



Adult Learning Center News

Fall 2014

Volume XI, Issue 3



Giving adults in Strafford County a second chance, a fresh start or a new opportunity.

Director's Message

Deanna Strand

The new school has year started off with a bang!

Pam Shaw, DALC Lead Counselor, says that this was one of the busiest enrollment periods she has ever experienced. But, it all went smoothly thanks to our patient, dedicated staff.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes are full, and one even briefly had a wait list. Over 200 students from 50 countries have been served since July 1, 2014. That breaks the previous record of 45 countries represented in our classrooms in one year.

Nearly 275 students have sought help with academic skills already this year! Many of them are preparing for the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET), which replaced the expired GED this year. A growing number already hold a high school credential, but need to boost their math or language skills to meet eligibility requirements or pass placement tests to get into college or a career training program.

About 23 high school graduates have also found their way into Dover Adult High School classes. Nursing students take Algebra, Biology and Chemistry, required prerequisites for admission into the Great Bay Community College (GBCC) nursing program. Other college bound students are taking Foundations of Reading or Foundations of Math with us. These two new courses, are equivalent to GBCC courses and successful students may move right into the next college class without retesting. This saves students money, time and frustration.

Another good sized group of students are still enrolled in high school and are either in danger of

dropping out or need to recover credit. These students are getting a second chance at completing high school the traditional way.

Dozens more are discovering a new hobby like Zentangle, playing the Harmonica, Beading, and Beekeeping, learning a new skill in classes like CPR, First Aid, and Computers for Novices; or gaining practical knowledge in Home Plumbing Repair, Home buying and Retirement Planning.

Throughout our forty plus years, DALC has been providing a fresh start, a second chance or a new opportunity to Strafford County youth and adults. This year is clearly no exception!

Be a part of our success:

- ◆ Serve on a committee
- ◆ Become a volunteer tutor
- ◆ Join our Board of Directors
- ◆ Take an enrichment class
- ◆ Become a Friend of the Center by making a donation
- ◆ Include us in your estate planning
- ◆ Become a corporate or event sponsor

Inside this issue:

In Their Own Words	2
Friends of the Center	2
Center Stars	3
Meet Our New Board Members	4
A Donors Tale	4

Our Board Members

Bob Renshaw - President
Vincent McGrory - Vice President
Maggie Moore - Secretary
Shauna Brown - Treasurer
Martha Caswell
Morton Cherim
Nancy Dion
Maria Faskianos
Michael Kupfer
Diane Lambert
Elaine Lauterborn
Judy Mettee
Christina Mukankaka
Dennis Munson
Donald Nary
Tyler Parkhurst
Patricia Silberblatt
Patricia Sorensen
Ellen Westbrook

In Their Own Words...

Knowledge Cannot be Erased
 by Variya Tonpho

To me, knowledge is special. My knowledge was built by myself. I acquired it through experience or education. People can steal expensive things, but they cannot steal knowledge from me. If someday I fail, and I lose many things: a house, a car, a job, I will still have knowledge that I can use to start something new. I always tell myself, "Don't give up! You have knowledge, and you have nothing to fear." I believe that I can lose everything in my life except my knowledge. And you, what do you think?



Iranian Musical
 Instruments
 by Hamid Azhdehfar

*In Our Own Words...*

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

Friends of the Center**Founder's Circle (\$500+)**

William Badgley & Carol McEntee
 Abraham Burtman Charity Trust
 First Parish Church
 Bill & Jean Irvine &
 Riverstone Resources
 Margareth Kieschnick & Philip Hatcher
 Thomas Levasseur,
 The Beacon Retirement Group
 James M. McNamara & Alice Cook
 Measured Progress
 Joseph J. & Margaret K. Moore, III
 Robert W. Renshaw
 Charles Reynolds
 Deborah & Arthur Tasker
 James Verschueren & Carlo Nittoli

Advocate (\$250+)

Gregg F. Cote
 Dr. & Mrs. James Demopoulos
 Andrea L. Dupere
 Maria Faskianos
 Great Bay Community College
 Mark L. Hale
 Thomas R. Jost
 Jack & Judy Mettee
 Cathy and Skip Small
 Julia Ver Ploeg
 St. John's Methodist Church
 C. Valerie Smith
 Belinda & David White

Benefactor (\$100+)

