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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.*

## Letter from the PiELL Presidents

Dear Friends and Supporters of PiELL,

I spent several hours one recent Saturday going over all of our newsletters that I've kept, dating back to the summer of 2007. And then I started thinking about all the changes, good and not-so-good, that have happened throughout the world over that same period of time. As I went through information on the internet, it was very difficult to find stories that were positive or neutral. Most of what the internet defines as "significant events" in any given year were somewhere between negative and downright depressing. But here are some things that occurred since PiELL has existed that are between neutral and uplifting, depending on your point of view. In January 2007 Apple released its first iPhone. January 2009 Barack Obama became the 44th President of the United States. May 2011 Osama Bin Laden was done away with. July 2011 was the last voyage of NASA's 30-year space shuttle program. In 2014 Malala Yousafzai was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In 2015 Millennials passed Boomers as the biggest U.S. generation. And prior to 2017, almost no one had ever heard of Meghan Markle ... We needed a little levity here!

The good news is that as I read through all of PiELL's newsletters, there were so many heartfelt stories that were shared about the positive impacts we have had on the lives of so many of our students. And in almost every case, that all flows down and across to the children and spouses and

parents of those students. And I can say without hesitation that we also impact the lives of our tutors. Many of us feel that the time we spend with our students each week has a lasting and loving impact on our own lives as well.

We would like to give special thanks to Christie Gillison who took on the role of PiELL Board President for the past two years. Christie, your contributions were nothing short of amazing. A heartfelt thank you to our donors and to our volunteer tutors, and to our volunteers who are involved with the New Tutor Training, the Resource Tutor



Co-Presidents Judi Kreinick and Bev Stout

Program, maintaining our library, maintaining our web page and our data base. And welcome to our new Program Coordinator, Cynthia Robertson. It truly does take a village to run this organization. And as Christie said in her last President's message, "Thank you for helping to make our corner of the world a better place."

*Judi Kreinick and Bev Stout*

## WELCOME TO NEW PiELL TUTORS

PiELL welcomes these new tutors who have recently completed the 16 hours of New Tutor Training. PiELL's training curriculum was developed in-house and is taught by experienced tutors. After completing the classroom work, new tutors observe a live tutoring session before they are matched with a student. We strive to set them up for success. Ongoing support is provided by a resource tutor who acts as a mentor and tutor get-togethers, where ideas for teaching are shared.



The new tutors are Ann Ashley, Penny Glubetich, Diane Wells, Alan Greenbaum, Karen Wcislo, Donna Dekker, Becky Swabeck and Denise Mozzetti.

## Our Generous Donors ~ Sept. 1, 2017—8/31/2018

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Judith and Bill De Camp  
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### In Kind

David Arstein  
Trevor Michael  
Phillip Smith

## Grants are Great ~ By Christie Gillison

Each year, PiELL must secure close to \$18,000 to operate. Since we have no automatically recurring revenue stream, this is not a small task. Grants and donations are the biggest sources of PiELL funds. This year we have been awarded funds from Ghidotti for a grant that was submitted last year, and from SaveMart,

Dollar General, and the United Way.

We are so appreciative of our grantors' vote of confidence in the work that we do. We recognize that funds are limited, and value the support of these fine businesses and organizations. Thank you to Susan Ellenbogen

and Ray Bryars for joining the grant-writing team this year! Thank you also to each of you who take time to share stories about your work with your students. Without those real-life examples of the impact of our work, we would not be able to paint the picture of the critical need for what we do.

## Meet Louise Beesley, PiELL Librarian



Louise Beesley, PiELL's librarian, holds a couple of the many books available to tutors and students.

Piell has an extensive library of books for tutors and for students of all levels of English proficiency. Tutors can easily find appropriate books, all carefully cataloged according to subject and level of difficulty. Responsible for this outstanding library is our librarian, Louise Beesley. Louise joined PiELL around 2005 and has served as our librarian for 10-12 years! She graduated from Scripps College then earned a Masters in Library Science at San Jose State. When she moved here from the Bay Area, she secured the job of librarian at Nevada Union High School, a job she held for 26 years. When she retired she joined PiELL because of her love of books and her desire to help people. We are so lucky to have Louise in the organization.

## Did You Know?

Sixty-eight PiELL volunteers gave 3,263 hours of service from July 2017 to July 2018. We now have students who come from 22 countries.

### PiELL Student Demographics

Fall 2018

<u>Asia</u>	<u>The Americas</u>	
Cambodia	Argentina	El Salvador
China	Brazil	Guatemala
Hong Kong	Chile	Mexico
Indonesia	Colombia	Nicaragua
Japan	Costa Rica	Peru
Laos		USA
Nepal	<u>Europe</u>	
Thailand	Italy	Spain
Vietnam		

## Turning the Corner ~ Nancy Guenther

Paula and I have been working together for five years. When we began, she was a beginner in English. At first we met twice a week, and later, as Paula improved, just once a week. Paula also attended group ESL classes twice a week through the adult education program. She was a highly motivated student.

