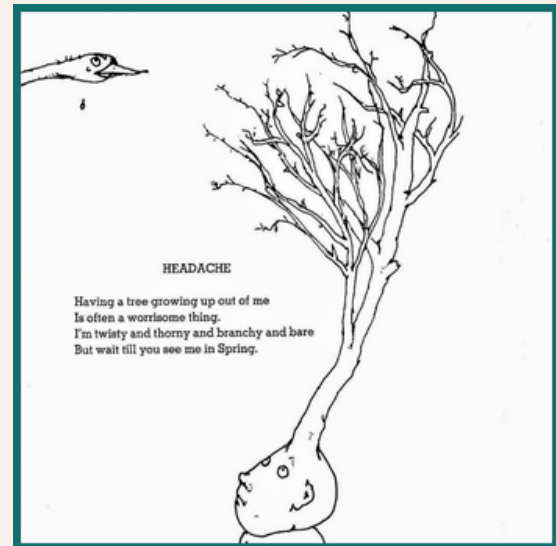


TUTOR TALK NEWSLETTER

Laura Gross, Executive Director | (301) 739-4208 | office@literacyofwcmd.org

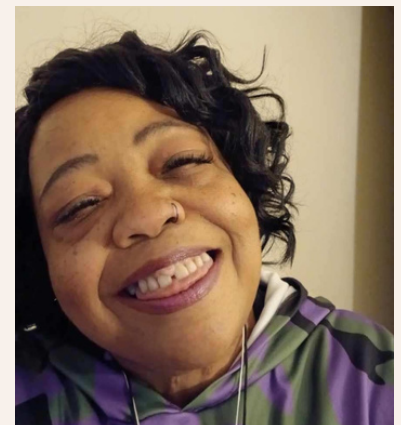
UPFRONT WITH LAURA GROSS ●●●●●●●●

As a children's librarian, I have an abiding love for Shel Silverstein and wanted to share this poem of his with you. Already this year LCWC has experienced the growing pains and pleasures of expanding services in the community AND fortifying tutors through regular support. After only 6 months working as director here, I deeply identify with the twisty and bare brain branches from Shel's poem!! Ha! Your generosity, commitment, and PATIENCE as volunteer tutors continues to inspire me. Moving forward the Literacy Council desires to open up increased opportunities for individuals to volunteer with our organization, in addition to the essential tutoring services many of you already provide. More details are forthcoming. But we hope by opening our doors in different ways to draw in volunteers, this can build a more robust foundation for the Literacy Council to develop upon in the future. The Open House on Sunday the 27th will be a wonderful chance to spread community awareness about LCWC needs and services! Please show up and help show off our growth and the new ways literacy is blooming around us. After any harsh season, it is encouraging to be surrounded by nature's green reminders of new beginnings. And perhaps Silverstein's hopeful poem holds true for us too, "...But wait 'till you see me (US!) in Spring!"



TUTOR SPOTLIGHT ●●●●●●●●

Debra Scott first learned of the Literacy Council in July 2024 at Lasting Change Sober Living for Women located in Hagerstown. Debra is in a reading club at Lasting Change, and she was asked to volunteer to help a peer learn to read. This sparked Debra's initial interest in tutoring. Also, Debra is a participant of Gatekeepers Re-entry Program and their Resource Club that meets every Saturday morning. The Literacy Council provides a resource table there every Saturday where Debra gets books for her grandchildren and herself. As a senior citizen, Debra believes -that instead of stopping her contributions to the community- volunteering as a tutor helps keep her busy and invested in living.



Debra Scott, LCWC Tutor

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●●● LCWC CALENDAR - SAVE THE DATE! ●●●

Maryland TESOL

Saturday, April 26, 2025

8:30am-12:30pm

Hagerstown Community College



Join Maryland TESOL at Hagerstown Community College for a morning of learning about the needs of Multilingual Learners of English and their families in our region, as well as strategies to foster success in English acquisition, content area learning, and success beyond the classroom.

Free registration and CEU hours available!

Registration link: <https://www.mdtesol.org/event-6040211/Registration>

Thanks everyone who “Popped By”

Our Tutor meet on March 31st was another lively and fun gathering!!

We hope YOU can join us for our next meet up in May.

Let's Get Literate: Open House

Sunday, April 27, 2025

2:00pm-4:00pm

Trinity Lutheran Church's Fellowship Hall
15 Randolph Ave, Hagerstown, MD

Invite friends and family AND invite your students to bring their friends and family! Help us recruit more LCWC volunteers and donors, share the word about our adult services, purchase bake sale goods, and explore the free book bazaar! Snacks and games will be available.



The Literacy Council of Washington County
presents
LET'S GET LITERATE
Open House
April 27th from 2-4pm
15 Randolph Avenue, Hagerstown MD
In the Fellowship Hall of Trinity Lutheran Church,
Randolph Ave. Parking Lot Entrance

JOIN US TO:

- Talk to LCWC volunteer tutors
- Learn about our adult services
- Enjoy snacks & games
- Tour resource library
- Explore the free book bazaar
- Purchase bake sale goods

See you THERE!
For more information visit:
literacyofwcmd.org or call our office at 301-739-4208

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●●●●●●●●●● DEAR TUTOR TALK

LAST MONTH'S QUESTION: My ESL student can't make the "th" sound. He gets frustrated when I gently try to correct his pronunciation- and so do I. How important is it for him to be able to pronounce words correctly?

YOUR ANSWERS (THANKS):

- Louise: This is hard for many students, partly because the sound is not in their native language. The older the student, the harder it is for them to hear, let alone pronounce it. In my first-grade teaching days I stressed that you put the tip of your tongue on your front teeth to make the sound. It got messy with the children with no front teeth!
- My father's first language was Italian and he never learned to hear or pronounce the "th" sound. He did not have ESL classes, which didn't exist in rural schools in those days. He substituted the "t" and "d" sound, so he would "tink dat idea over."
- My advice would be to continue to correct pronunciation, but not to dwell on it.
- Michael: I've read that, even for native English speakers, the "th" sounds are the hardest to learn. The sounds in the speaker's native language may be harder to convert to American English pronunciation.
- Judy: I think it depends on the context. Is correct pronunciation needed in the student's daily life – and in the life he aspires to?

NEW QUESTION: I'm using the series that was recommended for my student when she and I were matched. But the books aren't appealing to my student and she's just trudging through the stories. Help!

Help Tutor Talk answer this question!

Send us your suggestions and we'll publish them in our next newsletter.



RESOURCE CENTER ●●●●●●●●●●

Visit our neighbors at Frederick County Literacy www.frederickliteracy.org and check out the long list of resources on their website in the "For Tutors" tab. And while you're there, enjoy a couple of their inspirational videos. We're proud of our collaboration with Frederick County Literacy to train new tutors, too!

IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS? EMAIL JUDY CHAMBERS AT JANDSCHAMBERS@OUTLOOK.COM
OR LAURA GROSS AT OFFICE@LITERACYOFCMD.ORG