

From the Back of the Boat

By: Bob Garfinkel

Can you feel the excitement in the air? No, I hardly think it's an early thaw, an early spring. What I feel is the excitement of our annual Recognition Day Celebration! (See Rec Day article coming up soon). This year we will celebrate several student and tutor accomplishments that have gone well beyond the "call of duty". Please try to attend.

This newsletter, along with emails, phone calls and letters are our only means of communicating with our valued tutors and supporters. Remember, communication goes both ways from me to you and you to me. If you have some concerns, or want to tell of a student's great accomplishment, please let me know!

Many have approached me from northeast Wisconsin and from other locations with a question I have trouble answering. The question is, "Why do our volunteers (unpaid) work so hard with people they don't even know? Why should they care?" I'm not sure how to answer this since each person has his/her own reason. For myself, I can say that if a person is willing to work hard and pull himself or herself up by the bootstraps, I'll do whatever it takes to help that person. For me, I didn't make it on my own in private business. I received a helping hand many times along the way.

Please read the two student success stories in this edition. Both stories are about students and tutors too tough and focused to quit. Success was the goal – not failure. I hope their stories inspire you as much as they've inspired me.

THE STAR

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Health Literacy Event for the Family!

Anne Laurent

On Thursday, April 10 @ 6 pm in the LC Middle School Home Economics Room, Literacy Partners, in conjunction with UW Extension's Nutrition Department, will hold a Healthy Eating Event that your entire family is welcome to attend!

The carnival will consist of stations focused on particular aspects of healthy eating-snacks, picky eaters, portion distortion, healthy drink alternatives, and preparing meals as a family. After the initial round robin-type event, we will all get together and create some fun and easy snacks that children of all ages will be able to take an active role in preparing.

Families will receive a cookbook put out by the Kewaunee County Dept of Public Health, as well as the chance to spend a night filled with fellow

Literacy Partners members. Watch for the sign up sheet to show up in your email. Pre-registration will be required. Tutors, please encourage your students to attend. Your families, as well as their families are welcome!

Tutor Training is Around the Corner!

Bob Garfinkel

Tutors and Friends of Literacy,

Once again we need your help to spread literacy within our communities. In short, we need more tutors! Our 50+ active tutors cannot meet the growing needs of our county. The longer a potential student is on our waiting list, the better the chance he/she will not receive services when we are able to help them. Below are the orientation and class dates for our next tutor training sessions. Please contact friends, family and anyone who you'd think would enjoy the experience and be a good tutor! Contact Bob at garfinkel.bob@gmail.com, www.literacykewauneco.org, or 920-676-2061.

Orientation and all classes will be held at Hillcrest School 915 Second Street, Kewaunee WI		
DATE	CLASS	TIME
March 3, 2014	Orientation	9 am – 10:30 am
March 10, 2014	Class 1	9 am – 12:30 pm
March 13, 2014	Class 2	9 am – 12:30 pm
March 17, 2014	Class 3	9 am – 12:30 pm
March 20, 2014	Class 4	9 am – 12:30 pm
<i>Snow dates will be Monday, March 24 or Thursday, March 27 (if need be)</i>		

Recognition Day

WHEN: April 6, 2014

TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

PLACE: Kewaunee Grade School Cafeteria

Recognition Day is an opportunity to see old friends, renew acquaintances, celebrate the success and accomplishments of our students and tutors, plus, celebrate the generosity of our supporters. Last year's format was extremely popular—keeping the program moving and short, plus providing

activity tables for children during our program. We will follow last year's successful plan.

Everyone present at RD will receive a book of stories and essays written by some of our students. Students submitting a writing sample will receive a special award from Bob. Stories must be turned in to Bob by March 1, 2014 by email or snail mail.

Please encourage your student, family, and friends to attend our great event. We hope all of our tutors and families will also attend. You will receive a mailing before the end of February giving you and your student all the information you will need.

If you haven't attended Recognition Day in the past, you have missed some of the best food anywhere and some inspiring achievements of our students and tutors. Please join us!

Brat Fry

Anne Laurent

On Wednesday, February 5, I attended the Festival Foods non-profit Brat Fry Raffle. Literacy Partners received Friday, June 27, 2014 as their brat fry date. Due to the overwhelming amount of non-profit groups that attended, we were only able to get one date. All Literacy Partners volunteers who have come and worked over the years have had a fantastic time! It's a great way to get the word out about our organization, as well as raise some much needed money for Literacy Partners. If you are interested in volunteering, we will begin looking for volunteers in the April edition of The Star. There will also be a posting under "Calendar of Events" on our website.