Meeting as often as possible, Paula swiftly moved through the various English levels. The first couple of years in the community were frustrating for her due to her lower level of English proficiency. But slowly but surely, she began to understand more spoken English. She began having simple conversations with other parents and with teachers and people in the community. She began making phone calls on her own to physicians' offices and to local businesses.

In the past couple of years, Paula has made amazing strides. I am so proud of her. She has passed her driver's test. She finished an on-line course in the teaching of meditation. She signed up for child development and art classes at Sierra College and excelled in all of her classes, winning an award for her student art. She joined a local art club and has displayed her art in a local coffee shop and in other venues. She signed up for a multi-day seminar, staying away from home to attend the classes. She understands more and more English and can carry on long conversations.

She has truly turned the corner as an English learner. She is a very busy person and has integrated herself into our wonderful community. She is really one of PiELL's success stories.



**Paula sits with her artwork on display at a local coffee shop.**

## Moving On ~ Aldo Vibanco

Marly is a strong, educated woman from Brazil. She grew up in São Paulo where she went to school and ultimately became a lawyer who specialized in the field of divorce. During her time in São Paulo, Marly also married and became the mother of a little girl.

Move forward in time, and Marly is now retired and lives in Nevada City with her now grown daughter, her daughter's husband and her granddaughter. Marly did not want to move to America but had to do so for personal reasons. As sad as it was for Marly to leave the country she knew and loved, she is now moving on and looking forward to making the most of her retired life here in America.

Marly enjoys the simple things in life, like spending time with family, reading, watching Brazilian soap operas and learning English. Her passion for learning a new language led her to Lisa Stein's class and ultimately to PiELL's tutoring program, which brought me into her life and to this point in time.

My time with Marly so far has been one of learning and teaching and has taught me how to be as patient as a monk. During our twice-a-week, one-hour sessions, our starting point is always conversation, which is the hardest part and where Marly struggles the most. The interesting thing about her

learning skill set is that she is a visual learner. She can read, write and comprehend everything that I present to her, but when it comes time for listening and conversing, she freezes. Luckily, we solved this by using her strengths to conquer her weaknesses.

During one of our sessions, Marly seemed to struggle even more than usual in getting her point across to me, even after I asked her to think of simple, easy sentences to respond with. For some reason, that didn't help, which led me to pick up a pencil and write down an easy response and have her read it back to me. That is when the light bulb clicked on. If she could write what she was trying to express and then read it out loud, we could have a conversation. This is how we solved the problem and now we can have full, simple conversations at the start of our sessions.

Solving the issue of conversation has boosted Marly's self-esteem in learning the English language and has encouraged her to move forward full steam. She is looking forward to mastering conversing in English and to gaining a little independence. At this moment, Marly mostly spends time with her family but is very interested in venturing out into her community and meeting new people. She wants to create new, everlasting relationships.

## A Beautiful Celebration ~ Christine Newsom



**Christine; bride Flor; groom Elias; and Christine's husband, Bill, pose for a picture at the wedding.**

When I started tutoring Flor five years ago, she had already been in the U.S. for about five years but spoke no English. She and her partner, Elias, had a four-year-old daughter, Sophia, and Flor was pregnant with her second child. But like so many women whose partners speak adequate English, she interacted only with her Spanish-speaking friends, seldom going out into the community. However, it was time for Sophia to enter school, and Flor decided she wanted to change her situation, so she contacted PiELL.

Flor had not completed elementary school in her native El Salvador, so her English lessons have an added layer of complexity for her in that reading sometimes is an extra challenge. But she is very motivated, always has her homework completed, and keeps her sense of humor through it all. For my part, it has been so rewarding to watch her slowly gain confidence to step out into the community, volunteer in her children's classes, and work outside the home as she learns English. I am also very touched that she has accepted me into her life in a trusted position as "Teacher Christine," as shown by the fact that she invited my husband Bill and me to her recent wedding with Elias. This was a beautiful celebration with their Hispanic community at their church in Grass Valley. I see the fact that they finally chose to marry, in part, as a sign that they both look to the U.S. as their home and the place they plan to stay.



## Partners in English Language Learning

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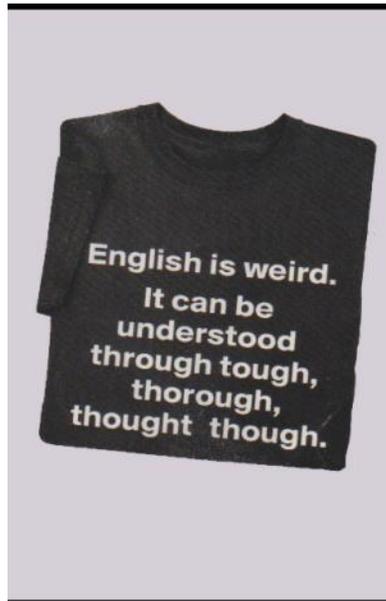
[Page 1](#)

[Page 2](#)

[Page 3](#)

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### PiELL Office

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

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

**Office Hours:** Mon. 1:00-4:00 pm; Wed. 1:30-4:30 pm; Fri. 9:00 am-noon

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