

From the Back of the Boat

Bob Garfinkel

I take my hat off to the tremendous accomplishments of our students, dedicated hard work of their tutors and the wonderful support of our donors. We will celebrate your efforts and your student's achievements on April 7, 2013 at our event of the year – "Recognition Day." We will also honor tutors with 250, 500, and 750 hours of tutoring. One outstanding tutor will be awarded the Frank Bernard Award. Our students and their children will again pick 3 books of their choice from a very large selection of books. Food has been outstanding every year and we will eat promptly at 12:30 pm and end the program by 2:00 pm. We will have an activity table in the cafeteria for the children.

The importance of Recognition Day cannot be overstated. First of all, our students find out quickly that they are part of a much larger effort. They also see possibilities, that they never knew existed: US Citizenship, GED, various state certifications, etc. Next, students celebrate their success and see the success of others - success breeds success! Numerous times we have seen student achievement soar after our event. And of course, it is great to see other tutors we haven't seen for awhile.

Please make every effort to come to our celebration and encourage your student and family to attend. Let us show pride in our accomplishments and celebrate together on April 7, 2013

THE STAR

A Bi-Monthly Publication of Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County

March 2013

Vol. 7 No. 4



News at a glance:

Students' Successes
Prize Winners
Grants and Donations

Features:

"From the Back of the Boat"
Calendar of Events
Tutor Training

Students' Successes

Bob Garfinkel

Lorenzo Ayala becomes a citizen



Lorenzo with tutor Michele DeBaker

February 21, 2013 will be a day Lorenzo Ayala, Michele DeBaker, Ingrid Weitzel and Bob Garfinkel will remember the remaining days of our lives—Lorenzo’s US Oath of Citizenship. Once again, the oath meant driving to downtown Milwaukee to the beautiful, ornate Federal Courthouse. The excitement of the moment was heightened since the event was sandwiched between snow storms with the group arriving home hours before the next storm hit.

The team of Michele/Lorenzo was faced with many obstacles that may have stopped a team not as determined and focused as they were. The paperwork would have stopped most in their tracks due to its complex nature. Lorenzo’s paperwork was more complicated due to his numerous trips back to El Salvador, his home. Michele and Lorenzo spent hours working on forms until they decided to involve a citizenship expert-Ingrid (who pondered over her own citizenship forms several years ago).

A second obstacle involved Lorenzo’s limited knowledge of reading and writing English. Lorenzo is the only Level 2 student I know of to take and pass the citizenship test! His hard work and dedication of his tutor proved to be the formula for success.

The federal judge gave a typical speech, reminding those taking the oath about rights and responsibilities of US Citizenship. Present taking the oath were 72 people from 37 different countries.

Michele commented that, “The judge was very friendly and the ceremony was interesting. It was nice that he named all of the countries represented, having each person stand as their country was announced. I met with Lorenzo tonight. He had a huge smile on his face stating that he celebrated with his wife and family. He was also congratulated at work. He is very grateful for everyone’s help.”

Comments from Bob Garfinkel, President

Lorenzo is our first student from El Salvador to study for and pass the US Citizenship Test. I am deeply proud of this tutor/student accomplishment. Students, with their tutor’s help, study between 6 months and 1 year to achieve this goal.

I have attended 7 of our 8 student’s oaths. Every time I see 70-75 people raise their right hand and repeat the oath, I’m one mass of goose bumps and a tear comes to my eye. All eight oaths have appeared in our newsletters. Never has the oath been presented to you until now.

PS: Lorenzo will continue learning English with Michele!

US Oath of Allegiance

"I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God."

Summer in Mexico

Written by Lorraine Aspenleiter's student

The summer in Mexico is hot. The family travels to a beach sometimes other places. But, when they have no money they enjoy the city. We would often go to the forest Chapultepec, zoo, fair, museum and Basilica of Guadalupe

Tutors: If you would like to share an activity project or anything else that you have done with your student, please submit it to Bob before the end of April. It will then go into the May newsletter.

Student Passes CDL Truck Driving Test

Bob Garfinkel

Last fall, I received a call from Job Service in Sturgeon Bay asking if we had a tutor available to help a Kewaunee resident study for his CDL written truck driving test. With no tutors available, I decided to help Paul pass the test. A truck driver's test—how hard could it be? It turned out to be tougher than walking in a mosquito infested trout stream in August wearing cut-off shorts! Not only was there detailed material packed into a 50 page manual, but the wording of the questions were tricky enough to fool a big city lawyer. Words like “may”, “sometimes”, “always” and “never” were in most questions. In short, the test was more of a reading test than a test of Paul's knowledge (in my opinion).



