

DELAWARE COUNTY

Fall 2011



LITERACY COUNCIL

TUTOR TRAINING

November 12 & 19

Saturdays from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
DCLC Office, Chester

Ten-hour training for tutoring in
Adult Literacy or English as a Second
Language

Call 610.876.4811 to sign up. Volunteer
and change a life today!

An evening with Mick Moloney: African-American & Irish Influences on Bluegrass

Mick Moloney joins music with history
at a fund-raising performance on
Saturday, November 5, 2011, at
7:30 p.m. in the
large auditorium at
Delaware County
Community College.



Tickets are \$15
in advance,
\$20 at the
door, and
include

light refreshments after the show. Order
online using **DONATE NOW**
at www.delcoliteracy.org and
writing "Mick Moloney Tickets" in
comments line.

In the early 19th century, Northern
Irish immigrants brought songs and
stories of Ireland and Scotland to
their new homes in the Southern
Appalachian Mountains. African
Americans who became their
neighbors introduced the banjo and
their own musical traditions.

In a performance rich with audio-
visual illustrations, Mick Moloney
traces the story of this multi-cultural
tapestry of old-time, American
country and bluegrass music.

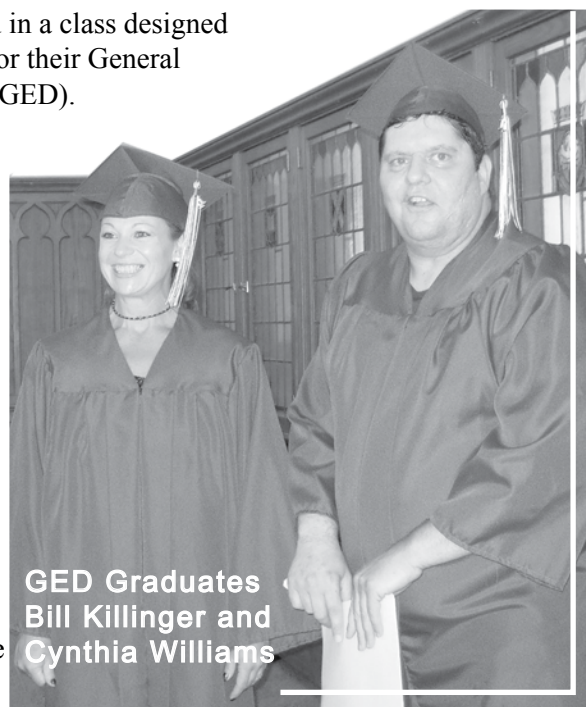
DCLC Helps GED Graduates Overcome Obstacles

After leaving school without completing the seventh grade, Bill Killinger eventually realized he was "going nowhere." He remembers how difficult that time was, but he also remembers how he was able to turn his life around. "One day, thankfully, I found the Delaware County Literacy Council."

At DCLC, Bill enrolled in a class designed
to help adults prepare for their General
Equivalency Diploma (GED).

With hard work and
the guidance of his
instructor, Gloria
Beam, Bill went
from being "lost and
confused" to earning
his GED this spring.

Bill described his
struggles and triumph
in his keynote speech
at DCLC's GED
graduation ceremony,
which honors DCLC
students who have
earned their GED in the
past school year.



GED Graduates
Bill Killinger and
Cynthia Williams

Held June 15 at Lathem Hall on the campus of Widener University, the ceremony recognized the achievements of adults who overcame great obstacles to prepare for and pass the GED. In all, seven DCLC adult students reached the milestone this year. Graduates attending the ceremony were Bill Killinger, Courtney Esposito, Marie Slaughter, Annie Williams and Cynthia Williams.

To honor the accomplishments of our GED graduates, DCLC's Board of Directors established a scholarship fund to aid students who go on to pursue higher education.

Students must pass five tests to earn their GED credential, which is generally recognized as equivalent to a high school diploma. GED preparation classes are offered at DCLC, but each adult learner decides when to take the GED tests. The preparation process can take anywhere from a couple of months to several years.

