



Stars



WASHTENAW
LITERACY

OPENS WORLDS.

A newsletter written by and written for
Washtenaw Literacy learners

Fall 2014



www.washtenawliteracy.org

The Stars Newsletter contains unedited, original work written by and for Washtenaw Literacy learners. The opinions printed here do not necessarily reflect those of the editors or of Washtenaw Literacy.

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My Mysterios Visitor **By: Adriana Balint**

I live on the second floor in an apartment complex with a very nice balcony. Every summer I fill the balcony with a lot of pots with beautiful flowers, admired by all my neighbors.

Two weeks ago I had a big surprise. When I went in the morning to water and check my flowers, I found deep holes in three of the pots, and dirt all over my balcony.

It looked like something was trying to eat the roots of my favorite flowers. I was really worried and I didn't know what to do!

First I filled again the holes with more soil and I swept the balcony. When I decided to watch that night from behind my curtains hoping I could see who was digging in my pots.

The first night I didn't see anything but in the morning there was new holes in the same pots. It happened again and I start to get mad,

ESL Community Group Schedule Fall 2014

The Fall 2014 ESL Community Group schedule is effective from 9/1 - 12/31/14, unless otherwise noted.

[Click here](#) for the Fall schedule. The Winter Schedule will be posted in early December.

If you are interested in a specific subject or topic (Writing, Reading books, TOEFL, Citizenship...) please let us know. Email Melissa at atowle@washtenawliteracy.org

BAD WEATHER GROUP CLOSURES:

To ensure the safety of both our learners and tutors, all groups are consider closed if [Ann Arbor Public Schools](#) close for weather-related reasons. This is the easiest way for everyone to know if a group will meet or not. [Click here](#) to see if schools are closed.

The next day I woke up very early in the morning and I watch from behind the curtains for about an hour.

Finally I saw the leaves of one of my plant moving and quickly opened the balcony door and I saw the intruder who was bussy digging again: it was a very small red squirrel. As soon as I opened the door she ran away up to the roof.

I filled in the holes again but now the problem was how to stop her from coming back.

The next night the first thing I did was to cover my plants with big trash bags, and I thought and thought what to do to scare her away.

The next morning I got up early, I pot some water in one spray bottle and waited for her to return.

And she did. I saw her when she was walking on the railing of my balcony with a peanut in her mouth.

Then I took action: quickly I opened the balcony door. I grabbed the spray bottle and I squirted the water ten times in her face. She was so surprise and she didn't know what to do or where to go. Finally she found a path up to the roof. I almost felt sorry about her, because I realised she wasn't trying to eat the roots of my floweres, she just want to bury her peanuts in a safe place.

Later I realised that she was finding this peanuts on my neighbor's balcony who puts out food every day for the squirrels.

Since then she never return to mess my flowers.
My mysterios visitor discovered my balcony was not a safe place.

Pinterest Resources for Learners

Check out all of the online learning resources available on [Pinterest!](#)

Do you like reading about current events? [Here](#) is a site that offers daily news articles that can be easily changed to make the language a bit easier or a bit harder - whatever works for you!



[NEWSELA.com](#) has new nonfiction stories for you to read every day!

If you need help learning how to navigate Pinterest or have resource suggestions, please email [Melissa Towle](#).

Learning Labs

We have begun offering goal-centered workshops specifically designed to help learners achieve a goal.

I Love Fall! By: Shemia Juanita Cain

WINTER WILL BE HERE... I HATE WINTER!

I LOVE SPRING, SUMMER AND FALL

I LOVE WHEN THE TREES CHANGE COLORS AND THE LEAVES FALL IN FALL

SOMETIMES MOTHER AND I DRIVE THROUGH THE NEIGHBORHOOD TO LOOK AT THE TREES

THEY ARE ON FIRE!

WHEN I TAKE THE BUS, I FEEL THE LEAVES CRACKLE UNDER MY FEET

Poetic Meditation By: Marquise McDaniel

You are entering poetic meditation
this meditation took preparation
Hard work and dedication
to present you this presentation
True genius doesn't require education
Just look at Martin Luther King
Imagination let him to a dream
Seeing the human race redeemed

I have a dream he screamed!!!
millions of viewers watched the scene
Some watched in person
Some through a television screen

Upcoming Labs include:

- Book Group
- Readers Studio
- ESL Topical Discussion
- American English, Conversation, & Communication

Learning Labs are different from regular groups in a few very important ways:

⇒ Advance registration is required; drop in is not allowed.

