

Fall/Winter
2013/2014

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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.

Demystifying the Mystery of Scrip By Diane Miessler, PiELL Board President

Okay, I admit it. I meant to start using Scrip years ago, and put it off until I was encouraged to do so when I took my position as President of the Board. I also had access to Bev Stout, the Scrip Program Goddess, at board meetings, who patiently explained it to me. I'll share aspects of PiELL's Scrip Program with you here as I learn them. There are three categories of Scrip which benefit PiELL; Great Lakes Scrip Center gift cards, E-scrip (SPD and others) and SaveMart Shares cards (available in our office).

Here's lesson number one, Using Great Lakes Scrip Center (GLSC) gift cards for everyday purchases:

Purchase gift cards for a participating grocery or other retail store where you shop regularly. Do it now. I go to Safeway, because it's on my way home from work and has sushi. For my initial order of a Safeway gift card, I gave a check to Bev, made out to PiELL, and she brought me my first gift card which I keep in my wallet.

Once you have a card, you may be able to "Reload" it (Check the GLSC website to see what cards can be reloaded). That's what I do; I set up a recurring payment (Bill Pay) to PiELL through my bank for \$300 once a month. Then, something magical happens...the bank sends a payment every month to PiELL and

my card is reloaded. When I shop, I use the gift card like a debit card. The receipt tells me how much is left on it, which keeps me in a budget, and PiELL earns money from GLSC (a certain percentage; Safeway is 4% now).

Of course, you may also use the GLSC gift cards as gifts to others. If they happen to be the "reloadable" kind, be sure to let the recipient know how to reload through PiELL.

If even half of our newsletter recipients do this, it'll make a huge difference. Please think about it - it's easy. Honest.

There's more information below, and you can also check out the GLSC website: www.glscrip.com

To place an order, email Bev at blstout@pacbell.net or call Donna at 274-8428.

Thanks for all you do for PiELL -



Diane Miessler, Scrip late bloomer, and PiELL Board President

For every day purchases or the perfect gift for the holidays...GLSC Scrip gift cards!

Great Lakes Scrip Center (GLSC) serves non-profit organizations and major US retailers through innovative scrip fundraising programs. Founded in 1994, GLSC has helped retailers ring up more than \$8 billion dollars in sales while raising more than \$400 million for our non-profit clients.

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, Bev Stout, 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 the Great Lakes Scrip Center "Catalog" at <http://www.glscrip.com/shop/Search.aspx?SearchType=2&CategoryID=0&PageIndex=1>

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!

Thank You to Summer Thyme's Bakery and Purdon's Crossing!

On August 10th, [Summer Thyme's](#), Grass Valley's beloved local bakery and deli, hosted a musical fundraiser for Partners in English Language Learning (PiELL).

Summer Thyme's owner, Amy Cooke, donated a percentage of the proceeds for the day, and local band "Purdon's Crossing" donated their eclectic, quirky brand of music, as well as their tips. In total, the event raised \$400 for PiELL; this money will go toward outreach, tutor training, and teaching materials.

"Thank you!"



Purdon's Crossing performing at Summer Thyme's with PiELL Board President, Diane Miessler singing (far right)

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





Angie...A Success Story

Written By Judi Kreinick, Tutor, Resource Tutor, Board Member

I began tutoring Angie in May 2011. At that time she spoke absolutely no English. She was a 27 year old college graduate from Paraguay who met her American husband in Asuncion while he was there working for the Peace Corps. They moved to Grass Valley in 2011 and were here for 1 1/2 years.

During that time I tutored Angie twice a week for 2 hours at a time, plus she took group lessons at another location for another 3 hours a week. Learning English was her "job." She was a very serious student with a delightful sense of humor, and she always did her homework. We worked from several different books from the PiELL library, plus I made up stories that incorporated things that would interest her and help her practice her pronunciation, vocabulary, and eventually help her with past and future tenses.

In July 2012 her husband got a position with the State Department and they moved to Virginia. For several months we had been incorporating citizenship lessons (again using citizenship books from the PiELL library) into our weekly sessions, and we continued doing this through Skype for 1 - 2 hours per week until October. In early November 2012 she took the citizenship test in Washington, D.C., which was a thrill for her, and, of course, she passed the test with flying colors.

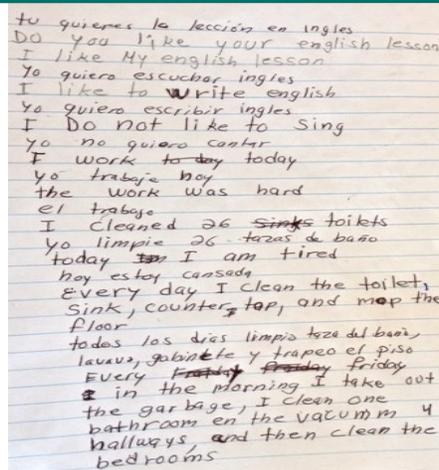
Angie and her husband are living in Brazil for the next 2 years, as he has been assigned to the U.S. Embassy there, and they are looking forward to living all over the world. We stay in touch on a regular basis via Skype and email, and now she is able to tell me all about her exciting life IN ENGLISH.



