

The Year In Review

The Literacy Council has long been the largest provider of volunteer-based literacy tutoring in Montgomery County. However, in addition to one-on-one and small group tutoring conducted by trained volunteers, our services now encompass classroom programs taught by professional educators, a computer language lab, and access to online GED preparation. As a result, the number of students that the LCMC has served in the 2009 fiscal year (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009) has increased, allowing us to better meet the demand for adult literacy services in Montgomery County.

A total of 1908 adult learners received services, with 1159 in the tutoring program and 749 enrolled in classes (ESL, English for Daily Living, and conversation) and the computer language lab. Students came from 87 different countries and spoke 46 different languages. The LCMC trained 302 new tutors, and 804 volunteers donated over 29,000 hours of instruction. Volunteers contributed an additional 25,000 hours for tutor preparation and travel, training, executive board service, office work and other activities. According to the *Independent Sector* website, the estimated dollar value of volunteer time in the state of Maryland is \$21.20. For the LCMC, that's over one-million dollars of donated expertise! Please be assured that we appreciate each and every volunteer.

Student Profile FY 2009

<p>Sex Female.....77% Male.....23%</p> <p>Age 16-24.....3% 25-44.....45% 45-59.....40% Over 60.....11%</p> <p>Native Country Asia.....40% Africa.....9% Central America...14% South America.....14% Europe.....1% Middle East.....4% West Indies.....4% United States.....6%</p>	<p>Education 8th grade or less.....22% Some high school.....11% High school diploma...24% Some college or diploma.....29% Graduate degree.....5%</p> <p>Employment Full-time.....39% Part-time.....17% Retired.....2% Homemaker.....17% Unemployed.....18%</p> <p>Residence Silver Spring.....28% Rockville.....25% Gaithersburg.....14% Germantown.....8%</p>
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More numbers... 164 students speak Spanish, 124 speak Korean, 84 speak Chinese, 62 speak English. Among the other languages spoken are Quechua, Wolof, Tigrinya, Urdu, Amharic, Bengali, Farsi, Hindi, Lao, French, Japanese, Khmer, Tamil, Vietnamese, Russian...

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STUDENTS HONORED AT POTLUCK



Photo by Tsehay Habteselassie

Over 100 students, tutors, and volunteers gathered on September 30 to share a potluck dinner, feasting on delicacies from a variety of countries and cultures. The potluck traditionally has been a

great way for the LCMC "family" to socialize and to honor Skill Book 4 graduates, and this year a new element was added – we recognized learners who obtained U.S. citizenship during the past fiscal year (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009). Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett delivered remarks and presented graduates and new citizens with certificates from the LCMC.



FY 2010

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Dean Cooper - President
Karen Hinson - Vice President
Bernice North - Secretary
Ira Scot Holmes - Treasurer/Vice President of Finance
Lionel Epstein - Director, Basic Literacy
Marilyn Block - Director-at-Large, ESL
Jim Sneed - Director-at-Large, Training
Irv Aisenberg - Director-at-Large
Louise Allentuck - Director-at-Large
Naomi Collins - Director-at-Large
Frank Mallon - Director-at-Large
Jeanne-marie Smith - Director-at-Large
Michael Drayne - Director-at-Large
Ruth Ann Nelson - Director-at-Large
Pamela Saussy - Executive Director

STAFF

- Pamela Saussy Executive Director
Kim Brown Deputy Director
Shelley Block Public Relations Coordinator
Maggie Bruno Workshop Coordinator
Caralyn Bushey Instructional Specialist
Carol Gardner ESL Coordinator
Tsehaye Habteselassie Management Information Systems Specialist/Student Support Coordinator
Jo Hagner Administrative Assistant
Ginnie Kiesewetter ESL Coordinator
Jayne Klein Librarian
Beth Rawcliffe Office Assistant/Financial
Mike Trageser Basic Literacy Coordinator
Stephanie Williams Intake/Assessment Specialist



Literacy Council of Montgomery County, MD A United Way Participant

Letter from the Director



Hello to our volunteers, learners, and supporters! As we near the half-way point in our 2009 - 2010 program year, I'd like to bring you up to date on some important changes we're making at the Literacy Council.

