

# From the Back of the Boat

By: Bob Garfinkel

On August 28, 2013, I was at my desk pondering what to write about for this column, when the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington came on the TV in the background. The “March” has been looked at as a movement that would ensure African Americans equal rights under the law. What the “March” did was open the door for equal treatment for all races, religions, women and minorities in the USA. In the last 50 years, we’ve come a long way working to end discrimination in all forms, but we’ve got a long way to go. If Martin Luther King, Jr. were alive today, he would not be happy with the violence in our cities, number of school drop-outs and high unemployment of minority (really, all) youth. In my opinion, education levels the playing field, gives people opportunity, and should diminish the ignorance of hatred. I’ve never understood hatred. My parents taught me not to look at a person’s skin color, but the content of the person’s character. I personally experienced hatred in large cities and even Green Bay. We are not free of hatred even in Kewaunee County, where anti-semitic signs were displayed in one of our communities during the last month. The FBI has been called in to check this out.

Some of our students have experienced discrimination in our communities, behind their backs, and some children in our schools have been targeted. Discrimination has not been limited to Latinos in our county. Russians and anyone different have been open to bullying.

Education, understanding, and personal contact with many different cultures lessen tension and stress between people and opens the door to trust and friendship. Many of our own tutors hesitated before their first tutoring class with a student from another culture to find, through keeping an open mind, a dear, caring friend. Accomplishing long and short term student goals is certainly a major part of our mission as an organization. Certainly, tolerance and understanding of others values is an important feature of our program that both tutor, student and families can benefit from.

# THE STAR

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### **Tutors Needed!**

Bob Garfinkel

Tutors are needed in all Kewaunee County communities. Please contact potential tutors who you feel would enjoy the experience. Have candidates call or email Bob by September 20th. The schedule is below. Thanks for your help!

Meetings will be at Hillcrest School, Kewaunee  
(915 Second St, Room 110)

Orientation	October 2	6-7:30 pm
<i>Informational meeting</i>		
Session 1	October 9	6-9:30 pm
Session 2	October 14	6-9:30 pm
Session 3	October 16	6-9:30 pm
Session 4	October 21	6-9:30 pm

Bob Garfinkel

[920-845-2516/Garfinkel.Bob@gmail.com](mailto:920-845-2516/Garfinkel.Bob@gmail.com)

## ELL Student Board of Directors Position Needed

Bob Garfinkel

**ATTENTION!** Do you think your student would like a new challenge? If so, we have an opportunity available. Earlier this year, our Board of Directors set a policy that is rare in adult literacy and education in general. We announced at Recognition Day 2013 that we were looking for two students to join our Board. They have equal rights, responsibilities, and votes as any other board member. A basic education student has come forward to be on the Board and has been oriented. We are looking for one English Language Learner to be on the Board to represent the views and opinions of our students. What an exciting concept!! Meetings are every other month with the first meeting in January. Meetings start at 4 pm and last until 6-6:30 pm. Meetings are conducted in English and are located in Luxemburg, Casco, Kewaunee, or Algoma (rotating). If your student would like to be on the Board of Directors in a voluntary capacity, please let Bob know before September 20, 2013. If you have questions, please call Bob at 676-2061.

### 2013 Board of Directors

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Sue Hingst	Sandy Ehren
Kate Phillips	Jackie Yon

### Of This and That

1. Welcome back tutors Chris Hanneman, Donna Kinnard and Scott Savage!!
2. A BIG "Thank You" to the Catholic Diocese, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Catholic Financial Life, CenturyLink, Roundy's, Great Lakes Kraut, and Festival Foods for recent donations to fund our programs!
3. Thank you to the Algoma Lions for giving the "gift of sight" to one of our students by helping him financially with an eye exam and glasses!

## Trainer's Corner

365 ESL Short Stories

Need some variety to spark-up your instruction? Check out *365 ESL Short Stories* at [www.ESLfast.com](http://www.ESLfast.com). It is a free site that can be used



for any intermediate student. Stories are one page. You can easily print them out for your lessons. Then, make up your own comprehension questions, and you're in business! The site includes easy conversations, super easy reading, easy reading, sentence structure, and writing practice. Be selective according to reading interest and ability level. This is perfect for Level 2 students and above.

## Reading Extravaganza with the Little Free Libraries

Excitement was the Word of the day at Fireman's Park in Luxemburg on August 14th and 21st.

