

The **READ** Review

A Quarterly Publication of READ La Porte County, Inc.
Winter 2014 Edition

What's New with READ?

Adult English Language Classes Now in Session

We're pleased to announce that READ La Porte County, Inc., in partnership with Handley Elementary School, now offers free Adult English Language Classes. Our newest contractor, Faith Mooney, teaches the classes using a combination of interactive and computer-based instruction.

Classes launched on October 27th, and Faith already has a wonderful group of about 15 committed students. Many of these individuals have children who attend La Porte Community Schools. By helping parents improve their English skills, we hope to position them to model the language for their children, assist with homework and communicate with teachers.

Sessions take place every Monday and Wednesday from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Handley Elementary School, which is located at 408 W. 10th Street in La Porte, Indiana. Those interested in registering should contact READ at (219) 325-0875 or readlaportecounty@gmail.com. Individuals who live within the boundaries of La Porte Community School Corporation will be given first priority for enrollment.

This program is made possible by a generous grant from Unity Foundation of La Porte County.

READ Goes for the Gold

In November, READ was honored with a Gold award at the Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce's Salute to Business luncheon. We received this award for our 27 years of service to

the community. Thanks to the Chamber for recognizing us, and congratulations to our fellow award winners!

Scrabble 2014 Recap

On September 25, 2014, we held our annual Scrabble Tournament at the Best Western Plus La Porte Hotel & Conference Center. This year's event nearly sold out, with a total of 36 teams in attendance! Fortunately, we were able to add some tables and accommodate all who wanted to play.

The Honorable Steven King served as judge at the event. This year's tournament winners were:

1st Place: David Wittchen and Pat Tucker
2nd Place: Jane Spigel and Chris Perry
3rd Place: Connie Conjalka and Jane Wickstrom
High Word Score: Jane Spigel and Chris Perry

You can find a complete list of sponsors and prize donors on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ReadLaPorteCountyInc. Save the date for next year's tournament, which will take place on September 24, 2015!

Congratulations are in Order

READ tutor Pam Kuharic applied for and received one of five \$200 Sharon Ball Mini-grants from the Northwest Indiana Literacy Coalition. This funding is for materials she will use with her six ESL students.

Thanks to Pam and to the Northwest Indiana Literacy Coalition!



Our Fearless Leaders

READ's Board of Directors recently held elections for the 2015 calendar year. Next year's officers will be:

President - **Mary Fridh**
Vice President - **Miriam Dydo**
Recording Secretary - **Cathy Schadowsky**
Corresponding Secretary - **Christine Rosario**
Treasurer - **Stephanie Stout**

We'd like to thank outgoing President Greg Fruth for his years of service in this position!

Want to get more involved with READ in 2015? We currently have one open space on our board. Email us at readlaportecounty@gmail.com for more information about joining our team!

Unity Foundation of La Porte County

Looking for a different way to donate? READ, like many other fabulous La Porte County non-profits, has a Unity Foundation fund donors can contribute to.

Visit <http://uflc.net/> to learn more about Unity Foundation and view a list of funds.

Stats Update

So far in 2014, 53 READ tutors have served around **240** students! This is well above our annual average.

We currently have 31 active tutors working with approximately 41 children, 40 ESL adults and 28 English-speaking adults. Let us know if you'd like to take on a new student for 2015!

READ Success Story

Our PNC work-study tutor L'Oreal Karten has recently seen great results with her twelve year-old student, Dylan.

Dylan's mom, Brandi Renkawitz, reports that her son was struggling with math at school. "His progress report indicated that his grade was an "F" when he began working with his READ La Porte County tutor," she says. However, after just five one-hour tutoring sessions, Dylan's grade improved from an "F" to a "C!"

"The individual sessions and the ability to bring his current graded papers so he could get extra instruction where necessary was so beneficial to my son," says Renkawitz. "I couldn't recommend the program more!"

Congratulations to Dylan for his success and thanks to L'Oreal for all the work she has done for READ!

What We're READING...A Review of Liane Moriarty's "The Husband's Secret" by Mary Hedge

The novel "The Husband's Secret" by Liane Moriarty was a much better read than I expected. It reminded me of the bestseller *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn, but the "bad" person in the book is the husband (as you can probably guess from the title) rather than the wife. Also, I liked the ending better in this book. The author has been labeled as a "chick lit" writer, but this book is much more than light fiction for women. Besides marital relationships and family life, it's about guilt and responsibility.

Basically the story is about Cecelia who finds a sealed envelope labeled for her to read after her husband's death. First, she has to decide whether to read it now while her husband is alive but away from home. When she talks to him about it on the phone, he says it's nothing. But later she admits that she knows he's lying.

The author is from Australia, so expect some differences in words and foods in the story. And last of all, don't miss the epilogue. It's surprising and the story isn't complete without it.

The Page Turners book group is going to be discussing this book on Tuesday, January 13 from noon until 1:00 p.m. in the Small Meeting Room at La Porte County Public Library in La Porte. Please consider coming and giving or listening to opinions about this story which is a real "page turner."