



Hivemind

WINTER IS COMING

Game of Thrones reference or meteorological prediction? Maybe both. In either case, vigilance and preparation are paramount as we move into 2020. In a new year and a new decade, and it's more important than ever for the Literacy Council to prepare to meet the coming challenges and ensure that our small, resilient organization continues to provide the critically important literacy support that our community needs. Demand for tutoring is stronger than ever. In Rowan County, 16.1% of residents have not graduated from high school and 21.1% speak a language other than English at home. Our programs help students meet their personal and professional goals and in doing so, strengthen our community. It's cold outside, but our hive is here to stay. Bundle up!

MILESTONES

Completed workbook level: One of Evelyn Uddin-Khan's students, one of Charlotte Cranford's students, one of Char Molrine's students, Vance Meek's student, one of Susan Parker's students, one of Don Doering's students

Enter/improve employment: One of Jason Young's students

Joined the military: One of Don Doering's students

Bought or read books for pleasure: Diane Labovitz's student, Donna Preslar's student

Became a U.S. Citizen: One of Liesa Montag-Siegel's students!



Student Marina Ladygina (with tutor Don Doering) on her last day in Salisbury before shipping out to being basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Marina was an exemplary student and will be an exemplary member of the armed forces. Go Marina: Be All You Can Be!



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VETERAN TUTOR TO BE HONORED WITH AWARD

Tutor Char Molrine has been selected as a 2020 recipient of the prestigious Elizabeth Duncan Koontz Humanitarian Award.

Each year, the Salisbury Human Relations Council recognizes individuals or groups who have made important contributions to improving human relations in the areas of education, employment, housing, industry, business, civic, church, advocacy, and community service.

The award is named in memory of Dr. Elizabeth “Libby” Duncan Koontz, a noted Salisbury educator and advocate who was appointed as the first African-American director of the United States Department of Labor Women’s Bureau in 1969.

Char was nominated because of her outstanding commitment to education through her work at the Literacy Council. She has been a tutor since 2006. During that time, she has helped many students improve their reading and English language abilities. She has worked with both children and adults and recently was instrumental in helping one of her students pass the US citizenship exam. When tutor Barry Whenal passed away last year, Char stepped into the breach and took over his classes. Char is currently working with three ESL students, helping them prepare for the GED exam, citizenship, and other career goals. Congratulations Char!



Molrine (right) pictured at student Eunice Gladey’s Oath of Citizenship Ceremony in 2019.

“Per aspera, ad astra.” (“Though hardship, to the stars”)
—Latin phrase

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 RPL HOLIDAYS

April 10

Good Friday Holiday

LEARNING UPGRADE APP WINS XPRIZE

XPRIZE is a non-profit organization that designs and manages public competitions intended to encourage technological development for the benefit of humanity. There are XPRIZES in many categories including space travel, environment, artificial intelligence, and education.

One specific XPRIZE category focused on improving Adult Literacy and offered a \$7M prize for the winner. With research showing that 77 percent of Americans now own a smartphone, the competition aimed to dramatically change the way the United States meets the needs of the 36 million adults with low literacy skills, by tackling the largest obstacles to achieving basic literacy – access, retention, and scale.

In January 2019, two winners were announced: Learning Upgrade and People for Words (see sidebar). Both are mobile applications for smartphones designed to increase literacy skills among participating adult learners. Through ProLiteracy, **RCLC has been offered a chance to participate in a nationwide challenge, to enroll new users** and try out the Learning Upgrade app. On-boarding users is simple and users are assigned a starting level based on their most recent CASAS score on file or by taking an in-app placement test.

The app allows new RCLC students to begin working immediately, rather than spend weeks on our waiting list. Once students are paired with a tutor, they can continue using the app at home and at times that fit within their busy lives.

If your student has a smartphone, enrolling them is simple. Notify the office to receive login information, then have the student go to the app store and search for “Learning Upgrade.” Students must have a 75% or better success rate in order to receive credit for a lesson. All student progress may be monitored via our RCLC “school” account. Students may only move through the material by demonstrating competence, and lessons may be repeated until the student attains a score of 75% or better.



The home screen of the Learning Upgrade app shows the different levels of English and Math attainment that students may complete. Each level contains 60 lessons.

XPRIZE CO-WINNER TAKES STUDENTS ON ADVENTURE TO ATLANTIS

The **People For Words App** was the other winner of the Adult Literacy XPRIZE.

Led by Southern Methodist University's Simmons School of Education and Human Development, in collaboration with SMU's Guildhall and Literacy Instruction for Texas, the People For Words team also developed a new mobile app to encourage literacy. Like Learning Upgrade, the People for Words team recognized that cell phone use was key to accessible, interactive instruction. The app, called “Codex: Lost Words of Atlantis,” is a game with an archeological adventure storyline that helps adult learners improve their English reading skills. The app is currently available on Android devices at no cost. If your student has an Android phone or device, they can download the free app from the Google Play store and embark on an instructive journey to the lost city of Atlantis.

