

Tutor Talk

April 2009

Racine Literacy Council

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NEW TUTORS

Welcome to the following people who have become tutors since January 2009:

(February 2009) Kathy Crawford, Becky Collins, Sue Fergus, Glenn Gordon, JoAnn Hansen, Ruth Bradford Johnson, Jilayne Kiznicki, Kimberly Neal, Linda Stewart, and Jeanne Wideberg.

(April 2009) Sandra Brosseau, Susan Brunn, Edward McCarthy, and Carolyn Scherer. Sr. Joyce Quintana, the program coordinator at Siena Center, also attended the training.

The next training will be in June.

LIFE'S VOYAGES—VOLUME 7

There is still time to submit your learner's story for Life's Voyages 7. Completed stories should be submitted to Diane or Joyce by April 17. Stories can be submitted by email, on disk, or hard copy.

The publishing party will be on June 18 in the Michigan Room (Racine Building) of Gateway Technical College-Racine at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited. Authors and their tutors will receive free copies of the book. Melissa Kane is organizing the party.

You'll find copies of previous volumes of Life's Voyages in the RLC and the Racine and Lakeshore Public Libraries. Many teams use this book as one of their readers. Check them out!

ALSO IN JUNE— RLC COMPUTER INSERVICE

Do you and your learner use the computers at RLC? Would you like to become more familiar with Rosetta Stone, the Language Tune-up Kit or Inspiration software? If so, plan come to RLC Saturday morning, June 27, for hands-on practice with these valuable computer programs. Rosetta Stone levels 1, 2 and 3 provides variety and enrichment for ESL learners. The Language Tune-up Kit provides a systematic approach to using letter sounds for reading and spelling. Inspiration is a wonderful program for organizing writing projects using graphic organizers. Watch for details coming soon!

NEW RESOURCES

LIBRARY

Health Series: What To Do . . .

... For Senior Health

... When You're Having a Baby

... For Healthy Teeth

... For Teen Health

... When Your Child Gets Sick

You'll find these books in the RLC library under Life Skills, Health and Wellness.

ON-LINE

Superpages: Computer and Internet Skills

Project developed by ProLiteracy and funded by Superpages.com

The on—line course consists of five lessons about using the internet ; each lesson demonstrates a specific search skill — getting directions to a specific location, for example, or using the keyword search to find a specific type of business. After the demonstration, the student can practice exactly what he or she saw in the demonstration. The lesson ends with the student using Superpages.com to perform a similar search for businesses in his or her own city. Each screen has accompanying audio and the demonstrations are narrated to support adult learners who have trouble reading the screen text.

In addition to the course, there are free, downloadable Teacher's Notes that offer discussion ideas for introducing each lesson, identify key vocabulary, and provide ideas for expanding the activities. There also is a free, downloadable Student Workbook with step-by-step directions for the features highlighted in the lesson and a worksheet for the activity in which the student applies the new skills to search for businesses in his or her home community.

The course, *Getting Started with Superpages.com*, a PDF of the Teacher's Notes, and a PDF of the Student Workbook can be found at www.superpages.com/adultlearners. A copy of the Student Workbook and Teacher's Notes are also in the library for you to photocopy.



MIKE KANIA
Citizenship Tutor

Mike is a retired U.S. history and American Government teacher, who taught for 33 years both at Mitchell Middle and Park High Schools in the Racine Unified School District. He still works part time at Carthage College as a University Supervisor of student teachers. For the past couple of years he has volunteered as the teacher of the Citizenship class at the Racine Literacy Council. "When my daughter lived in Racine, she was a volunteer tutor and let me know what a great experience she had. You could say I am following in her footsteps."

The Citizenship class is meant to help registered aliens obtain their American citizenship. The naturalization process involves a ten page application plus a \$675 fee, having fingerprints taken, submitting photographs, and an "interview" with a Homeland Security official. The interview consists of speaking and writing English and then a "test" in American Government, History and Geography. If they complete the process successfully they are then sworn in as U.S. citizenships before a federal judge.

The 8 week class at the RLC meets one day a week for 2 hours. The class focuses for the most part on helping understand and knowing what will be on the "test". Many different nationalities and stories have been represented in the class offered. "It has been a pleasure and an honor to work with such wonderfully motivated people who take pride in their adopted nation and wish to obtain citizenship. I have found most of the people take the class as a 'thank you' to the United States for all the rights and privileges that our country has to offer both citizens and noncitizens alike."

NEW CITIZENSHIP CLASS

A new citizenship class will begin on Monday, May 11 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.

ALL TUTOR REUNION *by Clare Cross*

On March 10th an RLC meeting brought together experienced tutors, newer tutors, and staff in an informal setting at the meeting room of the condo complex at the intersection of Hwy. 20 and Hwy. H. Special thanks to Carol Hegmann, RLC Recruitment Coordinator, for making the arrangement to use the room.