At the ceremony, DCLC Instructor Russell Bankes told the graduates,

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35 Years and the Best is Yet to Come

The momentum of the Literacy Council's 35th Anniversary celebration in 2010 continued to grow with our being named the 2011

Not for Profit of the Year by the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce. I had the honor of accepting this

award (see back page) on behalf of all the adult learners, volunteers and staff who established a sound foundation upon which we continue to build.

This award acknowledged our past good work, and it also energized us. Soon after we received the award, several Board members decided to host events to spread the word about the Literacy Council and raise funds to support our programs. Board President **Ann Seidman** hosted a brunch which featured Heidemarie Starr singing French arias; **Linda Ramsey** sponsored an Iron Hill Give 20 event; and **Rick Durante** named DCLC as the benefactor of an Employee Denim Day at the Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union.

We also received recognition of the high quality of our programs in the competitive funding process of the PA Division of Adult Education, which funded only 53 agencies across the state this year, down from

135 last year. Likewise the United Ways of Southeastern PA and Southeast Delaware County both funded DCLC through a competitive process for their Community Impact Funds.

In conjunction with our state funding, we are introducing two exciting initiatives to enhance instruction and help adult learners achieve their goals. First, we have developed a five-hour orientation program for all adult learners to ensure that goals, expectations and responsibilities are clearly communicated. Second, we have formed a partnership with the Delaware County Technical Schools which will open the door for 30 adult learners to gain practical work skills in areas such as warehousing, health care or culinary arts.

Once again, Deloitte chose DCLC as an IMPACT Day site (see page 7). Thirty employees spent a day with us in June, some sprucing up our building and grounds and others working with adult learners on resume writing and interviewing skills. Several Deloitte employees also worked with Board members and volunteers on marketing and succession planning. Their impact continues.

A good friend of mine likes to say, "The best is yet to come." I believe that is true for the Literacy Council, and I invite you to join us as we continue to grow and strengthen our organization and our community.

This will be my third year participating on Team Sandy and walking the Rothman 8K as part of the Philadelphia Marathon weekend. To celebrate my 60th birthday this October, I have set a goal of walking the Rothman 8K in 60 minutes and raising \$6,000 for the Literacy Council.

I received my first pledge of \$100 from Fr. Jim Bajorek. I invite you to join him in supporting my walk and the Literacy Council. You may mail a donation to the Delaware County Literacy Council, 2217 Providence Avenue, Chester, PA 19013, or donate online at www.delcoliteracy.org. Click on the "Donate Now" button; please write "Madeline's walk" in the comment line.

DCLC Board of Directors

- Ann Seidman, President
- Shonette Harrison Carew, Vice President
- Robert M. Berley, M.D., Treasurer
- Suzanne M. Davis, Secretary
- Rick Durante
- Joseph P. Hawkins
- Charlotte Hobson
- Dick Linderman
- Linda J. Ramsey
- Lois Snyder
- Kelly Thornton



Office Info

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 E-mail: delco@delcoliteracy.org

On the web @ delcoliteracy.org

The Community Supports DCLC

Sign Weathers the Storm with Help from Grassman and Son

High winds during last year's tough winter knocked over the sign outside the DCLC office, but the Literacy Council was not left out in the cold. Landscapers from Grassman and Son generously volunteered to remove, repair and reinstall our sign. Getting the job done with expert efficiency were owner Greg Deeck, center, and his assistants, Kristal Hall, right, and Christian Balistreri.

Grassman and Son also provides grass-cutting and snow-removal services for the Literacy Council at no cost throughout the year.



Sorority Raises Funds for Literacy

The Chester Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. raised \$300 for DCLC through two innovative events. Last fall they held a Literary Cafe and Book Signing in Media, featuring Patricia Haley, author of **Chosen** and **Destined**, and Nicole Bailey-Williams, author of the children's series The Shelby Series: **The Day the Plums Disappeared** and **The Love Child's Revenge**. Proceeds from admission to the event was donated directly to DCLC.

