



Hivemind

SPRINGTIME ACTIVITY

Springtime in Salisbury means the pollen falls, the nectar flows, and the Scrabble boards come out! This year, the Rowan County Literacy Council, along with Event Sponsor Trinity Oaks, hosted the sixteenth annual **Scrabble Scramble** on April 5. As usual, the food was wonderful, the atmosphere convivial, and the competition lively (see p. 5 for photos). Thanks to all who participated, donated, and volunteered. This year, we are taking our mad Scrabble skills into the cyber realm, by creating an **Online Words With Friends Tournament** for serious-minded wordsmiths everywhere. See p. 3 for more information!



All business: Players at the table sponsored by Ting Hao Restaurant are in it to win it.

MILESTONES

Completed workbook level: One of Ray Costello’s students, one of Don Doering’s students.

Read a book for pleasure: Donna Preslar’s student, Carolyn Brown’s student.

Became a U.S. Citizen: See p.2!

Obtained a driver’s license: Two of Don Doering’s Students.

Used technology to improve skills: Tammy Fisher’s student, one of Deb Chirico’s students, Irene Stewart’s student.

Obtained a library card: Tammy Fisher’s student.

Obtained High School Diploma: Matilde Mendez (on left) passed the fourth and final portion of the GED test and is now a high school graduate! Matilde has been working with tutor Carolyn Brown for about 14 months. Matilde has a soft voice and an iron will. We are so proud of her achievement!



Two thumbs up for two smart ladies!



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PROUDLY WE HAIL: ADRIANA!

In the last newsletter, we highlighted four Literacy Council students who recently completed the requirements to become US citizens. In early April, we added yet another name to that star-spangled list: **Adriana Amezquita!** Recent citizens Mei Xue “Macy” Dong of China, Ounheune “Johnny” Phakasoum of Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Faby Amezquita of Mexico, and Eunice Gladey of Liberia are now joined by Faby’s older sister Adriana.

Adriana has been working with veteran tutor **Jennifer Welch** since last July and has been putting in heavy hours every month. Adriana attends class with her mother Maria Carapia, who is also working towards the goal of citizenship. We can absolutely confirm that the whole Amezquita clan is a very studious bunch.

Jennifer reviewed civics and history topics, covered mock interview questions, and practiced sentence dictations with Adriana until she had a firm grasp of all the material. Still, Jennifer was on pins and needles until she got the call from Adriana saying she had passed.

A big round of applause for Jennifer and Adriana!

At right, Eunice Gladey is all smiles at her Oath Ceremony on Feb 28, 219. She was accompanied by Program Coordinator Laurel Harry (left) and tutor Char Molrine (right). Her ceremony took place shortly after the last newsletter was published, so we wanted to make sure she was recognized in this publication. Congratulations again Eunice!



Adriana Amezquita (above) took the oath of citizenship in early April.



ONLINE WORDS WITH FRIENDS TOURNAMENT: SIGN UP NOW!

Do you yearn for feisty erudite competition? Enjoy cutthroat wordplay? Are you ready to show off your mad wordsmithing skills? If so, read on...

The Rowan County Literacy Council is hosting an **Online Words With Friends Tournament** in which contestants will match wits with opponents in a single-elimination, bracketed, Scrabble-style competition. Think March Madness for Scrabble players (minus the jumping and sweating).

Cash prizes, t-shirts and major bragging rights will be awarded to the top four finishers.



The Entry Fee is \$20 per person, or you may enter 3 times (using the same username) for \$50. Space is limited! Registration deadline is May 3.

To reserve your spot, call 704-216-8266 or email info@rcliteracy.org. You may pay by check or cash in the office, or by credit card at rcliteracy.org (see "Upcoming Events" at bottom of main page).

Contestants need not live in the area to participate. If you have gamer friends in other states, please invite them to play. Have fun and support the Rowan County Literacy Council: **sign up today!**

Nettlesome Fine Print: Players must have a smartphone or iPad and must download the Words With Friends app in order to participate. Players will need to create a WWF account and supply RCLC with their username in order to be paired with an opponent. Results of each game must be forwarded to RCLC in order to advance in the bracket. Games must be completed in a timely fashion or will be subject to forfeit. Full rules will be included in registration email.

