



## Moving Forward with Literacy

By Loretta Piscatella, Mid-Suffolk Regional Coordinator

The annual Literacy Suffolk Recognition Celebration took place, for the third consecutive year, at Brookhaven Town Hall in Farmingville on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. “Moving Forward with Literacy” was this year’s theme and it definitely caught on—from the students and volunteers to the staff, board, honorees, and elected officials. “Much heart and much soul” is how Mistress of Ceremonies and Advisory Council member, **Hon. Pamela J. Greene**, termed it in her opening remarks. As a former volunteer, she draws from all ends of the organization.

From the moment the evening started with dedicated staff bustling to set up, to the closing remarks of Board President **Al Jordan**, it’s not hard to see why we’re so successful. But before the program even began, the Artisan Showcase was open for business, selling everything from framed watercolor paintings to artfully decorated flip-flops and beaded jewelry. (All proceeds from the showcase benefit the Literacy Suffolk program.)

Many students, now authors, arrived early to see their work published in the newest edition of *Reading for Life* magazine, intently searching for their own story, poem, or recipe. This is where the work we do shines for all to see. Although these stories are the writings of just 46 learners, they represent the thoughts, feelings and

aspirations of all the students intent on *moving forward with literacy!*

The **Citizenship Awards** were presented by board member Bob Margolin who stated that



(l-r) Board President Al Jordan, Executive Director Gini Booth, Keynote Speaker Erika Duncan, Hon. Pamela J. Greene, MC, and Brookhaven Town Supervisor Brian X. Foley

he could now “see our country through the eyes of its new citizens” after hearing one new citizen, **Nicolette Joseph**, exclaim that “I tell everyone at my job...I AM AMERICAN!”

The **Librarian of the Year Award** was presented to **Jean Kaleda** of Patchogue-Medford Public Library for all she’s done for the organization and her community as a librarian. In addition to her professional accomplishments, Jean is also a prodigious volunteer tester for LS.

Keynote speaker, **Erika Duncan**, *Herstory Writers Workshop* founder, spoke on “finding your voice” which is what her workshops do for the women involved, and it’s also what she sees as the work of Literacy Suffolk. The writings in “Reading for Life” are the “songs inside of people coming to a new place not always welcoming.” The writers learn

that their “words become sentences, sentences to paragraphs, paragraphs to stories.” Her words that night were an inspiration to all of us to find our own voices and to think about ways to express them.

(cont. on pg. 4)

**Happy 30th Anniversary Literacy Suffolk!**  
 We’re gearing up for a yearlong celebration in 2008 that’ll kick off with the “Sunset at Sunwood” cocktail party and auction on **Saturday, October 20, 2007.**  
 Please plan to join us...

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**Gini Booth**  
Executive  
Director

Listening to the remarks by the honored tutors and students, I recognized a thin line between who gave and who received – seems as if the experience was mutual. No doubt to make the decision to tutor or be tutored takes a commitment of time, and generous doses of courage! Each person has established a bottom-line.

Look around in your world, how many people do you see making a commitment, embracing the bottom-line, and moving forward with purpose and passion?

I salute the honorees of the 2007 Recognition Celebration, and I recognize the collective spirit of all Literacy Suffolk tutors and students – your spirit is infectious.

*Gini*

This past May, Literacy Suffolk hosted another Recognition Celebration – each year it seems to move up to the next level – this year was no different.

As I greeted tutors, students, politicians, and a multitude of friends of literacy, it was clear that we come together for more than literacy . . . it is a common spirit that bonds.

Mostly everyone who shared in this experience – had purpose meshed with passion.

## Notes of Spring: An Evening of Delightful Music

What do a beautiful spring day, an abundance of delicious food, National Public Radio host and Literacy Suffolk board member David Bouchier, and the **Quinte Essentia Woodwind Quintet** have in common? They all made an appearance at a Literacy Suffolk benefit concert held at the historic Neighborhood House in Setauket on Saturday, March 31. Entitled, appropriately, “Notes of Spring: An Evening of Delightful Music,” the standing-room-only crowd enjoyed David Bouchier’s dry wit as he introduced the music and musicians for the evening.



Terry Keevil, Luiza Raab-Pontecorva, Craig Vandewater, Pavel Vinnitsky, and Elena Yarittu performed selections from George Gershwin, Scott Joplin, Igor Stravinsky, Anton Reicha, “Fiddler on the Roof,” and Ryohei Nakagawa (“Who Will Be Coming Around the Mountain? Ask Craig!”) The five talented musicians of the Quinte Essentia Woodwind Quintet, along with guest soprano Elizabeth Palmedo, received a standing ovation for their wonderful performance.

After the performance the guests enjoyed a delicious candlelit supper and lingered over dessert and conversation until hours past the official end of the evening. Thanks to all supporters of the event; we look forward to seeing everyone again next year!



