



# LITERACY FOR LIFE

“Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.” – Frederick Douglass

SUMMER 2005

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## PROFITABLE CONVERSATIONS

In a recent session, tutor Theresa Beck and student José Ramos Lara were looking at a street map, and conversing about streets, and crosswalks, and traffic signals. This session, like most of their sessions, was primarily a conversation – a conversation in which José practices speaking English and, the more difficult skill, hearing English with understanding.



**José and Theresa Practice Giving Directions**

José came to Hendersonville from Vera Cruz in search of a better paying job, and a better life. He and Theresa have been together for only 6 months, but his English is progressing rapidly. Indeed in that short time he has progressed from ESL Level 1 (beginning literacy) to ESL level 4 (high intermediate).

Theresa is a retiree who moved to the North Carolina mountains about 1 year ago. She had taught ESL to small children in New York and after the Literacy Council kept “popping up” in the newspaper and at the Apple Festival it seemed natural to her to volunteer.

Theresa says she’s very proud of José. And José says that he is very happy living here. It is clear that tutor and student are a good match. In addition to their meetings twice a week, they practice telephone conversations when José calls to tell Theresa that he will (or will not) be able to make a scheduled meeting. And they recently had their conversation over a meal to celebrate José’s progress

## BRLC Receives National Book Scholarship Fund Grant

Blue Ridge Literacy Council has received a \$1,034.35 grant from ProLiteracy Worldwide through its National Book Scholarship Fund (NBSF). The books the Council will receive from NBSF will be used to expand the life-skills vocabularies of students in small-group ESL classes by providing them with picture dictionaries.

“The Oxford Picture Dictionary is a valuable language-acquisition tool that has proven to be a favorite of our students receiving one-to-one tutoring. We want to provide our small-group students with the same advantage, but we could not afford to do so without the NBSF grant,” says Cindy Jefferson, the Council’s ESL Coordinator.

## Student, Tutor, and Volunteer Awards Nominations

Is your student, or tutor the best thing since sliced cheese? Do you know a BRLC Volunteer who goes all out for the council? Consider nominating them for the BRLC Student of the Year, Tutor of the Year, or Volunteer of the Year Award. Awards will be presented at the BRLC Annual meeting on August 20.

To nominate someone for these awards, send an email or letter, call or stop in and we’ll take down the information. Tell us why you think your nominee is special. To be eligible for an award, nominees must have been active in the program for at least 12 hours between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005. Nominations must be received by August 1.

email - [info@litcouncil.org](mailto:info@litcouncil.org)

mail - BRLC, PO Box 1728, Hendersonville, 28793

## Literacy For Life

### the newsletter of:

Blue Ridge Literacy Council, Inc.  
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### Board Of Directors:

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Dene Hellman (Vice President)  
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### BRLC Staff:

Diane Bowers (Executive Director)  
Amanda Yendall (Program Dir.)  
Cindy Jefferson (ESL Coordinator)  
Dianne (D. J.) King (Prog. Admin.)  
Don Bailey (Newsletter Editor)  
270+ Volunteers

### Office Hours:

Monday thru Friday  
9 AM to 5 PM

### A Fully Accredited Affiliate Of:



**PROLITERACY  
America**

A Member Agency Of:



**United Way  
of Henderson County**

## From The Desk of the Director

**The people spoke - and we were heard!** By a vote of 250-151 the US House of Representatives approved the appropriations bill restoring level funding for adult education state grants. While this is a huge victory, we still have to keep working to ensure that the final outcome is a win for our students. Now it is on to the Senate where the Appropriations Subcommittee will mark up the bill on July 12. Your call or email to our NC senators can help ensure that Blue Ridge Literacy Council, Blue Ridge Community College, and similar organizations all over the country, can continue to offer Basic Literacy, English as a Second Language and GED. If you want to help, just ask Senators Dole and Burr to support level funding for adult basic education state grants.

**BRLC Annual meeting scheduled for August 20.** Everyone is invited to our annual meeting on Saturday, Aug. 20 at 10:00 AM in the Kaplan Auditorium of the Hendersonville Library. It's a great opportunity to find out what happened in the past year, what the plans for next year are, and to hear students talk about what the program has meant to them. Two of the most important things we'll do at the meeting are presenting the Annual Tutor, Student and Volunteer of the Year Awards and electing new Board members. There is information on nominating your tutor or student or a volunteer for one of our annual awards on page 1. Information about nominating someone for the Board of Directors is below. All members of the Council are eligible to nominate award recipients and Board members and to vote on new Board members. You are a member of the Council if you have made a donation to the council or volunteered 12 hours, or are a student with 12 hours of instruction.

**As always, I thank you and value you for the work you do,**

**Diane**

### Now Accepting Nominations for BRLC Board of Directors

BRLC has several Board of Directors slots opening up in August. Would you like to serve or do you know someone else who would be an asset to our Board? Nominees should have an interest in supporting adult literacy, the availability to serve on a Board which meets monthly (4<sup>th</sup> Monday, 5:30 PM), and the interest and skills to serve on one of five Board Committees - Program, Fundraising, Audit & Finance, Community Relations, or Governance & Board Affairs. For more detailed information on Board responsibilities and a nomination form, call Mary Farnsworth, Chair, Governance & Board Affairs - 654-0218 or Diane Bowers - 696-3811.

