



LITERACY HI-LIGHTS

Volume 1, issue 9

Spring 2019

"When writing the constitution for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, John Adams wrote:

I must judge for myself, but how can I judge, how can any man judge, unless his mind has been opened and enlarged by reading."

— John Adams

Board Members
 Steve Doan-President
 Jackie Davis-Treasurer
 Karen Morris-Sec'y
 Kitty Croke
 Lakesha Gummesson
 Malaika Mitchell
 Philip Wilson

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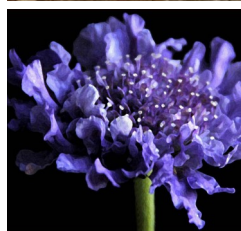
Spell-Rite Spelling Bee **SAVE THE DATE!** **Friday, April 12, 2019**



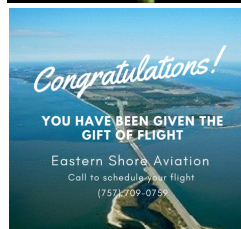
You won't want to miss the 18th annual Spell Rite Adult Spelling Bee at the Great Hall at ESCC starring the Shore's best spellers vying for the title of "Best Spellers on the Shore". We already have teams signed up from Broadwater Academy, Eastern Shore Community College, Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and Eastern Shore Communications all trying to upset last year's winners, The Bear and Cub (shown top left).



Of course there will be a fabulous silent auction featuring fishing trips donated by Fish Freak and an all-day trip for 4 by Capt. Ken Eshelman, (2nd down), restaurant gift certificates, local seafood, prize-winning baked goods, brunch for six at Shepherds Plain, a historic home in Pungoteague (3rd down), hand-painted placemats by local artist Miriam Riggs, artwork from local artists Diane Ginsburg (4th left) and Karen Pruitt and more. Ever wonder what the Shore looks like from the air? Bid on a 45 minute flight donated by Eastern Shore Aviation. Need someone to clean your windows or carpets? We have that too!



We are grateful to our generous sponsors Perdue as a Silver level sponsor, PW Davis at a Bronze level, and supporters A & N Electric Coop, Avery Hall Insurance, Five Miles Farm, Greenbush Veterinary, the Healy Family, Heritage Hall, and Shore United Bank. Sponsorships are available ranging from \$100 to \$2000 with some levels including tickets. Forms are available on our website at shoreliteracy.org.



A buffet meal of fried chicken, pulled pork, sides and dessert is sure to be tasty. Tickets are available now at the Literacy Office, the Book Bin, H and H Pharmacy Oak Hall and Chincoteague, and Rayfields Pharmacy in Cape Charles and Nassawadox at \$40 each. Call the office to reserve a table for 8. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Executive Director Message



This year, thanks to the generosity of both the Perdue Foundation, the United Way and Tyson Foods, our ESOL program was expanded to Pungoteague Elementary. We are also able to offer ESOL services at Eastville Baptist Church. We look for continued growth in Northampton County during the upcoming year. Family literacy activities continue to be planned and coordinated by Doris Gebel, who has worked with many community partners to provide monthly informative family programs at our two school sites.

We will be moving to the new building at the Eastern Shore Community College. We are very excited about the new facilities and the smaller offices have encouraged us to do a great deal of housecleaning as we prepare for the move which will take place this summer. Grant funding continues to be an area of emphasis as we seek new donors and funding.

Sponsorship applications have been submitted to Lockheed Martin, Food Lion and PNC. Applications for grant funding to support new program expansion, family literacy, updating

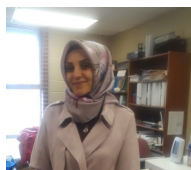
and translation of publications have been completed and sent to State Farm, Gannett, Dr. Scholl's, Dollar General, United Way, Food Lion and Virginia Literacy Foundation.

We say a fond farewell to the three Board members who are rotating off the Board this year. Betty Mariner has been a leader of the organization for many years and her devotion to the program is legendary. Kitty Croke, the "Event Wonder" will also be leaving our Board. She has contributed so much to our fundraising activities. Jackie Davis, our treasurer, will be sorely missed, as she and Yvonne keep us on target and within the budget. Jackie has shared that she hopes to return to tutoring.

New board member Malaika Mitchell will be an asset to the current board.

We are exploring new partnerships with organizations like Una Familia, which tutors Latino school children to help them be successful in school, hoping that we can help the children's parents with English skills. We continue to appreciate all the tutors, volunteers, individuals, businesses and churches that support our mission through their support and dedication. We anticipate an even greater year ahead!

