



Literacy Council for Josephine County

SPRING/SUMMER, 2014

223 S.E. M Street, Grants Pass, OR, 97526

Someone you know may need our services

Dear Friends of the Literacy Council:

At this moment — a moment that will not last long — we have one tutor too many for the number of students on our roster.

This brings me to the realization that my letters heretofore have sought out your help in becoming volunteers, but have not emphasized asking for your help in sending people to us for assistance.

There are people out there who need our help, but you may not realize who they are, as so many who don't know how to read are good at hiding the fact.

Perhaps you know someone in your church who never picks up the hymnal, claiming to have a terrible singing voice. Take a moment to notice if they also don't read the bulletin. They may actually have difficulty reading, an issue that they are too embarrassed to reveal to others.

Perhaps someone at work doesn't read the instructions for things, counting instead on getting hints from co-workers or figuring it out by observing others.

Maybe you know of a friend who is very bright but who jokes about not wasting time with having a computer or who says they quit a job because it became too involved with computers.

Many of these problems can often be helped by directing them to the Literacy Council. We have methods of helping these troubled readers, even those who have inherited a difficult brain function regarding reading and who have considered themselves helpless to improve. We can help.

Here are some signs that you or someone you know could be helped by our tutors:

- Expression — a large discrepancy between verbal skills and written compositions

- Difficulty reading printed music
- Slow reading
- Reading a page two or three times to understand it
- Terrible spelling
- Difficulty putting thoughts down on paper and dreading writing letters or memos
- Often gets lost, even in a familiar city

Notes from the Chair

• Sometimes confuses b and d, especially when tired or sick

But we don't just help adults who have difficulty reading. You are right,

of course, to consider sending us foreign students who may need help in learning English as a Second Language.

Perhaps you work in the medical field, where people who speak poor English need to understand medication or a diagnosis. Perhaps you work in the school system and know of parents who have difficulty reading to their children or helping them with their homework.

Since you are reading this, you not only have the ability to read, but have been shown that you care about the people of our county. But there are plenty of folks out there who are not yet aware of our services. They need to be informed.

Please assist us in our work by being a light to our county, and sharing knowledge of our services with others.

Do you belong to a club or civic organization, church or group that would like to learn more about the Literacy Council? We can have someone from the Literacy Council give a brief talk at one of your meetings to explain our program.

Please call me at 541-471-4893.

Andrea Dougan
Literacy Council Chairman



Literacy Council Board Members

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Contact Us!

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Find us online: literacyjoco.weebly.com

CALENDAR

Upcoming Board Meetings

Meetings are at 12:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month, at the Literacy Council office, 223 S.E. M St. in Grants Pass. (In the Coalition for Kids building; entrance is off the back parking lot.)

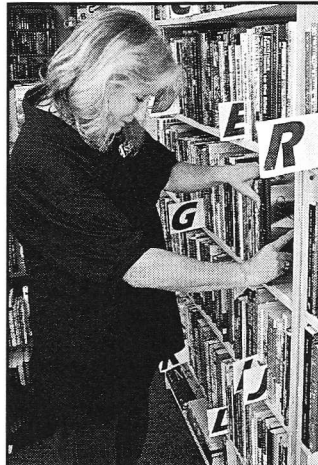
The next meetings are:

June 11	Oct. 8
July 9	Nov. 12
Aug. 13	Dec. 10
Sept. 10	

Students work hard to make their way

For the past two years, Pam McCarthy has spent her work day surrounded by books she can't read. But she's working to change that.

Pam, a Literacy Council student who was born with a learning disability that makes it difficult for her to decipher printed words and letters, works at Book Lore and More, a downtown book store that supports and employs adults with developmental disabilities.



Pam McCarthy straightens books at Book Lore and More.

Last year, after testing indicated Pam may have dyslexia, her tutor Gay Howard started her on the Barton Reading and Spelling System.

"She's on Book 2 already. She's working on sounds and putting words together," Gay says. "Her supervisor at work noticed an improvement in her skills and gave her more responsibility."

Pam has been learning how to input books into the computer, arrange them alphabetically on the shelves and prepare book orders for shipment.

"I used to get so frustrated I would want to start crying," Pam says of her difficulties with reading. "I still get frustrated sometimes, but it's better."

Part of Pam's improvement is due to her sharp memory, Gay says. "She has an excellent ability to retain what she's learned."

Soon, Pam will be putting her new skills to the test at a new job, as Book Lore and More will be closing its doors. But Pam was lucky to be placed in a new position and starting July 1, she will be working two days a week at the recycling center, helping out in the office and answering phones.

"Her current boss told her to be sure to continue with her tutoring, since she is making such noticeable progress," Gay says. "Outstanding! We will continue with our two-hour weekly sessions. And Pam is so proud."

Husband and wife Xi Chao Li (Chao) and Ciao Liu Huang (Shelly) work on their English speaking and writing skills while holding down full-time jobs. Longtime employees of the Hong Kong Cafe, they have their tutoring sessions right in the restaurant's dining room.

