

TRI-COUNTY LITERACY

Helping Hands

Fall 2006

www.tricountyliteracy.org

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Adult Ed Grant2
- United Way Grant2
- Estate Planning Session3
- Donation from Red Sox3
- Read With Me news4
- United Way 2-1-14
- Tutor Trainers Needed!4
- Scrabble Challenge Nears5
- Thomas Hanna, Author5

And in every issue:

- Report from the Chair
- Report from the Executive Director
- Upcoming dates to remember

Member Agency of United Way
of Mid-Coast Maine



Board of Directors

Officers

Judy Dillon, Chairperson
 Tricia O'Reilly, Vice Chairperson
 Kathy Kenyon, Secretary
 Barbara Croston, Treasurer

Board Members

Dennis Copeland	Cyndy Lewis
Paul Dostie	Pamela Moody
Harriet Gray	Ken Wiley
Molly Hahn	Steve Williams

Support Staff

Stella Hernandez, LVA State Liaison, LVA Maine
 Darlene Marciniak, Executive Director
 Carolyn Hall, Program Coordinator, RWM

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR - Judy Dillon

Greetings!

Sadly, we said goodbye to Emmy Kappler, our adult program coordinator, who returned to Virginia. We hope to see her often in the summers in Maine and hope that she will eventually be able to return to Maine full time. There is an outside chance that their family will return in January but in the mean time and until we know definitely, we are seeking a replacement for her. If you know of someone whom you feel would be excellent in this position, please have them forward his or her resume to our office at 2 Sheridan Road in Bath. We will be advertising soon for this position. In the interim, we are asking for help from anyone who is willing to give 2-3 hours a week to help make sure that tutors and learners are contacted. Please call Darlene at the office if you have a few free hours for a month or two - no longer!

The Candy Cane Train, which will run December 9th and 16th, also needs volunteers! We are specifically looking for people to help with decorations and others to help prepare the food for the trains. If you have any interest, please contact the office and leave a message for Kathy Kenyon or me. We have a meeting in early October and hope that we can have all of the needed help by then.

Tickets are selling NOW and reservations for the train can be made by downloading a form from the Candy Cane Train web site: www.candycanetrain.com or www.candycanetrain.org. This web site was set up by J Collins. Many Thanks! Please make your reservations early because we expect to sell out.

Finally, our work is important and the need does not decrease but many non-profit agencies are finding it more and more difficult to find funding, as we are. Your continued support as funders or volunteers is critical and appreciated so very much. A most sincere Thank You!

P.S. There is a chance that Emmy will be moving back to Maine and may be back with us!

-Judy

TRI-COUNTY LITERACY IS INCLUDED IN ADULT ED GRANTS

Tri-County Literacy was included in grants submitted recently by both Merrymeeting Regional Adult Education and Bath and Wiscasset Adult and Community Education Programs. These "Adult Education And Family Literacy Act" grants are awarded by the State Of Maine Department Of Education (Division of Adult & Community Education). The purpose of the grants are to provide adult education and literacy services to assist adults in becoming literate, obtaining knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency, obtaining the education skills to become full partners in their children's education, and completing their secondary education. Because this purpose matches the missions of both Adult Education programs and our Literacy Volunteers program, it seemed a natural fit to partner with our local Adult Education programs in applying for grant money.

The Adult Education programs submitted the grants,

including Memorandums of Understanding with Tri-County Literacy in their application packages. To receive a portion of the grant money, Tri-County Literacy will receive referrals of learners from Merrymeeting Regional Adult Education and Bath and Wiscasset Adult and Community Education Programs as appropriate; provide referrals of learners to the Adult Education Programs as progress warrants; provide literacy services for adult learners, both within and outside of Adult Education classroom spaces and provide data to Adult Education program directors as necessary to support their reporting requirements as outlined in the grant.

We are very excited that we will receive \$4,510 from the Merrymeeting Regional Adult Education grant and \$2,500 from the Bath and Wiscasset Adult and Community Education Programs grant. We value our association with the Adult Education Programs, and are very pleased to partner with them in this effort!

