

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



### What You'll Find in this Issue:

Tutor Spotlight.....	2
Citizenship Information.....	2
ONA Volunteer Project .....	3
Happy Birthday.....	2
Upcoming ISTs .....	4
Resource Corner .....	4

### Our Staff Team

Karen Micciche, Executive Director  
 Anne-Marie Poliviou, Executive Assistant  
 Renae Katz, Bookkeeper  
 Kim Nau, Regional Director  
 Cindy Cabrera, Regional Director  
 Kelly Siry, Regional Director  
 Digna Johnson, Workforce Development  
 Kate Quijano, Literacy Specialist  
 Sara Izquierdo, Jr. Literacy Specialist

### Our Board of Directors

Stephen Bendernagel, President  
 Judith Beckman, Vice President  
 Jordan Freundlich, Secretary  
 Susan Santoro, Treasurer  
 Iris Grover  
 Michele Ingrassia Haber  
 James Kinney  
 E. Christopher Murray  
 Craig Weintraub

### SO MUCH TO CELEBRATE!

*(submitted by Karen Micciche)*

By now, you've gotten your invitation in the mail for Recognition Night 2018. If you're new to Literacy Nassau and have never been to the event before, you're probably unsure of whether or not to attend. Here's the skinny on all things Recognition Night so you can make an informed decision:

1) The purpose of the evening is to bring tutors and students together to thank them for making our program possible. Tutors give us their time, and for this we are grateful beyond measure! Every year, we set aside the third Thursday of May to publicly acknowledge this amazing gift and to celebrate the countless student accomplishments that directly result from it.

2) We debut our annual student anthology, Open Door. We encourage all students and book club members to support our love of literacy by submitting a story, poem, or picture (hand drawn or a photo) so we can weave them all together into the tapestry that is our annual anthology. This unedited book captures each student's moment in his/her personal journey. Authors are invited to sign copies of the book for all in attendance at our Author's Table. Maybe you didn't know that being a student author is so highly encouraged.

There is still a small window of time to have your student submit a piece of writing to Open Door. Just e-mail the submission directly to me at [kmicciche@literacynassau.org](mailto:kmicciche@literacynassau.org) by May 1st. If you are concerned about making the deadline, call me at (516) 867-3580, ext.11. I will do what I can to work with you.

3) It's free! And there's food! From 7-8pm we offer a light dinner and you can peruse the raffles, chat/network with other tutors, or hang out with your student(s). Also, family and friends are welcome to join us. This is your opportunity to share your volunteer work with those you love.

4) At this year's Recognition Night, I am eager to share a major announcement about the future of our organization. We have tremendous plans and this event offers me a public platform to give you a first hand account of the exciting things in store for Literacy Nassau.

5) It's our 50th anniversary! We'll be giving out awards for Tutor of the Year, Student of the Year, honoring our community partners, welcoming our first (albeit tiny) group of children we've served, and so much more.

So mark your calendar for Thursday, May 17th at 7pm. Details and registration are available on our website: [literacynassau.org/recognition-night](http://literacynassau.org/recognition-night).

### THOUGHTS FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Hi Everyone,

Every April, I feel like my children shed their winter skins and emerge in the sunlight taller, stronger, and more confident than ever. Sometimes I look at them and I'm just awestruck. Case in point: My husband recently took our youngest daughter to the pool. When he returned home, he showed me a video of her jumping off the pool deck into 4 feet of water, making a big splash, then swimming up to the surface and doggie paddling over to the wall with a huge grin. When did this happen, I wondered? When did she get so big?

Do you ever feel that way about your student(s)? Like when you're planning a lesson that involves reading a newspaper article, and then you stop and realize - holy cow, since when can my student read the newspaper?! It happens to all of us. I hope you'll come celebrate the milestones of the season with us at UUCSR on May 17th!

*Karen* 😊



Watching children grow is both scary and amazing. Julie (left) is only 4 but can now swim without a floatie.

# ONA COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

(submitted by Kate Quijano)

"It touched my heart."

