

The Literacy Line



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**.



THE FACES OF LIBRARY LITERACY FRIENDS & ADULT LITERACY PROJECT

OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS...

Davele E. Bursor, ED.D

Davele has been a higher education professor for over 40 years. While teaching mental health counseling, she has encountered graduate students from many diversified countries such as Columbia, Russia, Czechia, Poland and even Cajun natives from southern Louisiana. Not only was she challenged to teach them rigorous counseling competencies but also to facilitate their ease with their English proficiency. Davele is a TESOL certified trainer and has been tutoring in our adult literacy program for the past year. Her commitment both to our program and board presence is "a labor of love!"



Maria Cristina (Cris) Piccottina Arana

Cris has been teaching English as a Second Language since she was basically a child of 15, to be exact—and she has been stuck ever since. She has taught everyone from absolute beginners to people who know what they're doing and covering subjects ranging from A to Z. Watching children's and adults' lightbulbs go off, leveling up their skills, helping them, and providing tools to make their lives better, that has been and will always be a real treasure.

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THIS NEWSLETTER IS FOR YOU!
Tell us what you would like us to include in the next issue.



Do you want to know more about Library Literacy Friends?

**Join us at our next Board Meeting:
Saturday, September 26, 2026**

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



CITIZENSHIP STUDY GROUP

Congratulations to the students completing the Citizenship Study classes this month.

Whether you are new to the country or looking to naturalize, look for one of our upcoming ten-week citizenship study groups which are offered in several locations throughout the year. *Stay tuned, stay informed, and take the next step.*

LIBRARY LITERACY FRIENDS 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 this award. Please ask your tutor for details.

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

MICHELET completed the Small Business B(AI)sics course. He registered his LLC to start his own business.

KATERINA (KATE) passed the exam for a Nursing Degree.

HENNY started a new job where all coworkers speak English.

ANTONIO started a new job.

Congratulations on your achievements!!!!



Attention All Students and Tutors!

Recognize outstanding achievement or effort in literacy.

Email us at literacy@pbclibrary.org.



Did you know?

Why is the season of Autumn also called Fall?

The name **fall** comes from the older English phrase "**fall of the leaf**" (or "**fall of the leaves**"), which referred to the time of year when leaves fall from deciduous trees.

In the 16th and 17th centuries, English speakers commonly used expressions like:

spring of the leaf (when leaves appear)

fall of the leaf (when leaves fall)

Eventually, **fall** became a shortened form of **fall of the leaf**,

British English generally favors the use of **autumn**;

both **fall** and **autumn** are commonly used in American English.



TUTOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

In-Person Tutor Training

Tutor Training and Development is offered quarterly to new and current tutors.

The workshop reviews the use of materials and lesson planning.

Watch your email for further details.

Tutor Roundtable

Share your tutor experiences and strategies.

Friday, October 9th 10am – 12pm

West Boynton Beach Branch

9451 Jog Road, Boynton Beach

Watch your email for further details.

A meeting for English Exchange staff and Volunteer Facilitators:

Wednesday, September 2nd 2pm – 4pm

Hagen Ranch Road Branch

14350 Hagen Ranch Rd, Delray Beach

Watch your email for further details.

If you are interested in becoming an English Exchange facilitator, please contact

Adult Literacy 561.894.7510 No experience is necessary.

A 2.5-hour training class is required prior to facilitating. Thank you!

ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 3 — ARE YOU READY TO VOTE?

GET INFORMED. GET INVOLVED. VOTE.

The 2026 General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3rd.

Polls in Palm Beach County are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

On **Election Day**, registered voters must vote at their **assigned polling place**.

Early Voting is scheduled for **October 19th through November 1st**, from **7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

During **Early Voting**, voters may use **any Palm Beach County Early Voting location**.

WHO CAN VOTE?

You must be an eligible registered Florida voter.

The deadline to register in this election is October 5, 2026.

WHAT ID DO I NEED?

Bring a current, valid photo ID with your signature.

Common examples include a Florida driver's license, Florida ID card, U.S. passport, military ID, or student ID.

If your photo ID does not have your signature, bring a second acceptable ID that does.

No ID? You can still vote, but you will be asked to vote using a provisional ballot.



A STUDENT'S STORY...

Lourdes Cancino



My name is Lourdes Cancino. I was born in Chiapas, Mexico to Margarita and Efrain. I have two siblings, Maria del Carmen and Gerardo. In 1974, while studying in Mexico City to become a public account, I met Roberto. Two years later we were married. We have two children. The eldest, Roberto, was born in 1979 and our younger, Carlos in 1981. They each have two daughters, Sofia, Emilia, Fernanda and Jimena. In 2004 my eldest son worked for JP Morgan in Mexico City. Two years later he was transferred to the New York office. Years later he obtained his American Citizenship and asked the United States government to grant residence for my husband and me. We have been living here for one year.

