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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 President

Dear Friends,

It's hard to look at the news these days without feeling overwhelmed. It can be difficult to think about making a difference in a world where there is so much uncertainty and suffering. In the 18th century, French philosopher Voltaire suggested that, when faced with such a world, we should "tend to our own garden," a metaphor for focusing on our own community and neighbors. While individual efforts may appear narrow, the collective effect can be massive.

At PiELL, each tutor works one-on-one with an adult who wants to learn English. With this personal approach, positive connections are made and real friendships are built. As students progress, they build confidence and are more able to participate in community life. Tutors benefit as well, embracing new challenges and expanding their world view.

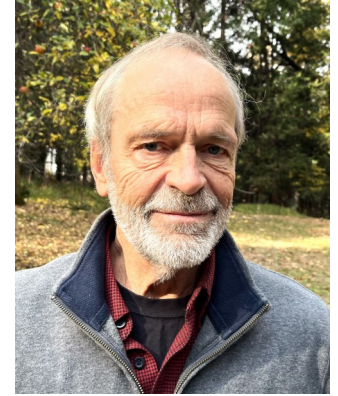
On page 2 of this newsletter, two PiELL students share their experience of learning English. Their success stories are a heartening example of the difference that one person can make.

A contemporary version of Voltaire's advice is to "act locally." By supporting PiELL or becoming a volunteer tutor, you have the opportunity to ease one person's transition as they adapt to a new country and learn a new language. With your help, our garden will surely flourish.

Finally, a special thank you to our generous donors. You are making a real difference!



Chris Crain, President of PiELL



Chris Crain

Remembering PiELL Tutor Sherry Davey

It was with great sadness that we learned of the recent passing of PiELL tutor Sherry Davey. Sherry had been an active and dedicated part of PiELL, serving on the Board of Directors as well as tutoring several students over the years. As a former teacher and nurse, Sherry brought a wealth of knowledge and compassion to every endeavor. She will be greatly missed by all of us in the PiELL family, and our condolences go out to her family.

New Mailing Address!

Although the PiELL office and library remain in the same location, we have a new mailing address:

**2036 Nevada City Highway #387
Grass Valley, CA 95945**

PiELL Information

Office:

103 Providence Mine Rd.
Suite #104B
Nevada City, CA 95959

Phone: (530) 265-2116

Email: admin@piell.org

Website: www.piell.org

Mailing Address:

2036 Nevada City Hwy #387
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Office Hours:

Mon. 1:00-4:00 pm
Thurs. 1:30-4:00 pm

Tax ID #68-0160848

PiELL is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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We are grateful to our donors! We do our best to acknowledge every gift. However, if your name is missing from this list – or if there is an error in the listing – please let us know.

PiELL Students: In Their Own Words

Student Maria Campos works each week with PiELL tutor Mary Menconi. Recently, Maria reached an exciting milestone – she became a U.S. citizen!

Marie writes:

I am Maria. My story is about my experience getting citizenship. For me it was easy because I came legally to the United States. But I still had to study the history of the United States. I had two interviews with the Department of Immigration where they asked me some ques-



tions. I felt very nervous but it was worth it. There were many people at the ceremony from many different countries. I felt very happy when I received my certificate.

Although student Antonio Hernandez has been in the U.S. for many years, he came to PiELL in 2022 with the goal of improving his pronunciation and refining his writing skills. He works with tutor Ellen Sommers each week.

Antonio writes:

I came to the United States for work. I was lucky to meet an employer who encouraged me to learn English. He said many non-English speakers don't learn English because they think they are not staying, but he really gave me some good tips.

He suggested I listen to the news in English and try to think in English. And speak English whenever you can. The English pronunciations on the news helped with my own pronunciation. Ask questions about words and phrases you don't know, don't be shy. Even if you pronounce things wrong, keep trying.



There are also many resources through the Consulate General of Mexico in Sacramento. They are helpful for all Hispanic people.

I found out about PiELL from a coworker. My tutor has given me the opportunity to talk about topics I am interested in. She has helped me improve my vocabulary as we have developed a close friendship.

Interested in working with an English language learner? Consider becoming a PiELL tutor! Visit www.piell.org and click on the "Volunteer" tab to learn more.