

Board of Directors

President

Chris Crain

Treasurer

Jim Peters

Secretary

Anna Villegas

Directors

Tosca Bini

Judi Kreinick

Bev Stout

Diane Wells

Program Coordinator

Anne Stuart

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

Fellow PiELL Friends,

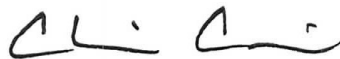
My last letter referenced the end of a wild election cycle, also expressing hope that we could leave associated distractions behind. Well... turmoil and uncertainty continue, with particular implications for many of our students. PiELL remains nonpolitical; we simply help our students learn English and become thriving members of our community by providing vital language skills, connections, and hope. We remain committed to continuing our work of some 40 years.

The story on page two of this newsletter provides one such example, and we're pleased to help unlock Amanda's potential. Our connection with her came through a chance encounter, a fortuitous one for her and also for our broader community once she is better able to use her university degree and social work training. We serve 30-40 students at any given time, each with a unique story and with contributions to offer our community.

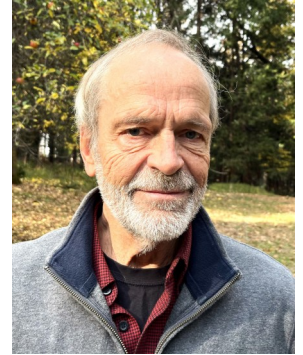
Readers have helped PiELL in many ways over the years, and your support is fundamental to our mission. Donations are always welcome, as PiELL is a volunteer-based organization with no government or fixed funding. Importantly, you can also help by spreading the word. The best connections are personal; if you know of potential students or tutors who might be interested in PiELL, please tell them about us and share our contact information contained in this newsletter.

Thank you so much to all of you, our volunteers, donors, and supporters.

With gratitude,



Chris Crain, PiELL President



Chris Crain

Tutors and Learners Study Together....

From Tutor José:

"My student Cesar came in with a goal right from the beginning: He is interested in obtaining his driver's license. We have been working towards this goal for the entire month. We meet twice a week for about an hour each time. The DMV website has all of the materials needed to study as well as check lists of what needs to be done in order to get a license. Google makes it easy to translate the webpage to Spanish with a few clicks, so I have been doing this so that Cesar has a complete understanding of what is needed when he is going over materials at home. The translate feature is a great tool when working with a beginning student."

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

Our Generous Donors ~ April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025

Friends \$1 to \$49

Rosalee Doherty
Hindi Greenberg
Nancy Guerra-Wilbourne
Susan Reynolds
Miyoko Zwarich

Partners \$50 to \$99

Flour Garden Bakery
Christie Gillison
Nancy Guenther
Larry & Helen Hillberg
Patricia & Scott McLean
Brad & Margie Miller
Marty Mosman
Daniel Rodriguez &
Deborah Alcott-Rodriguez
Cynthia Stout Gonzalez

Partners \$50 to \$99 (cont.)

Anne & Tony Stuart
Paul & Kristin Vasser
Alan Weisberg

Bronze \$100 to \$199
Louise & David Beesley
Charlotte Bolinger
Meg Christianson
Shari & Robert Coats
Jennifer Dahlgren
Allyson Goose
Antonio Hernandez
Sarah Jordan
Paula & Bill Ososki
Diane Wells

Silver \$200 to \$499

Terry Armor
Yvonne Bartlett
Tosca Bini
Raymond Bryars
Chris Crain
Anita & Paul DuPratt
eScrip Rebates
Egan Family Trust
Emily Gallagher
Susie Monary-Wilson
Roger & Jean Poff
RaiseRight
Diane Robertson
Becca Schultz
Bonnie Smart
Bev Stout
Anna Villegas

Gold \$500 to \$999

Airmen's Memorial Foundation
Judi Kreinick

Platinum \$1000 to \$5000

BriarPatch Food Co-op
William DeCamp
Chelsea Nienaber
Jim Peters
ProLiteracy Opportunity Fund
Providence Park

Donations In-Kind

David Arstein

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.

Perseverance and Passion: A New Student's Story

Originally from Valle del Cauca in Colombia, student Amanda Giraldo first heard about PiELL last summer, when a tutor and her student came into the restaurant where she worked. "They told me about the opportunity to study English," she explains. (Because Amanda is a beginning English student, her contributions to this story were translated from Spanish by PiELL tutor José Gamino.)

Amanda was matched with volunteer tutor Caryl Fairfull, who was also new to PiELL. "Amanda is a very good student – she is diligent and always

does her homework," says Caryl. "I try to make the lessons practical and fun. The workbooks from PiELL are a real blessing. We also use some of the library books, since we meet at the library. We laugh a lot while we learn! We had fun doing the Hokey Pokey to learn body parts."

"My experience has been very good," says Amanda. Of course, learning a new language is not easy. "English is complicated in all its components, but the most difficult thing for me is understanding spoken English," she explains. "Pronunciation is also a big challenge. In the beginning, when my tutor would talk to me, I didn't understand anything." To help ease the transition, Amanda brings a translation device to her lessons – and Caryl is refreshing her own Spanish skills at the same time.

With a university degree and training in psychology and social work, Amanda knows that learning English is the

key to reaching her goals here in the U.S. "My objective is to work in my profession," she says. "My objectives sound very ambitious; however, this is my passion. For any project that comes up in life, one needs lots of perseverance and, above all, passion for what you are doing."

Caryl says, "Tutoring takes lots of patience, and a willingness to match the pace of the student. The rewarding part is to see her advance, and to see the effort that she puts into her lessons. And refreshing my Spanish keeps me and my brain young!"

Amanda hopes that sharing her experience will inspire others. "What I am writing on these lines is from the heart," she says, "and it could motivate other people to study and learn."



Interested in becoming a PiELL tutor?
Visit www.piell.org and click on the "Volunteer" tab to learn more!