In the spring the group held a book swap, bringing together members and guests to swap books for a small donation. These events are a great example of how creative and fun fundraising can be. We thank them for their dedication and creativity!

DCLC Staff

Madeline Bialecki, Executive Director
Deb Charley, ESL/GED Coordinator
Karen Hamilton, ABE Coordinator
Susan Keller, Volunteer Coordinator
Tatiana Moskatova, Data Quality Specialist
Naomi Bailey*, Math Coordinator
Russell Bankes*, GED Instructor
Gloria Beam*, GED Instructor
Patricia Boccella*, Administrative Assistant
Gwen Cottman*, GED Instructor
Maureen Culbert*, Bookkeeper
Ann Gilligan*, Workplace Literacy Instructor
Julia Kenny*, EL/Civics Instructor
Nancy Kirkwood*, ESL Instructor
Kim Kondla*, Tutor Trainer
Bob Preston*, Tutor Trainer

* part-time

DCLC Office Schedule

October 10 Closed for Columbus Day
November 16 Closing at 5 p.m. for Literacy Celebration
November 23-27 Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
(Wednesday through Sunday)

Save These Dates

November 5 Mick Moloney Benefit Performance
7:30 p.m. See page 1.
November 16 Annual Literacy Celebration, 5:30 p.m.
St. James Alumni House, Eddystone
December 14 10,000 Villages Community Shopping
Event, 3-9 p.m. in Media

Celebrating Gift of Literacy at September Open House



Renee Ross, pictured at left, described learning to read all over again after a debilitating stroke. Ziba Salehi, at right, celebrated obtaining her U.S. Citizenship and part-time work as a seamstress, both of which were possible once she improved her English skills.

These were just two of the success stories shared during DCLC's celebration of International Literacy Day on September 8. Opening its doors to the public, DCLC welcomed visitors to tour the facilities, speak with students and volunteers, and listen to students and guest speakers describe how literacy instruction can change lives. More than 40 local residents attended and learned firsthand about DCLC's tutoring programs for adults acquiring basic math and reading skills and immigrants learning to speak English.



Representing local Rotarians was guest speaker Rotary District Governor Bonnie Korengel. Ms. Korengel described the powerful impact of literacy projects undertaken by Rotary clubs worldwide. She emphasized that teaching one person to read can have a ripple effect on an entire family, even an entire community.

Renee Ross was also recognized as winner of the Sun East Federal Credit Union's annual "People Helping People" essay contest. She was awarded a \$100 prize for her essay about mentoring young women. She shared her accolades with Lisa Smulyan, her DCLC tutor. Pat Wallace of Sun East congratulated Dolores Icaro, Kaday Saccob and Kimberly Robinson who also submitted essays about their community involvement.

Digital Storytelling Comes to DCLC

To expand on DCLC's theme "Everyone Has a Story to Tell," Volunteer Rebekah Judson kicked off a series of digital story-sharing workshops for tutors and adult learners. In photo at left, she's teaching Diane Drott and Carey



Burns video editing. With expert help, each attendee learned video, camera, and computer skills while having fun creating a digital version of his or her personal story – sort of a video

scrapbook.

At right, Bill Killinger is hard at work scanning photos for his story.



You Can Learn Digital Storytelling, Too

Digital Storytelling Skills Overview

Tuesday, October 11, 6-8:30 p.m.

Learn the techniques used in digital storytelling without delving into your personal history and mementos.

Share Your Personal Story—Step One

Monday, October 24, 2-4 p.m.

Start your digital story with personal photos and events. No computer experience required; finished story does not have to be shared with others.

Both workshops will be held at the DCLC office. Pre-registration required; call Susan Keller, 610.876.4811.

