



Hivemind

FLOWERS OF CHANGE

Life as we knew it was pulled up by the roots in March. After the initial shock of the abrupt cessation of many professional, educational, and social activities settled in, there came the wilting realization that we were going to be in for a very long spring. Then spring turned into summer. As the days grew hotter, our tutors dug deep, adapted, and learned to connect in new ways. Some are meeting over the phone, and many have migrated their sessions onto Zoom. (More on this on page 3.) Our Kentucky Derby with Hat-i-tude Fundraiser was also dealt a severe pruning and we have had to reimagine the event from the ground up... We think you'll like what we've come up with! (see page 5.) The library remains closed as the latest order from the governor, Safer at Home, has been extended until at least early September. With all the change, uncertainty, and adversity, a less hardy group might have withered on the vine. But our volunteers and students are resilient. The pandemic is changing everything in challenging and sometimes unexpected ways. But from the stony soil of COVID, new flowers are growing.



MILESTONES

Completed workbook level: Diane Labovitz's student.

Completed Army Basic Training: One of Don Doering's students

Read a book for pleasure: Jenny Hubbard's student, Laurel Harry's student

Started a new business: Laurel Harry's student



Former student Juana Garcia Cruz (right) pictured with tutor Laurel Harry. Juana has launched a homemade meal delivery business—a scrumptious idea and even smarter during a time when many people cannot leave the house due to health concerns. Look for her on Facebook to order. Best of luck, Juana!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Flowers of Change	1
Milestones.....	1
New Tutors	2
Temporary Library Hours	2
Unexpected Upsides	3
The Buzz.....	4
Kentucky Derby 2.0	5
By the Numbers	6

NEW TUTORS COME ONLINE

As the COVID-19 pandemic drags on, people of all ages are seeking ways to be active and productive from home. For those just entering or soon to enter the workforce, volunteering can be particularly important. Tutoring can help young people build experience and acquire marketable skills. We have had several college-age tutors come online in recent weeks.

Amaiya Kerns is a college student (currently on hiatus from school) who is interested in languages and learning about different cultures. She has been studying Korean independently for five years! She has past experience volunteering with refugee and immigrant high school students. Amaiya completed her RCLC training and has been paired with an ESL student. The two are meeting over Zoom.

Jessica Fail is also a college student, currently attending Western Carolina University. She also enjoys learning about different cultures and plans to become an ESL teacher after graduation. Jessica has begun working over Zoom with an ESL student from the Dominican Republic.

Lastly Jessieca Johnson is a recent UNC-Greensboro graduate who plans to be a primary education volunteer in the Peace Corps in the future. At the time of this

writing, Jessieca has just completed her training process...and has already been paired with a student from our waiting list. Jessieca will be working with an ESL student who is interested in getting her GED and eventually attending college.

The Literacy Council welcomes Amaiya, Jessica, and Jessieca to our ranks. We thank them for spending their time for the benefit of others. The world looks a little brighter with the three of you in it!

*New tutors
(clockwise from
top) Amaiya Kerns,
Jessieca Johnson,
and Jessica Fail.*



“Fresh activity is the only means of overcoming adversity.”

—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

TEMPORARY LIBRARY HOURS

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Phone assistance	9:00 am - 6:00 pm	9:00 am - 6:00 pm	9:00 am - 6:00 pm	9:00 am - 6:00 pm	9:00 am - 6:00 pm	Closed	Closed
Curbside pickup	Closed	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Closed	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed

Effective March 31, Library operations were limited to **curbside only**. Library facilities, including computer labs, are closed to the public. Library patrons may call to place holds on materials or make appointments, M-F, 9am-6pm. Patrons with an appointment may pick up materials on Tuesdays and Thursdays at their appointed timeslot between 9am-5pm. Patrons without appointments cannot be accommodated. For more information call:

980-432-8670 for RPL’s Central Line
704-216-8243 for RPL Headquarters (Salisbury)

704-216-7840 for RPL East (Rockwell)
704-216-7730 for RPL South (China Grove)

THE UNEXPECTED UPSIDES OF COVID

COVID-19 has thrown us many curveballs since March. To be perfectly honest, most of these curveballs have been unpleasant: schools closed, trips cancelled, plans dashed. But a few unexpected positives have also emerged.