*"If you hear a voice within you say 'You cannot paint,' then by all means paint and that voice will be silenced."
~ Vincent van Gogh*

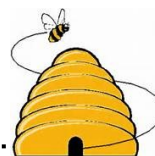
LIBRARY HOURS

Location	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
HQ	9:00 am - 9:00 pm	9:00 am - 9:00 pm	9:00 am - 9:00 pm	9:00 am - 6:00 pm	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Closed
East	9:00 am - 8:00 pm	9:00 am - 8:00 pm	9:00 am - 8:00 pm	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	10:00 am - 1:00 pm	Closed
South	9:00 am - 9:00 pm	9:00 am - 9:00 pm	9:00 am - 9:00 pm	9:00 am - 6:00 pm	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Closed

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

May 25 & 27	Library Closed, Memorial Day Holiday
July 4	Library Closed, Independence Day
July 8-12	RCLC Office Closed, Staff Vacation

The Buzz



HELLOS & GOODBYES

We have new tutors to welcome and others that, sadly, are leaving the area. New tutors Katelin Johnson and Cynthia Sgrignoli recently joined the literacy council. Katelin is a recent college graduate, who was working with two high-school aged ESL students. Cynthia is working with two primary school students to improve reading during one-on-one sessions at the library. Katelin will be leaving Salisbury to accept a job in Georgia. Tutor Denise Jacobs has also accepted a job in another state. We wish them both the best in their new endeavors.

TWO TRAINERS CERTIFIED

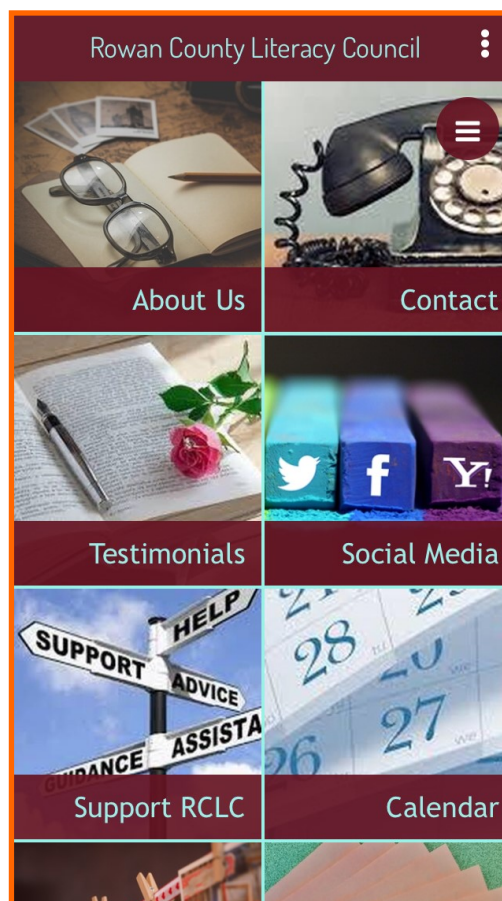
Tutor/Board Member Don Doering and Program Coordinator Laurel Harry were both recently recognized as Certified Trainers by the ProLiteracy organization. This certification entitles them to create and conduct training programs for new volunteers. The certification process required them to complete extensive online coursework, pass two exams, and then conduct a training session under supervision.

NEW APP IS TOOLKIT FOR TUTORS

Earlier this year, RCLC rolled out a new tool that tutors can use to communicate with the office, assist their students, report volunteer hours, and stay up-to-date with the latest news. A free smartphone app for iPhone or Android devices can be downloaded from the App store or Google Play store by simply typing in “Rowan County Literacy Council.”

The app connects to the Literacy Council’s social media accounts and event calendar, provides direct links to phone, email, website, newsletters, donation page, and organization photos, and also provides many useful teaching aids at a touch, such as translation tools, dictionary links, e-books, and more. The app also streamlines the reporting of volunteer hours. A push notification feature allows staff to alert tutors to last minute happenings such as closures for inclement weather.

Download the app today, if you haven’t already. You’ll be glad you did!



SCRABBLE SCRAMBLE XVI: IT'S A WRAP!

The Literacy Council's 16th annual Scrabble Scramble took place on April 5 at Trinity Oaks. This year, in a major upset, a team of scrappy newcomers shocked the reigning champions Trinity Oaks beating them handily while on-lookers gaped in astonishment...

