



COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Your fall newsletter is late because we have been very busy! Sometimes saying you are "busy" seems like an excuse for not getting things done. Actually, we have been very busy here at the Literacy Program office!

This summer we gained a new staff member. Penny Streeter of Troy is our new Student/Tutor Coordinator for Bradford Co. On her first day of work she arrived with her arm in a cast. By the second week she had broken her other arm! Things have improved since then, and both her arms are out of the casts! Please stop by and say hello to Penny!

Also this summer we surveyed our students and volunteer tutors about their interest in small group instruction. You will find a summary of the survey later in this issue of your newsletter.

We have held tutor training workshops in Troy and Towanda this fall. We trained seven new volunteer tutors at the Troy workshop and another seven tutors at the workshop in Towanda. Four of the seven people at the Towanda workshop are from Canton. We have a workshop planned for Tunkhannock in November. We still need tutors in Towanda.

We have hosted two inservices this fall. Ruth Love-Schooley from the Learning Center in Williamsport discussed "Small Group Tutoring: Making It

Work." Jim Yeager from ABLETECH also presented "eData: the Basics."

Thank you to those who lobbied for additional funds in the Governor's budget for adult basic and literacy education. Gov. Rendell has included an additional \$4.9 million in his 2008 budget for adult basic and literacy education. The Bureau of Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE) has sent out a request for proposals, and some of these funds will be coming to the Literacy Program for additional services!

Thank you so much for all you are doing to help your student learn to read, do math, or learn English as a Second Language. You are making a difference in the lives of our students! Thank you so much for all that you do!

Sherry Spencer
Program Coordinator

WELCOME NEW TUTORS

Please welcome the following new tutors who completed a tutor training workshop at the Western Alliance Emergency Services in Troy: Anita Freeh, Columbia Crossroads; Debi Hulslander, Janine Taylor, and Margaret (Peggy) Trentacosta, Troy; Shirley Ann Kappen, Sayre; Deb Mead, Canton; and Carol Parker, Wyalusing. Trainers for the workshop were Sigrid Wilkinson and Sherry Spencer. Jonell Foster was the workshop hostess. Anita Bellows and her student explained "real life" tutoring to the new trainees.

Also welcome these new tutors who completed a tutor training workshop at the Children's House in Towanda: Anne Badamo, Towanda; Susan Carmalt, Milan; Roland Cooper, Charles Croke, William Cronk, and Helen Petty, Canton; and Tammy Morris, Monroeton. Trainers for the workshop were Sigrid Wilkinson and Sherry Spencer. Dietlind Crane described "real life" tutoring to the new trainees. The next tutor training workshop will be held November 1, 8, 15, and 29 from 6:30PM – 9:30PM at the Tunkhannock Public Library in Tunkhannock. For information about the workshop or to register, please call the Literacy Program office at 570-297-3375 or 570-996-5203 or email literacy@sosbbs.com.

HELLO, PENNY!

My name is Penny Streeter, and I am the new Student/Tutor Coordinator. I would like to say "Hello" and "Thank you" to Sherry for choosing me to fill Kathleen's shoes. I hope I can fill them well.

When I arrived on my first day of work, everyone here made me feel so welcome, even with a brand new, bright purple cast. After all the explanations as to how I broke my arm, the task of learning a new job began.

Although I am new to the Literacy Program, Bradford Co. has always been my home. I was born and raised in Troy and graduated from Troy High School. My husband and I have been married for 26 years, and we have four lovely children from ages 24 to 14. I graduated from Mansfield University in 2004 with a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education with a concentration in English. I have been teaching adults for the past two years as an adjunct instructor for Lackawanna College – Towanda. Adult education is not a new concept for me.

I look forward to putting faces with names and getting to know both the students and the tutors. I am also thrilled to have the opportunity to work in such a rewarding program. Thank you again, Sherry and the Literacy Program staff!

Penny Streeter

CELEBRATING LITERACY

Approximately 100 tutors, students, families, and friends attended the Bradford-Wyoming Co. Literacy Program's annual recognition banquet which was held at the Towanda Elks in Towanda.

