



Please Read!

February/March 2019

Bringing in 2019 with a Bang

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Happy New Year! 2019 promises to be a positive year for the Literacy Council. Many new things are on the horizon to better serve our students.

As we start 2019, the biggest change coming to the Council is that we are saying “so long” to Cathy Martin, our English Forward Coordinator. Cathy is not disappearing completely, however. She is looking forward to spending time with her soon-to-be-two-year-old daughter, and she will still be assisting the Council with special workplace learning projects and instructing the English Forward Training from time to time. After February 7, any English Forward trainers can direct questions to me at ryan@lcrb.org or 610.670.9960. Thank you, Cathy!

The BB&T Economic Growth Fund of the Berks County Community Foundation recently awarded The Literacy Council of Reading-Berks a \$20,000 grant to support adult literacy. This local grant award is part of more than \$500,000 in grants awarded throughout Berks County in 2018.

We are fortunate that BB&T is supporting our workforce development efforts in Berks County. As a result of this grant award, the Council will be able to further support our existing workforce development program, as well as launch a new workplace professionalism program for English as a Second Language (ESL) adults in the spring.

Please make plans to attend our Annual Tutor/Student Awards Dinner on Monday, April 29. Nomination forms for this year’s awards can be found as an insert to this newsletter.

Thanks for everything you do! We appreciate it!



OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 8 am to 4 pm
Tuesday and Thursday - 8 am to 9 pm

IN THIS ISSUE

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- Tax Tip for Seniors

The Literacy Council helps people better communicate, collaborate and contribute to their workplace and community. The Council’s vision is to eradicate illiteracy in Berks County by teaching people the vital reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language skills needed to improve their quality of life and enable more productive employment and community citizenship.

A Literacy Treasure

We have been doing some housecleaning at the Council office and discovered the following poem written by Jo Gosch. We want to share this beautifully written article with our readers. Enjoy!

*Isn't it amazing how we take them for granted...those little black marks on a paper!
Twenty-six different shapes known as letters,
arranged in endless combinations known as words.
Lifeless until someone's eye falls upon them.*

*But then a miracle happens. Along the optic nerve,
almost at the speed of light, these tiny symbols are
flashed to the brain where they are instantly
decoded into ideas, images, concepts, meanings.*

*The eye's owner is changed too. The little black
marks can make him love or hate, laugh or cry, fight
or run away. And what do we call this chain of
events? Reading.*

*The spoken word rushes by and is gone, but the
written word remains...endures. It can be
consulted over and over again...forever.*

A Tax Tip— IRA Roll-Over Gift

If you are over age 70 1/2, the Federal government permits you to gift up to \$100,00 from your IRA to charity without increasing your taxable income or paying any additional tax. It's the perfect charitable gift for those who can't claim itemized deductions because of the new, higher standard deductions.

These tax-free rollover gifts to the Literacy Council could be \$1,000 or \$10,000 or any amount up to \$100,000 this year. The gift offsets your RMD (required minimum distribution) for this year.

English Forward Training March 1st and 2nd

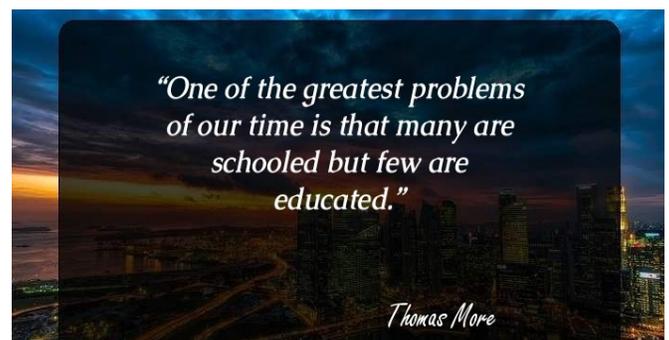
Learn the basics of adult education and practice over 30 teaching strategies that can be used in the classroom by registering for this 11-hour training session. After the training, Literacy Council staff will arrange observations, practice teaching sessions, and classroom placement. Students will receive continued support and professional development opportunities from the Literacy Council.

The \$100 fee covers cost of curriculum, instructor's guide, and access to additional proprietary online resources.

Join instructor Cathy Martin on March 1 and 2 at the Berks County Community Foundation, 237 Court Street in Reading. Training is 9:00 am to 3:30 pm both days, and lunch is included. For additional information and to register, visit www.lcrb.org or call 610.670.9960.

Student Achievements

- C.B., T.G., and A.R. passed the GED® science exam.
- L.G. passed the GED® Social Studies exam.
- K.E. passed GED® Math, Language Arts, and Science exams.



Designer Bag Bingo



Designer Bag



We are making our annual BINGO fundraiser bigger and better than ever.

Join us on Sunday, March 17 at the Wilson High School Lower House cafeteria for a chance to socialize with friends, grab some food, and play Bingo! Doors will open at 1:00 and the games will start at 2:00. Tickets at the door will be \$30, but you can save \$5 (to put in your new designer bag) by pre-ordering your ticket online at www.lcrb.org. If you prefer, you can call the Literacy Council at 610.670.9960 to reserve a seat. Your ticket is good for 20 chances to win. As in the past, local vendors will be there and you will have an opportunity to see what's new or stock up on your favorite products. A 50-50 raffle and great door prizes round off the afternoon. Best of all, the monies raised will support the Council's adult education programs.



Illiteracy is an Everywhere, Everyone Problem

The cost of illiteracy to society in the U.S. in social and economic terms is \$300.8 billion in lost business productivity, lost earnings, welfare, crime, health and other social justice problems (Literacy Matters Foundation).

Those of you reading this newsletter are very well educated on illiteracy and it's impact in our community, and you are strong proponents of the need to educate adults, not just children. *Hiding in Plain Sight—The Adult Literacy Crisis*, an article written by Valerie Strauss in the Washington Post of November 2016, detailed the many ways that adult illiteracy impacts the individual as well as society in general. It is a good tool to share with friends and family who are unaware of the need to support our cause.

Contributors \$250+

Anonymous

Mr. & Mrs. Earl Andrews

Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Carlson

Jill Henry in memory mother Maxine Henry

Charles Gerhart & Ruth Hines

Mrs. Nancy J. Knoblauch

Mr. & Mrs. Kevin J. Ochs

Dr. & Mrs. David E. Texter

Mrs. Elizabeth C. Wolfe

Mr. & Mrs. Richard W. Zuidema

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Coming Events:

All activities at Joan M. Breisch Adult Learning Center, unless otherwise noted.

February 18	CLOSED—PRESIDENTS’ DAY	
February 20	HEP Information Session	11:00 am
February 25	Board Meeting	5:30 pm
March 4	HEP Registration	9:00 am
March 5	ESL Registration	9:00 am
March 11	Spring Term Begins	
March 17	Designer Purse Bingo	1:00 pm
	Wilson HS Lower House Cafeteria (see page 3)	

Access our website’s Calendar of Events under the Events tab for the most recent changes.

www.lcrb.org



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