



Literacy Link Spring 2007



Program Update

We are anticipating warm weather, green grass, Spring flowers, sunshine, lush mountains, sandy beaches, ocean breezes and farewell to Winter. Also on a positive note, our literacy program is succeeding in providing educational services to our clients from beginning ESL, beginning ABE to intermediate ESL, intermediate ABE to advanced. GEDs are obtained, U.S. citizenship is granted, goals such as college

entry, employment, licensing in the nursing field and general reading and writing improvement are reached. We are enabling our students and enriching our tutors through program opportunities. Please take advantage of our superb collection of tutoring materials and the ongoing meetings and workshops provided. Note the dates through August listed below and plan to attend as many events as possible.

Future Dates

(Please mark your calendar!)

Wednesday, April 4, 2007 - 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Assessment Workshop. Rebecca Wagner, guest presenter, TABE and BEST standardized tests - What? How? Why? And When? For a better understanding of test procedures and their program importance, plan to attend. Continuing education program credit. Rebecca is representing Pennsylvania Department of Adult Education.

Wednesday, April 11, 2007. 7:00 p.m. Tutor Support Meeting -Materials, old and new, tried and true and the dictionary as a teaching aid. Continuing education program credit.



Monday, April 23, 2007 - 6:30 - 8:45 p.m. and Tuesday, April 24, 2007 - 6:30 - 8:45 p.m. Spring Tutor Training. Both nights mandatory! Welcome to all new volunteers.

Wednesday, May 16, 2007 - 7:00 p.m. Tutor Support Meeting - Computers and technology - hardware and software review. Program update and "This Works for Me" session. Question and answer period. Continuing education program credit.

Wednesday, June 13, 2007 - 7:30 p.m. Gala reception honoring students and tutors. Guests invited. Come one, come all!

Tuesday, August 14, 2007 - 7:00 p.m. Tutor Support Meeting. Meet our project leaders, classroom teachers, Master Tutors - an orientation for involved tutors and newcomers. Presentation by Literacy Live troupe. Continuing education program credit.

Adult Literacy Advisory Board - Representatives of Abington Free Library, Abington Memorial Hospital, Eastern Center for Art and Technology, Penn State Abington, Abington Township Schools and Rydal Park Retirement Community comprise this committee. Library representatives are Nancy Hammeke Marshall, Doranne Smith and Marlyn Cohen.

Assessment Committee – Barbara Cooperberg, Lois Bachman, Marcia Klafter, Marcia Jacoby and Marlyn Cohen oversee procedures for the TABE and BEST TESTS. Test outcomes are analyzed and reported. The Pennsylvania Department of Education requires administration of these standardized tests. Selma Dafilou and Arlene Franco are committee members.

Citizenship Committee – Marilyn Greenwald, Chairperson, will lead U.S. Citizenship candidates through the process from green card to citizenship. She is available to answer questions about U.S. requirements. Call 215-885-5183 Elsa Louis-Charles will assist.

Conversation Please! - The daytime class meets Tuesday mornings, 10:30 till noon, under the supervision of three volunteer teachers. Ann Gaugler and Edis Hall welcome ESL students and help them feel comfortable while they learn the language and culture of America. Sara Chernoff and Jackie Cohen have joined the staff.

Conversation Please! - On Monday evenings at 7:15, Beverly Willett, Doranne Smith and Donna Hower lead an "English as a Second Language" class for foreign-born students at the library. Many countries are represented, and only English is spoken.

E-Quality Program Improvement Committee
Lois Bachman, Selma Dafilou, Arlene Franco, Marcia Klafter, Marcia Jacoby and Marlyn Cohen work together toward program improvement. How can our tutors and students be served better?

Family Literacy - Led by Family Literacy Committee members, the committee meets one morning a week in Crestmont. Led by Edith Lane, Rena Spratt and Lillian Gibson.

GED Advisory - Lois Bachman, GED advisor, is available to answer GED questions. Please call 885-5183 for information.

Literacy Live - A talented group of performers who are eager to spread the literacy word via a live, script-in-hand performance at your club, service organization, school, church or synagogue. What does it take to be a volunteer, how does a student feel about needing help, how can we help as tutors? Our group is talented and inspirational. Please call 885-5183 to volunteer your talents or inquire about a performance. Geri Tyler will lead our troupe.

