

# The Literacy Line



Fall 2025

The **Literacy Line** is a newsletter for the tutors and students of the Palm Beach County Library System's **Adult Literacy Project** and **Library Literacy Friends**

## Meet Anson Shurr, Adult Literacy Specialist

Hello everyone. My name is Anson Shurr and it is a pleasure to serve as your new Adult Literacy Specialist at the Main Library where I will be helping to coordinate student communication and programming. In my work conducting student placement interviews, I have visited library branches ranging from West Boca Raton to Palm Beach Gardens, with more to come in the future.



Originally from northern Maryland, I grew up in Stuart, Florida and now have called Palm Beach County home for the past three years. As a historian by training, I believe in the importance of being connected with and informed about the world around us. To this end, literacy is the first and most crucial step. It allows for connection, learning, and self-sufficiency; I am honored to be a part of the Adult Literacy Project, helping some wonderful tutors to directly improve the lives of members of their community.

Prior to joining the Palm Beach County Library system, I tutored Civics, Writing, and ESOL at Broward College, while I was completing my M.A. in US History at FAU. I share your passion for tutoring and I have seen the amazing impact it can have in the students' lives. Watching students succeed at something they once struggled with really makes it all worth it. Going forward, I aim to take this passion and use it to further strengthen the Adult Literacy Project as I learn to facilitate English Exchange and Citizenship Classes.

**Adult Literacy Project** provides one-on-one tutoring to adults who need help with reading, writing or speaking English. There are many services available through the Library System and Adult Literacy Project.

### *Join us today!*

Your time and encouragement can transform a life.

Please **email the Adult Literacy Project** at [literacy@pbclibrary.org](mailto:literacy@pbclibrary.org)

Or call the Adult Literacy Office for more information

561.894.7510

## Inside this Issue...

The LLF Board

Social Services Assistance

New U.S. Citizens

Citizenship Classes

Career Goal Awards

Lake Worth Playhouse

English Exchange

An ESL Student's Experience

Upcoming Events

Tutors Needed

Autumn Puzzles

Fun with English



**LIBRARY LITERACY  
FRIENDS**  
*Learning for life*



## *Do you want to know more about our Library Literacy Friends?*

### **The next Board Meetings:**

**Saturday, November 15, 2025, and**

**Saturday, February 21, 2026**

Meetings are held at 11am at the Hagen Ranch Road Branch library.

### **Library Literacy Friends** was formed:

- To assist in the promotion and development of adult literacy facilities and programs.
  - To promote and fund educational and social activities for volunteers, students, and tutors of the Palm Beach County Library System's **Adult Literacy Project**.
  - To foster public support for the Adult Literacy Project and to foster gifts of funds, endowments, grants, time, talents, and energies on its behalf from individuals and organizations.
  - To create public interest in literacy in Palm Beach County.
  - To increase the community's awareness of the need for a functionally literate Palm Beach County.
  - To promote understanding of the services offered by the Adult Literacy Project and its needs.
- 



## **Social Services Assistance**

**Chandra Thorton** serves as the **Social Services Coordinator** for the Palm Beach County Library System, where she connects members with essential community resources and support services. With a background in public service, Chandra specializes in assisting individuals and families with navigating housing assistance, mental health services, employment resources and more.

Committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive library environment, Chandra collaborates with local organizations to provide outreach, workshops and one-on-one assistance. Her goal is to ensure that the library remains a vital hub for not only information but also social support, helping to bridge gaps in community services.

**For more information on Social Services** such as Palm Beach Youth Services, SNAP, and other Palm Beach County services, see links below or scan the QR code:

<https://www.pbclibrary.org/social-services-assistance/>

**To receive assistance**, make an appointment:

<https://pbclibrary.libcal.com/appointments?u=138849>



N



**Congratulations  
New U.S. Citizens!**

**Congratulations to the following students who became citizens since our last newsletter:**

***Margarita, Mirna, Yaneisy, Bebe, and Sabrina***

**And thank you to their tutors for all the work and support they provided!!!**



Margarita, a former Literacy student who attended citizenship study group class at Main Library, shared with us her experience:

“The interviewer congratulated me and asked where I had trained. I replied that it was through a program at the Library.”

