

# From the Back of the Boat

Bob Garfinkel

Coming from an extremely patriotic family background, I have received a lot of satisfaction watching two of our students take the oath of citizenship at the Federal Courthouse in Milwaukee. Special thanks go to tutor Jerry Waara for assisting both students on their road to citizenship.

My student, in my opinion, will pass the oral and written citizenship exam on August 3, 2010. Lastly, one of our Hispanic interpreters will start her quest to attain citizenship soon and her mother will start studying for the test next year.

Five years ago, a handful of Kewaunee County residents discussed the possibilities of the implementation of a literacy council in our area. At that time, we never for a second thought of the possibility of tutoring students for the citizenship test. Citizenship evolved as a natural and logical course of events stemming out of student needs and goals. The process of putting together a citizenship program was made a lot easier with the help of Literacy, Green Bay.

It is extremely difficult for me to express my deep pride in Literacy Partners making the path to citizenship easier for our hard-working students. I have witnessed two highly emotional federal judges talk about their naturalized parents' personal life struggles and challenges in distant parts of the world. They each went on to tell us what citizenship meant to their parents and to themselves. At various times, both judges' voices were choked up with emotion and, as I looked around the courtroom, it was difficult to find a dry eye in the place. I have flashbacks of the courtroom experiences every time I go to a parade, see a veteran, fly my flag, or see an eagle fly over the lake. Yes, I am proud to be an American and I am also proud to be a tutor for Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County.

## THE STAR

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***Happy 4th Birthday Literacy Partners!***

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### News at a glance:

New Citizens  
Coming events – Recognition Day  
Tutor Survey

### Features:

“From the Back of the Boat”  
Our tutor of the Season  
Ask ***la Cucaracha***  
The Trainer’s Corner  
Of This and That  
A Tutor’s Point of View  
Supporters/Advisors/Board

### **Seventy-four New Citizens Take the Oath**

On June 10, 2010, Ingrid Wetzel, one of our students, took the oath of U.S. citizenship at the U.S. Federal Courthouse in Milwaukee. A Federal Judge told the standing room only crowd that our great country was a result of sacrifices made by our founding fathers who put their fortunes and lives on the line to set up a country that limits the power of government and has checks and balances. Furthermore, the judge reviewed the Bill of Rights and mentioned obligations the new citizens have to defend our country, sever all ties with foreign nations and other obligations. He concluded with John F. Kennedy’s famous quote, “Ask not what your country can do for you, but rather what you can do for your country.”

Seventy-four men and women, formerly from dozens of countries around the world, raised their right hand and repeated the oath of citizenship read by the judge. At the conclusion of the oath, there was a thunderous applause and shouts of joy by the new citizens, family, and friends. At that point, the new citizens picked up their certificates and went in 74 different directions, but retained the feeling of oneness. I talked to several excited new citizens outside the courthouse and saw people of all cultures hugging each other.

## New Citizens (continued.)

Literacy Partners, along with Ingrid's family, Union State Bank Associates (she works there), and friends are very proud of Ingrid and her accomplishment. Ingrid is our second student to gain US Citizenship with the help of tutor Jerry Waara. Our third student will take the citizenship test this summer.

If your student is interested in taking the citizenship test, please contact Jerry (388-3737) or Bob (845-2516).



Ingrid proudly displays her certificate of citizenship with President Bob Garfinkel.



Ingrid and her family outside the courthouse in Milwaukee, WI.

## Trainer's Corner

Barb Baldwin

Summer is the perfect time to show your student what our communities have to offer. Many may be totally unaware of what is taking place or where to go to access free recreational resources. Here are a few activities you may share with your student.

- Berry or cherry picking. It may be too late for strawberries, but raspberries are just coming on at Krayniks Berry Farm. (Find out the cost before you go so you can discuss this with your student.)
- Visit a farmer's market.
- Visit a county park or show them on a map where the parks are located. Point out state parks and discuss admission policies. I took my student for a tour of Point Beach State Forest and pointed out the free access to the Ice Age Trail and the free access to the beach and trails at the Manitowoc School Forest

which is just down the road a short distance from the State Forest. It might be good to talk about the difference between a nature trail that tends to be a loop and the Ice Age Trail which goes on and on

- "West of the Lake" has beautiful flower gardens you can tour and best of all it's free! (915 Memorial Drive, Manitowoc)
- Introduce them to the Ahnapee Trail
- Go "rummaging" together.
- Fireworks – attend together or let them know when/where they will be taking place.
- Attend a local Festival, County Fair or Powwow.
- Attend a sporting event, car show or stock car race: If your student is on a soccer team (mine was) go watch him play.



