

## Program Views



## From the Director's Desk

Outreach volunteers, thank you for your thoughtful participation at our first annual Outreach Facilitator Luncheon. Whether it was lesson plan handouts or verbal descriptions of every day challenges, in different ways, you all acknowledged your passion for literacy and commitment to your learners. Five years ago none of these small group classes existed, and now thanks in large part to your initiative, perseverance, and flexibility, W.L.C. can reach learners who may not otherwise be reachable.

Now that many of us are planning vacations, we decided to put a few of our classes on pause for the summer quarter. This includes Lynden, Roosevelt Parent Class and Dakota Creek GED Prep Lab (August only). Enjoy the time off and we look forward to getting back in touch late August.

I would like to take this time to thank Whatcom Community College, Bellingham Technical College, Megan, at Sterling Meadows and Father Emilio, at St. Joseph's Church for being actively supportive of our small group

### ***Run for Literacy Raises \$2,027 for WLC!***

Thanks to our generous community partners Village Books and Fairhaven Runners, the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Run for Literacy raised \$2027 to support our programs. We had more than 150 participants, including lots of families, in the event. I saw lots of familiar faces, and I want to thank all of you who participated or volunteered to help with the Run. It was fun day and a great way to raise awareness of the work of WLC while raising funds as well.

### ***WLC Closed on Fridays for the Summer***

Beginning on June 27 and continuing through August 15, WLC offices will be closed on Fridays. Our offices will be open from 8am to 5pm

Monday – Thursday.

Just a reminder that if you would like to speak with a specific



staff member, please call ahead to make sure that they are available, as people are in and out of meetings throughout the day.

Also, if you need access to our resource library after-hours, please contact us and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Enjoy the summer!

classes and tutors. We couldn't do it without you.

Outreach planning and preparation is now one of my top summer priorities. I'll be putting together schedules and recruiting volunteers who are interested in being outreach facilitators, assistants and/or administrative assistants.

Please contact me directly if you think this might be something that you'd enjoy. The time commitment is generally once a week for two hours, plus prep time. There are also lesser roles in terms of time commitment: Admin. assistants would only need to administer tests two times a quarter. These opportunities are for our trained volunteers who would like to try something new, or would like to do this in addition to one-on-one tutoring. Contact me directly for more information.

Gina Barrieau-Gonzales

To give potential volunteers an inside look at one of our classes, Charlotte, our E.L.L. Coordinator has written her own teacher's perspective on the Talk Time class that she and Don teach on Thursdays.

## TALK TIME

Talk Time is a supplementary class which gives learners the opportunity to enhance their conversation skills and improve listening comprehension. This class has a relaxed and often informal atmosphere. Learners from all countries can come into community to help, support and build each other up with their growing vocabulary. The free flow of conversation is greatly encouraged. The following lesson plans and methods will give tutors and learners some insight as to the focal points of this class

**The following is an example of a lesson plan format that can accommodate a range of topics.**

We often start with a warm up from Jazz Chants or a poem. This gives the learners a chance to practice pronunciation and warm up their vocal chords.

We use the question hierarchy to ask questions that engage the learner and encourage them to speak freely, without worrying about grammar. This helps learners begin to build excitement as they make connections with you, each other and with the topic. You might also have one of the more advanced learners explain a point to an intermediate or beginning level learner. This technique brings the entire

## TALK TIME, continued

group into the conversation.

Once the group has had a chance to participate, we might make a note of one or two changes they could make to converse even more effectively. Write it on the board. Often we might try a cloze (fill in the gaps)

sentence for clarification and repetition.

This exercise teaches grammar and sentence structure as well as

vocabulary. It seems so easy, each learner can participate.

Then use a language experience story to reframe many elements of the lesson. We have the learners read it. Throughout the lesson, the learner has become engaged in his/her own learning. This final step continues the key theme of learner personal involvement. The conversation of the group begins to take on a life of its own.

### **An example lesson in public/private speaking**

Sometimes we prepare the learners to get

up in front of the class and talk about themselves. One example is to bring in real life objects, like a world map, and then glean some background information from them to prepare an introduction of themselves in a mini-speech. The objective is to get up in front of the class or tutor and speak in

complete sentences. We invite each learner to speak, answering a few basic questions about themselves.



This exercise works for all levels. I thoroughly enjoy seeing the bright faces light up with confidence as they tell their stories.

Talk Time is multilevel, as every E.L. learner is invited to join. This can be extremely challenging for a new facilitator. More often than not, even the shyest learners discover that they can make themselves understood and make personal connections with improved English oral skills

Charlotte Ball, E.L.L. Coordinator.

*Learner Spotlight*  
Nooty's Adventure (A true story)



“Wow Nooty, is that really you jumping out of that plane?” The vibrant and outspoken woman with the intent eyes let out a resounding, “Yes for sure.” Our Tuesday morning Talk Time Class

has been conversationally “amped up” ever since a new feisty lady learner who was formerly an army colonel from Thailand joined the class.

Last week the class exchanged sympathetic glances as Nooty described the challenges of being the only high ranking female officer among the multitude of males. To break the somber mood, she asked us if we wanted to hear her funny story. The five of us nodded encouragingly and with her permission, I will now relay to you the story she told us. As a matter of course, one day Nooty attended a high ranking military meeting loaded with political dignitaries including Thailand's Prime Minister. She showed us a picture of her sitting with plank-like posture in the center front of what looked to be about

12 rows of twenty white chairs. She was clearly on duty, giving her full respect to the Prime Minister who was standing a mere five feet away and directly in front of her. Nooty was intently focused on the P.M. and unaware of those around her. When he asked who would volunteer for a special mission which involved parachuting from a plane, Nooty raised her hand dutifully, fully expecting her fellow officers to do the same. She anticipated a sea of outstretched arms, so she was astonished when the prime minister chose her.