Students Laud Tutors at Appreciation Luncheon

“We students need a lot of help from the teachers and tutors,” declared Jennie Maximilien in her speech to volunteer tutors at Delaware County Literacy Council’s (DCLC’s) Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon last month. Jennie, a Haitian immigrant who came to the Literacy Council to learn English more than three years ago, thanked the assembled volunteers for the encouragement and instruction they provide to adult learners throughout Delaware County.

“Learning English as a Second Language is very slow,” she explained. She personally thanked her tutor Eve Mountford for helping her to learn English, especially medical vocabulary. They are pictured at right. With Eve’s help, Jennie successfully studied to become a licensed nursing assistant and now works at Fair Acres Geriatric Center.



Shair Thomas, pictured at left with Tutor Nancy Letts, spoke of the great despair she felt while struggling to learn to read – a problem compounded by a stroke she suffered in 2007. She described her tutoring sessions with Nancy as bringing about a profound change in her life. “For once I have confidence in myself. Before, all I saw was sadness,” Shair told the volunteers, adding, “What a joy it is to be a reader!”

The April 10th luncheon, held at Springhaven Country Club in Wallingford, recognized the dedication

of the more than 200 volunteers who tutor and provide other services to DCLC.

R. Seth Williams, the District Attorney of Philadelphia, provided the event’s keynote remarks. He compared the volunteers and their generous work to beautiful church windows that bring light to all who are near them. D.A. Williams also noted the personal inspiration he felt from spending time with the volunteers, saying, “The majority of my week will be spent with the worst of society. I’d like to thank you for letting me be with the best of society this afternoon.”



GED Graduate Courtney Esposito thanks Gwen Cottman, GED Instructor.

GED Graduation

(Continued from page 1)

“By earning the GED, you earn a key that can open doors ... you have the opportunity to set further goals.”

In fact, most of this year’s graduates plan to pursue additional education. Marie Slaughter, for example, is currently attending courses to become a dental assistant. Other graduates are taking steps toward careers in nursing, musical therapy, and phlebotomy.

Tutors,

Please remember to report your tutor hours because we need them for our grant reports.

Your hours can be called in, mailed in or reported on our website, www.delcoliteracy.org.

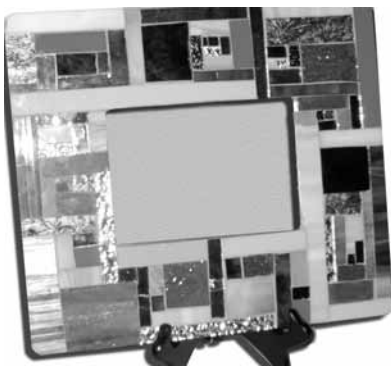
First All-Volunteer Meeting Builds Team Spirit

Sixty volunteers gathered in Widener's Lathem Hall for DCLC's first-ever All-Volunteer Meeting on June 21st. Topics included the new Adult Learner Handbook and 2-page Adult Agreement, which all tutors are asked to read and review with their current adult learners, and upcoming fundraisers.

As Education Coordinators Karen Hamilton and Deb Charley explained, all incoming learners will receive the handbook and sign the Adult Agreement and Dress Code Policy as part of the newly-instituted orientation process. Tutors also learned that the education coordinators will be observing up to 10 tutor-student pairs in the coming year to provide tutors with constructive feedback and to generate ideas for future trainings and other strategies that could benefit tutors in their important work.

Volunteer Coordinator Susan Keller, with the help of Volunteer Fran Bloom, showcased the upcoming major fundraiser, "An Evening with Mick Moloney," which will be held in Delaware County Community College's large auditorium on Saturday, November 5, at 7:30 pm. DCLC is asking each volunteer to sell three advanced tickets to the event at \$15 each. Tickets can be purchased using our online form ("Donate Now" at www.delcoliteracy.org) and writing "Moloney Tickets" in the Comments section or by calling 610-876-4811. Tickets will be mailed to the purchasers. Details about the event can be found on page 1.

