

Spring/Summer  
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

Dear PiELL Volunteers and Supporters,

2015 marks PiELL's 30-year anniversary...30 years that we have been serving the adult English-language learners of Western Nevada County. It's actually hard to believe! We continue to have adults in our community who need us, and tutors who are always there to help them. For those donors and supporters who live locally, please stay tuned for news of our 30-year anniversary celebration, which will take place in September. We hope you will be able to join us, the PiELL Board and tutors, for this event.

In 2014 we had a total of 88 students and 68 tutors involved in our program, with tutors and board members volunteering over 5,000 hours of their time. With the need for our services continuing to grow, we conducted 22 student intake interviews during 2014, and 19 tutors took our two-day New Tutor Training. And in March 2015, another 13 new tutors were trained.

Through the monthly reports that our tutors submit, and through conversations that many of them have with their Resource Tutors, it continues to be very clear that our students' English abilities are improving, and they are becoming more comfortable interacting within the community, which can be very intimidating for so many of them. It can be very scary to make a phone call, go through the checkout line at the store, make a doctor's appointment, talk to

teachers, or interact with their bosses. We get valuable feedback from our tutors on an on-going basis about specific strides that many of our students are making in these areas, as you will see further on in this newsletter.

All non-profit organizations depend on volunteers, and PiELL is no exception. We actually have only one employee, Donna Cobb, our Program Coordinator, who has been with us for nearly 9 years. She works 11 hours a week and continues to be the glue that holds us all together.

We absolutely would not exist without the continued support and dedication of our volunteers. We would like to especially thank the 19 volunteers who have been dedicating their time, talents, and energy for 5 or more years. They are:

- 11 years: Louise Beesley
- 9 years: Becca Schultz
- 8 years: Ray Bryars, Janet Bullock, Laura Duncan, Helen Kranz, Joe Macrina
- 7 years: Marlee Chamberlin, Nancy Guenther, David Hardy, Linda Waechter, Susan Zlimen
- 6 years: Shari Coats, Ellen Hagan
- 5 years: Kathryn Eldredge, Dorothy Hitchcock, Allison Sweetser, Mike Vasser, Margarita Wietstock

Thank you so very much for your long-term dedication to our students and to our organization. Once again, we would like to thank all of our volunteers and our supporters for your generosity toward PiELL.

*To quote Harriet Tubman: Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.*

Warm Regards,



Judi Kreinick (11 years with PiELL) & Bev Stout (20 years with PiELL)

*"We've all heard about the recent tragic earthquake in Nepal. Being part of PiELL means that we are all touched by being a part of our students' lives, usually in a very positive way. Two of our students are from Nepal, and, unfortunately, both have families there who have been devastated by the recent earthquake. Phyllis and Kathy, please let your students know that they and their families are in our hearts and our thoughts."*



PiELL Board Members (Left to right, beginning from back row): Becca Schultz, Bill DeCamp, Judi Kreinick, Helen Breault and Program Coordinator, Donna Cobb, (front row: Louise Beesley, Bev Stout and Nancy Guenther)

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



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GLSC has long-standing relationships with America's most trusted retail brands including Amazon.com, and the following local stores: Kmart, CVS, Walgreens, Burger King, Papa Murphy's, JC Penney, Taco Bell, Big 5, Starbucks and Sears to name just a few. Consider ordering Great Lakes Scrip from our Scrip Coordinator for your everyday purchases or for gift giving! Scrip certificates can be in your hands within hours, or gift cards are ordered the beginning of each month. To see what businesses support Scrip, visit our website at [www.piell.org/donate](http://www.piell.org/donate) and scroll down for a link to the complete list of participating stores. Each business lists the percentage of the purchase that is credited to PiELL, as well as the dollar denominations that can be issued. **Do your shopping while helping a good cause...PiELL!**

Contact us at [admin@piell.org](mailto:admin@piell.org) or 265-2116.





**Musings from Nancy Guenther**

By Nancy Guenther, Secretary, Student Evaluator, Tutor

We, who are so fortunate to live in this country, sometimes forget how much we take for granted. As a reminder, here are some musings...A friend of mine married a young woman from Nepal, and they very recently arrived in the United States and came to visit us here in Penn Valley. She had never seen a dishwasher before nor an electric frying pan, toaster or vacuum cleaner, and she wanted to know what they were. She actually thinks vacuuming is fun!! She didn't understand why anyone would want a trash compactor either, and she had never seen hummingbirds.

