

*We help English language learners become thriving members of our community by offering one-on-one English language tutoring, and building bridges that foster cross-cultural respect, understanding, and friendship.*

Spring/  
Summer  
2012

Inside this  
issue:

**Sign up  
for Scrip!** 1

**Donors** 2

**Success  
Stories** 3

**Calendar** 4

**Board of Directors**

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**Directors**

Julia Carroll-Shea

Judi Kreinick

Diane Miessler

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Donna Cobb

English  
language  
gives each  
individual the  
voice to be  
heard in our  
community.



## Letter from Myra Arstein, Board President

Our organization continues to grow in students with a matching one-on-one tutor population. With your help we have been able to assist our learners in meeting their goals. We have many successes to share with you, our supporters, which you can read about at [www.piell.org](http://www.piell.org) under “About PiELL”—Successes.

Each year PiELL conducts three tutor training sessions for new volunteers. These 2-day training sessions provide the necessary skills to mentor our students and help them assimilate into our community. If you think that you must have a teaching background to mentor students, you’ll be glad to hear that is not a requirement. We encourage you to spread the word as we have a list of waiting students ready to become learners of English. You can register on our website at [www.piell.org](http://www.piell.org) by clicking on the “Join Us” page from the menu bar, which will direct to our on-line registration application.

Our learners are employed within our community, in a variety of jobs, such as: construction, restaurants, hospitals, hotels, industry, housekeeping, gardening, ranching, landscaping, and homemaking. They want to improve their English language skills and improve their living situation for themselves and their children.

The majority of our funding is through grants and, thankfully, from individual supporters like you. This year with the economic downturn affecting all of us, we tried a

new fundraising event -a successful, first-time fundraiser at Northridge Restaurant in Nevada City. It was great fun, dining and socializing with our volunteers, students, and their families. We plan to have similar events in the future.

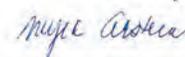
Regular events during the year include the popular Student & Tutor Potluck Picnic each September, quarterly Tutor Coffees where old and new tutors share what works and what doesn’t, and our annual holiday party at year’s end.

PiELL has been creating internal board policies that will guide us through our growing pains and allow us to be responsible stewards of our non-profit organization.

We have gained a new Board Director, Julia Carroll-Shea, who brings a great deal of enthusiasm and creative talent to our team. Sadly, we are losing a great team player on our Board, Louise Beesley. Louise has been a major contributor to our organization at the board level, as our librarian and materials evaluator, resource tutor and tutor. I’m so grateful that she is willing to continue on as our librarian and tutor. Thank you, Louise, for your many years of service to PiELL.

We are grateful for our wonderful volunteers and community members who continue to support our program with their time, financial support or in-kind service.

Respectfully,  
Myra Arstein, President



PiELL Student Demographics - 12 Months:		
Asia	Latin America	Other
China	Argentina	Poland
Mongolia	Brazil	Russia
Thailand	Cuba	Spain
Vietnam	El Salvador	
	Mexico	
	Paraguay	
	Peru	

### PIELL NEEDS YOUR HELP!

*With your participation in our Loyalty Programs, which are inclusive of GLSC SCRIP, Save Mart Shares and SPD Community Card Program - a percentage of your purchases will be given to PiELL. Your participation will help ensure that our community service program will continue serving Western Nevada County. Consider the SCRIP examples below (% goes to PiELL)*

**Travel:**

- (4%) Comfort Inn & Suites, Quality Inn, Rodeway Inn
- (8-9%) Avis, Budget Car Rent, Courtyard by Marriott

**Home Purchases:**

- (2-4%) Ace, Amazon, Home Depot, Kmart, Lowes, Target, Walmart
- (7-9%) Bed, Bath -Beyond, Crate & Barrel, Pier 1, Pottery Barn
- (13%) Bath & Body Works

**Grocery:**

- (2-4%) Savemart, Safeway

**Clothing:**

- (10-14%) Gap, J.Crew, Macy’s, Old Navy, Payless Shoes
- (16%) LL. Bean, Lands’ End

**Dining:**

- (7-10%) Applebee’s, Buca di Beppo, IHOP, Mimi’s, Outback, Starbucks
- (9-12%) Macaroni Grill, Panera, Quizno’s, Tony Roma’s

**Misc—Father’s Day Gifts, 4<sup>th</sup> of July ,Other:**

- (8-10%) Big 5, iTunes
- (20%) AT&T 125 Minute Prepaid Card



For more details on how to donate, call 530-274-8428 or go to our website: <http://www.piell.org/donate.php>  
We appreciate your support. -Myra Arstein, PiELL Board President



## Speaking English—Easier Said Than Done

By Julia Carroll-Shea, Tutor and New PiELL Board Member

English is not an easy language to learn – it's hard, with a plethora of synonyms, homonyms, and slang – plus exceptions to every rule. (And thousands of fancy words, such as plethora, that only the most determined English speakers make theirs.)

