

# The Literacy Update

April 2015

**Feature Articles:**

- Inspired Citizenship Recognition
- Volunteer Spotlight on Bill Bertonneau
- Scrabble Night Save the Date
- Second Annual One Book One Azusa
- Welcome New Tutors
- Upcoming Calendar

**To contact us:**

The Literacy Program  
Azusa City Library  
729 N. Dalton Avenue  
Azusa CA 91702  
(626) 812-5266

Or email:

literacy@ci.azusa.ca.us

**Staff & Volunteers**

Literacy Coordinator:  
Cathay Reta

ESL Specialist:  
Helen Goodwin

Citizenship Specialist:  
Efrain Villa

Communications Intern:  
Melissa Martin

Literacy Program Assistant:  
Arlene Calderon

The Literacy Program is a member of

California Library Literacy Services  
www.libraryliteracy.org

ProLiteracy  
www.proliteracy.org

Southern California Library Literacy Network  
www.sclln.org

If you do not wish to receive future issues of this e-newsletter, please let us know at

literacy@ci.azusa.ca.us

## Inspired Citizenship is Presented with Certificate of Recognition

On Tuesday, April 7 Field Representative Nichol Delgado from the office of Assembly member Roger Hernandez presented the library with a Certificate of Recognition to



*Pictured (left to right): Citizenship Specialist, Efrain Villa; City Librarian, Reed Strege; Director of IT and Library Services, Ann Graf; Deputy District Director for Assemblymember Roger Hernandez, Nichol Delgado*

honor its *Inspired Citizenship* program. Ms. Delgado congratulated the Literacy Program team, the citizenship coaches, and the students on the success of the program.

As of April 20, 2015, 22 *Inspired Citizenship* students have taken the U.S. naturalization exam; and 22 have passed.

To learn how you can volunteer as a "citizenship coach" for *Inspired Citizenship*, call Efrain Villa, Citizenship Specialist at (626) 812-5273.

To learn more about how to become a U.S. Citizen, come to the next Citizenship Information Session on Saturday, June 6, 11:00 a.m. in the Azusa Civic Auditorium. Translation will be provided in Spanish and Mandarin.

### Did you know . . .

The Literacy Program at the Azusa City Library has grown incredibly quickly - from 15 participants in 2012 to more than 250 in 2015, from 2 volunteers to more than 35. Its services now include:

- Basic Literacy tutoring for English speaking adults
- Grassroots ESL (English-as-a-Second-Language) tutoring
- Health literacy classes
- Spanish literacy tutoring
- Inspired Citizenship

## Volunteer Spotlight: Tutor Bill Bertonneau

*"Volunteering creates a national character in which the community and the nation take on a spirit of compassion, comradeship and confidence."*  
— Brian O'Connell



*Pictured: Adult Literacy tutor Bill Bertonneau*

This month, the *Literacy Update* is beginning a new section for the newsletter — Tutor Spotlight. It's an opportunity to recognize a volunteer who displays exemplary behaviors for learners and other tutors in the Literacy Program. It's an opportunity to get a perspective on the program through the eyes of a tutor.

For our first article we proudly shine the spotlight on Bill Bertonneau. Bill has been a Basic Literacy tutor since Fall of 2012. Bill is a retired teacher. He was a U.S. Government and History teacher at El Monte High School for 31 years.

The following is an interview with Bill, conducted by Communications Intern Melissa Martin.

**Melissa:** Can you tell if you've helped to make a difference in a student's life? Any examples you can share?

**Bill:** I worked with my first student for slightly over a year. She was a high school graduate, and she went to Pasadena City College after she graduated; however, after a few weeks, she realized she didn't have the writing skills necessary to complete one semester. When she came to the program, she could read books, but she could not form one sentence. Her writing skills were horrible. She wanted to fortify her vocabulary and grammar, so we did a lot of writing in our sessions. I would have her read articles from the Los Angeles Times, or stories she enjoyed reading, and she would write summaries on the articles. I can honestly say that over the course of the year her writing skills significantly improved. She was writing much better than she did at the beginning of the year, and she was even able to write resumes. She became more confident in her abilities to write complete and comprehensive paragraphs.

