

# LITERACY MATTERS

FALL/WINTER 2013

Literacy Matters is a recurring publication of Literacy Nassau, Inc.



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## THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME



The following article has been reprinted from Anton Publications. It originally appeared island-wide on September 13, 2013.

### Local Foundation's Big Boost For Literacy \$300,000 gift will bring English skills to hundreds more

The John & Janet Kornreich Charitable Foundation is donating \$300,000 to Literacy Nassau. This Freeport-based not-for-profit provides one-on-one tutoring and small-group instruction in reading, writing and speaking English to functionally illiterate adults. Its work has been underway since 1968.

Literacy Nassau's program uses a combination of trained adult literacy volunteers and professional instructors to help adults reach lifelong goals, such as obtaining meaningful employment, becoming a U.S. Citizen, or simply becoming less isolated as a parent by participating in children's educational and extra-curricular activities.

"With this generous donation, we expect to eliminate the large waiting list for our teaching services as well as eventually double the

number of students served per year," said Literacy Nassau's Executive Director Karen Micciche.

"Students come to us from varied backgrounds," she continued. "Some are immigrants who come to America in search of a better life for themselves and their families, but without the necessary language skills. Without our help, they may end up unemployed or underemployed and unable to realize that dream. Others are native-born English speakers who struggle with reading and writing, often due to undiagnosed learning disabilities. Our free services target those who are hardest to reach, those who can't easily assimilate into a large group classroom setting."

Foundation Trustee John Kornreich of Old Westbury said he sees a great deal to like in the organization and its work.

"We are impressed with the literacy mission, Nassau County localism, efficient economics, and strong leadership," said Kornreich. "And that's why we're making this significant commitment to Literacy Nassau."

(Above: Mr. and Mrs. John Kornreich; Below: Mr. Kornreich and Karen at Recognition Night)



## THOUGHTS FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Hi Everyone,

Can you believe it? A gift of \$300,000! It's important that I share with you how truly excited I am to put this gift to work. We are planning to use this funding to expand our tutor force (using innovative new recruitment techniques, including the launch of a TV commercial!), to train and support the expanded new tutor force, and to eliminate our waiting list in the span of approximately six months. That means that this coming spring, you are going to see a TON of Tutor Training Workshops being offered -and starting now, we've got some great recruitment incentives going on so tutors can refer their friends to us! (See page 3 for details.)

I have to publicly thank Mr. and Mrs. Kornreich for their support of our important work. This gift is going to change the lives of so many people!

*Karen*



Our family is preparing for our second baby girl, due in November! I'll be out through the holidays, but I wish all of you a happy holiday season (in advance!).

## LITERACY SPECIALIST'S CORNER - THAT PESKY LETTER "R"

(submitted by Barbara Fody)

It is not surprising that the American "th" sound is difficult for most English Language learners. Not only is the sound not present in many languages, but the combination of t and h is also unusual in languages other than English.

Surprisingly, the letter "r" is also widely problematic for our learners. In many languages which actually have the letter r, it is pronounced differently, with a "trill" or a "roll." To make a proper "r" sound the following must happen:

1. The tip of the tongue is raised but does not touch the roof of the mouth.
2. The center of the tongue feels as if it

is going down.

3. The sides of the tongue gently touch, but do not push on the upper teeth.

Try it yourself as you pronounce words containing the letter "r"! Here is a helpful word list to get you started:

|        |       |       |
|--------|-------|-------|
| Run    | Rent  | Rave  |
| Rake   | Rest  | Rage  |
| Right  | Raid  | Rail  |
| Really | Ripe  | Rope  |
| Rare   | Rhyme | Rub   |
| Raise  | Race  | Rush  |
| Roll   | Roam  | Rough |

For more pronunciation tips and strategies look for our Pronunciation IST in the Winter Program Guide.

## FRIENDLY REMINDER

**Remember to send in your student's instructional hours MONTHLY!**

**Our New York State funding depends on our ability to show the state how much time our volunteers spending serving our students.**

**All hours should be reported to your Literacy Specialist, either by e-mail, snail mail or phone at 516-867-3580. Our e-mail addresses are as follows:**

**Ocaria: [osilva@literacynassau.org](mailto:osilva@literacynassau.org)  
Barbara: [bfody@literacynassau.org](mailto:bfody@literacynassau.org)  
Umama: [upasha@literacynassau.org](mailto:upasha@literacynassau.org)**

## UPCOMING CITIZENSHIP DRIVE

As you know, thanks to our grant from the NYS Office for New Americans, one of the free services we are now able to offer includes legal assistance with the filing of N-400 and I-912 applications! The N-400 is the application for U.S. Citizenship, and the I-912 is an application for a fee waiver to accompany the N-400, if you qualify.