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*Willing to dress down for a cause...*



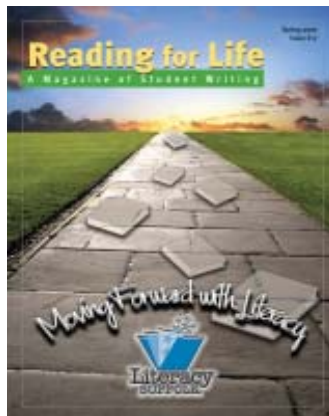
## Dress for Success?

*Linda Scheibel, DDC Training Specialist*

The employees at Data Device Corporation (DDC) and Beta Transformer believe you can make a difference! Recently, they held a dress down day to collect money for Literacy Suffolk! Each employee donates \$5 for the opportunity to wear their casual clothes to work. The event was overwhelming! Over \$550 was raised to help toward Literacy Suffolk's *Notes of Spring* concert (see pg. 2) on March 31st. To make things even better, management matched the funds — a total of \$1,160 was donated!

Several DDC employees attend tutoring sessions weekly with Ray Parsick, an ESOL literacy volunteer. Since Ray has always been available to assist employees, DDC feels it's important to give back. Ray spends many hours making sure employees are familiar with vocabulary used on the job, and improving writing and speaking skills. One of Ray's students, Banha Prato, had her article accepted for publication in "Reading for Life," the magazine of student writing published by Literacy Suffolk annually. Everyone at DDC and Beta is very proud of Banha's accomplishment (*see below*).

Recently, Linda Scheibel of DDC's Human Resources department became an ESOL tutor after successfully completing the Tutor Training Workshop held at Riverhead Library. She feels that tutoring is one of the most rewarding experiences she has had in her lifetime. "It's a great feeling to make a difference in someone's life!" stated Linda when asked about her own Literacy Suffolk experience. We extend a special thank you to all who participated in the Dress Down Day for Literacy Suffolk!



Literacy Suffolk is proud to announce the publication of the 17<sup>th</sup> edition of "Reading for Life" magazine of student writings. The magazine debuted and was showcased by many of the authors at the annual Recognition Celebration in May. To obtain a copy, visit any of the regional offices (see column left for locations) or contact the Bellport office (286-1649).



# Moving Forward with Literacy!

**Anne Azzaretti**, who received her **Tester of the Year** award from Mid-Suffolk's Angela Kiang, sees a side benefit to her job of testing new applicants as the chance to "calm nervous students." Anne loves meeting potential new students and hearing their stories even as she admires their courage of "embarking on a great adventure."

The **Full Circle Award** is a particularly proud achievement by those who have joined Literacy Suffolk as a student, progressed through the levels of study, and then attained the confidence to take the training to become tutors themselves. This award was earned by **Viodelda Galvez** and **Ana Lara** (who also works in the LS Central Region office at the Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library) this year. What a wonderful way to pay it forward!

The candidates for **Volunteer of the Year** were so numerous and impressive that it was difficult to narrow it down to only three: **Dianne Breiner**, **Elizabeth Hogan**, and **Martha Fink**. Following the event, Dianne could barely suppress her excitement for making her "fifteen minutes of fame VERY special." Dianne's sister, a Professor of Languages at Georgetown University, attended the event commenting, "I was impressed with the magnitude of intelligence, giving, love, joy, [and] acceptance within everyone I met."



(l-r) Elizabeth Kijek, LS regional administrator at Amityville Public Library (Full Circle 2000), presented the "Full Circle" awards to Viodelda Galvez and Ana Lara.

(below) Jean Kaleda, Patchogue-Medford Library, was named "Librarian of the Year" by Literacy Suffolk



(above) Anne Azzaretti beams after receiving the "Tester of the Year" award from Angela Kiang, LS program assistant, at Middle Country Public Library.



(left) Leo Greene, Yanti Wasserman, and Erick Greene, "Students of the Year" with Brookhaven Town Supervisor Brian X. Foley

**Author, Author!**  
"Reading for Life" authors proudly autographed their work for one another and guests.



(l-r) Elizabeth Hogan, Martha Fink, and Dianne Breiner were this year's "Volunteers of the Year." Cindy Brodsky (far right), coordinator of the Literacy Center at Stony Brook University, made the presentations.



# Recognition Celebration 2007



(above) Keynote Speaker Erika Duncan, founder of Herstory Writers Workshop

(below) Several new U.S. citizens recite the Pledge of Allegiance alongside board member Bob Margolin.



