

Connections: Of A Journal Of Adult Literacy

volume viii
summer 1999
"Taking Risks"

Adult Literacy Resource Institute
989 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02215
617-782-8956 fax 617-782-9011

For this issue of Connections:
Editors: Martha Merson and Steve Reuys
Content Development: Martha Merson
Design & Production: Steve Reuys

© Copyright 1999 Adult Literacy Resource Institute

Funded by the
Massachusetts Department of Education

Connections is a publication of the Adult Literacy Resource Institute, a joint project of Roxbury Community College and the University of Massachusetts/Boston, funded primarily by the Massachusetts Department of Education/Adult and Community Learning Services, the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education, and the City of Boston's BRA/EDIC/Jobs and Community Services Department. The A.L.R.I. was created in 1983 as part of the Boston Adult Literacy Initiative and now serves as the Greater Boston Regional Support Center for the state's SABES (System for Adult Basic Education Support) network. The purpose of the A.L.R.I. is to provide training, technical assistance and other resources to Boston-area adult basic education programs.

Connections is intended to provide an opportunity for adult educators, particularly those in the Boston area, to communicate with colleagues, both locally and nationwide. Adult literacy/adult basic education practitioners need a forum to express their ideas and concerns and to describe their students, their programs, and their own accomplishments; we are glad to be able to continue providing this opportunity.

We welcome your reactions to this journal or to any of the articles in it. We also want to strongly encourage teachers, counselors, administrators, aides, volunteers, students—everyone involved in this field—to think about sharing your experiences, your ideas, your problems and solutions with others by writing for the next issue of *Connections*. Please contact us; we'd be glad to talk with you about your ideas for an article.

The articles included here do not necessarily reflect the views of the Adult Literacy Resource Institute or its sponsoring institutions or funders, including the Massachusetts Department of Education or the federal government. Permission must be obtained from the A.L.R.I. before reprinting an article in another publication or for widespread distribution.

Table of Contents

- 5 • *Introduction: Taking Risks.....Martha Merson*
- 7 • *“My Dreams Are Bigger Than My Fears Now”
.....Sharon Carey*
- 14 • *Making a Pitch for Poetry in ABE.....Marie Hassett*
- 18 • *Putting Lesbian and Gay Families in the Picture
.....Charissa Ahlstrom*
- 23 • *Can I Keep This Book?.....Martha Merson*
- 29 • *Just Listen.....Adam Ross*
- 31 • *Discourse and Change: Working Through Domestic
Violence With Learners.....Anson Green
(sidebar: Kate Power)*
- 40 • *Personal Connections.....Dianne Roy*
- 47 • *Read for Change.....Joanne Arnaud*
- 49 • *Reading Whole Books in ESOL.....Felipe Vaquerano*
- 52 • *Reading for Love (and Learning).....Nancy Teel*
- 57 • *“Seeing” the Essay.....Christine Luth*
- 63 • *Notes on Contributors and Graphics Credits*

Notes on Contributors

Charissa Ahlstrom has been with the Jamaica Plain Community Center's Adult Learning Program for two years, teaching ESOL and coordinating their ESOL department. Before that, she coordinated and taught at Ingles Para la Comunidad in Washington Heights, New York City.

Joanne Arnaud has been Executive Director of the Boston Adult Literacy Fund since 1989.

Sharon Carey is the Director of Adult Education at Project Place in Boston, where she has taught GED and administered other adult education programs for the last six years. She also taught at Boston Medical Center with the Worker Education Program. Before moving to Boston in 1993, she taught high school English and theater for twenty years at Miss Porter's School in Farmington.

Anson Green is the instructor of the Culebra Road TANF/JOBS class for Northside Independent School District in San Antonio, Texas, and a member of El Paso Community College's Project IDEA Master Teacher Professional Development Initiative. As a member of the Project IDEA team, he has facilitated a number of project-based learning activities focusing on women's lives, including a student-generated webpage.

Marie Hassett, Ph.D., is a consultant, teacher, and writer on educational issues. She has taught in the public schools and as an education professor in Massachusetts and Indiana, and currently teaches ABE, ESOL, and Career Development Workshops in the Boston area. She consults with programs on curricular, programmatic, and staff development issues.

Christine Luth taught as an AmeriCorps volunteer at Project Hope in Boston.

Martha Merson has worked at the Adult Literacy Resource Institute for over seven years. She believes people should follow singer Cosy Sheridan's advice and do "whatever scares you enough to keep you awake."

Adam Ross is a GED teacher at the Blackstone Community Center and has taught GED classes in the South End of Boston for the past two years. Outside of class, he spends his time finishing his BFA at Massachusetts College of Art.

Dianne Roy works with adult learners in Vermont to assist them in reaching their fullest potential.

Nancy Teel is a professor of English at Roxbury Community College. She is currently writing fiction and memoirs. She has worked with adults in the Boston area for seventeen years.

Felipe Vaquerano was born in El Salvador and came to the United States back in 1988 when the war in his country was at the worst stage. He began learning English in 1989 at the Jackson Mann Community Center, where he also began teaching in 1992 through the project "From the Community to the Community." He currently works for the Community Learning Center in Cambridge and the Harborside Community Center in East Boston and says he loves teaching!

Graphics Credits:

Drawings on pages 11, 16, 20/21, 27, 36, 54, and 60 : Laura DeSantis

Photographs on pages 43, 44, 45: Dianne Roy
Photograph on page 8: Andrea Merson