

Summer 2010

June 2010



Message from our President

Dear Supporters of Literacy,

This is the first 'message from the president' for me as I was recently elected to this position by GTALC's Board. By way of introduction I should note that I have been associated with literacy projects and councils for slightly over 18 years (the bulk of which occurred in Oakland County with the Oakland County Literacy Council) and that I have an abiding interest in adult literacy.

My first order of business for this newsletter is to thank all of you, supporters of the organization and tutors alike, for your time, and financial support. Clearly, without you our mission would flounder.

While handing out kudos, I would like to thank my fellow board members (they're listed in this newsletter), Roger Prouty, our outgoing president, and our newest board member, Tom Young, a businessman from the Traverse City community.

I and six colleagues recently went through tutor training under Kathy Raynor, an outstanding teacher, from whom we learned both the art and science of helping adults to get connected with their words. I am sure that many of you who are currently tutoring had similar experiences with Kathy.

The next order of business for this newsletter is to review the current situation with regard to adult literacy in our region. In spite of the efforts of the Council, the number of non-readers continues to climb. Multiple pressures account for this situation: the flagging economy, continued disintegration of families occasioned by the hard times produced by the economy and the continuing influx of non-English speaking or reading adults in our complex society.

An informal survey of funding requests made to one of the region's larger granting agencies indicates that a core condition cited for those in need is non or low literacy on the part on children and adults.

So the need for your support continues. If you are currently a donor/supporter, please consider becoming a tutor. Your involvement in terms of time is relatively minor and the personal rewards for both you and your learner are significant. All of our tutors will attest to the development of rewarding relationships with interested and motivated learners.

You do not have to be a teacher to become a tutor. The essential skill is one you already possess-- you can read.

Our learners report that learning to read makes them feel "complete". One cannot find a higher calling than helping another to learn to read.

Another opportunity to support GTALC is to join our Board. We are currently looking for a person to fill the Board officer position of Treasurer. The treasurer reviews the financial activity of GTALC, compiles brief reports to the Board and handles the two or three brief reports required by the State. Experience with financial software (Quicken is what GTALC uses) is highly desirable but not necessary as the outgoing Treasurer will train her replacement. If you are interested, call the GTALC office.

Thanks again for your continued support.

Dick Thompson, GTALC President

2010-11 Board of Directors

President: Richard Thompson
Vice President: Mary DeGrazia
Secretary: Nancy Thompson
Treasurer: Joanna Hull

Directors

Ruth Bay
Karen Conrad
Bob Crosby
Mary DeGrazia
Denyse Everett
Linda Fawcett
Joanna Hull
Richard Thompson
Nancy Thompson
Tom Young

Newsletter Editor

Karen Williams

Dates to Remember

Dates for the Fall Tutor Workshop
to be determined.

Grand Traverse Area Literacy Council

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Phone: 922-4574

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www.gtaal.org

GTALC GRADUATING CLASS OF MAY 2010



Grand Traverse Area Literacy Council welcomes seven new tutors to its roster of volunteer tutors. Training was held May 11, 14 and 15 at Munson Community Health Center meeting rooms (the old Osteopathic Hospital). We are pleased with the meeting rooms and thank Munson Healthcare for allowing us to use the rooms for training.

New tutors are:

- *Chris Deneau*
- *Jim Haslinger*
- *Bonnie Lahde*
- *Donna Miller*
- *Carole Slaterline*
- *Mary Ann Stockfisch*
- *Dick Thompson.*

LitStart trainer Kathy Raynor led and inspired the group with strategies, plans and tips to contribute to our community and our neighbors.

We thank Linda Fawcett, who spoke to the group about opportunities with the Probate and Family Court and about Learning Partners; Karen Williams, who spoke about her experiences as a new tutor (and active volunteer in our office); and Karen Conrad who facilitated the orientation.

Karen Conrad, as tutor/student coordinator, is currently working to match new tutors with students. As those of you know who have been active tutors, the matching process can sometimes seem long, but our goal is to make a good match, not necessarily an immediate one.

New Board Officers Elected

At the Annual GTALC Board Meeting on May 17, 2010 the following Board members were elected:

Dick Thompson, President
Mary DeGrazia, Vice-president
Nancy Thompson, Secretary



There is an open position for treasurer. *Joanna Hull* has been serving as our treasurer, but she is unable to continue. We are seeking a qualified person to serve as our treasurer. Joanna will continue to help answer questions. (FYI—we use Quicken software).