*Shopping the Showcase!*



### ***The BNL Gang!***

Tutors, authors, and students from Brookhaven National Laboratory with BNL Literacy Center Coordinator, Jennifer Lynch (third from left)

A highlight of the celebration is always the **Student of the Year Awards**. **Yanti Wasserman** came from Indonesia 15 years ago and had the motivation to learn English to help her children even though she had the added disadvantage of being illiterate in her native language! She steadily progressed through three levels, with a goal to be able to food shop on her own....and now she can! Students and brothers, **Erick and Leo Greene**, were the basic literacy honorees. Both men routinely demonstrate their commitment to literacy by speaking to groups. Leo shared a poem he had written thanking God for his success. Both credit Literacy Suffolk for significant change in their lives.

Some fun to end the evening was the singing of "Our Favorite Things"\* (sung to the tune of "My Favorite Things") which was written and led by a group of students Nicolas Garduno, Cristina Ghilardi, Julio Musun, and Gabriela Sanchez, with help from their tutor, Maggie DeLollis.

It was an evening filled with joy and emotion and pride and great motivation to keep the spirit of literacy **moving forward!** Join us next year for an unforgettable evening!

\*The song lyrics appear in "Reading for Life" magazine.

### *Additional Honorees* **Volunteer Service Awards**

**25 Years - Mary Grogan**  
**20 Years - Vera Smith**  
**15 Years - Anne Azzaretti**  
**Betty Baker**  
**Eleanor Daniels**  
**Beth Donovan**  
**Arline Fassman**  
**Shirley Fremeth**  
**Jane Goldblatt**  
**Ann Scholem**  
**Annabelle Skoglund**  
**Laura Smith**  
**Sondra Swarbrick**  
**Mary Udavchak**

(Space prohibits listing the 10 and 5 year service award recipients.)

*Thanks to event sponsor*  
*Astoria Federal Savings!*



[www.LiteracySuffolk.org/extendedEvent.cfm](http://www.LiteracySuffolk.org/extendedEvent.cfm)



# Literacy Initiatives

In an ongoing effort to institutionalize literacy into the health, law, and workplace arenas, Literacy Suffolk is very pleased to report progress in each of these critical areas requiring basic life skills.

## Do you, Stony Brook School of Medicine, take thee, Literacy Suffolk...?

By Dr. Jedan Phillips, LS Board

I am very excited about the relationship that has been developed with Literacy Suffolk and Stony Brook University School of Medicine. This relationship began some years ago while I was giving a grand rounds presentation to the family medicine department at the grand rounds educational presentation. There were also sporadic presentations to various groups here at the institution, including medical students, resident physicians, and medical staff.

These presentations were very successful, and Dr. Jordan and I were approached by the course director for the family medicine third year medical student rotation. He inquired about setting up a regular lecture on the didactic schedule discussing health literacy. To my delight, he recently informed me that beginning in the late summer (2007) we will be on the regular lecture schedule.

Editor's Note: LS board member, **Jedan Phillips, MD**, is Clinical Assistant Professor, Stony Brook University Hospital Department of Family Medicine. **Al Jordan, Ed.D.**, is LS board president and Associate Dean, Clinical Associate Professor, SBU School of Medicine



## You Have the Right to Become Law Literate!

By Bob Margolin, *LS Board of Directors*



Touro Law School hosted a special gathering on June 4th of almost fifty representatives from various New York area law schools and public interest organizations. Literacy Suffolk, Inc. was represented by Executive Director Gini Booth, and me, Bob Margolin, the Chair of our Law and Literacy committee.

The get-together was organized by Tom Maligno, Touro's Executive Director of the Public Advocacy Center and Director of Public Interest. Tom is a long-time friend of Literacy Suffolk and his ongoing enthusiasm for bringing together the resources of the area's law schools and public interest groups, with Touro playing a leading role as facilitator, has been infectious.

Those in attendance all gave mini presentations with regard to their schools and organizations, and major networking took place. There was especial interest in our Health and Literacy programs and working together with Literacy Suffolk in law related endeavors.

One quick result of the gathering is that LS has been invited to take part in the first day of Touro's orientation program on August 16. We will give a presentation on literacy as a precursor to legal pro bono work. This event stems from Touro's dedicated involvement in public interest work which includes providing office space and resources to as many groups as they can accommodate and allowing other groups, such as Literacy Suffolk, to have access to the Touro resources as public interest affiliates.

The attendees included representatives from NYU, Fordham, Columbia, Cardozo, St. Johns and Hofstra, as well as VIBs, Nassau-Suffolk Law Services, Legal Aid, Empire Justice Center, Suffolk and Nassau Civil Liberties Union, and representatives from housing, Latino, immigration, and domestic violence groups. Representatives from Nassau-Suffolk Law Services and Legal Aid expressed interest in meeting with us to see how we can all work together in the areas of law and literacy. Such a meeting is now in the planning stages.

