

Reading. For Life.



LITERACY
N A S S A U

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

What You'll Find in this Issue:

Charity Golf Outing	2
Saturday Program	2
Thankful!	3
Happy Thanksgiving!	4
Donations	4

Our Staff Team

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 Renae Katz, Bookkeeper
 Kate Quijano, Senior Program Director
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 Stephanie Trees, OG Tutor
 Cristina Morales, Program Assistant
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Angela LaVeglia	Judy Schoeppe
Cathy Milner	Terri Stapleton
Stacey Popkin	

Our Board of Directors

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EXCITING NEWS!

(by Karen Micciche, Executive Director)

On Monday, October 21st, I received my acceptance letter from the Orton-Gillingham Academy. I am now officially a **Fellow!**

If you've been with Literacy Nassau for a while, you've heard me talk about this milestone before. But what does it really mean?

According to the Academy website, "The Fellow level prepares practitioners to design and deliver Orton-Gillingham training courses at all levels of OGA certification." To me, that can be broken down in several ways. Naturally, we will continue to provide training and certification for public and private school teachers who self-select this path for their careers. However, as Science of Reading agendas become directives for school districts, we will also be in a unique position to train entire districts of teachers. We can also begin to introduce additional cohorts of OG trainees here at our office, enabling us to offer even more donation-based tutoring to children in our area.

Right now, I'm most excited about developing new training for higher-level OG



practitioners. Currently, I'm working on preparing a module about how dyslexia can impact children in classes other than reading/language arts. For example, we rarely stop to think about how hard it must be for a dyslexic child to comprehend an entirely new written language when learning how to play an instrument. To have to read, interpret, and react kinesthetically to each note with speed, accuracy, and fluency is challenging even for a completely neurotypical child! Often, children with dyslexia rely on the creative side of the brain to help with these tasks - or resort to memorizing the tactile movements in order to perform, as one might in a choreographed dance. I'm excited to take a deep dive into subject areas like gym, foreign language, art, math, and science, and develop training for educators to help broaden their understanding of potential dyslexic responses to these areas of study. This is just one example of the higher-level training I now have the chance to create and implement here at Literacy Nassau.

It's been a long, bumpy road, but I feel incredible having cleared this giant hurdle. I'm so proud of the work we do here, and can't wait to continue furthering our mission thanks to this accomplishment.

Congratulations, Karen!

FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Hi Everyone!

The darker days are coming now, but one thing that's brought me a tremendous amount of light lately is the work I've been doing in case management for our ALE program. It's been awhile since I felt directly responsible for tracking our adult learners, but this month I visited both Bellmore and Freeport and got the chance to sit and chat with many of them. Some common issues that I discovered are that many of our students have food insecurities. Being able to connect them to resources like Island Harvest and Long Island Cares can be a game-changer for families in our learning community. This November, we're also hosting a food drive at our office in support of our local pantry here at St. Frances de Chantal. We're accepting donations of non-perishable items through the end of the month.

Thank you for your support, on behalf of all our students. Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours!

Karen 😊



My girls harvesting carrots - our favorite - in the community garden in Cape Cod.

SATURDAY PROGRAM FOR KIDS

(by Shamika Lilavois, Saturday Program Coordinator)

Who wants to attend Saturday classes? Our students do! They always arrive early for class and eager to learn and participate in the lesson with their new friends. Their favorite part of the day has been practicing their conversation skills while working in learning stations.

In this class, students focus on improving their communication skills, expanding vocabulary, and strengthening grammar and sentence structure to enhance both spoken and written English. The class helps learners build a strong foundation in vocabulary that they can apply in daily conversations, while reinforcing grammar rules to ensure clarity and correctness. Reading and writing skills are being developed, encouraging students to express their thoughts clearly. Throughout the class, students work on boosting their confidence in using English, fostering a supportive environment for growth and practice.

We are so grateful for the generosity of The Guru Krupa Foundation and always being a strong supporter of our programs at Literacy Nassau.

MEET THE TEACHER



Ms. Shamika
Teacher

About Me

Welcome to Literacy Nassau!

I am Ms. Shamika and I am looking forward to being your teacher for this school year. I have been teaching for 10 years. I have my Bachelor's Degree in Speech Therapy and my Master's Degree in Education.