Bob congratulates Paul after passing his written test.

We found dozens of CDL tests online and studied the questions as much as the answers. Paul worked and studied for months. Paul passed the test this past February and now is studying for the air break test. When he passes this test in March, Paul will have to take the “behind the wheel” portion of the testing. After passing that test, his dream of being a “Trucker” will come true!

Paul, good buddy, watch out for the bear in the bushes and the bear in the air! (Trucker talk for law enforcement and aircraft monitoring traffic). “Hammer down” and pass the next test!

Algoma First Aid Program

Just a quick reminder that our Healthy Communities Committee will be holding a First Aid Seminar.

Place: Algoma Public Library
Date: March 13, 2013
Time: 5:30 pm

This one hour program will be conducted by Cindy Kinnard, RN. She will cover all sorts of household occurrences that both children and adults should know. This is the same program that was offered to our students in 2012. This one, however, is open to the general public—so spread the word.

Topics: Bruises, sprains, stings, fractures, ticks, sunburn, fainting, choking, poisoning, animal bites, nosebleeds, and so much more!

All participants will receive some first aid reference materials to take home for use in their household, and there will be a drawing for first aid kits, as well.

This presentation is made possible by the [Greater Green Bay Community Foundation](#), as well as the [Shopko Foundation](#). We appreciate their commitment in helping us educate the community on these important health literacy topics.

We hope to see you there!



Sharpen up your Tutoring Skills

I. Sharing Session and Lunch

Barb Baldwin and Bob Garfinkel will co-host our first sharing session in several years. During sharing sessions, tutors share their most successful and creative lessons with the group. If you want to observe only, then bring a pen and plenty of paper to take notes at the session. Lunch will be provided, so we need a RSVP to Barb Baldwin (920-776-1541 / babaldwin78@gmail.com) by April 12, 2013. If you cannot attend the daytime date, please e-mail or call Bob (garfinkel.bob@gmail.com or 920-676-2516) and an evening session will be scheduled.

Please bring examples to share with us. See you there!

Sharing Session:

Date: April 16, 2013

Place: Resource Center at Hillcrest School – Room 110

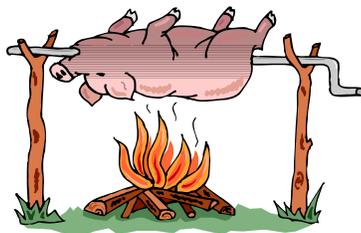
Time: 12:45 pm (after tutor training session)

II. Beginning Writing Workshop

Beginning writing was the number one request listed in the last tutor survey for a workshop topic. It will be held at NWTC Luxemburg on May 7, 2013 at 6:30 pm. The workshop will be lead by Shawn Jensen an NWTC ELL instructor. In April you will be contacted by e-mail or snail mail with all the details. An RSVP will be needed.

2013 Calendar of Events:

March 13	5:30 pm	First Aid Program at the Algoma Library (see article)
April 4	9:00 am	Tutor Orientation at Resource Center at Hillcrest School
April 7	12:30 pm	Recognition Day at Kewaunee Grade School Cafeteria
April 16	12:45 pm	Sharing Session and Lunch
May 7	6.30 pm	Beginning Student Writing Workshop
June 7	11am-5:00 pm	Literacy Brat Fry at Festival East – need volunteers
July 20	11:30 -2:00	Literacy Partners/ HCE Pig Roast at Kewaunee Harbor



Help!!

Your help is needed to pass the word about our upcoming tutor training class. Tutors are needed in all areas of our county. All sessions are at Hillcrest School, Kewaunee.

Orientation	April 4	9-10:30
Class 1	April 11	9 am – 12:30 pm
Class 2	April 16	9 am – 12:30 pm
Class 3	April 18	9 am – 12:30 pm
Class 4	April 23	9 am – 12:30 pm

Please call Bob at 920-676-2061 with questions or to register for orientation..

Connecticut Administrators of Programs for English Language Learners

Bob Garfinkel

I was “surfing” the web and found the CAPELL Study. Some highlights of the study are very interesting. Below is a brief summary of the ELL part of the study. The complete work can be found online.

1. Should parents be encouraged to speak their native language or be advised to speak only English with their children at home?

Parents should be encouraged to speak in the language which they are most proficient to create a language rich environment at home. Current studies show that when children maintain their first language, they transfer skills to their second language. In fact, native language proficiency is a reliable prediction of the rate of second language acquisition.

