

Mission Statement

The mission of the Marinette & Oconto Counties Literacy Council is to provide adults of Marinette and Oconto Counties with programs and services to improve literacy in reading, writing, comprehension, health, speaking English, math, digital skills, and cross-cultural awareness. The power of literacy will enable adults to become self-confident, contributing, members of their community and work force and positively impact their families.

Vision StatementOur vision for the organization

Marinette & Oconto Counties Literacy Council actively assist those with a literacy need and remains committed to those we serve and to our organization. Community outreach is ongoing and involves many organizations within Marinette and Oconto counties. The marketing effort is strong and has many available resources at its disposal through grants, fundraising and human resources, such as volunteers.

Our vision for the region

Within the communities, there is an increase awareness of the resources that are available to individuals who are in need of literacy services. Community organizations, together with individuals, have become advocates for those in need of literacy services. The literacy rate continues to improve through the willingness of individuals to accept assistance without fear.

Marinette & Oconto
Counties Literacy
1605 University Dr.
Marinette, WI 54143



Tutor Talk

Spring, 2024
Volume 10
Issue 3

A Newsletter for and about the Marinette & Oconto Counties Literacy Council, Inc.

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<http://facebook.com/MarinetteOcontoCountiesLiteracyCouncil>

Grant Awarded

We're excited to receive a grant from the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation family of funds. This grant will help us purchase new equipment needed for our office that will help us maintain security of records, according to our written policies.

Thank you to the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation for the check received September 5, 2024, and thank you Marycarolyn Jagodzinski for writing this grant. We're growing good, together!

We're Blessed

Janet Glime, president of the M&O Counties Literacy Council says, "We have been very blessed to have received funds from the following:"

- *Community Change* from Oconto County Electric Cooperative. This grant was awarded due to the efforts of Bud Bartell and Brenda Fritcon.
- Stephenson National Bank Marinette: donation
- *Rounding Up* from Jack's Fresh Market, Marinette & Menominee: donation
- Crivitz Women's Club: donation

Thoughts from Willy Adams

Q. What's the best advice you've ever received?

"Never think you know it all. Always be learning. The guy that I trained with, we always talk a lot, and he told me one time. 'Always know there's going to be somebody that knows more than you, so never think that you know everything because there's going to be someone that knows something that you don't.' BE HUMBLE." *More on page 4*

July Tutor/Student of the Month

**Tutor Sharon Heisel
Student Gabriel**



Tutor: Sharon Heisel has been a trained tutor since 2023 and also serves as a board member on the Literacy Board of Directors. Gabriela, or "Gabby" as Sharon affectionately calls her, is Sharon's first student. Sharon meets with Gabby on the day and time that is best for Gabby, while her husband works on a farm. The tutor and student meet together at the Coleman Library and the library staff there commented on how kind and considerate Sharon's voice sounds when she and her student are in the back room together reviewing a lesson. Although Sharon uses the given books for lessons, she also encourages spontaneity when learning. An example of that is when Gabby asked Sharon to define prefixes and suffixes. With the help of the internet, Sharon then made a list of prefixes and suffixes and their definition for the next lessons. They also discuss terminology needed for upcoming events in Gabby's life as Dr.visits, grocery shopping, etc. Gabby is happy that Sharon takes the time to help her learn terms important for her to know and uses both patience and humor in their session.

Student: Gabriela was introduced to this literacy council because of her husband, Jacob, who already is a literacy student. Jacob's English has since improved very much and he has encouraged Gabby to learn English also. So, not only are they learning together but they now have an infant son whom they are introducing to both Spanish and English. Since having her son, Gabby is a stay-at-home Mom and loves showing current photos and videos of the baby to Sharon, who enjoys seeing how the baby is growing. Gabby's English is improving and she & Sharon make steady progress in their textbooks. Gabby hopes to continue to improve her English. She likes the fact that Sharon often uses the dictionary to define, not only the meaning, but the type of word it is (ex: verb, noun, etc.). Sharon says that Gabby shows a desire to learn and is even using the telephone to make calls, which she didn't do several months ago.

Opportunity Knocks Once

English Classes

For Contracted employees of Marinette Marine (and others interested)

8-week Session

Thursday, September 26

4:00PM-5:30PM

NETC Northcoast Training 1428 Main Street
If interested call/text: Janet 920.3731035



Board of Directors

Officers:

Janet Glime, President

Marycarolyn Jagodzinski, VP

Allen Bartel, Secretary

Diane Nichols, Treasurer

Linda Bublitz

Leonard Burns

Mike Churchill

Vicki Dobratz

Brenda Fritcon

Advisory:

Candy Descharne, Consultant for Tutor Training

Howard Eslien, Attorney

Sarah Ferdon, Foodwise Nutrition Coordinator at the

UW-Ext, Marinette & Oconto Counties

Robyn Hallet, NE WI Literacy Consultant

Marycarolyn Jagodzinski, Grant Consultant

Danielle Lemke, Health & Wellbeing Educator at the

UW Extension, Marinette County

Marti Matyska, PhD, Newsletter

Dale Mohr, Associate Professor at the

UW Extension, Oconto County

Sarah Schindel, Food Nutrition Educator at the

UW-Ext, Marinette & Oconto Counties

Jennifer Thiele, PhD- Professor, Louisiana State University

(LSU); manages Facebook

TBA-NE Regional Consultant

Friends of M&O Counties Literacy

Claudia Bartz

Jill Cholewa

Nancy Crevier

Romelle Delzer

Francis Lewandowsk

Daniel Slater

Judy Sytsma

Library Support:

