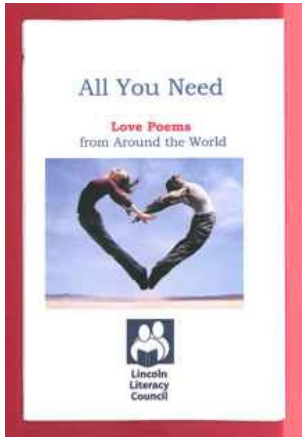




Lincoln Literacy News

February

2010



There's Still Time . . .

**to give your Valentine
a Book of Love Poems!**

At this time of year, many people find themselves scratching their heads for a gift idea for Valentine's Day. Lincoln Literacy Council has a timeless answer. Between now and Valentine's Day anyone who donates \$30 or more to LLC can have a free copy of its celebrated book, *All You Need: Love Poems from Around the World*.

The slim paperback, compiled last year, features love poems from England, Ghana, Japan, China, Russia, Austria, Italy, Iran, Germany, Scotland, and of course the United States. Several poems by Nebraska poets, including Poet Laureate Ted Kooser are included. All poems are in English. Many are classics, but there are also contemporary poems donated by living poets, such as Kooser, for the book.

Anyone who wants to receive a copy can make a contribution via the organization's web site, lincolnliteracy.org, or by check to Lincoln Literacy Council. Be sure to indicate in the memo line where you'd like your copy sent.

Contributions are tax-deductible, and will help LLC continue its work of providing volunteer-driven English language and literacy tutoring to adults and families across Lancaster County.

Books Are Only the Beginning!

Join us on Friday, March 25th, for our third annual "Open Books, Open Doors" extravaganza. The fundraising reception and auction will take place from 5 – 8 p.m. in the beautiful loft at Chez Hay at 14th & P. It will feature music, drink, delicious food, and of course our famed auction of autographed books and accompanying items. You could win a signed Grisham thriller and a weekend retreat, or an autographed cookbook and a set of kitchen ware, or any of a wide variety of dazzling combinations put together by our board and sponsors. More information, including ticket availability, will be coming soon. In the meantime, if you'd like to contribute a signed book, an item or service to the auction, please contact Clay Naff at 476-7323 or cnaff@lincolnliteracy.org.

Annual Membership Meeting Coming Up

While you have your calendar out to mark down March 25th's big event, please also note that on Thursday, March 17th, Lincoln Literacy Council will hold its annual membership meeting. It will take place in the Flanagan Room at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. All current members are welcome! You'll have a chance to receive the 2010 annual report and to vote on members of the board of directors. It's also a great occasion to meet fellow members and enjoy light refreshments. Hope to see you there!



Celebration of the Life of Ellen Kamil

Ellen Kamil passed away New Year's Eve while visiting family in Seattle, Washington. Ellen (on left, with her student Najiba), was both a warm and generous volunteer tutor and a dedicated LLC board member from 2004 to 2006.

A celebration of the life of Ellen Kamil will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 12, 2011, at Spirit Wind Healing Arts, 2634 N. 48th Street, Lincoln.

Those who knew Ellen through her involvement with LLC are cordially invited to attend. The service will include an opportunity to offer short appreciations of how Ellen enriched our lives.

Please **RSVP** by March 5 to kamilmemorial@gmail.com or to Melissa Gamage, P.O. Box 319, Granite Falls, WA 98252-0319. If you would like to say a few words in remembrance of Ellen, please include this in your response to the family's invitation.

In lieu of flowers, the family has suggested contributions to Lincoln Literacy Council or Greenpeace of New Zealand.

Tutor Topics

Measures of progress

As we begin another year, the LLC Board of Directors and staff would again like to thank LLC's dedicated tutors for their efforts to strengthen the English language and literacy skills of adults and families in Lancaster County. As a measure of **your** progress, know that an astounding 92 percent of the students who completed post assessment evaluations improved by at least one level on the Basic English Skills Test. While this figure does not represent a scientific sampling of all our students, year after year a high percentage show improvement. This is indicative that the work of our volunteer tutors really does pay off.

If you want to know your student's most recent BEST score, or to arrange for your student to be post-assessed, just get in touch!

Other measures of progress during 2010 are also quite positive. LLC increased the number of new adult students enrolled to 294 – up from 217 in 2009. Also in 2010, the number of tutors trained increased to 117. This is a jump in tutors trained from both 2008 and 2009, during which years LLC trained 92 tutors (2008) and 107 tutors (2009).

To become a tutor or if you wish to encourage a friend to do so, simply visit LLC's website at: www.lincolnliteracy.org, and select "**Get Involved**" for more information. There is still time to register online to attend a Tuesday, February 15, orientation program at either 1:30 or 5:30 p.m. Both sessions will be held at LLC's office at 745 South 9th Street (corner of 9th and G streets). Parking is available in front of the building and in an adjacent lot which you can enter from G Street. All are welcome, but pre-registration is required.

Finally, as tutors are able, please consider a monetary contribution for LLC's materials on loan. A donation basket will soon become available in the LLC library. It's hard to make this request to those who consistently demonstrate the highest level of commitment and generosity, but consider *one last metric*. Even with LLC's low staff ratio to both learners and tutors, and ongoing cost cutting measures during hard times for all, the cost per adult learner in 2010 was \$333!

Did you know?

In *The Book Report*, Lincoln Journal Star staff writer Micah Mertes reports that Lincoln ranked 20th in an annual study of the United States' most literate cities. Washington D.C. was ranked No. 1. Other top-reading studies included Seattle, Minneapolis and Atlanta. According to *The Book Report*, "the study is based on six factors: newspapers, bookstores, magazines, education, libraries and the Internet." The study also includes a survey of the availability and use of resources for citizens. (*Lincoln Journal Star*, January 11, 2011.)

LLC Office Hours

As part of ongoing cost-cutting measures, LLC has reduced its hours for the 2011 year. Current office hours are:

Monday – Thursday	9:30 AM – 1 PM
Friday	Closed
Saturday	By appointment only
Sunday	Closed

More about Lincoln Literacy Council:



Lincoln Literacy Council is an award-winning United Way organization based in Lincoln, Nebraska. Established in 1972, Lincoln Literacy Council provides English language and literacy instruction to more than a thousand adults and families living in Lancaster County. Many are refugees and immigrants from around the world. The mission of LLC is to assist people of all cultures and strengthen our community by teaching English language and literacy skills. It does this by recruiting, training and deploying more than 200 community volunteers.