



October 2019  
Issue 4

# Literacy Chicago News

## Chicago's Oldest Literacy Organization Stays Young

Literacy Chicago • 641 W. Lake St. Suite 200 • Chicago, IL 60661 • 312-870-1100 • [literacychicago.org](http://literacychicago.org)

### Message from Our Executive Director



Richard Dominguez

Autumn is here and classes are in session for the fall quarter. Literacy Chicago continues to expand our classrooms in areas of the city that are in need of adult education resources. We are excited to offer classes at Portage-Cragin Public Library, Above and Beyond, and Revolution Workshop. This quarter a new career exploration class will be offered to Adult Literacy students called **One Nail at a Time**.

The American Writers Museum hosted our annual gala: The Love of Literacy on September 12th. It was a wonderful evening celebrating Literacy Chicago's efforts and all those involved in fulfilling our mission "to empower individuals to achieve greater self sufficiency through language and literacy instruction." We would like to extend a special thank you to all of our supporters in making the gala a great success.

If you see opportunities in or around your neighborhood where adult education services are needed, please contact us today.

Richard Dominguez  
Executive Director

CONNECT



@literacychicago



## Literacy Chicago News Highlights

### September 12th

Literacy Chicago has just celebrated its 51st anniversary. This year's gala was held at the American Writers Museum, in the heart of Downtown Chicago.

[www.literacychicago.org/gala-2019-information](http://www.literacychicago.org/gala-2019-information)

### November 4th

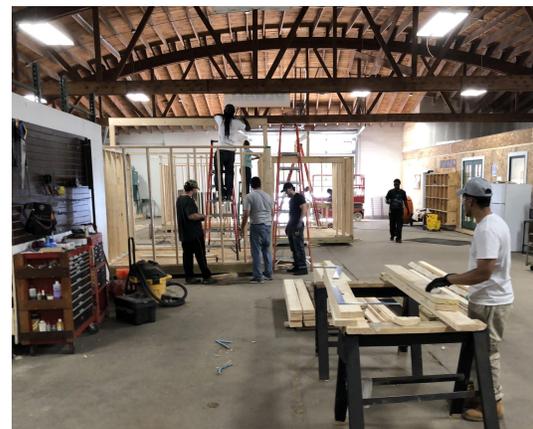
Our new class called "One Nail at a Time" begins on November 4th. This is a career exploration class that will teach students about construction fields. Students will learn about carpentry, electrical, welding, masonry, roofing, plumbing, glazier, plasterer and more. There is the possibility to transition into a hands-on program, apprenticeship, and assistance with job placement. Students can enroll now at no cost for the 12 week program by calling Literacy Chicago at 312-870-1100.

<https://www.literacychicago.org/new-construction-career-exploration.html>

Literacy Chicago continues its partnership with [Revolution Workshop](#) this fall as part of our workforce development efforts. Revolution Workshop has reported over the past year an 80% graduation rate from its 12 week carpentry skills program and a 91% job placement rate of those graduates.

Since the fall of 2018, Literacy Chicago has partnered with Revolution to lead weekly instruction in applied mathematics tailored to carpentry professions. We have also provided on-site tutoring for students who are struggling with reading and for those seeking to get their GED—a requirement for union membership. Students who complete the 12-week program earn two stackable credentials within the construction field, their Department of Labor card, and job-finding assistance provided by Revolution.

### Community Partner Program Spotlight





OUT REACH for  
COMMUNITY  
ACTION in  
LITERACY

## Loretta Coleman Vibrant Volunteer of the Month

Loretta Coleman finished her year of AmeriCorps service with Literacy Chicago at the end of August. She came to us with a plethora of service and volunteer based experience. In addition to having served in the Air Force as an aircraft mechanic, she had mainly worked within nonprofits and government agencies. Most of her experience had been as an administrative professional in human/social services organizations, but also in outreach and facilitating small group workshops.