HELPING HANDS FOR VETERANS

RCLC partners with NC Works regarding employment opportunities with local companies, training programs, and other services for job seekers. NC Works is collaborating with the Forsyth County Homeless Veteran Stand Down and Resource Expo on March 27, 2020. The expo organizers are **seeking drivers** to take Rowan County veterans who lack transportation to this event, which will be held at the NC National Guard Armory in Winston-Salem.

The event will offer medication and mental health services, dental care, food, clothing, fellowship, tax assistance, employment assistance, eye care, VA services, and much more. If you are interested in driving a veteran to this event (which lasts from 9am—2pm), please contact Archie Barrow at 336-684-6129.



The Buzz

SHIFTING GEARS, MOVING FORWARD

Tutors and longtime friends of the Literacy Council know that we have received generous funding from the Rowan County United Way for the past 30 years. During the United Way campaign that wrapped up in late 2019, a new funding model was implemented. This new model focused on specific priorities of Mental Health, Healthy Lifestyles, Substance Abuse, and Basic Needs. Our core adult programs did not fit directly under any of these priorities and as a result, were not funded. We did receive some funding for our Youth Literacy program through a partnership with Communities in Schools. We are grateful for the United Way's past support and hope to collaborate again in the future. We are moving into 2020 with redoubled energy and resolve. Fundraisers including Scrabble Scramble on Oct. 23 and a new Kentucky Derby Party on May 2 (see p. 5 for details) will be important in ensuring we continue to meet the urgent needs in the community for reading, writing, and English-language instruction. We hope to see you there!

USCIS MEETING ON NATURALIZATION

On March 7, the Rowan County Literacy Council is partnering with the Department of Homeland Security—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to hold an informational meeting on the process of naturalization. The meeting is open to students, tutors, and the general public. USCIS is responsible for administering the nation's immigration system, including conducting interviews and exams for residents who are applying for citizenship. USCIS' Charlotte field office provides RCLC with ongoing support and guidance, including training events for staff and free citizenship prep materials.

The event will feature remarks by USCIS Community Relations Officer, Daniel Knutson and an overview of the citizenship prep services offered by the Literacy Council. We also plan to have a panel of tutors who have shepherded a student successfully through the naturalization process and former students who have attained citizenship. The event will be instructive for those interested in applying for citizenship in the future and also for tutors who are interested in learning more about preparing students for naturalization. Please plan to attend, and share with others who might be interested in learning more about the naturalization process. ***Save the date! Rowan Public Library, Stanback Room, March 7, 2020, 2 p.m.***



RCLC FUNDRAISER: IT'S ALL ABOUT THE "HAT-I-TUDE"

Mint julep, anyone?

Get decked out in your Derby Day finest and join us for the "most exciting two minutes in sports." On Saturday, May 2, 2020, the Rowan County Literacy Council will host the first-annual **Kentucky Derby Party with "Hat-i-tude" fundraiser** in The Heritage Room on 118 E. Council St.

The event will center around a live viewing of the Kentucky Derby horserace, and feature awards for Best Hat, a silent auction, and other exciting race-day activities. Included are Derby-themed hors d'oeuvres, icy mint julep welcome drink, beer and wine, and of course, the thrill of thundering hoofbeats. Guests may also try their luck by entering a Win-Place-Show drawing with terrific prizes.