“The Interviewer replied, “***They do a good job.***”



## Citizenship Study Groups

**Best of luck** to the students currently attending our ten-week citizenship study groups at **Glades Road Branch** and **Jupiter Branch** libraries.

Whether you are new to the country or looking to naturalize, please register online for one of our upcoming ten-week citizenship study groups that will be announced soon.

**A big thank you** to our facilitators for all their hard work and dedication in presenting these classes!



## Career Goal Awards

*Students who meet certain criteria and complete goals such as US. Citizenship, Occupational Licenses, Professional Certifications and GED diplomas may apply for the*

***Library Literacy Friends Career Goal Award.***

*Please ask your tutor for details.*

Since our last newsletter, we are proud to acknowledge the following achievements from our students:

- ❖ **Michelet, Matthew, Grace, Xenia, Alberto, Soomin, and Odair** gained employment or received a promotion at work.
- ❖ **Soomin** sat for the International English Language Testing System and did well.
- ❖ **Fendy, Sharon, and Ketly** have obtained their Driver’s Licenses.
- ❖ **Michelet** acquired his Commercial Driver’s License.
- ❖ **Sharmane** earned her Phlebotomy Certification



## Lake Worth Playhouse welcomes all tutors and students!

**Save the dates for the upcoming performances:**

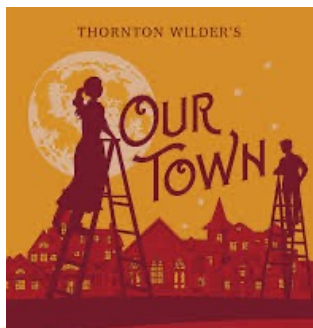
**\*\*\* all shows begin at 7:30pm this season \*\*\***

### Little Shop of Horrors October 7<sup>th</sup>

Set on Skid Row in the early 1960s, the story revolves around the down-and-out Flower Shop. With an infectious 1960s-style rock, doo-wop, and Motown score, the musical has been a classic on both stage and screen. One of the longest-running Off-Broadway shows, it has become a staple for professional and amateur theater groups around the world.



### Our Town November 13<sup>th</sup>



**Our Town:** is a three-act play that uses minimal props and scenery to depict the lives of the people in the fictional New Hampshire town of Grover's Corners between 1901 and 1913. The story follows the Gibbs and Webb families and explores themes of daily life, love, marriage, death, and eternity, prompting audiences to appreciate the extraordinary in the ordinary.

The play is narrated by a "Stage Manager" who directly addresses the audience, in a theatrical style that includes audience interaction.

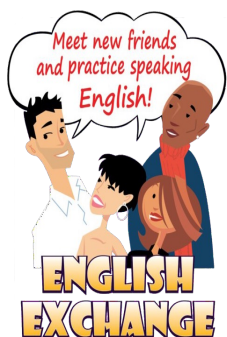
**Coming in 2026:**

**Kiss Me Kate** on January 15<sup>th</sup>

**Biloxi Blues** on February 26<sup>th</sup>

**Matilda** on April 9<sup>th</sup>

**\*\*\* All shows are subject to cancellation without notice \*\*\***



**Join us** for an informal virtual or on-site **English Exchange** group.

Sessions are offered weekly at different library locations in the county.

All are welcome to come to practice English in a safe environment, free from judgement.

*Intermediate knowledge of English is recommended but not required.*

**Search for English Exchange locations near you.**



**Come for conversation and friendship.**



## ***My Experience Learning English in the U.S.A.***

by Soomin Hwang



I arrived at Palm Beach International Airport in October 2024. I still remember the intense heat and humidity that hit me the moment I stepped outside the gate. On the way to my new home, I was amazed by the palm trees and the stunning sunset sky. I was thrilled to be in the U.S. - a completely different world from South Korea.