⇒ Attendance at all sessions of the specific learning lab are expected; again, these are not drop-in.

⇒ Learning Labs have a specific start and end date and have limited space to ensure maximum learning for participants.

If you are interested in a particular topic and hope to see it for a Learning Lab, please email Melissa Towle:
towle@washtenawliteracy.org

Stars Submissions

If you are interested in having your original story or article printed in an upcoming Stars edition, please contact

because in those days a political leader
was a sight to be seen

He lived to die and he died to live
to change the way we live
He lived to die and he died to live
to change how we live

The greatest gift is the life we give
so a persons life can be lived
Sacrificing your years for there years
Replacing there tears with your tears

Knowing its okay because your here
love overcoming fear
let the child who hears, hear
and spread there joy with all there peers

its clear (pause)

Change only comes with determination
this meditation my declaration
I hope you caught a revelation
hearing my poetic meditation



Washtenaw Literacy either via:

Email:

communications@washtenawliteracy.org

or

Postal Mail:

Washtenaw Literacy
Attention: Stars Editor
5577 Whittaker Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Note: space is limited for each issue. We will do our best to include all submitted stories. But, if space fills up, stories not included will be first in the next issue!

Articles due January 24th for publication in mid-February.



Black Velvet
By:Theresa Banks

I have a little friend. She is a black as velvet. She has always been by my side, when I was sick, when I was healthy.

I can tell my little friend anything I want and she will never tell anyone. She is my therapeutic friend for my disability. When I'm sad or happy she says right beside me. She makes me feel like a princess. She is my best friend.

I'll never have to worry about her telling anyone else about my problems. When I leave or come back she will be right there for me. She is the smartest Black Velvet I have every known.



Your O, So Bright
By: Marquise McDaniel

Your O, so bright
your light illuminates my
life
your smile so bright
it illuminates my night

Whenever I go wrong
you lead me right
because your light
o, yes your o, so bright

Dear Representative Conyers

By:LaRue Mason

Dear Representative Conyers,

I am writing concerning the things that go on in our city, like gang violence, straling out of people's homes, and drug trafficking that goes on in our neighborhoods.

One reason why all these drugs, killing and stealing are happening is because Congress is not passing laws.

Congress is not doing anything about gun control and the things that go on in differnt cities.

They are not trying to get the city roads fixed and the city roads are tearing up people's cars.

But Congress can pass laws to go to other countries and fight wards and kill their people.

Also Congress tries to say things about the president of the U.S. but they are not doing anything themselves.

One thing Congress needs to do is take a good look at the country they live in and pass some laws.

But they try to stop the president from the things hs is trying to do for the country.

They are not giving him the money he needs to help the country so he can bring in jobs.

Congress can take the tax payer's money and take five weeks of vacation.

But Congress can't pass gun control laws or give money to fix city roads.

All the things that go on in this country and congress is doing nothing for the people.

These are some of the things I would like to say.

Congress is not passing laws and not doing any thing about gun control.

About the things that go on in different cities, congress is talking loud but to the people they are saying nothing.

These are also some of the things I'd like to say. The reason why God gave mankind the law is for man to live right. Also God allows man to make laws in the land for the people to live right with each other.

But the laws give people the right to have guns but the people are using guns to kill people and to get vengeance on people.

I understand people have the right to have a gun to protect themselves from people who go around killing.

If the law gives people the right to have a gun that right should be in their homes only.

Also I understand a gun is not a sin but when people go arond and use the gun to Kill people, that is a sin.

When the law gives some people the right to have a gun on the street, the law gives people the power to become the law.

But the people who live in the city should not have to do the law's job.

But the law should take the guns out of the people's hands and do their job by protecting the people.

When God gave us our freedom He gave us the freedom to choose right from wrong but not the right to do anything they want.

This is why we should be careful in the life we live.

I hope you don't mind if I share with you a copy of my award from GM for 35 years of employment at GM.

1 Corinthians CH6 - verse 12

1 Corinthians CH14 - verse 40

Sincerely,
LaRue Mason



SAVE THE DATE: Our Annual **Celebration of Learning** Potluck and Awards Ceremony will happen on Thursday, March 26th, 2015 | Grace Fellowship Church House of Solutions | 1301 South Harris Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

More details to come soon! All tutors, learners, and their families are invited to join - bring a dish to share.

We are looking for nominees to receive learner achievement awards. To nominate someone, email Melissa Towle: towle@washtenawliteracy.org

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