



In Our Words Newsletter

Student Writings

My Story by DeLois Chumbley, Literacy Learner

The Paint and Sip class was fun. First, we painted t-shirts. We got to paint our own shirt. We painted white t-shirts. I painted butterflies and flowers and circles. My kids like my t-shirt so much, that they wanted to take it home. But I said no.

The second time we had paints and we copied designs onto a board. The design was butterflies and trees. I hung my picture in my living room.

At Martha O'Bryan Center we went into the children's room and made a dessert with Oreo cookies and pudding and gummy worms. We ate our desserts.

I missed the event where a man came and talked about each of us writing our life story. I missed that class.

I think it is nice that Martha O'Bryan offers us things to do like this. We look forward to doing a class again this summer. It will be a lot of fun.

Faten Shakhlool, English Language Learner

I'm from Egypt. I have four kids.

I'm all the time busy lol. I didn't continue my education, I stopped in high school. After came to U.S show I can continue my Education online it's big chance to me because I have kids I can't go anywhere. First taken English language because I want to talk with my children good and I can understand them. After that get I can continue my high school it's big dream to me. I can make it true. I'm so glad.

Thankful for NALC to help us to make the dream true.

Sarah Coode Retires

Dear All,

It is with a grateful heart that I announce my retirement. I have been with the Nashville Adult Literacy Council since 1996. These have been wonderful years for me. Years full of life and learning and love and laughter. I have grown as a person and as an educator. And I have you all to thank for this.

It has been an honor and a privilege to work with my adult students. My **students** are role models of courage and perseverance. I will be forever grateful for the many gifts my students have brought into my life.

Lessons my students have taught me:

- Be patient and kind
- Be a good listener
- Learn something new everyday
- Be flexible
- Say I'm sorry
- Share hopes and dreams
- Forgive quickly
- Try something new
- Live in this moment
- Smile more
- Applaud often
- Choose happiness today
- Never give up
- Tomorrow is another day

I am equally grateful for the hundreds of **volunteers** I have had the pleasure to work with these many years. NALC could not exist without volunteers. I thank you all for investing your time and talent with us and with our students. Thank you for welcoming strangers into your lives and sharing their journeys.

I want to send out a fond thank you to **Nashville Public Library (NPL)**. I have memories of such wonderful times in each library (touring the Main Library with my DC4 students, sheltering from a tornado in the Pruitt Library conference room, and helping a student vote at Bordeaux, to name a few.) All these memories bring me joy. I am so very grateful for the support NPL has offered to all the adult education programs in our community.

And to our **Board of Directors** - thank you for your welcoming smiles and open hearts. Thank you for seeing and understanding the joys and sorrows involved in all we do. Thank you for caring about all who live in our Nashville community.

Public Education in the USA was started as a way to create a literate society so that we could remain a democratic society. If Democracy is the foundation of this country, we at NALC are a brick in that foundation.

A dear thank you to my **fellow co-workers** past and present. It has been a joy! We help with skills needed to participate in our community. We are stepping stones on the way to independence. We are the connecting force between our students and their jobs, their health care, and their future. We are the stairway students use to travel from a place of insecurity to a place of opportunity and independence. We celebrate their successes every day, as our students take on roles in our community. We make community possible.

Cheers to you all:

Students, Volunteers, Board, Library, and Co-workers past and present.

Thank you. I will miss you. My years at NALC have been wonderful. You are forever in my heart.

I hope to spend my retirement years in our Nashville community volunteering in various enterprises, enjoying music, and continuing to promote lifelong learning for us all.

Sarah Coode
Literacy Specialist

NALC Announcements

Find news from staff and other updates here!

Crystal Gimesh, New Literacy Specialist

NALC's beloved Sarah Coode is retiring, and cherished staff member, Crystal Gimesh, is taking over our Literacy Learner program. If you are a Literacy Learner, Crystal will be your new contact.

You can get in touch with Crystal at cgimesh@nashvilleliteracy.org or (615) 298 - 8060.



Literacy Matters Event

[Watch the Recording Now!](#)

During this online event, we honored learners, volunteers, and staff members. We raised over \$75,000!

Join us in congratulating the following award winners:

English Language Learner of the Year: Belyse Umugwaneza

Literacy Learner of the Year: Donovan Smith

Volunteer of the Year: Rachael Jenkins

[Learn more about each here!](#)



Submit Your Work

Do you have something to share? Please let your teacher or a NALC worker know OR submit work using the button below. You can also email your work to mharding@nashvilleliteracy.org. We are here to help!

[Learn More & Submit Work](#)

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