



LITERACY MATTERS

JULY 2016

Literacy Matters is a recurring publication of Literacy Nassau, Inc.



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Our Staff Team

Karen Micciche, Executive Director
 Renae Katz, Bookkeeper
 Kim Nau, Office Administrator
 Alison Orme, Vol. Recruitment/Retention
 Umama Pasha, Literacy Specialist
 Ocaria DiMango, Literacy Specialist
 Digna Johnson, LN-OC Lead Teacher
 Cindy Cabrera, LN-OC Teacher
 Candice Cantore, Americorps VISTA

Our Board of Directors

Stephen Bendernagel, President
 Judith Beckman, Vice President
 Jordan Freundlich, Secretary
 Susan Santoro Bevilacqua, Treasurer
 Michele Ingrassia Haber
 James Kinney
 Irv Miljoner
 E. Christopher Murray
 Erin O'Brien

LITERACY NASSAU'S CLASS OF 2016

(submitted by Alison Orme)

At Recognition Night on May 19th, 2016, over 400 people attended Literacy Nassau's inaugural graduation ceremony to celebrate our students, our volunteers and our community partners. The graduating class, comprised of 28 adult English Language Learners, is now equipped to enter post-secondary education, pursue meaningful employment, and achieve other personal milestones. They have diligently worked alongside their volunteer tutors and teachers to reach their goals.

During the evening, our Executive Director, Karen Micciche, congratulated the class and spoke about the successes - both big and small - that students experienced. In her words, "I hear stories in the office about students all the time: the student who just got an engineering job with GE, the student who just passed her citizenship test, or the Next Chapter Book Club member who was nervous reading in public but was recently able to read scripture to an entire church full of people. You each know who you are, and you may not know me, but I am proud of you." We are all so proud of our students and you, and our hope is that each of you will join us in wishing these students all the best in the future.

The biggest highlight of the evening was the announcement of a \$1 million gift from the John and Janet Kornreich Charitable Foundation in support of adult literacy on Long Island. This funding will continue to support our current group instruction programs, as well as enable us to launch a new program for students with undiagnosed learning disabilities to provide a cornerstone for our Basic Literacy program. Details of this program are being finalized and will be announced in an upcoming newsletter.

Also released during the evening, this year's published anthology of student writing, Open Door, included 179 personal stories and essays preserved in the authentic voice of each student. Guests had the opportunity to speak with some of the authors and get their copy of Open Door signed by several "spotlight authors." Thanks to your help in working with your student(s) to submit their pieces, this year's edition exceeded our expectations and was nearly double the size of last year's! We look forward to next year's edition and the growth that our students will make. If you have not received a copy of Open Door, please contact me at (516) 867-3580 x21 and I will make sure that you receive one.

Thank you all again for the commitment and dedication you have made to the organization and to your student(s). You truly are changing the world...one word at a time!

THOUGHTS FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

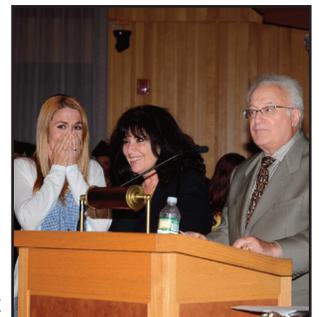
Hi Everyone,

I have loved Literacy Nassau since I started here 6 years ago. It was the one place that could help my mom with the one thing she couldn't do: read. And I know you shouldn't mix business with your personal life, but I am who I am and I simply don't follow that rule.

I met John and Janet Kornreich for the first time 5 years ago, and I was intimidated - I don't know people with lots of money. But they were so real, so down to earth, that it was just like hanging out with family. I have been blessed to spend time with them on many occasions, with my kids at their swimming pool, with my husband at charity events, and even in my own home. We're similar in a lot of ways, especially the fact that they don't follow that rule either. When you're in the business of changing lives, it's *always* personal.

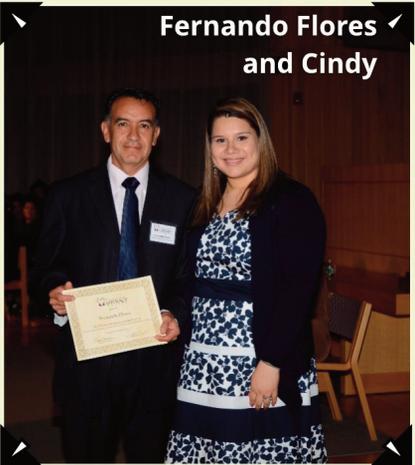
John and Janet Kornreich have told me a number of times that they believe in me - as a person - in my hard work and my ability. I could not be more grateful for that, and I am going to make them so proud. Their investment of \$1 million will change Literacy Nassau - what we do and how we do it. So stay tuned. It's going to be an awesome ride!