Karen Bowker
 Jim Brannen

Paul & Janet Butler
 Mary Buese & Alan Greene
 Mary A. Churchman
 Maureen Claussen
 Kitty Cornwell
 Jerry & Trish Daley
 John and Paula DePlanche
 Nancy Dion
 Elsie & Baldwin Domingo
 Dover Chamber of Commerce
 DF Richard Energy
 Dr. & Mrs. Edward Eagan
 Muriel Farrar & Donald Foster
 Bob & Marge Goldberg
 Larry & Sue Holman
 Leigh F. Ivey Jr.
 Kathy MacDonald
 Bruce & Donna McAdam
 Vincent McGroary
 Mezzanine Catering LLC
 Tony & Minnett Induisi
 Mary Jo Mahoney
 Dennis & Meg Munson
 Northeast Credit Union
 Anthony Palmer & Linda Smith-Palmer
 Tyler & Amanda Parkhurst
 Sally J. Puth
 Charles & Lucy Putnam
 Cora Quisumbing-King
 Pamela S. Raley
 Bruce & Anne Smith
 Gordon & Susan Smith
 Martin & Pat Sorensen
 Deanna & Paul Strand
 David & Maureen Staples

Kathleen Thompson
 Thomas Towle
 Steve Varney
 Douglas K. Wyckoff

Friend (\$50+)

Saundra Ackler
 Maybeth Anderson
 Ronel Brisson
 Shauna Brown
 Jean Bullen
 Burns, Bryant, Cox,
 Rockefeller & Durkin, P.A.
 Jeffrey & Janet Caddle
 Lucie A. Callahan
 Cathleen Coakley
 Judith & Earle Custer
 C & Y Hoefer-Diehl
 Joseph & Paula DuBois
 Paula Dubois
 Joanne Fairchild
 Peter & Joyce Forsythe
 Tom & Aline Goss
 Vera Haus
 Phyllis Heilbronner
 James & Frances Kageleiry
 Betty Lathrop
 Elaine Lauterborn
 Holly Littlefield
 Debbie & Wolfgang Liskow
 Susan Long
 Robert McCabe &
 Elizabeth Fisher
 Patricia L. Mengi
 Don & Debora Nary
 Therese A. Nossiff
 Bev O'Brien
 Sandie Phipps & Tom Casey
 Kathleen Morse Sawtell

Terry Snook
 Josie M. Tan
 Roy & Gail Tanner
 Darlene Therrien
 David H. Watters
 William Wetzel, Jr.
 Richard & Lauraine York

Other Supporters

Mary Allard
 Kenneth Beaudoin
 Emma Bent
 Suzanne Clement
 Eli Daliri
 Barbara B. DeHart
 Virginia & Maurice Dichard
 Nina French
 Elizabeth Feuer
 Margartha Gerung
 Stephen Goren
 Dorothea D. Hooper
 Hanna B. Jacoby
 Diane Lambert
 David and Mary Lancaster
 Laurie Legard
 McEaney Survey Assoc, Inc.
 Patricia Mengi
 Julie & Roger Mulloy
 Nancy Pickett
 Margaret Redhouse &
 Laurie Legard
 Phil & Susan Read
 Sibmug, Seacoast IBM Users Group
 Sen. David Watters

**Donations Received
 In Honor of:**

Jennifer at Alie's Jewelers
 Cam Dupere

Center Stars - David and Nicole

Page 3

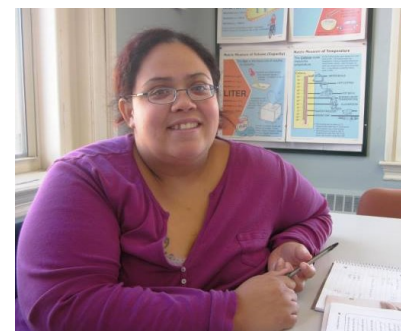
David wanted to attend adult education classes offered in Farmington where he lives, but his work schedule at a Rochester restaurant conflicted with the class times. Fortunately, David found out about the Strafford County Adult Tutorial Program, which has provided him with a volunteer tutor who can meet with him during his time off. In fact, David meets with two different tutors weekly, one on Tuesday and another on Wednesday.



David is determined to improve his reading skills. To quote one of his tutors, Mary Desfosses, "He is completely open to anything that will help him learn - using children's books does not insult him at all. He hasn't missed a tutoring session in a long time and has become better communicating by phone." David loves to ride his motorcycle on country roads. He always enjoys the ride, but now the destination--a tutoring session--is equally important.

Nicole took a big step by coming to Kim Hanson's math class the first week of classes. Her goal is to pass the HiSET so that she can go to Beauty School. Another reason for getting her high school equivalency certificate is to set an example for her daughter. She says, "It's hard to push your kid if you didn't finish school yourself." Nicole almost graduated from high school in New York, but at the end of her senior year she had to drop out to work to put a roof over her head. She hopes that she can brush up on her skills and

that a lot of the work in both Pam Shore's class and Kim Hanson's class will be review for her, but she adds, "my writing is not great." Also, she gets test anxiety. "I'm not a good test taker. I'm afraid I will get into the test and my mind will go blank." Nevertheless, Nicole is ready to overcome that anxiety and take the test. She is determined to prepare herself to succeed. "My whole world will expand when I complete it."