Angie receiving her citizenship certificate.



Laura, with her student, Pachis



Pachis' Progress By Laura Duncan, Tutor

Recently Pachis wrote some sentences (left) in response to questions. Slowly but surely we are advancing. Pachis is becoming more confident in her ability to speak English.



OUR GENEROUS DONORS Oct. 1, 2012-Sept. 30, 2013

FRIENDS \$1-\$49

Barbara Chesnut
Dora Cividino
Rosalee Doherty
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Lawrence Lang
Margie & Brad Miller
Marilyn & Tony Mociun
PiELL Yard Sale
Susan Reynolds
Emi Sakai
Amy Umpleby
Anita Wald-Tuttle, in memory of Bill Tuttle
Margarita Weitstock

PARTNERS \$50-\$99

Anonymous
F. Mervin Baker
Sharon Bailey Bok & Curtis Bok in memory of Fred Hargesheimer
Louise & David Beesley
Julia Carroll
Meg Christianson
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Mary Alice Eisenberg & James Kiser
Mary Gibson, in memory of Fred Hargesheimer
Ellen Gallagher & Allyson Goose
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BRONZE \$100-\$199

Charlotte & Bruce Bolinger
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Daughters of the American Revolution
F.D. & F. Francis
Purdon's Crossing
Nancy & Ross Guenther
Sarah Jordan
Nohemi Mead, in honor of PiELL
Eric Robinson
Edi Silverman, in memory of Albert Silverman
Kathy & Mick Tuttle
Ginger Van Wagner
Patricia Werner

SILVER \$200-\$499

Marianne & Michael Cartan
Barbara Fain
Dr. Arthur Katz
Judi Kreinick
Jeanne & Trevor Michael
Save Mart Shares
Carson Skaggs
Evelyn & Arthur Stecher
Summer Thyme's Bakery and Deli
Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains Tithe
WestAmerica Bank

PLATINUM \$1000-\$5000

Ghidotti Foundation
Great Lakes Scrip Center
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney
Save Mart Cares
United Way of Nevada County

GOLD \$500-\$999

Bev Stout
Chevron Humankind Matching
E-scrip (SPD)

DONATIONS IN KIND

David Arstein
Peggy Slyker
Trevor Michael, Owner
Margaritas Restaurant

My New Student, Paula

By Nancy Guenther, Tutor, Board Secretary, Student Evaluator

Paula and I have been working together since February, meeting twice a week at her home in Penn Valley. She has lived in our area for a year and is originally from Santiago, Chile. She and her husband, Christian, both have tutors through PiELL. They have two sons and really enjoy being involved with their sons' school and activities.

Paula is a highly motivated student. She always does her homework and diligently writes down new vocabulary words. She asks questions if she doesn't understand. She also goes to Lisa Stine's ESL classes on



Nancy Guenther, Board Member, Tutor and Student Evaluator meeting with her student, Paula (left).

Tuesdays and Thursdays, so all together she spends about 10 hours a week studying English in class and then does homework and studies on her own. She recently began volunteering at her sons' school teaching Spanish to small groups of students. She also went to a flooring store on her own and asked an employee to come

to her house to give an estimate. She asked him to speak slowly so she could understand. Going out into the community and speaking with store employees is very difficult for English learners and is often avoided.

Paula is a beginning student but she knows the importance of always speaking English during our classes rather than reverting to Spanish, even if she has to struggle to express herself. She recently returned from a trip and she spent three hours telling me about her trip by going through her photographs. It was a great class as she learned a lot of new vocabulary. Here is a funny little story that illustrates how she always finds a way to get her question or idea across. I showed her a photograph of a living room and asked her to tell me about the objects in the room. There was a deer head with antlers over the fireplace. She knew the word "deer" but not "antlers" so that went into her notebook. Then she thought a moment and I could see her trying to formulate a question but not being sure how to ask it. Finally...."What has the husband of a cow?" We both laughed and then the words "bull" and "horns" also went into her notebook.

Today, she was excited because one of her sons' teachers had called and she was able to speak to him on the phone even though she didn't understand everything he said. Speaking a new language when you are just beginning to learn sentence structure and vocabulary is very difficult yet she is courageous when it comes to communicating in English and thus learns more every day. I am very proud of her.

The Sun also Rises

By Diane Miessler, Tutor, Board President

I knock on the door of the beautiful, care-worn old house, hoping it's the right one. Built in the 40's, I'd guess, and just this side of fancy — I imagine it used to be the jewel of a lovely neighborhood, but the place changed. Now the neighborhood's noisy, a little run down. And the house, still beautiful, is showing its age. Like all of us, right?

