

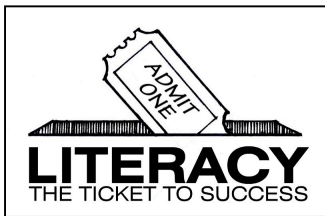
Literacy Links

a newsletter for volunteer tutors

editor, Peggy L. Murphy, Portland Literacy Board Member

2011 Tutor Conference

It's Spring, so it's time for the annual PLC Volunteer Literacy Tutor Conference. This premiere event for volunteer tutors has a great following. The sooner you sign up, the better -- [preregister](#) on the PLC website or via the conference notice recently sent to our mailing list.



Attendees have 16 workshop options, all presented by adult literacy professionals. It's a great networking opportunity for tutors, students, teachers, and

other literacy supporters. Luncheon is a multipurpose affair with interesting speakers, networking with good company, catching up with old friends, and maybe even winning a door prize.

Where: Reed College, Vollum Center, 3203 SE Woodstock Blvd, Portland

When: Saturday, March 19, 8:30 am to 3:00 p.m. Parking is available. Tri-Met Bus 19 - Woodstock stops at the college.

Online registration:

<http://www.portlandliteracy.org/conference2011/conferencehome11.html>

Bringin' the Pie to the Tutor Conference

by Peggy L. Murphy

One of the best things about the annual VLT Conference is that there is plenty of enriching content offered to tutors. At the 2011 conference, attendees have two opportunities to learn about a new approach to language acquisition from Patrik McDade, program director of [People-Places-](#)

[Things](#). His first session is Workshop B, "The Real World is Multilevel." In the afternoon, he will co-present with Tamara Wallace in Workshop L, "Less Talk, More Language." Patrik's workshops will build on his mission to provide language and cultural bridging services.



Laura Scholz, Steven Schmidt, and Patrik McDade at Cesar Chavez School

In interviewing Patrik about his teaching philosophy, I realized that successful learning is many-directional, it's not just students learning. Teachers learn from students, and students learn from one another. A multi-level approach can serve students with different language levels, expanding on the idea of "each one teach one."

Using the expression "Bringin' the Pie," Patrik compares his community learning approach to the delicious, sweet, and hearty contribution of pie to a community potluck. People are comfortable, they enjoy new and familiar foods, and share a wholesome experience with their neighbors, free from embarrassment or humiliation. Bring people to the learning table - everybody gets pie.

In the multi-level real world there is always more than one way to do most anything. Would you

welcome an alternative to endless grammar drills, vocabulary lists, and conjugating verbs into tenses the average person seldom uses? If so, consider spending an hour or so with Patrik McDade at the VLT Conference.

Patrik McDade is the program director of People-Places-Things, which offers culture and language bridge services. People-Places-Things' Ampersand program trains teachers "in community settings with all the chaos of the real world of English teaching" and provides ongoing support.

People-Places-Things:
<http://peopleplacethings.memberlodge.com/>

Mindy Is Back in the Building

by Mindy Mentor

Literacy Links has a new columnist, Mindy Mentor, although my sources say this isn't her first gig with Literacy Links. The Mindy Mission is to reach out to tutors, pass on insights and teaching methods, and pass along relevant facts from time to time. Please feel free to [Email Mindy](#) at Portland Literacy with useful tips, successes, tutor news, etc. Mindy looks forward to hearing from you. Editor



Mindy Mentor

Hi, it's Mindy Mentor here. I'm back from my sabbatical. I heard about the makeover at Literacy Links and found out the newsletter has come into the 21st Century (about time, don't you think?). Some of you veteran tutors may remember me, and wonder what I've been up to.

Travel and learning:

expanding my repertoire and gathering facts and teaching guides just for you. (And as you can see I look just as young-as ever!)

I want to hear from you: You awesome Portland metro area tutors log about 50,000 tutoring hours each year and I know you have amazing insights to share. For my first foray into the new Literacy Links, I dug through the archives for my old Mindy Mentor articles, looking for timeless questions. Let me know if you think my advice still holds.

Q. World Literacy Rates. I'm interested in how US literacy rates compare to the rest of the world. I work with a group of multi-cultural ESL students and find some students never had schooling.