One example is that tutoring over Zoom allows tutors and students to be anywhere. And we do mean *anywhere*. Traditionally, tutors and students had to live within driving distance of Salisbury in order to meet in person. Meeting times were constrained by library hours and availability of meeting rooms. If someone was traveling, or moved away, tutoring stopped. This is no longer the case. In recent months, we have certified new tutors from Goldsboro to Cullowhee. We have tutored from porches at the lake and from decks in the mountains. We have conducted tutoring sessions with students in cars en route to grandma's house in New York, or driving to the Outer Banks. As long as there is an internet connection, learning can continue.

In January 2020, we overhauled our tutor training process to make it more user friendly and take the process fully online. This was fortuitous, because we have been able to seamlessly continue to training and certifying new tutors during the shutdown. Virtual tutoring enables us to work with out-of-area volunteers even though our student base remains local.

In the past, inclement weather also derailed some sessions, especially during the winter. Virtual tutoring solves this problem, eliminating the need to venture out in bad weather, and increasing the comfort and safety of our students and tutors.

In this way, COVID has freed us from some constraints. While we won't ever jettison face-to-face tutoring, COVID has expanded our capabilities in ways that will far outlast the pandemic.



Have internet, will travel: taking tutoring online means fewer missed sessions.

RESOURCES FOR REMOTE TUTORING

Screen sharing is the best feature of Zoom for tutoring sessions. Tutors and students can safely view the same content in real time, even making on-the-fly notes or changes. Below are several sites that have excellent content for virtual lessons.

Newsela.com has scalable news and current events articles. Lexile level can be adjusted up or down based on your student's level.

"Learn English Through Story with Subtitles" on YouTube provides narrated classic short stories by Poe, Wilde, and other famous authors. Students can read along and listen to the story. Narration speed can be adjusted to help ESL students keep up.

Vocabulary.com is an excellent resource for building and retaining new vocabulary. Users can create personal lists of vocabulary words and the site will generate quizzes to reinforce learning. Users can also compete in 10-question team competition with users from around the world.

5minuteenglish.com and **englishgrammar101.com** are good resources for drilling down into specific points of grammar.



ELLISON NAMED ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AT ISENBERG

RCLC Board Member Davian Ellison has been named Assistant Principal at Isenberg Elementary School in Salisbury. Davian held previous Assistant Principal positions at Salisbury High School and Enochville Elementary. Davian is a perfect fit for Isenberg given her strong focus on literacy. Isenberg promotes a schoolwide reading culture, especially through its successful Gator Reading Club. Literacy Council tutors work with Isenberg students in the Club using materials targeted to improve fluency, comprehension, and overall literacy. The Literacy Council congratulates Davian on her new position and wishes her the best of luck in the coming school year. Go Gators!

The Buzz

SAFER-AT-HOME ORDER EXTENDED

Governor Roy Cooper has extended the “Safer-at Home” Phase 2 order for non-essential businesses in the state of North Carolina until at least September 11. This replaces the previous order which ended August 7. As a result of the ongoing threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rowan Public Library, and our offices, remain closed.

Although in-person tutoring is suspended, tutors are strongly encouraged to find other ways to work with their students, including Zoom, Facetime, phone, or email. While we don’t have daily access to our office,

we can get in from time to time to retrieve materials. If you have a request for workbooks or other materials from the office, please write to lharry@rcliteracy.org for assistance. In addition, if you need help identifying online content for virtual sessions, please let us know and we will be happy to assist.