MORE FUNDING NEWS: United Way Grant Award

We are delighted to report this fiscal year's generous United Way grant award. United Way of Mid-Coast Maine was faced with serious challenges in making funding decisions, so we were all the more pleased when we were informed about our program funding. The adult Literacy Volunteers program will receive \$11,887 this fiscal year, and Read With Me Family Literacy Project will receive \$10,500, for a total award of \$22,287 to our organization.

2006 marks the 50th Anniversary of United Way of Mid-Coast Maine. For 50 years United Way has been changing lives for the better. Their longevity has ensured that

non-profit agencies such as Tri-County Literacy have been able to survive difficult financial times. United Way of Mid-Coast Maine has made a great difference in our organization over the years. We are extremely proud of our relationship with United Way. We are also very proud that United Way counts our organization among those having the greatest possible impact on their Community Goals and the lives of individuals and families in our region. Our sincere appreciation goes out to the members of the United Way selection committees for their generous awards.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR LETTER

Dear Tutors, Tutor Advisors and Volunteers,
I regretfully am moving back to Virginia and will be giving up my position as Program Coordinator at Tri-County Literacy. I enjoyed getting to know many of you and I was looking forward to creating a more cohesive group of tutors for those that were interested in getting to know one another. You all have so much in common and I believe you would enjoy knowing each other and sharing your tutoring experiences. Hopefully, my replacement will follow up on that goal among others that I had. It is a large geographical area to cover as a Program Coordinator and one of the many challenges is

being able to find the time to communicate with the tutors and learners.

I am winding up my responsibilities and will be leaving the area at the end of August. I wish you all the best and please be patient with TCL until a replacement is found.

Thank you for all of your time and your commitments to our organization and our learners. You are providing an invaluable service.

Sincerely,
Emmy Kappler
Program Coordinator
Tri-County Literacy



Estate Planning/Planned Giving Session

Have you ever wondered about the process of estate planning or making a bequest to a charity by including a provision in your will?

Because these questions have been raised by Tri-County Literacy members, we have arranged a free public informational session to address the issue of planned giving.

You are cordially invited to attend this session, which will be facilitated by Elizabeth (Betsey) McCandless, Esq. Betsey will present an informal talk on the basics of estate planning and on various ways to make gifts to charity during lifetime and at death.

When: October 19, 2006, 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Where: Topsham Public Library
25 Foreside Road, Topsham
Highlands Community Room

All interested parties are invited to attend!

RED SOX DONATION

Tri-County Literacy Volunteers recently became a true part of Red Sox Nation! In June, we applied for a grant from the Red Sox Foundation to assist in general operating expenses, and in August we were very fortunate to receive a check for \$500.

In their award letter, the Foundation Director said in part, "All of us involved with the Red Sox are proud to stand with Tri-County Literacy in your service to others. Thank you for your commitment and we wish you great success. We are honored to have you on the Red Sox Foundation's team!"

Go Red Sox!



From The Executive Director

Where did summer go? I hope everyone enjoyed the short summer months and are ready for the beauty and wonder that our Maine towns have to offer at this time of year!

July 1st ushered in a new fiscal year. We marked the end of a very exciting and productive fiscal year 2006 with our annual meeting and potluck dinner on June 8th. This was a really nice evening, and a wonderful celebration of our organization and membership. The annual meeting was held at the Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick. We had 45 people in attendance; including Board members, staff, tutors, learners and guests.

The Annual Meeting served several purposes. It was our opportunity to report to the membership on what we've done and how we've done over the past year; it was an opportunity to recognize and thank all the many people who contribute to the work of the organization; and it included an organizational business meeting. Certainly just as importantly, it was an opportunity to enjoy an evening of fellowship with a great group of people who support literacy.

The potluck was lots of fun and the food was delicious! The amount and variety of great dishes were just amazing!

During the business meeting, the membership approved last year's Annual Meeting Minutes; the 2006 Annual Report was reviewed; and the 2006-2007 Budget was approved. Two new Board members were elected to fill scheduled vacancies. We are very pleased to welcome Paul Dostie, from Harpswell and Dennis Copeland from Woolwich. Paul is one of two full time Reference Librarians at Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick; and Dennis is a retired teacher, having taught various subjects and English as a Second Language for over 35 years. Additionally, we all met Ken Wiley, from Harpswell, who joined the Board in March due to an earlier, unexpected vacancy.