Directors Re-appointed and New Director Appointed

- *Linda Fawcett*
- *Bob Crosby*
- *Ruth Bay*
- *Denyse Everett*
- *Karen Conrad*

We are pleased to announce the addition of *Tom Young* to our Board. Tom was first of all an ABE student working with several of our tutors (most recently Joan Connor and Pat Dolanski.) Tom makes us all proud to be affiliated with GTALC. As a successful businessman, family man, and community member Tom epitomizes the mission of GTALC. We hope to use his real-life expertise in our continuous process of upgrading the training and sensitivities of our tutors.

GTALC's MOST SUCCESSFUL FUND-RAISER!

April 16 and 17 were the dates of the GTALC Book Sale fund-raiser held at the **Grand Traverse Mall**, coordinated by *Alinka Lipchinski*, a long-time board and activist member. Our net total from the Book Sale was \$2819.83! **Kohl's Department Store**, where Alinka is employed, contributed \$500, as well as their A-Team to help set up and run the book sale.

The source of the books, DVDs, CDs, etc. comes from schools located in Grand Traverse County, as well as individual contributions. The Mall holds a competition between the TCAPS schools for the largest donation of books, etc. and gives awards to the schools who contribute the most.

GTALC members who worked the book sale included *Alinka Lipchinski*, *Dick Thompson*, *Mary DeGrazia*, *Nancy Thompson*, *Linda Frank*, and *Lainee Hilts*. *Tom Young* provided extra drop-off spots for books at **Crema**.

Dick and Alinka are already working on the book sale for next spring. We would like to add Sunday to the book sale (this year it was Friday and Saturday, last year it was only Saturday.) We will definitely need additional help from GTALC members next spring.

Thank you, Alinka and Kohl's Department Store with their A-Team! It was a great Book Sale!

Fall Tutor Training Workshop

The dates for our Fall Tutor Training Workshop are forthcoming.

All sessions will be held at the Munson Community Health Center on Munson Avenue in room 'A'. The workshop fee is \$20.00. Former and active trained tutors are welcome to take the training as a refresher course at no fee. If you know of anyone who might be interested in volunteering, please have them call the office. Contact the GTALC office at 231-922-4574 or send an email to: gta1c22@gmail.com to make a reservation for the training. Please note the Membership application on the last page of this newsletter.



**Free: Movie Tickets,
Popcorn and Pop!**

The State Theater in downtown Traverse City depends on volunteers to help staff theater operations. As a nonprofit organization, the GTALC has committed the first Sunday of every month to working one of the afternoon movie shifts. Whether working in the concession booth, taking tickets, ushering, or sweeping up after the show, the experience is always friendly and fun! AND volunteers are rewarded with not only being able to see the movie that day (along with a free pop and popcorn), but are given a free ticket to use at anytime!

Our group would love to have some more help at the theater on those first Sundays of every month! It is truly a rewarding experience and gives our organization some positive contact and exposure. Please contact Ruth Bay at 947-1619 or jackbay@charter.net if you are able to join us – once, twice or many times! Thank you!

GTALC Library



We do have a variety of helpful resource materials in our GTALC Library, available to be checked out for use with your students. The Library in the GTALC office can be opened for you Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00 pm. Please sign in at the Probate Volunteers office (the glassed-in office across from the GTALC office) to access the Library. You can also leave messages and/or drop off materials at the GTALC desk. Kathleen Packer is in the GTALC office in the mornings, and would be happy to help you find specific materials. However, she does have meetings and duties outside of the office, so please call ahead to schedule a time if you will need her help.

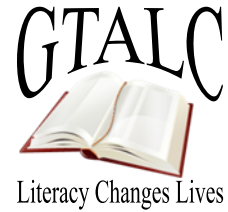
Tutor /Volunteer Hours and Yearly Membership Dues

Please remember to turn in your Tutor and Volunteer hours each month. There are several choices available for you to turn in these hours:

- Email your tutor/volunteer hours to Gta1c22@gmail.com
- Phone in your hours to the GTALC office at 922-4574
- Send in your hours on the website: www.gta1c.org
- **Reminder:** the \$20 membership fee is due in June each year. If you have any questions about your membership fee, please call the office at 922-4574.



Grand Traverse Area Literacy Council
Membership Application
www.gtalc.org



Name: _____
Home Address: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Email Address: _____

Annual Dues are \$20.00
Thank you for your support.

Please remit to: Grand Traverse Area Literacy Council
PO Box 4119
Traverse City, MI 49685-4119

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