George from Molalla

A. Literacy Rates are all over the [map](#). The literacy rate in Afghanistan is 43 percent for males and 28 percent for females. Comparatively, the US literacy rate for males and females is 99 percent. However: the [National Institute for Literacy](#) reports that more than 20 percent of US adults read at or below a fifth-grade level. Low literacy means under- or unemployment, hindered ability to vote or read a newspaper.

These tidbits could form the core of a conversation with your multicultural group. What are these statistics telling us? Who reads in their home country? Do men and women have the same privileges? What is their educational system? George, your discussion could be a great English language and social geography lesson.

Whoops. I see I have run out of time and space. Please write me and ask the questions you wish, or share some of the things you've discovered about literacy. "Let's talk" as Joan Rivers might say. But let's read and write too.

Cheers,

Mindy Mentor

<http://www.caliteracy.org/nil/>

<http://www.justmaps.org/maps/thematics/literacy.asp>

Email Mindy c/o: peggy@portlandliteracy.org

Friend of Literacy Passes Away

By Kris Magaurn

Zerita Owen, literacy advocate and founding member of the Portland Literacy Council, passed away on December 19, 2010 after a four-year battle with cancer.



Zerita Owen

Zerita's literacy volunteering began in 1983 when she was trained as a tutor for Oregon Literacy. She went on to become a Tutor Trainer, and in 1988 she was named a Senior Tutor Trainer. That same year, Zerita accompanied her learner to Washington, D.C. to attend the National

Literacy Honors. At the reception, they were thrilled to meet then President George H.W. Bush and his wife, Barbara.

In 1993, Zerita helped form the Portland Literacy Council and was their secretary until 1995.

Zerita will always be remembered for her positive outlook, her ready smile, her generous spirit and her dedication to helping others. We will miss her.

Kris Magaurn is the chair and founding member of the Portland Literacy Council. She is also a Tutor Trainer and a Volunteer Literacy Tutor Coordinator at Portland Community College. She is all of these things because of the influence of her mentor and friend, Zerita Owen.

Volunteer Opportunities

Clark College tutor training

If you are interested in tutoring adults in Clark County, the [Student Learning Center](#) at Clark College is holding training sessions on March 18-19 and May 20-21, 2011. The 7-hour intensive training encompasses understanding and perspective of adult learners, tips and techniques for tutoring in the classroom, best practices and strategies for tutoring individuals and small groups, and goal setting and lesson planning strategies.

Training schedule

Session 1: 6 - 9PM Friday, at Clark College Town Plaza Center (5411 E Mill Plain Blvd. Vancouver), Room 105

Session 2: 9AM - 1PM Saturday at Clark's Main Campus (1933 Fort Vancouver Way), Bldg AA5, Room 221

Trainees need to attend Friday and Saturday sessions to receive the full training and certification. Registration is free and refreshments will be provided. Apply to become a tutor via [online application](#). Feel free to contact the Student Learning Center (360) 992-2750 for more information and to confirm your attendance. We hope you'll join us in this rewarding and worthwhile program!

Clark College Student Learning Center
http://www.clark.edu/academics/programs/adult_literacy.php

Hillsboro United Methodist Church (HUMC) ESL program is looking for one tutor for Wednesday evening and two tutors for Thursday evening. The program runs for 9 weeks, 6:30 to 8:00 pm; students attend Wednesday and Thursday.

The program supports families and is in its fourth year of providing low-cost adult ESL classes with child care. The program supplies materials and uses ESOL Tutor and Student Learning Packets along with other resources.

E-mail Mary Foote at HUMC
mmfoote@frontier.com
telephone 503-648-3072

For Additional Tutoring Opportunities, see [Portland Literacy Council Tutor page](#)

<http://www.portlandliteracy.org/tutors.html>

Volunteer Literacy Tutor Training

February 19 & 26, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
PCC Willow Creek Campus
241 SW Edgeway Dr
Beaverton OR

The campus is near SW 185th and Baseline Road along the Max Tracks.
Preregistration is required. Please call or e-mail to check for availability before mailing in your form.
Please register early.

Call: 503-244-6111 x3700
E-mail: pdxliteracy@hotmail.com

Correction

Thanks to Nayan Fleener of Aloha, for the thank you note and for pointing out that John Adams was the second president of the US and Thomas Jefferson was the third.

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Mark Your Calendar

Volunteer Literacy Tutor Training
Tell a friend!
Feb 19 & 26, 2011 at
PCC Willow Creek Campus

Annual Tutor Conference - March 19, 2011
Reed College - See you there!