



April 2019  
Issue 2

# Literacy Chicago News

## Chicago's Oldest Literacy Organization Stays Young

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### Message from Our Executive Director



With the beginning of spring, Literacy Chicago continues to expand our classrooms in areas of the city that are in need of adult education resources. During the first quarter two new classes have begun in Chicago's North Side and three courses are opening in May servicing Chicago's Southwest Side communities. Expansion has carried over to our Associate Board as a recruitment event was held in March to bring together young professionals who have a passion in helping others empower individuals to achieve self-sufficiency through language and literacy instruction. Our new members are excited and anxious to become involved and are looking forward in making a difference within the adult education community. Our workforce initiatives continuously evolve into providing opportunities to local businesses and to our students to succeed and gain lawful employment. Last month our Carpentry workforce ICAPS program had 26 graduates receive their credentials and Department of Labor card and 25 of whom have already found jobs in their chosen field. As we progress towards summer we look forward to many more exciting developments. If we can be of service in your community please contact us today.

*Richard Dominguez*  
Executive Director



## Literacy Chicago News Highlights

### Feb 7th

LC was honored to give a presentation on our ESL and Digital Literacy programs at the new Independence Library. 35th Ward Alderman Carlos Rosa and his constituents, are looking forward to classes starting there soon.

### Feb 19th

Chicago-based trial attorney and former president of Literacy Chicago, David L. Applegate, delivered a compelling presentation to our students, volunteers, and staff about the U.S. Constitution. Attendees left with a deeper understanding of this historical document and how it impacts their daily lives. They also each received a copy of the constitution to take with them.

### Mar 20th

Program Manager, Joanne Telser-Frere, was a featured speaker at the monthly CLA Confab. She expounded on the month's topic of digital literacy, noting the value of digital inclusion, disparities between different segments of the population, and how LC is addressing the issue by offering classes to both Adult Literacy students as well as students needing to learn more advanced digital skills.

### Mar 23rd

At the 28th annual On the Road to Literacy Tutor & Adult Learner Conference, three LC students participated in a panel discussion led by long-time tutor Sally Maybrook. They each shared their unique stories and why they continue to attend classes. In addition, Joanne Telser-Frere presented a well-attended workshop called **How to Make Your Classroom Feel Like a (Happy) Family.**

### Mar 27th

Literacy Chicago's newly revived Associate Board hosted an engaging and informative **Volunteer Open House.** While enjoying food and drinks, attendees had the opportunity to learn more about the important work done at LC and how they can be a part of making our Chicago community stronger.

### April 8th

Registration for ABE, GED, and ESL has closed, and spring classes are now in full swing! This session, new classes have also been added including **Math for Everyday Life.** Adult Literacy and Citizenship class registration is ongoing. For further information, please visit our website:

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

[www.literacychicago.org/registration-information](http://www.literacychicago.org/registration-information)



## HEADS UP

### Keep Up to Date on LC Events

#### Volunteer Tutor Training

May 11 and 18  
June 8 and 15  
July 13 and 20

This fun-filled training course takes place on two consecutive Saturdays from 9 to 3.

Two days of training are required. [Find out more about volunteering here.](#)

## QUOTE OF THE MOMENT

“Until we get equality in education, we won't have an equal society.”

[Sonia Sotomayor](#)



## Jeannie Araujo

### Vibrant Volunteer of the Month

Jean or as she is affectionately known, *Jeannie* has been a tutor at LC since last February. Although she initially came on board as a one-on-one tutor, she enthusiastically stepped up to also take over an ESL Citizenship class when the need arose last May. Her willingness to go that extra mile has not gone unnoticed. This past month, she was recognized as one of the Outstanding Tutors at the 28th annual **On the Road to Literacy Tutor & Adult Learner Conference**.

Jeannie considers her tutor superpower to be empathy. She credits her experience as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Thailand for helping her hone this ability. Recounting many frustrating instances before learning the language and attempting to navigate daily life there, she noted, “I’ve been in my students’ shoes. My students are immersed full-time in a foreign language. Getting better at speaking and understanding it is always challenging.”

Well-acquainted with the challenges non-native language speakers face, she strives to make her classroom a safe and fun learning environment. She also takes into account different learning styles and keeps classes interesting with a vast array of tools and techniques. To this end, Jeannie incorporates everything from making faces, to drawing on the board, and even leaping around the room to help students grasp the complexities of English. “I don’t know if it’s always effective, but I think it loosens things up and helps students feel more at ease, knowing their teacher isn’t afraid to look stupid.” From what we can see, it is all working quite well. She is one of our most sought-after tutors, and we truly hope she continues here at LC for many more years to come!