Student Success

Bob Garfinkel

Romualdo Barajas—GED Graduate!

Romualdo Barajas is a student that every tutor would love to have and Kate Phillips is a tutors' tutor. Romualdo and Kate teamed up this past November and did almost the impossible—they finished the deadline set by the State of Wisconsin to complete the GED study by December 31st. Romualdo started his GED over a year ago, but with his schedule (most of the year he had 2 jobs) and his tutor terminating, things didn't look good. Hundreds of students in Wisconsin didn't finish their study before the deadline and had to start over. Kate and Romualdo wouldn't let that happen. Many weeks in November and December Kate and Romualdo spent 10 hours or more per week studying and working on the GED. This did not count time spent on homework!

Kate nominated Romualdo for ELL "Learner of the Year" for Wisconsin Literacy. Kate outlined Romualdo's extensive study of English, passing the US Citizenship test on his own, and achieving his GED while working two jobs to support his wife and four children!

Romualdo, I second Kate's nomination. You are a great student and we can all learn from you!



Romualdo Barajas and his tutor, Kate Phillips

Luis Garcia—TOEFL Complete!

Tutor Jack Wagner and student Luis Garcia experienced a program of total English immersion unlike anything any of us have ever experienced or imagined. Jack's volunteer assignment was to help Luis pass the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) Test. The TOEFL Test is the most widely



Luis Garcia and his tutor, John Wagner

respected English language test in the world. It is recognized by more than 9,000 colleges, in more than 130 countries. The TOEFL measures a person's ability to use and understand English at the university level. Most colleges use TOEFL as one factor in their admission process to evaluate the English language proficiency on non-native English speakers.

To say that studying for the TOEFL was rigorous would be an understatement. In December of 2013, the team of Jack and Luis spent over 254 hours studying English. A tremendous test of will and gathering stamina faced them every day. Think about the dedication and drive it must have taken Jack, a volunteer, and a student, working in a second language, to keep on task!

Luis passed the TOEFL on his first attempt and contacted Jack in early February that the US Embassy asked him to be a member to the Board of Directors on a youth project in Guatemala, his home. Luis was not back in Guatemala for even 48 hours and the US Embassy contacted him for his help!

This success story is truly one of self-sacrifice by a dedicated teacher and student. The effort paid off. Pretty impressive, don't you agree?

Tutor of the Season

S. Mary Anne Albert

I was born the third child in a family in Aurora, Illinois.

During my very early years, I lived in a city park, since my father was the custodian. He loved flowers, and opened 7 large flower gardens in the park.

Part of my day as a 4 or 5 year old was helping him in the garden. He would show me, and put into my hand, worms and snakes, and tell me to feel how they can move. This was the beginning of my love of nature.

At this same time, my mother would invite me to help her make beds and cook meals, much of the time singing songs from church. So my religious education was begun.

When ready for college, I chose Alverno College in Milwaukee, majoring in science. After my junior year, I chose to enter the School Sisters of St. Francis. Upon graduation, I began teaching High School science in various places... Omaha, Chicago, Illinois. The National Science Foundation grants provided a variety of studies including a Masters Degree in Chemistry, and summers dealing with animal behavior and nuclear chemistry. Hoping to not become a crabby teacher, I left the teaching field after 20 years.

A Sabbatical program provided time to complete a Masters Degree in Religious Studies.

S. Lorraine invited me to St. Joseph Retreat in Baileys Harbor. I began as a cook for some of the retreats, and later participated in directing some of the retreats, and working at the newsletter. When Lorraine decided to focus more on the spiritual aspects of the Retreat, I was asked to fill in as the director. I learned lots about scheduling, hospitality and a host of other activities. As a staff we believed that every task of running the center was important; we all had a variety of areas to work in. I did the office work, cleaned, fed and butchered chickens, helped in gardens, as well as directed individual retreats for people.

When the center closed, we moved down to Casco.

An announcement in the church bulletin invited us to a training session of the Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County. This has been a wonderful



opportunity to be involved in the community. I love the interaction among the members of the organization, and the chance to again be a teacher. The students I have taught have been a delight. Seeing them struggle with English, knowing that they are struggling with culture in a foreign country, and willing to open themselves up to so many new experiences, makes me marvel at their courage. I am grateful to be part of their lives.

