

*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 PiELL Friends,

The first known structural fire in the U.S. was in 1608 in the Jamestown Colony, and it destroyed much of the town. By 1680 in New York, the number of fire buckets in each building was regulated depending on the fire risk. Bakers, for example, had to have three buckets. To fight the fires, people worked together forming bucket brigades. You've seen the pictures; people in a line pass buckets from person to person so that many buckets travel quickly to the fire. It works much better than individuals running and spilling water.

Probably like most of you, I have not stood shoulder to shoulder with others passing buckets of water to fight a fire. But it is likely that all of us have seen the impact when many people are involved in an effort, and each has an important but not overwhelming role. It is this healthy concept that we embrace at PiELL.

Two people who have worked together putting out lots of fires at PiELL are Judi Kreinick and Nancy Guenther. I am thrilled that they will soon get a little relief from their years of hard work (see more on that below).

We welcome Annie Haymaker to our board and are excited to have her play a larger role on our team. She answered a call several months ago to assist Louise Beesley in the library and has been a great help.

If you would like to help but are afraid we would ask more of you, either in time or funds, than you wish to give, please know we appreciate help in any way or any amount.

It is also important that we thank you, as a member of the PiELL community, for ALL the support you provide for us. I met a woman recently at our Smiley Guys fundraiser who was a former tutor with PiELL. She doesn't tutor now, but she told me that she always comes out to our events to help support us.

We appreciate that loyalty and support, and THANK YOU for being in the bucket brigade!

Christie Gillison, PiELL Board President

P.S. If you use Facebook, please friend us so that you can get up-to-date information on our activities!

### Board of Directors

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## Thanks to PiELL Long-time Volunteers!

Judi Kreinick and Nancy Guenther are retiring from the PiELL Board of Directors after the April board meeting. They have both devoted many years to PiELL leadership and we want to take this opportunity to THANK them for their incredible commitment to this organization. Nancy has been on the board for seven years, and Judi for at least nine years.

There is so much that these ladies do behind the scenes to support this team. Judi's heartfelt input and strong business judgment have served this organization well for so long. Her passion for PiELL is obvious, and she is a tremendous sounding board. Nancy always provides input on pending decisions that is right on target and almost immediate. Her impeccable grammar skills enable her to be a masterful proofreader, and she provides positive reinforcement just when it is really needed.

While they are leaving the Board, Judi and Nancy will continue to handle key functions for PiELL. Nancy

will remain in charge of the team of intake coordinators, and Judi will continue to lead our New Tutor Training and our resource tutors. Saying thank you just doesn't suffice, but we so appreciate all that Judi and Nancy have given of themselves for PiELL. While we will miss them on the board, we are pleased that they are able to have a little more free time. They certainly have earned it!



Judi Kreinick (left) and Nancy Guenther



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### SEEN US AROUND TOWN?

MAKE SURE YOU CHECK OUT OUR BACK PAGE CALENDAR AND COME JOIN US FOR FOOD, MUSIC AND OTHER EXCITING NEW FUNDRAISERS!

#### THE OPEN BOOK:

Charity Concert Featuring Performances By:

- Barwick & Siegfried
- Purdon's Crossing
- The Heifer Belles



#### SMILEY GUYS SMOKEHOUSE:

A fundraiser built around barbecue, good times, and the support of the new owner, George Cabanas!



## Our Generous Donors ~ April 1, 2016—March 31, 2017

### Friends \$1 to \$49

AmazonSmile Foundation  
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### Platinum \$1000 to \$5000

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### Bronze \$100 to \$199

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### Donations In-kind

David Arstein	Philip Smith
Judi Kreinick	Norema Strongin
Trevor Michael	

*Some thoughts from Susie Trant, who will be leaving PiELL soon, and moving to Oregon.*

**“One-on-one tutoring is a powerful learning context; it allows for student-specific lesson planning and the opportunity to zero in on the student’s needs. But it can present some of its own challenges. One is slow progress towards some definite learning goals. Another is keeping a steady schedule. There are more...but the upshot is to know that you are making a positive difference in the lives of your students. It may not be immediately evident, but it’s true. Be calm and carry on!” Susie Trant**

### PiELL Student Demographics

2017

<u>Asia</u>	<u>Latin America</u>	
Cambodia	Argentina	El Salvador
Indonesia	Brazil	Guatemala
Japan	Chile	Mexico
Laos	Columbia	Nicaragua
Nepal	Costa Rica	Peru
Thailand	Cuba	
Vietnam		<u>Europe</u>
	Italy	Spain



We would like to give a very special “Thank You!” to David Arstein for his continued support over the years as our volunteer webmaster/IT person. He is always willing to help us with the big and the small tasks that we need on our website and our computers.

## Learners Without Borders: Life Lessons with Laia

By Alan Weisberg

I've been tutoring Laia off and on for nearly two years. Currently she travels between Nevada County and Spain. Recently, she was in Spain with her elderly, dying grandfather. While she was there he rallied a bit so she returned to the United States. A few days after she returned to Nevada County, she got news that he had passed away. She immediately returned to Spain to be with her grandmother and will probably stay there until early summer.

The good news is that we are back in touch using “FaceTime” and are having weekly sessions since the beginning of December. She wants to continue and feels the value of our work especially with writing and grammar. I think she finds what we are doing to be worthwhile, especially since she has only rare occasions to practice her English. Her various interests, yoga, macrobiotic cooking, etc., mean she does get some chance to speak English, but our weekly chat adds some continuity.