"They each have just one day off a week, but it's different days," says their tutor Mary Lou Campbell. "So we have class on Wednesday mornings, before they start work."

Since most of the restaurant employees speak Chinese, Chao and Shelly don't have much chance to speak English outside of class. So, in addition to book lessons, Mary Lou helps them practice their English by taking them out around town and having them describe the things that they see. They walk through town and read street signs and business signs. They go window shopping and describe the items for sale. They go to a park and identify the trees and flowers and birds.

"It's a good, practical way to learn," Mary Lou says.



Tutor Mary Lou Campbell listens as Shelly reads words related to medical care.



It's better with Barton

Our tutors have nothing but praise for the Barton Reading and Spelling System and how effective it's been with their students

TUTOR COMMENTS ON THEIR BARTON STUDENTS:

"She reads at home now every evening, whereas before, reading wasn't important to her because she didn't feel successful at it. She also finds that it is easier than it was before to write minutes for a volunteer organization she is in, because she can spell more easily."

"He has found the confidence, through this tutoring, to become a moderator for a streaming program he listens to nightly. He says that his tutoring session is the highlight of his week and asked if there is any way we can increase our tutoring frequency! Having passed most of the GED sections, he now feels confident that he will also be able to pass the reading and writing portions that he's failed several times."

"Their continued success in this program has resulted in their growing self confidence on a professional and personal level. These women report they no longer 'feel stupid' or 'disabled' and are very proud of their accomplishments thus far. They have been praised in their respective workplaces for improvements in work tasks, and each credits growing reading skills for this result. Both have set the goal of eventually moving into more challenging employment as their reading skills improve."

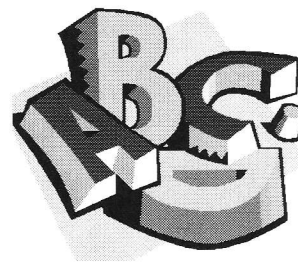
"My student's reading skills have greatly improved. I can tell he is more confident in many day-to-day activities. Before he wouldn't even write a note or make a list of items. Now he is not embarrassed to do these things. He is also reading the newspaper and using his cell phone to research information!"

"She cherishes the small books that come with the Barton System. She didn't realize that she would get another after she finished the first one. Now she is improving in comprehension. For so long she was thrilled to just decode words one at a time."

"Two of my students are not in the Barton Program but

I have still found many of the rules and tricks of the system are helping them learn to read better."

"My student actually likes learning the rules in the Barton System because they can enable him to figure out words on his own. He says it has even helped him in exchanging text messages with his girlfriend!"



TUTOR COMMENTS ON THE BARTON PROGRAM:

"During my 20-year career as a mental health professional and social worker, I have seen first hand the impact illiteracy has on an individual's self-esteem, socioeconomic status, failed personal relationships, and involvement in criminal behavior. A program such as the Barton Reading and Spelling System allows the student a chance to succeed in many segments of life, as his/her reading skills improve."

"I am convinced that the Barton System is an outstanding teaching tool/method. The instructional manuals are user friendly, and provide step-by-step information to guide individualized learning."

"The Barton Reading and Spelling System is so well put together that almost anyone can use it with very little training. It has been built to move students from the most simple spelling principles to the most complex, one step at a time. Both teacher and student learn new concepts along the way that unlock reading in a way that most programs can't."

"I think the program is great and I appreciate the nurturing atmosphere the Lit Council creates. I think without your non-judgmental approach, I would have given up by now."

TUTOR TALK



Word play

Heteronyms...

Homographs are words of like spelling but with more than one meaning. One example is bear, a verb meaning to support or carry, and bear, a noun meaning the animal.

A homograph that is also pronounced differently is a heteronym.

You think English is easy? Try these.....

- The bandage was wound around the wound.
- The farm was used to produce produce.
- The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- We must polish the Polish furniture.
- He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- The soldier decided to desert his desert in the desert.
- Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- I did not object to the object.
- The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- They were too close to the door to close it.
- The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- The wind was too strong for me to wind the sail.
- Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear..
- I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

Daffy definitions...

- **ARBITRATOR:** A cook who leaves Arby's to work at McDonalds
- **AVOIDABLE:** What a bullfighter tries to do
- **BERNADETTE:** The act of torching a mortgage
- **BURGLARIZE:** What a crook sees with
- **CONTROL:** A short, ugly inmate
- **COUNTERFEITERS:** Workers who install kitchen counters
- **ECLIPSE:** What a British barber does for a living
- **EYEDROPPER:** A clumsy ophthalmologist
- **HEROES:** What a guy in a boat does
- **LEFTBANK:** What the robber did when his bag was full of money
- **MISTY:** How golfers create divots
- **PARASITES:** What you see from the top of the EiffelTower
- **PHARMACIST:** A helper on the farm
- **POLARIZE:** What penguins see with
- **PRIMATE:** Removing your spouse from in front of the TV
- **RELIEF:** What trees do in the spring
- **RUBBERNECK:** What you do to relax your wife
- **SELFISH:** What the owner of a seafood store does
- **SUDAFED:** Brought litigation against a government official

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