Green Bay Packers Foundation Grant

Anne Laurent

On Tuesday, December 17, Bob Garfinkel and I had the privilege of attending a luncheon put on by the Green Bay Packer Foundation. The luncheon was specifically for 2014 Green Bay Packer Foundation Grant Recipients.

Bob and I were able to listen to Mark Murphy talk about the Packer organization, and how much giving back to our community means to them. Literacy Partners has been awarded a Green Bay Packer Foundation grant for the past 3 years. We appreciate their support and want to acknowledge all the great work they are supporting in our community!



Bob and Anne accepting Green Bay Packers Foundation Grant at Lambeau Field on December 17, 2013

Dinnerless Dinner Success!

Anne Laurent

Thank you SO very much to the following supporters of Literacy Partner's 1st Annual Dinnerless Dinner!

Maureen & Rod Kinnard
Abts Law Office
Village Kitchen
Kinnard Farms
Harbor View Realty
Sue & Warren Hingst
Anonymous Donations

Betsy Rossberg
McMahon's
Pagel's Ponderosa
Deb Jirtle
Sandy Ehren
Donna Kinnard
Muriel Seidl

Tutor Survey Results

Thank you to the 19 tutors and Board Members who returned our tutor survey late in 2013. The results are listed below (with my comments in red) and will help our committees plan the 2014 Literacy Partners calendar. Your comments are important.

Thank you so much!

--Bob

Question 1

Have our workshops in the past (writing, pronunciation, immigration, Hispanic Culture, etc.) been interesting and informative?

Response:

100% of the respondents said YES.

COMMENT: I agree. Our turn-out for workshops has been very good (15-30 tutors/session).

Question 2

Name 2 workshops you would like Literacy Partners to offer.

Response:

Answers were all over the place! The Tutor/Student Support Committee asked me to have NWTC give me a list of their 3 most successful workshops and the committee would decide. NWTC has instructed most of our workshops and has done an excellent job.

Question 3

What areas should be improved in our Hillcrest Resource Center?

Response

Most said the selection in the center is very good. Several said that the high interest/low vocabulary books are geared towards males.

COMMENT: They are correct! Most of what is in print is directed toward males since more males in our society have reading problems than females. We are still looking for materials with high interest/low vocab for adults with reading levels in the 1st to 3rd grade levels. If anyone knows of such books, please call or email me. They are not common and hard to find.

Question 4

IF we set up office hours in our resource center to use computers, meet with an experienced tutor for help or get instructional ideas, would you use this opportunity?

Response:

Six people did not answer the question and 6 said NO. Seven said YES.

COMMENT: The committee's response is that Bob, Barb and Maureen are very accessible by phone and email. If a tutor needs help, the tutor has contact information to get the help. When the computer area is set up, tutors can call Bob and make an appointment and the room will be accessible in the evening. The Resource Center is accessible from 8:00 am – 4:30 PM by getting a key from the District Office. If you are an active tutor, you are on the list that Debbie Jirtle has. When software is purchased, you will be given a list and instructions for use. We will not have internet at Hillcrest in the near future with many computers available at both public libraries and NWTC currently.

Question 5

What kind of computer software would benefit your student?

Response

Seven tutors skipped this question. Most of the other respondents didn't know what was available. The few responses given centered around math, typing, and reading comprehension.

COMMENT: We have recently purchased typing software that may be checked out and taken home for a month, or used directly at Hillcrest on the available computers in our Resource Center. Call Bob to see how to get a copy! (920-676-2061)

Question 6

What area of Health Literacy should we explore in 2014?

Response

Almost every respondent suggested nutrition and weight management.

COMMENT: Our Health Literacy Committee will meet soon and plan an event!

Question 7

What is your preferred day of the week to celebrate Recognition Day?

Response

Most suggested Sunday.

Thank you for responding to our Tutor Survey. Your input was listened to and will reflect on our success this year!

Health Literacy

Anne Laurent

Beginning a new year, our Health Literacy Committee would like to remind everyone (tutors AND students) that the Kewaunee County Prescription Card is once again available. Below is a short blurb about it taken from the website, www.nacorx.org. You can go to this website to sign up for a card, and then print it right off!

