

Tutor Talk

Spring 2010



In Memory of Norma Hendrickson



Norma Louise Hendrickson
April 20, 1946 - February 20, 2010

On February 20, surrounded by her family, our dear friend and associate, Norma Hendrickson, peacefully ended her relentless fight with breast cancer, a battle that she fought with immeasurable strength and unshakeable spirit.

Growing up in West Palm Beach, Norma's childhood dream was to be a teacher, a profession that she embraced her entire life as she completed her education and began her teaching career. But it was on March 13, 1995 when she became an Adult Literacy Specialist with the Palm Beach County Library System that she realized she had found her true calling.

For the past fifteen years Norma has worked with us, recruiting and training tutors, matching them with adult learners, and always being there to counsel and assist them as they worked with their students.

It is through the wonderful work that she did, that we have all been touched and inspired by her, as she instilled confidence in students and tutors alike, believed in their abilities, respected their efforts, and celebrated their successes. Norma was the true essence of our adult literacy program.

At the family's request, Library Literacy Friends has established the Norma Hendrickson Memorial Fund, designated for the purchase of books for our students. A bookplate honoring Norma will be placed in each book. We thank all who have donated funds to remember Norma in this way.

From the President of Library Literacy Friends

Why am I an adult literacy tutor? Why are you?

In January 2009, the Florida Literacy Coalition issued a press release headlined "One in Five Florida Adults Lacks Basic Literacy Skills." The release went on to say that more than 2.6 million adults in Florida – or 20% of those 16 and older – lack even the most basic reading skills. This was according to estimates that had recently been released by the National Center for Education

Statistics (NCES).

Florida, with its large immigrant population, was ranked as the third lowest of all the states, behind California and New York. This was an increase of 33% over the past ten years in the percentage of adults who fall in the lowest literacy skill level. In Palm Beach County, 14% of people 16 years old and older lack the basic reading and writing skills that allow them to navigate through life in today's world.

For me, hearing the statistics from ten years ago was the compelling factor that sent me to a tutor training class and to being matched with my first student. But is it the even more dire statistics today that keep me in this wonderful adult literacy program? I cannot deny that knowing how many adults cannot read and write is a persuasive reason, but certainly not the main one. So, why am I an adult literacy tutor? And why are you?

(Continued on page 2)

Upcoming Tutor & Student Events

Tutor Tea—

Saturday, May 8, 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Main Library, 3650 Summit Blvd., West Palm Beach.

Pro-Literacy Tutor Training Workshop—

Wednesday & Thursday, May 12 & 13, 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Library Annex, 4639 Lake Worth Rd., Lake Worth.

Adult Learner Book Club—

Tuesday, May 18, 6:30 p.m. at the Library Annex, 4639 Lake Worth Rd., Lake Worth.

Library Literacy Friends Annual Meeting—

Monday, June 7, 6:00 p.m. at the Library Annex, 4639 Lake Worth Rd., Lake Worth.

Pro-Literacy Tutor Training Workshop—

Wednesday & Thursday, August 11 & 12, 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Library Annex, 4639 Lake Worth Rd., Lake Worth.

Tutor Challenges . . .

NEVER DOUBT
THAT A SMALL
GROUP OF
THOUGHTFUL,
COMMITTED
CITIZENS CAN
CHANGE THE
WORLD;

INDEED IT IS THE
ONLY THING THAT
EVER HAS.

MARGARET MEAD

What
Would
You
Do?

Dear Tutor Talk,

I have been working with my student for almost a year. He is very committed to coming to class and to working together during our meeting time, but he never does the homework that I assign for him to do between our class sessions.

I haven't even been able to get him to read in his book between classes.

I would like to know if other tutors have had the same problem and if they have some suggestions for me that might work with my student.

Thank you,

Frustrated Tutor

We are sure that "Frustrated Tutor" is not the only one who has had the homework problem with their student. If you have any suggestions or thoughts that you would like to share with "Frustrated," please send them to us and we'll share your tips in the next newsletter.

Or maybe you have an issue that you're having a problem with and would like to know if others have had the same or similar problem and what they did to solve it. Let us know.

Write to us at: Tutor Talk, Library Literacy Friends, Library Annex, 4639 Lake Worth Rd., Lake Worth, FL 33463.

Or e-mail us at: tutortalk@comcast.net.

From the President Continued from page 1

I continue to tutor the student that I have been working with for the last five years because I know that I am making a difference in his life. He can read better today than the day we started. It is that progress – despite the discouragements, set-backs and difficulties our students go through - that keep all of us going.

I don't know about you, but there are evenings when I have had a busy day and would just as soon cancel the session with my student, but two hours later I am sailing out of the library on a high because it's been a good night with my student. That is what keeps me going! Of course, there are also the evenings when we didn't make much progress. But it's those

other evenings, those breakthrough moments and sessions that inspire us and keep us hanging in there with our students, those "aha" moments when they "got it." It's helping them to understand the instructions from their doctor, to be able to fill out a job application, to read about a movie they may want to see, to read their child's report card, to be able to read even a simple children's book to their child or grandchild.

Ah yes . . . I'm preaching to the choir, I know. But, we are a beautiful choir, don't you think? One of the things that I love about our tutor get-togethers is listening to other tutors as they share the accomplishments and anxieties they

experience with their students. But we don't get to do that often enough.

So, fellow tutor choir members, how about sharing some of your experiences with the rest of us? We'd love to hear about your feelings, your high notes with your students . . . and your low notes too.

