



Lincoln Literacy News

March 2012

Join us for two special events in March!

All tutors and members are cordially invited to attend Lincoln Literacy's 2012 annual membership meeting. Members will receive the annual report and elect members and officers to the board. Do come and learn more about the organization **you** support. Light refreshments will be served.

When: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., Thursday, March 15

Where: Flanagan Room, Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, 5401 South Street

To receive a copy of the slates of nominees, send an email to cnaff@lincolnliteracy.org, or call Lincoln Literacy at 402.476.7323.



Friday, March 23 • 5-8 pm
Chez Hay, 210 N. 14th St.
Tickets \$25

Join us for a fun evening of music, food, entertainment, and the chance to bid on signed books combined with unique items. Also hear from our Guest of Honor, Rainbow Rowell, Omaha World Herald columnist and a celebrated novelist.

- **Be an Item Donor!** Contributions of goods, services or certificates are needed and appreciated. Donors receive onsite recognition and fair-value tax deductions.
- **Be a Sponsor!** Corporate or Family Sponsorship opportunities are available.
- Bid on autographed books combined with a wide variety of interesting items and opportunities that are sure to delight.
- Enjoy great food, drinks, company & music by Double Standard.

When: 5:00-8:00 p.m., Friday, March 23

Where: Chez Hay, 210 N 14th St

Cost: Tickets \$25

Tickets are now on sale for \$25.00 each. All proceeds will help Lincoln Literacy continue its mission of helping people of all cultures and strengthening our community by teaching English language and literacy skills to adults and families. You can order your tickets online at www.lincolnliteracy.org , email events@lincolnliteracy.org, or give us a call at [402. 476.7323](tel:402.476.7323). We hope to see you there! Thank you for your support.

Maternal and Child Health English Class begins February 29

This English class is a special option for immigrant and refugee women who are of childbearing age. All Lincoln Literacy tutors are asked to help us identify women who might be served by attending.

The class will be held ***each Wednesday from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.*** beginning February 29 at the Asian Center, 2635 O Street. Transportation and childcare will be provided. Speakers from the Lincoln Literacy staff are available to visit program sites to share information about this opportunity. For more information, contact Keegan Krause at 402.476.7323.

Lincoln Literacy Welcomes Two New Staff Members

. . . and Bids a Fond Farewell

In February two new staff members joined Lincoln Literacy to coordinate our Workforce Readiness initiative. Help us welcome Nizar Zhaiya and Amanda Hefner. Both Amanda and Nizar bring a wealth of experience to this important initiative.

Workforce Readiness provides both English language and employment related instruction for refugees to help them to study English and prepare for entry into the workforce.

And, sadly, we say good by to Maggie Mitteis who has been doing a super job of steering WRE during this program year. Maggie leaves us to spend two years teaching secondary English as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Ukraine. She credits Lincoln Literacy for providing insights and experiences that will aid her in her new work, and we wish her the very best in the days ahead.

Volunteer Tutor Training offered on Saturdays in March

Volunteers will be able to complete tutor training workshops during two weekends in March. Those unable to complete all sessions in a single month can work with our volunteer training coordinator to attend makeup sessions. To learn more attend a **Tuesday, March 20** tutor training orientation program at either **1:30 or 5:30 p.m.** Both sessions will be held the LL office, 745 South 9th Street (corner of 9th and G streets). Parking is available in front of the building and in an adjacent lot to the west and north of LL which you can enter from G Street.

To register for the March 20 orientation, simply visit LL's website at: www.lincolnliteracy.org and start with "**Get Involved.**"

Currently there is a great need for additional one-to-one tutors, so all tutors and friends of Lincoln Literacy are urged to help us recruit additional tutors. Please invite your friends to join us on March 20.

Also, we remain urgently in need of additional time and talent as we seek to **expand our training team**. Trainers are needed once a month or even as often as you can. New trainers must be willing to review the curriculum and sit in on our current training sessions for awhile to ensure ongoing consistency in the curriculum.

Questions about becoming a LL tutor or about joining the training team?