Pictured from Left to right: Evaluator Maureen Kinnard, Tutor Trainer Barb Baldwin, and new tutors Kelly Giese, Beth Fox, and Ken Lionaroms at a tutor reunion. Literacy Partners has begun having tutor reunions two months after new tutors get certified to answer tutor questions and review tutoring thus far.

Missing from the picture are Richard Zaborowske and Suzanne Luft.

## UWGB NE Wisconsin Health Literacy Conference

Anne Laurent



An older gentleman was prescribed nitroglycerine tablets for his chest pain. One day, his granddaughter was over visiting, and fell. When he asked her where it hurt, she said “my chest.” He looked at his pill bottle and the instructions said, “Take when experiencing chest pain.” Not knowing any better, he said, “Here, take one of my pills. I take them when my chest hurts.” Before they knew it, they were in the ER. Isn’t this scary? Could you see it happening to someone you know?

Health literacy is a huge topic in the United States right now. On May 18, 2010, nine members of the Literacy Partners attended the “Northeast Wisconsin Health Literacy Conference” at UWGB, presented by Wisconsin Literacy. As a group, the Literacy Partners had the largest showing! Great job everyone!

The day started off with a keynote address by the leader of the health literacy revolution in Wisconsin, Paul Smith, MD. Dr. Smith works out of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. He stated some very frightening facts. On a 2003 National Assessment of adult literacy survey, about 34% of the population ages 16-64, were at a below basic or basic health literacy comprehension rate. For ages 65 and older, the number jumps up to 59%! That means that 6 out of 10 adults over the age of 65 are almost completely health illiterate.

Health literacy encompasses everything health related: reading prescription labels, finding your way around a hospital, reading a flyer on a condition your doctor just diagnosed you with, reading, understanding, and signing a consent form for a surgery, and even just effectively communicating with your doctor. The impact of low health literacy has a huge effect on all other aspects of your life. Poor health literacy leads to a decreased health status, higher mortality rates, more hospitalizations, and higher health care costs for everyone.

Please click on the link below and watch the short video that was shown to everyone at the conference. It will effectively show you that anyone---*no matter age, race, social status, or degree of education*---can be affected by health literacy.

After clicking on this link, go to the bottom half of the page, and click on “Video: Patient’s experiences in the Health Care System”

[http://www.wisconsinliteracy.org/news\\_article.php?id=3](http://www.wisconsinliteracy.org/news_article.php?id=3)

In the months to come, Literacy Partners will be launching our own health literacy project. It will be available to everyone in our organization, and will be a tremendous resource for you, your student, and your friends and family. We are looking forward to giving everyone the tools, information, and knowledge needed to maneuver through the complicated health care system with remarkable success!

There was much more to this conference, and if you would like more information, email me at [annielaurent@gmail.com](mailto:annielaurent@gmail.com).

I would be happy to give you more information or answer any questions you may have.

## Dominion Recognition Day 2010

Recognition Day IV, Literacy Partners' event of the year, will be held on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm in the Kewaunee Grade School Cafeteria. At this event, we honor our hard-working students, dedicated tutors, energetic board members and wonderful supporters. We will recognize tutors who have reached 250 hours tutoring and students who have achieved special goals. Students and their children will receive gifts from Dominion Energy as in the past. A delicious pot luck dinner will highlight the afternoon.

Our revised program will provide for an enjoyable family gathering of students, tutors and their families. Please put October 10<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. Complete details will be in our September newsletter.

## Fundraiser Set for September

Anne Laurent has come up with an idea that will give Literacy Partners a boost in raising funds to support our programs. She presented her idea to the Kewaunee County Economic Development Corporation group and the "Buy local" director. The groups were very excited with the idea, want to help sponsor it, and will assist in the advertising.

The idea centers around a discount card featuring discounts or specials at about two dozen Kewaunee County businesses. The card will sell for \$10 and be good for one year. Sales will start in September. Literacy Partners will receive 100% of the profits.

Anne and our board of directors are well aware of how difficult it is right now to obtain money from foundations and businesses. Charities and other non-profits are laying off staff or closing their doors. A recent survey of about 100 non-profit organizations in Northeast Wisconsin showed that 28% of them were not sure if they would be around in 2011. Realistically, writing grants will not provide all of the funds we need to pay for materials for our students, tutors, and our operating costs. We will contact you in August for your help.

Anne is also exploring additional funding ideas for 2011 in areas of sponsoring a golf tournament and a joint venture with another non-profit organization.

## What's New in the Resource Center?

Sandy Ehren rescued the "Lincoln Library of Sports Champions" from a fate worse than death – the Kewaunee County Landfill! One of our school districts called Sandy to see if Literacy Partners would take them. The collection is comprised of 40 books in a blue and green series. Sports champions are featured from every sport you can imagine. The articles are interesting and range from 2—4 pages in length. Students in Level 3, 4 and basic education would enjoy them. Tutors can check them out under their own name.

