

Fall/Winter
2014/2015

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.

Letter from PiELL Co-Presidents, Judi Kreinick & Bev Stout

As newly elected Co-Presidents, we want to wish you all a very happy holiday season and thank you for your continued support of PiELL, without which our organization could not exist.

2014 has been another very successful and very busy year for us. We have had a total of 96 students receive tutoring during 2014 with 94 tutors helping them learn English. We added 18 new students and trained 21 new tutors during the year.

We continue to have a wonderful and exciting variety of students from a number of different countries, with our very first student from Senegal being matched with his tutor in October, and a new student from Nepal being matched with her tutor in June. While the majority of our students are from Mexico and Central and South America, we also currently have students studying with us from Bali, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Poland, Senegal, and Thailand. All of this delightful cultural diversity right here in our own small community!

And one of our students became a U.S. citizen in 2014...Congratulations to Luisa Peeler from Costa Rica, and to Bev Stout for helping her along this path.



Luisa with her Tutor, Bev Stout after receiving her Citizenship.

We have had 3 new Board members join the team: Bill De Camp, our Treasurer extraordinaire and grant-writer; Becca Schultz, who is heading up our community outreach program and conducting Session 2 of our New Tutor Training; and Brettin White, who has been a big help on the newsletter and events planning committees and has recently developed a student survey which she has been conducting over the past month.

We held 2 Tutor Coffees, which is a time for new and tenured tutors to get together and talk about their experiences, share successes, new ideas, and creative learning tools. It's also a great time to learn about some of the new books and materials that we have in our library.

We also held fundraising events at 3 different restaurants during 2014: one at Penn Valley Northridge, one at Summer Thyme's Café, and another at Smiley Guys. These events were very successful - all who attended enjoyed good food in a fun atmosphere, and each restaurant donated a percentage of their dinner money. One more fundraising event is planned for early December, a Community Canvas Painting evening. We hope to see many of you who live locally there.

In July we had to move yet again, as the non-profit where we had our office for just over a year was moving. Our new office, located in Providence Mine Road Business Park, is small, but very nice. For the first time, we are not subletting space from someone else. Hopefully, this will be our home and our last move for many years to come.

Once again, we would like to thank our tutors who do so much to help our students learn English and become more comfortable in our community. You all make such an important contribution to our students' lives and the lives of their families. They and we are forever grateful for your time and dedication.

Judi Kreinick Bev Stout

Judi Kreinick & Bev Stout,
Co-Presidents of PiELL

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Contact us at admin@piell.org or 265-2116.

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



What's Happening at PiELL...



My Experience with PiELL

By Brettin White, Tutor and Board Member

Below is a PiELL experience recap from Brettin White, our youngest-ever Board member, who has been an invaluable member of the PiELL board for the past year. Thank you Brettin for all your contributions.

It's amazing to think that my adventure with PiELL began just a year and a half ago - so much has happened since I completed those two training days. I have had the privilege of seeing two women's faces brighten as they understand new words and concepts for the first time, and it has been a joy to get to know them, hear their stories and encourage their hopes for the future. However, due to unexpected changes that life often brings, both of my students had to stop meeting some time ago. Transitions in my own life prevented me from dedicating the minimum year-long commitment to a new student, so I was



PiELL Board Members (Left to right, beginning from back row): Bev Stout, Bill DeCamp, Judi Kreinick, Diane Miessler, Becca Schultz, Louise Beesley, Nancy Guenther and Brettin White

unable to start tutoring anyone else. Since I was trained to be a tutor, you may be thinking the adventure ended there. Thankfully, that has not been the case. At the beginning of this year, Donna sent out an email requesting any nominations for the Board of Directors. I saw that they needed someone to join the Newsletter Committee, and since I have experience writing newsletters, I volunteered. I was warmly welcomed to the Board as the youngest member. At my first board meeting, I found myself wondering, Do I really belong here? But these doubts were quickly assuaged as my input proved valuable and as I've taken on new responsibilities:

- Nancy trained me to perform new student evaluations.
- Louise taught me how to check in library books, and we collaborated to make new Library Guides after our big move.
- Judi requested that I create and conduct a Spanish-language student satisfaction survey, so that we can check in with learners and receive their feedback. (I only wish I could speak Thai and Tagalog and all the other native languages too!)

The list goes on! As a student at Sacramento State, I became aware of an Internship in Field Work course, so now I have even more time to devote to these and other jobs. Everyone has been very generous in teaching me what goes on behind the scenes, and I've simply made myself available and flexible to address each new task as it comes. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to network with the greater non-profit community in Nevada County and represent PiELL at other events. I will be sad when it's time to go away for my next adventure as I graduate and begin my teaching career, but I am so grateful that I have had the chance to serve this vibrant community with such a deserving organization. I believe in the work that PiELL does, and it has been an honor to be a small part of it.

OUR GENEROUS DONORS ~ September 30th, 2013-October 1st, 2014

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Philip Smith

Success Stories & More



My First PiELL Student, Talisara

By Phyllis Murdock, Tutor

Hello Piell supporters and fellow tutors! I am Phyllis Murdock, a new tutor from the March 2014 class. I am fortunate to have Talisara as my first student. Talisara is from Nepal and has been here about 1 ½ years. She was never able to attend school in her own country, and so she never learned to read or write in her own language.