The best thing about this type of drive is that all you have to do is come with your information - including your green card, your passport, marriage/divorce certificates, and addresses/phone numbers of your previous residences and employers. You can also bring pay stubs, tax returns, or statements of government subsidies (such as SSI) you may be receiving. We take care of the rest! We will complete the forms with you one on one, preparing everything including the envelope, and all you have to do is answer some questions and take the completed forms to the post office! Every form is reviewed by an attorney, who is also available for questions/consultations.

Our next drive is scheduled for Thursday, November 7th from 1pm-8pm at St. Aloysius Church in Great Neck. If your student would like to make an appointment to attend the drive, please have him/her call our office at (516) 867-3580.



Pictured left: Student Ana Ruiz and tutor Peter Walsh in the lobby of the USCIS building after Ana passed her U.S. Citizenship exam!

## IN-SERVICE TRAININGS TO WATCH FOR

At Literacy Nassau, we pride ourselves in the connections we build with our tutors. When you talk, we listen! It is with this in mind that we develop our In-Service Training Calendar each season. In-Service Trainings (more commonly known as ISTs) are small workshop opportunities for continuing professional development and networking with other tutors. We base our ideas for ISTs on conversations we have with you about common student issues and/or resources you might be looking for.

We have two ISTs coming up in November that still have space available: our Web Resources IST, hosted by Ocaria, and a brand new ELL Refresher Workshop, hosted by Umama. The Web Resources IST is a favorite among tutors who are computer-savvy, as it reviews some of the newest and best websites and apps to help you develop lesson plans and/or work with your student. This IST will take place on Tuesday, November 5th from 1pm-3pm in our office in Freeport.

The ELL Refresher is a new IST. Put together by Literacy New York, this IST offers a helpful review of best practices and techniques to use with your ELL student. This is the perfect workshop for tutors who either took our Tutor Training Workshop more than 2 years ago or tutors who just want to brush up on their tutoring skills. It's also a good fit for any BL tutors who might be interested in potentially taking on a

new ELL student. This workshop will take place on Wednesday, November 6th from 1:30-3:30pm at our office in Freeport.

Starting this winter, you will notice even more new ISTs! Thanks to Capital One, we look forward to expanding our MoneyWi\$e series to include an IST about Identity Theft and Account Fraud, as well as one about purchasing a home. These topics are of common concern to students, particularly as they begin to learn about (and build up) their own credit.

We are also planning a new Pronunciation IST, hosted by Barbara. This workshop will take the best practices of our previous Pronunciation workshops and will incorporate some new methodologies/techniques. Barbara is also excited to introduce two other new workshops: Explicit Instruction and Introduction to Math! Explicit Instruction is a systematic method of teaching with emphasis on proceeding in small steps, checking for student understanding, and achieving active and successful participation. It is intended for use with our BL students. Introduction to Math will be a pilot project, specifically intended to address common issues BL tutors face when trying to help their students develop math skills. This has been an stumbling block for tutors for years, and we are thrilled to be able to address this need!

For more information about these ISTs, give us a call at (516) 867-3580.

## THANK YOU!

Over the past few months, the staff at Literacy Nassau has worked diligently to raise awareness about our cause and steward our donors. This has resulted in the cultivation of some new gifts, and the renewal of some gifts we were fortunate enough to receive last year.

As stated in our front page article, the biggest and most exciting gift is the \$300,000 pledge from Mr. and Mrs. Kornreich. This gift will be payable over three years and will change the way we do business, eliminating the waiting list and moving us towards a more efficient tutor-student matching system. By infusing an extremely large number of new tutors in a very short time, we will be able to clear out all students who are presently waiting for services, without putting off any new students who come to us during this transition period. These changes will be sustainable and will have a lasting impact that extends beyond our current student base but reaches their families, and even their communities. We do not have words adequate enough to express our gratitude for this gift. We look forward to sharing our success with both the Kornreich family and all of you as our work progresses.