Prizes for this year's raffle, pictured below, were on display. All volunteers are encouraged to support DCLC's fundraising efforts.



2011 Raffle

Raffle tickets are still available for chances to win the decorative items pictured here and 4 Villanova basketball tickets (game date to be determined).

You can pick up tickets at DCLC to buy or sell (\$5 per ticket; 5 for \$20). Or use the "Donate Now" button at www.delcoliteracy.org and type "Raffle Tickets" in the comment line. Prizes will be drawn at the November 16th Annual Literacy Celebration. Winners do not have to be present. Call Patty at 610-876-4811 for more information.

Thanks to those who donated items for the raffle: Bob Quinn Photography donated his butterfly photo; Huber Sisters Art (Robyn Huber is a DCLC tutor) created the two decorative mirrors; and PJ Redmond is donating 4 tickets for a Villanova basketball game.



Delaware County Literacy Council's Mission

The Delaware County Literacy Council works with adults who wish to read, write, speak and understand English, helping them to increase their communication skills and to participate more fully in society. The Council uses volunteers to ensure that programs are free and accessible to everyone.

Deloitte Makes a Lasting “Impact” on Literacy Council

On June 10, employees from Deloitte offices in Glen Mills and Philadelphia once again volunteered their professional expertise as well as their painting and landscaping talents to make an “impact” at the Delaware County Literacy Council. While teams of Deloitte volunteers shared their business knowledge by partnering with adult learners and DCLC staff, others went to work sprucing up the building and grounds, all in support of the Literacy Council’s mission to assist adults in improving their reading, writing, math or English-speaking skills.



To help adult learners enter the job market or improve their employment skills, Deloitte professionals offered advice in resume writing, helping students create resumes using the computers at the Literacy Council. To practice interviewing skills, volunteers videotaped mock interviews with the students. DCLC student Chanatip Jirasupakorn felt he benefitted from this approach. “I learned how to answer questions in a job interview. The Deloitte volunteers were kind and helped me a lot,” he explained.

Student Veronica Brown, who hopes to become a certified nursing assistant, said, “The volunteer helping me had wonderful questions about my resume. He helped me learn how to speak in an interview and helped me use the computer.” Veronica’s tutor, Trudi Rockwell, plans to help Veronica fill out applications and fine-tune the resume that she created on IMPACT Day.

Deloitte also helped DCLC staff develop strategies for promoting the Literacy Council’s status as the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce’s 2011 Not for Profit Organization of the Year. “Deloitte’s expertise helped us to realize our potential to reach even more residents of Delaware County,” said DCLC Executive Director Madeline Bialecki.

Lucille Johnson and Anne Jaques of Deloitte, seated on the left and right of Bialecki in the front row of the photo above, headed the team of 30 Deloitte professionals who volunteered at the Literacy Council on IMPACT Day. Tens of thousands of Deloitte employees across the country participate in IMPACT Day each year. The day of service was created by Deloitte as a way for employees to join in community service projects and share their business knowledge and experience to benefit area non-profits. The effort is supported locally by the United Way. Ali Wimer of the United Way of Southeast Delaware County attended IMPACT Day at the Literacy Council. Deloitte is a family of companies providing auditing, consulting, financial advisory, risk management, and tax services to clients around the world.

DCLC Named Not for Profit Organization of the Year



Volunteers and staff members enjoyed the reception at which the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce recognized DCLC as the “2011 Charitable Not for Profit Organization of the Year” for its 35 years of service helping improve reading, writing and English-language skills of county residents. The Literacy Council is the oldest, largest and only organization in the county whose sole mission is adult literacy.

“This award is a tribute to the hard work of our volunteer tutors, past and present, who have worked with adult learners throughout the years,” said DCLC Executive Director Madeline Bialecki as she accepted the award during the Chamber of Commerce’s Small Business Awards Reception in April.



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