Most of us tutors learned to speak English as our first – and frequently only – language. We learned English the easy way, one “Mama,” “Dada,” and “Bye-bye” at a time, when our infant brains were ready to soak in new experiences, sounds, and words. And we learned in an environment that held it was cute and natural that it took us years to make the right sounds to match up with the multitude of things in the world around us. Nobody considered us slow if we didn't come out with complete, grammatically correct sentences by the time we were three years old. But, too often, people won't make any allowance for adults who are struggling to learn English as a second language.

An important point, made by one of the trainers during my tutor training, has stuck with me. She said: “Remember, your learner is as fluent in his or her language as you are in English.” Right! I'm not

*“As I reflect on our Mission Statement, and how that translates into the cultural aspect of what PiELL stands for, I think the following quote makes a poignant statement.” ~ Judi Kreinick*

### Underneath We're All The Same, by Amy Maddox, 16

**He prayed...it wasn't my religion.  
He ate...it wasn't what I ate.  
He spoke...it wasn't my language.  
He dressed...it wasn't what I wore.  
He took my hand...it wasn't the color of mine.  
But when he laughed...it was how I laughed, and  
When he cried...it was how I cried.**

trying to become fluent in Spanish, but I wish I could retain even a few of the Spanish words my learner has tried to teach me. Nada.

Another important point brought up during tutor training, was that our learners are adults, with typical adult responsibilities and with an adult's natural desire for respect. My learner, for example, is a single mother who works full time (at the same job for six years), has a boyfriend, has nearby family she likes to visit on her day off – yet is motivated and determined to spend time and do the hard work of learning English.

In my learner's case, she could take the easy way: her family and friends, her boyfriend, her co-workers all speak Spanish. But her son, born here, being schooled here and tended by an English babysitter, speaks mostly English. He is her primary motivation; she wants to speak English for him. Moreover, she appears to trust that I can help her learn English – as much English as she wants to learn for her needs. I thank her for her confidence and patience. It's humbling. And it's not easy.



Keith Schoendoerfer and his two students who recently became US Citizens.

## OUR GENEROUS DONORS (May 1, 2011~April 30, 2012)

<u>FRIENDS \$1-\$49</u>	<u>PARTNERS \$50-\$99</u>	<u>BRONZE \$100-\$199</u>	<u>SILVER \$200-\$499</u>	<u>GOLD \$500-\$999</u>	<u>DONATIONS IN KIND</u>
Wanda Avery	Yvonne Bartlett	Curtis Bok & Sharon Bailey-Bok	Daughters of the American Revolution	SPD	David Arstein
Barbara Duvall	Bruce & Charlotte Bolinger	Marlee Chamberlin	Mary Gibson in memoriam of Fred Hargesheimer	Westamerica Bank	Yvonne Bartlett
Cathy Fagan	Marianne Cartan	Chevron Humankind	Ross & Nancy Guenther		Grass Valley School District
Margaret Glaeser	Meg Christianson	Jay Egan	Arthur Katz	<u>PLATINUM \$1000-\$5000</u>	Nancy Guenther
Hindi Greenberg in honor of Judi Kreinick	Anthony & Susan Clarabut	Barbara Fain	Judi Kreinick	Ghidotti Foundation	Trevor Michael
David Kanter	Rosalee Doherty	Pam Jessup	Save Mart Shares	Great Lakes Scrip Co.	Phil Smith
Lawrence Lang	F.D. & F. Francis	J.M. Keating	Helen Shaw	Kathy Mollet	
Brad & Margaret Miller	Ellen Gallagher in honor of	Eric Robinson	Arthur & Evelyn Stecher	Morgan Stanley Smith Barney	
Sally Smith	Janice J. Hedman	Virginia Van Wagner	Beverly Stout	SaveMart Cares	
Cynthia Stout-Gonzalez in honor of Bev Stout	Dorothy Hitchcock		The Northridge Restaurant	United Way of Nevada County	
Mary Thelander	Sarah Jordan				
Margarita Weitstock	James & Mary Kiser				
Nancy & Lee Wilbourne	Roger & Jean Poff				
	Diane & Lowell Robertson				
	Daniel Rodriguez & Deborah				
	Edi Silverman				
	Jesus Villarreal				
	Lawrence & Patricia Werner				

## My Student's Success Story

By Kristan Harrington, Tutor

Fidelia and I have been working together for just over one year. When we started she spoke almost no English, but I suspected that she understood more than she spoke. She had no confidence at that point. Speaking on the phone was particularly difficult for her.