Contact: **Ginny Gross, Volunteer Training Coordinator, at 402.476.7323 or ggross@lincolnliteracy.org**

For useful resources for Lincoln Literacy Tutors visit www.lincolnliteracy.org and select "**Tutor Resources.**" You'll find we've added some interesting and helpful Web site addresses to assist you and your students.

Thoughts from Lincoln Literacy Executive Director Clay Naff

"Although we seem busier than ever, I hope all volunteers and staff find a moment to take pride and satisfaction in what you're doing. As I labor to pull together reports, I marvel at our accomplishments during the past year. We served more than **1,000** people, and the great majority benefited from our services (80.5% of post-assessed

ELLS, 100% of post-assessed Basic students). More than **300** volunteers remain in active service with us. A fantastic job all around!”

Sharing Successes of Lincoln Literacy Students and Tutors



Gowhar Rashidi poses with her Lincoln Literacy certificate.

Joyce Hahn, an AmeriCorps volunteer who serves as a LL group coordinator, shares a memorable experience during this Lincoln Literacy program year:

“One of my most memorable experiences at Lincoln Literacy occurred in January when I had the pleasure of presenting a “Certificate of Completion” to one of our students, Gowhar Rashidi. She is from Afghanistan and has studied with LL for 12 years. The award was so special since she is 75 years old, and had never been to school until she came to the United States. Her tutor and I both visited her home to make the presentation. She was so grateful, and I was touched as I watched her kiss her ‘diploma’. Gowhar comes from a family of professionals. Her deceased husband was a physician, and her children are all well educated professionals. This certificate is very important to her because she now has proof that she also has completed an educational program. I was proud to have been a part of bringing happiness into her life.”

Lincoln Literacy tutor Katherine Najjar also shared memories of Gowhar's success. She said, "Gowhar has amassed a large vocabulary of nouns and adjectives, knows all of the numbers and letters of the alphabet, and is a wizard with money! She was always good to the other students in class, helping with pronunciation and understanding; she is a natural teacher. Gowhar also has lovely and careful handwriting. I always looked forward to seeing her in class, because she was always gracious, cheerful, and absolutely kind to everyone. Our class misses her very much, and we all wish her good health and much happiness. "



AmeriCorps volunteer Joyce Hahn and Lincoln Literacy student Anna Furkay enjoy a sunny day after class.

Locally, many have read and heard of the touching story of Anna Furkay who waited for her daughter, Angelina Amama Wleh, whom she had not seen since 1990 at the Lincoln Municipal Airport. Anna and her family were separated during the Liberian Civil War. And, this month, the two were reunited here at the local airport. Amama will live with her. Anna has also applied for permission for her sons to emigrate to the U.S.

Anna recently moved to Lincoln and has obtained employment in the laundry of a local nursing home. Barbara Johnson Frank, Anna's friend and Lincoln Literacy volunteer, cites the literacy skills that Anna is learning in her Lincoln Literacy class as "essential to success in her new job."

Barbara adds that "Weighing laundry-filled carts, entering codes into commercial washers and dryers and charting that information require knowledge that Anna had no opportunity to gain until she came to Lincoln Literacy classes in 2011."

Spring 2012 Lincoln Literacy Office Hours

To stretch our limited annual budget and serve the community in sites throughout Lincoln, we are open to the public – including tutors – on a limited schedule. However, you can make an appointment to see us at other times as well. Regular office hours are:

Monday – Thursday	9:00 AM – 1:30 PM
Friday	Closed
Saturday morning	by appointment
Sunday	Closed

More about Lincoln Literacy:



Lincoln Literacy is an award-winning United Way organization based in Lincoln, Nebraska. Established in 1972, Lincoln Literacy provides English language and literacy instruction to more than a thousand adults and families living in Lancaster County. Many are refugees and immigrants from around the world. The mission of Lincoln Literacy is to assist people of all cultures and strengthen our community by teaching English language and literacy skills. It does this by recruiting, training and deploying more than 300 community volunteers.