She had never used a washer or dryer before and was used to washing clothes by hand and hanging them out to dry. When I turned on the dishwasher and it said 95 minutes, she was astonished and exclaimed that she could do the dishes much faster than that. I used my toaster for an English muffin, and when it popped up, she jumped about a foot! She also wanted to know why we had a cupboard full of dishes when there are only two of us.....good question!

**Welcome to our new 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 March 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 will be offering our New Tutor Training in September (9/12, 9/19). If you are interested in becoming a tutor or know someone who might be, please contact us at 265-2116 or admin@piell.org for information. A big THANK YOU to all of our volunteer tutors. We appreciate you!

**Congratulations and thank you to the Spring 2015 Graduates of our New Tutor Training!**

- |                  |                  |                     |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Jan Berger       | John Gabriel     | Patty Ruud          |
| Greta Broda      | Martha Garcia    | Kayla Summers       |
| Sherry Davey     | Christy Gillison | Nancy Zeno-Hamilton |
| Jo DeSoto        | Lia Lorton       |                     |
| Susan Ellenbogen | Enid Powell      |                     |

**A BIG "Thank You!" to Westamerica Bank!**

From the PiELL Board of Directors

Exemplifying Westamerica Bank's practice of investing a portion of earned income back into the communities they serve, Westamerica Bank Financial Services Officer, Chris Skinner (front left) and Customer Service Manager, Anna Kistle (front middle) presented a \$500 check to PiELL's

Co-Presidents Judi Kreinick and Bev Stout, and Treasurer Bill De Camp.

Thank you, Westamerica, for this generous donation which will help us expand our lending library.



**OUR GENEROUS DONORS ~ April 1, 2014—March 31, 2015**

**Friends \$1 to \$49**

- AmazonSmile Foundation
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- Lisa Yates in memory of Helen DeCamp

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- SPD Market (e-scrip card)
- Holiday Market
- Save Mart Shares
- Westamerica Grant

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- Smiley Guys Smokehouse
- Bev Stout
- Tina Carver Grant

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- Save Mart Cares Grant
- ShopWithScrip.com (GLSC)
- United Way of Nevada County

**Donations In-kind**

- David Arstein
- Trevor Michael, Owner Margaritas
- Philip Smith



**My Student, Wendy**

By Becca Schultz, Tutor & PiELL Board Member

Last fall when I first started tutoring my student Wendy, she told me she would like to get her driver's license. She needed to be able to drop off and pick up her children at school and get to work on her own. She had recently taken the written test in Spanish and failed. I suggested that we study for the test in English and take it again. She agreed and I made up a vocabulary list based on the DMV handbook.

In February I was taking a trip and so we didn't meet for a few weeks. I had thought that we needed about another 2 months to prepare for the written DMV exam but when we next met Wendy let me know that she had taken the test in my absence (in English) and only missed 3 questions! Wendy recently took the driving test and passed! I took the picture of her proudly holding her temporary license (right).



A wonderful surprise at our Smiley Guys fundraiser on April 16...Alex Cravalho (above w/Judi Kreinick) just happened to be there for dinner. Alex was a PiELL tutor for just about a year and has recently been accepted into the Peace Corps where he will be teaching English in Madagascar. Congratulations Alex! Way to go!

**My Student, Augustine**

By Bob Johnson, Tutor

My student Augustine continues to do so well. We celebrated our first year anniversary last month. It's hard to believe a year has gone by. Time, indeed, flies when you're having fun.

He is thinking about returning to Mexico. He is not sure of the exact date. He has been away from his family for over two years and misses them deeply. It's hard for me to imagine what that must be like for him. Even though we talk about it from time to time, I can still only guess at the inner struggles he must face, wondering if he should stay and try to save more money or go back to his family and watch his children grow up. I feel so thankful for this life I was given.

**My Student, Flor**

By Christine Newsom, Tutor

My student Flor is making good advances in speaking English! Suddenly, she is not defaulting to Spanish but remains in English even when struggling. She recently told me she had gone to the clinic the day before our meeting to take her toddler son for his immunizations, but the usual clinic translator was not available. She managed to get through the appointment with the Nurse Practitioner, who spoke no Spanish, all on her own!