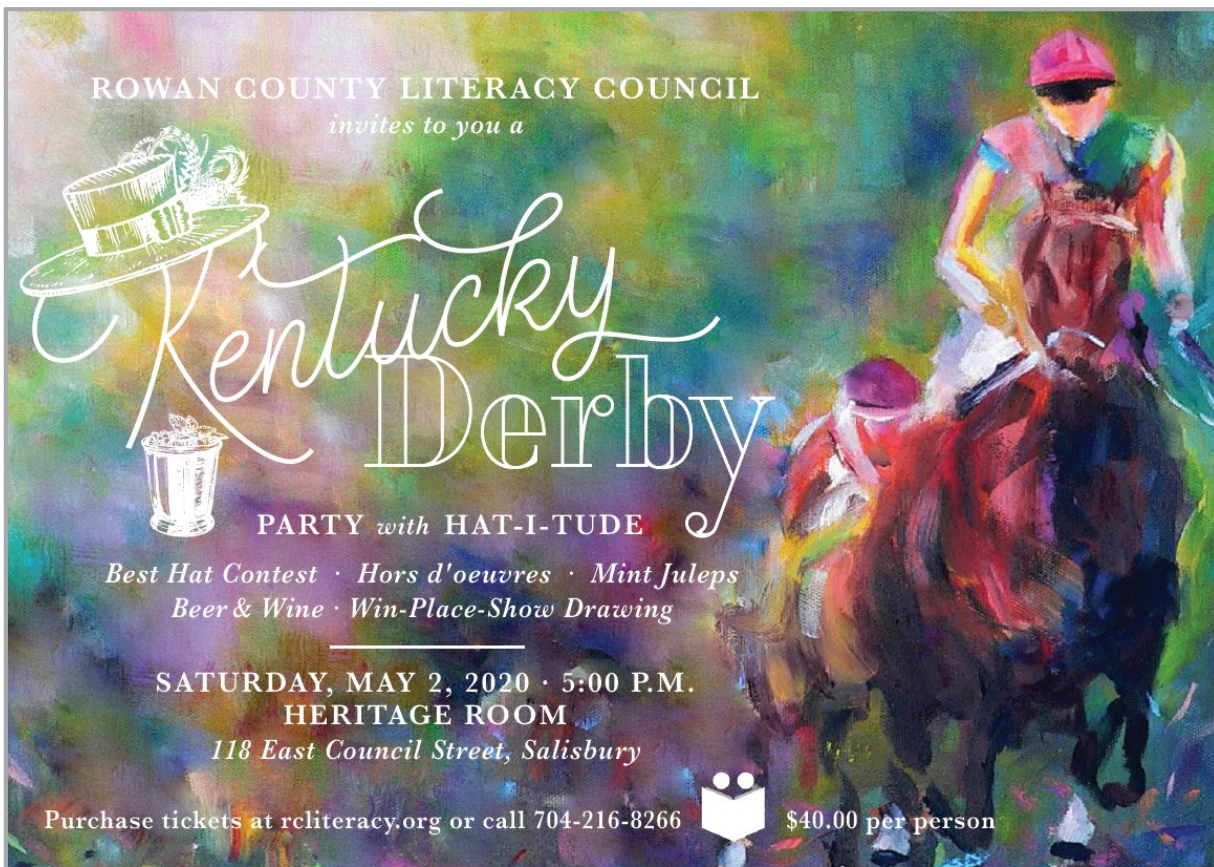
As the event name suggests, the right "Hat-i-tude" is key! No Derby Day outfit can truly be complete without a big ol' hat. Our advice: "go big or go home." Consider your racetrack style: will you go with a feathered fascinator, floppy wide-brim, bowler, fancy church hat, classic straw

boater, pork pie, pillbox...or something completely different? Timeless Wigs and Marvelous Things on the corner of Main and Innes streets can help you find just the right hat. They are offering a 10% discount on hats purchased for the event. They can also special-order hats so you can project the exact "hat-i-tude" your outfit requires. Just tell them the Literacy Council sent you.

The Literacy Council would like to extend very special thanks to our generous event sponsors: (GOLD) David Post and First United Church of Christ, (SILVER) Gildan, (BRONZE) Custom Glass Products, UFP Salisbury LLC, Ting Hao Restaurant, Sharonview Federal Credit Union, Dr. Nan Lund/Paul L. Dunbar Group, Susan and Edward Norvell, and Mean Mug Coffee Company.

Tickets to the event are \$40 each for the general public and \$30 each for active tutors. Tickets may be purchased online or by cash or check at the Literacy Council office.

Space is limited, so giddy up!




ROWAN COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL
invites to you a

Kentucky
Derby

PARTY *with* HAT-I-TUDE

*Best Hat Contest · Hors d'oeuvres · Mint Juleps
Beer & Wine · Win-Place-Show Drawing*

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2020 · 5:00 P.M.
HERITAGE ROOM
118 East Council Street, Salisbury

Purchase tickets at rcliteracy.org or call 704-216-8266  \$40.00 per person

RCLC WHO'S WHO

2020 Board of Directors:

Don Doering-President

Melody Moxley-Vice-President

Maggie Blackwell-Secretary

Vance Meek-Treasurer

Helen Peacock

Nan Lund

Gary Rash

Wen Ye

Scott Maddox

Davian Ellison

Kelly Freeze-RCCC Representative

Administration:

KC Scott-Executive Director

Laurel Harry-Program Coordinator

BY THE NUMBERS...

20

The English language has 20 vowel sounds, 25 consonant, sounds and numerous irregularities., making it a very tricky language for non-native speakers to learn.

—Reader's Digest

3

Number of hours it takes to complete our new online training course. We recently overhauled our training materials, creating a more streamlined approach that focuses on providing new tutors with the essentials without bogging down on unnecessary statistics and details.

20

Number of students currently on RCLC's waiting list. A new high. Demand for our services is steadily growing due to ever-increasing referrals. While we are flattered that our students continue to bring in their friends and neighbors, this means we must keep pace by continually adding new volunteers. Please contact the office if you or a friend can pitch in 1.5 hours a week to change a life!

Rowan County Literacy Council

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PLEASE
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HERE

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