



LITERACY MATTERS

OCTOBER 2019



LITERACY
N A S S A U

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

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INTRODUCING OUR NEW GROUP OF ORTON-GILLINGHAM TUTORS

(submitted by Kim Nau)

We are excited to introduce our new group of Orton-Gillingham trained tutors. We look forward to working with them and helping them change the lives of our students.

Karen Coll works as a special education teaching assistant in Roslyn public schools. She helps struggling readers every day and sees the stress, anxiety and isolation that language based disabilities such as dyslexia can cause. She is excited to work towards her OG certification because nothing gives her greater joy than helping people achieve their goals and accomplish what they thought was impossible!

Stacy Drescher's decision to register for OG training inspired her to return to the classroom this fall as a middle-school teacher in the NYC public schools. She hopes to incorporate the OG approach with students of varying abilities and needs as she will be teaching literacy and pre-vocational skills. Ms. Drescher is New York State Certified as a Teacher of Special Education and School Counselor. She holds a Master's Degree in both fields and has nearly 20 years of experience in education working as both a Special Educator and School Counselor. Ms. Drescher lives locally and has three young

daughters of her own. She intends to engage her children in this approach with the goal of improving their reading and writing abilities and their confidence as learners.

Donna Fiore is a special education teacher and ABA therapist. She has taught in the NYC Department of Education's NEST program for children with autism. She is currently a stay-at-home mom to her two young children, Giuliana and Nicholas. In her spare time, she is an active volunteer in the Long Island community and is a past President of the Junior League of Long Island. Mrs. Fiore is excited to have been selected to participate in Literacy Nassau's OG training program and looks forward to utilizing all that she learns.

Judy Fouad-Schoeppe is currently a reading teacher with just over 25 years of experience. She taught for seven years for the New York City Public Schools and is currently starting her nineteenth year teaching in Farmingdale. She has a passion for helping students learn to read. She feels that the Orton-Gillingham training will help provide her with the professional development needed to work with some of her hardest-to-reach struggling readers.

THOUGHTS FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Hi Everyone,

The first few weeks of school are so hectic! Getting back into the swing of things after the summer hiatus makes the fall the hardest season of the year for me. The fact that my husband is a teacher doesn't help either; when back-to-school hits, it hits my *whole* family. I struggle to remember how to get myself and the girls ready for school and out the door by 7am. We resurrect the bedtime rituals we abandoned in the excitement of summer fun. It's hard work developing and keeping a rhythm, and it's so easy to let it all unravel.

Every year, I promise myself I'll do better. I'll hold on tighter to our family rhythms in the summer. But it never happens, and I pay for it in September. I wish I could say there's some grand lesson in all this, but there's not. I am learning to forgive myself for being imperfect. My girls are happy, safe, healthy, and full of life. If they don't always go to bed on time, I guess it's not the end of the world.

Karen 😊



The first day of school marked Haley's journey into 2nd grade and Julie's start of kindergarten!





MEET OUR NEW ORTON-GILLINGHAM TUTORS

(continued from cover page)

Jane Hartigan worked for 25 years in the investment industry. She returned to school to become a reading teacher, and never looked back! She has been lucky to work at a public elementary school in Nassau County for the past 15 years and loves every minute of helping students learn to read. Becoming an OG practitioner is the perfect next step, giving her the professional development she needs to better serve those readers who struggle the most. When she's not reading, you can find her quilting, swimming or in the library.

Kristen Hayes is the mother of a child with severe dyslexia. She understands and has experienced first-hand the stress and anxiety of having a child with a learning disability. As a teacher, she is excited at the prospect of learning how to better help her students. She is currently a Kindergarten teacher at St. William the Abbot School in Seaford. She has been married for almost 25 years to Scott, and has two children, Evan (17) and Abby (14). She received a B.S. in Elementary /Special Education from SUNY Old Westbury and an M.S. in Early Childhood/Special Education from Touro College.

Keri Lattanzio has spent the past five years as an Academic Intervention Service teacher specializing in Mathematics within the Great Neck School district. Prior to that, Keri spent five years as a 3rd grade inclusion classroom teacher in Manhattan. Keri's educational background includes undergraduate studies at Plattsburgh State University, where she obtained a dual BS in Economics & Marketing and post-graduate studies at Hofstra University where she obtained her Masters degree in Elementary Education. Two years ago, Keri's son was diagnosed with dyslexia and dysgraphia. His struggles and successes have propelled Keri to be a part of the solution. Watching her son struggle in the grade that she taught for five years made Keri re-examine everything she learned in graduate school and in all her professional development as an educator. Keri knows first-hand that the Orton-Gillingham approach is life changing and has provided hope for those who feel most hopeless. Keri is excited and looking forward to becoming an Associate OG practitioner.