Kewaunee County 4H teens read books, led sing along songs and activities with preschoolers through 3rd grade youth next to our LFL in Fireman's Park. About 70 kids (total) plus parents enjoyed the theme Super Heroes (8/14) and Dr. Suess (8/21). Children received free coloring and reading books.



Literacy Partners and 4H partnered for these two worthwhile events.



## Student Writings

### Trip to Mexico

Romualdo Barajas  
Tutor: Kate Phillips



Trips to Mexico are hard because I need to drive thirty six hours down and back. Sometimes there is lots of traffic and some people drive bad and fast. We need to watch out for them. It is pretty because there are lots of places to see that are pretty. It is nice to visit family and friends. It is nice to visit where we grew up.

It's fun because I see many nice places and cities. I like Dallas, Texas and San Antonio because there are many high buildings and many casinos and different colors and lights. I see nice fields with green vegetation. I see horses and cows in the pasture eating. I see different animals that I don't see every day in Wisconsin. I drive by the St. Louis Cardinal's stadium in Missouri. I have also seen a race track.

On the trip there always chances of rain and sometimes when it rains you can hardly see because of how much it rains. In Texas the highway is always full of cars and you have to drive really slowly because if someone suddenly stops you don't have enough time to stop on time. I go on the trip in the winter so it can snow and the road can become slippery. There can also be a possibility that a tire of the vehicle in front can break causing the driver to lose control crashing into you.

Mexico looks different than here. There are people driving their four wheelers on the road. There are dogs and cows wandering on the road. There is hardly any grass. People are walking outside and visiting with each other almost any time of the day. Sometimes there are washing machines sitting outside and people always hang their wash outside on lines. And sometimes you see people washing clothes outside by hand in the river.

I have fun with the family and friends from Mexico because I only see them one time a year. I enjoy sitting at my mom's table in her house with my entire

family. We drive over to my Uncle Jose's house about 30 minutes away to play cards a couple of times while we are there. I am very happy when I arrive and I am very sad when I leave.

When I'm driving back to Wisconsin I think about my trip. When the traffic is good, I'm glad and when it's bad it's okay because visiting my family in Mexico was worth it. It's always fun to visit my family and my home country of Mexico.

### A Letter from a student to the President, Bob...

Dear Bob:

Thank you for the books that I got.

Thank you for all the people that made the program for English. I thank you for my teacher, Sister Lorraine, for the help she gives me.

Thank you Bob, and all tutors.

God Bless all of you,

Ana Rivera

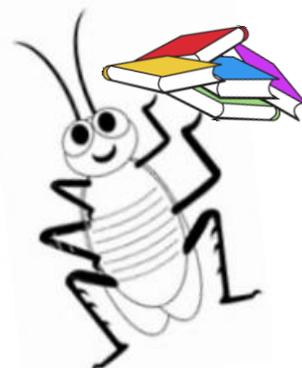


Proud tutors are Kate Phillips (Romualdo) and Sister Lorraine Aspenleiter (Ana). Please submit your student's writing for our next issue. Deadline is November 1, 2013 to [Garfinkel.Bob@gmail.com](mailto:Garfinkel.Bob@gmail.com) or Bob Garfinkel, PO Box 203, Luxemburg, WI 54217.

## La Cucharacha

Let's "beat the bushes" for new tutors.

**Tutor Training begins October 2nd!!!**



## Student Accomplishments

Bob Garfinkel

Paul and Darlene, both my students, overcame huge obstacles and accomplished the greatest academic achievements of their lives this past summer. Darlene completed her GED studies, along with her oral, written and exit tests. She has her Wisconsin High School Equivalency Diploma now! After working over a year to improve her reading, Darlene decided it was time to get her GED. The road wasn't easy, but we traveled on our journey for a full year and a half. Quitting was never an option for Darlene. I'd ask her after every section if she'd want to quit and she'd say "I am not a quitter!!"



About 10 months ago, I received a phone call from Job Service asking if we had a tutor available to help Paul get his CDL (truck driving) license. Not able to find anyone available to tutor, I took Paul myself. How hard could it be? All he had to do was pass a written test. I'm here to tell you, it wasn't easy.

First of all, Paul had been out of school for almost 40 years. He had to learn how to study, digest an instruction manual, and learn how to take tests. Secondly, I had to learn some technical material and the only resources I had were the manual and my computer. We helped each other understand the material and Paul passed the general test, air brake test, and the semi truck test. He is now studying for the behind the wheel test with a trucking company.



