

Tutor Talk

December 2009

Racine Literacy Council

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

The 2009 Volunteer Recognition Event (VRE) was held on Tuesday, September 15 at Meadowbrook Country Club.

Congratulations to all award recipients.

- **Josefina Martinez** (tutor Sue Bolter) became the 23rd member of Racine Chapter of the *National Adult Education Honor Society*.
- **Colleen Dorsey, Pat Krueger, Harvey Pappeke, Lorrie Peterson, and Dianne Rice** were named to the *Tutor Honor Roll*. These faithful tutors have contributed a total of more than 3150 hours.
- **Kathy Bardenhagen** was selected as the third recipient of the *Lucille Nielsen Award*. This award is given to a tutor who in addition to having tutored more than 300 hours has also helped recruit additional tutors.

The RLC Board of Directors gave two special awards:

- **Bill Johnson** (*Fundraising*) for his work designing posters for Irish/Celtic Night.
- **Dan Reisdorf** of Milaegers (*Facilities Award*) for his work on the Shakespeare Garden.

RLC tutors contributed more than 7,000 hours in 2008-09 and RLC administrative volunteers contributed more than 1,100 hours.

Remember, **RLC Volunteers Make Memories!**

Thank you!

WELCOME NEW TUTORS

RLC proudly welcomes our new tutors.

Howard Anderson III, Kimberly Baclawski, Michelle Czechowicz, Rich Doering, Luanne Frey, Ray Harding, Olivia Espinoza, Mary Goltz, Carol Knight, Erik Hessenius, Kurt Hessenius, Joseph Sosa, and Mary Wilkes-Dyette from the August 2009 class

and

Sr. Juliana Dischler, Lorraine Riley, Ellen Hanson, Angela Knuckles, Sr. Bernadine Pohl, Pat Taylor-Roach, Emily Scholz, Suzanne Tsamardinis, Lucy Veltri, Holly Verwey, and Krysta Voss from the October 2009 class.

The next tutor training will be on Saturdays Feb. 6 and 13 from 8:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. and Feb. 20 from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Participants are requested to bring a bag lunch on Feb. 6 and 13.

CITIZENSHIP CLASS

The next citizenship class will be offered beginning Tuesday, January 26, 2010. It will run for 8 weeks. Mike Kania has once again agreed to teach the class.

Preregistration is required prior to the first day of class. The fee for RLC students is \$15 to cover the cost of the books. For all others, the fee is \$35 payable at preregistration. The text is Citizenship: Passing the Test by Lynne Weintraub.

Anyone interested in the class should call RLC for more information. They must come in person to preregister. Since the class is taught in English, each person needs to complete the application in person.

LIFE-LESSON LAYAWAY

By Sue Fergus

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel has a daily column called “Dollars and Sense - Daily Tips for Tough Times.” These brief articles come from a variety of sources: JS staff writers, other newspapers, and even JS readers.

I’ve used selected columns with my learner to practice reading, pronunciation, and comprehension; build vocabulary; and to stimulate discussion of American culture.

A recent selection, “Layaway returns, even for bargains,” was fascinating to Edmundo, who never knew of the practice, and after reading the article we spent some time discussing the way it works and the potential benefits to shoppers. The article’s writer stated this old shopping technique has returned to favor, even for such items as school supplies.

The next time we met, Edmundo was elated to tell me that he successfully negotiated the purchase of a side of beef from his boss - on layaway! His boss was quite surprised by the idea, but quickly agreed to the plan. His first question was, “How do you know about layaway?” Edmundo was very pleased to be able to show his boss the article where he read the information, and to have a chance to discuss some of the things he’s learned since becoming involved with RLC.

THINK ALOUD ACTIVITY

What is “think aloud?” It is a reading strategy used to model the thinking processes good readers use to understand what they are reading. Good readers apply these skills automatically, but less-able readers need to be taught directly and explicitly. Less-able readers need to move away from concentrating on simply reading the words to learn how to think about meaning. When learners are provided with models of the questioning and reasoning involved in constructing meaning, they can begin to develop these strategies on their own. The Fall 2009 edition of Notebook, published by ProLiteracy, has an excellent explanation and example of a “think aloud” activity. Issues of Notebook, published quarterly, are on the shelf above and to the left of the coffee in the RLC library. Check it out!

ROSETTA STONE

Networked Version

The networked version of Rosetta Stone is now available. You should plan to use it on the new, black computer in the resource room.

It is similar to the stand-alone version, but tutors currently using it like it better. Each unit has core lessons with pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, writing, listening, and speaking exercises. Each unit ends with a “milestone” section. This task requires the learner to use what was learned in the unit. It functions as conversation.

Your learner will need to use the headset for the listening and speaking segments, so be sure to wipe the headset and the microphone with Clorox wipes before and after using them.

In order to use the program each learner must have a personal username and password. Please see Diane to get the username and password.

There will be a tutor in-service on using the Networked Version of Rosetta Stone on Tuesday, January 12 at 10:00 a.m. and it will be repeated at 6:00 p.m.

IN MEMORIAM—MARY PIETSCH

Mary Pietsch, RLC volunteer tutor, passed away suddenly on November 10. Mary first tutored in 1987 and has been on the Tutor Honor Roll since 2002. Two words come to mind when I think of Mary: kindness and patience. She worked tirelessly with her students to help them improve their reading and writing skills and use these newly improved skills in their work.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mary’s family. She will be missed!

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 4— RLC opens after the holiday

January 12— Rosetta Stone In-service

January 26—Citizenship Class begins

Feb. 6, 13, and 20—Tutor Training at RLC

March 12—Celtic Night for Literacy