From the beginning, it was important for us to learn to speak English. We wanted to integrate into society, meet people and make friends. We looked for an English class to attend two or three hours a day. We found Chuck Shaw Technical Education Center which we attended for five months. Great school, great teachers!

As we are frequently out in the community, we looked for classes to continue our English language learning. Fortunately, we found the English Exchange Program at the Palm Beach County Library. One of the library branches we attend is Hagen Ranch. We have magnificent teachers like Nancy and Austin who are very dedicated and patient in helping us improve our English and build our confidence. The class is so good that time flies. My recognition and thanks for their valuable help.



I'm very grateful to the PBC Library System for the support and opportunity they have given those of us who want to learn and improve our English. Personally, my English has improved, and I hope to speak fluently with continued help.

Play on Words...

Question: **Why did the scarecrow win an award?**

Answer: **Because he was outstanding in his field!**

"Outstanding" can mean **excellent**,
but the scarecrow is also literally **out standing in a field**.



GRAMMAR CHALLENGE:

The children are excited _____ Halloween.

- A. with
- B. about
- C. at

AUTUMN WORD SCRAMBLE:

U I P K N P M _ _ _ _ _

R H V T E S A _ _ _ _ _

G E F A L I O _ _ _ _ _

Lake Worth Playhouse

Welcome all tutors and students!!

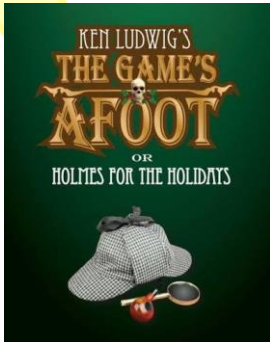
Reserve your seat:

Call the Adult Literacy Project office at 561-894-7510

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



Lake Worth Playhouse
713 Lake Ave, Lake Worth



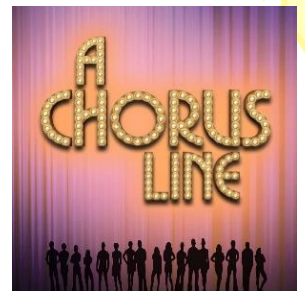
The Game's Afoot (Holmes for the Holidays)

Thursday November 19, 2026

A comedic murder mystery by Ken Ludwig about William Gillette, a Broadway star shot on stage, his fellow cast members, and a deadly weekend at a Connecticut castle

A Chorus Line Thursday, January 14, 2027

A landmark 1975 Broadway musical created by Michael Bennett, featuring music by Marvin Hamlisch and lyrics by Edward Kleban. It centers on seventeen dancers auditioning for a grueling Broadway chorus line, sharing their personal lives and dreams



This fall, we are planning a fun **PIZZA & GAME NIGHT** where students can relax, enjoy great food, practice English and make new friends.

WATCH FOR DETAILS!



Marianne Heard, Adult Literacy Project Coordinator and Jesse Walters, Library Literacy Fiends, Treasurer, speaking at the Kiwanis Club of Palm Beach County about the work of Adult Literacy and its service to residents of West Palm Beach.



*Are you looking for a friendly place to practice English?
A place that feels natural, welcoming, and fun?*

Find Your Voice. Find Your Community.

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

English Exchange classes are currently held in 14 library locations.

Come for conversation and friendship!

<https://shorturl.at/V1SDM>

*Intermediate knowledge of English is recommended
but not required*



English Exchange group at Main library
singing Karaoke.



HALLOWEEN: GHOSTS, CANDY...AND TURN

Halloween is celebrated every year on **October 31**, but its story began more than **2,000 years ago**.

The ancient Celts of Ireland, Scotland, and parts of Europe celebrated **Samhain** (roughly pronounced *SAH-win*). They believed that around this time, the boundary between the living and the dead became thin and spirits might wander among the living. People lit bonfires and wore disguises—early hints of today's Halloween traditions. Centuries later, November 1 became **All Saints' Day**, also called **All Hallows' Day**. The night before was **All Hallows' Eve**, which eventually became **Halloween**.

Irish and Scottish immigrants brought Halloween customs to North America in the 1800s. Over time, the holiday became the celebration we know today—costumes, decorations, parties, and children shouting, **“TRICK OR TREAT!”**

JACK-O'-LANTERNS: IT ALL STARTED WITH A TURNIP



The **jack-o'-lantern** tradition came from Ireland and Britain, where people carved frightening faces into turnips and other root vegetables. In North America, immigrants discovered that pumpkins were larger and much easier to carve. The name is also connected to the Irish legend of **“Stingy Jack,”** a troublesome man who, according to folklore, was forced to wander the earth carrying a glowing coal inside a hollowed-out turnip. That smiling pumpkin suddenly looks a little more interesting!



DID YOU KNOW?

