



LITERACY MATTERS

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Literacy Matters is a recurring publication of Literacy Nassau, Inc.



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LITERACY NASSAU PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL IMMIGRATION CONVERSATION

(submitted by Umama Pasha)

On December 14th, Literacy Nassau was given the opportunity to attend the 8th annual National Immigration Integration Conference (NIIC) in Brooklyn, N.Y. Hosted by the New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC), the annual three day conference brought forth hundreds of advocates, lawyers, and pundits to deepen the discourse on comprehensive immigration reform. Special guest speakers included Governor Andrew Cuomo and Presidential candidates Senator Bernie Sanders, Governor Martin O'Malley, and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The conference left a positive impression on staff members who attended to continue efforts in providing the best services possible to immigrants living on Long Island.

Highlights of the day included presentations and plenary sessions that discussed best practices to provide better services and empowerment to immigrants and refugee communities in the fields of citizenship, English language learning, economic growth, health, education and an inclusive society throughout our cities, suburbs, and rural areas.

THOUGHTS FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Hi Everyone,

There is something to be said for fresh air. I have never been a winter person; I simply don't like the cold. But this year, thanks to lessons I have learned through my children's school, I took up the challenge of purposefully going outdoors with my girls every day for at least a few minutes. I thought I was going to hate it, but I have to admit, those few minutes have become the best moments of my day. The combination of cold air hitting my face and the sound of my children laughing is so refreshing and uplifting, it provides me with a multi-sensory experience unlike any other. But something else happens to my brain when I'm outside. I don't bring my cell phone with me, so I'm detached from the world in a way that truly frees my mind to think. As a result, I've been able to come up with exciting, fresh ideas - for family dinner recipes, ways to solve issues at work, fun activities for my kids on the weekend, and more. It's like all of a sudden I'm a brainstorming powerhouse!

If you have the privilege of tutoring in your home town's library, allow me to make a suggestion: walk to your next session instead of driving. You might find that you come up with some amazing new ideas for lesson plans as a result!

Literacy Nassau staff members were honored to watch special guest speakers Governor Cuomo and Hillary Clinton give moving speeches that discussed the importance of immigration reform in our country in order to give families a chance to achieve the American dream, especially in light of recent events occurring throughout the world. Staff members also had the opportunity to chat with the Deputy Secretary of the State of New York for Economic Opportunity, Jorge Montalvo, about Literacy Nassau's continued efforts to provide efficient services to immigrants on Long Island and creative new ways to involve our volunteers, including Saturday extra help sessions and citizenship drives.

Overall, the day was a tremendous success that inspired and motivated our team. If you are interested in learning more about the volunteer opportunities through the Office of

New Americans grant, contact Ocaria DiMango or Umama Pasha. If you are interested in learning more about the National Immigration Integration Conference, or to view videos of some of the presentations, please visit: <http://www.thenyic.org/NIIC2015>.



Hillary Clinton takes the stage at the NIIC, delivering a speech based on the premise that America was built by the hands of immigrants.



Being outside with my girls gives me the chance to connect with nature, with my kids, and believe it or not, with my mind.

Karen





USING ANAGRAMS IN LESSON PLANNING

(submitted by Alison Orme)

At last year's (un)SCRABBLE competition, I learned that my name is an anagram (or "word scramble") for "Remain Solo" (no relation to Han Solo!). Being a single woman, I was slightly annoyed when I learned this and was determined to prove that it wasn't the only one, so I tossed the ball to my friends on Facebook to find out what other words could be made with the letters in my name. "Sail on more" came from a friend who is not a native English speaker as did "Moral noise." I thought it could be a fun creative writing assignment to break out into multiple sessions and found this lesson plan on www.teachervision.com. Enjoy!

Overview: Students transform their names into many variations. Then they write a story about the variation they select.

Objective: Students will practice story writing with an emphasis on descriptive language and character portrayal.

Materials: Paper and pencils for each student

Procedure:

1. Tell students they are going to use anagrams to transform their names and even their identities! Ask them if they know what an anagram is (a word or phrase made by transposing the letters of another word or phrase). Give them these examples of successful anagrams. Discuss how these anagrams enhance the meaning of the original word or phrase.

butterfly	flutter by
Clint Eastwood	Old West action
a gentleman	elegant man
vacation times	I'm not as active

2. Let students practice making anagrams by using a simple word such as "lemon" (melon, no elm) and a more challenging phrase such as "the story" (Shy otter, They sort). Discuss how these anagrams change the meaning of the original word or phrase.