Christine Luft holds an Associate's degree Early Childhood from SUNY Farmingdale, a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary

Education, and a Master's Degree in Literacy, both from LIU. As a primary educator, she is continually looking for ways to help her students establish a concrete foundation and a love of reading.

Patricia Pagano is both a classroom teacher and reading specialist. She taught in the classroom for 10 years as a 2nd and 3rd grade teacher. This past year she worked with students in grades K-6 as a reading teacher. She is constantly trying to grow as an educator and expand her toolbox of teaching strategies and interventions. When she's not teaching, you can find her reading, going to the beach, and spending time with her family and friends. She's the proud mom of two beautiful girls, ages 2 and 3. Patricia enrolled in this program because she knew that with the proper assistance, children with dyslexia and other learning disabilities can learn to read and develop the strategies that will allow them to be successful. "I want to gain the knowledge and learn the most effective strategies to help my students soar," she shared with us when asked why she decided to tutor.

Jen Rodriguez grew up in Amityville and attended Dowling College where she received a teaching degree. She has spent most of her career teaching pre-school, special education. She is married to and has three children. Due to her husband's job, her family frequently moves. Last year, they relocated back to New York from North Carolina to be closer to family and friends. After many years of struggling in school, two of her children were diagnosed with dyslexia in 4th and 6th grades. Even though she has a background in education, she did not know how to properly help them. In researching dyslexia, she became interested in Orton-Gillingham. However, she did not live close to any certified Orton-Gillingham tutors or training facilities and it was not offered by the local school districts. She is very excited for this training opportunity and looks forward to helping students and getting to know their families!

Michele Sedlmaier has been an elementary school teacher for 20 years. She enjoys reading, gardening, swimming, and teaching. Throughout her career, she has come across students who struggled to read. Unfortunately, the programs available in school were not effective. This is why she sought out OG training. It is a researched, supervised approach that will enable her to have the tools and confidence to help students learn to read.



Meet the teachers (from top left): Keri Lattanzio, Jane Hartigan, Judy Fouad-Schoeppe, Christine Luft, Robyn Webster, Patricia Pagano, Karen Coll, Stacy Drescher, Michele Sedlmaier, PK Sanieski (Fellow/AOGPE and trainer) and Melissa Mattia-Sansobrinio
Bottom Row: Caitlin Scurachio, Donna Fiore, Kristen Hayes and Jen Rodriguez





MEET OUR NEW ORTON-GILLINGHAM TUTORS

(continued from page 2)

Melissa Mattia-Sansobrin came to Literacy Nassau after being a stay-at-home-mother for nearly 9 years. She is originally trained as a PhD scientist, with a focus in cancer biology, but gave up her career in 2010 after my daughter was born with medical needs. Her daughter’s reading difficulties became apparent when she began school, and she was officially diagnosed with dyslexia in 2018. Since then, it has been Melissa’s focus to learn as much as she can about dyslexia to help her daughter succeed. She hopes that by becoming an Orton-Gillingham Associate she can help her own child navigate her future, as well as help other children who struggle with dyslexia.

Caitlin Scurachio is a reading specialist in the Bethpage Union Free School District. She is passionate about working with struggling readers and trying to bridge the gap between them and their peers. She completed her undergraduate studies in childhood and special education at SUNY Geneseo in 2010 and then attended CUNY Hunter where she completed her graduate coursework in literacy education. The Orton-Gillingham training being offered through Literacy Nassau is a great opportunity for her to further her knowledge of teaching reading. She looks forward to growing professionally and bettering the instruction she provides to the students she work with.

Robyn Webster has been teaching pre-school for the past 5 years. She currently teaches at Maria Regina. She is married and has two girls, ages 9 and 4. She loves animals, going to the beach, hiking, and paddleboarding. Robyn is so excited to begin this amazing journey with Literacy Nassau. She wants all children to feel confident when reading. She looks forward to learning the skills needed to help children succeed.

Literacy Nassau’s capacity to train and support these 14 new tutors would not be possible without the assistance of the **John and Janet Kornreich Charitable Foundation** and the **Frances and Gertrude Levett Foundation**. Their support will change the lives of children with dyslexia and other learning disabilities for good. The gift of learning to read is incomparable. We can’t wait to keep you posted on how the year progresses!