"It made me realize that I have a roof over my head and clothes to wear, but not everyone else does."

"It put my problems in perspective."

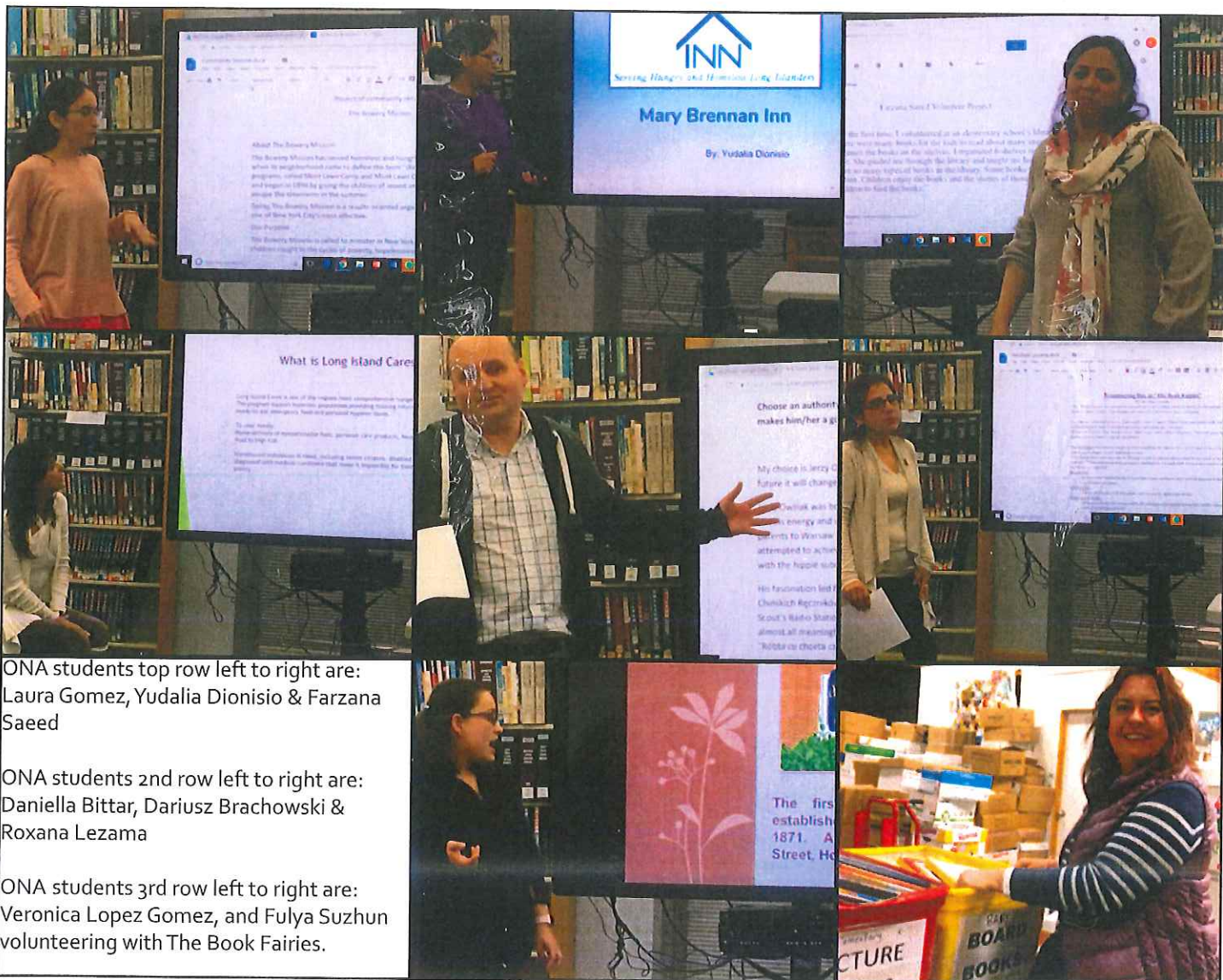
"I'm not afraid of them anymore; I understand now."

