



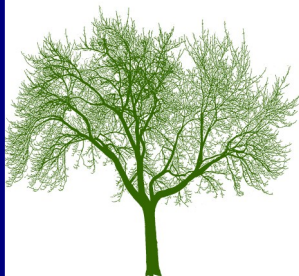
THE LITERACY CONNECTOR

Fall 2013

*"Helping people to
read, write, and reach
their potential"*

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*Continuity gives us
roots; change gives us
branches, letting us
stretch and grow and
reach new heights.*

~Pauline R. Keizer

Change is in the Air...



In April, we bid farewell to our Executive Director, Margaret Pfaff. Marj dedicated her life and talents to the cause of Literacy. After 16 years of loyal service to Literacy Connections, Marj has moved on to further pursue her philanthropic passion and be closer to her family. We wish our dear colleague and friend the best in her new endeavor.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Marisol Rodriguez** as Executive Director of Literacy Connections. Marisol has been with Literacy Connections for over fourteen years as the Business Manager and brings to her new position extensive nonprofit fiscal management experience as well as in-depth knowledge of the agency. We are confident that Marisol's experience, vision, and proven commitment to Literacy Connections will enable the agency to move forward in these tough economic times.



Welcome!

We are delighted to extend an official (and overdue) welcome to **Judy Connolly** as our new Book Buddies Coordinator. No stranger to LC, Judy has served as a tutor and committee member of LC Annual Community Spelling Bee. Judy has brought new energy and rigor to the Book Buddies program. She has successfully closed the school year 2012-2013 and seamlessly moved us into the summer reading program with ease.

Terez Limer also joined our staff in the spring replacing Heather Martin as Coordinator at our LC North office in Hudson. Terez brings a wealth of nonprofit experience and a rich background in journalism. We are fortunate to be able to tap onto her expertise and look forward to Terez's contribution in the continued growth and success of our Hudson office.

Last but not least, **Nancy Concia** is our latest addition to the staff. She joined us in August as our Bookkeeper/Office Manager. Nancy will be responsible for managing the fiscal transactions of the agency and will be overseeing the administrative functions of the office.

Save-the-Date

23rd Annual
Community



March 19, 2014
at Marist College

*As we look forward to our
2014 Spelling Bee, we want
to thank our
2013 sponsors:*

Golden Honey Bee
Millbrook Rotary Club

Bronze Bee
Appraisal One, Inc.
Arlington Teachers' Association
Finkelstein & Partners
Friends of the Poughkeepsie
Library
Hudson Valley Federal Credit
Union

Busy Bee
Advantage Benefits Consulting
Austin Hodgkins/Emery & Webb,
Inc.
Bridgeway Federal Credit Union
Brinckerhoff & Neuville, Inc.
Central Hudson
Daily Planet
Dana Lynn Real Estate LLC
Donald Holzhammer
Dr. Joseph G. Dell, D.D.S., PC
Dr. Victor Feit & Dr. Jason
Necoletti, DDS
DSL
Dutchess County Probation
Dutchess United Educators
East Fishkill Rotary Club

Literacy Ambitions Pay Off

From her arrival at our agency, Elva Corbaton, from Mexico, was an eager student of English, reliable and dutiful in doing her homework. Her tutor, Bob Lewis pronounced her an excellent, hard-working student. After several years, because of her desire to give back to the agency, Elva started volunteering for us in the office, shelving books in our library and working on chores on the computer.

So a year or so later, a staff person from Adriance Library called looking for a bilingual student who might be able to do outreach to the Latino community and teach a computer class in Spanish. We recommended Elva and put her in touch with the library. Several months later, Elva was hired for the job and now, through our collaboration with Adriance Library, Elva is being paid to teach computer classes in Spanish and to recruit students for our Monday night ESL classes which take place at Adriance. We regularly serve 20 to 30 students a night with volunteer English tutors teaching at five different levels. Elva is kind, approachable and helpful. She loves her job shepherding students to the appropriate level class and escorting parents with their children to our free babysitting service. Her computer classes on Tuesday and Wednesday nights are always full, and there is always a smile on Elva's face.

Summer Slide

The "summer slide" isn't a fun new piece of playground equipment. It's how educators refer to the academic loss that children experience when they don't read over the summer. Well, the children at the Community Family Development Center won't have to worry about that slide given the amazing job they did reading this summer.

The twenty-five children in the school-age room at CFD Center, ages 6-12 years old, were challenged by the Center's Board of Directors to read at least 10 books each. If they reached their goal, the children would get to choose their reward. CFD center partnered with Literacy Connections' Classroom Book Buddies, a program funded by United Way to encourage children to keep up their reading and explore a variety of books. Volunteers from Classroom Book Buddies read with the children weekly in July and August, bringing 30-40 books each visit.

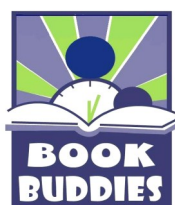
With the help of their teachers and volunteers at



Books Read by the Children at the
Community Family
Development Center

Classroom Book Buddies, the children just didn't meet their goal—they blew it away! To help the children stay motivated, the teachers had them write the title of each book they read on a colorful slip of paper and post it on their reading wall. By the end of the summer, these twenty-five children had read 376 books! Their reading wall went from floor to ceiling. They truly earned their reward—a trip to play Laser Tag.

