



Literacy Council for Josephine County

SPRING/SUMMER, 2016

132 N.E. B St. Room 23, Grants Pass, OR, 97526

The Literacy Council needs YOU to help us help others

Dear member of this community,

If this newsletter has come to your home or to you at your workplace, you are a person identified as one who cares about the disadvantaged folks who live in Josephine County, those who are indeed impoverished because they can't read.

Maybe you know someone who is very smart but, because he has dyslexia, feels badly about himself, someone who never succeeds to the utmost of his potential because he can't use written communications.

Or, maybe you know the energetic foreign worker who tells you at the restaurant about her children and you find out she isn't sure about the child's schooling because she can't read the note the teacher sent home.

Because you care, we want you to help us find a friend or two to whom you can pass this newsletter.

There are two kinds of people we wish could be informed about our work. They are the ones who might want to help with the jobs we need to fill.

First, we need tutors. A tutor should be someone who loves to read, someone who has just two hours a week to give to someone who wants to improve their lot in life.

We have all the workbooks and learning devices a tutor could need, and mentors to help them get started.

Foreign students often just want to practice

speaking correctly or need help reading the driver's manual, or maybe they need help reading materials to study for their citizenship.

For students with dyslexia, we have fascinating step-by-step materials for the tutor to use to help them gain that longed-for ability, to use the hymnal at church, to read a newspaper headline, to read a simple book to their child, or read the possible side effects of a drug.

The second job opening is for someone to serve on our board of directors, someone who is out in the community, perhaps active in clubs, church or business, who can give a couple hours a month as a board member.

A potential board member is someone who meets a lot of people in various places and social situations, someone who can broaden our reach into the community and help us find the unmet needs of our county.

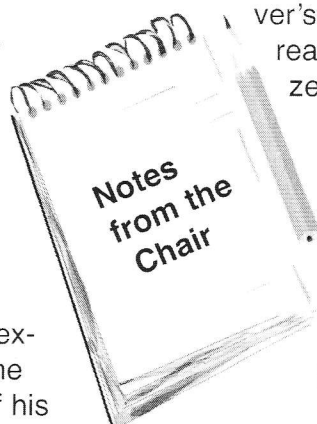
They may know people who can tutor, or people who have skills such as grant writing, or helping organize used book sales.

Please, do think of your friends and acquaintances who could fill these two spots. Have them call me to answer any of their questions.

That person who can help us may even be you.

If so, call me at 541-471-4893.

We could use your help.



— Andrea Dougan, Chairperson



Literacy Council Board Members

- **Andrea Dougan, chairman**
phone: 541-471-4893
email: dougan@q.com
- **Dee Pierce, vice chair**
phone: 541-955-5185
email: pierceda@q.com
- **Alan Mohr, treasurer**
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email: idgrown@me.com
- **Bette Mohr, secretary**
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email: readmohr@gmail.com
- **Kathleen Alaks, publicity**
phone: 541-955-5371
email: kalaks@thedailycourier.com
- **Carolyn Shaw-Straus, RCC liaison**
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email: cshaw@rogucecc.edu

Contact Us!

Call: our office at 541-472-0355 and leave a message; or Dee Pierce at 541-955-5185

Email: jocoliteracy@yahoo.com

Find us online: literacyjoco.weebly.com

CALENDAR

Upcoming Board Meetings

Meetings are at 12:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month, at the Literacy Council office, 132 N.E. B St., Room 23, on the third floor of the Newman United Methodist Church offices.

The next meetings are:

July 20	Dec. 21
Aug. 17	Jan. 18
Sept. 21	Feb. 15
Oct. 19	March 15
Nov. 16	April 19

Spring fling

On May 18, the Literacy Council hosted a luncheon in its new offices, as a way of saying "thank you" to some of our most generous donors.

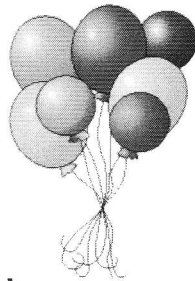
Organized by Bette Mohr and Dee Pierce, the get-together made for a delightful and enjoyable afternoon, complete with fresh flowers, cloth table coverings and a delicious spread of food and scrumptious desserts.

Among our honored guests was Literacy Council founder Eleanor Hester, who made the journey — chauffeured by her son — from her home in Biggs, Calif., where she had moved about eight years ago.

Eleanor was instrumental in the formation of the Literacy Council in 1986. She gave heart and soul to the organization, serving as the organization's first chairman, helping to write the by-laws and the first Literacy brochure, becoming a certified tutor trainer and working to build the council's library of teaching materials.

During the luncheon, several Literacy Council students gave testimonials of how the program has helped them, whether through obtaining their citizenship, earning a GED, or overcoming reading disabilities. Their words were heartwarming and most inspirational.

The Literacy Council will stay in party mode, with another gathering this fall (see below). We hope you'll join us!