But that excitement soon turned into fear and loneliness. I couldn't speak English fluently, and I spend most days at home. Watching the world through two "windows": the backyard window and my smartphone screen. I felt lost - I didn't know where to go, what to do, or who to talk to. Anxiety kept me awake at night; even though I went to bed at 11 p.m., I couldn't fall asleep until 6 a.m.

One night, I searched for nearby libraries and that's how I found the Gardens Public Library. The next day I gathered my courage and nervously stepped inside. I even memorized a script to talk to the librarian. But the librarian warmly welcomed me and introduced two amazing programs: *English Exchange* and *Tutoring*. Now, I regularly attend both.

Through English Exchange, I've met friends from all over the world and shared ideas across cultures. I'll never forget when they wrote me a birthday card filled with kind messages. It was deeply touching.

In tutoring, I found more than just a teacher. My tutor sends me helpful materials and encourages me to keep going. She's even helps me adjust to life in the U.S. She's invited me to activities like board games, book clubs, and swimming classes. Thanks to her, I've not only improved my language skills but also started to feel like I belong here.

Thanks to the library, I didn't just connect to the U.S. through a screen, I connected through people, kindness, and shared moments. For me, the Gardens Library is the true window that opened up my new life.

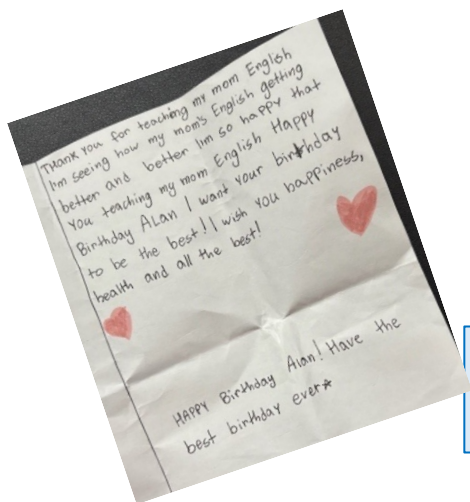
## Change a Life:

### Become an Adult Literacy Tutor

As an **Adult Literacy Tutor**, you'll work one-on-one with an adult learner who is determined to improve their skills. With just a few hours a week, you can help someone **gain confidence and open new doors for their future.**

**You Don't Need to Be a Teacher:** Training and materials are provided — what matters most is patience, encouragement, and reliability

**Small Time Commitment, Big Results:** Just a few hours a week with a learner can transform their ability to succeed at work, support their children in school, and engage fully in the community.



**Enjoy the love** from family and friends of those you have helped.

This note to a tutor was from a child of a student. The tutor said it brought him much joy and almost to tears.



#### **An ESL Tutor's Story, by Nancy Copelan:**

I have been an Adult Literacy tutor since 2018. During this time, I have worked with a number of students. My current student and I have been together since 2019. She and I meet weekly for 1.5 hours, initially in a library study room, now on Zoom. It is a very special time for both of us.

Along with guiding my student to improve her language skills, we have developed an incredible friendship. She fills a space for me, as my family lives out of town. She is from Spain and far from her parents and siblings as well. She has a beautiful family of her own and is an amazing mother and wife. I have seen an enormous improvement in her mastering of the English language. On a recent trip back to Spain, she was asked a question by an American tourist and surprised herself and her friends as to how well she responded in English.

I can only say that this experience has enhanced my life, increased my recipe file and given me enormous pleasure. Our goal is to match a tutor with each enrolled applicant. We encourage everyone to reach out to family and friends who may have an interest. There is no experience needed. Training and resources are provided through the program.

***Join us today!***

Your time and encouragement can transform a life.  
Please email the Adult Literacy Project at [literacy@pbclibrary.org](mailto:literacy@pbclibrary.org)



## Tutor Training and Development

Adult Literacy Project is bringing back, by popular demand, **In Person Tutor Training**. This revised training will be offered quarterly to new tutors and those wishing a refresher on using materials. This does not replace the required Tutor Orientation which continues to be offered multiple times a month.