In addition to a great time playing Laser Tag, the children received a reward that is even more valuable. Thanks to the CFD Center Board, caring teachers, and dedicated Classroom Buddies volunteers, these children will start the new school year off even more successfully. Anyone who has a love of reading that they would like to share with children in the community can consider volunteering for the Book Buddies program which runs over the summer and throughout the school year. For more information, please call 845-452-8670, email BookBuddies@LiteracyConnections.org or visit www.LiteracyConnections.org.



Book Buddies Questions Answered

A United Way Funded Program



What is it? Book Buddies is a program that gives adult volunteers the opportunity to read one-on-one with elementary school children on a weekly basis, right in the school.

Who do we serve? We help children in 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade selected by their teacher for extra reading practice.

Where are we? Arlington, Beacon, Poughkeepsie, Wappingers, and Hyde Park Schools – and looking to expand to additional Dutchess County and Newburgh schools

How long have we been around? Two years

How are we doing? For the 2012-2013 school year, 100% of the teachers wanted to continue to have Book Buddies for their students and 97% of students in the program improved both reading skills and reading confidence.

Who are our volunteers? Our volunteers are working and retired adults, college students, at-home parents, and seniors.

What is the commitment? One hour per week from October through May

Why do we do this? It is critical for children to read at grade level by 3rd grade since it is the time when they are transitioning from *learning to read* to *reading to learn*.

What if I want more info? Contact Judy at 845-452-8670 or BookBuddies@LiteracyConnections.org or visit www.LiteracyConnections.org

Busy Bee (continued)

Fishkill Rotary
 Hooker Ave Travel
 Howard & Celestine Campbell
 Hyde Park Chapter AARP No.
 4561/Margaret & Richard Pfaff
 Hyde Park Teachers' Association
 Intone Office Products
 Friends of Literacy In Memory of
 Mary Scott
 Judy B. Connolly
 Karin B. Laeben
 Key Bank
 Lawrence Hughes
 Linda & Guy Dearing
 Logistics Management Inc.
 Mahopac National Bank
 Maids Unlimited
 Marc Gravatt
 Marist College
 McCabe & Mack, LLP
 Mchoul Funeral Home, Inc.
 Michael K. Kistner Esq & Vincent
 J. Catano Esq
 Melzingah Chapter NSDAR
 Mid-Hudson Multiple Listing
 Service, LLC
 NAPMW-Hudson Valley
 NO Name—BEE
 Otis/Thompson Families
 Our Lady of Lourdes High School
 Poughkeepsie South Rotary Club
 Price Chopper's Golub
 Foundation
 Riverside Bank
 Roy T. Budnik & Associates, Inc.
 Royal Carting Service, Inc.
 Sedore & Company, C.P.A.'s, P.C.
 Stacy & Hilary Renner
 Ulster Savings Bank
 Walsh, Wicks & Salisbury
 Wappingers Congress of
 Teachers

HELP
WANTED



We need **Spelling Bee Committee Members** to help us plan for the 2014 Spelling Bee. Please call Barbara at 452-8670 or email at: Bjune@literacyconnections.org for more information.



"Helping people to read, write, and reach their potential"

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NEWBURGH, NY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2.2 million people each year
(44,000 each week)
are added to the adult
illiterate population in the
United States.
(U.S. Dept. of Education)

You can help us fight illiteracy!
Become a volunteer, tutor or
donate today.

Tutor Training Workshops

**Fall workshops are starting soon. Please call to register or for more information
Dutchess: (845) 452-8670 / Hudson: (518) 697-8227**

Literacy Connections Office, 325 Main Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Thurs, Sept 26th	9:30 to 4:00	English for Speakers of Other Languages	Session 1 & 2
Thurs, Oct 3rd	9:30 to 4:00	English for Speakers of Other Languages	Session 3 & 4
Thurs, Oct 17th	9:30 to 4:00	Basic Reading & Writing	Session 1 & 2
Thurs, Oct 24th	9:30 to 4:00	Basic Reading & Writing	Session 3 & 4
Sat, Oct 19th	9:30 to 4:00	Basic Reading & Writing	Session 1 & 2
Sat, Oct 26th	9:30 to 4:00	Basic Reading & Writing	Session 3 & 4

Salem Tabernacle, 7 Delevan Ave, Beacon, NY 12508

Sat. Sept 28th	9:30 to 4:00	English for Speakers of Other Languages	Session 1 & 2
Sat, Oct 5th	9:30 to 4:00	English for Speakers of Other Languages	Session 3 & 4

Tivoli Library, 86 Broadway, Tivoli, NY 12583

Mon, Oct 21st	12:00 PM to 6:30	English for Speakers of Other Languages	Session 1 & 2
Mon, Oct 28th	12:00 PM to 6:30	English for Speakers of Other Languages	Session 3 & 4

Hudson Library, 400 State Street, Hudson, NY 12534

Sat. Nov. 9th	10:00 AM to 4:30 PM	Basic Reading & Writing	Session 1 & 2
Sat Nov. 16th	10:00 AM to 4:30 PM	Basic Reading & Writing	Session 3 & 4