Coleman Area Library

Crivitz Area Library

Gillett Public Library

Lakes County Public Library

Niagara Public Library

Peshtigo Public Library

Stephenson Public Library,

Marinette

Spies Public Library, MI

Suring Area Public Library

Wausauke Public Library



September 26, Thursday 4:00 P.M.- 5:30 P.M. 8-week session, NETC Northcoast Training, 1428 Main Street.

October 8, Tuesday 1:00 P.M. Literacy Board Meeting at the Coleman Village Hall, 202 E. Main Street

October 16, Wednesday Fall Tutor Training, 10:00AM -3:00PM Town of Pound Hall W8484 Road B, Coleman, WI 54112 Contact Janet if interested 920-373-1035.

November 12, Tuesday 1:00 P.M. Literacy Board Meeting at the Coleman Village Hall, 202 E. Main Street

CONNECTIONS:

We support or are supported by:

COAB-Coalition on Adult Basic Education

Coleman Municipal Building

Crivitz Woman's Club

North Coast Marine Manufacturing Training

Center, Marinette

NWTC Marinette

Oconto Falls Senior Center

Oconto Falls H.S. FBLA & Business Class

ProLiteracy

Peshtigo City Hall

Wisconsin Literacy Council, Inc.

WVCA Wisconsin Volunteer Coordinators Assoc.

Games for Adult English Class

Try Word Bingo At:

<https://myfreebingocards.com>

This website allows users to create up to 30 free Bingo cards

Leaving A Literacy Legacy

By Janet Glime



Judy grew up as Judy Carey, the 2nd oldest in a family of 8 in Stiles. Being with younger siblings she was ready for her 1st job: babysitting, which she began at age 9. Judy remembers babysitting all day and getting paid \$1.00, she thought that was quite good.

Judy attended the Stiles Elementary School (a step up from the 1-room schools as this one was a 2-room school house) from grades 1-7. Then, in 8th grade, Judy attended Oconto Falls Junior High, followed by Oconto Falls High School. Judy loved math but was told - get this! - that it was not a good choice for girls. So, Judy entered Milwaukee Area Technical College, studying for, and becoming a Medical Assistant.

During Judy's years as a young girl, she remembers that her family was the 2nd one in Stiles to have a TV and that was a big deal! Judy's life embraced church and family activities. She also worked as a waitress for the Chicken Shack and the Alamo. After seeing a brochure for Bellin Nursing Program, she attended Bellin School of Nursing, graduating in 1977 as a Registered Nurse.

As an RN, Judy was employed at Community Memorial Hospital, Oconto Falls (now: St. Clare's) for 35 years. Judy loved it, and people loved her. She worked in nurse management positions, as Director of Nursing or Quality Utilization Review. Judy saw many healthcare changes at this time, stating how many inpatient hospital stays went from a week or more to just one day. The insurance companies and Medicare began deciding how long a patient should stay in the hospital and learning to work with them was a learning curve for sure.

When Judy retired, she remained very busy. She held Board positions in Marinette & Oconto Counties Literacy Council and Home Respite Care. She was also active in the Green & Gold Hosta Society & the Green Bay Botanical Garden. Judy is gifted with a green thumb.

Judy's husband, Peter, grew up in Washburn, WI, and graduated from UW-Madison Physical Therapy college, eventually having his own clinic in Pound. Pete also shared in gardening interests with Judy. He has a love of classic cars.

Judy's recommendation for young people: "Determine what brings you joy and focus your energy on those activities". Thank you, Judy, for serving as secretary for our council for many years.



Reunited and It Feels so Good...

Both Jacob and his wife Gabby, have tutors and are continuing to learn English. Jacob's English has come a long way and he and his wife are now teaching their infant son both English and Spanish. This summer, a long-awaited dream of Jacob's occurred when his mother was able to visit from Mexico. Although they talk on the phone, she and Jacob have not seen each other in over 13 years. Jacob was so proud when his mother came to visit during his sister Lupe's tutoring session with Sharon Heisel. The parents, Jacob & Gabby, are certainly beaming with joy! Jacob's sister was not present for this photo.



August Tutor/Student of the Month

Tutor: Sharon Heisel;
Student: Guadalupe "Lupe"

Tutor: You may think you're seeing double but you're not; July & August both have the same tutor of the month because Sharon Heisel has 2 students who she tutors separately. How's that for keeping busy? Yes, Sharon offered to tutor not just one, but two students who she meets with separately because of their schedules. And, seeing that the 2 students are sisters-in-law, they have a lot in common. Sharon uses her same patience and kind sharing of information with Lupe as well. They strive to follow the text given but also may drift from that to discuss questions Lupe may have brought to class which really seem to help with her conversational English.