Tutors had a chance to get to know other tutors while enjoying delicious pizza and dessert. Having a get-together of this type gave all of us a chance to ask questions and have them answered by staff or well-experienced tutors. Tutors who live outside of the city of Racine appreciated the staff choosing a site that was easier for them to get to.

I think all who attended would definitely give this meeting a '10'. Thanks go out to all the staff who made the arrangements, and to RLC for funding the delicious meal!

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 and/or English language skills. The first learners were inducted in 2003. To date, 23 learners have been inducted into NAEHS.

WELCOME NEW TUTOR TRAINER

Sr. Joyce Quintana will be presenting the "pronunciation" segment of the tutor training in June. Sr. Joyce was the coordinator of the Adult Learning Program at Siena Center until their program was integrated into RLC. She is an experienced ESL tutor trainer and we are please to have her helping us.

INSERVICE—ASK THE EXPERT

by Cheryl Heck

On March 31, several basic literacy tutors got together with Ruth Bradford-Johnson to discuss learning difficulties. The tutors provided their views as to what makes learning difficult for their students. Most cited social environment, dyslexia, and demands on the student's time as roadblocks to learning.

Ruth suggested it may be possible to overcome these roadblocks by tailoring lessons and homework to a student's strength. If you would like more ideas or help in another aspect of tutoring, Ruth is available to meet with you. Contact Joyce for more information.

RUTH BRADFORD-JOHNSON

Ruth Bradford-Johnson is a new volunteer at the Racine Literacy Council. However, she is not new to the role of helping teachers (tutors) and students (learners) gain the maximum from instructional time.

For thirty-two years, Ruth worked with regular education and exceptional education teachers and students in the Racine Unified School District. Almost 20 years of her tenure was devoted to developing the Learning Disabilities Program and supporting teachers and students. Ruth enjoyed the challenge of discovering the methods and materials that helped a learner reach success.

Since retiring from RUSD in 2005, Ruth and her husband Wayne have traveled extensively. This nomadic life makes it impossible to tutor for RLC. Therefore, Ruth has returned to her role as a support teacher: a support to both tutors and learners.

ASK THE EXPERT

A new feature in Tutor Talk

As a result of the "Ask the Expert" in-service, we've decided to have an "Ask the Expert" feature in Tutor Talk.

Do you have a question about ways to improve your tutoring or concerns about your learner's progress? If so, "Ask the Expert" by dropping your question in the suggestion box by the log-in book at RLC or emailing, snail mailing, or calling Diane or Joyce. Questions and answers will be published in "Tutor Talk"

Who are the experts? You and anyone who may have an answer is an expert.

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AGENCY NEWS

Shakespeare Garden

A Shakespeare Garden is planned for the RLC grounds as part of a larger Shakespeare Urban Garden Walk along Lake Avenue. The garden will emphasize how language, reading and writing are important to life. The garden will be collection of plants, flowers, herbs or trees mentioned in the works of Shakespeare. It will also include an original mural by local artist, Jerrold Belland.



Earth Day for Shakespeare at the RLC, April 18
Celebrate Earth Day on Saturday by coming to RLC to help prepare areas for our new Shakespeare Garden. We need to rake leaves, trim a few small trees, cut down brush, and maybe even prune some plants if the weather is nice. We'll have some tools on hand, but bring your own if you have them.

Shakespeare Birthday Party – April 23
To raise money for our Shakespeare Garden and kick off the "Summer Read" *, we are having a Shakespeare fundraiser and birthday party on April 23 at The Red Onion Café, 555 Main St, Racine, from 5.30 -7.30 p.m. There will be a Shakespeare Sale featuring a wide range of donated items: books by and about Shakespeare, art work, buttons, posters, statues, and much more. A donation of \$10, payable at the door, is suggested. Musicians and actors will perform and snacks will be provided. In addition, you can help judge, buy the cakes/food in our Edible Book Competition. (If you have something Shakespeare to donate for this sale, call Andy McLean at 262-833-0092 to arrange pickup). *This year's RLC read-a-thon fundraiser, the "Summer Read", will take place from June 8—September 8.

Enter an Edible Book
Professional and amateur cake decorators and chefs, are asked to enter a Shakespeare themed edible book for the Edible Book Contest. This could reflect a play, quote, character, or even an image of the great bard himself! The more the merrier so please contact the RLC or check the website for an entry form.

Project Growth
Due to the growth in services offered and the increase in the number of adults seeking services, the RLC needs to maximize the full use of the building by remodeling the "lower level" There will be more classroom space for citizenship and English as a second language classes and new computer study stations for learners in the program.



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Upcoming Events

April 17—Deadline to submit stories for Life's Voyages VII

April 23—Shakespeare's Birthday Party

May 25—RLC Closed; reopen May 26

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

June 18 - Life's Voyages Publishing Party

September 7—RLC Closed; reopen September 8

September 15—Volunteer Recognition Evening