Welcome

Welcome to the Kewaunee County Prescription Discount Card Program! Clip out your **FREE** prescription discount card below and start saving on your prescription medicine **TODAY!**

IT'S EASY

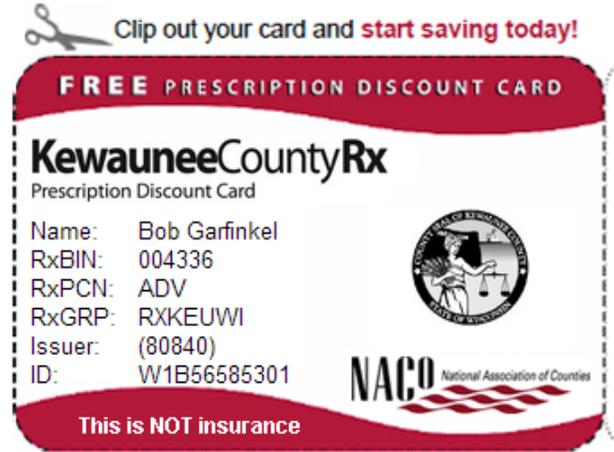
Simply present your prescription discount card at any participating retail pharmacy. The program offers an average savings of 24 percent off the regular retail price. Finding a participating pharmacy is easy—nine out of 10 pharmacies nationwide participate in the program, including all major chains and many independent pharmacies.

NO LIMITS

You and your family may use your prescription discount card anytime your prescription is not covered by insurance. There are no restrictions and no limits on how many times you may use your card. All commonly prescribed prescription medicine is included—both brand and generic.

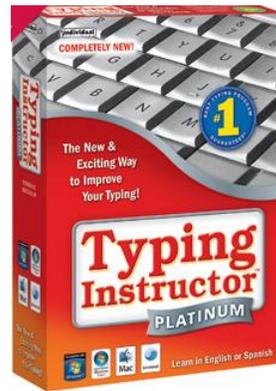
SAVINGS

Visit www.nacorx.org to look up a participating pharmacy, a price estimate for your prescription, check drug interactions, or read news articles from leading health journals.



Resource Center New Materials

Anne Laurent



In and effort to continuously look for new ways to motivate and learn, Literacy Partners has purchased 5 Typing Instructor programs. This particular Typing Instructor teaches beginners through experts, and lessons can be taught in English or Spanish. I have played around with it already, and have found it to be a

very entertaining and thorough program. Whether you are trying to learn how to type, or trying to improve speed and accuracy, it is definitely worth checking these new discs out from our Hillcrest Resource Center!

If you have any questions or concerns about the new products, please contact Bob or Anne via email or phone.

If you have a requested type of computer learning program (subject specific or title specific), please let us know. We are always looking to expand our resources to best fit your needs.

What is the Correct Pronunciation of Conversation?

Bob Garfinkel

Over the almost 8 years we've been in operation, the two concerns that tutors have approached me with the most are, "How close to acceptable pronunciation should my student strive for and how can I get my student to speak English at home?" Shawn Jensen, NWTC ELL instructor and long-time presenter for Literacy Partners, will address those two concerns and more at a "Tutors Night Out Workshop at NWTC Luxemburg on May 1, 2014 from 6:00-8:00 pm in Room 114. Her lively presentations, many examples, and tremendous numbers of resources she has passed on to us has always fire me up and has spiced up my student sessions. Both new tutors and veteran tutors will take away much information from this event.

Please register in advance by email (garfinkel.bob@gmail.com) or by phone ([920-845-2516](tel:920-845-2516)) by April 25th so Shawn can prepare the proper number of handouts.

About the Instructor...

NWTC

Shawn Jensen is an ELL (English Language Learner) Instructor at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC) in Green Bay, WI and is instrumental in developing a highly successful integrated basic education program with trades called Regional Industry Skills Education (RISE). She has developed the curricula for ELL RISE Welding, ELL RISE Medical Assistant and ELL RISE CNA. She is currently team teaching her second cohort of ELL RISE Welding and her first cohort of ELL RISE Medical Assistant Program. She has also developed pronunciation curriculum and currently teaches ELL Levels 5/6 and an Online Writing Course for ELL. She is a graduate of UWGB with a double degree in Spanish and Human Development, ESL Certificate. She will graduate in April 2012 with her Master's in Teaching Leadership from Silver Lake College.



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