

## COMING EVENTS:

All activities at Joan M. Breisch Adult Learning Center, unless otherwise noted.

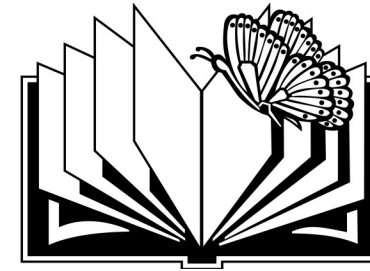
<b>February 9</b> Finance Committee Meeting	<b>5:30 PM</b>
<b>Feb. 11, 18, 25 and March 3</b> Winter Citizenship Series	<b>9:00 AM</b>
<b>February 27</b> LCRB Board Meeting	<b>5:00 PM</b>
<b>March 26</b> LCRB Board Meeting	<b>5:00 PM</b>
<b>February 27</b> Fundraising Committee Meeting	<b>6:15 PM</b>
<b>March 30</b> Spring Semester Ends	
<b>April 6</b> Good Friday	<b>Office Closed</b>

## The Literacy Council of Reading-Berks provides the following services:

- Reading and Writing Instruction
- GED® Preparation
- ESL (English as a Second Language)
- Workplace Skills Development
- Computer-Assisted Learning
- Distance Learning



HOURS	
<b>Monday &amp; Wednesday</b>	8 a.m.—8 p.m.
<b>Tuesday &amp; Thursday</b>	8 a.m.—9 p.m.
<b>Friday</b>	8 a.m.—4 p.m.



*New Life for New Readers*

### Board of Directors

- Dr. Barry Palmer, *President*  
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Suzanne Miller, *Honorary*  
Brian Seidel Esq., *Honorary*  
Elizabeth Taylor, *Honorary*  
Sarah Yatron, *Honorary*

### Staff

- Ryan A. Breisch, *Executive Director*  
Theodore Aarons, *Bookkeeper*  
Katherine Atkinson, *Tutor Coord.*  
Donald Bickel, *Instructor*  
Laurie Dawkins, *ESL Coordinator*  
Daniela Fiorentino, *Instructor*  
Robert Hartman, *Instructor*  
Beverly Hebbardt, *Receptionist*  
Beverly Hirneisen, *Case Manager*  
John Lane, *Evening Receptionist*  
Cathy Martin, *Instructor*  
Lori Mentzer, *Instructor*  
Elizabeth Reach, *Instructor*  
Wendy Rio, *Data Entry Coordinator*  
Yvette Santiago, *Instructor*  
Lillian Svenson, *Admin. Assistant*

Literacy Council of Reading-Berks, Inc. 610.670.9960

# PLEASE READ!

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY FEBRUARY/MARCH 2012

## Executive Director's Message

**Ryan A. Breisch**



The embarrassing news that Reading is #1 in poverty throughout the country has been a main topic of news lately. Over the years, Reading has become a huge center of racial and cultural diversity. A large segment of the population does not speak English correctly; in some cases, not at all. Trying to obtain a job or an education without properly understanding English creates frustration and despair, which leads many to quit school and erases their resolve to find a decent job. It is the perfect formula to fall into abject poverty, from which most people never recover.

At the Literacy Council, I see many people turn themselves around on a regular basis. Our classes are always full, and we have calls daily from people wanting to come in for assessment and placement. There is a tremendous need; approximately 1 in 6 adults in Berks County are functionally illiterate!

If you are reading this message and feel compelled to work with one of our students, or an additional student, it would be greatly appreciated! We also ask that you share your experience with your family and friends and encourage them to tutor as well. Together, we can make a difference in helping to remove the #1 in poverty status from the city of Reading.

As always, thanks for everything you do in the name of literacy. **You are appreciated!**

By the way, thanks to everyone who supported our Readers WIN! campaign this year. As of the printing of this edition of *Please Read!*, we do not have official results. Please check our website in the next few weeks for that information. (It is being updated on a daily basis now!)

