



# Literacy Council for Josephine County

FALL/WINTER, 2014/2015

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

## Hands-on learning sparks student creativity

Sometimes, all it takes is a little imagination to spark learning.

This summer, Literacy Council tutor Judy Gosnell came up with a unique project for her student Liza Ano, who is from the Philippines.

She used the Bearfest bears — the bear statues that were placed all around Grants Pass this summer — as a starting point.

Judy, a former second grade teacher, took photos of the bears then she had Liza write a story or record comments about each one.

Some of Liza's stories were descriptions of where a particular bear could be found in town — in front of this store or at the intersection of these two streets.

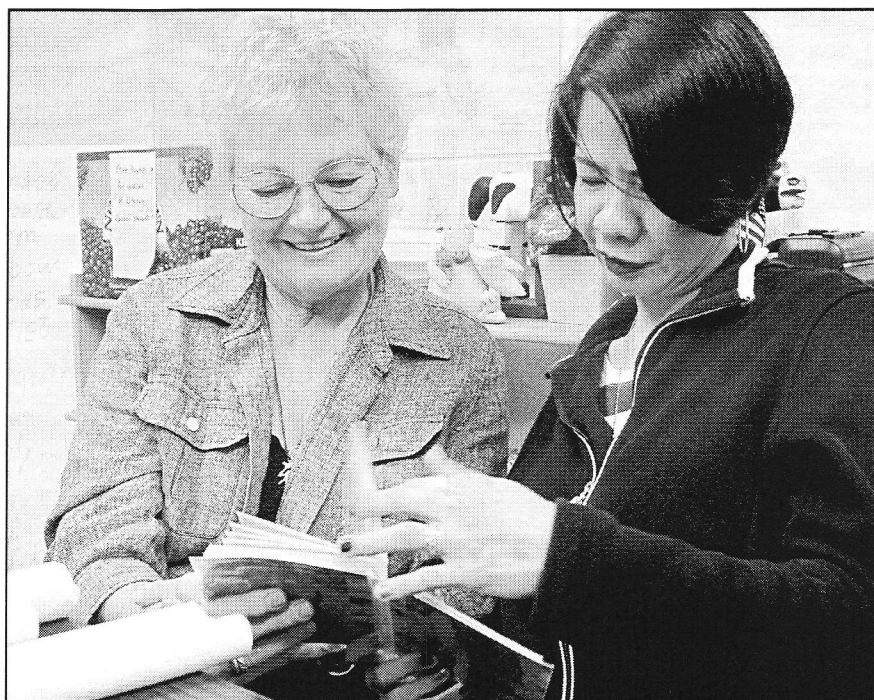
Some of Liza's stories were descriptions of what the bear looked like, its design or colors.

And some of her stories were impressions of how the bear made her feel.

Judy then put the photos and the stories together into photo albums.

In a related project, Judy had Liza draw up a city map, identifying streets, various businesses and landmarks.

They used the map for lessons on directional words and phrases, such as "turn left at the cor-



Tutor Judy Gosnell, left, and student Liza Ano look through one of photo albums they made using Judy's photos of the Bearfest bears and Liz's stories about each one.

ner," "go straight for three blocks," and "the river flows north and south."

**See more creative tutoring techniques on Page 3**

"It was a way to tie the bears in with maps and directions and location descriptions," Judy says. "To me, it was opening up Grants Pass to her."

Next, Judy hopes to get Liza to interview one or two of the bear

artists about the inspirations behind their bears and their artistic techniques.

"I really like hands-on teaching," says Judy.

"When people are excited and enthused, it becomes fun, they get more engaged and learn better. I like to encourage enthusiasm, a reason to look at something. It makes it personal and fun."

— Submitted by Kathleen Alaks



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## **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:

Jan. 14	May 13
Feb. 11	June 10
March 11	July 8
April 8	Aug. 12

## Little things = BIG difference

### Dear Friends of the Literacy Council for Josephine County:

At a recent tutor meeting, we discussed how much we love our students and the enthusiasm tutors have for coming up with little things that made differences in our students lives.

Like the tutor who is taking the parents of her student, visiting from China, to holiday occasions.

Like tutors helping other tutors by practice-testing for citizenship with students who have a fear of facing the new person who will give the actual test.