Keeping track of student and tutor time remains important. Please submit your monthly tutoring hours via the website (rcliteracy.org) or using the Rowan County Literacy Council smartphone app.

DOERING HONORED

We think RCLC Board President Don Doering is pretty special and we’re glad Governor Cooper agrees. Don has been honored with the prestigious Governor’s Medallion Award for Volunteer Service. Fewer than 20 people *statewide* are selected to receive this award annually. Don’s exemplary commitment to advancing literacy in Rowan County, and the countless hours he spends not only tutoring, but attending board meetings, researching program and grant ideas, working on fundraising, and promoting the Literacy Council to other clubs, agencies, and groups in our community make him more than worthy of this honor. Don has been a tutor since 2013, and board member since 2017 and board president since 2019. We are so thrilled to see Don recognized in this way. Unfortunately, the customary in-person ceremony with the Governor was cancelled this year, so if you see Don, please congratulate him on this major achievement.



Don Doering, President of the RCLC Board of Directors, was selected for the highest volunteer honor the state of North Carolina bestows on its citizens, the Governor’s Medallion Award.

DERBY 2.0: HAT-I-TUDE GOES VIRTUAL

COVID has sent us back to the drawing board for our Kentucky Derby Party event, but we think you'll like what we've come up with. Due to the extension of NC's "Safer at Home" order, which limits gathering sizes for indoor events, we are unable to hold our anticipated event in person. So we have reimaged the event as a virtual Hat Contest—and "Hat-i-tude" is more important than ever.

We invite you to make or embellish your Derby hat, then submit a photo of yourself modeling your creation to: info@rcliteracy.org. Deadline for submissions is Aug 25. Once all photos are received, we will post them on our website and Facebook and allow everyone to vote for their favorite hat. It's completely **free to enter** and creativity is strongly encouraged!

Winners will be announced on Derby Day (September 5, 2020).

"What's in it for me?" you ask? Oh, just big, fun gift baskets crammed with Kentucky Derby-themed items, in-

cluding books, gift certificates, gourmet items, and even mint julep fixin's for the adults!

Lots of chances to get into the winner's circle as prizes will be awarded in SIX categories: Adults (Win, Place, and Show) and Students (k-5, 6-8, and 9-12).

The Literacy Council would like thank our generous and steadfast event sponsors: (*GOLD*) David Post and First United Church of Christ, (*SILVER*) Gildan and Civitan Club of Salisbury, (*BRONZE*) Custom Glass Products, UFP Salisbury LLC, Ting Hao Restaurant, Sharonview Federal Credit Union, Dr. Nan Lund, Susan and Edward Norvell, Mean Mug Coffee Company, and KC and Matt Scott.

Please visit us at www.rcliteracy.org to vote after Aug 25. and please follow Rowan County Literacy Council on Facebook to keep abreast of updates.

Let's go RoCo! We can't wait to see what you come up with as you show off your "Hat-i-tude."

ROWAN COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL
invites you to a

Kentucky

**COVID got you down?
Show us some Hat-i-tude!**

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, *no tickets at door*

Thank You to Our Sponsors

David Post • First United Church of Christ • Gildan
Custom Glass Products • Universal Forest Products Salisbury • Ting Hao Restaurant • Sharonview Federal Credit Union
Dr. Nan Lund/Paul L. Dunbar Group • Susan and Edward Norvell • Mean Mug Coffee Company • KC and Matt Scott

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...

7

When all of the impacts of COVID19 are taken into account, the average student could fall **7 months behind** academically, while black and Hispanic students could experience even greater learning losses, equivalent to 10 months for black children and 9 months for Latinx children.

—McKinsey & Company Consulting Group

3

Number of new tutors certified. Out-of-area volunteers are encouraged to sign up. Visit www.rcliteracy.org for more information on getting started.

16

Number of students currently on RCLC's waiting list. We have whittled the number down from a peak of 21, but still have students to place.

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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