I praised her and reinforced that, now that she has done that once, she could do it again and again. She seemed very pleased. (Flor & Christine, right)



Deniris with her Tutor Claudette

**My Student is a Gem**

By Claudette Paige, Tutor

Deniris and I have developed a relationship of ease and trust. We enjoy each other immensely. Initially her conversational skill was limited, but she has improved a great deal. Our time together is a treasure to me. We continue to work on conversations using the esl-lab.com website and other YouTube conversational sites. I often stop the video to cover colloquial phrases and words.

She is diligent in doing her homework and using the Internet sites to hear English spoken. Her opportunities to speak English have expanded as well. I continue to use Paso a Paso materials which she likes very much, but her greatest need is to hear English spoken and to

practice creating sentences in English. She went "solo" to Safeway and Caroline's Coffee and engaged in a short conversation with 2 clerks and a customer at Caroline's.

She shared she was nervous before going, but now feels more confident! I was so proud of her and told her how courageous she was. I've asked her what she needs from me and she usually says more vocabulary. She realizes that she needs to improve her English in order to reach her goals of returning to her profession. I found a book in the PiELL library that is medical terminology and she lit up when I gave it to her. She is a gem.

**Working with My Student**

By Pat McLean, Training Instructor, Tutor

Nuvia talks openly and confidently with me now that she trusts that I will not be criticizing her English. We often talk about her daughter (age 13), her husband, or her mother who is ill in Mexico, and Nuvia is motivated to learn just the right expression. She also enjoys it when we use the English/Spanish vocabulary cards I made for myself when I was studying Spanish. It is much more fun for her to know that I had to learn all of these words, too, and that I forgot them when I don't practice. She wants to learn all of the words in English that I know in Spanish. We also switched to working with the future tense, and she felt wonderfully successful at this because it is so easy compared to the frustrating complexities of the past tense.

Suddenly she now feels that she can learn quickly and it is a thrill for her. She has communicated for years with English forms that are incorrect and her speech habits are very hard to change now. She has never really had time for homework. She is still working at least two jobs and is exhausted when we meet at the end of her work day. I will introduce more games to lighten the work I add to the end of her day.



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

Caroline's Coffee  
Flour Garden Bakeries  
Grass Valley Library  
Madelyn Helling Library  
Safeway, Brunswick Basin

Sierra Mountain Coffee Roasters  
Starbucks Coffee  
Summer Thyme's Bakery & Deli  
What's Up? Coffee

**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](mailto:admin@piell.org).



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**PiELL Events**

**Summer Thyme's Nonprofit Program to Showcase PiELL**

Summer Thyme's is showcasing PiELL from now through June! For every \$5 you spend at Summer Thyme's, you will receive a wooden nickel. Put your nickels in the box under PiELL's poster, and they will donate to PiELL based on the number of wooden nickels. It's as easy as that. Summer Thyme's Deli & Bakery ~ 231 Colfax Ave. in Grass Valley

**Nevada City Northridge Fundraiser ~ August 3rd 5 -9pm**

Enjoy a delicious meal and a percentage will go to Partners in English Language Learning!  
Northridge Restaurant ~ 773 Nevada St. in Nevada City  
Call 478-0474 for information and to make reservations

**Fall 2015 New Tutor Training Schedule**

September 12<sup>th</sup> ~ Sessions 1 & 2 8:30am-4:30pm  
September 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Sessions 3 & 4 8:30am-4:30pm

*\*Must attend both days. Call us at 265-2116 or email [admin@piell.org](mailto:admin@piell.org) for more information. Check our website "Event" page for upcoming events!*

**PiELL Student Demographics**

2015

Asia	Latin America	Middle East
Cambodia	Brazil	Afghanistan
India	Chile	
Indonesia	Columbia	
Japan	Cuba	
Nepal	El Salvador	Europe
Philippines	Mexico	Spain
Thailand	Nicaragua	Poland
Vietnam	Peru	

For Mother's Day or for a Graduation, shop at AmazonSmile.com when shopping and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate a portion of the purchase price to Partners in English Language Learning. When first visiting AmazonSmile.com, select PiELL from the list of eligible organizations, then just shop like you usually would on Amazon. It's that simple!



**Partners in English Language Learning**

**Physical Address:**  
103 Providence Mine Rd., #104B Nevada City  
Phone/Fax: (530) 265-2116 Email: [admin@piell.org](mailto:admin@piell.org)

**Mailing Address:**  
578 Sutton Way, PMB 198 Grass Valley, CA 95945  
[www.piell.org](http://www.piell.org)

**Office Hours**  
Mon: 1:30—4:30  
Wed: 1:30—4:30  
Fri: 9:00—1:00