

LITERACY LIGHTS



"To learn to read is to light a fire!" VICTOR HUGO

255 Clifton Boulevard, Suite 314, Westminster, Maryland 21157 • 410-857-0766 • e-mail: lcouncil@carr.org • www.literacy.carr.org

November, 2016

From the Director's Desk

By Sam Greenholtz, Director of the Literacy Council of Carroll County, MD

With the fall season having a firm grip and the holiday season fast approaching, we have entered into a much busier time at the Literacy Council. We have officially adopted a new fiscal year; changing from our June 1st to May 31st FY to January 1st to December 31st. In addition, as previously reported, Heidi White has assumed full responsibility as our Student/Tutor Coordinator. Joining the staff are several new faces:

Susan Hughes has assumed the position of Public Relations Advisor and will be working with Jo Donaldson on news releases.

Nancy Godwin is now working on the office staff one day per week.

Sandra Sidlovsky is our new Grant Writer Specialist.

Our McDaniel intern/volunteer (Stefan Specian) reports time is flying by in Budapest and he will be rejoining us after the first of the year. We wish him well in his studies abroad and hope he continues to enjoy his touring while there.

Our Taneytown location will hopefully open in early November with our Financial Advisor, Gene Pryor, serving as the contact for the facility at Trinity Lutheran Church. The furniture has been delivered and set-up will be completed by end of the week. We are preparing a media blitz for new students and tutors for both Westminster and Taneytown locations.

Preparations are underway for the new fiscal year and in particular our fundraising efforts. Please remember to support our two major projects, the Spelling Bee in April and the Golf Tournament in September. If you wish to participate or be a committee volunteer, please notify the office.

Mark your calendars for December 8th at 12:00 PM for the Board meeting followed by the Christmas party for all tutors and staff members. Details will follow later this month.

NOTE TO ALL: THE NON-PROFIT CENTER WILL BE CLOSED FROM NOVEMBER 24TH UNTIL NOVEMBER 28TH FOR THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY. THE CENTER WILL ALSO BE CLOSED FROM DECEMBER 23RD UNTIL DECEMBER 27TH. YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ENTER THE BUILDING DURING THIS TIME PERIOD FOR TRAINING PURPOSES.

**When you shop Amazon
Remember to sign on to Amazon Smile**

Amazon donates to us for each purchase you make

Why are we thankful?

We at the Literacy Council are so thankful to all of our volunteers, those who tutor and those who do not but who share the vision of building Carroll County's future.

Thank You For your time

We are thankful to all of the members of the Carroll County community who support us financially. Although we are a nonprofit (all donations are tax deductible), we receive no government financing or grants.

**Thank You
For your support**

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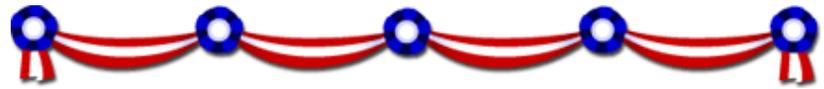
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Welcome Nancy Godwin



Nancy Godwin came to the Literacy Council as a volunteer member of the office staff in August. Nancy worked in education for many years, at the University of Maryland and at Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College). Asked why she chose to volunteer for the Literacy Council, Nancy said, "I have always been aware of the Literacy Council and the work they do and feel it is a natural fit with my work in education and I like the idea of helping people help themselves." Bill and Nancy have three children and enjoy traveling to Maui and Arizona, where two of their children live, to spend time with them and the grandchildren.



What an October for Marianne!

Marianne Cholakian was beaming as she entered the Literacy Council's office this past October. She had been tutoring two students for their citizenship exam for many months. The test is a combinations of U.S. history, geography and civics. Both of her students had signed up to take the exam in early autumn and both of her students passed on the first try, one on September 30, 2016 and the second on October 6, 2016. Marianne could not stop talking about how proud she was of both students and how hard they had worked. She was telling everyone in the office how excited and pleased she was.

One, a middle aged gentleman, will continue receiving tutoring through the Literacy Council because he still wants to improve his English skills of speaking, reading and writing. As a working man, he appreciates the flexibility the Literacy Council's one-on-one tutoring allows with his work schedule.

Marianne's second student will be working toward her GED diploma. She will begin studying at Carroll Community College in their math clinic in addition to continuing at the Literacy Council once a week working on GED preparation.

Marianne was invited to attend the Citizenship Award ceremony. There were 72 people becoming new US citizens from 35 different countries that day. To quote Marianne, "The ceremony was emotionally moving and inspiring. It was an honor to witness everyone's pride as they completed the final step of the U.S. citizenship process. As the about-to-be citizens were taking the Oath of Allegiance, I reflected on the hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication that my students put forward to achieve this milestone. They are extremely proud of their achievement, and I am extremely proud of both of my students. Working with these students and sharing their success was a tremendous rewarding experience."



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Thinking Thoughts of the Upcoming Holidays



One of our platinum sponsors for many years has been Penguin Random House. We encourage you to support our sponsor and local business by checking out their latest recommendations on their website.

<http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com>



In addition to a book, remember those who cannot read by including a gift to the Literacy Council with your gift. We will send you a Thank You and, if you include the name and address of your designee, we will also send them a Thank You letting them know of your generosity or we can mail both to you so you can deliver the notice of your generosity personally. The convenient donation form below may be used or send us the information in a note. Please use the address above and make checks payable to

The Literacy Council of Carroll County



2016 Holiday Donation Form



The Literacy Council of Carroll County relies on the support of individuals, businesses, community organizations, and foundations each year. The Literacy Council is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; your donations are tax deductible.

Name: _____ Preferred Phone: _____
Address: _____ (in case of questions)
Address2: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____

Do you wish to remain anonymous? _____ yes _____ no

Unless specified as "anonymous", donors may be listed in our newsletter, on our website and in other Literacy Council publicity.

Designee Name: _____

Designee Address: _____

Address2: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

To whom to mail designee acknowledgement? _____ me _____ designee

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New Pilot Program for Teaching

Check It Out!

The Literacy Council is piloting a computer program designed to improve the comprehension of adult readers. TOTI has 10 levels of nonfiction stories with 20 stories at each reading level. The reading level of the stories range from 2nd grade to 6th grade level and address a variety of adult topics.

The Literacy Council is making the program available to students and tutors at both the Literacy Council offices and at remote locations. To use the computer program it is necessary to have a computer with a mike and a speaker. Headphones and an external mike can also be used.

Use of the program involves reading a story the student has selected at his level, then answering questions about that story. Words that the student misses while reading are listed; this gives the student and the tutor a great opportunity to use our phonics based program to sound out the word and use context clues to discover the meaning if needed.

I encourage all tutors to take a look at the program and see if it would work with their student. Please let me know if you are interested.

Also anyone who is interested in the type of work our tutors do, please, take a look.

The web address is <https://literacy.totivt.com>. Several sites will come up on your computer, click on a few of them. You will find testimonials, sample stories, and a preview of the program from both the student and tutor viewpoint.