### OUR MISSION

The Literacy Council of Reading-Berks provides services that increase the level of literacy in our community.

### OUR VISION

To close the book on illiteracy.

### WATCH US ON BCTV!

Join Ryan Breisch for  
Berks Literacy Update

**On February 24th @ 12:30**

Comcast Channel 13

Service Electric Channel 19

The Literacy Council of Reading-Berks is proudly affiliated with:



Our code is 32

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Reading, PA  
Permit No. 59

Address Service Requested

Literacy Council of Reading-Berks, Inc.  
35 South Dwight Street  
West Lawn, PA 19609



## OUR STUDENTS SAY IT BEST

The following essays were written by students who attend ESL classes at the Muhlenberg Community Library under the tutelage of Marcina Wagner. In addition, ESL classes are also held at the following locations: Elm Street (Bob Hartman), Epiphany Lutheran Church (Cathy Martin), NE Branch of the Reading Public Library (Mayra Sepulveda), and the Joan M. Breisch Adult Learning Center in West Lawn (Laurie Dawkins, Bob Hartman and Elizabeth Reach). Lori Mentzer also teaches ESL classes at the Muhlenberg Community Library.

*This class makes me feel truly happy and motivates me to pursue college degree in US. People in this class share similar opinion and experience and I feel like I can talk about anything and ask for piece of an advice. I haven't accomplished many things so far, but I am motivated to stay in US and become an ESL teacher. As for now, I volunteer in 2 library.....***Bojana Stankov**

*I want to thanks Literacy Council for give me the great opportunity to learn English, and offer me good advice. After six months of classes, I realize that I feel more confident at work, and as a part of the community. Also, through this unforgettable experience I am capable to help my family, especially my daughter with her school's assignments. Also, I got my first library card, and I improved my conversational and writing skills.....***Bernardino Vasquez**

*The ESL class have improved my English habilities such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. I have known new vocabulary and now, I can talk with people in a formal way. I have learned how to write and make different kinds of essays. I think that I will success because of my improvement in English as a second language. Actually I am working as a volunteer in Storyteller in Muhlenberg Library and I'm taking advantage of that because I can practice the language with children and their parents.....***J. Gomez**

*After this time I felt more comfortable to talk in my job. I got my library card. I found my mistakes and I am trying to fixed. I registered for vote.....***Maria C. Ortiz-Gallo**

*This class help me to know more about the free classes the Reading area offered. I took advantage to go to the Citizenship class and the computer class. Also, at work I understand my co-workers much better than usual and feel more comfortable to communicate with them.....***Coralie M. King**

**STUDENT PROGRESS REPORTS HAVE BEEN REVISED. PLEASE SEE ENCLOSED FORMS.**

### 2012 CITIZENSHIP CLASS SCHEDULE

**WHERE:** Literacy Council Reading-Berks, Joan M. Breisch Learning Center, 35 South Dwight Street, West Lawn, PA

**WHEN:** Saturdays from 9:00 to Noon on:

Winter Series: February 11, 18, and 25 and March 3, 2012  
 Spring Series: June 2, 9, 16, and 23, 2012  
 Summer Series: August 4, 11, 18, and 25, 2012  
 Fall Series: October 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2012

**HOW:** Registration is required. Participants will be asked to fill out a registration form when they come to class. Each class consists of four consecutive sessions, and students are encouraged to attend every session.

For more information or to register, please call the Literacy Council at 610.670.9960, send an email to info@lcrb.org, or stop by the front desk.

## ANNUAL TUTOR/STUDENT AWARDS DINNER AND MEETING

Mark your calendars tutors, students, members and volunteers! Our Annual Tutor/Student Awards Dinner and Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 23, 2012, and will take place at Immanuel UCC in Shillington at 6:00 PM.