...Just kidding, Trinity Oaks mopped the floor with the competition as usual, winning by a margin of approximately one million points.

A big thank you to all of the competitors for keeping things fun and lively. Many thanks to Master of Ceremonies Matt Scott, Event Sponsor Trinity Oaks, our plucky band of volunteers, and also to our many generous raffle donors including Bangkok Downtown, Caniche, Country Donutz, Coggins Financial



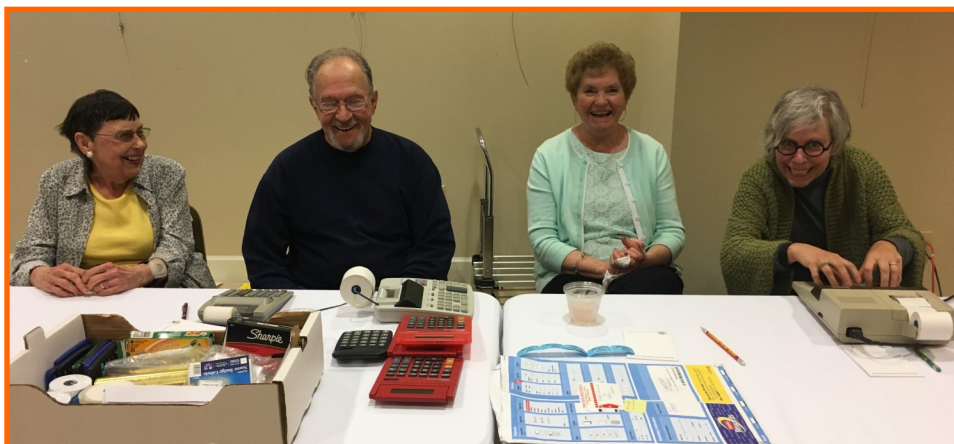
Don't even think of trying to get an invalid Scrabble word past this brainy bunch. Left to right: volunteers Pat Murtaugh and Gretchen Witt, board members Melody Moxley and Nan Lund



Left: members of the Friends of RPL-Teen Scrabblers team discuss strategy.

Services, Carolyn Myers, Ed Tezlaf of Avalon Rose Craft-works, Edward Jones Financial Advisor Jolene Philpott, El Patron Mexican Grill & Cantina, Godley's Garden Center, Jersey Mike's, Kathy Gregg/NC Museum of Dolls, Toys, and Miniatures, Massimo's Artisan Sandwich Shoppe, Mean Mug Coffee Company, Panacea Healing Arts & Wellness Center, Pancho Villa's Mexican Bar & Grill, Pottery 101, Salisbury Salon & Spa, South Main Book Company, Stitchin' Post Gifts, Yummi Banh Mi Streetside Café, and the Animal Care Center of Salisbury.

Will Scrabble Scramble XVII be the year Trinity Oaks finally falls? We'll have to wait until spring 2020 to find out...



At left, the scorers work their fingers to the bone adding up the team totals after each round. From Left, out-going Board Member Carolyn Myers, Tutor Ed Tezlaf, Board Vice-President Helen Peacock, and Tutor Liese Sadler.

RCLC WHO'S WHO

Board of Directors:

Melody Moxley-President

Helen Peacock-Vice-President

Vance Meek-Treasurer

Don Doering

Davian Ellison

Nan Lund

Scott Maddox

Gary Rash

Wen Ye

Kelly Freeze-RCCC Representative

Staff:

KC Scott-Executive Director

Laurel Harry-Program Coordinator

BY THE NUMBERS...

290K

Kids who are read **one short book per day** enter kindergarten hearing 290,000 more words than kids whose parents didn't read to them.

—Source: *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics* study, lead author Jessica Logan

1.4M

If parents increase the number of books read to **five per day**, that vocabulary disparity swells to 1.4 million words.

—Source: *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics* study, lead author Jessica Logan

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Number of students currently on RCLC's waiting list. We have seven students on the waiting list and all are eager to get started on their literacy goals. If you can help one of these students, please contact the Literacy Council office.

Rowan County Literacy Council

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EACH ONE TEACH ONE

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5