We took a few minutes at the meeting to recognize two exceptional organizations as our 2006 Community Partners.

We honored the City of Bath as a great supporter of Tri-County Literacy, and a financial contributor to our Read With Me Family Literacy Project for several years. Since we've moved into our new offices in August 2005, the City of Bath is also our landlord!

We are pleased to count the City of Bath as a close partner, and are very grateful for all their contributions to our organization.

We honored The Highlands of Topsham as our other Community Partner. We count The Highlands among our staunchest supporters, both as an entity and in terms of individual residents. 23 residents of The Highlands or Highland Green are Tri-County Literacy members!!! Six of these residents are also active as tutors in the adult Literacy Volunteers program, and two residents are or were active Board members. In addition to their contributions of time and energy as volunteers, the residents of the Highlands communities have faithfully and generously contributed their financial support to our organization.

We also recognized one of our non-tutor volunteers, J Collins. For the past year, J has been our agency's unofficial "Informational Technology Department!" J has worked tirelessly to help us in the office as we have tried to join the 21st century. He helped get us connected wirelessly, and has hooked up the new pieces of computer equipment that we were able to purchase with money received from the Senter Fund. He has also provided troubleshooting assistance both in the office and by phone. It's a comfort to have someone willing to help when the computer gremlins get the best of us! J has also been working hard to update the Tri-County Literacy web site. If you've checked out the site, you know how much more information is available, including an online version of the newsletter.

Emmy Kappler and Carolyn presented awards to volunteers and staff in each of their respective programs as well, which are noted elsewhere in this edition.

The speaker at this year's Annual Meeting was Maine humorist Norbert Twichell, otherwise known as Peter Gammons. Norbert's brand of jokes and stories were fun and funny tales about life in rural Maine, drawn from his own New England upbringing and a spicy dose of keen observation. His stories of small towns, farms, fishing, and colorful local characters were delivered with a heavy Maine accent and a New England deadpan demeanor that were enjoyed by everyone!

-Darlene Marciniak

Helping Hands



UNITED WAY 2-1-1 Maine Tutor Trainers Needed!

FYI: United Ways of Maine have recently partnered with Ingraham to launch a new Information and Referral service. 2-1-1 Maine is a free, confidential statewide Information and Referral service system that serves the entire State of Maine, 24-hours a day, 365 days a year.

We all know to dial 9-1-1 for medical and health emergencies and to dial 4-1-1 for directory assistance. Now, getting information about a wide variety of health and human services and resources is as easy as dialing 2-1-1 or logging onto www.211maine.org. Anyone looking for information is encouraged to call or log on.

The following announcement came from LV Maine. We desperately need tutor trainers. If anyone is interested, please call Molly (882-7314) so she can help you apply.

TRAIN-THE-TRAINER SCHEDULE.

Does your affiliate have the need to train tutor trainers? If so, please e-mail info@lvmaine.org or call 773-3191 ASAP to let us know. We are currently forming our 2006 / 2007 Training and Meeting Schedule, which will be sent out soon. Tell us how many participants you expect will take part in the 12-hour workshop training so we can schedule this into our calendar and work to meet your needs. **DON'T DELAY - TELL US TODAY!**

Read With Me Update

As we begin the twelfth year of Read With Me, it is a good time to remind our newsletter readers of what RWM is all about.

Read With Me introduces families to the pleasure and value of reading together, encourages active and positive relationships with schools, and connects families with lifelong learning opportunities. In order to accomplish these goals we meet six times at each Head Start based at Coastal Economic Development and hold eight sessions each in kindergarten and first grade at Dike-Newell School in Bath. Each session has a different focus book and specific curriculum content. We choose our books and discussion content carefully, and aim to provide an introduction to a wide range of authors and illustrators and to a well-chosen variety of topics for discussion.