Contact

516-867-3580

2024-2025 Goals

- Improve communication Skills
- Expand Vocabulary
- Strengthen grammar and sentence structure
- Improve reading and writing skills
- Boost confidence in using English



CHARITY GOLF OUTING

(by Karen Micciche, Executive Director)

On Monday, September 30th we hosted our third annual charity golf outing, thanks to the hard work of our Board Treasurer, Melissa Golfo. Melissa rallied our friends at Charlie Meaney's Bar and Grill in Valley Stream to come out and spend a day at Pelham Bay Golf Club teeing off for a great cause. The weather was perfect and the day consisted of a round of golf (featuring a simulator at the first tee and a chance to win an \$800 watch at the second tee), a spectacular buffet breakfast and lunch, raffles galore and a 50/50. There were even chair massages offered to the golfers. It was a fun and fruitful day, and together, we raised over \$5,000!

Many thanks to Melissa for organizing a fabulous event!



THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD MEMBER, MELISSA GOLFO AND HER TEAM OF GOLFERS FROM CHARLIE MEANEY'S BAR AND GRILL.



Warm Birthday Wishes To Our Tutors Celebrating In November!

- Susan Anton – Lorraine Bak – Patricia Ballard
 Nupur Banerjee – Gail Bauer – Gail Carlin – Erica Davis
 Kathleen Dendy – Diane Dubno – Diane Dwyer
 Stefanie Edwards – Gwynne Feiner – Sandra Heiman
 Dennis Horan – Charles Jencius – Joni Jones
 Joanne Kassnove – Susan Kimmel – Jean Lavelle
 Sue Levy – Angela Luo – Kathy Mahony
 Karen McDonough – Deirdre McElhatton
 Mary Ann Neber – Matthew Nill – Kevin O'Keefe
 Rebecca Pulvidente – Teresa Rienzie – Martha Salzberg
 Adarsh Singla – Diane Ugelow – Maryanne Williams-Pitman
 Cathy Zwilling



GRATITUDE

Thanksgiving



THIS YEAR THE STAFF IS GRATEFUL FOR:

Karen: This year, I am especially thankful for my family. I am blessed to have an amazing husband and two girls who bring joy and light into my world.

Kate: I am thankful that my 3 year old nephew told me, "You need to work out to be strong like Mama," and introduced me to the Future workout app. I have been working out from the comfort of my home and appreciate the health benefits of strength training.

Izabella: I am extremely thankful to work with everyone at Literacy Nassau.

Stephanie: There is always something to be grateful for in life. I find that as I get older, I am thankful for the quiet moments. Moments of simplicity. Those moments when you take a breath and stand still, or moments to take in the scenery of the changing seasons. Sometimes, it is the moments of smiles, long glances and hand holding or extra long hugs that make me thankful. The importance of these extraordinary moments expands the heart. And for that I am truly grateful.

Anne-Marie: I am thankful for my loved ones who make me smile and laugh!

Renaë: I am thankful for my friends and family. All the rest doesn't matter without loved ones to enjoy with.

SOME OF OUR TUTORS SHARED WHAT THEY'RE GRATEFUL FOR:

Terri S: I'm thankful for the center and the excellent OG training I received. A special shout out to Karen for leading the pack. It's a joy to be able to work with children and share the gift of literacy. I wish all the staff, the students, and their families many blessings.

Marcia M: I am thankful for the opportunity to get to know and work closely with so many incredible immigrants. Hard-working and inspiring, my students open up new worlds for me.

Angela: I am grateful for my health, my family and friends. This month I am especially grateful for my 30 year wedding anniversary, my 50th Birthday and my celebration trip to Rome Italy. Lastly I am grateful for my new house which brought me closer to Literacy Nassau and all the wonderful staff, tutors, parents and students I work with!

Andrea: I am thankful for the opportunity to learn how to teach literacy skills to others in a way that helps them thrive and feel successful.

Carolyn S: I am thankful for Literacy Nassau bringing my student, Edna and me together! Edna is a lovely woman, and an extremely motivated learner who has not only reached amazing heights in her literacy progress, but has become a dear friend, too! I am very grateful for her, and our mutual love of reading that we enjoy together!

Fran F: I am thankful that I live in a country in which we are able to experience freedom.

Justine M: I'm thankful for the opportunity to affect another's life with the gift of literacy. Watching someone learn to read is a most rewarding experience. I'm also grateful for my loved ones and the ability to enjoy my life to the fullest.





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You can help support our programs by making a donation.

Our literacy services are accessible to disadvantaged populations of all ages by providing donation-based language-building programs. You may continue to make this possible by donating to us directly on our website at www.literacynassau.org/donate or scan the QR code.

DONATE 




HAPPY
Thanksgiving!

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28
THROUGH DECEMBER 1ST.

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