Our first **In Person Tutor Training** will be at the **Hagen Ranch Road branch library** on **Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 12:30pm**.

Watch your email for further details.

**Tutor Roundtable** sessions give tutors the opportunity to share experiences and helpful strategies.

Our next **Tutor Roundtable** will be at the **Hagen Ranch Road Branch library** on **November 8<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 3pm**.

Watch your email for further details.

Our Tutor Roundtable this past August gave us all something to talk about – from AI to cultural differences with prepositions and articles to homonyms and homophones.

**Special thanks to our panel:** Maria, Merle, Karen and Steve.



Information for our 2026 Financial Literacy classes and Small Business Expo will be available in our Spring Newsletter.



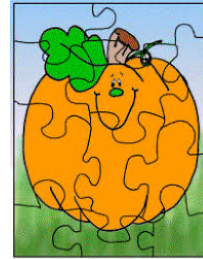
***Attention All Students and Tutors!***

**Recognize outstanding achievement or effort in literacy!**

Email us at [literacy@pbclibrary.org](mailto:literacy@pbclibrary.org).



## Try these Autumn Word Puzzles



### Word Unscramble

Unscramble the letters to find words of the season

**RDAHROC**      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

**HNVSGIGTKINA**      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



### Autumn word search

How many words can you find hidden in the grid?

V	M	D	P	W	D	E	X	C	V	M	L	P	O	I
K	A	Y	W	R	C	G	H	W	O	N	J	V	S	K
X	C	W	O	R	C	E	R	A	C	S	P	A	B	T
S	L	A	I	M	S	F	Y	P	B	E	W	B	O	C
T	E	S	T	T	X	L	W	T	U	Y	D	N	I	W
U	P	V	N	S	L	T	E	A	N	M	M	Y	Z	C
N	Y	U	A	I	Y	D	A	O	O	V	P	N	G	L
V	T	I	H	E	V	A	T	C	S	A	D	K	E	S
S	Y	C	G	L	L	N	H	N	A	L	C	R	I	A
H	A	R	V	E	S	T	E	I	E	X	R	O	U	N
S	Q	U	A	S	H	X	R	A	S	I	E	T	R	B
A	G	H	P	K	Y	T	G	R	U	K	U	Q	T	N
B	U	M	P	P	S	F	A	Q	U	M	Z	M	L	G
X	C	S	L	D	C	A	S	P	N	R	B	R	K	G
Q	F	F	E	W	Z	Z	L	Q	P	C	O	O	L	C

ACORN  
APPLE  
AUTUMN  
CHESTNUTS  
CHILLY

COBWEB  
COOL  
CRISP  
HARVEST  
HAYSTACK



LEAVES  
NUTS  
PUMPKIN  
RAINCOAT  
SCARECROW

SEASON  
SQUASH  
SQUIRREL  
WEATHER  
WINDY



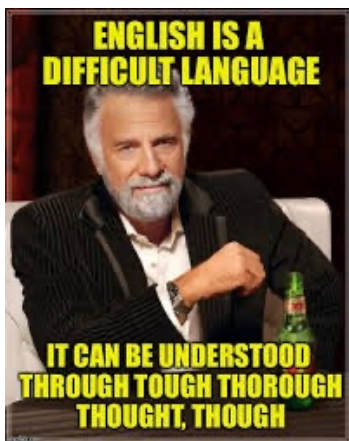


## Things to think about with the English Language

*Why do you park in a driveway and drive in a parkway?*  
*Why does a ship carry cargo, and a car carry shipments?*  
*Why are a wise man and a wise guy opposite?*  
*Why do overlook and oversee mean opposite things?*  
*Why isn't phonetic spelled the way it sounds?*  
*Why does an alarm clock said to go "off" when it actually turns on?*  
*Why are they stairs inside but steps outside?*  
*Why is it that night falls but day breaks?*  
*Why are pants, shorts and underwear sold as pairs when you only get one item?*  
*Is there a difference between "slow down" and "slow up"?*  
*Is there a difference between "fat chance" and "slim chance"?*  
*Why are buffalo wings made from chicken?*  
*Is the "s" or the "c" silent in scent?*  
*Why can you drink a drink but eat food?*  
*Why is a "w" called double-u when it look like two "v"s?*