Loretta believes that what is most unique about Literacy Chicago is the staff. She says they are one of the most caring groups of individuals she has ever worked with and they truly go the extra mile to accommodate the students. The students were also an inspiration to Loretta, in spite of their own challenges with literacy. They all have their own stories, and Loretta found herself being continuously surprised by what some of them have been able to accomplish!

One of Loretta's favorite classes to teach was 'Reading the World.' She enjoyed the variety of topics available to students, and the opportunity to be creative with materials and teaching methods to keep students engaged. Loretta also found the class 'Learning to Read Through Song' to be "a unique approach to learning!" She feels that classes which allow students to have fun while also improving their reading, vocabulary, and comprehension, are particularly effective.



Literacy Chicago thanks Loretta for her service. She helped to expand our relationship with partnered programs such as Revolution Workshop. She taught Adult Literacy, ESL, Adult Basic Education, and Digital Literacy classes. She also worked on our quarterly newsletter and countless other projects. We congratulate her in completing her AmeriCorps service year and wish her all the best in her new endeavors.

### HEADS UP!

#### Keep Up to Date on LC Events Fall Session

**September 9th - December 19th**

In addition to our regular classes, we are offering a new workforce skills class: "One Nail at a Time" which begins on November 4th. For further information, please call or visit our website:

[www.literacychicago.org/register-for-classes](http://www.literacychicago.org/register-for-classes)

#### Save the Date

**Casino Night  
November 9th  
7:00 - 11:00 PM**

Literacy Chicago will be hosting in partnership with Literacy Volunteers of Illinois its 2nd annual Casino Night. Get ready to play Blackjack, Poker, Roulette and Craps with us. Come gamble for a great cause. There will be a raffle, silent auction, food and drink.

#### Want to get involved?

##### Volunteer Tutor Training

**November 9th & 16th**

This fun-filled training course takes place on two consecutive Saturdays from 9 to 3. Two days of training are required.

[Find out more about volunteering here.](#)

### QUOTE OF THE MOMENT

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."



*Malcolm X*

# Doris Gooden

## ★ Star Student Spotlight ★

Doris Gooden, student in our Adult Literacy classes, has gone from a non-reader to a very competent one. She explains that she never learned to read because she didn't like school while she was growing up. The classes were too big and the teachers couldn't provide the individual support that she needed. Doris quickly lost interest if the teacher explained too quickly and Doris couldn't follow. She finally quit high school at age 16.



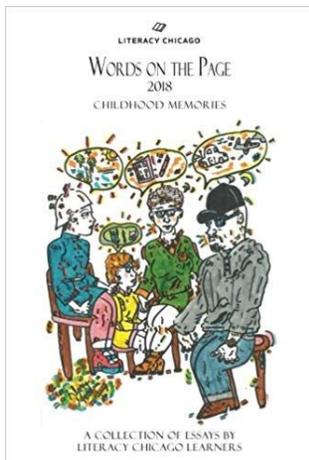
Always drawing and doodling, one of her teachers had noticed that she was a fabulous artist and managed to get Doris a scholarship at the Art Institute of Chicago. On the first day of class Doris went with her sister but when she saw the classes she was too afraid to go in. Today Doris says "I blew it." She would love to have a chance to go back to art school, even if it's not the Art Institute.

No one around Doris knew she couldn't read, and Doris was determined to learn. As she says, "If I were walking down a street and there was a sign that said "quicksand", I would be in trouble if I couldn't read it!"

About 10 years ago, her life changed when she met June Porter, the then director of Adult Literacy. She started coming to class regularly and has made great progress. She also loves working with her tutor, Dee Riddick.

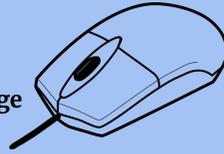
Before class starts Doris can be seen with her sketch pad drawing interesting looking people, either from her own mind, or the other students in the class. She has her own very distinctive style, a bit like a modern day comic strip, but with added texture. She might add a piece of jewelry, a sticker, or other cutouts. As her reading has improved she has also been adding text to her work!