The house is now a haven for women getting back on their feet after leaving violent situations. My student Ali is one of them. She opened the door, with a smile bigger than I've seen on her in a while. I've always been impressed by her keen intelligence and strength of character, but until recently I had no idea how much she'd been dealing with. I only noticed that she seemed subdued sometimes, and her smiles seemed to have to break through that.

Throughout our year of lessons, while working a minimum wage job and studying English, she'd been trying to keep the peace at home. Her husband is a good, hardworking man who came to family events and band concerts. And he had a problem with anger. Ali talked to him often about it, and drew a line with physical violence. But their son, a smart, lovable kid with more energy than he knows what to do with, became a target for his Dad, who finally erupted into violence. Ali had to get out.

Back then, I just got a text that she wouldn't be able to meet me for her lesson that week. The weeks stretched into months, as she navigated the court system and her new life. I couldn't visit the shelter, which is kept secret, but I would get updates from time to time, in imperfect but understandable English. The kids were Okay. She'd been given custody. She got her car back and was working.

Last week she texted that she was in a new place and could have visitors there. Seeing her open the front door was like watching a sunrise. I hugged the kids and told them I'd missed them. The 5 year old girl now goes back and forth between English and Spanish effortlessly, sometimes losing me - she said "I missed you, too", in Spanish. Her hair is longer. Her brother is taller, and still has that wide-open gaze that makes you feel like a kid. I hear from Ali that he blames himself for their

situation. Kids do that - it breaks your heart. But he smiles and lets me hug him, and says he's "good". And he is. Good. I hope he believes it.

Ali and I spend most of our lesson catching up on life. Her English has improved since I saw her last. She's been studying on her own in the books from PiELL; also, some of the women in the house only speak English, and are helping her learn. She tells me about the last 6 months, in English, only a few times having to stop and find words or ask me in Spanish. I don't correct her, except when she apologizes for her English, which I don't allow. Ali is very smart - picks up on obscure patterns in English, understands obscure concepts, gets my jokes. Stuff like that.

She says "This is my year to learn English. I want to get a good job so I can get a house for me and my childrens." She's a calm, loving, respect-inspiring tiger of a mom, and her kids reflect it. We spend a little time before I have to leave "hittin' the books." We're studying passive past tense in the worksheets I printed from learnamericanenglishonline.com (GREAT website, by the way). "The trumpet is played by pushing on the buttons." "The instrument is constructed of brass."

I talk about the crazy ways past tense is pronounced in English - yeah, it says "-ed", but it's not always pronounced "ed." And sometimes it's not even there.

- Constructed: "construct-ED."
- Watched: "watchT."
- Played: "playD."
- Present tense: "set." Past tense: "set."

I say "I apologize for the English language", and we laugh. It's good to see her laugh. It's good to see her.



Ali with her tutor, Board President Diane Miessler



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

- [BriarPatch Co-op](#)
- [Madelyn Helling Library](#)
- [Brunswick Village](#)
- [Penn Valley Community Church](#)
- [Caroline's Coffee](#)
- [Safeway, Brunswick Basin](#)
- [Flour Garden Bakery](#)
- [Starbuck's Coffee \(Freeman Ln.\)](#)
- [Grass Valley Library](#)
- [Summer Thyme's Bakery & Deli](#)
- [Nevada County Country Club](#)
- [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 step up to help PiELL meet this challenge, please contact us at 274-8428 or admin@piell.org.

PiELL Event Calendar

PAPA MURPHY (FOWLER CENTER) FUNDRAISER

Tuesday, December 10th—All day!
Papa Murphy's Pizza—Fowler Center
2118 Nevada City Hwy, Grass Valley
Purchase any regularly priced item and mention the fundraiser, or bring in a flyer, and a percentage will go to Partners in English Language Learning!

NORTHRIDGE RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER

Tuesday, January 14 5pm—9pm
Northridge Restaurant — Penn Valley
17464 Penn Valley Dr. in Penn Valley
*Enjoy a delicious meal and a percentage will go to Partners in English Language Learning!
Call 432-0700 for date/time and to make reservations.
Check our website "Event" page for information!*

NEW TUTOR TRAINING SCHEDULE

March and September 2014 — Dates to be announced later

Check our website for Events: www.piell.org

PiELL Student Demographics

12 Months

<u>Asia</u>	<u>Latin America</u>	<u>Other</u>
Indonesia	Chile	Afghanistan
Japan	Colombia	Poland
Philippines	Cuba	
Thailand	El Salvador	
	Mexico	
	Nicaragua	

Congratulations and thank you to the Fall 2013 Graduates of our New Tutor Training!

- Karen Anderson
- Bob Johnson
- Barry Carney
- Paul Sabin
- Bill De Camp
- Kitty Thomas
- Tom Fitzgerald
- Ginny Woods

Partners in English Language Learning

Mailing Address:
578 Sutton Way, PMB 198
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Phone/Fax: (530) 274-8428
Email: admin@piell.org
www.piell.org

Office Hours

Mon: 1:30—4:30
Wed: 1:30—4:30
Fri: 9:00—1:00