



LITERACY COUNCIL
FREDERICK COUNTY, MD

Literacy *lifts* Lives

Summer 2024 Issue

2024–2025 Board of Directors

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Celebration of Achievements Event Spotlights Learners, Volunteers, and Community

The annual Celebration of Achievements recognizing learners' milestone achievements in the past year was held on November 2nd at the Delaplaine Arts Center.

The evening featured a colorful and informative slideshow highlighting the Literacy Council's 60th anniversary, with narration by veteran volunteer Caroline Gaver. And recent students were enthusiastically applauded for their certificates of achievement, including four students accompanied by their tutors, for receiving their U.S. citizenship.

Waverly Elementary parent, Ana, was joined by her family and her tutor/instructor, John Bruton, as she shared her literacy journey in a moving video testimonial. The legacy of longtime tutor Gene Beall was remembered by former student, Martha, and daughter, Cyndi McNamara. Each spoke of the 24-year relationship between the two families that grew from Gene's weekly tutoring sessions with Martha and her husband. Martha shared: "We cannot tell our story without talking about Mr. Beall ... because he became ... like the angel that is being put into your life to guide you."



Welcome to Our Newest Manufacturing Employer: Phoenix Mecano

Workplace classes are underway for employees at Phoenix Mecano, which manufactures customized encasements for electrical components. At the conclusion of the first nine-week session, employees reported greater confidence in speaking English. Tara Julian, the firm's Human Resources Manager, said: "We believe that education sponsored during work is important. We are investing in our people and removing the barriers. ... We are thankful to have the Literacy Council as a partner!"



It's Working! New Hospitality Employers Join Workplace Classes

The addition of Cohenterprises, Inc. and Cici's Pizza brings to a total ten area hospitality organizations with employees enrolled in weekly English classes available through the Literacy Council's Workplace Literacy Program.

Grant funding from the Maryland Department of Commerce's Office of Tourism, the Tourism Council of Frederick County—Visit Frederick, and other local funders to support classes teaching job-specific English language skills has lasting benefits for businesses, employees, and the overall economic well-being of our region.

The Workplace Literacy Program is an exceptional opportunity ... not only do the weekly classes assist [employees] in their communication with English-speaking coworkers and supervisors, but it also gives the learners a greater sense of confidence in their interactions with guests and clients ... leading to greater customer satisfaction.

Susan Lent-Cohen, Business Owner, Cohenterprises, Inc.



Volunteers Receive Elizabeth H. Seligmann Award

Martin Cole and George Conly each received the Literacy Council's highest volunteer award in recognition of their sustained and significant contributions furthering the goals and objectives of the Council.



Community Collaboration Expands Access to Critical Literacy Programs

As the need for English language programs for adult learners grows, the Literacy Council is expanding inter-agency coordination. Greater access to these volunteer-taught programs is now available with the recent addition of a class at the Asian American Center's newly opened Family Support Center, ongoing classes at several Frederick County Public Libraries locations, the Judy Centers' Early Childhood Literacy Programs at six elementary schools, and the addition of Parent English classes this fall at Hillcrest Elementary. Resource fairs with Frederick Community College also provide pathways to students on their literacy journeys.

Welcome to Our Newest Members of the Board of Directors!



Elaine Luttrell



Patty McDonald



Dr. Gregory Rausch



Dana Adams Tate

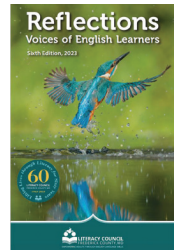


The Council Honors An Outstanding Friend

The Literacy Council recently recognized George Delaplaine Jr., a longtime friend and supporter, with its Business & Industry Partners in Literacy Award. George was honored for his legendary leadership and community involvement, philanthropic work, and tireless support for education and literacy programs.

Reflections Literary Magazine Publishes 6th Edition

Students, tutors, board members, and families of the Literacy Council gathered to hear student authors read from their submissions featured in the sixth edition of Reflections—Voices of English Learners. The event was held at The Frederick News-Post.



Sixty-Year Tutoring Program Helps Literacy Lift Lives

The Literacy Council's tutoring program has had an indelible impact on the lives of more than 10,000 area adults. It has in recent years expanded to allow even more learners access to dedicated volunteers. Targeted English language instruction to individuals or small groups of adults at beginning literacy levels—or to native English speakers struggling with reading or GED preparation—provides the boost needed to acquire the necessary skills to get to the next level. Gains in everyday life skills run the gamut: job certifications, driver's licenses, GED exams, enrollment at FCC, acquiring a job—or moving to a better one—and earning U.S. citizenship, as in the case of four students recognized during the Celebration event.



Literacy lifts Lives

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FOR LITERACY

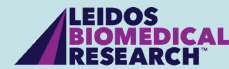
Scrabble Mania for Literacy at Steinhardt Brewing Company

On May 3rd, players teamed up with Game Master Chris Sparks from Surelocked In Escape Games. A record 29 teams competed in a fast-paced word play "Scrabble with a twist"! Congratulations to our winning teams!

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!



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