

# Tutor Talk

Sept 2010

Racine Literacy Council

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## SAVE THE DATE SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

We invite all of you to join us Thursday, September 30, for this year's **Volunteer Recognition Evening**. It will be held at Meadowbrook Country Club beginning with a social hour at 5:30 followed by dinner and the program at 6:30. Come and socialize with other volunteers, enjoy an excellent dinner, have fun, and receive recognition for your dedicated work at RLC.

Watch for your invitation in the mail! We hope to see all of you there.

## WANTED! ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER TUTORS

Do you enjoy working with your adult learner? Do you feel the time you spend volunteering for RLC is worthwhile? We certainly hope so. We realize that tutoring can be frustrating at times, but it can also be a very rewarding experience.

Many learners are waiting for a tutor. Please encourage others to volunteer! Two Tutor Training Workshops are scheduled for this fall. The first is a morning workshop Monday—Thursday, September 13-16, and Monday, September 20. The second will be Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning Tuesday, October 19.

Encourage others to attend one of the Information Meetings (see schedule below) or, better yet, attend with them. These meetings are designed to acquaint prospective volunteers with RLC and its adult tutoring program and to motivate them to become volunteer tutors.

One student wrote in her story for *Life's Voyages 8*, "Racine Literacy Council has helped me so much and I'm so thankful."

Wednesday, Sept 8, RLC	12:00-1:00 & 6:30—7:30 p.m.
Thursday Sept. 9, Union Grove	9:00—10:00 a.m.
Thursday Sept. 9, Burlington	10:15—11:15 a.m.
Thursday Sept. 9, Waterford	11:30—12:30 p.m.

## LIFE'S VOYAGES, VOLUME 8 PUBLISHING PARTY

By Jane Scheef



On a beautiful Wednesday evening, June 23, the authors and tutors of *Life's Voyages* met for its "coming out" party. We met in the Social Room at Educators' Credit Union on Newman Road. It is a beautiful facility and a great setting for greeting and mixing with each other. An array of tasty snacks, appetizers and deserts were provided by tutors and students. I'm glad I hadn't eaten a big dinner.

This year's book has 41 contributors, and many of them were there. My student, Anel, came with her 3-month-old little girl. Others brought their family and/or friends. Each author and tutor was introduced and presented with his/her copy of the book. We all applauded and cheered their success. It was wonderful to see how proud each of them was to be able to use his/her new skills and be a part of the process. Everyone chooses his/her own topic and that has made for some very interesting reading. What a treat to read about the impressions of people from all over the world.

We also inducted Manual Tinajero into the National Adult Education Honor Society. This is an achievement that requires dedication, persistence and hard work. Congratulations!

## H1N1 WORKSHOP RESCHEDULED

The H1N1 Workshop for students, originally scheduled for August 24, has been rescheduled for Wednesday, September 29, at 6:30. Each attendee (up to 20) will receive a flu kit (a \$10 value). Lessons will include how to avoid the flu, what to do if you get the flu, and how to use the kit. The class will last about one hour. Please encourage your student to attend. You may also come with your student.

## LOWER LEVEL UPDATE

Have you checked out the “basement” lately? The renovations are almost complete and the results are both beautiful and functional. The newly remodeled lower level includes a board room, classroom, computer lab, and additional tutoring space. The Board of Directors initiated the Board Room for the August meeting. The Citizenship Class will be held downstairs beginning September 13. Many new learners had the opportunity to use the new computer lab as they took their entrance assessments.

## ALL TUTOR REUNION

Tutors gathered at the Villas Condominiums Thursday, July 15, for learning and sharing. Chris Kane, ESL teacher, gave an overview of “PPP”, an excellent resource for lesson planning. The basics of lesson planning are: **Present** the teaching point to a student; **Practice** of the teaching point by the student; **Produce** the teaching point through communicative activities which enable a student to use the point in close to real life situations. Thank you Chris. One tutor suggested a 4th “P”: **Prepare**.

Tutors introduced themselves by telling what they were reading. They also exchanged tutoring ideas and shared concerns. Thanks to Carol Hegmann for providing the wonderful room at the Villas.

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Books tutors recommend:

Five Smooth Stones by Ann Fairbairn  
Wish You Well by David Baldacci  
Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese  
Let the Great World Spin by Colum McCann  
The Help by Kathryn Stockett  
Animal, Vegetable, Miracle by Barbara Kingsolver  
Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson  
A Year in Provence by Peter Mayle,  
A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson  
One Thousand White Women by Jim Fergus.  
Being Dead is No Excuse by Metcalfe and Hays  
3 Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson.  
Stones Into Schools by Greg Mortenson

## RLC SECURITY ENHANCED

Mark Shilhavy, RLC driver education tutor, is now helping make RLC safer. He is at RLC nightly to “guard” the facility and parking lot. With September comes shorter daylight hours and more tutor/student teams meeting in the evenings.

Thank you, Mark, from staff, volunteers, and learners!

## CONVERSATION CLASSES

A third conversation group will begin on Wednesdays from 5-6 p.m. in September as soon as students indicate an interest. The instructor will be Kathy McVicker. This class is open to learners in ENP-2 and above.

The Tuesday evening conversation group, led by Mary O’Shea, will continue to meet at 6:30 p.m., and the Thursday morning conversation group will begin again in late September at 9:30 a.m.

As Leticia said in her Life’s Voyages 8 story: Join Us!!”, “I like the conversation group because it’s a good way to practice speaking. I feel like a member of a group of friends . . . . In this group, I feel comfortable speaking English because we are in a learning process.”

Please encourage your learner to join a conversation group.

## INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY Information Meeting

International Literacy Day is celebrated on Wednesday, September 8. An Information Meeting scheduled at 6:30 p.m. at RLC will mark the day in Racine. Bring a friend to learn more about literacy issues in Racine/Racine County and talk to prospective tutors about your experiences. You will also have a tour of the newly remodeled lower level.

Free books will be presented to the first ten people to attend. International refreshments will be served.

*This event is sponsored by Alliant Energy Foundation, Verizon and Wisconsin Literacy.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 6**—RLC Closed for Labor Day
- Sept. 13**—Citizenship class starting, 6:00 p.m.
- Sept. 13-16, 20**—Tutor Training
- Sept. 29**—RLC Workshop on H1N1 for learners
- Sept. 30**—Volunteer Recognition Event
- Oct. 7**—H1N1 workshop for tutors. @11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 19, 21, 26, 28, Nov. 2**—Tutor Training
- Dec. 6-10**—Holiday Treat Week @ RLC

### Fundraisers:

- **Nov. 12**—The BUZZ

### Scheduled RLC closings:

- **Nov. 25 & 26, Dec. 20 to Jan. 3**