

# TRI-COUNTY LITERACY

# Helping Hands

Winter 2008

[www.tricountyliteracy.org](http://www.tricountyliteracy.org)

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Member Agency of United Way  
of Mid-Coast Maine



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## REPORT FROM THE CHAIR - Tricia O'Reilly

*Dear Literacy Friends,*

I am sending you all best wishes for a very Happy New Year! Also, a very warm welcome to all new members of Tri-County Literacy. Know that you are beginning a very exciting and fulfilling journey as you progress with your tutoring and volunteering throughout the next year.

We had another very successful Candy Cane Train event in December. Thank you to all who volunteered your time, effort, cookies and appetizers to make this annual fundraiser a wonderfully fun time for everyone, especially the children! Please read more about this in the Executive Director's report in this newsletter.

This past September I attended a wonderful program put on by Literacy Volunteers of Maine, called "Turning a New Page: Celebrating Adult Literacy in Maine". It was a wonderful evening at the University of Southern Maine Abromson Community Center, honoring Maine tutors, learners and volunteers. Several Maine authors gave readings from their most recent books, and the evening was emceed by former Maine Governor Angus King, always an enjoyable speaker. The keynote speaker was Barbara Bush, a long time family literacy advocate. Mrs. Bush was very entertaining, regaling the audience with funny family stories and much good humor. I encourage all of you to attend this event if it is held again this year. It was very interesting to speak with other Maine literacy group members about their programs, and to exchange ideas with one another.

Again, I wish you all a very happy and healthy 2008! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments by leaving a message at our offices in Bath, 443-6384, or at [www.tricountyliteracy.org](http://www.tricountyliteracy.org), and I will get back to you.

*-Tricia*

*Let the beauty of what you  
love be what you do.*

*-Rumi*

## Read With Me Update

The Candy Cane Train volunteer storytellers/readers did a great job this year. I was happy to become one of them and realized first hand how difficult a job it is. Many thanks to David Baker, Betsy Cantrell, Annie Donovan and her daughter Rose Lortie, June Dorion, Elaine Graviett, Dan Hahn, Jeannie Harrington, Michelle Harrington, Sukey Heard, Agnes Parker (Mrs. Claus), Marsha Potter, Elizabeth Rodenz, Nyree Thomas, and Ken and Ida Wiley. Clearly the children on the train loved having a story as part of their adventure, and these kind folks volunteered their time to make that possible.

Read With Me participants at Bath Head Start and Wiscasset Head Start/Early Learning Center benefited from a lottery for Candy Cane Train tickets made available by The Davenport Trust and Wiscasset Ford. A total of 60 free tickets were made available to Head Start children and their families. We heard from many delighted parents who would otherwise have been

unable to take the ride, and we are very appreciative that these tickets were made available. Thank you!

January marks the fourth Read With Me session of this school year. It also marks the very first hardcover book distribution for Read With Me. A grant from the Bowdoin College Common Good has made it possible for us to select *Looking for a Moose* by Phyllis Root and illustrated by Randy Cecil as one of our featured books in Head Start this year. The playful and rhythmic language in this book makes it a favorite with teachers and especially appropriate for preschoolers. Did you know children need to hear over 1000 stories before they are ready to learn to read? (Mem Fox) When we introduce families to fun books like *Looking for a Moose*, we are opening up doors for families, encouraging them to share and enjoy books together, and making the goal of 1000 stories very attainable.

-Carolyn Hall

## PROGRAM COORDINATOR LETTER

We are pleased to welcome 14 new Literacy Volunteer tutors to Tri-County Literacy. They completed the Basic Literacy Training towards the end of November; nine of them also completed the additional training, (ESOL)-English Speakers of Other Languages. Molly Hahn, Pam Moody and Dennis Copeland continue to instruct our latest tutors.

Several of our new tutors have already been matched to learners who have been waiting for a tutor while others are scattered in our three counties working in Adult Ed centers. We are pleased to add a tutor to the Wiscasset Adult Center this winter. We have a new tutor volunteering at Two Bridges Jail. The learners at Two Bridges Jail are primarily working on their GEDs - a big step in preparing them for their future job opportunities.

Currently, we have 60 one to one tutor/learner matches. We have nine learners on our waiting list. There are 14 LV tutors volunteering in various other settings.

Remember that tutor hour forms can be accessed on our website ([www.tricountyliteracy.org](http://www.tricountyliteracy.org)) now for individual tutors. Please continue to check our site. We are hoping to start up a blog for information sharing in the near future.

