



LITERACY MATTERS

DECEMBER 2019



LITERACY
N A S S A U

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

What You'll Find in this Issue:

OG Student: Francesca	2
Amazon Smile	2
Next Chapter Book Club	2
Dave's ESL Cafe	3
Holiday Activities	4

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THE GIFT OF GETTING IT

(submitted by Judy Beckman, Board Pres.)

It's that time of year when the holidays are just around the corner and thoughts of giving and receiving from loved ones and friends are paramount in our minds. Having been able to give the gift of "getting it" (the ability to read, write and speak English, along with the gifts of self-esteem and self-worth) for the last five years continues to inspire me to work even harder for Literacy Nassau, helping us build upon our already dramatic results.

My journey to becoming LN's Board President began over five years ago at a breakfast celebrating female professionals who were being honored for their successes. Karen Micciche and I met as we shared one of the tables for the honorees. (I am a principal of Financial Solutions, and was intrigued by her work with Literacy Nassau.) We spoke about our vocations, our values and how each of us were passionate about helping people succeed although we approached these goals in different ways. Karen was enthusiastic about Literacy Nassau's work teaching adults to read, write and speak English either as a second language or because, tragically, their reading difficulties had never been diagnosed or they had lost faith in themselves and felt they were

failures. The impact of learning how to read dramatically improved their lives and she cited instances of their successes. I, as a certified financial planner, had been working to improve the lives of my clients but had always felt the need to give back, to help others improve their lives in other ways.

I have served on many boards, usually as an officer, for charities, art organizations, women's professional groups and service organizations and felt I was satisfying my need to give back. However, several meetings after that breakfast, when Karen asked me to join the Board of Directors of Literacy Nassau, I immediately said yes as I felt that this would be the most direct, rewarding and satisfying way to help the organization work towards more results in helping people change their lives. I have since served as Treasurer, Vice President and now as President and have never felt as passionately committed to an organization as I do towards this one. We have added additional services since I joined the board including Next Chapter Book Clubs for adults with developmental disabilities, and donation-based Orton Gillingham tutoring for dyslexic children who need the one-on-one teaching experience to learn to read.

(continued on page 2)

THOUGHTS FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Hi Everyone,

In addition to the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, this month I am going back to school for my second residency. I'll be back at Enders Island (off the coast of Mystic, CT) from December 27th through January 4th. The semester has been a whirlwind of activity: I read twelve books in three months and finished the first draft of my novel. As much as I hate the idea of being away from my family during the holiday break, I am super excited to reconnect with my fellow community of writers to discuss our work and the progress we've made since July. Also, the new year brings such hope for new possibilities. That kind of energy is rare, and I hope to capitalize on it by working on something new.

I'm sure most of you have more traditional holiday plans, hopefully spending time with your own families, eating good food, relaxing, maybe even traveling a bit. Whatever your plans, I wish you a joyous and memorable holiday season!



Thankfully, we have family in Connecticut, so I'll be able to see my girls a few times while I'm away.

Karen 😊



OG STUDENT: FRANCESCA

(submitted by Kim Nau)

Donna Fiore started her Orton-Gillingham practicum in September. She has been meeting with her 5th grade student, Francesca, three days a week (on nights and weekends). Using the Orton-Gillingham approach, we explicitly teach spelling rules and generalizations so it can be a challenge when students are taught differently in the classroom. In school, Francesca was struggling to succeed on her spelling tests so Donna has been encouraging her to practice spelling words in cursive when she studies. Cursive can help students with muscle-memory which aids in retention. Here are some words from her tutor, Donna:



Francesca is a fifth grade student who started at our tutoring center this September. Francesca came to the center a little shy and apprehensive. She told me at our first session how hard reading and spelling is for her, but how math is easier. It didn't take long to see how bright and motivated Francesca is. Since our first few sessions together, Francesca has fully embraced the Orton Gillingham approach. She asks appropriate questions to get a better understanding and works hard every session. Francesca has been utilizing the methods taught in the center at school and was excited to share she has been receiving 100s on her spelling tests! We are so proud of Francesca and know this is just the beginning of her success!

For questions or more information about our tutoring center, please contact Kim Nau at (516) 867-3580.

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THE GIFT OF GETTING IT (CONT'D)

(continued from cover page)

Being profoundly impressed with Karen's dynamic leadership and visionary goals, our dedicated staff, the devoted efforts, time and results that the volunteer tutors provide, the motivated efforts of the students, the donations from generous sponsors and the participation of my fellow board members continues to increase my passion and commitment to the gifts of Literacy Nassau - the giving and receiving of getting it. I wish to take this opportunity to thank you all for your service; we couldn't do this work without you! I sincerely hope all of you experience the joy of the holiday season and I offer many blessings on you and your loved ones in the new year ahead. Happy Holidays!

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Warm birthday wishes to the following tutors!

