

# LiteracyLinks

Quarterly Newsletter - December 2025



Portland LITERACY Council

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## New Year, New Classes

We are expanding the Basic Tutor Training curriculum and adding a new BTT Adult Basic Skills & GED course. This workshop delves into adult learning principles and practical strategies to empower learners from diverse backgrounds. You will also learn about the structure of the GED® and ways to help adult students reach their goal of getting a high school equivalency credential.

In addition, there are several Tutor Connections and info sessions that provide tips and tricks, demonstrations of new tools and lesson plans. If you are considering tutoring and wondering where to begin, these interactive connections are a great place to start!

Saturdays, January 24 & 31, 2026 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM \$40	<b>Basic Tutor Training: Adult Basic Skills – via Zoom</b>  <a href="#">Click to Register</a>	Instructor: Colleen Latimer
Thursday, January 29, 2026 6:30 PM – 8:45 PM \$20	<b>Tutoring Muslims and Arabs: Understanding Islamophobia, Anti-Arab, and Anti-Palestinian Bias in Adult Education – via Zoom</b>  <a href="#">Click to Register</a>	Instructor: <a href="#">Maha Elgenaidi</a> , Founder and Executive Director of the Islamic Networks Group (ING)
Tuesdays and Thursday, February 10, 12, 17, 19, 24 and 26th, 2026 7:00 PM – 8:20 PM	<b>Basic Tutor Training: English Language Learners – via Zoom</b>	Instructor: Jennifer Snyder

## Save the Date! April 11, 2026

### Mark your Calendars!

The 2026 Tutor Conference - *Equity Through Literacy* - will be held on Saturday, April 11, 2026. This year we are going back to the PCC Rock Creek Campus.

More details to come in Q1 2026 so stay tuned. We look forward to seeing you there!



## Foundational Literacy Update

Last month, PLC completed the final workshop for our 2nd cohort of Foundational Literacy tutors. Six new tutors completed the course and one person from the first cohort repeated the series. We also had a PCC ESOL instructor in each workshop, which gave the tutors terrific insights into the broader community.



Group photo at the last session at PCC Rock Creek on November 15<sup>th</sup>

Amy Grant, who is an instructional designer in the adult literacy community, was also part of the cohort. She partnered with the Language & Literacy Fund team to develop an online tutorial as pre-work for each workshop. This allowed us to use classroom time more effectively for practice and interaction. And [all the tutorials are available](#) to the broader tutor community on Portland Literacy Council's website.

Thanks to the generous support from **Tangela Purdom & David Roth**, we were able to provide many resources to the tutors – and to build on the curriculum development completed in 2024. One of the tutors sent this note after the final workshop:

*"I can't express enough how appreciative I am of the opportunity to have been in this cohort of foundational literacy training! I am blown away by the amount of resources provided, and the way the curriculum flowed (or blasted like a fire hose?). Thank you!"*

### Results of 2024 Cohort

Coming out of our 2024 tutor training, there were four tutor/learner match-ups. Each of these students is progressing and several of the teams are continuing to work together this year. A key learning for the program is that location is everything. We ask the tutors and learners to make a commitment to meet twice a week for an entire academic year so it's critical that their travel time isn't a problem.

### Broader Reach

Julie Hiefield and Lorie Wigle also presented at the Oregon Department of Education's Adult Basic Skills conference again this year. It was held online instead of in-person, and

## 2025 Willamette Week's Give!Guide

# GIVE!GUIDE



**\$5,801.11**  
raised of \$12,000  
goal

**42**  
donations

**48%**  
of Goal

We are over halfway through the [Willamette Week's Give!Guide](#). This annual effort raises funds for — and draws attention to — the good works of local nonprofits.



Since the campaign began on November 1, we are nearly halfway to our \$12,000 goal. Within the first 3 weeks, we met our matching gift goal of \$2000. Thank you to our matching gift sponsors and to all who have donated so far!

Running through December 31, the Give!Guide includes "Big Give Days", which are a fun way to help nonprofits reach their fundraising goals.

We are partnering with Broadway Books, the Library Foundation, Portland Street Books, Literary Arts and SOAR for fun collaborations that our PLC community can participate in. Visit our [Give!Guide profile page](#) to follow along, donate and learn more about all the great prizes!



Our booth at the 2025 Portland Book Festival was a hub of activity as people stopped by to learn more about PLC's mission, subscribe to our mail list, and play some scrabble!

We had over 70 people register to receive more information about tutor training. In addition, we connected with other organizations in booths around us. We look forward to engaging with our new subscribers and local organizations.



# Board Member Hydn Park's Literacy Corner



## Can Every Feeling Be Named?

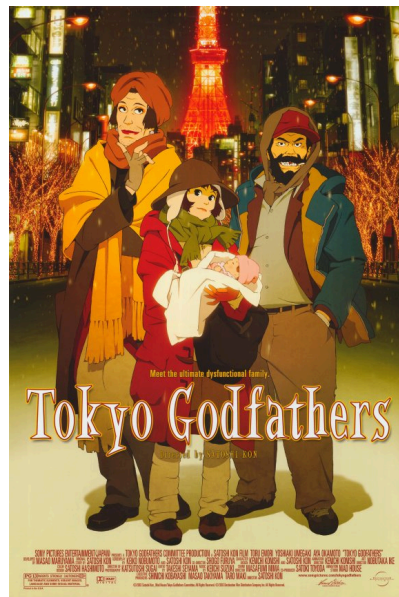
Some feelings don't fit neatly into English; other languages give them their own tiny universes. Korean has *han*, a dense knot of sorrow, resentment, and hope, and *jeong*, a slow-grown bond of affection and loyalty that clings to people and places. Danish *hygge* wraps up soft light, blankets, and shared comfort in a single, candle-scented syllable, while French makes room for the *flâneur*, the person who strolls just to savor the city.

Once you learn these words, your brain suddenly has labels for moments it used to skip past. December is a good month for that: a little extra vocabulary for the complicated mix of nostalgia, coziness, and low-key melancholy that shows up with the cold.

This holiday season, embrace the feeling of “not quite getting it” with this newsletter’s animated movie recommendation:

### [“Tokyo Godfathers” \(2003\)\\*](#)

On Christmas Eve in Tokyo, three homeless misfits (an aging alcoholic, a trans woman, and a runaway teen) find an abandoned baby and set off across the city to return her to her parents. The movie is full of things that don't quite survive translation: honorifics, borrowed English, and Hana's overly dramatic, old-movie way of speaking, plus scenes where characters literally talk past each other in different languages. A scrappy, funny, and surprisingly gentle Christmas story about chosen family and the words we use (and avoid) for love when the usual holiday vocabulary doesn't quite fit.



\*PG-13, 92 minutes, Japanese with subtitles. Available for free on Hoopla and Tubi, and for rent or purchase on Apple TV, Google Play, and YouTube.

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## Segmented Mailing Lists

Which list is right for you? We have created an additional mail list so our constituents can opt in to receive either just the Newsletter/News, or just Tutor Announcements, or stay on both lists. Everyone on our original list is included on the new Tutor Announcement list. If you want to just receive the LiteracyLinks Newsletter and other newsworthy items, please subscribe to the news only list.

We also have a Volunteer Literacy Tutor Exchange mailing list for tutors to share tips, tricks, teaching aides, etc.

- LiteracyLinks Newsletter/News [SUBSCRIBE](#)
- Tutor Announcements [SUBSCRIBE](#)
- VLT Exchange [SUBSCRIBE](#)

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Thank you for being a part of the Portland Literacy Council network. We will return next quarter with another update.



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