These were some of the quotes from ONA students' final presentations for the winter session, presentations they gave to their classmates about their experiences completing a volunteer community service project.

During the winter session, the theme in the ONA classes was "U.S. History and Civil Rights." As part of this theme, we discussed ways that we all can help others in our community. Students then researched different organizations and chose one to volunteer at or to write letters of support for. Some of the places students chose were The Book Fairies, The Mary Brennan Inn, Our Lady of Lorretto Parish, The Bowery Mission, Long Island Cares, a local school, and a local fire department. Students had a variety of experiences including writing letters, sorting books, serving food to the homeless/hungry, assisting with special events, and organizing donations.

After they volunteered their time and got to know more about the organization they chose, each student prepared a written report explaining the history of the organization and how it works to help the community. Then they wrote about their personal experience there and how they helped others. Students presented their work to the class on the last day of the winter session.

This experience allowed students to practice English in a real life situation while giving back to their community. Students enjoyed helping others and sharing their experiences with the class. Many students were asked to come back again and to continue working with the organization. Some have already gone for a second visit now that they have made a connection with the people benefitting from these services. Overall, it was a very rewarding experience for both the ONA students and the people whose lives they touched.



ONA students top row left to right are:  
 Laura Gomez, Yudalia Dionisio & Farzana Saeed

ONA students 2nd row left to right are:  
 Daniella Bittar, Dariusz Brachowski & Roxana Lezama

ONA students 3rd row left to right are:  
 Veronica Lopez Gomez, and Fulya Suzhun  
 volunteering with The Book Fairies.

## TUTOR SPOTLIGHT: BETTY ENGEL

*(submitted by Sara Izquierdo)*

One day I ran into Betty Engel in the supermarket, and during that chance encounter, she made my day! I had recently matched her with a new student, and she was a little hesitant to get started. Her first student was focused on citizenship, and Betty was helping her study for her test. This new student was going to be her first ELL, so we met and talked through ideas and resources, and I sent Betty on her way. Well, in the supermarket that day Betty got tears in her eyes when she told me that her student was inspiring her, and they were getting along wonderfully. They were making great progress and had already created a special bond. We hugged before we left to attend to our shopping and other errands, but the moment stuck with me.

Betty had a long, successful career in publishing before finding Literacy Nassau. During the 20 years that she worked for Time Life, she was the person in the office who would lift spirits with birthday celebrations, make holiday parties happen with no budget, and organize networking luncheons. In addition to publishing, Betty worked as a Community Relations Director for a number of assisted living facilities and a receptionist at a country club.

After retiring, Betty joined the Transition Network, which is a networking organization for retired professional women. It was there that she learned about Literacy Nassau. Betty's first student was working toward her citizenship, and was struggling to pass her citizenship test. With Betty's coaching, she became a United States citizen!

Then Betty took on a new challenge with her current English Language Learner. This student takes busses, trains and an occasional Uber to get to Betty, but is dedicated and consistent. She is an artist, so together they found a painting class for her to attend at the library. In addition to pursuing her passion, Betty felt that an art class would give her another opportunity to practice her English. They are a great match and really enjoy their time together.

It was a pleasure getting to know such an energetic and devoted volunteer. We talked a lot about what her student was learning, but in closing, I asked Betty what she has learned from tutoring with Literacy Nassau and she had this to say: "You don't even realize the capacity you have to give back until you get an opportunity like this." Betty has a lot to give, and we are so grateful for her hard work and dedication to Literacy Nassau!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Warm wishes to the following tutors born in May!