I Would Like To:

- Learn more about volunteering.  
 Make a tax-deductible contribution of \_\_\_\_\_ (amount).

*[If not using a credit card omit the first two items below.]*

Credit card type and number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip and return to: Blue Ridge Literacy Council, Inc.  
P. O. Box 1728  
Hendersonville, NC 28793

# LIBRARY NOTES

Phoebe Timberlake

This new column will list some of the recent additions to the Literacy Council's library, with an occasional mention of some "vintage" item that might otherwise be overlooked.

**GrammarWise** 1 and 2 with a Teacher's Guide—"...designed to take students beyond the mechanical study of grammar" with text appropriate for class use, homework, or independent study. Basic ESL grammar.

**Say the Word.** guide to improving word recognition skills and increasing reading speed. This student handbook has a teacher's manual and a photocopy masters booklet for the tutor.

**Entry Into Citizenship,** with a Teacher's Manual—citizenship preparation text that can be used for beginning through low-intermediate English proficiency.

Contemporary's job-specific English series:

- **Make Your Mark in Food Service**
- **Make Your Mark in Health**
- **Make Your Mark in the Hotel Industry**
- **Make Your Mark in Retail Jobs**

Contemporary's **Celebrate With Us.** A beginning reader of holidays and festivals helps one learn about and enjoy American culture.

**From Home to School.** A series of stories and activities for parents.

(**Note:** Volunteer Phoebe Timberlake is BRLC's librarian—many of you who have visited the library of late have commented on how much better it looks and how much easier it is to use! Thanks be to Phoebe!!!! If you haven't visited our "Kitchbrary" lately (or ever), stop in and pick out a book or activity or game to use with your student.)

## Language Experience

*By Ro Metcalf, BRLC Tutor*

I am working with two couples, using *Stand Out* Level One. They aren't ready to write sentences on their own or with partners. They understand quite a bit of English and can read, but pronunciation is poor and they think in single words, not phrases.

Back in first grade, we often taught reading by using the students' own experience. We would talk about a particular topic such as a book we were reading, what we would do on a particular holiday,

what was happening with the tomato seeds we planted last week, etc. I thought I could use the same technique with my ESL adults.

Each student has a 3-ring notebook with dividers. In it they keep a running list of vocabulary words we've used and examples of grammar usage with pronouns, contractions, etc. Every couple of weeks I type up a page to add to these lists. They also have a section entitled "Stories." Some of these are generated in class. Each person told me what they liked and disliked, for example, and we made a story on "Our Likes and Dislikes." I typed it up and made copies for their notebooks. Other times I make up the stories, or at least the beginnings of them, and introduce them to the class. Students add their ideas, which I write on the board for them to copy.

The stories can be used in various ways. Their content generates discussions. Students can search for and underline vocabulary words. They take turns reading them individually or together as a group. If the stories are taped, students can listen to themselves and hone their pronunciation skills. At our next session we review last week's story one more time, and students are asked to read it to their families at home. Hopefully, frequent repetition will help them remember their vocabulary and improve their pronunciation; and because correct spelling and grammar are the norm, the stories will provide models for students' own writing in the future.

## STUDENT COMPOSITION

**Let Go**

*By GMB*

Let go of jealousy  
For if jealousy dies  
Life is a soaring butterfly  
That owns the Sky.

Let go of evil  
For when evil dies  
Life is a green field  
That has beautiful colors of butterflies.

## Student Book Achievements

**Evelyn Alarcon**, Rosalind Bauer, *Voyager 6*; **Soraya Bustos**, Joe Taylor, *Voyager 3*; **Maria Carrillo Perez**, Suzy Camp-Goodman, *Laubach Way to English 1*; **TC**, Ramsay Lawson, *Wilson 1*; **Marite Davila Gomez**, Bev Kelley, *Voyager 4*; **Robert Franklin**, Don Ray, *Voyager 7*; **Angelica Gonzalez**, Evelyn Bowman, *Voyager 1*; **Nancy Hernandez**, Louise Reid, *Voyager 7*; **Luis Hernandez**, Barbara Johnson, *Laubach Way to English 1*; **Dora Hernandez**, Anita Penner, *Voyager Foundation* and *Voyager 1*; **Jaqueline Leon**, Rosemarie Caldwell, *Challenger 2*; **Leaphea Mel**, Connie Conway, *LifePrints Literacy*; **Rosa Montes**, Betty McMillan, *Voyager 2*; **David Nava**, Polly Heaton, *Voyager 8*; **JRN**, Susan Fitzgerald, *Wilson 1*; **Eva Patino** and **Guillermina Patino**, Jan Nolan, *Stand Out 2*; **Maria Patino**, Betty Pett, *LifePrints Literacy*; **Sandra Perez**, Joyce Roth, *Laubach Way to English 1*; **Pam Peters**, Barbara Kurdelmeier, *Voyager 5*; **Veronica Santos** and **Ana Serrano**, Barbara Frazier, *Stand Out 2*; **Donald Strickland**, Norm Makowski, *Wilson 4* and *Wilson 5*; **Michiyo Wakamatsu**, Mary Louise Hannigan, *Laubach Way to English 1* and *LifePrints Literacy*; **Suk Yu**, Helen Witthoft, *Voyager 5*; **Santiago Zamudio**, Hans Iwen, *Voyager 7*