

# The Roundtable

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[www.bangorbreakfastrotary.org](http://www.bangorbreakfastrotary.org)

May 24, 2018

## The Reader

**S**he is no stranger to the Breakfast Rotary. Mary Marin Lyon brought to the meeting the story of people achieving literacy and experiencing their lives enhanced, themselves emboldened and their illiteracy obliterated.

Introduced by **Sandy Blitz**, Ms. Lyon, Executive Director of Literacy Volunteers of Bangor, asked us how we learned to read. Parents, grandparents, teachers, and siblings contributed to our roadmaps and skills of reading the printed word. "Most children will learn to read by the time they are in the fourth or fifth grade," she said. Second and third graders have "low literacy," middle school students gain "basic literacy."

She asked why we are talking about literacy in 2018. Among the reasons she mentioned are immigration, learning disabilities, emotional disturbances, lack of parental support and frequent family moves.

Ms. Lyon cited the many excuses by people who cannot read use to hide their embarrassment- I'll take the application home; I'll read this later; I don't have my glasses- can you read this for me? In a 1987 film starring Dennis Weaver, "Bluffing It," hidden illiteracy is its plot:

+Jack Duggan (Weaver), works as a supervisor in the automotive industry and has been given the task of laying off his subordinates because with the new computer operations their jobs are obsolete. Some people would be kept on, Duggan included. But Duggan has a secret that will keep him from doing his new job. Rather than admit his secret, he resigns "in protest of the layoffs." +

In her 2016-2017 annual report, Ms. Lyon said 415 volunteers worked to lift students out of their poverty, social stigmas and, in the case of one student, success in earning a successful GED diploma and getting out of jail. Twenty percent of Mainers are not at the 10<sup>th</sup> grade level of reading. The oldest student in the Bangor chapter is 93 years old. The chapter itself is one of the oldest in the US. Ms. Lyon proudly announced the story NPR produced last month about the work the chapter is doing.



<https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2018/04/26/602797769/casting-aside-shame-and-stigma-adults-tackle-struggles-with-literacy>)

Ms. Lyon has been with Literacy Volunteers of Bangor for 15 years. The chapter (there are thirteen in Maine) will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year. Ms. Lyon's grandfather was illiterate until his daughter, who was Ms. Lyon's mother, taught him how to read. A transcript of Ms. Lyon's story is at the NPR link.

Volunteers work with individuals who are in jail, they are partnering with Eastern Maine Medical Center to guide patients toward help sources, and the chapter works with Bangor Housing. They recently began partnering with Hancock County Adult Education.

LV of Bangor is located on the EMCC campus. Prospective volunteers go through fifteen hours of training, with sessions held in the spring and fall. The privately donated, community-driven organization serves people who want to leave a legacy by being able to write and read.

### Spring Sunshine Accompanied the Meeting

Calendar check: the annual meeting will be **Thursday, June 28** at the High Tide. Sign-ups and menu preferences are forthcoming. No morning meeting.

**Jodi McCarthy** and husband Marc Scott helped make the attendance almost "full house." **Paul Miragliuolo** fined **Kristy Kimball** for her appearance on Channel 5 News that prompted Channel 2's **Judy Horan** to express an indignant reaction. "They called ME!" Kristy rebutted. **Caroline King's** media exposure cost her a fine as well.

Speaking of Judy, she announced that she is celebrating her 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at WLBZ and her 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Channel 2 is featuring a unique series called "Maine by the Mile." Judy described it as a not-too-serious look at truly out-of-the-way places in Maine, "some of which I have never heard of." Check out [www.mainebythemile.com](http://www.mainebythemile.com) or [newscentermaine.com](http://newscentermaine.com).

**Dave Merritt's** April birthday did not escape Paul's Fine Machine. The Overtone Duo of **Myers** and **Wahlstrom** provided the serenade. Lisa reported that the Good Shepherd Food Bank has kicked off its fundraiser to add to and improve the Hampden warehouse

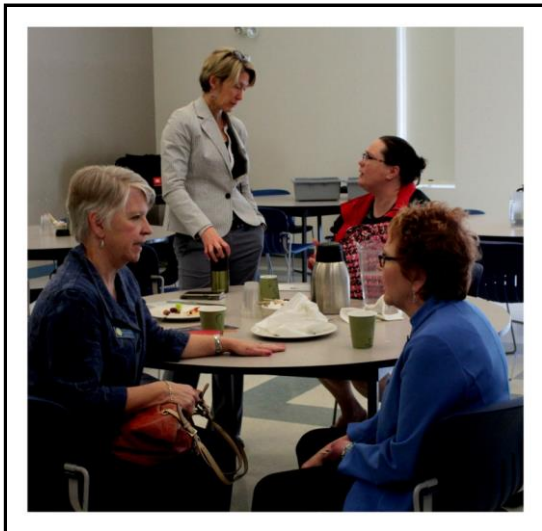
facility. They have raised \$3.5 million toward the \$5 million goal. CES, Inc. is pledging a challenge grant.

Airless, but not clueless. **Greg Urban** was joyful as he put his sailboat in the water this last weekend. Unfortunately, his air pump to inflate the dinghy to GET to the boat is broken. **June Kontio's** daughter had a roller coaster experience. She finished her advanced placement exams, performed in a three-performance dance recital, and another motorist who was merely backing up struck her car and was verbally abusive.

*Les Myers- May 24, 2018*



Coming and going





College Avenue, Orono, May 21, 2018