The student I am working with now is very determined to write English. He speaks and reads very well, but does not know writing skills such as grammar. He would like to learn how to use idioms and prepositions in addition to growing his vocabulary.

**Melissa:** Has being a volunteer tutor made a difference in your life in any way?

**Bill:** After having taught students for so many years, it's nice to be able to do something that I want to do that's related to teaching. It's also nice to help other people improve their skills and learn something that might help them.

**Melissa:** What would you say to someone who is considering becoming a Basic Literacy tutor?

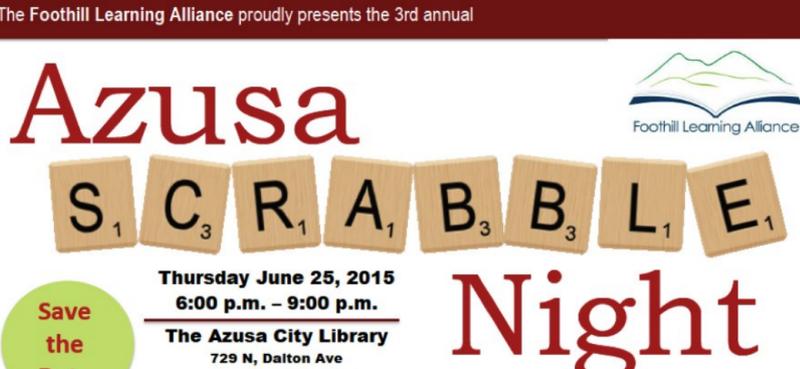
**Bill:** It's not your basic ESL session. These students have a foundation of [speaking] English. It's always good to help other people, particularly if you have skills that you can share with them. When people are being helped, they appreciate it. In this program, you're teaching people that want to be here and learn, as opposed to people who are forced to be in school.

You find out that basically, most people are pretty nice.

The Literacy Program would like to say thank you to Bill. We, along with his students, feel that he's pretty nice, too.

## Save the Date for Azusa City Library's Scrabble Night!

The Foothill Learning Alliance proudly presents the 3rd annual



**Azusa**  
S<sub>1</sub> C<sub>3</sub> R<sub>1</sub> A<sub>1</sub> B<sub>3</sub> B<sub>3</sub> L<sub>1</sub> E<sub>1</sub>  
Thursday June 25, 2015  
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
The Azusa City Library  
729 N. Dalton Ave  
Azusa, CA 91702  
**Night**

*A fundraiser to benefit The Literacy Program at the Azusa City Library*

For more information contact Jeri Vogel at 626-419-6290 or Cathay Reta at 626-812-5266, literacy@ci.azusa.ca.us.



## Second Annual One Book One Azusa

Join the Azusa community in reading *Enrique's Journey*, Sonia Nazario's unforgettable story of a Honduran boy's search for his mother, a decade after she left her children to seek work in the United States.

Visit the Azusa City Library to request your copy of the book and pick up a flier of *One Book One Azusa* activities throughout April and May 2015.

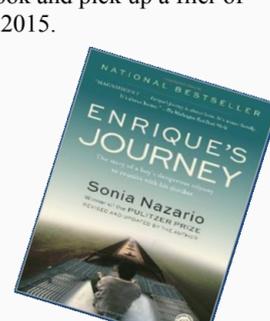
Mark your calendar! There's still time:

**Film Screening**

**Azusa City Library**

**Friday, April 24th, 6:00 p.m.**

Join us as we watch *Under the Same Moon*, an award-winning film about a young boy who travels to LA in search of his mother.



**Community Forum: What's Your Journey?**

**Azusa City Library, Saturday, April 25, 5:30 p.m.**

Hear inspiring stories from your neighbors about their journeys to Azusa.

**Community Workshop: Share Your Story**

**Azusa City Library, Monday, May 11, 6:30 p.m.**

Share the story of your journey with words, photos, and memories.

### Welcome to new Volunteer Tutors:

**Grassroots ESL**

Lynn Huang Lucy Lu Rita Weatherly



### Upcoming Calendar

**Basic Literacy Tutor Training Workshop**  
May 30th, 8:30 a.m., Monrovia Public Library

**Citizenship Information Session**  
June 6, 11:00 a.m., Azusa Civic Auditorium

**Scrabble Night**  
June 25th, 6:00 p.m., Azusa City Library