Master Tutors--Three Master Tutors (Lois Bachman, Marcia Klafter, and Barbara Cooperberg) are available to answer your questions regarding students, programs, materials and all literacy matters. Please utilize this great resource for any special needs. Call 885-5183

Reading Comprehension--A class for advanced readers who want to improve reading comprehension for the G.E.D., T.O.E.F.L., N.E.T., college entrance or any specialized test requiring advanced comprehension skills. Marcia Klafter, reading specialist, will lead this class.

Technology Committee (Learning Center) - Computers, TV-VCR, and cassettes are all available in the literacy office. Our "techies", Marcia Jacoby and Elaine Lauff, are ready to help. Call 215-885-5183.

Tutor Support Committee - We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers who mail the [Literacy Link](#) and call the tutors regarding meetings, special events and program information. We meet once a month on a Monday and have a delightful time.

Workplace - Rydal Park Retirement Community is the site of a Tuesday afternoon class for employees who need literacy help. Doranne Smith, Peg Cheney and Ingrid Rivel work together to produce fine results in the workplace.

Write It Right - Students in need of extra help with grammar and writing skills are welcome Thursday afternoon from 1-2:30. Judi Rosen will lead this class, and individual instruction is available when needed. Bennett Fairorth is her able assistant.

Classifieds: Help Wanted, Help Given and Orchids!

Orchids - to Geri Tyler for taking on the leadership and revival of Literacy Live, our improvisational, theatrical troupe. A script-in-hand performance educates audiences about literacy from the tutor's and student's view. Call 215-885-5183 for more information.

Orchids - to Marilyn Greenwald, our Citizenship Chairperson, for organizing, updating and making inquiries about the latest requirements for citizenship candidates. She will be assisted by Elsa Louis-Charles. Orchids to Elsa.

Orchids - to Alice Sachs and Sarah Swanljung for tutoring math students for the GED with great success. Many thanks!

Orchids - to Lois Odabas for setting up our Webinar in the literacy office in January. She did the advance programming and it was 110%!

Orchids - to Sheila Stieritz and Mary Grasly as new members of the Tutor Support Committee. A hearty welcome to you.

➡ **Help Wanted**--Committee members for literacy program projects are always needed. If you would like to volunteer, please call 885-5183. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

➡ **Help Wanted**--Please sign out all materials in the brown sign-out book on the office desk under the first letter of your name. When returned, cross out. Please return any manuals and reusable materials so that others may use them.

➡ **Help Wanted**--Please mark your calendars for future dates through August. Come to Tutor Support Meetings as often as possible. Program continuing education credit is given.

➡ **Help Wanted**--Call 885-5183 with any special news, any changes, goals reached, anecdotal accounts, problems and questions. Please keep the lines of communication open. If you need an answer, we will reply.

➡ **Help Wanted**--Call the library's main number 885-5180 for information re/library closings during inclement weather and/or national holidays and for library hours. If the library is closed or hours shortened, please inform your student ASAP.

➡ **Help Wanted**--Please sign in at the circulation desk on the date you and your student are meeting. Those hours are calculated and recorded for the library statistics. We need your monthly attendance sheets for program data for hours and outcomes.

Orchids—to Elaine Lauff who will be working with Marcia Jacoby as a technology advisor to our tutors and students and as a data recorder. We are so pleased to have you, Elaine. She has been a dedicated tutor for several students in need. Orchids, Elaine and Marcia!

Orchids--to Marcia Klafter for the many program hats she wears. The Nurse's Entrance Test class in reading comprehension was highly successful. She serves as a Master Tutor and will be teaching a Reading Comprehension class, writes Tutoring Tips and teaches two literacy students one-on-one. Wow!!

Orchids--to the Family Literacy Committee composed of Edith Lane, Rena Spratt and Lillian Gibson for their dedication to the Head Start Program in Crestmont. Pre-schoolers benefit enormously from their special efforts. Many, many thanks!

Orchids--to the circulation staff for serving as couriers and messengers on behalf of our tutors and students. They relay important information when there is a real need.

