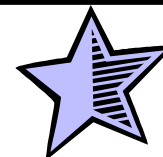




The Literacy Council

www.sloliteracy.org 805-541-4219 781-6630 1264 Higuera Street, #102, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Those Special Among Us...



Susan
Needleman
Brown



Margaret van Wynngaarden



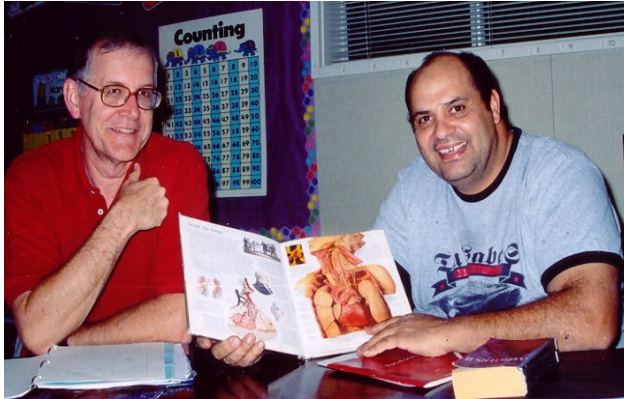
Northern Lights!!!

We are fortunate to have so many extraordinary volunteers who give so generously to this organization. We see volunteers hard at work throughout the county. For some, North County “way up over the grade” seems remote, but there are bright lights shining there as well. We have two centers in North County and two extraordinary people guiding those centers: Margaret van Wynngaarden in Paso Robles and Susan Needleman Brown in Atascadero, two strong women guiding two very different centers.

Susan Needleman Brown began working for the Literacy Council six years ago when our Atascadero

center was located at Atascadero High School. Tutor Bob Thon encouraged Susan to tutor. Susan has always had a community focus and this manner of strengthening her community appealed to her. She jumped in. When Susan jumps into something, she does so with the most engaging kind of high energy. The place she inhabits lights up. When the center moved to the Atascadero Bible Church (ABC) Susan soon became the center director and she has been building that center ever since. She welcomes everyone in the most embracing way.

Susan says that ABC is an extraordinary facility with people who are helpful and always willing to extend different areas of the facility to her. “The place



Tutor: John Schneemann-Learner: Jose Abundiz

is clean. It has good lighting. Most tutors have their own rooms. And ABC is within walking distance of the homes of many of our learners. It is an outstanding facility.”

Susan wants the tutoring interaction to be meaningful for all involved. “I want each student to learn something each time. It is a stretch for the students to get here. I want the tutors to feel they are here for a reason, that they are not wasting their time. We work towards respect on both sides.” Susan enhances the experiences for all by incorporating celebrations into the pattern of the year, by encouraging creativity among tutors so the lessons are engaging and by always invoking humor into the life within the center. We are fortunate that Susan has immersed herself in this work and has been such a spark for the tutors and learners in Atascadero.

As we shift our focus to Paso Robles, we find an equally impressive center director and center. Margaret van Wyngaarden has worked for the Literacy Council for more than 20 years. Margaret began as a tutor in 1980 after completing her training. “We paid \$20 for the training back then. That was quite a lot!” Her church was sponsoring a Laotian family and she wanted to help. Later Margaret became the head of the First Presbyterian daytime center which she guided for many years. It remains our largest center.

When Margaret and her husband moved to Atascadero two years ago, Margaret graciously agreed to re-start our struggling Paso Robles center. The work has been hard, the struggles many. It has been difficult to attract tutors. There have been problems with facilities. With the center now located at Georgia Brown School, Margaret and her tutors are

building a strong presence in Paso Robles.

Margaret believes that a center is strongest when there is a shared commitment to the center by all who are involved. She works hard to establish that sense of commitment while creating an atmosphere among all present that is easy-going, friendly, and relaxed. “The center is “our” center. All take responsibility for the center and we support each other. We share a dedication to this work. It is a good, quiet place to be.”

Margaret alerted us that she would be traveling during part of the year each year. The center has functioned smoothly even in her absences because of the devotion to the center that exists among the tutors who work there. Margaret set the standards high. Margaret’s sense that committed, dedicated people make all the difference has been correct. Regardless of the struggles the group has faced (such as groping in the dark during months of construction at Georgia Brown School) the center is growing. Margaret and the other tutors at the Paso Robles center are bringing all kinds of light to the Paso Robles center.

Margaret’s hope for the future is that this center can grow. “The need is here. We need more tutors. Even with all the programs going on here, we need more tutors.”

We thank our two extraordinary North County center directors and all of the hardworking tutors who work with them. They are making the North County sparkle!