Meet Our New Board Members

Ellen Westbrook of Strafford is principal at Westbrook Consulting Associates. She holds a Ph.D. in English Language and Literature from the University of Michigan. Westbrook volunteers at the Center and is a member of the American Society for Training and Development, Council on Fundraising, and the New Hampshire Center for Nonprofits.

Martha S. Caswell is a consultant specializing in senior project management in the field of assessment testing and currently works with MetriTech, Inc. for the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test Program. Caswell holds degrees from Michigan State University, a BS in Psychology and a MS in Educational Psychology and is a member of the American Educational Re-

search Association and the National Council of Measurement in Education.

Patricia D. Silberblatt owns her own consulting firm specializing in project management and interior design services for commercial and residential clients. She was Director of Facilities for Berwick Academy for more than a decade. Silberblatt co-founded Office Interiors, Ltd, an office furniture and commercial design company with 12 employees. She holds an MA in History from Fairfield University and BA in History and Business from Salve Regina University.

Morton H. Cherim is a Dover resident with an M.A.T. Biological Sciences Bachelor of Science degree from UNH. A retired science teacher from York, he was also a lecturer in the Biology

Department at University of New Hampshire and served in the military, in both the Navy and Air Force. Cherim has been a volunteer cook at the Dover 'Soup Kitchen' one day per month for the last thirty years or so and volunteers for the Dover Public Library book sales.

Michael Kupfer is an Online Marketing Manager for Franchise Business Review and a graduate of CUNY Baruch College. Kupfer is a volunteer tutor at the Center. He helps out in the evening HiSET classes. Last fall he wanted to volunteer somewhere as he felt volunteering was important. He also enjoys basketball, hiking, and playing guitar. Kupfer is a frequent participant in marketing and social media events,



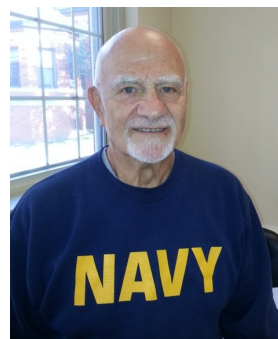
Ellen Westbrook



Martha Caswell



Patricia Silberblatt



Morton Cherim



Michael Kupfer



Dover

ADULT LEARNING CENTER

Strafford County

61 Locust Street, Dover, NH 03820

www.doveradultlearning.org

603-742-1030

What's happening at DALC?

Keep in touch between our print newsletters by signing up for our emails at

doveradultlearning.org

You can also check out our
Facebook page:
facebook.com/DALCNH

A Donor's Tale

Dave and Maureen Staples have been supporters of DALC for longer than either of them can remember. It probably started when Jim Verschuere, a patient of Dave's, was Executive Director of DALC. Dave and Maureen clearly value the transformative power of education. Maureen points out the importance of high school completion and ESOL classes for immigrants as essential to a growing and changing community. Dave, a lifelong learner, appreciates the cooking and art classes he has taken at DALC.

Keeping the money local is important to the Staples'. Both natives of Dover, they spoke passionately about the community they grew up in. Dave attended junior high school in the building which now houses the McConnell Center, and Maureen attended St. Mary's, just a few blocks away. Dave was a Dover Boy Scout, had a Foster's paper route growing up, and his first job was at the Weathervane. He says, "I was raised in this community and influenced by this community. I'm thankful for it and am giving back." Maureen says she helps out because it "benefits everybody and improves the whole community."

When I asked how they help out in the community, Dave and Maureen easily rattle off a long list of volunteer activities, board appointments and recognitions, including Volunteer of the Year in 2013 (Dave) and Distinguished Alumna of St. Mary's Academy in 2014 (Maureen). But both are quick to point out that they don't do it for the attention. They agreed to talk to me in part to encourage others to donate to, volunteer for or take a class at DALC. Giving back is just a natural part of who they are. They just can't imagine not serving their community in any way possible. When people ask him why they get so involved in causes and the community, Dave says he replies, "Why wouldn't I?"

Their help extends beyond simply writing a check. They do hands on work as well. Whether it's making corsages or promoting a concert, they are up for the task. Their "Rock with the Docs" concert on November 14 will benefit Goodwin Community Health Center, where Dave serves on the board of directors. Dave likes to "keep it fun and raise money for a good cause."

For the Staples', making a donation or volunteering is about much more than helping out the less fortunate. It's about breaking a negative cycle and giving those less fortunate people a chance to become productive members of society. The Dover of the future that they imagine includes opportunity for all and they are working hard to create it.

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.