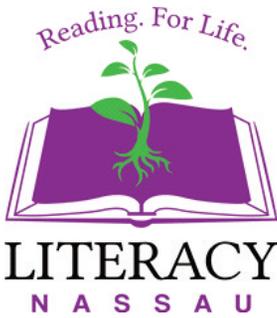




LITERACY MATTERS

APRIL 2021



Literacy Matters is a recurring publication of Literacy Nassau, Inc.

What You'll Find in this Issue:

Poetry Month	2
Resource Corner	2
Student Spotlight: Griselda	3
Beautification Contest	4

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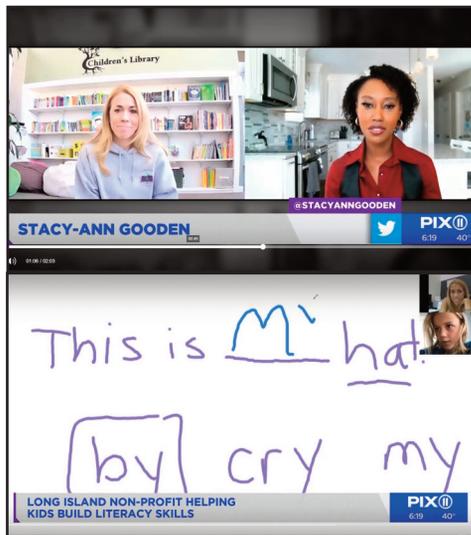
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LITERACY NASSAU ON THE NEWS

(submitted by Karen Micciche)

With the surge in remote learning this school year, there has been a tremendous uptick in requests for Orton-Gillingham services as a result of parents witnessing first-hand their children's struggles with reading. Stacy-Ann Gooden, a mom from Massapequa who also happens to be a meteorologist and feature reporter for PIX11 News, reached out to me a few weeks ago to do a story on Literacy Nassau. Her hope was to spread the word about our services and share resources with local parents whose kids might need help.

We spoke on the phone and via Zoom, and she expressed great interest in our work. She interviewed Melissa Sansobrino (one of our tutors) and I to learn more about dyslexia, the methodology of OG, and how our program works. The newscast aired on February 26th at 6:00pm. In case you missed it, you can check it out on our website under the "OG News" tab or on our Facebook page. It was one of the more exciting media pieces I've worked on, and it was my first time on network television (not cable). I hope you'll check it out!



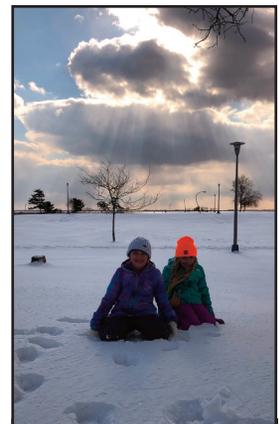
THOUGHTS FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Hi Everyone,

Well, this is it - the last few days of winter are making their grand exit and I, for one, could not be more excited. In fact, I think this spring offers a hugely hopeful outlook as we move into stages of vaccination previously uncharted. As of March 17th, non-profit workers and volunteers are eligible for the vaccine, so if you haven't gotten yours yet, feel free to reach out to us for a letter verifying that you are a Literacy Nassau volunteer and make yourself an appointment! Having just gone through my own second round with the Pfizer vaccine, I can say from personal experience that outside of one, uncomfortable day with a fever and some body aches, I've emerged on the other side with a renewed sense of gratitude, vigilance for our community, and hope for the future.

We're all looking forward to warmer, happier, healthier days ahead this spring. Until then, stay safe and healthy!

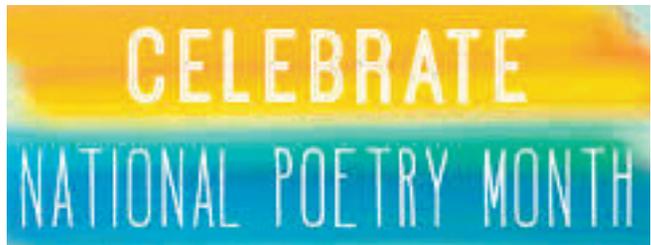
Karen 😊



Pictured above, my girls enjoying the last big snow of the winter. Welcome, spring!



National Poetry Month is April



Poetry offers students the opportunity to play with language, utilize new vocabulary, and be creative with words.

In order to celebrate, we are hosting a Poetry Challenge. We invite all of our students and tutors to complete this fun activity and submit your poems to us for review. We will be choosing poems to publish in next month's newsletter.

Please submit poems to KQuijano@literacynassau.org by April 30th. We look forward to reading all of your poems!

Type of Poem - Acrostic

One of the easiest types of poems to write is an acrostic poem. These poems are fun to write, too. You can add an illustration to this type of poem to make it more interesting. Some people put the illustration in the background.