2. Does language mixing signal a problem?

One of our past speakers called a mixing of our language with Spanish as Spanglish! Research shows that the mixing of languages is normal for bilingual speakers. My grandmother mixed German, Hebrew, Yiddish and English and we understood her just fine!

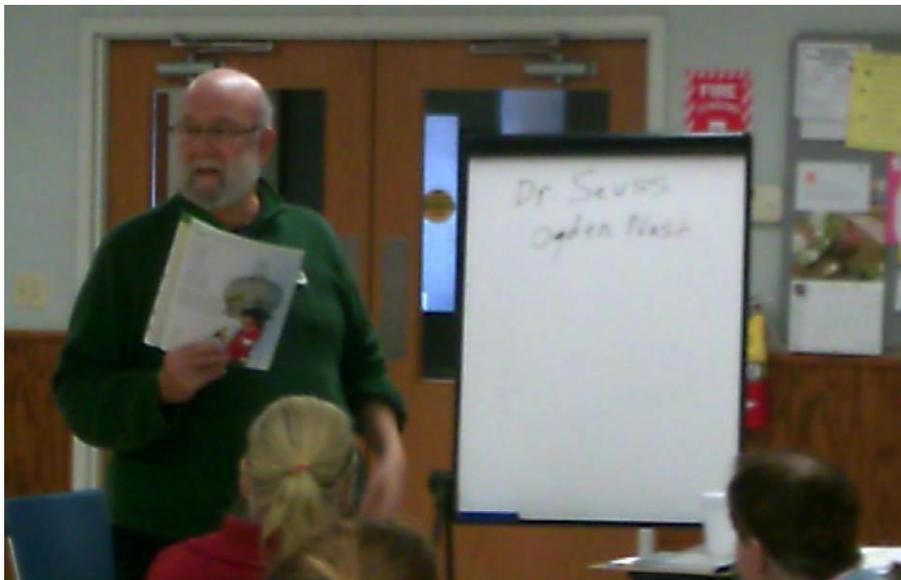
3. It takes at least 5 years for non-native speakers to display native-speaker like functions in academics.

4. English Language Learners may have difficulty paying attention and remembering if they cannot relate new information to previous experiences or their culture.
5. Students will usually thrive with a caring teacher who offers ample opportunities for learning using many different learning styles (hearing, seeing, manipulation).
6. Will literacy skills transfer from first to second language? **ABSOLUTELY!**

Reading Opens All Doors!

Bob Garfinkel

Marge Weichelt (tutor) and I have been conducting small class reading instruction at East Shore Industries since early last fall. I was asked to do a reading program for 25 clients on February 15th called, "Reading Opens All Doors". I started by writing the names of Ogden Nash and Dr. Seuss on the board. A young lady asked me if I was Dr. Seuss. The next hour and a half was absolutely a panic with us taking turns saying funny and outrageous things. My sides hurt from all the laughing!



Bob leading the program at East Shore Industries.

We exchanged ideas of the importance of reading and examples in everyday life. We had a ball with poems like "Too Many Daves" (*Dr. Seuss*) and "Adventures of Isabel" (*Ogden Nash*). We also discussed how you could use your imagination through reading and travel throughout the world without ever leaving your chair.

The time passed so quickly. I handed each person a special bookmark made especially for the occasion and had them choose a book (to keep) off a table (Little Free Library books). I enjoyed the experience as much (maybe more) than they did.

Recent Grants and Donations

Thank you for supporting our programs! Please support the businesses that support us.

Green Bay Packers



Kewaunee Lions
Wisconsin Literacy
Holy Family Parish – Association of Catholic Business
United Funds of Kewaunee County
WPS
BayLake Bank – Algoma
Union State Bank – Kewaunee
Bank of Luxemburg
Hurray for Hollywood
Denny's Super Value – Algoma

Bob and Anne accepted a check from the Packers before the banquet.

Prize Winners

Our Advantage Card sales went through the roof this year and hit a three-year high!
Listed in order of sales are tutors and board members receiving prizes.

Sue Hingst – Green Bay Packer hat and tote bag
Mary Novak – One night stay at Wisconsin Dells Water Park.
Barb Baldwin – Tundra Lodge water passes
Jerry Waara – Green Bay Packer hat and tote bag
Kate Phillips - \$50 gift card to Half-Price Books
Jan Zenner – Rounds of golf
Jackie Yon – Parallel 44 tour and wine-tasting
Maureen Kinnard – Von Stiehl tour and wine tasting party

Thanks go to everyone who bought and sold cards.