Literacy Chicago has encouraged Doris by holding two art shows for her as well as asking her to do the cover of the 2018 edition of our annual book Words on The Page.



### DID YOU KNOW?

#### Literacy in a Digital Age



In today's world, expectations for literacy include the use of digital and online media to communicate and to produce, find, and evaluate information to meet educational and work demands. Strong reading and writing skills underpin valued aspects of digital literacy in many key areas of work and daily life, such as:

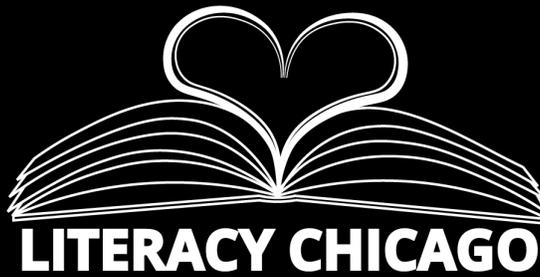
- presenting ideas, including organizing a compelling argument, using multiple types of media, and integrating media with text
- using online resources to search for information, evaluate the quality of that information, and organize information from several sources
- using basic office software to generate texts and multimedia documents, including writing documents, taking notes, and preparing displays to support oral presentations

Researchers are only beginning to identify the literacy skills related to technology use and to study the kinds of instruction that can develop them for learners of all ages. Until more is known about those skills, however, using technologies for literacy study can offer practical benefits to learners who will need to use digital tools in education settings and for their jobs.

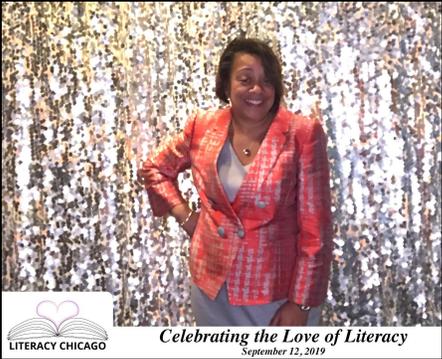
# Gala Photo Gallery



Janet Davies



**LITERACY CHICAGO**



*Celebrating the Love of Literacy*  
September 12, 2019



*Celebrating the Love of Literacy*  
September 12, 2019



Nestor Gomez



H.C. Warfield



Dustin Suri



Ursula Bielski

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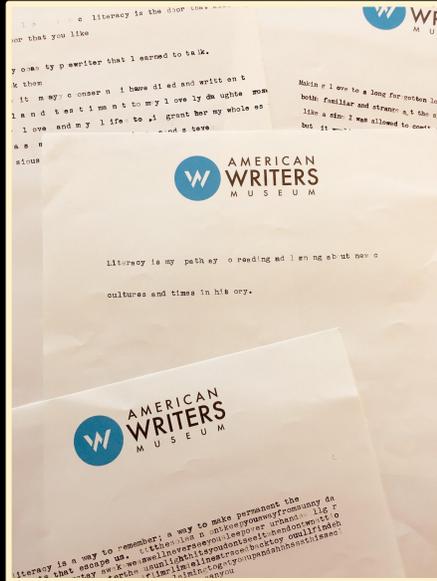
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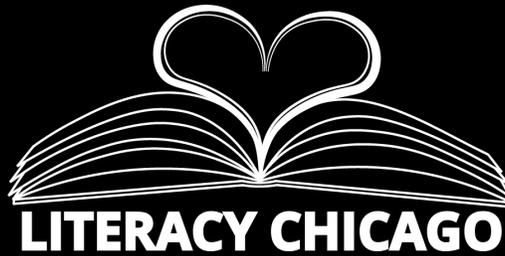


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# Gala Photo Gallery



Typewriter Challenge: What do you love about Literacy?



Live Music by: Fred Simon and his trio

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