June Dorion, Linda Roberts and Carolyn Hall share the site coordinator role, and work together to ensure that we are all well-prepared to facilitate conversation in the adult meetings. In addition to the curriculum topic for the day, we are careful to mention local library resources, adult education possibilities, career center offerings and the availability of tutoring through Tri-Country Literacy. We are very pleased to be a partner in Midcoast Community Read for the second year, and one of the sessions will be highlighting this connection with local libraries.

Each session begins with a meeting of parents/grandparents/other involved adults and the RWM site coordinator who facilitates discussions of parenting and literacy issues. This is followed by time in classrooms, where children and adults watch the teacher model reading aloud the book for the day and then work on a related activity. The final part of the session is again for adults

only, and includes conversation about the book and topics related to it, and ways to share the book at home. Everyone goes home with a free copy of the day's book, a poem for families to learn together, and materials and suggestions for a follow-up activity at home. Childcare is provided for younger children free of charge to participating families.

Please contact Carolyn at the office if you have any questions about Read With Me or would like further information.

Read With Me was very pleased to present awards to its three outstanding child care providers at the Tri-Country Literacy Annual Meeting in June. Marsha Potter was able to attend the meeting and received her award in person. The other two recipients were Anita Brillard and Su Malcolm. Anita, Marsha and Su all traveled to several sites during 2005-2006. They often pitched in to cover for each other's illnesses or appointments, and most importantly of all provided wonderful care for the younger siblings of children enrolled in RWM. It was not unusual to see them with a baby in one arm, reading to another child or two or playing with several two year olds at once. We are very grateful that we had three incredibly capable and caring women who handled this difficult job so well. Thank you Anita, Marsha and Su!

Marsha is receiving even more attention these days. She and some of her grandchildren are part of the current United Way video. In the video, Marsha talks about Read With Me's very positive impact on her life and that of her grandchildren. I hope you get to see the video and hear the good things Marsha has to say about Read With Me. Barbara Reinertsen of United Way did a wonderful job of putting it all together!

-Carolyn Hall

Play and Share for Literacy Scrabble Challenge in November

Tri-County Literacy will hold their **6th Play and Share for Literacy Scrabble Challenge** on Saturday, November 18th in the Morrell Community Room at the Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick. The event helps promote a greater awareness of the need to improve literacy in our communities and is an important fundraiser for the programs and services offered by Tri-County Literacy.

This Scrabble Challenge, like its predecessors, promises to be a lot of fun. Players will come in all sizes, shapes, backgrounds, and skill levels. They will compete as teams of 2-4 people in three 30-minute Scrabble games. And players will dream of placing letters on squares representing triple-word score or double-letter score, snack and schmooze with each other between games, fill the room with laughter, and have an all-around good time. Trophies will again be awarded to each member of the winning team.

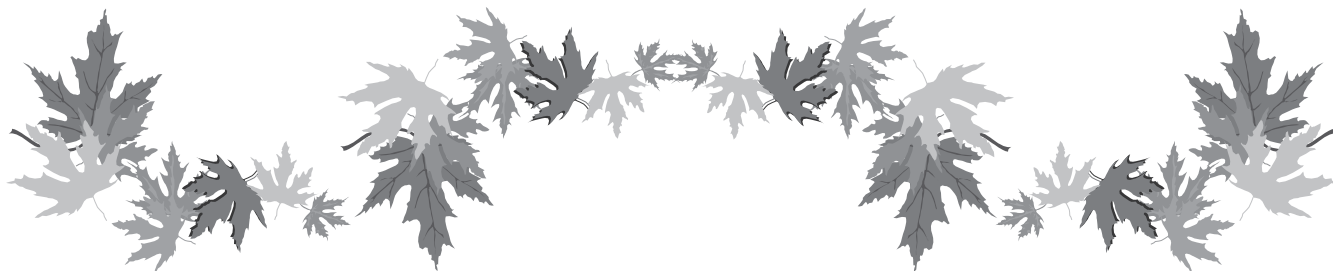
This past spring, we had eight Scrabble teams scrutinized their letter racks and game boards to determine their best possible words, highest scoring plays, and cleverest tactics. The Damariscotta Devils, consisting of Millie Bagg and Joe & Arline Brennan, defended their title and were

again crowned champions of the Scrabble Challenge. The Brennans were also recognized for bringing in the most pledge money. Other "Scrabblers" were given coffee mugs for their participation.