Write them down and mail them to Tutor Talk, Library Literacy Friends, Library Annex, 4639 Lake Worth Rd., Lake Worth, FL 33463 or e-mail them to us at tutortalk@comcast.net, and we'll share them with you in our next newsletter.

Looking forward to hearing from you . . . Your fellow tutor, Carol Weyhe



Huckleberry Finn Book Discussion . . . *Reneé Nadal*

The American classic, “Huckleberry Finn” will be the subject of our next adult learner book discussion on Tuesday evening, May 18, 6:30 p.m., at the Library Annex.

Please call to have a copy of the book sent to you so you can share it with your student. The Oxford Press edition is

written at a level that is understandable and readable. We encourage you to read the book together with your student. It should be fun for both of you.

We encourage you, as well, to come with your student to the book group if he or she is uncomfortable coming alone. It will be an en-

joyable evening for both you and your student.

If your student is planning to join us, or you are planning to come together, please call 561-649-5495 and let us know to expect you.

We are looking forward to you joining us for a lively discussion about this great American classic.



ADULT LEARNER BOOK CLUB
MAY 18, 6:30 P.M.
LIBRARY ANNEX

THE MAN WHO
DOESN'T READ
GOOD BOOKS
HAS NO
ADVANTAGE
OVER THE MAN
WHO CAN'T
READ THEM.

MARK TWAIN

CALL 561-649-5495 OR 888-780-5151 TO HAVE A COPY OF THE BOOK SENT TO YOU.

Welcome New Tutors . . . Following are tutors who have joined us within the past six months:

Rose Allen
Susan Bartolomeo
Patricia Campbell
Karen Caskey
Alan Chesler
Doris Chomsky
Gelande Christophe
Frank Colombo
Lillian Cunningham
Susan DePalma
Norma Duncan
Harold Dunnam
Sandra Farden
Edith Frankel
Elca Goldstein

Anne Gray
Nancy Grossman
Anne Haight
Mariela Harris
Linda Heater
Jerry Heckelman
Clifford Junker
Dorothy Kalick
Sonya Kazaros
Beverly Kellman
Colleen Kelly-Statler
Julia Lattanzi
Carol Metzger
Jean Miller
Marie-Claude Monty-Coffee

Daniel Pere
Philip Piasecki
Diana Place
Beverly Ralle
Carlos Rendon
Jane Rippel
Deborah Roman
Alison Rubin
April “Chris” Streit
Georgina Van Woudenberg
Barbara Widler
Glenn Woodruff
Phyllis Zitcer

Make a Splash with your student this summer!

The Library’s Adult Summer Reading Program is scheduled to kick off on June 7th and run through July 30th. This is a great opportunity to help your students get a library card and introduce them to the New Reader Collection located at several of our branches.

If your branch doesn’t have a collection, just call the **Volunteer Desk at 649-5495**. We have some great books that your student will enjoy reading with you or on his own. Be on the lookout for more information at your local library. Enjoy!

Are you ready to play a more active role in the program? Do you like tutoring but want a change? Do you find that tutoring takes up too much time but would still like to contribute?

If the answer is yes to one of these questions, think about becoming a Literacy Information Specialist. Join the team at the Library Annex. We’re looking for tutors to explain our program to prospective volunteers and students by conducting interviews in person and on the telephone. Learn about other community resources and make referrals when warranted. Help match new students with tutors. Assist tutors by sending supplemental workbooks and high/low readers.



If you have a morning or afternoon available on a weekly basis, please give us a call at 649-5495 to find out more.

Round Table Talks

Hold the date!

On Saturday, May 8 at 1:30 p.m. in the Main Library on Summit Blvd., we will have a “Tutor Tea.”

Our purpose is to allow tutors to meet each other and to share problems and solutions. There will be refreshments.



See you there . . .

LIBRARY LITERACY FREINDS, INC.
Library Annex
4639 Lake Worth Road
Lake Worth, FL 33463

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WEST PALM BEACH, FL
PERMIT #2673

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

THE PALM BEACH COUNTY LIBRARY ADULT LITERACY PROJECT

TUTOR TALK

Tutor Tips . . . Controlled Writing Activities

To help the learner become comfortable with writing words and sentences.

- Ask the learner to read something and circle words he or she wants to learn. Copy them onto separate index cards for sight word practice.
- Ask the learner to copy all the traffic signs on his or her street. Then review them together.
- Ask the learner to copy a language experience story he or she dictated.
- Ask the learner to dictate a note to a friend or relative, copy it, and mail it.
- Help the learner make a vocabulary list related to a reading. Ask the learner to dictate sentences using these words and then to copy the sentences.
- Make a crossword puzzle using words the learner knows for your word list or use the puzzles that are correlated with the Laubach Skillbook lessons. The learner can copy the words into the puzzle from the word list.

Select activities that reinforce a reading, or work with topics of interest to the learner. Keep copying activities short. Ask the learner to copy only materials that have personal value.

Tutor Talk is dedicated in loving memory of Barbara Liberman, Founding Editor.

A Library Literacy Friends, Inc. publication, editor: Carol Weyhe

tutortalk@comcast.net

***A Library Literacy
Tribute Card***
*is a way to honor someone or
commemorate a special
occasion in a very special way,
and at the same time
contribute to
Library Literacy Friends.*
*For more information,
call Maxine at
561-736-4533.*