Student: Lupe was born & raised in Mexico and first came to the USA in 2021, first to Alabama. In 2023, Lupe came to Lena, initially for a job on a dairy farm, and now is employed at Northwoods Flooring in Coleman. Lupe likes being able to meet with Sharon after her work hours at the Coleman library and likes telling about the type of work she does and is learning to state the types of wood she works with. Lupe appreciates Sharon's gentle assistance with her while she attempts to master the English language, phrase by phrase.

Congratulations Sharon, Guadalupe and Gabriela
For being chosen a Tutor/Student of the Month!

Opportunity Knocks Twice



Fall Tutor Training

10:00AM - 3:00PM
October 16, Wednesday
Town of Pound Hall W8484 Road B, Coleman, WI 54112
Lunch provided.

Contact Janet if interested 920-373-1035.

Someone taught you to read, would you like to repay the favor?





Willy Adames thoughts about Language and more...

Parts reprinted from an article entitled *Willy Adames on being a romantic and Derek Jeter's cleats*. Interviewed by Todd Rosiak, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. Reported in the *Green Bay Press Gazette* June 30, 2024.

Willy Adames' print by Bob Smerecki

Willy Adames, born in the Dominican Republic, is in the midst of a resurgent season for the Milwaukee Brewers. He's been the team's best run producer while also once again playing a tremendous defensive shortstop. Since coming to the Brewers in May 2021, he's become one of the franchise's most popular players in recent memory, thanks largely to his gregarious nature and ever-present smile. Here's what Adams had to say:

Q. You were signed on in 2012. How much English did you speak back then?

I would say no English, nothing at all.

Q. How fast did you pick it up once you came to the US?

I did my 1st interview the same year I got here in 2014. I'm not saying that I could speak fluently. I would say that I was pretty good at it in about 2 years, comfortable with it.

Q. The Brewers have English classes for young Latino players. Did the Tigers also have that?

They did. But what I think helped me the most was off field. Living with English guys and just listening to it all day long. Being around that and watching movies in English with Spanish subtitles just to hear what it means. I always tell Latin guys, "If you want to learn English, you've got to hang out with Americans."

Q. Elly De La Cruz and Jackson Chourio feel they are faces to their teams. Do you think it's important for them to eventually begin speaking in English?

Of course it's important. It's going to help you understand the American culture, your teammates, your coaches. Your manager's going to be American. So, you have got to understand what they are trying to tell you. I don't want a translator saying something that I didn't say. You've got to be able to say what you want to say. You know what I mean?

Q. You speak English so well now one might think you're from New York. Have you heard that before?

I always get that. My girl is from Canada and went to Harvard. Ten years ago, I could never have dated her because I didn't speak English. I couldn't even order in a restaurant.

More about Adames: his prize possession are Derek Jeter's cleats; if he were commissioner for a day, he'd change the uniforms; he likes rom-com movies but doesn't cry; he has been known to read a romantic book; although he's not tall, he likes basketball and can dunk; he would be a point guard but probably could not match up with Stephen Curry...

October is Health Literacy Month

Here's some Advice from our Health Experts:
The ABCDE skin check for Melanoma can save your life; look for these signs:

- A** is for Asymmetry---One half of the spot is unlike the other half
- B** is for Border --- the spot has an irregular poorly defined border.
- C** is for Color--spot has varying colors from one area to another; shades of tan, brown, black, red, blue
- D** is for diameter---while melanomas can be the size of a pencil eraser, some are even smaller.
- E** is for evolving---the spot looks different than the rest or changes size shape or color.

Reasons to Vote in November

- You care about air and water. The government makes laws that can protect or hurt the environment
- You have family members who want to move to the US. The government makes rules about who can move here and how easy it is.
- You have family who attend school. The government makes rules about teacher training, programs, and testing.
- You are looking for a job that offers a good wage and security. The government guides the economy which affects jobs, companies, pay, and benefits.

October Tutor/Student of the Month

**Tutor: Tom Curski and
Student: Corinna**



This is a pair who has worked very hard for the 6 months they've been working together.

Tom Curski is a tutor from Menominee who has met with his student twice a week since March of this year. Tom has had one previous student who was from Italy and seeking to improve his English language. In March, Tom was matched with Corinna and together, they developed a routine that was intense, but it worked well for both of them. Even though Tom has an extensive background from his years of working, he said he still had to prepare for the Math lessons since Corinna was improving so much and he wanted to provide enough challenge for her. To consistently work with a student twice a week for 6 months is intense but Tom did it.

Corinna is from Germany and, although her spoken English is quite good, she wanted to improve on her written English and her Math abilities to enable her to take college courses. Tom worked with her somewhat on her English but mainly on her Math skills, especially Algebra. Corinna said that prior to this, just saying the word "Algebra" might scare her but now she thinks it's fun. She has since just begun her college level Algebra and says she actually likes the class. And, she was so happy when a classmate actually asked Corinna how to complete a problem in class. This made her feel like she truly has made strides. Now, Corinna's time is filled with college level classes but she's so happy to have made it this far.