If our 2008 - 2009 program year was all about building the LCMC's instructional capacity to serve more adult learners, this year is about maintaining the LCMC's financial health during this most challenging of economic times.

While we have always run a pretty tight financial ship, it's no longer possible to absorb funding cuts without having some impact on our services to our clients and volunteers. To balance our FY2010 budget, we had to make some tough budget calls. We eliminated one part-time staff position and thus had to cut our evening office hours. We furloughed our part-time staff and thus have taken steps to control the rate of new tutors and students entering our program, to accommodate the loss in staff hours. We scaled back the expansion of our English for Daily Living program, to save money on books and materials.

We'll be cutting back on some other expenses as well, including printing. To that end, this edition of LCMC News will be our last print issue. From now on, you can enjoy LCMC News delivered right to your email in-box or download it from our website. This change will not only save the LCMC \$3000 each year in printing and postage costs, it will save a few trees in the process!

These actions are simply the same kind of sensible steps any of us would take with our household budgets when times are tight: cut back where possible and keep a close eye on spending. As the economy recovers, we will restore services and capacity as rapidly as we can.

Despite having to make some difficult decisions in the near term, I'm very optimistic about the LCMC's prospects for the future. Our programs are highly valued by our learners and well-respected by those who fund us. We have a committed, engaged board of directors, all of whom are involved in helping to raise money and provide financial and operational oversight to the LCMC. And we have YOU, our volunteers and supporters, without whom there would simply be no Literacy Council of Montgomery County. Thank you for your tireless efforts to improve the lives of so many of our neighbors who need literacy and English instruction. You are making a big difference in their lives.

On a final note, I'd like to welcome Ruth Ann Nelson as our newest director-at-large. Read more about Ruth Ann on page 4.

Happy holidays and we'll see you in the New Year!

Pam Saussy Executive Director

Student and Tutor Progress

(8/1/09 - 10/5/09)

Congratulations to the following students for completing their skill books. *Initials are used if the student does not want his/her full name to appear, or if we do not know if the student wants his or her name published in the newsletter. Some of our students request not to be listed.*

STUDENTS

TUTORS

Skill Book One

Dwayne Currie.....	Agnes Crawford
Julia Di Negro.....	Marian Hallen
Mateus "Matthew" Gonsalves.....	Toby Brown
Sejin Jung.....	Toby Brown
Hyo Sun Lee.....	Candee Flanagan
Novelette Mahabeer.....	Laura Coyle
Sun Hyang Mun.....	Candee Flanagan
Jin Young Yim.....	Toby Brown

Skill Book Two

Nadege K.....	Carolyn Lavine
Hoon Park.....	Joanne Grant

Skill Book Three

Kate Burova.....	Connie Craig
Eva C.....	John Cini
Deuk Hyon Chung.....	Jack Jaeger
Marie Rose Senghor.....	Susan Levine
Myint Wai.....	Sheilah Levine

Skill Book Four

Emeteria C.....	Jan Schupack
Ashin Leu.....	Richard Fidler
Joanne Leu.....	Richard Fidler

Student Achievements

Lau Fan W. learned how to use the computer. **Tao C.** read a book. **Kamala Shrestha** reads the newspaper and regularly watches TV talk shows. **Chandra S.** got her driver's license. **Phannarai Promprasert, Sureeporn Sriyithana, and Jun Z.** filled out forms. **Tan Minh V.** filled out school forms. **Mei Lan Yu** passed a tri-annual competency test in English at work. **Milton Whitley** and **Jorge Velasquez** were interviewed by a Gazette reporter about the book project on which they are collaborating. Milton is writing about his experiences with illiteracy and Jorge is providing illustrations.

