

## DEAR READER

2023 marked the 30th anniversary of the Portland Literacy Council and delivered much to celebrate.

- We trained 110 new tutors, and upskilled 56 returning tutors.
- We grew our team with the addition of Executive Director, Lorie Wigle, new board member Heidi Dryden, Intel Fellow Cheryl Miller, and Intern Sage Mendre.
- We brought the PLC network together for our annual Volunteer Tutor Conference *in-person* for the first time since 2019.

The LiteracyLinks newsletter will now be released quarterly, with intermittent announcements shared via email as needed. In this quarter's issue, we are recognizing and honoring the contributions of two PLC contributors, collaborators, and friends. We also have a can't-miss announcement and are introducing a new way to stay connected.

Thank you for being a part of the PLC community.



## Our Annual Volunteer Tutor Conference Is Back

May 11, 2024

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BY PEGGY L. MURPHY

## The Good Works of Lisa Regimbal

Lisa Regimbal will have a lasting impact on literacy services in the Portland metro area. During her tenure as Adult Literacy Services Coordinator at Multnomah County Library, Lisa won a service award, set up volunteer literacy tutor programs, coordinated online learning, and worked collaboratively with literacy programs in the metro area.

The Superior Public Service to External Customers award honored Lisa's work as the Library's Adult Literacy Services Coordinator, a position she held from 2014 until her retirement in late 2023. She's quick to mention she worked with a wonderful team, that more than 80 volunteers help carry out the work of Adult Literacy Services, and that she values working with a diverse group of tutors from varying backgrounds and skill sets. (cont)

Lisa implemented Drop In Tutoring at Multnomah County Library. During 2-hour time slots at various Library branches volunteer tutors offer literacy assistance to adult learners. Requests include improving English skills for non-native speakers, providing basic literacy tutoring (reading, writing, spelling) for native English speakers, helping job seekers prep for licensing exams, writing a business letter, studying for the GED® in English or Spanish, etc.

Drop In Tutoring is now offered at five library branches. To provide continuity during the time of COVID, Lisa's Adult Literacy Services group worked with library tutors for online delivery of Talk Time (English conversation) sessions, and 1:1 tutoring for GED and English learners. The library also used this online learning model to provide a wider array of services during the recent construction closures at several branches.

Adult Literacy Services is also known for collaborations with other literacy programs in the metro area. Portland Literacy Council has partnered with the Library's GED efforts and recruiting volunteer tutors, as well as providing tutor training programs and an annual volunteer tutor conference. The library is able to offer structured classes including citizenship classes taught by SOAR volunteers, English classes taught by Goodwill Industries, and the nonprofit TORUS Transforms offers English classes for independent learners.

Lisa served in many capacities during her tenure at the library, beginning in 1995 as an on-call sub. Subsequent positions included reference librarian in periodicals (1998), bi-lingual librarian (2000-13), and Adult Literacy Coordinator (2014-2023). She would like readers to know that the Adult Literacy program is in the good hands of Lilia Monje, its new coordinator of Adult Literacy Services and her staff.

Getting used to being retired, gardening, and travel are on Lisa's retirement to-do list. Thank you, Lisa, for your meaningful partnership with PLC over the years. We wish you well and will miss you dearly.

## Remembering Penny Russman

*By Kris Magaurn*

Penny was a key participant in the Portland Literacy Council. When she was Treasurer, she was able to leverage grant participation that gave PLC a start on being able to contribute more to the community. She loved to travel to Europe, and she would check in with local literacy efforts wherever she went.

Her participation in PLC's annual event 'Chalk It Up for Literacy' was a highlight when she arrived in costume to read books to the audience of children and adults. She helped start the Children's Book Bank as they collected books to give to adults to read to their children. Penny was always looking for ways to help and share her love for books and reading.

Penny passed peacefully at home on December 28, 2023.



Portland LITERACY Council

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# Equity Through Literacy Returns Saturday May 11, 2024



Save the date for PLC's annual volunteer tutor conference, Equity Through Literacy. This year's event will be held at Portland Community College's Rock Creek Campus on Saturday May 11, 2024.

Interested in hosting a workshop at the conference? Submissions are being accepted through March 30, 2024.

Email us at [info@portlandliteracy.org](mailto:info@portlandliteracy.org) with an overview of your workshop concept. If you're interested in leading a workshop, but looking for some inspiration, check out the following topics requested by last year's attendees:

- Best practices for 1:1 tutoring sessions
- Tips for adapting curriculum to a virtual (Zoom) class format
- How to best support learners who were not taught how to read or write
- How to identify students' literacy level and goals
- GED tutoring and community resources
- Trauma-informed instruction

Updates will continue to be shared via email and social media. We look forward to spending with with you all at Equity Through Literacy 2024!



## Upcoming Workshop

**MARCH ATW**

We will explore activities and techniques to help build initial literacy in adult beginning English learners.

**REGISTER NOW**



## Get Social

**FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM**

PLC updates are now just a scroll away. Follow along, tag us in your posts, or share our profile to your network.

**CHECK IT OUT**