



# Literally Speaking



Literacy Council of Washington County

January – March 2009

Hagerstown Community College  
and the  
Literacy Council are beginning  
a new orientation for volunteer tutors!

As a Tutor, you can now choose to work  
one-on-one with students in a  
classroom setting, help in class, or  
meet in a separate room for  
individual tutoring with your student.

If you're are interested in becoming a  
**Literacy Council Tutor at HCC**,  
please plan to attend the Orientation on  
*Tuesday, January 13, 2009*  
from 9-11am  
in Room 201 of the Learning  
Resource Center building at HCC.

For more info or to RSVP for the  
orientation, please contact  
Judy Kofoet (HCC) at  
301-790-2800 x 217  
or Barb and Milt Creager (LCWC) at  
301-797-3923.



Dear Tutors,

Happy New Year!!

As we begin a new year, perhaps this would be a  
good time for you (and me) to get into the habit of  
sending in an accounting of the time we spend  
tutoring. The time you report should include prep,  
driving, and actual tutoring time. It is helpful to  
break the time down into these three categories  
when it's reported. You can mail or call your hours  
in to Bill at the office or email to  
[office@literacycouncilofwashingtoncounty.com](mailto:office@literacycouncilofwashingtoncounty.com).

Also, I wanted to let you know that our Annual  
Meeting is being planned for this spring. All tutors  
will be invited. It will be a dinner meeting with  
just a \$5 charge. Invitations will be mailed next  
month.

Please let me know if you're having trouble with any  
aspect of your tutoring. My phone number is  
(301) 432-5780. I'll be glad to talk with you and  
brainstorm ideas. Also, please let us know if you're  
no longer tutoring and you'd like a new student. If  
you've already let Brenda know that you want a new  
student, I plan to be pairing tutors and students in  
early January.

I hope your tutoring is going well and that you and  
your students have a Wonderful New Year of  
Learning,

Becky Hein  
Tutor Coordinator

## Upcoming Events

We're very excited about our new tutoring partnership with Hagerstown Community College! **Tutor Orientation** will be January 13<sup>th</sup> in Room 201 of the HCC Learning Resource Center. The agenda is:

- 9:00 Arrivals, refreshments, introductions
- 9:30 Orientation to tutoring at HCC
- 10:00 Materials for tutoring
- 10:15 Tour of the Testing Center and tutoring areas
- 10:45 Final questions and wrap up.

Please note -- LCWC/HCC Tutors must have completed a Literacy Council training workshop and also attend a volunteers' orientation at HCC.

Our upcoming **Annual Meeting** will be in March. Invitations will be mailed next month. Please consider attending. We'll elect officers for the upcoming two years, review our By-Laws and financial status of the Council, and update the membership. If you're interested in becoming a Board member and would like to be on the ballot as an officer (President, VP, Secretary or Treasurer), please call Bill at the office.

## Washington County Library News

Does your student know about "**Talk Time**" at the Library? Talk Time Conversation Club is a place for language learners to practice their English in a casual setting. If English is not your student's first language and they'd like to learn more, or just want to practice their English skills, please tell them the Club meets each Tuesday at 6:45pm.

The Library is offering free adult **Computer Classes**. This is a great program for adults wanting to learn more about computers. Some of the classes are Computer Basics, Windows Basic, and Welcome to the Internet. Just go to [washcolibrary.org/research/computerclasses.asp](http://washcolibrary.org/research/computerclasses.asp) for class details and schedules. Consider discussing this with your parents or grandparents and offering to drive them to class. While they're learning, you can relax and enjoy the library (or tutor your own student).



"And this is the wall I stared holes into while writing my most recent novel."

## The Activity Corner

Blank out the caption(s) on any cartoon and have your student write in his/her own. Students will likely interpret the cartoon in different ways. Then, discuss the various points of view.

## Meet our Board Members

In this issue, we'd like to introduce our Board President and Vice President...

John "**Milt**" **Creager** is our President. He is retired US Navy, Senior Chief, Hospital Corps; and retired Director of the Radiology Dept at Washington County Hospital. Milt is an active member of St. Mark's Church and is serving as Senior Warden (liaison between the Rector and the congregation.) Milt and his wife Barb have four daughters and nine grandchildren. Their first great-grandchild is arriving soon.

**Barb Creager** is our VP and Tutor Trainer. She's a former pre-school teacher and admin assistant. She's also an active member of St. Mark's Church. Barb reactivated the Literacy Council in 1997 when Frederick Literacy Council members approached her. She was a tutor for three years as well as our administrator. Then she joined forces with the former Reading Council at Trinity Lutheran Church as the Council grew from a home-based volunteer effort to a more professional organization.

Milt and Barb state "*We're glad we can share responsibilities for running the Council, and hope to watch it grow and become better recognized in the County.*" We send them a big THANK YOU for all their hard work and dedication!

## Tutor Tips

Last May, the Frederick County Literacy Council invited tutors and their students to attend the Annual Meeting and participate in an activity about motivation. Everyone broke into small groups and discussed:

*#1 - What are the two most positive forces that keep students motivated to stay in the literacy program?*  
It was found that the most important factors are having supportive relationships with teachers and family (including parents and children) and having lessons that focus on topics applicable to the student's individual needs and interests.

*#2 - What are the two most negative forces that decrease students' motivation in the literacy program?*  
Some of the reasons listed were unsupportive family relationships, fatigue from other daily responsibilities, boredom with lessons, not having enough time to devote to lessons, and cultural rules and customs.

Some suggestions proposed to keep student's motivation high were:

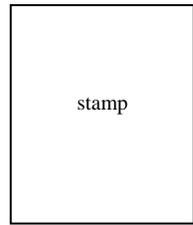
- Suggesting homework instead of assigning it.
- Tutors should keep lessons focused on their students' interests.
- Include your student in the planning process (have him/her select topics, bring material, or accompany you to the library.) Give your student choices and ask for their opinion.
- Prepare more material than you expect to cover (this is a precaution for
- With a new student, try planning work that is too easy instead of too difficult. This gives your student a feeling of success instead of failure. Ramp up as you become more familiar with your student.



*Literacy Council of Washington County*

*POB 2497, Hagerstown MD 21741*

*301-739-4208*



*Office Location:*

*Trinity Lutheran Church*

*15 Randolph Avenue, Hagerstown MD 21740*

*Office Hours: M / T / Th / F 8:30am - noon*

*office@literacycouncilofwashingtoncountymd.org*

*www.literacyofwcmd.org*

*Address Service Requested*

