



Adult Literacy and
Lifelong Learning

1455 North Main Street
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Phone: 413 283 2329
www.topfloorlearning.org

Many thanks go to:

Palmer Public Library for con-
tinued financial and in-kind
support .

Turley Publications for their in-
kind contribution of printing
and publicity costs.

The many businesses who do-
nated food, drink, game prizes
and raffle prizes for the three
Scrabble Tournaments.

Pathfinder Regional Technical
High School for shop gift cer-
tificates for Scrabble prizes.

Adult Literacy and Lifelong Learning

A sample of what's happening at TFL this fall

Wilson Reading System Two-Day Overview: September 15 & 22, 2007. 8.30 am to 2.30 pm.

Financial Literacy: Coming soon! A new program with curriculum designed to help you manage your checking account, budget, learn how to use credit wisely, save, and much more.

Planned Giving: Attorney Elizabeth Dougal will present a workshop on this topic, giving donors the knowledge they need to create long-term planned giving goals.

Want to know more? Check the FAQs on the website to find answers to your questions.

The issue of lack of literacy or low literacy levels cannot be overstated. Without the ability to read well, it is impossible to pass the MCAS or GED, graduate from high school, enter college, find a good job, read for pleasure or information, or participate fully in civic life. The ability to read is fundamental to all other cognitive endeavors and is an essential skill for the twenty first century.

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Permit #1

Grants

National Book Scholarship

TFL won a grant of textbooks, valued at \$3,000, from NBSF including new and updated GED materials which are of tremendous value to the tutors and students in the GED program. In addition, TFL received many tutor training textbooks, for use in both ESL and R/W/M trainings.

Beveridge Foundation

TFL won \$5,000 from the Beveridge Foundation to support the GED preparation and testing program.

Verizon Foundation

Verizon donated \$6,000 in support of adult literacy services and programs.

Harold Grinspoon Foundation

Donated \$200 to support GED preparation and testing.

Donors (continued)

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

\$1000 OR MORE

Anonymous (2)
Ronald & Virginia Masnicki
Vince & Sandy McCorkle

\$500—\$999: None

\$100—\$249

Anonymous (1)
M & N Bauer
Barbara & Francis Beaulieu
Robert & Barbara Benedetti
Walter & Ellen Haggerty
Scott Haley
Eleanore Hodson
Dorsie Kovacs
William & Cynthia Lyons
John McNeish
Nancy Nowak & Phil Mllgrom
Ed & Linda Maxwell
Geraldine Molleur
Sandra Noonan

Maria Nunes
Keith & Pamela Parent
Ray & Lisa Remillard
Martin & Donna Skowyrza
Gladys Sullivan
Bryan & Therese Walch

UP TO \$99

Anonymous (5)
Joe & Frances Bigda
Stephen & Jane Bobowicz
Suzanne Boudreau
Ted Buck
Tom & Sandie Camilleri
Helen & David Coache
Mary & Bob DeVey
Patricia Donovan
Kathleen Flagg
Jules Gaudreau
Richard & Laine Gowan
Lila Haendiges

Susan Hintze
Peter & Cheryl Izyk
Kevin & Catherine Kirby
Barbara Lebida
Gisela Leven
Richard and Diane Mastroianni
Anthony & Mary Matejczyk
Gertrude & Louis Mercier
Mike Moran
Stephanie Moriarty
Germaine Morin
Edward Noonan
Peg & Jack O'Brien
Bonny Rathbone
Kenneth & Irene Sherman
Stan & Gloria Skowyrza
Albin Slesinski
Marion Stephenson
Sophie Valtelhas
Maria Wacławska

Annual Review

Volunteers 2006/07

ESL TUTORS

Joyce Baron
Barbara Beaulieu
Christine Bengle
Gloria Berenson
Don Bieber
Margaret Boyko
Tony Carey
Kathy Croteau
Cathy Haley
Joy Hibsher
Clay Knapp
Ruth Kruger
Barbara Lebeda
Jeanne Mattar
Ed Maxwell
Sandy McCorkle

Val Montgomery
Paul Mombourquette
Elizabeth Niergarth
Hal Niergarth
John Rusiecki
Gloria Skowyra
Marcia Soja
Shirley Street
Doris Sullivan
Ursula Wright

R/W/M TUTORS

Phyllis Bates
Wendell Bean
Don Bieber
Sarah Bird
Tom Camilleri
Marilyn Cardano

Paul Clinton
Marcia D'Amario
Kathy Davis
Gerry Dearden
Alan Dunham
Irene Ersing
Marsha Gaudette
Stanley Grzywna
Donna Hick
Laura Melbin-Diniz
Ed Lundrigan
Rebecca Price
Sara Sibik
Martin Skowyra
Joseph Slowick
Cindy Smith
Sheila Thompson
Robert Willis

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Marion Cava
Barbara Benedetti
Kiki McGrath
Terry Mullen
Sophie Valtelhas

MAILINGS

Robert Benedetti
Pat Donovan
Eleanore Hodson
Margaret Madsen
Cecelia Nicholas
Beverly Russell
Jonathan Remillard
Matthew Remillard
Troy Remillard



Fred and Rose Higgins perform at the Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition, Sept. 2006



Administrative volunteers. From left, Marion Cava, Sophie Valtelhas, Terry Mullen, Barbara Benedetti

Reading/Writing/Math and GED (continued)

Plans for the fall semester include the introduction of a two day Wilson Reading System Overview. The WRS is designed to train tutors to work with struggling readers of all ages. The Overview will be held on two Saturdays, September 15 and 22, 2007, from 8.30 am to 2.30 pm. In the Community Room at Palmer Library.

Future plans include the

introduction of an academic writing program, designed to help students who have gained a GED and would like to prepare to enter community college or a four-year college. The writing program will introduce students to the kind of reading and writing skills that are essential for writing successful college papers. This course will be useful for GED and ESL students.

ESL (continued)

and were reluctant to leave at the end of the evening. Talk Times will resume again in October. Tutors are very welcome to attend.

An ESL tutor training will be held in early September. Adult volunteers must have good reading, writing, and speaking skills. Knowledge of a foreign language is not required to tutor in the ESL program.



Full House!. TFL's first Scrabble Tournament, held in the Community Room on Nov. 14th, 2007

Lifelong Learning (continued)

"the class was academic and at the same time recreational and fun." Some new classes were introduced this spring. These included Reiki One and Two, Basic Sign Language Level One and Two, Islam 101, and How to Develop a Winning Attitude.

While the majority of class participants come from Palmer (40%), this year the geographic base has expanded, with people coming from as far afield as Granby, South Deerfield, Longmeadow, and Springfield.

If you would like to suggest a course, or would like to share your talents and teach a course, please contact Lisa Remillard at Top Floor Learning.

To be sure you receive course catalogues as soon as they are available, please call Lisa at 413 283 2329 and ask to be put on the mailing list. The catalogues are mailed four times each year. You may also check the website for up-to-date course details. Online payment is now accepted for all courses offered by TFL.

Basket Raffle

The 12th Annual Basket Raffle, Top Floor Learning's major fundraiser of the year, yielded close to \$6,150 net from ticket sales, compared to \$5,300 raised last year. Donors contributed 35 beautiful baskets which were on display in the Palmer Public Library during May. The drawing was held on June 4, 2007. TFL extends a heartfelt thanks to all donors and volunteers.



Terry Mullen and Eleanor Szlachetka preparing tickets for the May Basket Raffle, 2007.