At first I was not sure, having never tutored before, whether teaching someone with NO English would be doable for me and for her. We seem to have found that we do just fine, thank you very much! One of the benefits to our relationship is the presence of her three children during some of our sessions. Her daughters, ages 15, 13, and 12, add immensely to the sessions and are helpful when a translator is needed. The daughters have been here for the same length of time, but because they go to school, they have picked up English much more quickly. However, they do save up some questions for me on the days I am there, and I am glad when I can clarify something that confuses them about English. They also provide lots of humor, which helps us as well.

Talisara has gone from not having any grasp of English to knowing her alphabet and writing her name and address. Her most recent

accomplishment is being able to call me on her cell phone to tell me she cannot make the lesson because she is not feeling well. She can also tell me where she lives and her phone number.



Phyllis Murdock with her student Talisara

We have a great time during our sessions and probably the most fun are the times when I act out something for her. She truly loved learning about what it means to have a headache, backache, stomach ache. Also the acting out of my knee hurts, my foot hurts, my hand hurts caused raucous laughter from Talisara and her children. If I put my hand to my back, she instantly says "My back hurts!" I am very grateful to have Talisara and her family as a part of my week.

My Student, Filiberto

By David Hardy, Tutor

Filiberto is continually improving his vocabulary with new words and new understanding. He comments that just when he thinks he has a real grasp of the language, I throw something new at him, and he has to reconsider. Instead of getting frustrated, he actually gets more motivated. I am very pleased with his eagerness to learn more.

My Former Student's Son

By Bev Stout, Tutor, Co-President

Joel (Ho-el) Aguirre, son of my former PiELL student, graduated from Ghidotti Early College High School in June with two years of college to his credit. He is now attending California State University, Monterey Bay, as a junior, studying law. CONGRATULATIONS JOEL!!

My Student, Augustine

By Bob Johnson, Tutor

Augustine has had some concerns about his family in Mexico, it's nothing major, yet it is troubling. Despite this, he continues to work at his studies, and I continue to count my blessings for the life I was born into.

We are forging a bond between us, unexpectedly close. There is more to "Partners in English Language Learning" than simply learning a new language --- partnership!!

My Student From Bali

By Norema Strongin, Tutor

I am so proud of my PiELL Student for learning to pronounce the "SH" sound! This has been difficult for her because there is no "sh" sound in her native language. Last week she went to a restaurant and ordered shrimp--at first they didn't understand her, but when she repeated it pronouncing it carefully, they knew what she said. She was very pleased with this accomplishment and so was I!

We are working hard on the difference between "f" and "p" sounds, and she is improving. Our new sound is "th" and we are working at pronouncing the ending sounds on words distinctly. In her language these sounds are pronounced so softly that *ban* sounds like *band* or *bang*.

Meanwhile we are doing a multi-session practice on medical issues. She is working on learning the vocabulary for parts of the body and medical equipment (like a thermometer) and we are also learning vocabulary for types of illness and injuries. Every week we role-play medical or other emergencies pretending she is calling 911 or making an appointment to see a doctor for her or her daughter. Next week she will have enough vocabulary to role-play going to the doctor! I am going to get a sample of the medical information form filled out by new patients from my doctor and we are going to go over that and have her fill it in, discussing each of the conditions mentioned.

Welcome to our new PiELL Tutors!

We recently held another successful New Tutor Training, and we are very pleased to welcome our new Tutors! They completed the two-day training in September and are now being matched with students. They are all excited to begin the program, and several have already met with their new students.

We still have a number of students waiting for tutors, so we need more volunteers for our New Tutor Training in March of 2015. Our goal is to train enough volunteers to match all of our waiting students. If you are interested in becoming a tutor or know someone who might be, please contact us for information on our upcoming training sessions. And, as always, a big THANK YOU to all of our volunteer tutors.

We appreciate all of our volunteers! If you are interested in this fulfilling opportunity, or know someone who might be, please contact us at 265-2116 or admin@piell.org for information on our upcoming training sessions.





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

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Grass Valley Library
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www.facebook.com/partnersinenglishlanguagelearning

PiELL Needs You

Piell is facing a challenge - we desperately need board members with grant writing and/or fundraising skills. You have shown that you are committed to supporting PiELL. If you have these skills, we hope you will consider joining our Board.

If you can help PiELL meet this challenge, please contact us at 265-2116 or admin@piell.org.

PiELL Events

COMMUNITY CANVAS FUNDRAISER

Thursday, December 4th, 5pm—7:30pm

Join us for a Paint Party Fundraiser to benefit Partners in English Language Learning. Community Canvas Art Instructors will be on hand to help you create a beautiful piece of art to keep or give as a gift.

\$45 per person (includes all art materials, appetizers and drinks)

Go to Rezclic to reserve your space (limited seating)

<https://www.rezclic.com/communitycanvasinc/index.php?page=classes>

- click on "Reservations" and find our event.

For more information contact us at 265-2116 or admin@piell.org

TENTATIVE SPRING 2015 NEW TUTOR TRAINING SCHEDULE

March 14th ~ Sessions 1 & 2 8:30am-4:00pm

March 21st ~ Sessions 3 & 4 8:30am-4:00pm

**Must attend both days.*

Check our website "Event" page for upcoming events!

Partners in English Language Learning

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www.piell.org

Office Hours

Mon: 1:30—4:30

Wed: 1:30—4:30

Fri: 9:00— 1:00