Finding it hard to catch her breath, she looked around only to realize that she was the only one whose hand was raised.

Later that day, giving herself over to the whims of fate, she boarded the plane and

. . . .



**Geronimo!**

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# Passages

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**Ruth Ashworth**  
03.05.35 - 06.07.08

Ruth J. Ashworth passed away peacefully in the loving presence of her children and life-partner after a battle against cancer. She wanted others to know that early detection and treatment has great value for life. She is survived by her loving life-partner for her last 12 years, Marian Beddill of Bellingham. Ruth was a graduate of Syracuse University, New York, with degrees in art and education. Ruth had an independent and loving spirit, was an accomplished artist, a teacher, a humorist, and a very caring person. She was a devoted member of the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship and attended the Unitarian Universalist Community of El Paso Family Camp in New Mexico for 30 years, making the journey by car and motorcycle. Ruth had a wry sense of humor, known to all her friends, enjoyed her garden, watching wildlife, singing in the church choir, playing the recorder, performing skits, and playing word games. She volunteered for 10 years with the Whatcom Literacy Council, tutoring English as a Second Language.



**Anne Kranendonk**  
10.09.15 - 05.19.08

Anne attended Greenwood School in Lynden and Lynden Christian. In order to go to nursing school she graduated from Bellingham High School in 1943, at the age of 28. She was a nurse at St. Luke's Hospital for many years, retiring in 1977. She had an appreciation for all of nature. She painted, knitted, quilted, grew unusual flowers from seed and shared them with her gardening friends.

Anne was remembered to us by her friend and colleague, Wilma Totten: "Anne was a member of the founding group of the Whatcom Literacy Council. She took our first tutor training workshop and served as the first Council secretary, taking on the duty of treasurer, and making our first deposit of \$30.00! For over 12 years she kept a close watch on our financial affairs all the while tutoring adults and children. Later, she continued as an active supporter of our Spelling Bees, the Trivia Bees and our annual Breakfast Program. Anne was a hard worker with a delightful sense of humor. She took great pleasure in the strength and growth of WLC and often remarked that it was *'amazing how far \$30.00 could go if used properly'*."

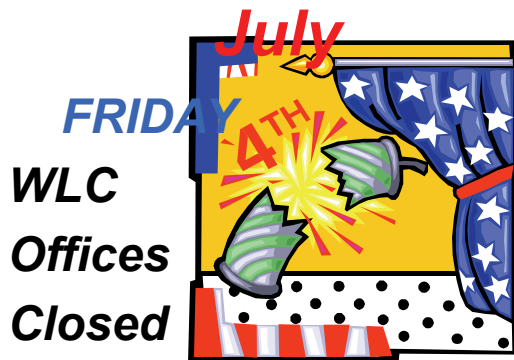
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## Buffalo Exchange supports WLC

Here's a great idea! Shoppers who decline to use a plastic bag for their purchases will receive a token which they can then 'donate' to one of three local community services. WLC is one of those agencies.

Thanks Buffalo Exchange for your support!

Check it out  
1209 N. State Street  
676.1375



Wednesday 16th  
WLC Tutor Information Mtg  
Bellingham Public Library 6PM

Information and sign up  
for Fall Tutor Training.

**SAVE THE DATE!!**  
**2nd Annual**  
**Potluck Picnic**



**Thursday**  
**August 21st**  
**At Lake**  
**Padden**  
**4:30 - 7:30**

## Notes from the Starting Line

It's early on a Saturday morning in June and the Village Green in Fairhaven is coming to life as runners and walkers mingle with volunteers and fans who've all come out for the *Village Books and Fairhaven Runners 9th Annual 5K Race for Literacy*.



I'm not a runner, so I appreciate this yearly immersion in 'running' culture which gives me a glimpse into another part of the community that generously supports WLC. The air is charged with the anticipation and energy of the runners as they check in with registration and each other, stretch out, and warm up. A flurry of activity sends the littlest kids off on their ½ mile run along the bay; they're back before the main event even begins. Suddenly the Green empties and the participants regroup on 11th Street between Village Books and Fairhaven



# Whatcom Literacy Council

*Opening Doors. Changing Lives.*

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WLC Offices: 2205 Elm Street  
[N/W corner of Broadway & Elm]

Phone: 360. 647. 3264

Rachel: ext 101

Gina: ext 102

Charlotte: ext 103

Jessica: ext 104

Dale: ext 100



Our website: [www.whatcomliteracy.org](http://www.whatcomliteracy.org)

Mail: BOX 1292 ❖ Bellingham

❖ WA ❖ 98227

Runners for the start. 9AM! They move off in a crowded hustle, wrapping around the green on their way out to the Inter-Urban trail for the longest leg of the course. The volunteers quickly regroup as well, setting up water and snacks on the Green. Twenty minutes or so after the start, the first runners are back, kicking it in for the finish line! A steady stream of tired but satisfied racers finish the race amid the cheers of their families and friends. Runners all in, a lull in the action gives the volunteers time to rearrange things and by then the walkers, accompanied by dogs and kids in strollers make their way across Harris Avenue on 10th and around the corner on Mill Avenue to the finish line and the awards ceremony begins. Winners are bedecked with ribbons, door prizes are claimed, all are congratulated, cheers upon cheers.

By noon, it's all over . . . Village Green is quiet – just another leisurely Saturday. Congratulations to all of the participants and thanks to everyone who made the day such a grand success.

Dale Ballantyne, Admin Coordinator