A pumpkin is actually a **fruit**, not a vegetable. Botanically, fruits develop from flowers and contain seeds. So, your jack-o'-lantern is really a **giant carved fruit!**

HALLOWEEN AROUND THE WORLD

Halloween is especially popular in the **United States, Canada, Ireland, and the United Kingdom**, but versions of the celebration have spread around the world.



SOMETHING CAN BE “SPOOKY” WITHOUT BEING SCARY!

In American English, **spooky** originally referred to ghosts or spirits, but today we often use it playfully. A decorated house, a strange coincidence, or even an eerie sound can be *spooky* without being truly frightening.



“THE HYPHEN”

When two words work together to describe a noun, a hyphen (-), which is a small line or dash, can connect them to show that they work together as one modifier.

A **spine-chilling story** is a story so frightening that it sends a chill down your spine!

When ordering a **pumpkin-spice latte**, your latte will taste like pumpkin spice, not onion.

Hyphens can also be used to join several words to create a compound word, such as **jack-o'-lantern**.

GOOD LUCK, BAD LUCK: WHO DECIDES?

FEELING LUCKY?

For centuries, people around the world have tried to explain good and bad luck. What we know is: **one culture's bad luck may be another culture's good fortune!**

BLACK CAT: LUCKY OR UNLUCKY?

Don't blame the cat! In ancient Egypt, cats were highly respected and associated with protection. But in medieval Europe, black cats became connected with witches and witchcraft—and their unlucky reputation was born. Yet in **Britain, Ireland and Japan**, black cats have also been considered signs of **good luck and prosperity**. Sailors once welcomed cats aboard ships in hopes of a safe voyage. So, if a black cat crosses your path—is that good luck or bad luck? It depends on whom you ask!



13

WHY FRIDAY THE 13TH?

Why does **13** make some people nervous?

One possible explanation comes from **Norse mythology**. According to the story, 12 gods were enjoying a banquet when Loki arrived uninvited, becoming the **13th guest**. The gathering ended in tragedy when the beloved god Balder was killed. Fear of the number 13 even has a name: **triskaidekaphobia**. Try saying *that* three times!



KNOCK ON WOOD!

Have you ever said, *"I've never gotten a speeding ticket—knock on wood!"*?

One theory traces the custom to ancient European beliefs that **spirits lived in trees**.

Touching or knocking on wood may have been a way to ask those spirits for protection—or to avoid tempting fate. In Italy, there's a twist: **tocca ferro** means **"touch iron."** Iron was believed to offer protection from evil. Different material, same idea: **Don't jinx yourself!**



SEVEN YEARS FOR A BROKEN MIRROR?

Why should one broken mirror mean **seven years of bad luck**?

Ancient Greeks and Romans sometimes associated a person's reflection with the soul. The Romans also believed that life renewed itself in **seven-year cycles**.

Put those ideas together, and a broken mirror supposedly meant seven unlucky years before life—and your luck—could renew itself.

POPULAR GOOD LUCK CHARMS



FOUR-LEAF CLOVER: A rare find representing faith, hope, love, and luck.



HORSESHOE: Hung facing up it collects luck, and facing down it pours luck onto you.



HAMSA HAND: An open palm symbol offering protection, power, and blessings.



MANEKI-NEKO: The Japanese beckoning cat brings wealth and business success.



WISHBONE: Pulled apart to secure a wish and bring future success.



EVIL EYE (NAZAR): A blue and white eye-shaped amulet used in Mediterranean and Middle Eastern cultures to ward off negative energy and malicious stares.

CHANGE A LIFE: BECOME AN ADULT LITERACY TUTOR

The Palm Beach County Library System's **Adult Literacy Project** provides free, one-on-one tutoring to adults who want to improve their reading, writing, or English-speaking skills.

With the help of dedicated volunteer tutors, adult learners gain the skills and confidence they need for work, family, citizenship, and everyday life.

With just a few hours a week, you can help someone open new doors for their future. Training, materials and assistance are provided...just bring your patience and encouragement.



41 Students are waiting for tutors like you:

Adult Basic Education (ABE): 6 students

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL): 35 students

172 Student/Tutor teams are enjoying learning together:

Adult Basic Education (ABE): 25 teams

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL): 147 teams

JOIN US TODAY...YOU CAN TRANSFORM A LIFE!

Please **email the Adult Literacy Project** at literacy@pbclibrary.org
Or call the Adult Literacy Office for more information...**561.894.7510**

ATTENTION ADULT LITERACY PROJECT TUTORS

Please watch for the end of the month email from Marianne which contains the link to the Google Form for submitting 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 as there is often additional information about upcoming events, closings and general reminders.

WE LOVE HEARING FROM YOU!

WE APPRECIATE YOUR TIME!

GRAMMAR CHALLENGE ANSWER:

The children are excited about Halloween.

AUTUMN WORD SCRAMBLE ANSWERS:

Pumpkin, Harvest, Foliage



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
14350 Hagen Ranch Road Delray Beach, FL 33446

Thank you!

