



June 2019  
Issue 3

# Literacy Chicago News

## Chicago's Oldest Literacy Organization Stays Young

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### Message from Our Executive Director



Richard Dominguez

Living in Illinois, there's always a feeling of excitement and anticipation when summer is just around the corner. Literacy Chicago is proud to start out this fiscal year with some exciting new initiatives for our adult education students. Writing, storytelling and memoir classes are now part of our summer program. We engage students' imagination and help them express their experiences both verbally and through the written word.

These programs go further than just helping adults improve their reading. Our offerings go beyond the classroom, as we continuously expand and develop our programs within Chicago communities and with local businesses. We provide pathways to help our students succeed, whether it's through digital literacy, financial literacy or helping them learn a trade. These pathways to employment and custom tailored programs, bring skill-based trade learning opportunities and job placement to our students which are essential in today's environment. As we transition throughout this year we are committed to educate, train and support the adult education community.

If you see opportunities within your neighborhood where adult education services are needed, please contact us today.

Have a safe and wonderful summer.

Richard Dominguez  
Executive Director



## Literacy Chicago News Highlights

### May 9th

Two of LC's program participants were winners in the **2019 Spotlight on Literacy Awards**. Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White presented the **Spotlight on Achievement** to student H.C. Warfield, as well as the **Spotlight on Service** to tutor Karen Fredrickson.

### June 4th

Adult ESL classes have begun at the new [Independence Branch Library](#). A welcomed resource in the Irving Park neighborhood, it is located at 4024 N. Elston Ave. The class is Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Please call 312.744.0900 for registration information.

### June 12th

The 2019 edition of **Words on the Page - Future Vision: Life in 2020** has arrived! Family, friends, volunteers, and community supporters packed the room to celebrate and hear our students read their own essays from the book. The keynote speech was delivered by DePaul University professor, Jacoby Cochran. He commended the students for their hard work and contributions. Purchase copies of the book at our office or order here on [Amazon](#).  
[www.literacychicago.org/words-on-the-page](http://www.literacychicago.org/words-on-the-page)

### June 22nd

CLA held its first ever Volunteer Fair here at the Literacenter. While enjoying refreshments and other festivities, several visitors stopped by LC's table. Missed the fair and still interested in learning more about tutoring? No worries. See the Heads Up! section for more information.

### Community Partner Program Spotlight

Literacy Chicago is thrilled to share news on the continued success of our partnership with [Revolution Workshop](#), a Chicago-based organization that provides job-ready training for students between 18 and 40 years old in the fields of carpentry and construction. Since the fall of 2018, Literacy Chicago has partnered with Revolution to lead six hours of weekly instruction in applied mathematics tailored to these professions, and has also provided on-site tutoring for students who are struggling with reading and for those seeking to get their GED—a requirement for union membership.

Students who complete the 12-week program earn two stackable credentials within the construction field, their Department of Labor card, and job-finding assistance provided by Revolution. Since partnering with Revolution, Literacy Chicago has participated in five workshop sessions. In that time, 44 students have completed the program, and 32 have found jobs.

"The Revolution Workshop gives students an opportunity to get into a job that has potential for growth and lead to bigger things," said Literacy Chicago Executive Director Richard Dominguez. "It is truly life-changing, and we're excited to continue our work with Revolution to provide the scaffolding to support this program."

A new session with Revolution begins this month, and Literacy Chicago is exploring a future expansion of the program in which students could learn more about career options within construction, and work with instructors on improving literacy and work-related math skills prior to integrating into the full program. Stay tuned this fall as this exciting partnership continues to develop!

CONNECT





## HEADS UP!

### Keep Up to Date on LC Events

#### Summer Session July 8th-August 29th

In addition to our regular classes, we are offering two special additions. **Storytelling**, taught by professor [Jacoby Cochran](#). **ACE the Workforce**, our advanced digital literacy class, will take place at Harold Washington Library Center, starting July 10th Library Center, starting July 10th. For further information, please call or visit our website:

[www.literacychicago.org/register-for-classes](http://www.literacychicago.org/register-for-classes)

#### Save the Date - September 12th

LC will be celebrating its 51st anniversary, so be sure to mark your calendar. This year's gala will be held at the [American Writers Museum](#), in the heart of Downtown Chicago. Stay tuned for additional details!

[www.literacychicago.org/gala-2019-information](http://www.literacychicago.org/gala-2019-information)

#### Volunteer Tutor Training

August 10th & 17th

September 14th & 21st

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

“Education is the cornerstone of liberty.”

[Eleanor Roosevelt](#)



# Karen Fredrickson

## Vibrant Volunteer of the Month

It came as no surprise to us that Karen was honored by Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White, with a **Spotlight on Service Award** for 2019. With her unique approach to engaging students at all levels and meeting their individual learning needs, she certainly exemplifies the “outstanding volunteer tutors...helping literacy students achieve their utmost potential,” and other attributes Mr. White stated this award recognizes. Whatever challenges may arise in the classroom, Karen is able to help students overcome them and steadily progress towards their goals.