This is What Success Looks Like



Ulku Korkmaz, a nurse from Turkey, moved to the U. S. with her family in 2005. She wanted to continue to work in her profession in the states, but needed more English to take the placement test to get into college. She took ESL classes in Princess Ann, MD before she moved to Greenbush, VA in 2009. She was referred to the Eastern Shore Literacy Council in 2016 through a friend who volunteered for the literacy Council. She attended day and night classes to learn English and medical terminology.

Ulku gradually increased her Speaking and Listening skills and passed the placement test in time to enroll in the 2019 Nursing Program at the Eastern Shore Community College.

Did you Know?



**VIRGINIA
LITERACY
FOUNDATION**

We would like to share some information provided by our partner, Virginia Literacy Foundation, about literacy and poverty. In Virginia, 43% of residents with the lowest literacy levels live in poverty. Their children have a 72% chance to be at the lowest reading levels. Each additional year of education achieved will impact future earnings

by 10%. Adult education programs impact all of us by contributing to a healthy economy, reduce public assistance and lower healthcare costs. By educating the parents we can impact their children's' success in school and reduce drop-out rates thus raising the level of education for all residents.

With median family incomes of \$41372 and \$35760 respectively, Accomack and Northampton counties rank far below the Virginia average of \$61406.

Tutors Needed-New Tutor Training- April

"Learning to read is probably the most difficult and revolutionary thing that happens to the human brain and if you don't believe that, watch an illiterate adult try to do it."

— John Steinbeck

We love our tutors! They give generously of their time and knowledge to help adults on the Shore improve their English skills. We have learners waiting to be matched to a tutor, and we just don't have enough tutors. What you need is a love for the Shore and the willingness to improve it one learner at a time.

Won't you consider becoming a tutor? No special education is needed. We train you and give you the materials you need to be a great tutor. Give us a call at 757-789-1761 or email us at programcoordinator.esliteracy@gmail.com for more information, and thank you in advance for your help.

New Cooperative Effort at ESCC



Most prospective students at the College must take the Virginia Placement Test to assess their grasp of both English and Math prior to enrollment in classes.

degree as well as increase the cost.

In order to decrease the time to starting classes and enhance the likelihood for student success, the Literacy Council will be providing tutoring for any students planning to take the VPT. These tutoring sessions are designed to increase comprehension and writing skills, VPT English test scores, decreased time to completion and academic success in classes.

Former ESLC staffer and board member Lakesha Gummesson is now working in the Admissions /Testing Office and realized that some students were really not well-prepared for college level English and Math classes. In the past, if a potential student scored lower than what was needed to begin classes, they had the ability to take a re-test only once, and if that score was not high enough they would be required to attend additional classes which would extend their length of time getting a

Currently, tutor Terry Gross holds free VPT English prep classes weekly at the college. (top left) Students can attend one or several classes depending on how much preparation they need before taking the English test.

Family Literacy Nights



Our main focus for family literacy night is to provide families with the opportunity to build their knowledge and interest that assists with their growth within the community and

On two recent Family Literacy nights our learners and their children in both Metompkin and Pungoteague learned about online and digital resources from Eastern Shore Library Youth Librarian Janice Felker and Adult Services Specialist Wells Gregoire. For any of the participants who were interested a library card was issued.

involvement in their children's success as well as their own.

Upcoming programs include visits from Accomack County Department of Public Safety and Chincoteague Bay Field Station

"To encourage literature and the arts is a duty which every good citizen owes to his country."

— George Washington

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Want to stay up to date on with all the latest news and events of the Eastern Shore Literacy Council, find us on Facebook and like our page on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/easternshore.literacycouncil



Change a life. Volunteer to be a tutor. Call 757-789-1761 or email esliteracy@gmail.com



Channel 47 Reporter Visits Pungoteague Class



Camila Fernandez, bi-lingual reporter and weekend producer at channel 47 ABC, visited and interviewed instructor Heather Littlefield about the ESOL class at Pungoteague and was able to give her unique perspective on our classes to the Latino viewers on the Delmarva peninsula. Check out our Facebook page to see the film.

Yes, I would like to support Spell Rite Event 2019

I would like to purchase _____ tickets @\$40 for Spell Rite 4/12/19

Send this form with your check to the address above. Check for total of \$_____ is enclosed.

PAYPAL may be used for donations/tickets to Eastern Shore Literacy Council

I can't make it to Spell Rite but enclosed is my check for \$_____ as a donation.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing address: _____

Street/PO Box

City & State

Zip

Email: _____ *Yes, send me this newsletter by email in 2019* _____

