic in both Algoma and Kewaunee

Finally, as time progresses, we are going to make a Health Literacy page addition to our website. This will house all health literacy related information that we have given you thus far, (links to free clinics, healthcare aid, county resources, etc) and also allow us to update it easier as things change (as they often do). Once we have funding to create this portion of our website, we will give everyone information about how to navigate it.



## Fundraising

Anne Laurent, Coordinator.

Summer is fast approaching and with that comes brat fries and our annual pig roast! We had a great summer of fundraising in 2011, and we hope to continue the trend in 2012. Our fundraisers are becoming vital to Literacy Partners, and we appreciate all of you taking time to come out and help support us! Volunteers are needed for all three events—dates, times, and more information are listed below:

**Brat Fry – Festival Foods East. July 13, 2012** Two shifts of workers are needed.

Shift 1: 8:00 am -- 1 pm      Shift 2: 1 pm – 6 pm

**Pig Roast with HCE. July 21, 2012** Two shifts of workers are needed.

Shift 1: 9:30 am – 1pm      Shift 2: 12:45 pm – 4 pm

**Brat Fry – Stodola’s IGA, Luxemburg September 8, 2012**

Volunteers are needed from 9 am – 2 pm. Or pick a smaller shift (9 —11 or 11 – 2)

If you can volunteer any of the shifts above, please contact Bob or Anne (soon)

Bob: [garfinkel.bob@gmail.com](mailto:garfinkel.bob@gmail.com)

920-845-2516

Anne: [annielaurent@gmail.com](mailto:annielaurent@gmail.com)

920-406-9162

**Thank you! Gracias! Bedankt! اركش! Danka! Dziękujemy!**

## Pies! Pies! Pies!

A donation of baked pies is once again needed for our pig roast fundraiser in July. Pies must be FRUIT only, NO custard. If you can donate a pie, please contact Bob or Anne to let them know what kind and how many you will make. Please make the contact soon. Last year the pies were a huge part of this amazing fundraiser. Thank you in advance.

Bob: [garfinkel.bob@gmail.com](mailto:garfinkel.bob@gmail.com)

920-845-2516

Anne: [annielaurent@gmail.com](mailto:annielaurent@gmail.com)

920-406-9162

## Help with Heating Bills

*Lynn Kroll, Wisconsin Public Service*

For many families, winter can be an especially difficult time to keep up with home heating bills. Wisconsin Public Service wants to help. If you know someone who is still having trouble paying their bill, encourage them to give WPS a call.

We offer payment and billing options, payment arrangements and other solutions that can make paying energy bills a little easier.

Families who need help are also encouraged to apply for financial assistance. WPS can provide information on energy assistance programs that will pay a portion of home heating costs for those who qualify. Encourage those in need to call 24-Hour Customer Service today: 800-450-7260

## Recognition Day -- 2012

With the help of our last Student Survey, a date, place, and time has been set for this year's Recognition Day. Other suggestions, like having a shorter program will be in the planning. Details will be in the July "Star." Please mark your calendar with the following information.

**Date:** September 29, 2012 (Saturday)  
**Place:** Kewaunee Grade School  
**Time:** 4:00 pm

## Student Success

Nelly Otradavec, Literacy Partners' Interpreter, mother, wife, and new citizen.



*The following is an email from Nelly to Bob, answering the question, "How did the Oath of Citizenship go in Milwaukee?"*

It was great! A very unique experience! I loved the speech from the judge; she congratulated us for our achievement. I liked the fact that she used the Constitution to remind us the great advantages of living in this

great country as well as our responsibilities in becoming U.S. Citizens. She welcomed every country individually; that made me feel very special. I loved the whole experience! I would like to thank the Literacy Partners for all the support and materials provided! Especially you, Bob, thank you for the encouragement. This was a very important step in my life. I knew I could do it; I knew eventually I would do it, but you encouraged my mom, and she inspired me so much to take the test. I'm glad I did it at the same time as she did.

While I was waiting for the ceremony to begin, I couldn't help to think about all the different immigrants that come to this country, especially those coming from my country. THAT ceremony is "THE DREAM" all immigrants are wishing for.

## The Trainer's Corner

Barbara Baldwin

The focus of this article is going to be the Rosetta Stone Program and to remind all our tutors that it is available for free at the Algoma and Kewaunee Libraries. A simple field trip to the library with your student to help them log on and set up a pass worded account is all they need to have an additional tutor at their beckon call. That's all I was going to tell you, but did you know that there is another wonderful FREE online language program at [www.USALearns.org](http://www.USALearns.org)? I didn't.

It may be even more interesting than the Rosetta Stone, because the activities are more varied. In order for me to access this site, I had to click the bar at the top to temporarily allow pop-ups. The introduction is available in either English or Spanish, so your student should be able to quickly learn how to navigate the site and work independently.

## Of This and That

1. NWTC Luxemburg has an academic skills lab that may interest you and your student. They provide materials and software in the areas of math and literacy skills that your student may need. Call Heather Cox at NWTC Tuesdays from 1pm –7pm or Thursdays from 9am – noon for details ( 920-845-5945)
2. Congratulations to Sue Hingst and her student for completing a level in Challenger and Sister Mary Anne and her student for completing a level in Laubach.
3. Congratulations go to Barb Baldwin and her student for her student passing the Wisconsin Driver's Test.
4. Thanks to Denny's SuperValu in Algoma for another check and to all of our supporters who put their grocery receipts in the Kewaunee Literacy box in the store entrance.
5. On March 13, 2012, Ed Dornier, Kewaunee County Administrator, Bob Weidner, Board Chair, Matt Joski, Sheriff, and President Bob met with the Mexican Counsel General to discuss local and national immigration issues. All present felt the meeting was informational and timely.
6. Our textbook committee has narrowed the selection of a new text from seven to two. We are running a 6—8 month pilot program with students to see which series is the best. Special thanks to the committee of Barb Baldwin, JoAnne Werner, Lorraine Aspenleiter, Mary Anne Albert, Maureen Kinnard, Kate Phillips, Jan Zenner, and Bob Garfinkel.
7. Thank you to the Dominion Foundation, Aurora Foundation, Schneider Foundation, Shopko Foundation, and the Luxemburg Lions for your financial support!

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Bob accepted a check from Kim Parkinson Operations Leader for Shopko Hometown Stores.

Picture Page



Bob and Anne accepted the Kewaunee County Economic Development Corporation Award from Director, Jennifer Brown

Mina and JoAnn spoke to the new tutors.



Bob is the recipient of the 2012 Schneider National Foundation Volunteer Leadership Award



Anne Laurent signed a contract to continue as part time coordinator for Literacy Partners



Tutor Fall 2011 Tom Mall, Doak Baker, Denise Nemetz, Ingrid Weitzel, Vickie VanLangendonberg