3. Explain to students that they will be using their first and last names to create anagrams. Tell them not to use uppercase letters. Ask them to come up with as many anagrams of their names as possible in a selected time period.

4. Once they have found all the anagrams for their names, have students select their favorite one as their new name and write it at the top of a sheet of paper.

5. Tell students they are going to write a story about the "character" created by their new name. Ask them to think about the story they want to tell about the name. What are some colorful adjectives they might use?

6. Remind students to use descriptive language to make their stories interesting and vivid, and to reveal character through direct statements as well as the character's actions, thoughts, or words. Ask them to think about what the characters in the story do and say that will help readers get to know them.

Is your student a lower level English language learner?

A way to modify this activity for a lower level learner is to work with them on drawing letters from their name to make different words. Then you can use the words they come up with to create an acrostic and have them write individual sentences to describe themselves that start with each letter. Adjectives can be prompted or unprompted depending on the level of your student. It's a fun exercise and a great way to help them build their descriptive vocabulary!

GAME ON! (UN)SCRABBLE IS COMING!

(submitted by Alison Orme)

I attended my first (un)SCRABBLE night two years ago with a great friend and Scrabble whiz, Ania Coats. We are both super competitive people and shared a lot of laughs with the rest of our team. (un)SCRABBLE is played in teams of 8-10 people, and instead of everyone taking turns, the whole team works together to create the highest scoring Scrabble board in timed rounds. It's chaotic, lively, and really fun. Amazingly enough, our team won third place that year and unseated one of the long-standing sponsor teams... "bronchodilation" was the 15-letter word that put us over the top. It was a great night at Chateau Briand filled with heart-pounding (un)SCRABBLE playing, amazing food, raffle prizes, and good fun. This year's honoree is Robert Genalo, Literacy Nassau's Board President. Mark your calendar for Thursday, March 31, from 6-9pm at Chateau Briand in Carle Place. Do you have what it takes to win?



My friend Ania and I proudly posed with our crystal book trophy after our inaugural third place win!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy birthday to all of our tutors born in February! They are:

Herb Aldrich
Karin Arlin
Jodi Batan-Seegull
Ira Berkowitz
Linda Bleck
Bernac Celestin
Brian Coard
Bernie Hirschhorn
Delia King
Susan Laufer
Terri Mangum
Jessica Merkel
Doreen Pechman
Cathy Perini
Sandra Pesce
Gilda Philibert
Joan Ratty
Naomi Robles
David Salazar
Margaret Sherman
Ashley Stack
Ruth Stern
Mary-Rose Waldron
Mimi Weitz



*Enjoy your special day!!
Warmest regards,
Your friends at
Literacy Nassau*





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: JUDY FELDMAN

(submitted by Alison Orme)

This month we are proud to feature one of our office volunteers, Judy Feldman. Judy has been volunteering at Literacy Nassau since 2011 when she first saw our lawn sign from across the street. Judy is married with two daughters and three grandchildren. She is also a collage artist who studied art at Buffalo State Teachers College. Her work will be on exhibit downstairs at the Oceanside Library starting this month through the end of February.

How did you get started in "painting with paper?"

When I first started as an artist years ago, I always worked in oils and acrylics. Then, I hurt my back moving over thirty years ago and was laid up in traction for a week. My self-expression in collages started in that hospital bed with a pad of paper, a stack of magazines, scissors and some glue. You should have seen the expression on the doctors' and nurses' faces when they came in the room and saw the scraps of paper all over the floor. I'm sure they didn't appreciate the mess and might have been happy to see me go!

Tell me about your first collage.

My first collage was called Neither Fish, Nor Fowl. It was a composition with two central elements that were almost Siamese twins. That collage I created

won 3rd place in a competition in the Suburban Art League and started a life-long passion for the medium.

What is your favorite collage that you've created?

It's a work that I entitled Egyptian Fantasy which is in the show. My work always starts with some piece of art that is iconic. Egyptian Fantasy started with two frontal figures, and I added elements that complemented or juxtaposed the central image. I had a professor and dear friend who taught a class at C.W. Post on critiquing art that I once took, and he taught me to how to self-edit as I go along and refine my approach.

You've mentioned that you do this primarily for self-expression. So, what have been some of your day jobs?

Out of college, I started working as an art teacher. Then I moved to a position selling advertising to local papers. I was also the editor of the Baldwin Citizen as well as the editor of The Long Island Arts Council at Freeport newsletter. I wrapped up my professional career as a programmer at Oceanside Library where I coordinated adult programs and was a contributor to the library newsletter.

The Oceanside Library exhibit starts this month. Where else have you exhibited your work?