Please remember that while early registration is encouraged for planning purposes, walk-ins on game day are very welcome. Registration at the door will begin at 12:30 pm with game play starting shortly after 1:00 pm. All festivities should end no later than 4:00 pm. Registration is \$10 per person and everyone has the opportunity to raise money for literacy by collecting pledges. Hope to see you on November 18th!

For more information and to register your team (or just yourself), please contact us. You may call our offices at 443-6384 or toll free at 877-885-7441. You can email us at literacyvolunteers@tricityliteracy.org. Or, you could visit our web site at tricityliteracy.org for information.

The Organizing Committee wants to thank, in advance, all participants and everyone donating ideas, time, money, prizes or food to this event. Your efforts help make the Scrabble Challenge a successful, appealing, engaging and pleasurable venture.



Thomas Hanna, Author

Congratulations to Thomas Hanna, a past board member, tutor and Adult Basic English training instructor for Literacy Volunteers. Thom's new book SHOUTIN' INTO THE FOG has been receiving a lot of attention these past few weeks.

I had the pleasure of attending the reception at the Patten Free Library where Thom had a reading and signing of his book. Barbara White, another past board member, tutor and Adult Basic English training instructor was also one of the many in attendance. Her high regard for Thom came through in her kind words about his many years as a volunteer for Literacy Volunteers.

We both bought SHOUTIN' INTO THE FOG and

asked Thom to sign our copy. Since that night, I have read the book and loved it so much that I am recommending it to all my friends.

As Thom is quoted as saying, "I'm an 80-year old ninth-grade dropout. If I can have success, anyone can." Those are words that have a lot of meaning for individuals who are trying to improve their literacy skills.

Thank you, Thom for being there for this organization. We wish you the best of success for this book and all other ventures that come your way.

-Kathy Kenyon, Board Member



Tri-County Literacy
2 Sheridan Road
Bath, ME 04530

DATES TO REMEMBER

The Fall 2006 Board meetings:

Tuesday, October 24, 2006

Tuesday, November 28, 2006

All board meetings are held in the Patten Free Library in Bath, from 6-8 p.m. and they are open to all Tri-County Literacy members.

The Scrabble Tournament will be on November 19th 12:30-4:0 p.m. at the Curtis Memorial Library (12:30-1:00 is sign-in time). See page 5 for more info.

Tutor Training in November. Call the office for dates.

Tri-County Literacy Volunteers

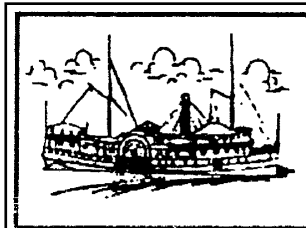
(207) 443-6384 • (877) 885-7441

Executive Director: tricountyliteracy@tricountyliteracy.org

Literacy Volunteers: literacyvolunteers@tricountyliteracy.org

Read With Me Program: readwithme@tricountyliteracy.org

www.tricountyliteracy.org



A special thanks to the community spirit of the folks at Gardiner Savings Institution, FSB who have funded the production, printing and mailing of this newsletter to benefit all TCL adult learners and volunteers.

GARDINER SAVINGS INSTITUTION, FSB

Design and layout of Helping Hands is provided courtesy of **in Demand arts Graphic Design** ~ www.indemandarts.com.

Tri-County Literacy **MISSION STATEMENT**

Tri-County Literacy believes that the ability to read and write is critical to personal freedom and the maintenance of a democratic society. The mission of Tri-County Literacy, therefore, is to promote increased literacy for adult learners through the effective use of volunteers, the provision of support services for volunteers and learners, and collaboration with individuals, groups, or organizations desiring to foster increased literacy.

As such, Tri-County Literacy Volunteers is committed to:

Enabling adults and families in need of basic literacy skills to achieve their potential through one-to-one or small group instruction.

Training, supervising, and supporting Tri-County Literacy volunteer tutors and learners.

Strengthening and improving the organization's capacity to provide literacy instructions and services to the community.