



# Please Read!

April—May 2019

## The Time Has Come

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As always, the Literacy Council is filled with change! Thanks to Senator Judy Schwank, the Council received a \$50,000 Keystone Communities Grant which we are using to do some much-needed improvements at the Council. Stay tuned in the coming months for some visible changes in our office! You may have already noticed our new phone system, which replaced the nineteen-year old system we have had since we moved here in 2000. Please be patient with us as we learn what we are doing!

Now, the time has come! It is with mixed emotions that I announce the retirement of Lil Svenson, the Council's administrative assistant. She has provided us with almost eight years of devoted service. I don't know how we will get along without her!

Lil's attention to detail, while keeping the broader picture in mind, has been invaluable. Her willingness to put in extra time and effort to help us meet deadlines, especially with our Readers WIN! fundraiser has demonstrated a commitment to excellence that I have come to depend upon. I personally owe her a debt of gratitude for all the times she has helped keep me on track, on time, and within our budget. In addition to her incredible competence and skill, she has been a friend to all, especially to me, with her thoughtfulness and quiet encouragement.

I invite you to stop in and see her before she retires on May 31. Stay tuned to our social media outlets for an announcement regarding our new administrative assistant.

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 8 am to 4 pm  
Tuesday and Thursday - 8 am to 9 pm

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***The Literacy Council helps people better communicate, collaborate and contribute to their workplace and community. The Council's vision is to eradicate illiteracy in Berks County by teaching people the vital reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language skills needed to improve their quality of life and enable more productive employment and community citizenship.***

## March Madness—Literacy Council Style!

Our last two newsletters heralded our annual Bingo fundraiser held on March 17<sup>th</sup>. We raised the bar this year and offered our guests a chance to win a designer handbag. Coach, Kate Spade, Michael Kors and other big-name designer purses were on display during registration and the visibly excited crowd came ready to win. This was our largest crowd ever and we beat out our old record of 67 pre-pays by 35 players, and we fielded over 2 dozen walk-ins. Between the 20 Bingo games and 32 chances to win a raffle prize, the afternoon saw many winners go home full of good food and cheer.

This entire afternoon of fun and games would not have been possible without the wonderful planning of Emily Hershey and Wendy Rio, who put the program together.

Not to be outdone, the Literacy Council Board members sponsored the purses and worked throughout the day selling tickets and making and selling food. Their efforts to procure raffle prizes needs to be recognized because otherwise we would not have been nearly as successful. Thanks to our community business partners who made wonderful donations that enabled us to put together some very nice raffle packages. Sprecher's Meats and Berks Packing donated ring bologna and hot dogs to sell. Please see page 3 for a list of all Bingo sponsors. We hope you will patronize their places of business.

The 2019 Bingo was the best ever, but 2020 is coming and you ain't seen nothing yet!!!

## Fundraising 101—Readers WIN! 2019

Readers WIN! 2019 did not disappoint! For five years in a row, Schuylkill Valley Elementary has raised the most money. This year their total came in a hair under \$7,500. Second place was Owatin Creek, just shy of \$3,000; and Reiffon Elementary took third place with close to \$1,900. It is hard to believe that Matt Goldstan and Don Bickel are largely responsible for these tremendous results, and we commend them and our loyal sponsors for the continued success of the Readers WIN! campaign.

Karver Horst from Bethel Elementary won the Kindle, and the clock radio was won by Dwain Titus from Penn-Bernville Elementary. We do have a winner for the 32" color TV, but it will be a surprise for one lucky Schuylkill Valley student at a May 10<sup>th</sup> assembly when, as winning school, the students have a Q&A session with Fightin Phils players.

Watch for the "big reveal" in our next newsletter!



## Proof That Adult Education Can Be Fun!

Our evening ESL IV class had an opportunity to set up a pose and practice the command verbs and phrasal verbs associated with positioning people. A reference sheet was used to spark ideas, and instructor Elisa Hammes said the students had a blast taking turns being “the photographer.”

### Contributors \$250+

Mrs. Jean A. Smith  
Quadrant EPP USA, Inc.

### Student Achievements

- A.O. passed the Language Arts GED® test
- S.R. and T.G. passed the GED® test

### Tutor/Student Awards

### Dinner is Coming!

The Literacy Council’s Annual Tutor Student Award Dinner is right around the corner. Please see the enclosed flyer and registration form and make the commitment to join us in celebrating adult education. This is an open invitation to our readers. You need not be a student, tutor, or board member to attend.

### 2019 Bingo Sponsors

Bar-B-Q Pit – Beauty Works – Calabria Restaurant – CJ’s Tires & Automotive – DoubleTree by Hilton – Friendly’s Restaurant – Genesis Theater – (3) Giant Markets – Goggleworks – Herr’s Pretzels & Snacks – Mama’s Pizza – May’s Sandwich Shop – NY Bagelry – R.M. Palmer Candy - Penn’s Nails – Reading Country Club – Reading Fightins – Redners—Suburban Tavern – Texas Roadhouse – Tractor Supply – (2) Weis Markets – William’s Restaurant – Wyomissing Hair Studios.

We appreciate the support of these businesses. Additional thanks to Gloria Gola and Robin Mattiuz for separate purse donations and to our dedicated Literacy Council Board who sponsored the designer purses.

# Enjoying an evening out with family and friends?

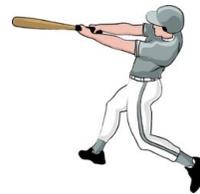
## Why not try these establishments?

### They support the Literacy Council's Readers WIN! Program.

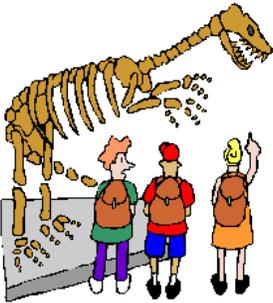


**GOOD EATING:** Anthony's Trattoria - Applebee's - Beverly Hills Tavern - California Bar & Grill - Christine's Creekside Inn - Crowne Plaza Hotel - Dan's at Green Hills - DoubleTree Hotel - Effie's Charcoal Grill - Frank & Diannah's Arbor Inn - Mom Chaffee's Cellarette - Olive Garden - Outback Steakhouse - Plaza Azteca - Red Lobster - Thai Cuisine - The Hitching Post - The Peanut Bar - Tokyo Hibachi - Yellow House Hotel

Chick-fil-A  
Friendly's Restaurant  
Moe's Southwest Grill



Reading Fightins



Reading Public Museum



Ozzy's Family Fun Center



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Berks Lanes



Fox Berkshire  
Reading Movies 11 & IMAX



Schell's Mini-Golf  
Gasser's Mini-Golf



Philly Pretzel Factory

**Special Thanks to:** Kasper TV & Appliances and R. M. Palmer



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## Coming Events:

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

April 19	<b>CLOSED—GOOD FRIDAY</b>	
April 26	New Tutor Orientation	9:00 am
April 29	Board Meeting	5:00 pm
	Tutor Student Awards Dinner	6:00 pm
	Immanuel UCC in Shillington	
May 20	Board Meeting	5:30 pm

*Access our website's Calendar of Events under the Events tab for the most recent changes.*

[www.lcrb.org](http://www.lcrb.org)



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