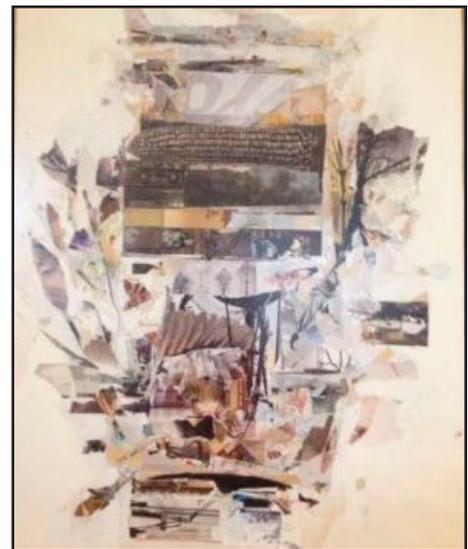
My art has appeared at other libraries

and art groups like the Five Towns Arts Group. It has also appeared in the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), the Weber House and at Joan Stadt Interiors, Ltd. in Rockville Centre.

What drew you to Literacy Nassau?

I've always been interested in cultural events and a multicultural experience, and I experience that every day that I come to the office. Literacy Nassau is such a wonderful organization. It makes me so proud to be a part of it. It's amazing to see how caring the environment is and how many lives have been changed. It really is such a positive experience.

(Pictured below: An example of one of Judy's favorite collages.)



LIFE AFTER LITERACY NASSAU: A TRUE SUCCESS STORY

(submitted by Candice Cantore)

Edwin registered as a student with Literacy Nassau in January 2012. He was matched with Diane Dubno and began learning English. At the time, Edwin was a bus boy at Dodici due to his lack of English skills. Diane and Edwin were a true tutor-student match made in heaven. After teaching him functional English skills, Diane began to help Edwin prepare for his citizenship exam in the beginning of 2013. By November of that year, Edwin had passed his citizenship exam and began his new life in America.

So what exactly does life after Literacy Nassau look like? According to Edwin, his life changed and he was given more opportunity. Due to his new status as a citizen, Edwin was able to bring his wife to the United States. He was also able to change jobs and now works for his cousin's business. In his new job, Edwin sells vegetables and meats to delicatessans and needs to communicate with clients, which he was unable to do before his time at Literacy Nassau. When we spoke with Edwin, he said, "I am able to talk to the customers in English. It's not perfect, but I can do it." Now, Edwin's wife and aunt will be registering as students with Literacy Nassau allowing them to have the same opportunity, and hopefully success, that Edwin has experienced.



Panera Networking Events!

Our first tutor meeting took place in Bellmore. We are still looking to set up meetings in New Hyde Park and Hicksville. No planned instruction; it's simply an opportunity to meet with other tutors in your area.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Candice Cantore at 867.3580 x25.





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LITERACY NASSAU'S STAFF FITBIT CHALLENGE

(submitted by Candice Cantore)

After receiving a staff gift of a Fitbit One from our Executive Director, Karen Micciche, the staff was eager to take their fitness aspirations to the next level in 2016. A Fitbit One tracks your steps, calories, stair climbing and even your sleep patterns throughout the day. It has challenges on a companion smart phone app that you and friends can participate in. Just before New Year's Day, Karen sent out an invite for everyone to join in on the "Workweek Hustle" and the cutthroat competition began. The challenge? Who could have the most steps from Monday through Friday during the week of January 4th. The first reply to this invite was "IT'S ON!" which ensured that this challenge would not be a simple one. Throughout the week we all worked tirelessly to get as many steps in as we possibly could. Some of us went to

the gym, some went for afternoon walks, and rumor has it that one individual walked in circles around the office after hours. Best yet? One of my coworkers tried to embellish a little at her daughter's suggestion by putting her Fitbit on "Abbey." Dogs have four legs so the number of steps should be double, right? WRONG, Kim!! Her efforts were crushed when Cindy took home the win of that challenge and received a \$25 Nike gift card by running several miles each day in addition to her usual activities. In the end though, we were all winners because we encouraged each other to be more active in our daily lives, and challenged ourselves to see what new heights we can aspire to.



Abbey, pictured left, poses with her Fitbit on her collar.



**Our Orientation Video
is now online!**

Check it out at:
www.Literacynassau.org

Last month, we announced the introduction of a new volunteer orientation video to help familiarize potential volunteers with our programs. Designed to provide detailed information about our many programs, this video will streamline the training process and free up valuable staff time for current tutors and students. The video is now online at www.LiteracyNassau.org so be sure to check it out!