



Whatcom Literacy Council

Opening Doors. Changing Lives.

PROGRAM VIEWS

Thank you tutors and learners who fearlessly braved

the elements in

December to continue to work on your literacy goals. Our apologies to those of you who came to our office on the snowy days only to find our doors locked.

Since the noisemakers have already quieted down, I'd like to wish you all a cheerful February. Here are some short announcements:

❖ Our Winter Training is fast approaching — ***E.L.L. Training on Friday***

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This is the time of year where many will make predictions regarding headlines to appear in 2009. I have a prediction of my own: . . .

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. . . Having a great desire to speak good English in order to communicate with the next-door neighbors and people in the store, I began my language journey . . .



Lyubov Solodyankina

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WLC Calendar - Winter Training for Literacy Tutoring



**Feb 6th and
Saturday Feb 7th -
A.L.P. Training
Wednesday, Feb 18th
and Monday Feb. 23rd.**

I am particularly excited about our A.L.P. Training; it will be our first in-house training that Jessica Hilburn and I will be facilitating. If there is someone you know who would like to attend either training, please them call us as soon as possible.

❖ For those of you who are already trained and working with a learner or group, please continue to send in your hours and goals monthly.

❖ If you find yourselves with even more time to volunteer, please don't hesitate to call for a second assignment, especially for E.L.L.

❖ Group facilitators and tutors, please send us any stories or writing that you and your learners compose and would like to submit to our newsletter

The more things change.

A member of our program staff left the agency in December and I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge her. The efforts and spirit of our steadfast ELL Coordinator, Charlotte, will be greatly missed by staff, instructors, and community members alike. Whether she was making matches at record speed, promoting International Literacy Day with heartfelt fervor, or giving interesting language lessons in our Talk-Time class, Charlotte was continually supporting our literacy mission. Many of the learners who worked with her have been enquiring after her; she has assured us that she will be around to answer any questions and will continue to facilitate the Thursday afternoon Talk-Time Class. Our thanks to you, Charlotte, for your years of compassionate service and for inspiring so many learners to work toward the realization of their literacy goals.



I look forward to announcing the name of our new E.L.L coordinator in the upcoming weeks. Thank you to all who applied.

Gina Barrieau-Gonzales
WLC Programs Manager

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

This is the time of year where many will make predictions regarding headlines to appear in 2009. I have a prediction of my own: "Whatcom Literacy Council sees an increase of learners pursuing GED and/or other trade skills". I didn't use a crystal ball to foretell this story. I have heard first hand from learners - - they wish to improve their employability skills so that they may have some security during these uncertain economic times. Our agency isn't the only organization to take note of this trend.

Bellingham Technical College's president was recently quoted in the Bellingham Herald as saying "When the budget gets reduced and the economy shows signs of not being as robust as it was, we get busier."

To prepare for this future influx of GED learners, I have compiled some general information and some ways in which a tutor can help his/her learner study for the test. I hope this information is also useful for tutors who are currently assisting in classes at Bellingham Technical College and



Whatcom Community College.

Q: What is the GED?

A: The GED is an equivalent to a high school diploma. Most colleges and employers recognize it as such. The GED is a timed, multiple-choice test. There are five sections: Math, Reading/Language Arts, Writing, Social Studies and Science.

Spotlight on a WLC Learner

I once said to myself, "I need to learn English." Having a great desire to speak good English in order to communicate with the next-door neighbors and people in the store, I began my language journey. The need to communicate with other people was main motivation

to study English. I did not learn much English in school in Russia, so I began to learn speaking, reading, writing, and listening in English after I came to America 12 years ago. I learned to read and to recognize new written and spoken words easy, but I



needed more time to learn how to write grammatically correct. I learned speaking English during conversations with other people in school and at work. Communication with other people and creating friendships with Americans became the most important part of learning English. I think that learning any new language would be easy in a nice relaxed environment. I know what it takes to learn English, and this is why I want to teach adults and I want to share my experience with them. In the

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JANUARY

Wed 21st
6PM

Tutor Primer

Bellingham Public Library



FEBRUARY

National Literacy Action Week

An online conference

sponsored by

the Student Coalition
for Action in Literacy

Education (SCALE)

will take place during the
week of February 2.

For more information, visit
www.readwriteact.org.



Fri 6th & Sat 7th

Winter Training

for

ELL Tutoring



Wed 18th & Mon 23rd

Winter Training

for

ALP Tutoring

The entire test takes little over 7 hours.

Test-takers are encouraged to complete one section at a time. There is a one time registration fee of \$75. Learners can take the test as many times as needed. However, there is a \$5-\$10 charge for each retake.

Q: Where do you take the test?



A: The test is administered by State technical and community colleges. For specific information about how and when to register for the test please click on the following link

http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/public_y_gedtestingctrs.aspx

Q: How can I help my learner prepare?

A: Provide a variety of materials to read and discuss (ie short narratives, poems, news articles, charts/diagrams). Time magazine and Newsweek are good resources Ask higher level comprehension

questions (“What is your opinion about this topic and why?” “How do you know the author felt this way?”)

Teach the parts of an essay. Your learner may need to review sentence structure and parts of a paragraph first.

Review basic math skills and include problem solving strategies.

Practice test taking skills with your learner. Visit <http://steckvaughn.harco.urtachieve.com/en-US/gedpractice> , it's free!

he Resource Room

There are over 500 lessons to be found in the following link that teach to the strategies mentioned above

<http://www.floridatechnet.org/GED/LessonPlans/Lessons.htm> .

The Bellingham Public Library and WLC library have GED practice books available for check out. These are non-consumable workbooks.

However, you can copy up to 20 pages each time you visit our office.

I am available to answer your questions; please contact me at

jessica@whatcomliteracy.org

or 647-3264 ext 104



Jessica Hilburn,
ALP Coordinator

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Spotlight on a WLC Learner Continued . . .

last year, I had a great privilege to teach English to adult students through Whatcom Literacy Council. My strength in teaching is that I have much perseverance to learn different ways to explain new lessons, so my student understands me. I like to have fun when I teach.