Student Writing

Student writing is edited due to space considerations, but none of the student's spelling, grammar, or sentence structure has been altered.



Student: Nadege K.

Tutor: Carolyn Lavine

Basic Literacy Skill Book 2

I went to read bible stories. I went to write in read. I went to work. I went to read many book.

Student: Myint Wai

Tutor: Sheila Levine

ESL Skill Book 3

This is a good program. I got more knowledge and practice. I want to learn more English. I want to get a better job. I want to take care of children. I work very hard now. I want an easier job.

Student: Anonymous

Tutor: Jessica Dunckel

Basic Literacy Skill Book 4

Being in this program has helped me a lot in my reading and writing. I know it was not easy but with the help of my teacher and the program now I can express my self in writing. I hope to help others like me when I be come an expert. I hope to inspire people who were like me to open up to learning in this program.

Student: Urmila Gupta

Tutor: William Wurzel

ESL Skill Book 3

I am enjoying learning English. I have improved my English from the class. I finished work-book 3 and am ready to start workbook 4. I have a nice teacher who teaches well. I plan to continue in this program.

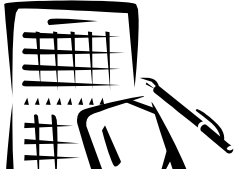
Student: Mateus Gonsalves

Tutor: Toby Brown

ESL Skill Book 1

I am like learning English. Thanks for teaching English, reading and writing. We have a good time with our teacher.

Please note: We cannot print a student's achievements or writing unless he or she has given permission to do so. Please check with your student and we will enter this in his/her file. We love to recognize students whenever possible!



LCMC Calendar

Mark your calendar to make sure you are aware of these hours, closings, and events.

November 2009

Monday	2	CTE, How to Administer a Check Up, 7:00 – 8:00 pm, Rockville Library, 2 nd Floor Meeting Room
Thursday	5	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, LCMC Office
Saturday	7	Tutor Training Workshop, Session #1, 9:15 am – 3:00 pm, Rockville Library, 2 nd Floor Meeting Room
Wednesday	11	Office closed, Veteran's Day
Saturday	21	Tutor Training Workshop, Session #2, 9:15 am – 3:00 pm, Rockville Library, 2 nd Floor Meeting Room
Wednesday-Friday	25-27	Office closed, Thanksgiving

December 2009

Tuesday	1	Office Volunteer Party, 12 pm – 2 pm, LCMC Office
Thursday	3	Board Meeting, 7 pm, LCMC Office
Thursday-Thursday	24-31	Office closed

January 2010

Friday	1	Office closed
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Board Appointment

Ruth Ann Nelson has been appointed to the 2009-2010 LCMC Executive Board as director-at-large.

Ruth Ann was a volunteer tutor from 2004-2007. She has over 35 years of management experience in the areas of Systems Integration, Services Marketing and Operations, Project Management and Project Planning. She has worked in government and commercial arenas with an expertise in Health Systems. Ruth Ann recently retired from SRA International, Inc. as Deputy Business Program Manager, Civil Sector Government Programs.

WELCOME NEW TUTORS

Shahidat Abbas	Dona Houseal
Cassandra Abdelmeguid	Wusu Kargbo
Laurie A.	Kelly Knarr
Jennifer Baah	Jacques Mouyal
Carol Dahlberg	Katalin Mouyal
Rick Darling	Maxine Polsky
Patricia Davies	Debra Price
Kim Gaal	Janet Scanlon
Michael Graul	Lana Shekhtman
Carl Hantman	Lynn Stander
Diana Haskell	Katie Wengert
Nadya Hosein	

Contributions

In Memory Of: **Nancy Hendler** by Katherine Waldmann. **Debbie Bhattacharyya** by Kim Brown, Melinda Frederick, Tanya Keller, Beth Rawcliffe, Pamela Saussy, Tracy Threefoot. **Severine Langelan** by Family & Nursing Care, Kathryn M. Gillin, Patricia LeoGrande, Richard Gurzynski, Susan Lane, Edwin Niederberger, Barbara Ratner, Edna Turner, Homer and Aura Wehr. **Edna Blutman** by the Tuesday Evening Tennis Group.

