



Literacy Council for Josephine County

SPRING/SUMMER, 2012

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

Literacy Council keeps up with changes, stays focused

Greetings, all!

As members of our community, you will be pleased to know that the dedicated volunteers of your Literacy Council are busy as always with their usual energy and joy.

It is a bounty to see the progress of our students and the pleasure the tutors derive from witnessing their students' triumphs. Some of these victories are small — such as pronouncing "D" properly — while others are big — such as reading the thick Commercial Driver's License manual with understanding.

The Literacy Council for Josephine County is pleased to tell you that we have had wonderful additions to our tutor volunteers this past year, adding six tutors in just the last few months. Though, because even volunteers need vacations, there is still a need for temporary volunteers, as always.

There have been several changes in our board as well. We regret that Allan Hammer, Don Stocking, Nancy Hitchcock and Merle Nyberg, four long-time members, have retired.

Thankfully, Nancy Hitchcock remains as a tutor and as coor-

dinator of testing services in our relationship with Rogue Community College.

Mary Slater is ready to retire from the board, remaining as our secretary only until a replacement can be found, and continuing to tutor.

Our wonderful new board members include: Tonya Harboldt, who brings a great deal of knowledge regarding charitable organizations; Bud Fuller, who brings experience in GED programs and RCC tutoring; and Hilton Reynolds, who is a wonderful accountant. Roberta Marsh, experienced in office organization, is an associate member of the

board, who fills our need for librarian duties, and keeps us up-to-date on office and book supplies, when she isn't acting as one of our new tutors.

We are still looking for someone with some experience in grant writing. That person could help us fill a need we have for several thousand dollars of specialized equipment.

There is a set of books with corresponding CDs that is wonderful for students doing homework as they can hear the cor-

rect pronunciation of what they are reading. This set of books is now in short supply, so if you can suggest a person talented in grant writing, please do.

Dee Pierce has taken on the varied job description of vice chairman, while the chairmanship has fallen to me.

It is therefore my pleasure to thank you for any support that you may offer, and to ask that you remember us in giving of your resources of time and financial aid for those dear souls in our area who would simply be glad if they were able to read this letter.

The support we can offer is still reliant on YOU, for rent, for supplies and for our many other needs.

— Andrea Dougan
Literacy Council Chairman

Notes from the Chair

Books, books & more books

- **WHAT:** The Literacy Council annual book sale
- **WHEN:** Aug. 4, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **WHERE:** Daily Courier parking lot, Seventh & J streets, Grants Pass
- **DETAILS:** This is big event for us. Last year, we raised almost \$650,

selling tattered romances and best-selling novels, well-read adventure paperbacks and dog-eared mysteries, children's books, reference books, how-to books, self-help books and cookbooks.

- **HOW YOU CAN HELP:** There are three ways:

1. Give books. We'll take anything you've got. And we'll be happy to pick them up and take them off your hands.
2. Give cash. Stop by the sale and buy books.
3. Give time. Volunteer to spend an hour or two helping out at our major fundraiser of the year.

■ **GET IN TOUCH:** Call Kathleen Alaks at 541-474-3815 (weekdays), or 541-955-5371 (evenings and weekends). Or email kalaks@thedailycourier.com





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CALENDAR

Upcoming Board Meetings

Meetings are at 12:30 p.m. 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.)

June 14	Oct. 11
July 12	Nov. 8
Aug. 9	Dec. 13
Sept. 13	

Meet Andrea Dougan: new Literacy Council chair

Andrea Dougan knows what it's like to be in a place where it's difficult communicating with others.

She spent two years living in Siberia as a Baha'i volunteer teaching English as a second language at a Russian university.



Andrea Dougan poses by her painting of an Oriental poppy.

her well in her duties as the new Literacy Council chairman. Andrea, 74, was voted into the position during the Council's annual meeting in January.

A Nebraska native, Andrea has lived in 11 states. After graduating high school, she took one semester of college classes and got married. Over the years, she held down a number of different jobs, including working for an employment agency, selling cosmetics, doing massage therapy, making free-form planter candles in a candle factory and even briefly serving as an assistant in a "very bad" magic comedy act.

At age 40, she went back to college, first getting a degree in art and then a degree in education. At around age 50, she started teaching art.

She and her husband Ed have been married for 19 years. They spent 16 years in Nantucket, Maine, where Andrea taught art, taught English as a second language and worked part-time as a hospice volunteer coordinator.

They moved to Grants Pass three years ago to be near Andrea's son, who lives in Merlin with her granddaughters, ages 2 and 5.

She got involved with the Literacy Council after attending a Sister City Committee meeting and meeting long-time Council member Nancy Hitchcock.

"When she heard that I had taught English as a second language, her eyes lit up and she just grabbed me," Andrea recalls. "I started as a tutor and I still tutor."

On Tuesdays, she goes to a home and tutors an entire family. One day a week, she invites the neighborhood children to her home for art classes, crafts, games and songs. She and Ed host weekly devotionals in their home for fellow Baha'is. She volunteers doing spiritual support services at Three Rivers Community Hospital. And she swims three days a week at the YMCA.

"My religion is a main part of my life," Andrea says. "And one of the tenets of the Baha'i faith is to be of service."