-Virginia Mack- Program Coordinator

Tutor: Dana Gilsnap-Learner: Eva Abundiz



Tutors trained between January 1, 2005 and March 17, 2005

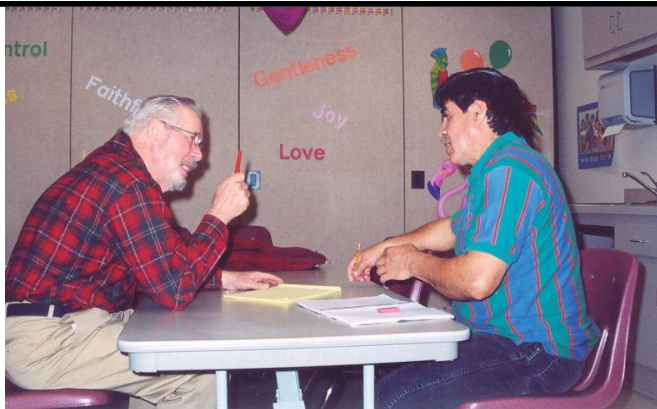
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Peggy Westberg
Randy Harris
Laurie Schneemann
Mary Simonson
Ann Thompson
Pete Perino
Larry Lynch
Melissa Miller

*Tutor
Tips*

Tutor: Bill McKenzie
Learner: Francisco Larios



At our Peace Lutheran Arroyo Grande center we have a cluster of learners working in landscaping and agriculture. Marylou Hesselund and Sharon Tanner have developed a “game” with flashcards bearing the images of the fruits, vegetables and tools that the learners need to be familiar with.

As a group activity, Sharon or Marylou puts all the cards in the center of the table and then

they say to individual students, “Bring me the wheelbarrow.” “Bring me the asparagus.” They practice the language structures and vocabulary that the learners hear on the job, “The boss needs the wheelbarrow.”

At another stage of the interaction, the cards are dealt. The game proceeds, “Who has the tomatoes?” “Who has an apple?” They respond in English, “I have the

tomatoes.” “I have an apple.” Great process. The group often forgets to notice that they have “played” beyond the time of the lesson!

Obviously, this is readily adapted to any context – the restaurant, motel, etc.

AND from Oceano, Dave and Norma Stout have their learners meet in a group at the end of the session. At the beginning of the

session all tutors and learners have a series of questions about a related idea: the job, the calendar, watching TV, food. Each is given the questions.

“Where do you work?” “Who is your boss?” or “Do you watch television?” Additional vocabulary might include the remote control, the lamp, the bookcase. Tutors and learners spend some of the lesson preparing for the group “Q and A” session

at the end of the evening. The group meets and the questions are asked and answered as they progress around the table.

Another great process and a good variation on the usual lesson.

In ATASCA-DERO, tutor JoeAnn Bruzzo has a great way to teach prepositions and prepositional phrases such as “under,” and “on top of.” She brings in the

makings for ice cream sundaes. Quickly her learners grasp the meaning and use of those phrases.

All tutors are working with inventive, creative processes. Please send a description of one or two to the Literacy Council so we can include them in future NEWSLETTERS.

Happy Spring!

What better way to salute Spring's arrival than with "the important things in life...chocolate, champagne, music..." This year's event includes a Chocolate Fountain donated by Outspoken Beverage Bistro. The fountain highlights cascades of the world's finest Belgian chocolate and tantalizing treats to dip. Plus there will be an authors' corner featuring local authors: Kathy Delaney, M.J. Munro, Barbara Wolcott, Evelyn Cole, Mary Moses and Dave Diaz. Their signed books will be among many other appealing silent auction items. Please join us between 2 and 5 in the afternoon at the City/County Library, 995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo on April 17, 2005 for our delicious fund raiser. Tickets are \$20.00 in advance, \$25.00 at the door. Call 541-4219.

In these ever-challenging budget-cut times, each member of our board of directors is concentrating his/her efforts on ways to bring consistent funding to The Literacy Council. In addition to planning our special event, he/she is devoted to assure the fiscal well-being of our agency.

To that end, we are striving to establish endowment giving for our organization. An endowment consists of reserve funds that are set aside for the long-term benefit of The Literacy Council. An endowment can enhance long-range organizational planning, provide security in difficult economic times, support day to day operations and programs and ensure permanence.

Leaving a legacy to The Literacy Council will help ensure the continuing vitality of our organization. Endowment is the primary long-term vehicle to sustain and perpetuate our organization. By leaving a gift for the Endowment, you can assure that our programs, operations, and outreach continue to meet the needs of our community for generations to come.

As you plan your legacy, we have the resources and expertise to help you support the future of The Literacy Council.

Fundraising is a crucial necessary component of the work we do. Our efforts here in no way diminish the support you all have already given to The Literacy Council. Our plan to guarantee fiscal security for the organization you are devoted to ultimately honors your dedication to it.

Thank you all for your continuing loyalty to The Literacy Council,

Bernadette Bernardi, Executive Director

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We extend our warmest sympathy to the family of
Elmer Kirk
Who passed away on
January 14, 2005

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A fundraiser for literacy and libraries- April 17, 2005

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