We will be honoring our outstanding students, tutors, and volunteers. (Please see Enclosed Award Nomination Form.) This will be a "covered dish" dinner. Please bring a prepared dish that would feed a family of four or five. Tutors, encourage your ESL students to bring foods representing their respective country. This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to meet other staff and board members of our Literacy Council.



### Student Achievements

Congratulations to EB who increased 4 EFL points on his post test, and XR who increased by five points. EFL stands for Equivalent Functional Level.

#### TUTOR THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"A teacher affects eternity; he never can tell where his influence stops."  
Henry Adams

### STAFF UPDATE

Please welcome John Lane to the Literacy Council. John comes to us through the AARP Foundation and is our Evening Receptionist. Stop in and welcome John to our family!

### Directory of Services and Display Ads Available

**Directory of Services:** Bold line Listing Featuring Company Name, Address, Phone, Contact Person, plus five lines describing the product or service offered.

Yearly: \$275 Bi Monthly: \$60

**Communicate more about your company and services.**

Display Ads:	1x/yr.	6x/yr.
Full Page:	\$200	\$165
Half Page:	\$125	\$115
Third Page:	\$100	\$ 85

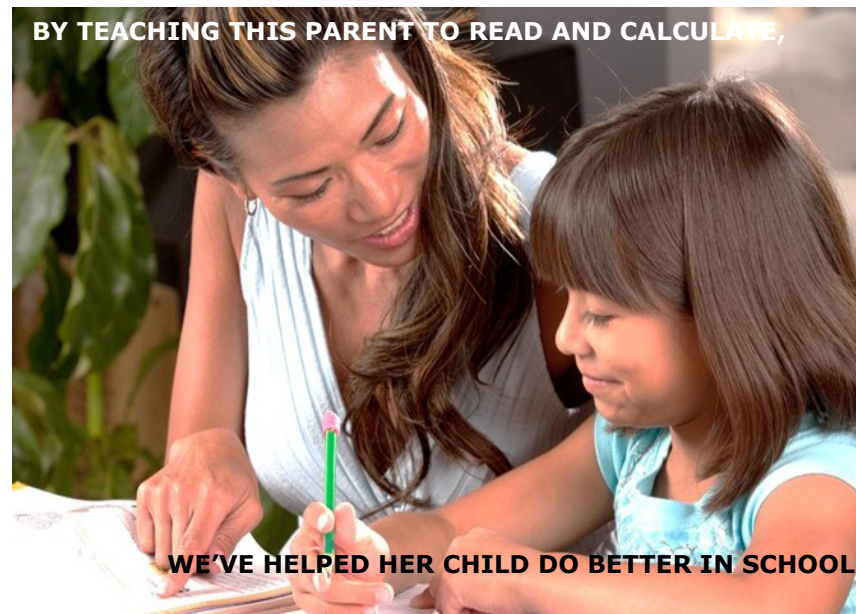
**To place an ad:** Select publication dates. Submit copy and artwork by the 10th of the month prior to publication. Mail information to LCRB, 35 S. Dwight St., West Lawn, PA

#### Redner's Save-A-Tape

The Literacy Council will accept your Redner's Warehouse Markets receipts throughout the year. Please drop them off or send them in and we'll take care of everything else!



Redner's is committed to the communities of which it is a part and wants to help non-profit organizations whose members shop in our stores. In this interest, Redner's developed the 1% Save-A-Tape program. Each member must stop at the store office or Customer Service area to get a Save-A-Tape card. By using this card each time you purchase merchandise at Redner's Warehouse Markets, your receipt will be designated as a Save-A-Tape customer receipt.



### What a Deal!

Literacy Council of Reading-Berks Polo Shirt  
 Shirts are navy blue with the Literacy Council's logo in white. Shirt sizes run from Small to XX Large. Get yours today for only \$15.00!

**REMINDER** - We collect old cell phones, inkjet and laser jet cartridges. Just drop them off at our Dwight Street location.