The guest speakers were members of Southside High School's National Honor Society, Alise Farr, Eric Murphy, Mike Mc Cann, Colleen Rennie, and Channing Koster, who read their way into the Guinness Book of World Records. Kayla Murphy was unable to attend. The group was accompanied by their advisor, Barb Wilber.

The Southside students explained how they became interested in breaking the World Record for reading aloud, how they organized the project, what they read, and what they learned from the experience. They began the project to raise awareness of literacy. The project involved the six students from Southside High School in Elmira, NY, as well as 200 volunteers. The students took turns reading aloud for an hour on stage with five hours off for a total of five days. They read a total of 5,902 pages of 23 different books in 128 hours, 1 minute, and 39 seconds.

The Bradford-Wyoming Co. Literacy Program has been celebrating literacy for the past twenty years with banquets, dinners, and luncheons. The Literacy Program has welcomed guest speakers

from across the United States. Several of the past guest speakers wrote letters to the Literacy Program to commemorate the twenty years of "Celebrating Literacy." The speakers who wrote letters included Peter Waite and Linda Church of ProLiteracy America, Joyce Strobe Burgart, Richard Eaton, and Jane Volker.

Following the program, the Southside HS students assisted Sherry Spencer, Program Director of the Bradford-Wyoming Co. Literacy Program, with presenting awards to those volunteer tutors who had achieved a significant amount of tutoring hours during the past year. Howard Smith was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Max Esmus provided musical entertainment.

Those tutors who received an award for 40 hours of volunteer tutoring include Anita Bellows, Marcene Billingsley, Josie Clutter, Dietlind Crain, Peg Dail, Teresa Gannon, Denise Golden, Lucille Metzger, Millie Gliniecki Schelling, Diane Ward, and Gail Wardrop.

Those who received an award for 100 hours of volunteer tutoring include Cheryl Albanese, Teresa Gannon, Kim Kal-Downs, Lucille Metzger, and Wendy McClure.

Ginny Brauer, Ruth Donnocker, Philip Hungate, and Paul Landon received awards for reaching 200 hours of volunteer tutoring.

Claire Borits and Barbara James were recognized for reaching 300 hours of volunteer tutoring. Claire Borits also received an award for 400 hours of volunteer tutoring. Betty Robbins was recognized for tutoring 600 hours. Laurie Anson was presented with awards for reaching 800 and 900 hours of volunteer tutoring. For 1800 hours of volunteer tutoring Marie Pierce received

recognition, and Carolyn Mack was recognized for 1900 and 2000 hours of volunteer tutoring.

Finally, Judy Smith received an award for her outstanding accomplishment of 2500 hours of volunteer tutoring.

The annual banquet has become a tradition with the Bradford-Wyoming Co. Literacy Program. Plans will soon begin for the 2008 Banquet. If you would like to be a part of the committee, please contact the Literacy Program office. We need you!

COMPUTER CLASSES

This fall the Literacy Program held a Basic Computer class for students. With volunteer tutors, Linda Clark and Phil Hungate, as instructors, several students attended the Basic Computer Class held at the Spalding Memorial Library in Athens.

The Literacy Program hopes to offer Basic Computer classes in Towanda and Tunkhannock. If you think your student would be interested in computer classes, please let the Literacy Program office know. These classes will be small groups so that the students can receive individual attention. If you have ideas for other classes, please let us know!

IN MEMORIAM

The Bradford-Wyoming Co. Literacy Program has lost two of its volunteer tutors since the last newsletter. The Literacy Program extends sympathy to the families of Nancy Cousins of Athens and Betty Robbins of Troy. Nancy was a new and enthusiastic tutor who enjoyed working with her student. Betty, a retired special ed. teacher, had been a volunteer tutor since 1995. She was a caring and gracious person who

touched the lives of several literacy students.

The Literacy Program also extends sympathy to Ruth Wohlgemuth on the loss of her father. We hope beautiful memories will give these families and friends comfort.

