

Tutor Talk

July 2009

Racine Literacy Council

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NEW TUTORS

Welcome to the following people who attended the Tutor Training Workshop in June, 2009:

Alan Cook, Julie Jones, Derrick Heller, Monika Neumann, Heidi Scrimsher, Beverly Vite, Christina Wagner, and Yijing (Jean) Xin

The next training will be in August in Union Grove.

RLC WINE TASTING AUGUST 22

RLC is having a wine tasting at Uncorkt, 240 Main St., Racine on Saturday, August 22, from 5-8 p.m.

Come and sample a variety of outstanding wines and beers and enjoy a selection of delicious appetizers. Cost is \$25 per person or \$40 for two. Come and bring your friends! Carol Hegmann and Melissa Kane are making the arrangements.

Please spread the word. If you can put up a poster to advertise the event, please call Carol at 989-3687. Tickets will be available soon.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

Mark your calendars and plan to attend this year's Volunteer Recognition Event on Tuesday, September 15, at Meadowbrook Country Club.

Highlights of the evening will include the introduction of new members of the National Adult Education Honor Society, Tutor and Administrative Volunteer Honor Rolls, and the presentation of certificates for milestone hours. Come meet and visit with other RLC volunteers, enjoy a delicious meal, and, participate in fun-filled activities.

Watch for your invitation in August.



RLC BAKE SALE AUGUST 1 AT THE FARMERS' MARKET

Racine Literacy Council is sponsoring a bake sale fundraiser on Saturday, Aug. 1, at the weekly Farmer's Market on the corner of State St. and Erie. We need volunteers, tutors, students and supporters to bake cakes, pies, cookies, brownies, breads, sweetbreads, and ethnic delights to sell at this event. The more unique, the better it sells. Tutors, encourage your students to bake; something from their ethnic background would be a special treat!! Bring them to the bake sale Sat. morning from 7:30-8:30 or leave them at RLC on Friday. Even though the center is closed Friday, the outside door will be open and a table set up for you to leave your baked goods. Please package them in disposable containers. We cannot be responsible for returning items. A paper plate inside a gallon baggie works well.

We also need people to help set up, sell, and clean up. There are signup sheets on the door of the center for baking and for helping in 3 shifts. If you aren't currently tutoring, you could call Gloria at 632-9495 to sign up. It is especially important to have people with strength and height to set up the tables and tent at 7 a.m. and take them down at noon, or earlier if we sell out. We also need a vehicle large enough to transport the tables, a station wagon or SUV.

Connie Molbeck has graciously volunteered to take charge of this fundraiser.

Thank you, Connie!

NATIONAL ADULT EDUCATION HONOR SOCIETY

Has your learner studied at RLC for a minimum of 12 consecutive months and does s/he attend regularly? Has your learner met at least one “self-identified” life-skill goal each 6 month period? Has your learner participated in at least one “non-tutoring” activity? If so, s/he is eligible to become a member of the National Adult Education Honor Society (NAEHS). New members are introduced at the Volunteer Recognition Event in September.

All RLC adult learners are eligible for the NAEHS if they’ve met the above criteria. If you would like to nominate your learner or want more information, please contact Diane or Joyce.

In 2002, the Racine Literacy Council affiliated with the National Adult Education Honor Society as a way to recognize the serious efforts made by RLC adult learners to improve their basic literacy skills an/or English language skills. The first learners were inducted in 2003. To date, 23 learners have been inducted into NAEHS:

- (2008) Latasha Johnson*, Charlotte Sierra*, Leticia Tovar*
- (2007) Sue Dubinsky*, S.K. Pearson *, Alma Rincon*
- (2006) Kaew Erickson*
- (2005 Gerardo Alcantar, Earl Burdick*, Santrice Harris, Maria Maldonado*, Guadalupe Tamayo, Teresa Trujillo*
- (2004) Clinton Bryant, Jama Jackley, Fidel Rodriquez, Roosevelt Jackson*, Leticia Zuniga
- (2003) Roman Jarramillo, Lilia Maldonado*, Sergio Marin, Ines Neave*, Rosario Vazquez

* indicates current learner

LIFE’S VOYAGES –VII PUBLISHING PARTY

by Sue Bolter, Tutor

After the hard work of brainstorming, multiple drafts, and editing, many of the authors of Life’s Voyages, Volume VII gathered with their families, tutors, and the staff of the Racine Literacy Council to celebrate the publication of their work at a Publishing Party last month. The Michigan Room at the Racine Gateway campus was full of animated chatter as learners and tutors mingled over a delicious refreshment buffet while being introduced to extended family members—many of whom were delightful children!

