As the new school year begins, I’d like to share some exciting developments at our Rochester program.

Last year, 45 families of non-native English speakers moved into the Rochester school district. With childcare and transportation challenges making it impossible to get to Dover, most parents had no access to English classes.

With the school district, we held a family literacy night to welcome adults to DALC. Seven families attended, enjoying dinner and games as they mingled with teachers and staff. Shortly after that, we began a pilot class. According to Tracey Donaldson, Rochester Counselor and Outreach Coordinator for DALC, the mixed level pilot was a success. Meeting once a week, it starting with 5 students, and grew to 7. Tracey said “We had two new people come in after their daughter learned about the class on our website. The need is definitely here.” This year, the class meets twice a week and runs all year.

Several people can only come at night, so we hope to run an evening class later this year. Eventually, we may need multiple levels, as well.

The SAU is supporting childcare with a grant. “Childcare is crucial to the success of some of our students,” Tracey said. While intended for ESOL families, childcare will benefit other students, too. “Some young moms still live with their parents and don’t qualify for childcare assistance.”

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Our partnership with the Bud Carlson Academy (BCA) is another success. In 2016, about a dozen BCA students graduated with a high school equivalency certificate through DALC.

The support doesn’t end there; Tracey also connects students with job training opportunities. “Our hope is that this step is not the end, we want them to have a career with advancement potential,” she said.

“We work very closely with Rad Bolduc, Rapid Response Training Coordinator at Great Bay Community College. He focuses on the high demand fields and advanced manufacturing, the demands change based on the needs of the business community.”

Be sure to check out the new staff members on page 3. Rochester has a new teacher and teacher aide!
Our Board

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Cathy & Leonard Small
Chikara Tsuchiya
Ellen Westbrook

In Their Own Words...

A Memory of Stella’s First Lost Tooth ... by Stella Zou

I don’t remember the exact age, but when I was a little girl, I can remember the pains. My tooth was loose for a long time, and the tooth was too strong to fall out. Every day, I felt a lot of butterflies in my stomach because I was nervous about my tooth. One day when I had a meal, I chewed some firm food. Suddenly, I bit on what felt like a stone. "Oh my God! My tooth finally fell out."

My parents were so excited and told me, “You grew up! This is your first baby tooth. Go and throw it up on the roof. That means your new tooth will grow well.” But we were living in a huge building, so I just threw it up in the air and my mother stored it in a box.

A top tooth you throw up to the roof; a bottom tooth you throw down on the ground. It is the superstition in China. That’s our culture. As the times change, we do that just as a symbol. The buildings are high now. We can’t throw our teeth up on the roof. You would have to be a superman to do that.

What I Like in New Hampshire ... by Ali Alyousef

I like people in NH because they are very friendly. In the morning, I love listening to the sounds of birds because it makes me happy and calm. I like the weather in New Hampshire especially in the fall because the colors of trees are very attractive. I always go to the beach in Portsmouth. I like the weather there. I often go to eat at an Arabic Restaurant because food there is very delicious.

In Our Own Words... is a collection of original writings. In poetry, personal reflection and artwork, students reveal their diversity, as well as their commonality as learners.

In Honor Of:
Cameron Dupere

Helen Phipps Heritage Society:
members have remembered
DALC in their estate planning

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Darlene Therrien
Thomas Towle
Juan Wang
David Watters
Susan Wheeler
Paul Zocchi

Donations Received
In Memory Of:
Adrienne Day-Cuff
Ruth Davison Feuer
Theresa Taylor

Donations Received
In Honor Of:
Cameron Dupere
Meet our new staff members - Marian, David and Amy

David Ramsay is a resident of South Berwick, Maine and works during the summer as a tour guide and narrator on the motor vessel Thomas Laighton and guide at the Sarah Orne Jewett House. In addition, David gives history talks at retirement communities throughout the region and is a newspaper correspondent for the York Weekly.