The Bucket Brigade at BIW was rescheduled. It will be held January 11th at 6:00 a.m. We will be standing at

four of the eight BIW gates. The men and women know who we are and will be expecting us. Because the BIW workers are moving along quickly, the more hands we have, the better chance of collecting more donations. Please contact us at 443-6384 if you would like to help us with this fundraiser.

LV Maine has granted Tri-County Literacy a building capacity grant to meet the needs of the growing ESOL population of learners in our area. The money will be used to defray the costs of the training and other expenses. It is our hope to train an additional ten tutors this winter and an additional ten tutors in the summer. Our ESOL population continues to grow. Our tutor/learner ESOL matches are at 36. The next ESOL tutor training will be at the end of January. Please contact the office at 443-6384 if you are interested in this training.

Tri-County Literacy thanks our tutors and our other many dedicated volunteers for their perseverance and service as the year comes to an end. Have an exceptional winter and thank you.

*"Kindness is more important than wisdom and the recognition of this is the beginning of wisdom."*

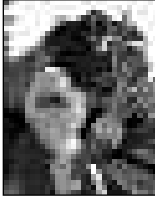
-Theodore Isaac Rubin

~Suzanne Gastaldo



# From The Executive Director

Thank you to the many, many people who helped make this year's Candy Cane Train such a success! Because we sold out so quickly last year, we expanded the event this year by 750 seats, for a total of 2,250 tickets! Even with those extra seats, tickets for all of the family trains sold out a week prior to the events. Riders of all ages enjoyed the scenic ride, the wonderful visit from Santa and his exuberant elves, and yummy cookies and hot chocolate. Although our final financial figures are not yet in, we expect to see a profit of over \$20,000, which will help us greatly in our work to provide literacy services in Mid Coast Maine.



The Candy Cane Train committee did a fabulous job of organizing this fun and exciting event, and we are most grateful for all their hard work and dedication. As smoothly run as this event was, it's hard to believe it was only our second year! Of course we have so many volunteers to thank that we can't single them all out, we want to say a special thanks to Judy Dillon, Barbara and J. Collins, Peter Robohm, Tricia O'Reilly, Barbara Croston, Elizabeth Rodenz, Kathy Kenyon; Mac McCreary, Cyndy Lewis, Cathy Morton, and Santa. Also, thank you to Gale, Tracy and Heidi at Lady Theresa's Closet at the Bath Train Station who helped us sell tickets. This year, in addition to providing sponsorship of the Candy Cane Train, the trustees of the George P. Davenport Trust purchased 40 tickets for Read With Me participants in the Bath Head Start. Many of our RWM families would not have been able to buy tickets to this event, and the trustees wanted to make sure that these families could enjoy this wonderful event. Additionally, Wiscasset Ford

purchased 20 tickets for Read With Me participants in the Wiscasset Head Start. What a great gift these two organizations gave these families!

We were so pleased with the feedback about this year's event and for the money raised for our work in the community. We are very grateful to the many people and businesses that helped us make this such a fun and successful event, including our sponsors, everyone who purchased tickets or made donations to the event, baked goodies served on the trains, provided entertainment, and helped complete the dozens of tasks required to make this very large undertaking such a success.

We gratefully acknowledge the following season event sponsors and business supporters:

The Davenport Trust  
Maine Eastern Railroad  
Bath Iron Works  
Wiscasset Ford  
Marnee's Cookies  
Mae's Café & Bakery  
Café Crème  
MaryEllenz caffè  
Brackett's Market  
Sweet Delights  
Starlight Café  
Solo Bistro  
Double Tree Hotel  
Kennebec Tavern Restaurant & Marina  
J. R. Maxwell's Beale Street Barbeque  
Hilton Garden Inn  
Harraseeket Inn  
Freeport Comfort Suites  
Hampton Inn

*Thank you.... and we'll see you next year!*

## FUNDING NEWS

We have been very fortunate to receive the following grants and contributions over the past few months:

**FISHER FOUNDATION** – In September we were awarded a \$2,000 grant for the purchase of a specific series of books for the Literacy Volunteers program. Current literacy studies show that to achieve greater literacy success with adult readers, tutors need to utilize “leveled books,” or books that promote progress slowly yet steadily through the use of graduated learning and systematic increases in level of difficulty. With the Fisher Foundation grant award, we purchased a number of these leveled texts to be used by our tutor/learner matches.

Early feedback is that these books are being used with great success!

**L.L. BEAN** – Also in September, we received a \$2,000 grant from L.L. Bean, Inc. This award was for general operational expenses. \$1,000 was provided to Literacy Volunteers and \$1,000 was provided to Read With Me Family Literacy Project. Funds awarded without specific restrictions are very much appreciated as we work to meet all our expenses.