This symbol represents dyslexia. Formed with the letters p q b d, and how they process information differently in ways that provide advantages in reasoning and understanding relationships. the jewelry is in sterling silver or 14k over gold.



In honor of Dyslexia Awareness Month, we have partnered with Sylvan Jewelry and pqbd.org, makers of sterling silver jewelry that raises money for organizations that support dyslexia research and education. 10% of proceeds from your purchase go to Literacy Nassau if you mention us in the comment box when you order. Great for gift giving and early holiday shopping! Thank you for your support.



Warm wishes to the following tutors born in October!

- Mary-Joan Albiston – Catherine Antioco – Patricia Boilerman
- Angella Broderick – Judy Casella – Ann Cullen – Joanne DePaula
- Joshua Diamond – Sheryll Dorf – Judy Douenias
- Rhonnie Fischman – Darleen Fleming – Cindy Florman
- Alison Frankel – Lori Freeman – Rosemary Fuchs
- Marsha Herman – Sakina Husain – Linda Ivans – Sarah Jairam
- Carol Keating – Jeff Konzet – Maya Leibfreid – Laura Longo
- Ada Marcus – Judy McClusky – Louise Nachshen
- Antoinette Nardo – Steven Reale – Elizabeth Reilly
- Gwynn Riordan – Gene Sanders – Olga Scileppi – Philip Scotto
- Scott Shelofsky – Andrea Snyder – Irma Souveroff – Diane Tully
- Eileen Weissman – Donna White – Richard Wieder
- Thomas A. Williams



THANK YOU!

Special thanks to Oceanville Masonry Showcase for donating this gorgeous paver art and the bricks needed to create our new accessible ramp and walkway.

Special thanks to the Frances and Gertrude Levett Foundation for paying for the cost of installation of the ramp and walkway. Literacy Nassau is fully ADA-compliant now as a result of these gifts.



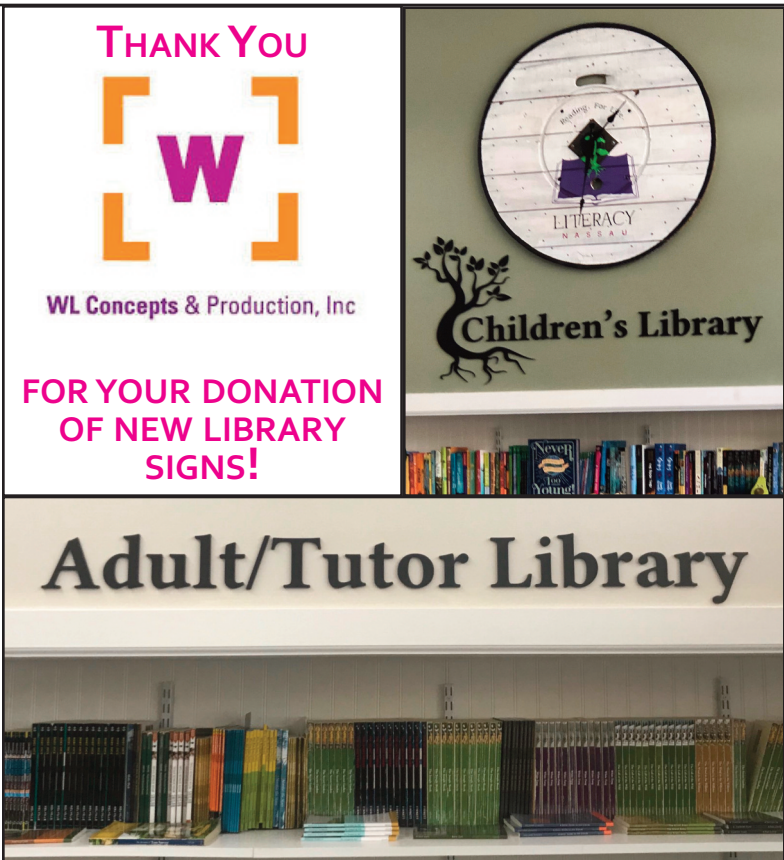


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Tutors, do you need more help? Please join us for any of the following In-Service Trainings!

Syllable Types and Syllable Division
Saturday, October 12
from 10:00-12:00pm
at our office in Wantagh

Using Visual Aids with Low Level ELLs
Tuesday, November 12
from 1:15-2:15pm
at Shelter Rock Library

Hands on Pronunciation Tricks
Thursday, November 14
from 5:00-6:30pm
at our office in Wantagh

For more information and to register online visit
www.literacynassau.org/current-volunteers

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