



Portland Literacy Council

# LiteracyLinks

The Newsletter for Volunteer Tutors

Peggy L. Murphy, Editor

March-April 2016

## In This Issue

Tutor Conference

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**See you  
March 11, 2017  
at the  
Tutor Conference  
Reed College**

## Putting the Pieces Together for A Noteworthy Tutor Conference



**Bernie Berardo, Trina Hing, John Runcie, and Les Rivera.**

Their smiles reflect the mood of many at the conference.

When you mix Dedicated Volunteers with Eager Participants and Knowledgeable, Professional Presenters, you have the recipe for a successful Volunteer Literacy Conference.

The 2016 Tutor Conference included eighteen presenters/moderators in fifteen workshops packed with relevant and practical information. Workshop topics embraced traditional approaches to teaching grammar, reading, and writing, as well as the multi-sensory approach of the Orton-Gillingham method. Additional workshops highlighted Total Physical Response, using media in tutoring, finding and using free online resources, and finding authentic materials to spark student interest in their local community. Conference evaluation comments emphasized the usefulness of ideas and materials that could be used right away.

Students participated in the Culture Exchange Workshop, Pronunciation Workshops, and at the luncheon shared their stories of learning English. Students are a great resource for the conference, reminding us how challenging their journeys have been, and how hard they work every day to learn a new language.

## The conference was “Very helpful and enjoyable,” wrote a conference participant.



**Sung Ran Lee and Lorraine Jones**, Tigard Senior Center. Ms. Lee presented her moving essay, “Aloe Vera,” at the conference luncheon. As a commenter said: “The aloe vera story touched my heart. I, too, am ‘struggling to fit into the new lifestyle’ . . . Thank you for your beautiful story.”



**Arnold Vinnard and Trifon Markov**, PCC Sylvania. Trifon regaled the luncheon audience with the surprises he encountered in the U.S. He found that Americans had different lives than portrayed in movies.



**Eva Garcia, Eduardo Martinez, & Hong Cuc “Cookie” Ritter**, St. Anthony ESL program, along with tutor Cece Dispenza, provided real-life pronunciation experience. Regarding the Pronunciation Workshops, one attendee commented, “It opened my mind to how much I don’t know and how much I take for granted.”

Eduardo spoke during the luncheon, recounting his early life in Mexico, his remarkable journey from manual laborer to business ownership, from ESL to business studies.

## More Evaluation Comments

Very well put together — timing was good, sessions were the right time length. Speakers were engaging. Good title for the whole workshop, too!

Thanks! *Muy bien.*

You are an amazing, dedicated group!

Fabulous opportunity given to me through Clatsop Comm. College . . . Was thrilled with the selection of workshops. Found one workshop in each session of great interest.

As a new tutor, it’s great to meet people with a wide range of experience.

So much to like!! The presenters, meeting other tutors and hearing from students. The campus is beautiful. The food was excellent. Will use materials all year long. Thank you!

I hope to apply what I learned today.

Very useful and encouraging to touch base with everyone. Feeling inspired.

**Thanks to the many “pieces” of the literacy puzzle —  
Volunteers, Presenters, Students & Tutors —  
who went beyond a “Good Job” for the Annual Conference.**

**Portland Literacy Council Board of Directors**

Kris Magaurn  
Arlene Matusow  
Penny Russman  
Peggy L. Murphy  
Cheryl Thoen  
Dominique Hoffman

**Volunteers**

Trina Hing  
Jim Walseth  
Doug Baldwin

**Presenters**

Bernie Bernardo  
Michelle Culley  
Gale Czerski  
Cece Dispenza  
Susan Farra  
Sheila Gibbons  
Julie Hiefield  
Kathleen Holloway  
Nanci Leiton  
Nicole Morales  
Blair Orfall  
Sara Packer  
Juliet Pursell  
Les Rivera  
John Runcie  
Zadok Taylor  
Delpha Thomas  
Ramin Tokhi

**Culture Exchange Workshop**

Raed Alqhatani  
Dian Chen  
Farnoosh Khodayar  
Hai Nguyen  
Abdul Sani

**Pronunciation Workshop**

Eva Garcia  
Eduardo Martinez  
Hong Cuc “Cookie” Ritter

**Luncheon Speakers**

Sung Ran Lee  
Trifon Markov  
Eduardo Martinez

**Door Prize Donors**

Alder Creek Kayak and Canoe  
Caffe Umbria  
Carioca Bowls  
Coterie Salon  
Exodus Spa and Salon  
Higgins Restaurant  
Kari Asher Massage  
Kelsall Chiropractic Clinic  
Kerr Bikes  
Kimo Sunshine Pope, Shine at the Salon  
Kobos Coffee  
Magaurn Video Media  
Oregon Museum of Science and Industry  
Portland Nursery  
Starbucks on SW Terwilliger Blvd

**Thanks to Reed College and the SEEDS program  
for providing the wonderful venue, AV assistance  
during the conference, and use of the computer  
lab.**

**Calendar**

**Tutor Training**

May 7 & 14, 9 am to 4 pm  
Clackamas Community College Harmony Campus  
7738 SE Harmony Rd, Room 335  
Milwaukie, OR 97222-1269

**[Register Online](#)**

This is the last training for 2015-16.