



Literacy Council for Josephine County

SPRING/SUMMER, 2015

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

Literacy Council donors reflect on why they give

Dear Josephine County residents:

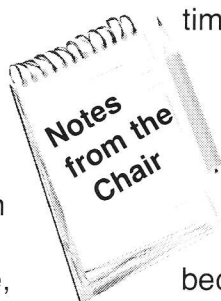
Many of you who receive this newsletter are already supporters of our teaching work, helping those who, because of language barriers or learning difficulties, need to learn to read or get a GED. Yet you, or those in your circle of acquaintance, may be unaware of our financial needs.

One professional man who retired from service on our board as treasurer told me, "Your group is the hope of so many here. I'll always remember you with help. Just keep up the good work. I saw from the inside what the Literacy Council does. It would be saddening if there was no place for the people of this county to have a place to turn if they couldn't read."

One of our former tutors, who had to stop tutoring to care for family needs, has a very global perspective on why he wants to have the Literacy Council continue to be able to teach people to read.

"I help the Literacy Council because it helps me," he said. "If people can read they can get jobs and live a good life. They don't turn to drugs and crime."

"Even if the terrorist involved with groups like ISIS had education and a job they wouldn't be acting out from desperation. When we help people get jobs we will have less reason to have more safety for our own families. Anyway, I give to help myself."



Another person who is a tutor with us at this time, felt that he could justify giving a large gift from his small family foundation. He sees for himself what a difference learning to read and getting your GED makes in the several people he has already taught.

"I donate to the Literacy Council because it is helping people to better themselves," he said. "And because the council operates on a shoestring budget, I know that monetary donations go a long way towards keeping the program alive."

So, if you are discouraged with the news you read about the hopelessly dangerous sad events in the world, and think there is nothing you can do, just help us pay the rent or come help us tutor and make the world better — one person at a time.

— Andrea Dougan, Chairperson

BOOK SALE?

The Literacy Council is thinking about holding another book sale this fall. But we need some help. If you'd be willing to help out — either sorting books, storing books or working at the sale table, please contact Kathleen Alaks.

Call her at 541-955-5371 (home), 541-474-3815 (work) or email her at kalaks@thedailycourier.com.



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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, 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:

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

Tutor feels empathy with her student

As a first generation Chinese-American, Grace Chou understands about the desire to fit in.

Her father, who was born in China, wanted his children to speak only English, so they would blend in with the other children in their Midwest school and neighborhood.

"We didn't learn Chinese as kids. Dad wanted us to assimilate," says Chou, who has been a Literacy Council tutor for about a year.

Her student is a 29-year-old Chinese man, who works at the Hong Kong restaurant and who also feels the need to fit into his community. But for him it's by learning English.

"He pretty much started from scratch," Grace says, "but he's highly motivated."

Grace had another student, a Mexican woman with four children, who wanted to earn her GED, but she had to drop her lessons because of family obligations.

Grace's own family includes husband Dave Applegate, a doctor who does consultations three times a week, and two daughters, Jennifer and Christina, who both live in Eugene.

Before moving to Oregon, Grace, who has a degree in nursing, worked at a large city hospital in Chicago and as an internist in Pittsburgh.

After she and Dave moved to Grants Pass in 1986, she spent 17 years working part-time at Lincoln Elementary School — the school her daughters attended — teaching small groups, "mostly struggling readers and some math groups," she says.

She found the Literacy Council after she retired. She also has served on the board of the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon, and currently serves on the board of the Southern Oregon Chinese Cultural Association, which organizes a Chinese New Year celebration every year in Jacksonville.

She's thinking about volunteering with the library next: "Now that I'm retired, it's a brave new world out there."

Grace says she finds volunteer work very rewarding, especially her work with the Literacy Council.

"I'm impressed with how dedicated and motivated everybody is. They work very hard and are so compassionate. And they go to extreme lengths to help people," she says. "It's been very satisfying and inspiring and a positive experience so far."



Grace Chou finds tutoring satisfying and inspirational.

Tutor Profile

— Submitted by Kathleen Alaks



It's easy to be a hero...



Art by Andrea Dougan

...with many ways of giving

The Literacy Council for Josephine County is grateful for our HERO DONORS!

Through contributions from individuals, foundations and businesses, for almost 30 years, we have been able to help many people learn English, become American citizens, and improve their reading and writing skills.

Yet, despite the kindly support of so many, we do run an annual deficit of about \$4,000, and our largest expense is RENT — which will increase annually beginning in July.

Because of a few large gifts in the past for “operating expenses,” our doors are still open. But such grants do not come predictably. We would be on a more secure basis if current contributions could equal all annual expenses, including rent.

Our office “home” at Coalition for Kids, 223 S.E. M Street in Grants Pass, is a modest and very welcome space, where we store our excellent teaching materials and meet our students.

Without a space like this, there would be no Literacy Council.

We hope you can support our “Pay the Rent” project.

Our annual fundraising letter is coming out soon, and of course we welcome checks anytime.

Furthermore, did you know that we have a secure online donation service on our website at www.literacyjoco.weebly.com?

There you can make one-time or monthly recurring donations by clicking on the Donate Now Through Network for Good button and selecting your Donations Preferences.

A small amount given monthly, automatically, is convenient for givers and helpful to us because it provides a steady source of income that we can plan on.

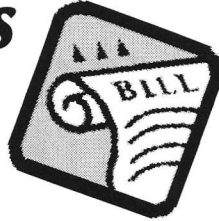
So thank you, HERO DONORS, for all you have given already and for your generous help this summer.

Because of you, we will be able to say, “We CAN pay the rent!”

— Submitted by Bette Mohr



Legislative news



A new dyslexia bill is taking shape in Oregon. Senate Bill 612 was designed to:

- Ensure at least one teacher in every K-5 public school knows the warning signs of dyslexia and can teach to students with dyslexia
- Ensure school districts create a plan to screen for the risk factors of dyslexia
- Ensure the Oregon Department of Education has a dyslexia specialist on staff to help school districts address dyslexia
- Ensure teacher education institutions and teacher education programs to provide coursework on dyslexia

The bill was heard by the Senate Education Committee on March 17.

After that hearing, the portion of SB 612 that requires education institutions and teacher education programs to provide coursework on dyslexia has been amended and moved to House Bill 2412.

This bill passed in the House and Senate, was signed by the Governor Kate Brown on June 4, and now is law. The remaining portion of SB 612 was amended as well. The amendment was passed unanimously in the Senate Education Committee and has now moved on the Joint Ways and Means committee.

Consider writing, calling or meeting with your legislator to ask them to support dyslexia legislation.

Punography

- I tried to catch some fog. I mist.
- When chemists die, they barium.
- Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
- A soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
- I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid. He says he can stop any time.
- How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.
- This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I can't put it down.
- I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.
- They told me I had type A blood, but it was a type-O.
- I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- A cross-eyed teacher lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils.
- What does a clock do when it's hungry? It goes back four seconds.
- Cartoonist found dead in home. Details are sketchy.

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