Over the past four years, Karen has further exhibited her extensive training knowledge and commitment to adult learners in other ways as well. More specifically, she further advances the mission here at LC as a co-instructor for our new tutor training sessions twice per month. She has even taken on a variety of tasks to assist with our annual student publication, **Words on the Page**. From compiling the student's work, to proofreading, to designing the cover Karen has done whatever was needed with style and grace.



With a genuine love for learning and a long list of other interests and hobbies, we can see what makes Karen such an awesome tutor. She shared that one of her earliest memories of reading was not actually her own, but her mother's. Before starting school, Karen told her mother she would only need to attend for as long as it took to learn to read, and could learn the rest on her own. She further shared, “As it turned out, I pretty much did learn everything on my own.” Not content to simply wait on teachers, she took full advantage of all those books at school and read voraciously. We are so glad that Karen decided to continue her schooling. We certainly hope she continues volunteering here at Literacy Chicago as well!

## CITIZENSHIP CORNER



### Maria del Carmen Rodriguez

*Community Relations Officer from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, answers questions about naturalization in our Citizenship class while enjoying an Iranian breakfast made by one of our students.*

# Elie Coasne

## ★ Star Student Spotlight ★

Elie Coasne walked into Literacy Chicago just a week after his arrival in Chicago. He was determined to learn English---fast! Elie and his wife had just moved here from Lille, a city on the north coast of France. Elie's wife had been relocated as an expatriate for a 3-year contract. Elie didn't want to waste any time in getting his English up to speed. When he took the initial placement test he was at beginner level. He stayed in the beginner class until January and then moved up to intermediate and then advanced!

Elie has made great progress in his English thanks in part to his amazing tutor, Fawn. They started working together in September and Elie says at the time he felt so frustrated not being able to express all of his thoughts. Usually a quick learner, Elie was disappointed in himself because he just couldn't learn fast enough. In his field, the sciences, he never had any problems remembering difficult concepts that he learned, however English proved to be a bit more of a challenge.



That is all bygones now! Fawn was encouraging and has said she has learned a lot about France from Elie. They both enjoy their time together and discuss a multitude of topics including life in the USA, cultural differences between France and the US, and sports. Elie is very grateful for Fawn's help because he no longer has to ask his wife about life in the USA.

His classes have also been helpful and he enjoys both the work that is done as well as meeting people from all over the world. In his class, he says, "East meets West in the same boat, everyone trying to figure out life in Chicago!"

Today Elie loves Chicago and he and his wife may even extend her three-year contract. However before coming here, and like many French people, he had a negative idea of the city. He had heard about the crime and thought he wouldn't find the food he loves. To his surprise he really enjoys life here, the people and the restaurants. He is a top chef and does the cooking everyday at home. Sometimes he can't find all the products he wants, but has learned to improvise.

What surprised him sometimes is the differences between the French and American cultures. On the surface they may seem similar, however friendships and relationships are different. Elie is quickly learning the difference between our "friendly" manner and how we make real friends! He has become involved in his neighborhood French club and met Americans with whom he socializes. Sometimes in French but most often in English!

Today Elie is looking for a job in working as an engineer and hopes that he will soon be employed in an American company where he can bring his French expertise.



### DID YOU KNOW?

#### The Adult Learning Theory - Andragogy - of Malcolm Knowles

Malcolm Shepherd Knowles (1913 – 1997) was an American educator well known for the use of the term *Andragogy* as synonymous to adult education. According to Malcolm Knowles, andragogy is the art and science of adult learning, thus andragogy refers to any form of adult learning. (Kearsley, 2010).

The term andragogy can be supposedly equivalent to the term pedagogy. Andragogy in Greek means man-leading in comparison to pedagogy, which in Greek means child-leading.

#### Knowles' 5 Assumptions Of Adult Learners

In 1980, Knowles made 4 assumptions about the characteristics of adult learners. In 1984, Knowles added the 5th assumption.

1. **Self-Concept**  
Shift from being a dependent personality toward one of being a self-directed person.
2. **Adult Learner Experience**  
As a person matures they accumulate a pool of experiences that become an increasing resource for learning.
3. **Readiness to Learn**  
As a person matures, their readiness to learn becomes oriented increasingly to the developmental tasks of his/her social roles.
4. **Orientation to Learning**  
As a person matures their time perspective changes from one of postponed application of knowledge to immediacy of application, resulting in their orientation toward learning shifts from one of subject-centeredness to one of problem centeredness.
5. **Motivation to Learn**  
As a person matures the motivation to learn becomes internal.

#### Knowles' 4 Principles Of Andragogy

In 1984, Knowles suggested 4 principles that are applied to adult learning:

1. Adults need to be involved in the planning and evaluation of their instruction.
2. Experience (including mistakes) provides the foundation for the learning activities.
3. Adults are most interested in learning subjects that have immediate relevance and impact to their professional or personal life.
4. Adult learning is problem-centered rather than content-oriented.

#### Sources:

<https://elearningindustry.com/the-adult-learning-theory-andragogy-of-malcolm-knowles>

# Photo Gallery



Words on the Page Celebration



CLA Volunteer Fair at the Literacenter

Summer ESL class at Independence Library



Tutor Sally Maybrook  
with her student Elizabeth Murphy



Students and teachers celebrating the end of spring  
quarter in the "Write Your Memoir in Your Words"  
class

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