Like tutors who have their lessons outdoors for their students who spend long hours at inside jobs.

Like helping a dyslexic student practice taking driving tests orally, because she has never been to school and doesn't have experience with multiple choice questions.

If you know of someone who has trouble reading, please assure them they can have a very caring tutor to help them. Start the new year by making a resolution to help us to find those who need our help.

Thank you,

**Andrea Dougan**  
Literacy Council Chairman

## Notes from the Chair

## Very Punny

- The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
- I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
- She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
- A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
- No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
- A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
- Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, 'I've lost my electron.' The other says 'Are you sure?' The first replies, 'Yes, I'm positive.'
- Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
- A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
- Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.
- Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
- Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'
- I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
- sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'
- The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
- The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
- A backward poet writes inverse.
- In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.
- When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
- If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine .
- A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at him and says, 'I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger.'
- Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says 'Dam!'



## Tutors share teaching techniques that spell success

- I've developed worksheets that cover vocabulary for specific subjects, such as: medical, shopping, weather.
- I've taken short stories (2-3 pages) that we read together and then use vocabulary words from the story to help do sentence formation and verb conjugation.
- I've made flashcards of words that we have learned, and make a game of having them select a card (facedown on the table), then they have to go to the board and make a sentence using the word. This helps them understand usage of the word and sentence structure.
- Since they all have children in school, we do math problems on the board — addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They practice saying them in English so they can help with their children's homework.
- I printed out blank checks and different billing information so they can practice writing out checks, especially spelling out the numbers.
- We've looked at want-ads in the newspaper ... at jobs available, apartments for rent. This expands their vocabulary but helps them also to understand common abbreviations.
- One of my students working with the Barton program desperately wants to get her driver's license. As a part of each session, we use the Oregon Driver's Manual for reading and comprehension. Works like a charm and proves once again that tutoring to the student's specific needs or goals works best.
- I try to change our usual pattern when possible to get my students thinking about their surroundings and thinking about what is going on in the world. So, if a Chinese newspaper is on the nearby table, I ask them what is written in it and try to get a conversation going. Conversation is important.
- I take advantage of opportunities to talk about local happenings, such as the elections or holidays. Sometimes the conversation suggests a drive around town. So, we leave the books sitting on the table and get into my car and drive around the downtown area. All the while, I'm asking them about different street signs, what buildings and businesses they can see. I try to generate an interest in their town and what the people are doing.
- We take walks in the park and around town, stopping at the bakery, going to Home Depot or similar kinds of outings. Sometimes we don't even open a book or use a pencil.
- In helping someone hear the "ING," "ANG," "ILD" or the "ONK" or many other endings, I say words with these endings and have my student point to the Barton tile related to the appropriate sound. This is done quickly, returning to the ones she often misses in between ones she gets easily.

## The circle of giving

The Literacy Council is part of a big circle of givers: Our volunteer tutors and officers give hours of their time each week to empower others through the gift of literacy, and these efforts are supported by financial gifts from individuals, businesses and foundations in our community.

We invite all who value this work to send a contribution.

Make a New Year's resolution to show your support.

To those who have already given, we extend our most heartfelt thanks.

— Sincerely, Board of Directors



We are especially grateful to our generous donors. In 2014, the Literacy Council received:

- \$1,680 from our summer mailing campaign
- \$500 from the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
- \$500 from Mid-Rogue Management Services
- \$1,000 from an anonymous donor



## Reaping the Rewards

You can now support the Literacy Council every time you shop at Fred Meyer with your Rewards Card.

All you have to do is link your Rewards Card to the Literacy Council by following the instructions below.

Then, whenever you use your Rewards Card when shopping at Freddy's, you'll be helping us earn a donation from the store.

If you don't have a Rewards Card, you can sign up for one at the customer service desk at any Fred Meyer store.

### Here's how to sign up:

1. Go to [www.fredmeyer.com](http://www.fredmeyer.com).
2. Click on Register at top right of page. If you already have an account, click on Sign In and proceed to step 4.
3. Create an account by filling in the requested information, then click on Create Account button at bottom.
4. 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
5. 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 the Lit Council.
6. You're done!! (P.S. Don't forget to Sign Out)



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