Orchids--to the children's department staff for their literacy cooperation-occasionally a special message or a key! Thank you, Carolyn, Andy, Katie, Vicki and Ro.

Orchids--to our Master Tutors, Lois Bachman, Marcia Klafter, and Barbara Cooperberg, for being available to answer all the difficult program questions. Please call them whenever necessary at 885-5183.

Orchids--to Lois Bachman, our GED chairperson, advisor, test scorer for all standardized testing and presenter at GED Tutor Support recent meeting. For any and all GED queries, call 885-5183.

Orchids--To Nancy Hammeke Marshall, Trudy McDonald-Egitto, Karen Burnham and Rick Guyton for editing, typing, laying out and printing the [Literacy Link](#). Super job!

Orchids--to Pennsylvania Department of Education for providing an annual grant which makes the Abington Free Library Adult Literacy Program possible.

Orchids--to our exemplary tutors for their extraordinary efforts in improving their clients' lives. Our program couldn't exist without you.

Orchids--to Judi Rosen for leading the "Write It Right" class, Thursdays 1:00-2:30, helping foreign-born students improve English writing skills, GED candidates with their essays and all students with writing needs. Bennett Fairorth has joined Judi.

Orchids--to our Tutor Support Committee—Jane Taft, Elaine Lauff, Beverly Willett, Arlene Franco, Donna Hower, Ann Gaugler, Lois Bachman, Peg Cheney, Marcia Klafter and Maria Delatorre. They mail our [Literacy Link](#) and make phone calls about important literacy news. They deserve kudos. Mary Grasly and Sheila Stieritz, too!

Orchids--to our conscientious and loyal classroom teachers of "Conversation Please!" and Rydal Park Workplace. They help ESL students at the library on Monday evenings and Tuesday mornings and at the workplace class (ESL and ABE) on Tuesdays. Beverly Willett, Doranne Smith, Donna Hower, Ann Gaugler, Edis Hall, Sara Chernoff head the library classes. Peg Cheney, Ingrid Rivel, and Doranne Smith are the special Rydal Park teachers.

Orchids--to our Abington Free Library staff--reference, tech services, circulation, children's and office staff. You make our work a pleasure.

Orchids--to our incoming tutors, volunteers and students. The library doors are open, and all are welcome.

Orchids - to Richard Kerr, Reading Specialist, who was our very well-received presenter at a December Tutor Support Meeting. He gave us some excellent reading comprehension strategies and we appreciate!

Orchids - to Elaine Lauff, Arlene Franco and Sheila Stieglitz for holding down the fort during February. They answered your calls and answered your queries. Many, many thanks to them.

Orchids - to Eileen Douglass for volunteering time to coordinate with Children's Library in an endeavor to create a Family Literacy component for preschoolers at the library. A perfect match for a retired Children's Librarian!

Orchids - to Bennett Fairorth for volunteering his English expertise at Write It Right Class, as an assist to Judi Rosen. Thank you, Bennett.



The Long and Short of It

Urgent - We need to upgrade several program requirements as mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education in our literacy grant. The monthly attendance sheets including hours and educational gains give you and the program validation and credit for our efforts. The pre and post test

results are equally important, showing results of our efforts. If we all push for gains in these areas, our standing as the fine literacy program we are will improve to the finest! We need your cooperation in these matters.

New and Noteworthy

We are welcoming the unique Literacy Live troupe to spread the literacy message from the standpoint of the tutor and the student. They have been rehearsing and warming up with several program presentations and they are ready to take this show on the road to service organizations, schools, retirement communities and religious organizations.

A little past history! Approximately fifteen years ago, we began with a remarkable group who together wrote an entire book of plays, monologues and poetry entitled, "All the World's a Stage" and performed on a regular basis throughout the community and within the library. Our leaders retired or moved away. Now we are reactivated and want everyone to know of our availability. Tell everyone about Abington Free Library Adult Literacy's Literacy Live. We're ready!



Marlyn Cohen
Program Supervisor

“To laugh often and much, to win the respect of intelligent people and the respect of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others, to give of oneself; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition, to have played and laughed with enthusiasm and sung with exultation; to know even one life has breathed easier: this is to have succeeded.”

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

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