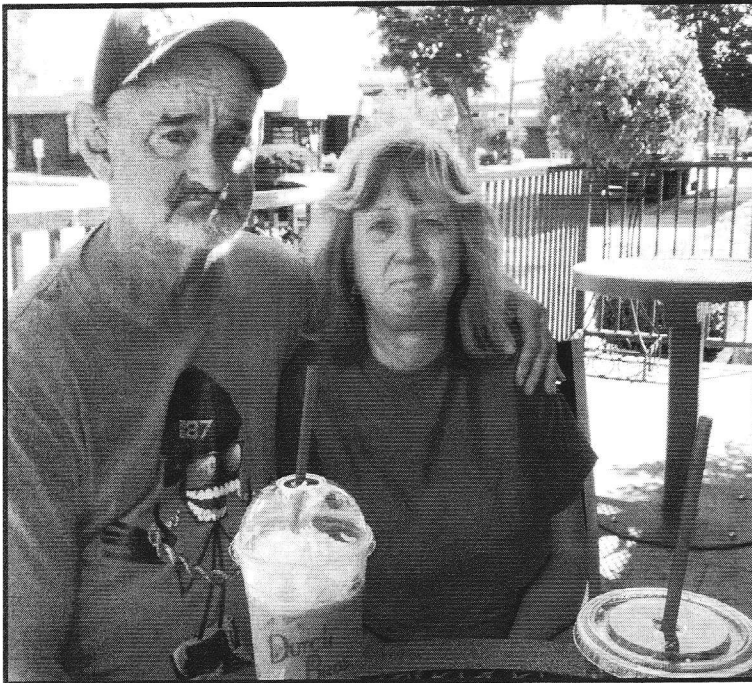
MEET -N- GREET

- **WHAT:** Literacy Council Open House
- **WHEN:** 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 19
- **WHERE:** Literacy Council Office, 132 N.E. B St., on the third floor of the Newman United Methodist Church offices in downtown Grants Pass
- **WHY:** See our new digs, meet tutors, students and board members, celebrate National Literacy Month (September) and National Dyslexia Month (October), and the Literacy Council's 30th birthday, and enjoy light refreshments.



and

'Eager students' keep improving



Ted and Pam McCarthy enjoy cool beverages at Dutch Bros.

For Literacy Council students Pam and Ted McCarthy, learning to read is not an obstacle but a goal. And it's a goal within everyone's reach.

"If we can do it," says Ted.

"Anyone can do it," adds Pam.

The couple, who will celebrate their seventh wedding anniversary in August, work with tutor Gay Howard.

"They are both such eager students and both are blessed with a great memory," Gay says. "They're so thoughtful, the sweetest people. I love them both, I really do."

Born with a learning disability that makes it difficult for her to decipher printed words and letters, Pam worked at a veterinary office then a book store before she landed her current job as an administrative assistant with Aspire, where she does phone work, computer work and filing.

"That was my dream, to be a secretary and I

had to work very hard to get my reading to the right spot," says Pam, who credits her ever-improving reading ability as the reason she was able to advance at work. "It took me a while to do it. Twenty-eight people were trying for that one job. I proved that I wanted it and I got my spot."

"It's a huge thing for her," says Gay, who gets messages from Pam's supervisors when there are particular skills they want Pam to learn.

Gay started working with Pam about two-and-a-half years ago. At first, Ted would sit in on the lessons and listen. After a few months, he told Gay he wanted to work on his own reading skills.

"He can read some, but at a very low level," Gay says. "But he's very bright and has a good vocabulary, good problem solving skills. And he has a great sense of humor."

Ted also works at Aspire, five days a week in their recycling center. He says he'd like to get a job caring for seniors at a nursing home or retirement center.

Pam and Ted work with a lot of learning materials, including the Barton Reading and Spelling System and the Sound Out book series.

"It's touching to watch them together, to watch them grow," says Gay. Sometimes, she says, Ted will call her just to read a street sign to her.

Both Pam and Ted are proud of the strides they've made. They are testament to the power of hard work, dedication, perseverance and determination.

"When we want something, we go for it," says Ted. "Being disabled doesn't hold us back."

Student Profile

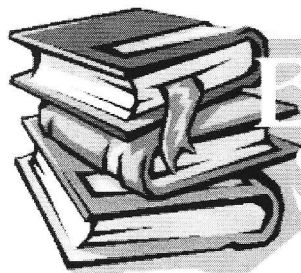
— Submitted by Kathleen Alaks



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Book Sale

The Literacy Council is gearing up for its annual book sale.

It's going to be held on Saturday, Sept. 17, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot of Washington Federal Bank at Fourth and G streets, across the street from the Grants Pass Growers' Market.

Once again, we'll have a wide selection of hard cover books and paperbacks to choose from, including best-selling novels and romance, dog-eared mysteries and thrillers,

autobiographies and memoirs, children's books, how-tos and cookbooks, self-help books, inspirational books and reference materials.

There are three ways you can help:

✓ **GIVE BOOKS.** We'll take just about anything you've got. And we'll be happy to pick them up and take them off your hands.

✓ **GIVE CASH.** Make plans to stop by the book sale and buy books.

✓ **GIVE TIME.** Volunteer to spend an hour or two helping sort books, store books, haul books, sell books.

Let us know how you can help. Call Kathleen Alaks at 541-474-3815 (weekdays) or 541-955-5371 (evenings and weekends). Or email her at kalaks@thedailycourier.com.

Reaping the Rewards

Don't forget, you can support the Literacy Council every time you shop at Fred Meyer by linking us to your Rewards Card. That way, every time you use it, you help us earn a donation from the store. To sign up:

- Go to www.fredmeyer.com.
- Click on Register at the top right of the page. If you already have an account, click on Sign In and proceed to Step 4.
- Create an account by filling in the requested information, then click on the Create Account button at bottom.
- Once you have an account set up and are

signed in, you can click on Community Rewards at the bottom of the page, second column.

- Under Community Rewards, click on Edit, type in Literacy and select Literacy Council for Josephine County from the list. Our ID number is 82481. Click on Enroll to link your rewards card to us.
- You're done. (Don't forget to Sign Out.)



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