☺ Karen



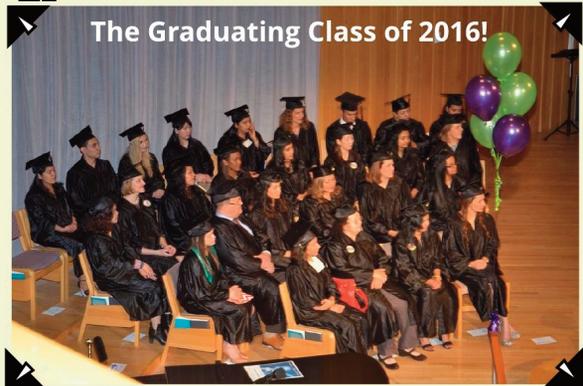
John and Janet Kornreich love to surprise people, and they surprised hundreds of tutors on May 19th by naming their \$1 million gift the "Literacy Nassau Tutor Trust." See more highlights inside.



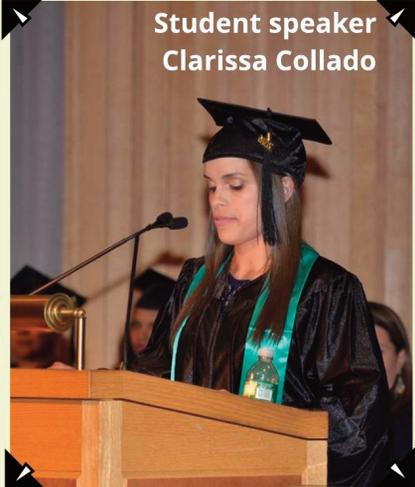


Fernando Flores and Cindy

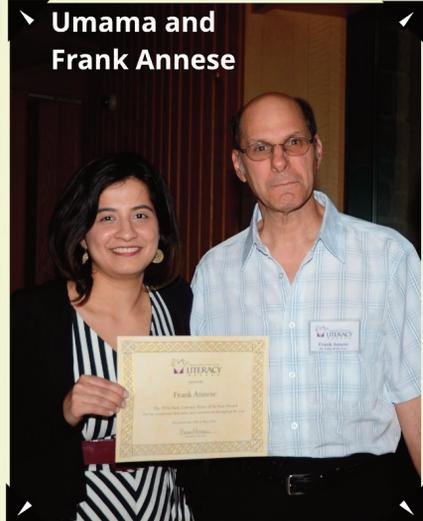
RECOGNITION NIGHT 2016



The Graduating Class of 2016!



Student speaker Clarissa Collado



Umama and Frank Annese



John and Janet Kornreich



Ocaria and SGI Awardees



Kim and Christine



Jerry Fitzgerald and Miguel Robayo



Umama, Kathryn St. Juste and Abou Soumahoro



Ocaria and Umama



The Micciches, Judi Bosworth and the Kornreichs



Graduate Shashi Sonika



Nasreen Hashmi and Sandy Pesce





Congratulations to our 2016 Anniversary Tutors

5 YEARS

Catherine Antioco, Mildred Aronson , Carol Barnes , Susan Bevilacqua, Deborah Cavalieri-Arden, Janice Collins, Ann Cullen, Joshua Diamond, Fran Dowling, Diane Dubno. Helene Fleisig, Trudy Franco, Richard Gabriele, Anita Greenman, Elinor Haber, Michele Haber, Georgine Hartenfels, Dolores Joseph , Amy Karofsky, Eleanor Krebs, Robert Lanzisera, Emma LaPrince, Terri Mangum, Roseann Martz, Lois Miceli, Judy O'Connell, Marcy Ruggiero, Charlene Serenita, Mahendra Shah, Linda Shine, Barbara Spun, Bea Wall, Eileen Watts

10 YEARS

Melveta Anderson, Jeanne Geib, Jane Griffin, Iris Grover, Irene Meier, Mary-Rose Waldron

15 YEARS

Carol Davan, Carmelinda Kurtzberg

25 YEARS

Ligia Santos



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy birthday to all of our tutors born in July!
 Barbara Alster
 Lauren Bernat
 George Bleckman
 Eric Bonge
 Sid Burgreen
 Deborah Cavalieri-Arden
 Lisa Cavanagh
 Carol Ann Ceraldi
 Andrew Corsi
 Marcie Denberg
 Jackie Eill
 Rebecca Figueras
 Susan Fitzgerald
 Ed Friedman
 Carmen Lloyd
 Christine Martin
 Kathy Mullen
 Lynn Newman
 Lisa Oldendorp
 Nancy Reedy
 Patricia Regan
 Susan Risberg
 Dianne Saccone
 Elizabeth Saurel-Schumacher
 Susan (Peedee) Shaw
 Claudia Silbert

NEW YEAR, NEW BOARD!