We have also received many other gifts which greatly support and expand the base of students who we can help. These grants are as follows:

**NYS Office for New Americans:** Our ONA grant, in the amount of \$149,630, has been renewed for a second year. Having served 180+ students through this project so far, the need for citizenship and ESOL is obviously huge in our county, and we are excited to be positioned to continue meeting this need!

**Guru Krupa Foundation:** This is Guru Krupa Foundation's second year supporting LN. Their gift of \$25,000 will offset costs associated with 3 of our upcoming Tutor Training Workshops. We are proud to be closely aligned with the philosophy driving the Guru Krupa Foundation: helping those less fortunate, acquiring new knowledge, and preserving existing knowledge. Thank you so much for your continued partnership and support! We could not be more grateful!

**National Book Fund (ProLiteracy America):** The NBF awarded us \$2,000 in new books, used to fill up our in-house library! Thank you for this amazing gift!

**RTS Family Foundation:** RTS Family Foundation has supported LN for years. This year's gift of \$35,000 will help offset the costs of staffing, supplies, and administrative overhead. We are so appreciative of the ongoing support of this wonderful foundation. From all of us, thank you so much!

**Capital One:** Our partnership with Capital One has grown so much over the past year! They are truly committed to actively bettering the communities where we live, work, and play. Their gift of \$15,000 will support all 9 of our MoneyWi\$e IST modules for the 2013-14 year, and their mini-grant of \$750 enabled us to host our 2nd annual Family Movie Night on October 25th. Thank you so much, Capital One!

**Bank of America:** Bank of America has also provided support to LN over the past few years. This year's increased gift of \$15,000 will help support our workforce development initiatives, particularly the tracking, case management, and training provided by our Literacy Specialists. On behalf of our students, thank you BoA!

**Willis Foundation:** The Willis Foundation has generously donated \$2,200 towards the costs of one of our upcoming workshops. This is an increase in their gift to us from last year and we are so thankful! The support and assistance of the Willis Foundation is greatly appreciated!

**People's United Community Foundation:** The PUCF contribution of \$2,500 helps our overall operation remain sustainable. PUCF is committed to making a difference locally, and we are proud and honored to be their partner! Thank you!

### CONGRATULATIONS!

In September and October, we trained 16 new tutors! Congratulations to the following tutors:

Pat Abbate  
Janet Bazuro  
Steve Carbone  
Kathleen Dendy  
Victor Fortunato  
Lilia Grigoryan  
Maureen Hogan  
Cynthia Kellogg  
Bill Krant  
Joyce Mongitore  
David Pliskin  
Lauren Quinn  
Susan Recht  
Michelle Russo  
Diane Tully  
Anne Zajac

### FOR THE READER IN ALL OF US - A NEW TUTOR INCENTIVE!

In our upcoming Winter Guide, you will notice a new space on the Registration Form: the "Refer a Friend" program! If you refer a friend to us and that friend signs up to tutor with us, you will be eligible to receive a free magazine subscription - on us! It's our way of jump starting our new tutor recruitment program, and also saying thank you to those of you who help us get the word out about our volunteer opportunities. Magazine offerings will change seasonally, but here is a sampling of some of the magazines you'll be able to choose from:

|                   |                       |                |              |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Glamour           | Vanity Fair           | Bon Appetit!   | Vogue        |
| Popular Mechanics | ESPN - The Magazine   | Lucky          | Cosmopolitan |
| Marie Claire      | O, The Oprah Magazine | Car and Driver | Elle         |

Here's how it works: In a few short weeks, you'll receive the Winter Program Guide. Tell a friend to sign up for a TTW. Send in the registration form with your friend's name in the "Refer a Friend" box. Once your friend completes his/her TTW, we will send you a letter notifying you of your free magazine subscription. Just complete the short form at the bottom of the letter, indicating the shipping address and your magazine choice, and send it back to us. You can even e-mail the info to us and save a stamp! Then sit back, relax, and enjoy your free magazines!

Thank you in advance for telling all your friends about us!



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Give the gift of your support this holiday season at one of Literacy Nassau's TWO holiday fundraisers!

Check out our inserts for more details!

Happy holidays to your family, from our family!



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