HOW TO WRITE AN ACROSTIC POEM

1. Choose on noun such as a person's name, a season, or a favorite object.
2. Get a blank piece of paper and write your word vertically down the page. Use all capital letters.
3. Use each letter to begin a word or phrase that describes the noun. Some lines can be short (just one word). Other lines can be long.
4. Add an illustration if you want to. Read the poem out loud.

-ING CLAUSES

In an acrostic poem, you do not have to write complete sentences. It is common to see some lines starting with an -ing clause that describes the noun.



Now you can write an acrostic poem. Here are some ideas for topics. Choose the one that you are most interested in. Illustrate it if you want.

SUGGESTED TOPICS:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| a person's name | a place name |
| a season | a treasured object |
| an animal | a flower or tree |
| a concept | a type of food |

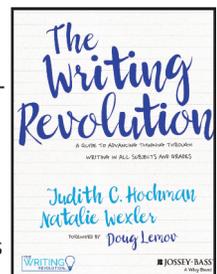
RESOURCE CORNER: *THE WRITING REVOLUTION*

(submitted by Kate Quijano)

I have a few OG students whose reading is pretty strong at this point, but who need more support in writing. I have recently been reading *The Writing Revolution* and getting some new ideas about writing instruction. The authors, Judith C. Hochman and Natalie Wexler, focus on explicit instruction in the make up of a sentence. Activities include sentence building, parts of speech, complete sentences vs. fragments, expanding sentences with adjectives and adverbs, turning simple sentences into complex sentences with subordinating conjunctions, outlining for paragraph writing and essay writing. My students have enjoyed these activities and it has helped them form better sentences and increase their writing production.

This is a good resource for OG or BL tutors who want to incorporate more writing into their sessions. It follows OG principles of moving from simple to complex and makes the instruction very explicit. It is also good for ELL tutors who want to help their students understand the make-up of a sentence in English and how the different parts of speech work. It is helpful for them to understand word order in English sentences. It is also great for students who aren't familiar with English punctuation.

I really like the suggestions it gives for incorporating these activities into the content that you are working on in other subjects. It gives examples of great links to science/social studies topics. I have been using articles from newsela as part of my reading instruction and have then been able to link the topic of the article to the writing activities. This way, we've worked on comprehension and writing at the same time. I recommend this book for anyone who wants to help their students improve their writing.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: GRISELDA ALBA

(submitted by Kate Quijano)

We would like to offer our congratulations to Literacy Nassau student Griselda Alba who recently passed her citizenship exam. During the fall, Griselda attended our virtual citizenship preparation class with Fran Fox and a virtual level 4 ELL class with Kevin O’Keefe. She put her skills to the test during our session break when she went for her naturalization interview and exam. She recently contacted us to share the good news.

Her citizenship tutor, Fran Fox says, “It was my pleasure to teach citizenship to Griselda during the Fall session. She was extremely motivated during our class and also displayed respect for her fellow students. Griselda always completed her homework in a conscientious manner and most importantly laughed at all of my jokes! I am thrilled to learn of her success and welcome her as a fellow citizen!” We asked Griselda some questions to get to know her better. Here are her responses:

1. Where were you born?

I was born in Argentina.

2. When did you come to the United States?

I came to the United States in 2015.

3. Tell us a little about your family.

I live with my husband, my son (12) and my daughter (15).

4. How did you hear about Literacy Nassau and how long have you been taking classes with us?

I heard about Literacy Nassau from a friend who took classes there, and I have been taking classes with you since January 2020.

5. Describe some of your experiences learning English and studying for citizenship.

I started taking ESL with Pamela J. Ware in January 2020, at Jericho Library. She is a great tutor. I was very happy with her classes. I also made many friends. Then when the Pandemic started, I thought I would not longer be able to attend classes,

but when I received the good news that classes would continue online, I was very happy. After that I took summer classes with Pamela Ware again and continued with my fall session with Kevin O’Keefe. He is a great tutor and he was very patient with me and my classmates. I did not stop studying and learning. Then I registered for citizenship classes. I thought it would be very difficult for me since I should learn about history and civic education but, I met an excellent teacher and a great person, Fran Fox. She made it all easier. She help me to understand the history of The United States in a very easy way. Thanks to all these classes I took, I was able to improve my English and feel more confident and finally passed my citizenship interview. It was an important part of my long process to become an U.S. citizen. Now I am taking winter session with Ellen Gross.

