



# Literally Speaking



Washington County Literacy Council

April – June 2009

If you missed our March Annual Meeting, you missed a lot!

Check out page 2 for meeting highlights.



Diane Sanford with student Atchara Ross and her children Nat and Ying



Yummy food!



Becky Hein (Tutor Trainer), Lois Dreisbach (Board Secretary), Milt Creager (Board President), Barb Creager (Board VP)



Tutor Richard Hunnisett, Jean & Bill Price



Alex Seward, Director of HCC Adult Basic Education



Tutor Don Lochary with students Sophony Mao, Piseth Seak, and Hoang Suy Ea

## Upcoming Events

Our next **Tutor Training** will be April 25<sup>th</sup> and May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8:45 - 4pm at Trinity Lutheran Church. Reservations are required so we know how many supplies to order. If you've been planning to attend the training or have a friend who's interested, please call Bill at the office (301-739-4208) to register.

Please visit us at **Washington County Reading Day** at the Valley Mall on May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10am-3pm. Each child will receive a free book (while supplies last). The fun includes a Costume Parade at 10am, a Magic Show at 11:30, 1:30, and 2:30, and various storytellers throughout the day. Numerous authors and vendor tables will be located at Center Mall. It's not just for kids. Bring the whole family!



## Annual Meeting Highlights

Annual meeting... sounds boring, right? Well, you would be very wrong. It's not often that great food, fellowship, door prizes, and sharing have anything in common with a meeting, but that was precisely the agenda for the first Annual Meeting of the Literacy Council of Washington County, Inc.

The low-key, but very nicely-planned, event was held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Lappans Road on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4:30 p.m. Twenty-three board members, spouses, tutors and students met new friends, mingled, and told stories of their journeys amid an atmosphere of candles and pansies. An international buffet of delicious food awaited the group after a very brief business meeting. Cambodian students not only brought egg rolls and fried rice but were excited to share their personal stories as well. It was a delightful group overall and the evening slipped by quickly.

### A NOTE OF



Kudos to Board Members Betsy, Barb, and Milt for their planning and execution of a very enjoyable evening. Thanks as well to each and every one who helped make the event a success. We hope to see even more students and tutors at next year's meeting.

Submitted by Lois Dreisbach

## Meet our Board Members

**Lois Dreisbach** has been involved with the Literacy Council for about 10 years and is the Board Secretary. Tutoring for about three years, it remains one of her most gratifying volunteer experiences.

Lois worked at the Washington County Health Department for 22 years and lives near Williamsport. The light of her life is her three daughters, the last of which will marry in October. She greatly anticipates the arrival of her first grandchild in September. (No, it's not the same daughter!) Life is anything but boring as family, friends and many activities keep her grounded, busy and enjoying life.

Lois states *"I continue to be amazed at the number of individuals who graduate from high school with varying degrees of illiteracy. It is a pleasure to be involved with the Council and many hard-working volunteers. We all share the goal of making a difference in the lives of those who want to enhance their lives by improving their basic literacy skills or those for whom English is their second language."*

## Some Housekeeping Issues...

The office will be closed April 27-30  
and will reopen May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Don't forget to notify Brenda  
(301-293-2426 or [ItsSimplyBrenda@aol.com](mailto:ItsSimplyBrenda@aol.com))  
if your info or tutoring status changes. Keeping  
our database up-to-date is an ongoing job  
and she appreciates your help!



Keep an eye out in the Herald-Mail for an article about our tutor Diane Sanford and her student. Diane and Atchara were interviewed last month about their tutoring experience. We've been told the article will appear under "Just Plain Folks" in the Friday (April 17) issue. We can't wait to see it!

## Tutor Tips

**Making English Fun – Tips for working with ESL Students.** Learning a new language at any age is a demanding and frustrating process. Here are a few tips to make the road to English proficiency more fun.

- ✓ **Comics and magazines** are great tools for any level of proficiency. Adult ESL students can hunt for words, letters, and numbers. They can sound out and write the words corresponding to each picture. You can even create your own flashcards.
- ✓ Everyone loves **food**. Write out recipes for simple favorite dishes. Discuss the pictures on food labels. Collect restaurant menus and help your student learn the names of what they like to eat and how to order.
- ✓ Have your student bring in and discuss a **family photo**. Have him/her write about what's going on in the picture. Bring in your own picture and have your student ask questions about your family.
- ✓ Help your student pick out a place they'd like to go on a **world map**. Write or talk about why they want to go there, how they'll get there, what the weather will be like, etc.

There's a million more ideas at: [a4esl.org](http://a4esl.org) and [www.manythings.org](http://www.manythings.org). Remember: Don't try to teach everything at once. Keep it simple, clear, and fun!

Source: <http://www.learningleaders.org/resources/tips.php>



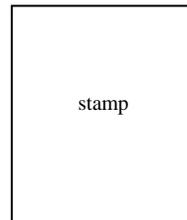
## The Activity Corner

Would your student enjoy sitting at the computer? Try this fun new exercise! Go to [www.newsforyouonline.com](http://www.newsforyouonline.com). It's an on-line newspaper for adult students with simple articles and exercises. Click on one of the articles. You can read or listen to the article. Then click on Exercise 1 and 2 and have your student give it a try! Check back regularly for new articles.

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Address Service Requested

To our Tutors – We Appreciate You!