I am proud of both students for what they have accomplished working against huge odds. Both students are over 55 years old, and, face it—it is hard to get involved in intense study when you're older. Both had other challenges they had to overcome. Darlene and Paul set a goal, studied hard, and went after it. They are both better for the experience, and so am I.

## Summer Fundraising Wrap Up

Anne Laurent

Wow!!!! What a summer we had! Literacy Partners had an amazing summer of fundraising—our best to date!

To begin with, we had our fantastic Festival Foods Brat Fry. Thank you to all of those who worked for it, as well as came out to enjoy the wonderful food!



On July 20, Literacy Partners and HCE joined forces again for the 3rd annual Pig Roast Fundraiser. The food was great, and the comradery was even better! These events are not only a great way to raise essential funds for our organization, but they are also a fantastic way to mingle with other tutors, as well as other community members. Thank you to all who participated by making pies, working the event, or coming out to enjoy the food. We sold out of food by 2 pm!



# Back to School Event

Anne Laurent

On August 14th, Literacy Partners participated in our 4th annual Back To School event with Kewaunee County Public Health.

In just 5 hours, over 300 children were seen! The event is open to families who qualify financially through the Department of Public Health. Children are provided with all necessary school supplies via Public Health Department.

Literacy Partners takes this time to educate families on the importance of dental health through our Health Literacy Committee. Students and parents are given literature, coloring materials, a new toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, a brushing timer, and even a tooth necklace (for kids) to put lost teeth in to keep them safe until the Tooth Fairy comes to visit.



For the 2nd year, Literacy Partners was also able to partner with an organization to provide almost all of the school aged children with a new pair of tennis shoes. Keeping with the health literacy theme, we want to ensure that children are able to have all tools to remain active in every day life, as well as while they are at school.



Thank you to our sponsors: United Funds of Kewaunee County, Robert & Rita Krauss Foundation, Shopko Foundation, and the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation.

The event was a huge success. A huge thank you to the following individuals for donating their time and talents to help set up, run the event, and make it such a fun and inspiring day: Suzanne Luft, Sue Weisser, Joan and Gene Dalebroux, Maureen Kinnard, Renee Koenig, Mary Novak, Judy Delain, Julie Thoreson, Marietta Kenzik, Bob Garfinkel and Anne Laurent.



## Major PBS Series “Latino Americans” to Premiere Nationally

Bob Garfinkel

Latino Americans, a landmark three-part, six-hour documentary series narrated by actor Benjamin Bratt, will air nationally on three consecutive Tuesdays (Sept 17, 24, and October 1st) on PBS.

Premiering Tuesday, September 17, 7-9 pm on PBS

Episode 1 “Foreigners in Their Own Land” spans 1565-1880 as the first Spanish Explorers enter North America.

Episode 2 “Empire of Dreams” covers 1880-1940s and the influx of Cubins, Mexicans, and Puerto Ricans arriving in the USA.

Premiering Tuesday, September 24, 7-9 pm on PBS

Episode 3 “War and Peace” covers the WWII years as Latino Americans serve their new country but still face discrimination and fight for their civil rights back in the USA.

Episode 4 “The New Latinos” covers the swelling immigration Latino population from past WWII to the early 1960’s.

Premiering Tuesday, October 1, 7-9 pm on PBS

Episode 5 “Prejudice and Pride” covers the creation of the proud “Chicano” through activist activities in labor, education, and the political process.

Episode 6 “Peril and Promise” takes you through the past 30 years with a debate over undocumented immigrants, tightened borders, English only laws and more.

For more information, you can follow the link below:

<http://www.pbs.org/latino-americans/en/>



The series looks extremely interesting. Dates are in my daily planner. Will they be in yours?

Photos and Information taken from [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org)



## A Public Health Service for Pregnant Women

Anne Laurent

There is a service available to *all* pregnant women via the National Institute of Health and Department of Health and Human Services, who have just become an official *text4baby* partner.

Text4Baby is a free health text messaging service for pregnant women and new moms. Those who text “BABY” (or “BEBE” for Spanish texts) to 511411 will receive weekly text messages, timed to their due dates or baby’s birth date through the baby’s first year.



Topics covered in the texts are nutrition, immunization, birth defect prevention, and oral health.

*Most of our students have cell phones. If your student is pregnant or has a child under 1 year of age, please tell them about this. It could be very helpful, and is a free source of information!*

Since its February 2010 launch, over 300,000 individuals have enrolled in text4baby. Text4baby is run by the nonprofit National Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition in partner with the private sector and government partners including DHHS and the White House Office on Science and Technology Policy.



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