Sr. Mary Alice Aschenbach - Donna Bennett - Dee Berger - Kathy Berry - Lynne Borah - Carl Borruso - Linda Caginalp - Carol Ciccarello - Regina Dallensandro - Anjana Dhansinghani Delia Espinal - Marjorie Farrell - Johnny Gilchrist - Laura Glenz Maryanne Gogolinski - Carolyn Hecht - Sandra Herman - Sherry Jagels - Mindy Kaiser - Barbara Kaplan - Michael Kauffman - Pavneet Kaur - Daniel McCarthy - Evelyn Monaco - Gerry Mullins - Grazia Norton - Sandy Palma - June Prisand - Alisa Promakul - Barbara Randall - Kathy Scheiner - Mahendra Shah - Jennifer Southard - Harriet Studness - Ernestine Warner Gina Wood Hart - Deborah Zenir

## THE U.S. CITIZENSHIP PROCESS - STEP BY STEP

*(submitted by Kim Nau)*

Navigating the U.S. citizenship process can be confusing and complicated. If you know someone who wants to become a U.S. citizen, Literacy Nassau can assist at no cost. We help clients:

- 1) Complete N-400 naturalization applications,
- 2) Meet with a licensed immigration attorney to seek advice and/or counsel regarding family petitions, prior arrests, etc., and,
- 3) Study for the test and learn about the interview process.

Below are the steps of the naturalization process:

Step 1: Determine eligibility. In general, an individual will qualify if he/she is 18 years old and has been a permanent resident for at least 5 years (3 years if married to a U.S. citizen).

Step 2: Collect all necessary documents and complete the N-400 form (Literacy Nassau can help with this). Required information includes all addresses where you have lived for the past 5 years, all dates of travel outside of the U.S. for the past 5 years, all jobs or schools attended in the past 5 years, a complete marital history and information regarding all children (regardless of where they live). Documents include the green card, passport, a copy of the marriage license (if married to a citizen), copies of any divorce paperwork, your taxes, and more, depending on your specific situation.

Step 3 – Submit the application along with passport photos and the required \$725 fee to USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services). Some clients are eligible for a fee waiver and Literacy Nassau can help them prepare a separate fee waiver form.

Step 4 - In 8-16 weeks, clients will be contacted for a biometrics appointment where they will be fingerprinted, photographed, and the FBI will conduct a comprehensive background check.

Step 5 – An interview will be scheduled to review the client's N-400 application and an English and civics test will be administered.

Step 6 – A decision from USCIS will be issued. If the application is denied, a notice will be issued explaining the reason.

Step 7 – If the application is accepted, clients will receive a notice to take the Oath of Allegiance and at this ceremony, the Certificate of Naturalization will be issued.

If you have any questions about the citizenship process, please contact us. Also, [www.USCIS.gov](http://www.USCIS.gov) has a wealth of reliable information.





187 Smith Street, Freeport, N.Y. 11520  
(516) 867-3580 ~ www.literacynassau.org

NON PROFIT RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Freeport, NY  
11520  
Permit No. 376



**Upcoming In-Service Trainings  
@ our Literacy Nassau office**

**Intergrating Literature for Communication  
Purposes**

**Tuesday, April 24th from 6:30 - 8:30pm**

**Planning Lessons with your Flash Drive  
Resources**

**Thursday, May 3rd from 2:00 - 4:00pm**

**ELL Roundtable**

**Monday, May 14th from 5:30 - 7:30pm**

**Contact your Literacy Specialist to sign up.  
DON'T MISS OUT!**

**RESOURCE CORNER: TEACHERS PAY TEACHERS**

*(submitted by Kelly Siry)*

Whether you are a Next Chapter Book Club / Jot it Down Facilitator or you are a 1:1 ESOL tutor or even if you teach a small group of ESOL students, there is something for you on TeachersPayTeachers.com. Teachers pay Teachers or TPT, as it is commonly referred to, is an online marketplace where educators buy, sell and share their original resources. Here's how the site works... Let's say you are looking to do a lesson on irregular verbs. Just type "irregular verbs" into the search box and hundreds of lesson plans, games, and activities pop up. You should definitely sort through each to find something that best suits your students' needs. You can check other customers' reviews to see what they thought of the resources. Also, you can preview much of the content before buying anything. You can even sort according to price. Many activities are **free**. Disclaimer: most of the activities on the site are meant for children, but that doesn't mean you can't change and adapt them to use with your students. You will find that doing a search for a topic on TPT is a lot easier than trying to create something yourself or trying to find something specific in a book. And your TPT purchase supports fellow educators!