### Word Scramble Answers:

Orchard  
Thanksgiving



### Word Search Answer Key:

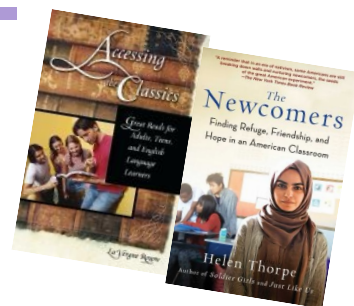
V	M	D	P	W	D	E	X	C	V	M	L	P	O	I
K	A	Y	W	R	C	G	H	W	O	N	J	V	S	K
X	C	W	O	R	C	E	R	A	C	S	P	A	B	T
S	L	A	I	M	S	F	Y	P	B	E	W	B	O	C
T	E	S	T	T	X	L	W	T	U	Y	D	N	I	W
U	P	V	N	S	L	T	E	A	N	M	M	Y	Z	C
N	Y	U	A	I	Y	D	A	O	O	V	P	N	G	L
V	T	I	H	E	V	A	T	C	S	A	D	K	E	S
S	Y	C	G	L	L	N	H	N	A	L	C	R	I	A
H	A	R	V	E	S	T	E	I	E	X	R	O	U	N
S	Q	U	A	S	H	X	R	A	S	I	E	T	R	B
A	G	H	P	K	Y	T	G	R	U	K	U	Q	T	N
B	U	M	P	P	S	F	A	Q	U	M	Z	M	L	G
X	C	S	L	D	C	A	S	P	N	R	B	R	K	G
Q	F	F	E	W	Z	Z	L	Q	P	C	O	O	L	C



## Looking for a good book to read?

The Adult Literacy pages have suggestions for students.

<https://www.pbclibrary.org/adult-literacy/>



## Adult Literacy Project by the numbers:

Active tutor/student teams: **166**

Students waiting for tutors: **57**

**22.2%** of adults 16 and older in Palm Beach County **lack basic literacy skills.**

*-- Per National Center for Education Statistics reports*

Programs such as **Adult Literacy Project** are vital.

### Libraries where we need tutors right now:

**Main Library** on Summit Blvd in West Palm Beach

**Okeechobee Blvd Branch** in West Palm Beach

**Greenacres Branch**

**Royal Palm Beach Branch**

**Wellington Branch**



## Attention Adult Literacy Project Tutors

Please watch for the end of the month email from Marianne. It contains the link to the Google Form to submit your hours. Fill in the required information and click SUBMIT.

You will receive a message that your response has been recorded.

Please read the entire email. There is often additional information included such as upcoming events, closings and general reminders. We do not want to fill up your inbox, but you are welcome to fill up ours.. We love hearing from you!

***We appreciate your time!***



**Library Literacy Friends, Inc.** is an organization comprised of volunteers, students, and other concerned community members who recognize the basic literacy needs of adults in our community.

We are committed to support, promote, and expand the presence and effectiveness of the Palm Beach County Library's Adult Literacy Project in providing one-on-one tutoring for adult learners. We are supported entirely by our friends and members.

Please print and complete this coupon to make a tax-deductible donation.

Donations should be made out to **Library Literacy Friends, Inc.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Circle One): Check or Cash

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



Mail or drop off donations to: Library Literacy Friends, Inc. Hagen Ranch Road Library  
4350 Hagen Ranch Road Delray Beach, FL 33446

***Thank  
you!***