



LiteracyLinks

The Newsletter for Volunteer Tutors

[Peggy L. Murphy, Editor](#)

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Photos by Bryan McGowan

2014 Volunteer Literacy Conference Carried the Torch for Learning

St. Anthony students (below) contributed to the Culture Exchange Workshop, the luncheon program, and pronunciation workshops at the 2014 Volunteer Literacy Conference. Derene Meurisse (far left) coordinates the St. Anthony ESL program. Cece Dispenza (center with U.S. flag) works with students to improve pronunciation. Cece also presented two pronunciation workshops.



“Carrying the Torch for Learning” was the theme for the 2014 Volunteer Literacy Conference held at Reed College, Saturday, March 15. The conference is an all-volunteer effort: conference organizers and helpers; presenters and workshop moderators; student speakers and culture exchange participants.

LiteracyLinks is dispensing with its usual format in favor of photos to highlight conference activities. We will return to our regular format in April.

More photos will be available on the Portland Literacy Council website, www.portlandliteracy.org,

The annual Volunteer Literacy Tutor Conference offers opportunities to recharge and refresh.



Thirteen volunteer presenters or moderators covered a variety of conference topics: grammar, ESL activities, pronunciation, writing, GED, citizenship, etc. Students shared facets of their culture at the Culture Exchange Workshop. Students also participated in pronunciation workshops presented by Cece Dispenza from St. Anthony ESL program.



During the luncheon program, tutors hear first-hand the stories of student journeys to the United States and to ESL classes. The luncheon provides opportunity to catch up with other tutors. Door prizes are a much-anticipated feature of the luncheon program.

The 120-plus attendees represented over 25 literacy programs.



Thank You Volunteers, Presenters, Students and Door Prize Donors!

And a million thanks to volunteer literacy tutors who make a difference in students' lives.



Conference Volunteers and Participants

Portland Literacy Council

Board of Directors

Kris Magaurn
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Penny Russman
Bryan McGowan
Peggy Murphy
Ariana Chandler
Cheryl Thoen

Volunteers

Trina Hing
Lisa Davidson

Presenters, Moderators, Facilitators

Michelle Culley
Cece Dispenza
Jill Kantor
Tara Larsen
Sarah Liebman
Esther Loanzon
Patrik McDade
Edit McDonald
Sue Moser
Sara Packer

Culture Exchange Students

Hamda Ali
Ernesto Ixcoy
Trifon Markov
Nahid Rashidinezami

Luncheon Speakers

Hamda Ali
Nataliya Chumak
Kamelia Dimitrova
Massod Lotfi

Pronunciation Workshops

Eva Garcia Vargas
Eduardo Martinez
Hilda Paz
Mai Perl
Fereshteh Rezai-Mojdehi
Hong Cuc (Cookie) Ritter

Door Prize Donors

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New Seasons Market, Sellwood
OMSI
Kimo Pope, Shine at the Salon
Portland Art Museum
Portland Nursery
Powell's Books
Secret Aardvark Hot Sauce
Starbucks on Boones Ferry,
Lake Oswego
The Broadway Rose Theatre
Company
Water Avenue Coffee
Gift baskets made in Rwanda

We also thank the anonymous donor of several intercultural gifts used for the door prize drawing at the Culture Exchange workshop.