

Tutor Talk

February 2014

Racine Literacy Council

734 Lake Avenue

Racine, WI 53403

(262) 632-9495

www.racineliteracy.com

New Website!

NEW RLC WEBSITE

Our website has been updated!!!
Visit www.racineliteracy.com to see all of the wonderful changes.

CHANGES IN STAFF

Hilary Forman has stepped into her new role as STEPs Coordinator and will continue to be the Basic Literacy Coordinator. The change came as a result of Chris Kane leaving the RLC to pursue his goal to teach more. In mid-February he will begin his new journey as an ELL instructor at MSOE, in Milwaukee. We wish him well in his new endeavor and look forward to seeing Hilary continue to do great things in the STEPs Center.



WELCOME our newest staff member! Jessica Phan recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a degree in Journalism/Strategic Communications and currently lives in Racine. She hopes to go back to school to get her teaching certificate so she can start teaching in middle schools and high schools. Jessica was a tutor here five years ago and has now returned to take on the assistant coordinator position for the STEPs program. She is excited about meeting

all the students and tutors, learning more about each person's goals and stories, and helping students in any way she can. If you see Jessica, be sure to say hello and welcome her to the RLC Community!



Do you have a Facebook account?

Find us at: www.facebook.com/racineliteracycouncil.

LIKE us to get updates on resources and activities.



SAVE THE DATE!

Shakespeare's Birthday Celebration

Join us at the RLC on Wednesday, April 23rd as we watch a local actor bring some of Shakespeare's works to life. Birthday cake and refreshments will be served!

SAVE THE DATE!

Celtic Night for Literacy

This year's event will be on **SATURDAY**, March 15, 2014 at the Racine Marriott.

Entertainment will be provided by:

[Derek Byrne & Paddygrass](#), Irish Dancers, & local musicians



EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT:

Buy before March 6th and pay only \$45. (**\$5 savings/ticket**)

Purchase tables of 8 for \$340. (**\$7.50 savings/ticket**)

Tickets will be \$50 at the door.

If you are interested in attending but do not want to sit alone, we will sit you at a table where you can enjoy the company of fellow RLC tutors. Just let a staff member know.

WIN A TRIP FOR 2 TO IRELAND!!!

Raffle tickets will be sold for an amazing Irish getaway. The trip includes airfare for two plus a one-week stay at the 4-star [Old Ground Hotel](#) in County Clare, Ireland.



Feeling lucky?

\$25 for 1 opportunity to win

\$100 for 5 opportunities to win

2014 TUTOR TRAINING SCHEDULE

Do you have a family member, friend, or co-worker who might be interested in becoming a tutor? Encourage them to attend one of our upcoming training sessions!

Already underway:

Saturday, February 8th from 1-3:30pm

Saturday, February 15th from 1-3:30pm

Saturday, February 22nd from 1-3:30pm

Upcoming:

Registration week: April 21-April 24

Wednesday, May 7th from 9-11:30am

Wednesday, May 14th from 9-11:30am

Wednesday, May 21st from 9-11:30am

Registration week: August 25-August 28

Wednesday, September 10th from 6-8:30pm

Wednesday, September 17th from 6-8:30pm

Wednesday, September 24th from 6-8:30pm

Registration week: October 20-October 23

Wednesday, Nov. 5th from 9-11:30am

Wednesday, Nov. 12th from 9-11:30am

Wednesday, Nov. 19th from 9-11:30am

FINANCIAL LITERACY CLASSES

Molly MacPhail is an AmeriCorps Volunteer In Service To America (VISTA) serving at the Literacy Council. Her focus is financial literacy, and incorporating it into the RLC program. Molly will be expanding the RLC library with new financial resources and books. She and RLC staff have included Financial Literacy in the Life-Skills Goal Sheet for students. Be on the lookout for new goal sheets that include Financial Literacy goals and ask your students if they would like to focus on any of them - be sure to document the new goals in your monthly progress report!

Molly has also joined forces with Bill Hecht, a local volunteer, to help manage and facilitate a Financial Literacy Class. **This class is open to current students and will be held for six consecutive Mondays beginning March 3rd - April 7th, from 9:00 - 10:30 am.**

Topics to be covered are:

- Money/Banking
- Saving/Budgeting
- Investing

Interested students should sign up on one of the three sign-up sheets on the bulletin boards. Classes will be held downstairs, and will be in English only. Each student must attend all six classes to obtain the Certificate of Completion at the end.

A financial literacy kit will be given to those who complete the class. Contents include: **a calculator, ledger (budget booklet), three helpful books focusing on financial literacy, and a piggy bank.**

Molly encourages all tutors to emphasize the importance of financial literacy to their students and hopes to see many students sign up for this wonderful opportunity.

HELPFUL WEBSITES



www.duolingo.com offers FREE language courses and is also available as a free application for smartphones.

www.speakenglish.co.uk offers FREE resources for phrases & vocabulary. The site also includes audio and ability to connect with other language learners!

www.gcflearnfree.org offers FREE online classes in reading, math, technology, and careers. It includes useful applications for smartphones.

www.newsforyouonline.com (password is: 055Gk7) offers full length news articles and the ability to listen to pre-recorded audio of someone reading articles.

CONTACT US

[Alma Juarez](#) (Program Assistant & Driver's Ed. Coord.)
[Gloria Stephenson](#) (Administrative Assistant)
[Hilary Forman](#) (Basic Coordinator & STEPs Coordinator)
[Jessica Phan](#) (STEPS Assistant Coordinator)

[Kay Gregor](#) (Executive Director)
[Margarita Fons](#) (ESL Coordinator)
[Molly MacPhail](#) (VISTA - Financial Literacy)
[Richard Goetsch](#) (Western Racine County Coordinator)



GED® INITIATIVE

Many of the Racine Literacy Council's students express a common goal upon entering: to earn their GED Certificate. This lifelong goal has thwarted many of RLC's students, and our tutors have the opportunity to help them finally achieve it. Adult learners need our help more than ever before with the new content and online-format of the GED test that came with the New Year.

To serve this demand for GED tutoring services, RLC is preparing new curricula and classes to adapt to the GED Test changes. Our goal is to have two classes set up with a couple tutors each to work with small groups of students on GED problems and test-taking strategies. We would also like to offer computer classes to improve students' digital literacy in preparation for the online-format of the test.

Are you a tutor who is interested in instructing individuals or small groups in any of the following subjects: Reasoning and Language Arts, Mathematical Reasoning, Science, and Social Studies? Would you like to help students develop the computer skills necessary to pass the GED?

Please contact the Basic Education Coordinator, Hilary Forman (hforman@racineliteracy.com), to express your interest in volunteering to be a GED Instructor or Computer Class Instructor.

In the meantime, please feel free to take a look at the new resources we have acquired to help students prepare for the revised test. In our library, you will find:

- Teaching Adults: A 2014 GED Test Resource Book (A good introduction to the new test)
- Scoreboost for the GED Test (8 available subjects)
- Writing for the GED Test
- Kaplan GED Big Book
- Breakthrough to Math (4 levels)
- Open Ended Questions in Algebra
- Visual Literacy (3 subjects)
- Assorted writing texts

In addition, there are some online resources available:

- <http://www.newreaderspress.com/Items.aspx?hierId=3203#Free> (Free Resources)
- New Reader's Press GED Practice and Pass
- Kaplan Online Course

Contact Hilary Forman with any questions or comments.