**STELLA GRANT** – Literacy Volunteers of Maine recently created the Stella Grants. This is a grant created by LV Maine  
*(continues on page 4)*



# FUNDING NEWS, *continued from page 3*

to honor the dedication and vision of their former Executive Director, Stella Hernandez. The focus of the Stella Grants is twofold: capacity building (student recruitment and intake) and tutor recruitment & training. LV Maine invited all 14 affiliates to apply for small grants of \$500-\$1,000. We were among the fortunate affiliates to be awarded one of these new Stella Grants. Our grant award is for \$860. The grant will be used for two additional tutor trainings for tutors who will work with English language learners. The demand for services of English speakers of other languages has grown rapidly in our area, and this award will help us meet that need.

We have also been very fortunate to receive the following generous contributions from businesses, churches, municipalities and school systems:

Town of Phippsburg	\$250	for Read With Me
School Union 74	\$1,200	for Read With Me
Merrymeeting Regional Adult Education	\$2,000	for Read With Me

Bath Adult Ed/Bailey Evening School	\$1,000	for Read With Me
Bath School Department	\$4,000	for Read With Me
City of Bath	\$10,000	for Read With Me
Bath Iron Works	\$1,500	for Candy Cane Train sponsorship
1st Congregational Church, Wiscasset	\$200	for Read With Me & Literacy Volunteers
Sunrise Rotary	\$200	for Read With Me
Town of Wiscasset	\$500	for Read With Me
The First	\$150	for Read With Me & Literacy Volunteers

as well as a number of contributions from individuals.

We are very grateful for these contributions, and the continued support that these groups have shown our programs!

*-Darlene Marciniak*

## Membership Reminder

Membership contributions are still welcome for the current fiscal year. The fiscal year began on July 1, 2006 and will end on June 30, 2007. We received a good number of responses following our last appeal, but would love to hear from you if you haven't yet responded!

As a reminder, "Anyone who gives \$1 or more during the fiscal year is considered a member and will be included on our membership list. Every member is entitled to receive the organization's newsletters and is

entitled to one vote at the annual meeting." If you are in a position to give a membership contribution and have not yet done so, we would appreciate hearing from you. A form is provided for your convenience. Please send your check to:

Tri-County Literacy  
2 Sheridan Road  
Bath, ME 04530

Thank you!

*-Darlene Marciniak*

### Membership/Donation for Fiscal Year 2008 (July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (optional) (optional)

My contribution is  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send check to:  
Tri-County Literacy  
2 Sheridan Road  
Bath, ME 04530

Also, in order to keep our mailing list up-to-date, please indicate your preference below:

- I would like to continue to receive the Tri-County Literacy newsletter by mail
- I would like to be notified by email that the newsletter is available on the TCL website
- I would like more information about becoming a volunteer
- Please remove my name from your mailing list



*A Romantic  
Evening*

**Appetizers, Wine, Music**

***The Play:* Love Letters by A.R. Gurney**

**Dessert, Coffee/Tea**

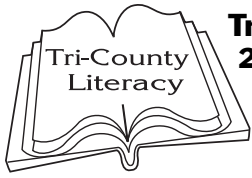
**At Winter Street Center  
880 Washington Street, Bath**

**February 16, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Price per ticket: \$25**

**Call 443-6384 for reservation information**

*The event benefits Tri-County Literacy*



**Tri-County Literacy**  
**2 Sheridan Road**  
**Bath, ME 04530**

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **The Winter 2008 Board meeting:**

Tuesday, , 2008  
Tuesday, 7, 2008

*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.*

### **Tri-County Literacy**

**(207) 443-6384 • (877) 885-7441**

Executive Director: [tricityliteracy@tricityliteracy.org](mailto:tricityliteracy@tricityliteracy.org)

Literacy Volunteers: [literacyvolunteers@tricityliteracy.org](mailto:literacyvolunteers@tricityliteracy.org)

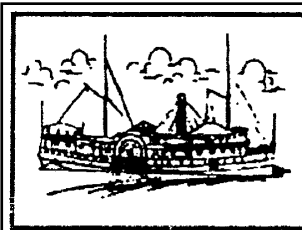
Read With Me Program: [readwithme@tricityliteracy.org](mailto:readwithme@tricityliteracy.org)

[www.tricityliteracy.org](http://www.tricityliteracy.org)

Design and layout of Helping Hands is provided courtesy of **in Demand arts Graphic Design**~[www.indemandarts.com](http://www.indemandarts.com).

**"A Romantic Evening"** A fundraising event offering appetizers, wine, dessert and a play. Winter Street Center, 800 Washington St., Bath. February 16, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

For **Tutor Training** dates and **Scrabble Tournament** call the office for information.



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**

## **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.