## Supermarket Super Heroes! A Field Trip With My Student, By Trish Gaynor

Thuy is a new student from Vietnam who has been in the U.S. for about nine months. I have been tutoring her for about five months. She is also taking English as a Second Language at Sierra College.

One of Thuy's goals has been to be able to go to the grocery store and buy groceries by herself. First, she worked on recognizing coins and currency. She then set herself a budget and made a shopping list. We used a picture dictionary so that she could learn to identify and say the names of the many fruits and vegetables that she might want to buy.

We embarked on our field trip to the grocery store. Thuy selected her purchases and carried them to the cashier. After purchasing everything on her list, she had \$1.69 left, and was so excited to pay, as her husband usually handles that for her. What a successful expedition!



Thuy (on the left) grocery shopping with her Tutor, Trish

## Dear PiELL... By Jinda, a PiELL Student

I want to say thanks to PiELL. Five years ago PiELL gave me a tutor to help me improve my English. Ellen has been my teacher and my friend. We met once a week. We talked, read books, worked on my pronunciation and we had a lot of fun.

When I first moved to the U.S. my English was not that good but after 5 years with my tutor my English got better step by step. Now I am a U.S. citizen and I have voted 2 times. Now I can talk and I'm able to understand what other people say to me. I can talk to my doctor without using the translator, talk to the people that work in the grocery store and the customers who come to our business. I am proud that I was brave when I spoke to a car salesman to get a good deal on a new car. Again, I want to say thanks to PiELL. I will be "graduating" from the program. In one way I'm sad but in another way I am happy because my English is good enough for me to be on my own. I will always be grateful for the help you have given me.

*From Ellen Hagan:*

Jinda and I were matched in 2011. She came from Thailand to marry a local man and had been in the United States for awhile. She was somewhat proficient in English so we could communicate right away. It was clear from the beginning that Jinda wanted to learn. We worked for an hour one day each week. We began each session by sharing the things that had happened over the past week, sharing

stories about our families, and sharing our interests and feelings about ideas. We worked on speaking and pronunciation, then reading and writing. It was a joy to work with her. Jinda progressed well and focused on her goal of becoming an American citizen, which she reached in 2014. She and her husband own a business. Jinda is an active participant in the life of our community.

As a tutor with PiELL, I feel a sense of satisfaction in having helped make positive changes in someone's life. The friendship that has developed between Jinda and myself is so very special to me. Our official tutoring sessions have ended, but our friendship and monthly luncheons will go on.



Jinda (on the left) with her Tutor, Ellen

## 7 Years of Success with Ramon By Mike Vasser



PiELL tutor Mike with his student, Ramon

My student Ramon has a landscaping business that he built up through referrals from existing customers. He is married and has 5 children. Ramon and I have been working together to improve his English language skills for the past seven years. His English language level when we began was at the beginner level.

Using the "English, No Problem" curriculum, Ramon has completed books 1 and 2 and is just beginning book 3. His latest Language Skills assessment results placed him at the advanced level in the four oral language sections, oral dictation and reading comprehension. His written language skills are at the elementary level. We have focused on vocabulary development including reinforcement and review at the beginning of each lesson. Ramon has demonstrated proficiency in correctly defining more than 400 vocabulary words.

Presently we are meeting about twice a month on average due to periodic work schedule conflicts. Ramon is a pleasure to work with. He is enthusiastic, hard working and confident in his ability to progress in developing his language skills.



Thank you to the following businesses where PiELL students and tutors meet in a comfortable and welcoming environment!

- |                                  |                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| BriarPatch Co-op                 | Peace Lutheran Church           |
| Bubba's Bagels                   | Safeway, Brunswick Basin        |
| Caroline's Coffee                | Sierra Mountain Coffee Roasters |
| Daily Donut                      | Starbucks Coffee                |
| Flour Garden Bakery locations    | Summer Thyme's Bakery & Deli    |
| London's Best Fish & Chips       | Unitarian Church                |
| Nevada County Libraries          | What's Up? Coffee               |
| P.A.R.T.N.E.R.S. Family Resource |                                 |

**All Aboard!**

PiELL is always looking for new members with fresh ideas and abilities to join us on our journey. From grants to planning events, we welcome the talents of anyone who has the passion to help us advance our mission.

Reach out to us anytime at 530-265-2116 or [admin@piell.org](mailto:admin@piell.org) and let us know how you'd like to help!

**PiELL Events**

**Northridge Restaurant—Nevada City**

**Monday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> - 5pm-9pm**

Enjoy a delicious dinner (dine in or takeout) and 10% will go to Partners in English Language Learning!

Burger Mondays - \$1 Off All Burgers

773 Nevada St. in Nevada City ~ 478-0470

**Fall 2017 New Tutor Training\***

Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> ~ Sessions 1 & 2 8:30am-4:30pm

Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> ~ Sessions 3 & 4 8:30am-4:30pm

*\*Must attend both days.*

*Call us at 265-2116 or email [admin@piell.org](mailto:admin@piell.org) for more information.*

*Check our website "Event" page for upcoming events!*

**PiELL Office**

Office: 103 Providence Mine Rd., #104B, Nevada City  
Phone/Fax: (530) 265-2116 ~ Email: [admin@piell.org](mailto:admin@piell.org)  
Website: [www.piell.org](http://www.piell.org)

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

**Office Hours:** Mon./Wed. 1:30-4:30, Fri. 9:00-12:00 (new hours)

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