(submitted by Karen Micciche)

Many of you may not know this, but July 1st marks the start of our new fiscal year. As such, we are excited to welcome a new face to our Board of Directors and some of our veteran Board Members into new roles. We also are saddened to see three members retire from the Board, after each having served two 3-year terms with us.

Retiring Board Members include outgoing President Bob Genalo, outgoing Vice President Sean Grady, and outgoing Secretary Iris Grover. All three began their terms with us in 2010, and have helped tremendously in the restructuring of our organization over the past 6 years. Bob provided leadership during good times and bad, and was always happy to challenge me with ideas that came from his extensive background in business and finance. He and I complemented each other nicely, and I learned a lot from working with him.

Sean Grady brought his background in Human Resource management to the table, and was greatly helpful in matters

of insurance and compensation. He will be missed, but the timing is good for him as he just started a new job, which will present him with great new opportunities and challenges.

Iris Grover is leaving our Board but not our midst. As a 10-year veteran tutor, Iris has seen it all! She has served with us in so many capacities it is hard to count: as a one-to-one tutor, conversation group leader, Small Group Instruction leader, Board Member, and more. Iris is eager to start the next chapter of her service with Literacy Nassau as a Next Chapter Book Club facilitator, and we are certain she's going to be amazing.

The vacancies left behind by our retiring Board Members give us the chance to bring some fresh new energy to the Executive Committee of the Board. Assuming the role of President will be Stephen Bendernagel, who is just finishing up his term as Vice President. Stephen brings a mix of deep passion for our work (he is a tutor!) and great business savvy as a Senior Vice President of multifamily lending at Capital One Bank. Stephen has helped us steward our

community partnership with Capital One, and has been the face behind our annual Wine Dinner for the past 3 years. He is exactly the right person for this job, and we are excited for his tenure to begin!

Judy Beckman will become Literacy Nassau's new Board Vice President on July 1st. Judy has an extensive background in service on a large number of non-profit Boards, financial planning and management, and is an avid supporter of the work of our tutors. Judy has been serving as Treasurer and brings a great wealth of knowledge to the table, particularly in the case of financial reporting and budgeting. In her new role, Judy will be more involved in overall governance, policies and procedures. Congratulations Judy!

Jordan Freundlich brings his ability to listen and take notes to his new role as Board Secretary. Jordan has been serving on our Board since 2013, along with his full time role as an estate and commercial litigation attorney, and his second full time role as a devoted dad to 3 kids! We welcome Jordan to this new role with open arms, and look forward to having his legal perspective on business (continued on p.4)





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NEW YEAR, NEW BOARD (CONTINUED)

matters as Literacy Nassau continues to grow.

Susan Santoro Bevilacqua has been a tutor with Literacy Nassau since 2011, and joined the Board of Directors in 2014. She is the owner of Oceanville Mason Supply, and brings her math major and business know-how to her new role of Board Treasurer. In this role, she will help prepare the annual budget and will monitor the monthly cash flow in and out of the organization. It is a pleasure to have her serve in this capacity, and we are all extremely confident in her ability to help us develop financial strategies for continued growth. Congratulations Susan!

Last but absolutely not least, we are thrilled to introduce our newest Board Member, Erin O'Brien. Erin is the managing attorney at Stella Justice Center, a low-bono practice that helps bridge the gap between pro-bono immigration legal services and the private sector. Her practice serves immigrants who earn too much money to qualify for pro-bono legal help but who do not have enough money to afford the cost of a private attorney. Our work with Long Island's immigrant population is closely aligned and it is a true pleasure to elcome her to our Board of Directors. Erin brings enthusiasm, passion, and energy to our team and we look forward to working with her to continue ensuring that the collective voice of the immigrant families here does not go unheard. Welcome Erin!

For some, summer is a quiet time, but for us, summer keeps us busy as we ready for the year ahead. We look forward to the great changes this new board slate will bring!

You are "cordially" invited to a divine evening of delectable cuisine perfectly paired with carefully selected wines...

*July 26, 2016 ~ 6:00 pm
La Strada of Merrick
2100 Merrick Avenue
Merrick, New York 11566*

*\$95 per person/\$950 for a table of 10
Business casual attire*

*Fabulous door prizes, raffles, and a 50/50
will all enhance the evening's festivities!*

All proceeds benefit Literacy Nassau, whose work teaching adults to read, write and speak English has improved the lives of thousands of Nassau County residents. This event is being graciously hosted by Board President Stephen Bendernagel.



To learn more, visit www.literacynassau.org or call (516) 867-3580.