CONFERENCE UPDATE

The next national ProLiteracy conference will be held November 7 - 10, 2007, in Alexandria, Virginia, and will feature author Nora Roberts as a keynote speaker. This promises to be an opportunity to attend a national conference that is not too far away. The conference will feature Capital Hill Day on Nov. 7 for a chance to lobby for literacy on a national level. For more information about this conference visit www.proliteracy.org.

The PA Association for Adult and Continuing Education (PAACE) will hold its annual Midwinter Conference on Feb. 6 - 8 at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey. This conference will feature approximately 100 sessions for adult educators, staff, and volunteer tutors. For more information contact the PAACE website, www.paacesite.org.

SUCCESS

Congratulations to these students who have completed skillbooks, Challenger books, or other series since the last newsletter. (This information is compiled from tutors' monthly calendars.)

Skill Book 2

Becky Kerstetter's student

Voyager 4

Katherine Lepper's student

Challenger 2

Kris Eller's student
Judy Lorincz's student
Jerri Renzo's student

Challenger 3

Jerri Renzo's student

Challenger 4

Paul Landon's student

Challenger 5

Marlene von Voightlander's student

Reading Wise 2

Laurie Anson's student

Reading for Today 4

Yvonne Crimbring's student

Side by Side 2

Claire Borits' student

Jerri Renzo's student got a library card. Claire Borits' student was the first in her family to use the laundromat, get a driver's license, use a computer, speak English, drive a car, join the Fitness Center at the YMCA, register a car, and become a Sam Club's member! If we have omitted your student's accomplishment, please contact the Literacy Program office. Congratulations to these students and their tutors!

INCREASING INTENSITY

This year the Literacy Program will be looking at ways to increase the intensity of instruction for its learners. Research

shows that with more intensity of instruction, adult learners not only make more progress, but make progress more quickly.

The National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy (NCSALL) states that research in the field shows that 100 hours of instruction are required for at least one grade-level equivalent increase. Since our average number of hours of instruction is 38 hours per student ('05-'06), we need to increase the intensity of instruction of our students.

Thank you to those tutors who have increased their tutoring time with their students. That extra time will make a difference. Some tutors replied that they were unable to add any time to their sessions. That is ok, and we understand that.

Another way to increase intensity is to offer additional mini-classes, such as the Computer Class that was held in October. The Literacy Program plans to offer some additional computer classes, a math skills brush up, or basic writing to meet the needs of its adult learners. The Literacy Program has received a grant from the Bureau of ABLE to increase the intensity of instruction for its literacy students. The Literacy Program has also received a grant from the Bureau to increase the intensity of service for its ESL students at Cargill.

From this summer's survey of tutors and students, we learned that our students want to learn more! They are hungry for more instruction!

The Literacy Program plans to begin some small groups and mini-classes at locations in the communities of Canton/Troy, Sayre/Athens, Towanda, and Tunkhannock. These

THIS N' THAT

Congratulations to Millie Gliniecki Schelling on her wedding this spring!

The Literacy Program participated in Guthrie Healthcare's Fall Family Health Fair.

Thank you to the following for their donations in memory of Nancy Cousins: Jack and Joannette Edgar, David and Debbie Coniglio, Bryan French, Elizabeth Fagan, Kathleen Idleman, Amy Rath Leibeck, Jane Stratton, Marcia Swingle, Norene M. Hogan, Friends of the Spalding Memorial Library, Larry and Carol Rath, Patricia A. Case, and Sheila and Robert French. The Bradford-Wyoming Co. Literacy Program appreciates these donations. Thank you!

We are never really happy until we try to brighten the lives of others.

Helen Keller

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Bradford Co. Library
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DATES TO REMEMBER

- November 7 – 10 ProLiteracy Worldwide National Conference
Arlington, VA
- November 22 – 24 Thanksgiving Holiday
Bradford Co. Library closed
- November 27 Troy/Canton Tutor Get together
Western Alliance Emergency Services
6:30PM – 7:30PM
- December 18 International Holiday Party
Braintrim Baptist Church 6 – 8PM
Laceyville

Thanks, Volunteers!