Just recently she has become the translator during her shifts at work at McDonalds in Grass Valley. She translates what the manager says in English into Spanish for the cooks in the back. The cooks speak essentially no English, but they are very

impressed with Fidelia and how fast she has learned to speak confidently. Several of them have requested the contact information for PiELL and I hope they can join the program. Fidelia is easy to understand on the phone for the most part now.

Being the translator at work is still a bit stressful for her, but both she and I are happy that she has received recognition for her bi-lingual skills. We also have a great time at our lessons which is another type of success.



Myra Arstein, Board President, right, with her student Margarita.

## The Day I Left My Country

As Written By Pablo Marin Gonzalez



Pablo Marin Gonzalez with his tutor, Bev Stout.

*Pablo joined PiELL in February of this year as a level 3 student. He wants to improve his speaking and writing. He also attends Lisa Stine's ESL group classes.*

I left my country Costa Rica when I was 19 years old. My mom and my stepfather had been living in Grass Valley, California for one year already, and they invited me to live with them.

After many days I was made the necessary arrangements to flying to the United States.

That night I woke up at 3:00 am, because I was nervous and I had mixed feelings. I was happy to start a new life in another country, but sitting

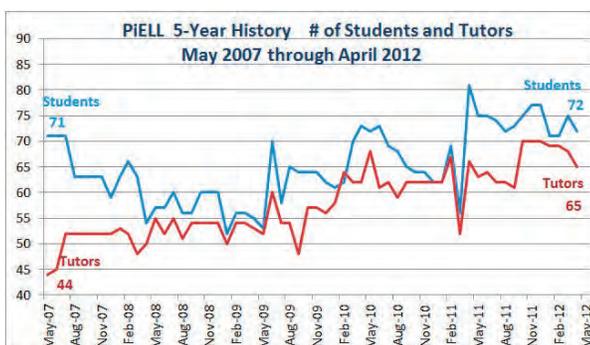
in an airplane for several hours made me feel sick and dizzy. I never left my country before and I never had been on an airplane.

Was hard to take the decision to leave my country, Costa Rica is a beautiful country and people are very friendly. I thought if came to the United States could create a better future for me and my family.

I was leaving my traditions, family and my friends and not knowing when I would see them again. I was taking with me my grandmother's blessing. That day I knew that my life was going to change and nothing would be the same.

## PiELL's 2012 Annual Tutor Brunch

On April 28, PiELL held its annual Tutor Brunch in the library at Lyman Gilmore School, where we enjoyed a delicious light brunch, compliments of the PiELL Board. A new slate of Officers was introduced and voted on and annual reports were read. Bev Stout and Louise Beesley spoke about PiELL resource materials available in our library. We also broke into groups for a learning exercise. Thanks to all of you who helped make this a fun and productive meeting.



PiELL volunteers participating in a learning activity our recent Annual Tutor Brunch.



**Thank You!**  
to the following businesses where PiELL  
students and tutors meet in a comfortable  
and welcoming environment:

- BriarPatch Co-op
- Carolines Coffee
- Flour Garden Bakeries
- Grass Valley Library
- Nevada County Country Club
- Nevada City Library
- Penn Valley Community Church
- Safeway, Brunswick Basin
- Summer Thyme's Bakery & Deli
- What's Up Coffee?
- (formerly Caroline's Coffee, E. Main St.)*

**Partners in English  
Language Learning**

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578 Sutton Way, PMB 198  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Phone/Fax: (530) 274-8428

Email: [admin@piell.org](mailto:admin@piell.org)

[www.piell.org](http://www.piell.org)

Office Hours

Mon:	1:00—5:00
Wed:	2:00—6:00
Fri:	9:00— 1:00

Calendar

New Tutor Training Schedule

Fall 2012:

Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> 8:30am-4:30pm  
Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> 8:30am-4:30pm

*\*Must attend both days.*

Tutor Coffee:

Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> 1:30-3:30  
Peace Lutheran Church, Grass Valley

Tutor & Student Potluck:

September 23<sup>rd</sup> ~Save the date!  
Look for your invitation!

Check our website for  
upcoming events!

[www.piell.org](http://www.piell.org)

Congratulations and thank you to the 2012  
Graduates of our New Tutor Training!

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Yolanda Bodine | Patricia McLean |
| Danette Boles  | Diane Miessler  |
| Donna Kearns   | Richard Tumilty |
| Bob Martin     | Laurel Wallace  |