Hottest items in the Resource Center right now are the bilingual story books, the Junkyard Dan series, and Focus on Phonics.

Approximately 200 books donated by the Luxemburg-Casco Intermediate School Library have been lined up against the wall in the Resource Center for about a year with several signs stating that they are free to take. Please pick up as many as you desire for your children, grandchildren or your student and family. Any books not taken will be donated to the Kewaunee Library after August 1, 2010.

Just a reminder, the Resource Center has two tape recorders available for checkout with blank tapes. The recorders could be a valuable tool for working on pronunciation skills.

The Resource Center is available 8am-4pm Monday through Friday. If, for any reason, you cannot get to the Resource Center during these hours, contact Bob and arrangements will be made to get the needed materials to you.



## From a Tutor's Point of View

### **Things you might do to help read a new word.**

Jackie Yon

- To help read a new word try---
- Skip the word. Read to the end of the sentence. Go back to figure out the word.
- Use the sounds. Stretch the words, i.e. ccccaaaattt.
- Look at word parts or chunks. i.e. Sat....ur....day
- Think about what would make sense.
- See if it looks like a word you might have seen before.
- Think about what would sound right.

These are reading strategies a reader needs to internalize. The strategies above will guide a reader to becoming an independent reader. A person should be able to read 90% accuracy or above. If a person is missing more than one word out of ten the reading material is too difficult. Encouraging a reader to try these strategies should lead to success.

### **On Line Translators.**

Kelly Jo Giese

Our tutor training showed us that it is possible to teach English to anyone without knowing any of the student's own language; however, with the tools available in various places, why not try to make comprehension as easy as possible for our students? There are dictionaries, hand-held electronic translating devices, libraries, flashcards and many other helpful worksheets, book and games at our classroom in Kewaunee. There is also the internet with many online translators.

If a tutor has access to the World Wide Web, the sky is the limit. Any search engine will provide a number of possible translators, some great, some not so great.

I wanted to share the online translator I've been using repeatedly to prepare worksheets for lesson plans where I can ensure that my student understands exactly what we're working on. For example, in Lesson 10 of Laubach Way to English Teacher's Manual I, there is a short answer, free reply drill for answering questions with "who," "what" and "whose." On the worksheet I prepared for this part of our lesson, I went to <http://www.freetranslation.com/> and chose the header "Text Translation," selected the "from" language of English and the "to" language of Spanish (Mexican), Typed in "Drill: Short Answers (free reply)" and clicked on the "Translate" button. The website gave me "El Taladro: Las Respuestas Cortas (liberte respuesta.)" My student was easily able to understand the directions for the worksheet and did it on her own as homework; she was able to come up with her own answers, with no structure – an empowering homework assignment.

You may wonder if the translators are always accurate, and that's a good question: It's not. Sometimes the translator translates too literally for our general taste. Other times there may be a glitch in the system; for instance, one week the online translator correctly translated "whose" as "de quien," while the next week it translated as "cuyo." As you progress with your tutoring, you'll notice when something is not quite right. We have a way of absorbing our student's language as we teach and they will also let you know if something is incorrect.

So use your own judgment and know that online translators can be very helpful as a tutoring tool.

## Tutor of the season

Barb Baldwin, teacher, tutor, tutor trainer, and board member.

Barb grew up in northern Wisconsin. With a degree in sociology/Spanish and a minor in anthropology, Barb headed to Texas with the hope that she might improve her language ability and visit Mexico. Needing employment, she began as an aid in an early childhood classroom. This was a unique challenge. Many of the children were nonverbal, so Barb's day revolved around developing oral language skills. Many of the children came from Spanish speaking families and the classroom teacher spoke only English. In bridging this gap with her Spanish background, she began to realize how much she enjoyed teaching. She pursued certification in elementary education.

Marriage took her to Connecticut where her husband was serving in the navy, and then back to Wisconsin. Picking up and moving taught her just how challenging it is to adjust to new schools, new employment, new programs, and new neighborhoods. She understands the plight of her present students who also deal with all of that and with a new language besides.

Barb says, "I left the classroom behind while our two children were young, but later returned as a substitute teacher. For the past few years, I have primarily focused on the needs of adult literacy students. I became a literacy tutor with the Brown County Literacy Council in 2004. My first two students were (English speaking) adult basic ed students."



Barb's experience teaching English has been varied. One student was an adult basic ed student, entering the program beginning in level IV, and within one year was reading on the seventh grade level. Another student, coming from Mexico, desired to improve his English so much that he came to class after working 12 hour days. Barb came to know his family also, and was honored to be invited to attend his daughter's quincinera. Another student, this time from Russia, worked at her English in order to be able to attain certification in this country as licensed beautician. Reflecting upon these experiences, Barb says, "I thought it was hard going from state to state as a teacher, but it is even more challenging to receive recognition for skills obtained in a foreign country."