- Anita Achkhanian – Linda Bernstein – Laura Blanc de Silva
- Anita Bloom – Mercedes Carbonell-Scudero – Marie Gruen
- Fran Dowling – Arline Ellison – Lauri Englert-Sacco
- Johanna Esposito – Helene Fleisig – Patricia Goldberg
- Julie Goldstein – Kathleen Gyves – Georgene Harrison
- Georgine Hartenfels – Maryann Harvey – Nancy Keegan
- Leslie Leber – Lilianna Carolynea Llanos – Janice Mazzari
- Andrea McLaughlin – Susan Molinelli – Neil Moran
- Salvatore Morici – Kathie Novack – Robert Palleschi
- John Pizzo – Sue Rachell – Timothy Reedy
- Shivani Devi Singh – Barbara Spun – Sheldon Wald



NEXT CHAPTER BOOK CLUB

(submitted by Kelly Siry)

One program Literacy Nassau offers the community is Next Chapter Book Clubs for developmentally disabled adults. Next Chapter Book Clubs provide a unique opportunity for individuals with developmental disabilities to experience community inclusion, life-long learning and self-advocacy. Groups of 4-8 members along with two trained facilitators gather weekly for an hour to read aloud and discuss a book. Anyone can participate, regardless of their reading/ability level.

I love visiting my Next Chapter Book Club sites in the fall. The members and facilitators always have such fun stories and news to share from their summer adventures. This fall, I visited many of my clubs with a special gift to share. I designed a commemorative bookmark for the 2019 Next Chapter Book Club members. We truly enjoyed personalizing the bookmarks. I also was thrilled to hear how excited the members have been to read some of the new titles we recently added to our library. It is the consensus that the members LOVE the "Who Was..." series. This is a series of biographical books about various well-known people. When I visited the Oceanside NCBC they were reading, "Who Was Elvis Presley?" I myself learned a lot just from listening in as the members read aloud. (Did you know Elvis was a twin?) We are always looking for donations of new titles to our library. Remember, books should be donated in sets of 10. Check out the website, <https://www.books4school.com/> there you can find a large selection of "Who Was..." books and other titles most for \$1-3!

We are looking for new members to join several of our clubs in Western Nassau. If you know someone who may be interested in joining please call me at the office at (516) 867-3580 or email me at KSiry@LiteracyNassau.org.



Stacy and Stephen read together at the Oceanside Book Club.



(Pictured left) Rachel and the members of the Great Neck Book Club had a blast personalizing their 2019 commemorative bookmarks (center). Facilitators Mike and Donna with New Hyde Park Jot It Down Writing Club members enjoy a fun game of "Rollick" every week (pictured right).

RESOURCE CORNER: DAVE'S ESL CAFE

(submitted by Cindy Cabrera)

Dave's ESL Café is a fun, interactive, and friendly virtual community designed for students and teachers. Teachers post lessons or activities online for other teachers to get ideas from. Under the Idea Cookbook section there are a variety of lessons related to listening, vocabulary, games, grammar, pronunciation, etc. My favorite section would be games. I gather so many ideas to bring to my students. Games help students to use their English skills in a relaxed atmosphere and helps them build their confidence. Below is a sample of what a teacher posted.

Bingo Twist

I think most people know the game Bingo, and I am sure that there is a recipe for word bingo here. Just in case there is not I will quickly run through it. Each student gets a bingo grid 4x4 squares. I write about 20 words on the board and ask them to choose 16 words and put one word in each square. As I call the words out the cross them off in order to make 4 in a row across, down or diagonal. Bingo with a twist teaches students how to use opposite words. I use this game after teaching about opposites to reinforce the ideas. So for example they write hot, fast, easy etc. but I call out cold, slow, difficult etc. I have found it works well as they think about it more than they otherwise would and they find it more challenging than ordinary bingo. I've played this game with children (ages 12-14) and adults and it worked very well!

Feel free to play this game with your students and for more ideas from other teachers visit www.eslcafe.com. There is a whole community out there to help you succeed in your teaching journey.





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HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES FOR YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS

(submitted by Kate Quijano)

Happy Holidays! I'd like to share some ideas of activities you could do with your students during the holiday season.

1. Print the lyrics to some popular holiday songs, read the lyrics, then sing the songs together as a class.

<http://www.loving2learn.com/Activities/Holidays/Christmas/ChristmasCarols.aspx>

https://www.chabad.org/multimedia/music_cdo/aid/218974/jewish/Chanukah-Songs.htm

<https://www.songsforteaching.com/kwanzaasongs/>

2. Create holiday cards in class- apply the new grammar skills that you have been learning in class. Beginners can decorate and only include short written messages, advanced students can write a longer, letter-like card. (Students could pull a name out of a hat to determine who they should create their card for- then pass out all the cards at the end of class.)

3. Create a holiday poem. <https://www.teachervision.com/creative-writing/holiday-poems>

4. Play a dreidel game. <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/how-to-play-dreidel/>

5. Read about and discuss Christmas traditions around the world. Students could work in small groups or with partners to compare the traditions in two countries of their choice. They could create a Venn Diagram and present what they learned to the whole class.

<http://www.santas.net/aroundtheworld.htm>

<https://www.studenthandouts.com/graphic-organizers/relationships/blank-venn-diagram-printables-with-instructions.html>

6. Read about holiday origins. https://www.theholidayspot.com/kwanzaa/kwanzaa_celebration.htm



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*Have a
Healthy and
Happy New
Year!*