In Honor Of: **Erin Kazaz'** graduation by Carol Migdalovitz.

Corporate Supporters: B. F. Saul Property Company (proceeds from employee book fair)

Grants: Silver Spring Rotary Club for English for Daily Living Program

<i>Angel:</i>	<i>Benefactor:</i>
Margaret Chandler	Lionel Epstein
Dean Cooper	

Patron:
Michael Drayne, Ruth Ann & Stoddard Nelson

For Fall 2009 giving programs, please use the following designation numbers: United Way – 8490, Combined Federal Campaign – 56171, Maryland Charity Campaign – 2726.



LCMC News Is Going Green... And Saving Money, Too!

This is the last print issue of *LCMC News*. Future issues will be **emailed** and also will be available on our **website** (click on "publications" and then click "*LCMC News*").

Switching to an online format is a cost effective measure for the LCMC, reducing our printing and postage expenses. Moreover, it is a great way to reduce our impact on the environment by saving paper.

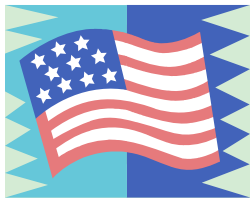
If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, but have not previously given us your email address, you can:

- Send an email to info@literacycouncilmcmd.org, and enter E-NEWSLETTER in the subject line.
- Call Shelley Block at the LCMC, 301-610-0030, ext. 205. You can leave a message if she is not available.
- Write to us at the LCMC office (see the back of this newsletter for the address).

If you do not currently receive our e-mail blasts, we do not have your email address.

If your email address has changed, please let us know.

DON'T MISS OUT ON NEWS FROM THE LITERACY COUNCIL!!!
WE DO NOT SHARE OUR MAILING LISTS WITH ANYONE ELSE.



Thanks to tutor **Susan Ritchie**, who prepared a powerpoint deck to help teach the civics portion of the citizenship test.

Susan broke the 100 questions into categories and used pictures and diagrams to help organize the information, which in turn helps to explain it in a more logical manner. The students then have a set of "cheat sheets" to study from.

Susan would be happy to provide assistance to students, as long as they can get to Bethesda or close to a red line metro stop.

To obtain a copy of Susan's material, email info@literacycouncilmcmd.org or call Shelley Block at the LCMC office, 301-610-0030.

Continuing Tutor Education

How to administer a Check Up

Monday, November 2, 2009

7:00 – 8:00 pm, Rockville Library,

2nd Floor Meeting Room

Facilitator: Carroll McKown, tutor and trainer

- ▶ What is a Check Up?
- ▶ How do I obtain a Check Up?
- ▶ How do I prepare my student to take the Check Up?
- ▶ Are there materials in the teacher's manual that I can use?

*To register, call LCMC at 301-610-0030
or email info@literacycouncilmcmd.org.*

In Memoriam

Former LCMC staff member **Debbie Bhattacharyya** died on August 31, 2009 after a courageous two-month battle with pancreatic cancer. Debbie joined the LCMC as ESL coordinator in March 2001, after volunteering as a tutor. She was on the staff until the spring of 2007, when she left to take a full-time position with the Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy (MCAEL).

As an ESL coordinator, Debbie's considerable intelligence, enthusiasm, and warmth helped countless students and volunteers forge successful tutoring relationships. She was a tireless advocate for adult literacy services.

A memorial service in celebration of Debbie's life was held on September 12, 2009.



Give the Gift of Literacy

This is the time of year when many of us are thinking about holiday gifts to give to family and friends. The Gift of Literacy is an alternative gift program that supports the initiatives and work of the Literacy Council.

Each Gift of Literacy will support the staff, tutors, students and programs of the LCMC. A ten-dollar donation buys one Gift of Literacy Card; a Gift of Literacy Package of 12 cards costs \$100.00.