### Workplace Literacy

Thanks to the efforts of Angela Kiang, program assistant at the Mid-Suffolk region of LS located in the Middle Country Public Library, Literacy Suffolk volunteers are tutoring a small group of ESOL students in their workplace, the Radisson Hotel in Holtsville. (*For another workplace tutoring success story, see page 3.*)

### Family Literacy

The expanding family literacy ESOL program in the Rocky Point school district has attracted LS volunteers along with Rocky Point faculty and North Shore Public Library staff. When interviewed for a story in "The North Shore Sun," LS program assistant and Rocky Point resident Angela Kiang stated, "By the end [of the program], we were having conversations about work, about families, about what they did that week."





**Wizard  
has left the  
building!**

*The Web Wizard is  
out of town for the  
summer but he will  
return for the fall  
issue of the Flame.  
~ The Editor*



“My mother’s menu consisted of two choices:  
Take it or leave it. ~ Buddy Hackett

“C is for cookie, that’s good enough for me;  
oh cookie, cookie, cookie starts with C.”  
~ Cookie Monster (Sesame Street)



The “Cookbookers”: (l-r) Maggie DeLollis,  
Paula Lambiase, Hedda Wohllebe, and  
Linda Nabrezny

## Cooking, Buy the Book!

We know you’re anxiously awaiting our cookbook, “**International Fare.**” It’s at the publisher and should be ready for sale in early September. To ease your apprehension and whet your appetite, we’re giving you a sneak preview. This is only one of the hundreds of mouth watering recipes we’ve collected from over 50 ethnic cuisines.

### Vietnamese Coconut Flan

Thuy Pham

Caramel

1/4 c sugar

Custard

1 c (canned) coconut milk

1/4 c sugar

1 t vanilla extract

1/4 c hot water

1 c milk

4 eggs



Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

Cook the sugar in a heavy saucepan over low heat until brown. Carefully stir in the hot water and boil until the sugar is completely dissolved, about 2 minutes. Pour the syrup into a 1 qt soufflé dish or 5 4 oz ramekins. Tilt the mold to coat all surfaces with syrup. Combine the coconut milk, milk and sugar in a medium saucepan over low heat. Scald until the sugar completely dissolves. Remove from heat.

In a large bowl, whisk eggs and vanilla. Gradually whisk in the hot milk mixture, blending thoroughly. Strain through a fine sieve. Pour into soufflé dish or ramekins.

Place dish in a large roasting pan lined with paper towels. Add hot water to reach halfway up the dish.

Bake for 50 minutes or until a knife inserted in center comes out clean. Immediately remove dish from large pan and allow to cool in a cold water bath. Chill thoroughly.

The most used letters in  
the English Language are:

**E T A O I N**



# CALENDAR of Events



## ► **Fifth Annual Sunset at Sunwood**

• **Sunwood Mansion in Old Field • Saturday, October 20th**  
Cocktail party and auction will kick off a year of celebration for the 30th anniversary of Literacy Suffolk; plan to attend and enjoy!

## ► **Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library**

• **Writing Workshop for Tutors • December 8 (Saturday) • 9:30 am - 1:30 pm**  
Ideas and techniques to assist tutors to work on writing skills with their students. Help your students prepare a story for the next issue of "Reading for Life." Registration required. Call 399-1511 ext. 214/215.  
• **Tribute to Spanish Heritage • September 30th • 2 - 4 pm**  
• **Long Island Fair Housing Seminar • October 11th • 7 pm**  
Call for more information or to register 399-1511, ext. 216/215.

## ► **Tutor Support Meetings**

• **Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library**  
*September 20 (Thursday) • 7-8:30 pm*  
• **Riverhead Free Library (Craft Room)**  
*September 27 (Thursday) • 10 am - Noon • Oct 3 (Wed.) 10 am - Noon*  
*RSVP to Carol Viteritti, 727-3228 Ext. 126*

## ► **Q & A Forum: Is Tutoring for You?**

The following are informational meetings about becoming a volunteer tutor. Attendance is not required to register for a tutor training workshop. No fee.

- Port Jefferson Free Library • Wednesday, August 22 • 7-8 pm
- Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Library • Saturday, September 15 • 9:30-10:30 am

## Fall / Winter Tutor Training Workshop

**Mastics-Moriches-Shirley  
Community Library (#291)**  
Sept. 29, Oct. 16, 13, 20 and  
Nov. 3 • 9:30 am - 1:45 pm

**Stony Brook University  
Medical Center (#292)**  
Sept. 20, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25,  
Nov. 1, 15 • 5:15 - 8:15 pm

**Huntington Public Library -  
Station Branch (#293)**  
Oct. 13, 20, 27; Nov. 3, 17  
9:30 am - 1:45 pm

**Islip Public Library (#294)**  
Sept. 19, 26; Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24;  
Nov. 7 • 6:00 - 9:00 pm

*Online Registration!*

[www.LiteracySuffolk.org/  
training.cfm](http://www.LiteracySuffolk.org/training.cfm)



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