But the real focus of the evening centered on the students’ achievements in submitting a piece of their writing for publication and was highlighted by the introduction of each Life’s Voyages author. After introductory remarks by Diane and Joyce, each student author and tutor were introduced and presented with a copy of the book and photographed by Theron Snell. Chris Enslin, RLC board chair, closed the program with her own congratulatory message.

Volume VII of Life’s Voyages contains short stories, poems, and essays by 42 authors, all of whom are currently involved in learning at RLC and its satellites at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church (Racine) and in Burlington. As with the previous volumes, Life’s Voyages is a fitting title because the collection includes the memories, hopes, and dreams of RLC learners, so the publishing party was an especially sweet way to mark a milestone achievement on their own particular voyage.

Now is the time to start talking to your learner about Life’s Voyages-VIII. All learners can submit articles whether they are beginning writers or advanced. We look forward to articles from Siena Center and Western Racine County.

CONVERSATION CLASSES

Please ask if your ESL learner is interested in participating in a conversation class in addition to your tutoring. There will be two classes beginning in August—one in the morning, facilitated by Russ Stetler, and one in the evening, led by Mary O’Shea. Let Diane know what days and times are the most convenient.

NEW RESOURCES

Notebook Resources for the Adult Educator is a quarterly publication of ProLiteracy. Each issue contains lesson ideas for Reading, Writing, Listening & Speaking, Numeracy, and Applied Literacy. Each lesson has a purpose, a basic activity and expansion activities. These resource books provide excellent ideas for enriching your tutoring sessions. They are in the RLC library to the left of the coffee.

Hands on English is in a 3 ring binder on the same shelf as the ProLiteracy Notebook. It is a bimonthly publication with a variety of ideas for teaching grammar, vocabulary, reading, speaking and listening.

Are you familiar with *News for You*, the weekly newspaper published by New Readers Press? It is located on the lower shelf to the left of the filing cabinet in the RLC library. It has a variety of articles written at an easier reading level than the *Racine Journal Times*, and each issue has a Teacher's guide and a crossword puzzle. You can now also read and listen to the top stories online at newsforyouonline.com.

Tutor, Dianne Rice, suggests cdlponline.org. It is an interesting site established by the California Distance Learning Project. It includes reading and comprehension activities, some related to lifeskill goals. Her student likes the site very much.

Check out these resources!



NEW CITIZENSHIP CLASS

A new citizenship class will begin on Wednesday, August 19 from 6:00—8:00 p.m. It will be held at RLC and will run for 8 weeks. The class is taught in English and no childcare is available.

The charge of \$35 for the class includes the registration fee and the cost of materials. RLC learners are charged only for their books. Preregistration is required. Contact RLC (262-632-9495) for more information or to register.

AGENCY NEWS

by Kay Gregor

Summer at the Racine Literacy Council is unusually busy this year. Not only is the **SUMMER READ:** read-a-thon in full swing, we are now in the process of developing the **Shakespeare Urban Garden** on the RLC grounds. You may have been aware of the six young women working in the garden, preparing the beds and planting planters. They are part of a Summer Youth Program through the Workforce Development Center. We have a young man, an intern landscaping gardener, working through Careers, on the project as well. RLC volunteers Nancy Elsmo, Andy McLean, and Sandy Riekoff have been supervising and instructing the summer workers on gardening and Shakespeare.

The **lower level construction** bids are out for the remodeling of the basement. We hope to begin the RLC "Lower Level" project by September. New tables, chairs, and computers will be purchased for new tutoring and classrooms and the Lucille Nielsen Boardroom. \$75,000 was raised for the project over the past year. Thank you to all who have donated to Project Growth.

The **Spelling Bee** Committee has been working over the summer to make this Bee better than ever. A special "Crystal Raffle" will be held to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the event. The adult spelling bee will be held on October 30 at Roma Lodge. We would love to have a team or two from the Racine Literacy Council. Please let Kay or Gloria know if you are interested. If you or your family have a business we invite you to place an ad in the event program. The goal is to raise \$6000 for the adult tutoring program. Individual tickets will be available in September.

First Lady **Jessica Doyle** will be visiting the Racine Literacy Council on July 30 at 10:30 a.m. We will be updating her on the work of the Council and all the RLC summer activities. We invite tutors and students to come and meet her. This will be an exciting morning.

Reminder: RLC is currently closed on Fridays.



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Upcoming Events

June 8—September 8—Summer Read “read-a-thon”

August 1— Bake Sale @ Farmer’s Market

August 22—Wine Tasting Fund Raiser @ Uncorkt

September 7—RLC Closed; reopen September 8

September 15—Volunteer Recognition Evening @ Meadowbrook Country Club