"It is hard to imagine what it would be like to try to function in our world as an illiterate adult. It is that challenge of teaching which I most enjoy-- trying to see the world through another's eyes and trying to find the 'keys' that will unlock understanding and give one ownership of knowledge."

## Ask La Cucaracha

I haven't heard from any of your tutors or board members in months! Some of my fan mail has inquired if I was still alive or suffered a tell-tail fate such as a fly swatter, insect spray, or worse, the bottom of a shoe! If you have any questions about tutoring or need some suggestions concerning your student, email or call my good friend Bob Garfinkel. I will consult my hive of consultants and will post my answer in this newsletter pronto!

~La Cucaracha

## Of This and That ...

- Our Coordinator, Anne Laurent, is another source for information if you have any questions or concerns. She can be contacted at [annielaurent@gmail.com](mailto:annielaurent@gmail.com) or 920-406-9162
- Congratulations to Mary Anne Albert and her student for finishing a level in Laubach.
- Tax deductible donations to Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County can now be made by a credit card and Pay Pal on our website. Go to "Donate" and follow the easy directions.
- The deadline to turn in student writing to be included in the Recognition Day booklet is September 1. Call Bob with questions 676-2061
- Be sure to see question 8 of the Tutor Survey in this newsletter if you are interested in joining a conversation group with your student.

## Tutor Survey Results

The following survey was administered on line and by mail in the spring of 2010 to gather information concerning our needs as an organization. Results for each question will be followed by a comment by our president.

Thank you to the 29 tutors responding to the survey. The information gathered is valuable and will be used by our board of directors and committees to make decisions in the best interest of our students.

### 1. What additional materials do we need in our Resource Center?

- 1) Bilingual books
- 2) Beginning Writing Activities
- 3) Conversation ideas

*President's comments: I agree that the impact of our bilingual selection has been tremendous. Anne will be writing some grant applications to purchase more books.*

*We have a fair selection of beginning writing activities and conversation ideas. We will improve these areas with additional funding.*

### 2. What fundraising options would you feel most comfortable helping out with?

- 1) Kewaunee County Saving Card
- 2) Silent Auction and golf outing tied.

*Comment: The responses were very encouraging. Fundraising is important. Without it we cannot purchase items discussed in question 1.*

### 3. If you have problems or concerns about your student, do you know who to contact for help?

- 1) 100% know who to contact.

### 4. Do you think a student newsletter (written by students) would be a good educational tool?

- 1) YES 84%
- 2) NO 16%

*Comment: This would be a great tool for our students to learn how to write and think. Anyone want to help start this up? Call Bob*

### 5. Do you think your student would contribute to the student newsletter?

- 1) YES 42%
- 2) NO 58%

*Comment: There might be enough interest to pull this off!*

### 6. Has your student been promoted or attained a new job as a result of our program

- 1) YES 3
- 2) NO 21

*Comment: This is a difficult question to answer. Many of us might never hear about promotions or new jobs. But, do you know what? This is the question on the minds of our present and*

*potential donors! If you hear of promotions, first time employment, or new jobs due to our program, please add it to your tutor report.*

7. Has your student achieved any personal accomplishments as a result of our program?

- 1) YES 10
- 2) NO 12

*Comment: This is encouraging!*

8. What workshops would you be interested in attending?

- 1) Immigration issues
- 2) Learning styles
- 3) Set up conversation groups

*Comment: Number 1 & 2 will be set up for our 2010-2011 year. If you and your student would like to be in a small conversation group (4 – 5 people), contact Bob. Students and tutors could have light discussion and refreshments. It would be fun!*

9. Would you be interested in running a workshop on a topic you are interested in?

*Comment: No interest or comment.*

10. Will your student submit a poem, essay or short sample of writing for our program pamphlet by September 1, 2010?

- 1) YES 4%
- 2) NO 56%
- 3) MAYBE 40%

11. Will your student submit artwork for our Recognition Day program pamphlet by September 1, 2010?

- 1) YES 0
- 2) NO 21
- 3) MAYBE 3

*Comment: One student has started a picture of her native home.*

12. Additional comments from Tutors:

- 1) "Great Survey"
- 2) Glad we have our new coordinator!
- 3) I would like to see a computer in the Resource Center
- 4) Tutor meetings every quarter would help us get to know who is who and sharing of learning methods.

*Comment: If you would like to get involved in tutor meetings, call or email Bob and we can set something up for this fall. I would welcome such meetings. We will not set up anything unless we hear from you. Bob Garfinkel*

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