Consider purchasing a Gift of Literacy for a family member, friend, co-worker, your child's teacher. To order gift cards, please contact a member of the Board of the Literacy Council of Montgomery County or complete the form that is included with this newsletter.

Happy Holidays from the LCMC

The Literacy List

*LCMC brings you the **Literacy List**, a monthly feature that spotlights prospective students. We hope you can help.*

NEEDED: TUTOR TO WORK WITH STUDENTS IN A GROUP HOME

▶ Two women living in a group home for disabled adults in Silver Spring would like to work together in a small group with one of our tutors. They would both begin in Skill Book 1, learning letters and sounds. They are striving for independence, and need reading and writing skills in order to be more active in the community. Experience with this population is not necessary... just a desire to help these women improve themselves and a willingness to be part of their educational experience. If interested, please contact Basic Literacy Coordinator Mike Trageser at 301-610-0030. Mike is in the office Monday – Thursday.

OPPORTUNITY IN GERMANTOWN

▶ A 34-year-old Salvadoran woman who knows no English at all has been waiting for a tutor since May. She can take the bus to the Germantown Library in the afternoon. For more information about this adult learner, please contact ESL Coordinator Carol Gardner at 301-610-0030. Carol is in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.



PUBLIC LIBRARIES OPEN ON SUNDAY

Eight libraries will be open from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm, beginning on September 13, 2009, and continuing through May 23, 2010. Those libraries are Bethesda, Gaithersburg, Germantown, Marilyn J. Praisner, Olney, Rockville, Silver Spring, and Wheaton. No evening hours.

THE LITERACY COUNCIL IS NOW ON FACEBOOK! Find posts about upcoming events, exchange information with volunteers and staff, get breaking news about literacy issues.



New Staff



Photo by Stephanie Williams

Tsehaye Habteselasie has joined the LCMC as the new "combination" Management Information Systems Specialist/Student Support Coordinator for the ESL class program.

Tsehaye holds a B.S. degree from American University in Computer Information Systems with a specialization in Business, as well as a master's degree from George Mason

University in Instructional Technology Design and Development.

Prior to coming to the LCMC, Tsehaye was School-to-Career Coordinator at SunRise Academy, a private day school for boys and young men with special needs. At SunRise, she also served as Administrative Services Manager.

Tsehaye also has worked as an instructional designer for University of Maryland - University College, as well as for-profit businesses and the Department of Education, developing on-line courses for adult learning. During college she held an internship in adult education, which fostered a growing interest in adult education as a career.

Her background includes a stint teaching ESL to several Ethiopians in her church community. Tsehaye was born in Ethiopia but immigrated to the US with her parents as a toddler. She speaks fluent Amharic in addition to English.

Tsehaye is in the office Tuesday-Wednesday 9:30 - 5:30 and Thursday - Friday 9:30 - 4:30.



LCMC News

A publication of the Literacy Council of Montgomery County, Maryland, Inc.

Shelley Block, editor

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On the Web: literacycouncilmcmd.org

Office Hours:
Monday – Friday, 9:30 am – 5:00 pm

The LCMC is a private non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to help adults living and working in Montgomery County learn to read, write, and speak English.



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Yes!

I want to promote literacy in Montgomery County.

- \$1000..... Angel
- \$ 600..... Benefactor
- \$ 300..... Patron
- \$ 150..... Sponsor
- \$ 75.....Friend
- \$ _____ Contributor
- \$ _____ In honor/memory of:

Please contact me about volunteering and/or planned giving.
 I wish to support LCMC, but request no newsletter

Please make your *tax deductible* check payable to LCMC. Return payment and form to:
 Literacy Council of Montgomery County
 21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 320
 Rockville, Maryland 20850



Return service requested

Literacy Council of Montgomery County, Maryland, Inc.
 21 Maryland Avenue
 Suite 320
 Rockville, MD 20850



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