As the Literacy Council chairman, Andrea says her primary goal is outreach. "I need to be in the community more to make sure people are aware of what we're doing," she says. "I've spoken to some groups, but I need to do more of that."

"I had Berlitz tape that I listened to before I went," she says. "I could say the basics: hello and goodbye, please and thank you, how much is it? But I understand what it's like for people coming to America not being able to speak the language, because I was in that same situation in Siberia. There were certain words that I just could not get right."

That time she spent overseas should serve

Board member profile



Meet tutor Roberta Marsh and student Camelia Lopez

■ PERSONAL BACKGROUND.

Roberta: Born and raised in Canada, Roberta managed dental offices for 44 years, first in California and then in Grants Pass. She lived in Grants Pass from 1969 until 1985, then moved back here in 1995.

Camelia: Camelia was born and raised in the town of Puebla, Mexico, a large Central Mexican town, east of Mexico City. She came to the United States in April 2001 and lived in Grants Pass from 2002 to 2005, during which time she got married and had a daughter, Isabel, who is now 7. After her divorce, she moved to Mollalla, to live with her sister, staying there for six years before returning to Grants Pass.



Camelia Lopez, left, works on her pronunciation with tutor Roberta Marsh.

Tutor/Student Profile

■ INVOLVEMENT WITH LITERACY COUNCIL.

Roberta: Recruited to the Literacy Council by Andrea Dougan, Roberta started working in the office, doing filing and organizing the library. She has since been “promoted” to helping determine our need for books and placing book orders. She also tutors Camelia.

“I’d never tutored before, but I speak well and read well,” Roberta says.

Camelia: Camelia earned her GED while in Clackamas County. She started with the Josephine County Literacy Council four months ago, first working with Andrea Dougan and then, for the last three months, with Roberta Marsh.

Camelia currently works at a restaurant, putting in a lot of evening hours. She wants to get a job that allows her more time to spend with her daughter.

“I have no time for school. So I come here (to the Literacy Council office) once a week to try to learn. They can fit into my time,” Camelia says. “I want to better my skills, to get a better job, a better salary.”

Her primary goal, she says, is getting a license to drive a school bus. She and Roberta have read through the bus driver’s license manual and Roberta has even recorded it on cassette tape so Camelia

can listen to it at home and in her car.

“We’re working to improve her reading capabilities and her speech, conversation and pronunciation. And we’ve filled out job applications,” says Roberta. “She’s doing very well.”

■ OTHER INTERESTS.

Roberta: A regular church-goer, Roberta also is a member of the Douglas County Scottish Society, which organizes Celtic highland games each summer in Winston, and the Scottish Knights Templar, a fraternal order that focuses on matters of human rights, political and religious freedom and humanitarian aid.

Camelia: Aside from work, motherhood and her schooling, Camelia has little time for extra-curricular activities, though she does volunteer in her daughter’s classroom at Lincoln Elementary School several times a week.

■ IF YOU WERE STRANDED ON A DESERTED ISLAND, WHAT ONE BOOK WOULD YOU WANT TO HAVE WITH YOU?

Roberta: “The Bible. It has all kinds of stories in it and it gets you closer to where you need to be.”

Camelia: “Roberta has encouraged me to start reading and one book I really liked was ‘Around the World in 80 Days’ by Jules Verne. He’s my favorite author right now.”



What's UP? Here's one example of why English is so difficult to learn...

UP. ↑

This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word. It is listed in the dictionary as an adverb, preposition, adjective, noun or verb.

It's easy to understand UP, ↑ meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP? ↑

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? ↑ Why do we speak UP, ↑ and why are the officers UP ↑ for election and why is it UP ↑ to the secretary to write UP ↑ a report?

We call UP ↑ our friends, brighten UP ↑ a room, polish UP ↑ the silver, warm UP ↑ the leftovers and

clean UP ↑ the kitchen. We lock UP ↑ the house and fix UP ↑ the old car.

At other times this little word has real special meaning. People stir UP ↑ trouble, line UP ↑ for tickets, work UP ↑ an appetite, and think UP ↑ excuses.

To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP ↑ is special.

And this UP ↑ is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. ↑

We open UP ↑ a store in the morning but we close it UP ↑ at night We seem to be pretty mixed UP ↑ about UP ! ↑

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, ↑ look the word UP ↑ in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP ↑ almost one-quarter of the page and can add UP ↑ to about 30 definitions

If you are UP ↑ to it, you might try building UP ↑ a list of the many ways UP ↑ is used. It will take UP ↑ a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, ↑ you may wind UP ↑ with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. ↑ When the sun comes out we say it is clearing UP. ↑ When it rains, it soaks UP ↑ the earth. When it does not rain for awhile, things dry UP. ↑

One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, ↑ for now. My time is UP! ↑



New & Improved

An updated Literacy Council brochure is being distributed throughout the community. It is currently available at the library in Grants Pass, the Visitors' Center, the Job Council/Employment office, UCAN/RSVP and the front desk of the Coalition for Kids building.

Any other ideas where we could put it? Call Dee Pierce.

Also, an extended, updated version of the Literacy Council website is in development. We anticipate it will be posted in the near future. Be on the look-out.

Is there something you'd like to see in the next newsletter? Contact Kathleen Alaks, 541-474-3815, 541-955-5371 or kalaks@thedailycourier.com.

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