6. Tell us a little about your experience applying for citizenship and taking the exam.

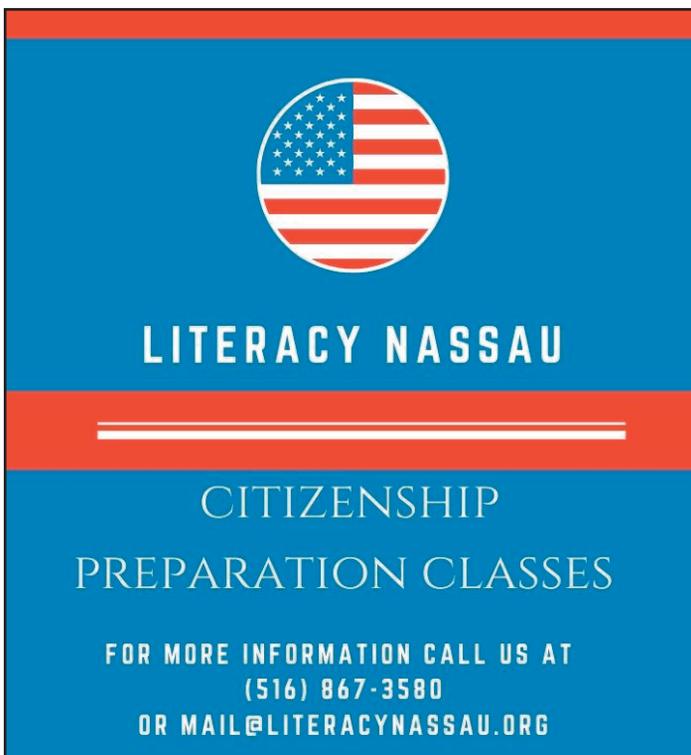
After over then 5 years been a lawful permanent resident, I finally had my citizenship interview. It has been about a year since I applied. My interview was super nice. It was through an iPad. We were in different rooms. She asked me the civic test first, then reading and writing. Then she asked me some personal questions that I put on the N400 form. After that she asked me the yes and no questions. Then she told me to double checked all the informations in the paper and sign it. She gave me a piece of papered said that I passed and recommended me for approval and need to wait for my oath ceremony notice. My officer was very professional and the interview was finished in less than 15 minutes.

7. What are your goals for the future?

One of my goals is continue improving my English and to be able to maintain a fluent conversation. In Argentina I was a teacher, so I would like to be able to work as a Spanish teacher.

8. Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

I enjoyed spending time with my family. I do yoga, dance class “tango,” and of course I take English Class and Conversation Group.



A vertical banner with a blue background and a red horizontal stripe. At the top is a circular logo of the United States flag. Below the logo, the text "LITERACY NASSAU" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font. Underneath the red stripe, "CITIZENSHIP PREPARATION CLASSES" is written in white, serif font. At the bottom, in white, sans-serif font, it says "FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL US AT (516) 867-3580 OR MAIL@LITERACYNASSAU.ORG".



Warm Birthday Wishes to our Tutors!

Kami-Leigh Agard – Mary Alibrandi – Zeba Ansari – Nancy Benchimol – Nancy Bob – Judy Caputo – Adrienne Carlton – Jennifer Cestaro – Kathleen Coleman – Eileen D’Antonio – Margaret Dudley – Lisa Evans – Wendy Fast – Anita Faulding – Madalyn Fernbach – Barbara Fritz – Jennifer Gabriele – Janet Geduldig – Kelsey Greene – George Greier – Florence Harff – Michael Hauser – Kathleen Jeacoma – Nilse Jorge – Dolores Joseph – Keon Karimababy – Lorri Klonsky – Audrey Korman – Eleanor Krebs – Carmelinda Kurtzberg – Jean Lesser – Carol Markman – Susan Mazur – India McClain – Helen O’Brien – Carol Padovani – Josephine Palazzolo – Jean Pascale – Maureen Peraza – Amy Perlmutter – Terese Pizza – Linda Podhurst – Jane Quinton – Susan Rosenberg – Stephen Salyk – Carol Schrafel – Vasu Shah – Linda Shine – Ann Silverberg – James Tenney – Margaret Tigue – Debbie Uckele – Virginia Walsh – Fran Weiss – Joan Whiteside – Jessica Zamora



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CALLING ALL NEXT CHAPTER BOOK CLUBS AND JOT IT DOWN CLUBS! WE ARE SEEKING YOUR CREATIVE MINDS TO HELP DESIGN AN OUTDOOR BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT FOR OUR OFFICE. GET TOGETHER WITH YOUR CLUB TO DESIGN AND DRAW OUT IDEAS THAT'LL SPRUCE UP OUR OUTDOOR TUTORING CENTERS PLANTERS. SUBMIT TO US A SHORT DESCRIPTION FOR A FLORAL DESIGN OF OUTDOOR PLANTERS. THERE ARE 5 PLANTERS IN ALL, 3FT IN DIAMETER EACH. THE BEST CLUB DESIGN IDEA WILL BE INVITED TO OUR OFFICE IN WANTAGH TO CREATE THE DESIGN SUBMISSION WITH ALL OF THE MATERIALS PAID FOR BY LITERACY NASSAU. WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

*For more information and submission contact
jdaprile@literacynassau.org*



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**TRANSITION BACK TO SPRING
WITH SOME FRESH NEW ITEMS**



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