Prior to coming to Maine, he had a career as an environmental planner with river groups and taught in special education and at a private high school in Chicago. He and his wife Marianne have two sons, one just graduated from college and the other is a sophomore at UMaine, Orono. David is excited about his new position as teacher’s aide at the Rochester branch of the Dover Adult Learning Center.

Marian LeBlanc has been a special educator throughout New Hampshire and Massachusetts for the past 20 years. In October 2015, she retired from full time teaching only to realize how much she missed her teaching career. Now as a teacher at DALC, she said she feels she has found the perfect teaching position, and looks forward to the opportunity to help adults to further their education.

Her position before retirement was with the Peabody Public School District, located in Massachusetts. Her undergraduate degree is in Journalism/Mass Communication from Emerson College in Boston, Mass. and her graduate degree is from Salem State University. Her interests include writing, photography, and spending time with friends and family. She has three children, and six grandchildren.

Amy O’Connell joined DALC in September as the evening office assistant/receptionist. Amy has worked as an administrative assistant, primarily in the medical field and in conjunction with Wentworth-Douglass Hospital, for the past 30 years. She is excited about her new position as DALC.

During the day, Amy works at Paradis Farm in Dover, a local horse farm which offers a wonderful therapeutic riding program. As well, she is very involved with Special Olympics New Hampshire and is a mentor for the equestrian athletes of Team Paradis Farm.

Amy and her husband, Tim, reside in Rochester along with their dog, Piper. Her interests include enjoying outdoor activities in all four seasons, horseback riding/training/competing, and spending time with family in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Meet our new board members - Felicia and David

Felicia LaBranche is a marketing professional and owner of iConcierge Marketing Management Solutions, an outreach agency for small businesses and organizations in New Hampshire.

A DALC graduate, Felicia hold a bachelors’ degree in Business Administration from Granite State College, and also has a background in sales and customer service. She is a member of the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce and has previously served as a volunteer on committees for Rochester Main Street, the Rochester Opera House and the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life.

Felicia is the mother of two daughters, and she and her husband Brian currently live in Rochester, where they also own and operate an antiques business together. In her spare time, Felicia enjoys the beach, gardening, and antiquing.

David Watters has worked as a professor of English, teaching American literature, New England studies, and New Hampshire literature and culture at the University of New Hampshire since 1978. His wife, Jan Alberghene, is also an English professor who works at Fitchburg State University. Their son, Harper, is a Corps member at Houston Ballet. Raised in West Hartford, Connecticut and educated at Dartmouth College and Brown University, David’s commitment to public service was inspired by his father, who was a Veteran’s Administration doctor for fifty years, and by his mother, who, after recuperating from polio, worked for Easter Seals to promote its sheltered workshop in Hartford.

Moving to Dover from Newmarket in 1984, David began community service by tutoring at the Dover Adult Learning Center, served as a Ward 1 selectman, and worked on Democratic campaigns. He served a term as chair of the Strafford County Democratic Committee and many terms on the Democratic State Committee. At the University of New Hampshire, David teaches courses on New Hampshire and New England literature, history, and culture. He has visited hundreds of local libraries and historical societies to give talks. David enjoys getting outdoors to run and ski, or going “down cellar” to his shop to do woodworking, especially making Shaker oval boxes. David and Jan go to Houston whenever they can to see Harper dance.
SAVE THE DATE: Monday, November 7
Birthday Dinner Fundraiser for the CPL Andrew Aimesbury Memorial Scholarship Fund. In honor of Andrew’s 22nd birthday, his family is hosting a fundraiser dinner on Monday, November 7, 4-7 p.m. at Dover Baptist Church. All proceeds will go directly to the Corporal Andrew Aimesbury Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Located in the McConnell Community Center, Dover Adult Learning Center of Strafford County helps adults in the Strafford County area enhance their life-coping skills and improve their lives through basic education, job training, high school completion and enrichment classes. We help our students become more effective lifelong learners, family members, workers and citizens.