## CITIZENSHIP CORNER

Congratulations to our student Feryal Faleh! After only studying seven months, she passed her citizenship interview with flying colors. She will continue to attend classes and work with her tutor here at LC to further improve her English.



**Feryal Faleh (third from right) with classmates and teachers.**

### Take this quiz and win!

To become a US Citizen you must be able to answer 100 questions about American History, Government and Integrated Civics. Submit your answer by May 15, 2019 to [info@literacychicago.org](mailto:info@literacychicago.org)

Those who get all the answers correct will be entered into a raffle and one lucky winner will get a special Literacy Chicago gift!

- 1) Name one U.S. territory.
- 2) What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?
- 3) What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?
- 4) Name one right only for United States citizens.

# Araceli Angeles

## Star Student Spotlight



Araceli Angeles was awarded the **Student of the Year** award on Saturday March 23, 2019 at the 28th annual **On the Road to Literacy Tutor & Adult Learner Conference**. This prestigious conference organized by Literacy Volunteers of Illinois and UIC Center for Literacy presents this award to one student each year. Araceli certainly deserved to win.

Araceli, a Mexican woman who has lived many years in Chicago, enrolled in Literacy Chicago's Citizenship/ESL classes at the end of 2017. Her English was a low intermediate level. She had made the decision to improve her English and become naturalized as an American citizen.



**Araceli presenting with Joanne Telser-Frere, Program Manger Literacy Chicago**

Over the next year, she came regularly to every class, studied hard, worked with a tutor and then passed her interview to become a citizen, fulfilling her personal objective. She completed her civic duty by immediately voting in an election. She was able to persist even though she lost her job and had to find a new one. Thanks to her improved English she is highly regarded in her new position. She is still working with her tutor because she wants to perfect her language abilities.

Araceli's contribution to Literacy Chicago has been enormous. Another Mexican student joined the class and with Araceli's help became one of Literacy Chicago's success stories. He didn't speak a word of English despite having lived in Chicago for over 25 years. He too had decided to improve his English and become an American citizen. Araceli encouraged him, translated everything for him, helped him study and even picked him up so he could get to class. There were many times that the staff at Literacy Chicago was sure he would quit, however because of Araceli's help and encouragement-which quickly spread to the rest of the class, he never gave up. He did pass his interview and did become a citizen. Araceli accompanied him to Springfield where he was the recipient of a special Secretary Of State award for outstanding students.

Araceli has participated in outreach activities for Literacy Chicago, including a presentation with a member of USCIS where she demonstrated how to be the interviewee during a naturalization process. She also translated a citizenship workshop to Spanish speaking Uber drivers. Recently she translated our presentation in the 35th ward that Literacy Chicago did in partnership with Alderman Carlos Rosa.

She always promotes Literacy Chicago and is always willing to lend a hand.



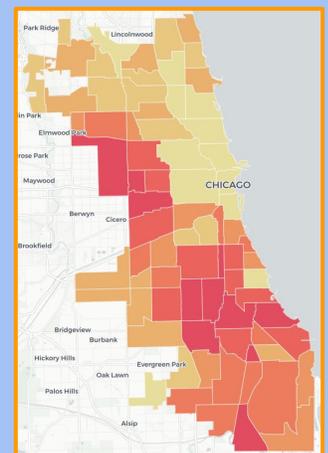
### DID YOU KNOW?

The U.S. digital divide has narrowed significantly within the past two decades for those without high school diplomas, African-Americans, Hispanics, and individuals with lower incomes. However marked disparities remain based on education, income, and race for internet access and the ability to use technology.

U.S. Internet Usage / Adults Online	2015	2010
Adults Overall	84%	-
Adults Without High School Diplomas	66%	19%

Locally, the divide remains as well. The map below shows households with the lowest percentages of internet access, concentrated in certain South Side and West Side communities.

WBEZ map based on analysis of census data surveys from 2013-2017. Areas in red show neighborhoods with the highest percentages of homes without internet.



Sources:  
<https://wbez.carto.com/me>  
<https://mappingforjustice.blogspot.com/2018/12/digital-divide-in-chicago-2018-wbez.html?m=1>  
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2015/06/26/america-internet-use-digital-divide-pew-research-center/29337085/>  
<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/03/22/digital-divide-persists-even-as-lower-income-americans-make-gains-in-tech-adoption/>

# Photo Gallery



Independence Library Presentation  
Executive Director Rich Dominguez, Alderman Carlos Rosa, Program Manager Joanne Telsler-Frere



Founding Members of the  
Associate Board



Volunteer Happy Hour



Chicago Attorney David Applegate presenting the United States Constitution

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