



The volunteers with EBLP provide tutoring for international adults wishing to improve their English language skills. The essays in this newsletter represent the accomplishments of just a few of our students. The newsletter also includes articles about the program.

www.elainebaconliteracyprogram.wordpress.com

May 2022

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We Support Ukraine

Beth Flynn

Members of the Elaine Bacon Literacy Program community deplore the invasion of Ukraine by Russian President Vladimir Putin, an act of aggression that is a violation of international law. Putin's actions cannot be defended on any grounds and make evident disregard for the sanctity of the lives of innocent civilians, who are being maimed and murdered on a massive scale. Ukraine is a sovereign democratic nation. Putin is ignoring protocols called for by civilized societies. We hope that sanctions and the condemnation of the citizens and governments of almost all nations will end the violence. We applaud the many local efforts to stand behind the Ukrainian people and government in this time of great suffering and need.

Thank you to the Keweenaw Coop!

Denise Heikinen

On November 5th, Treasurer Mary Brunet and Co-Directors



Denise Heikinen and Beth Flynn were happy to accept a check for \$489.90 from The Keweenaw Coop's Bring-a-Bag Campaign

This money represents what the Coop saved during a six-month period by not having to buy grocery bags because shoppers supplied their own bags from home. Thank you, Keweenaw Coop shoppers! The Literacy Program will use the money to help buy equipment, books, and ESL subscriptions to teach English literacy. The EBLP has been welcoming students from around the world to the Copper Country since 1959.

Winter in Saskatchewan

Amy Lee, Taiwan

I have been living in Saskatchewan since August 2019. This is one of the coldest provinces in Canada. It is in the south where the flat prairies are. There are no mountains to block the wind from the north, so the winter is extremely windy and cold.

The temperature was -35°C or -31°F on December 31, 2021. After that, average temperatures were around -25°C or -13°F .

The wind makes me feel very uncomfortable when I am outside the building. I can't stand in the open for more than 10 minutes. Otherwise, there will be pain in my fingers, my skin will crack, and I will get a headache.

When the temperature is below -15°C or -5°F , I need to spend time clearing the snow off the car and warming up it up before I drive. Moreover, I need to charge the car and keep the engine warm.

My friend lives in southwest Canada. Last month she and her husband drove their truck to town, when the windchill was at -45°C or -49°F . On the way, it was so cold that they got a flat tire. When her husband took a tool to fix the tire, it broke, because of the cold weather. Fortunately, a kind man stopped by and helped them get the right tool from a store to fix the tire.

The weather is not cold in Taiwan during winter. The temperature is 12°C or 53°F right now. It is quite warm.

Fasting Ramadan

Dejlah Mezeel, Iraq

Ramadan is the holy month in the lunar-based Islamic calendar, it's the ninth month.

During Ramadan all Muslims should abstain from eating, drinking, even water, smoking and sexual activities which means nothing should enter the body through the mouth from dawn (Fajr) to sunset (Maghrib). Hearing the call to prayer (Adhan Al Fajr) marks the beginning of the fast and the sunset prayer (Adhan Al Maghrib) announces the ending.

Fasting Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam, which are the profession of faith (shahada), prayer (salah), alms giving (zaka), fasting (sawm) and pilgrimage (hajj). Fasting is considered an act of deeply personal worship in which Muslims seek to be closer to God, refrain from violence, anger, envy, greed, lust, and gossip and try to get along with each other, even more so than normal.

During the last ten days of Ramadan there is an important event called Night Of Decree (Laylat Al Qadr). It celebrates the night when the first verses of the Quran were revealed to the prophet Muhammed. According to many Muslim sources, its exact date is uncertain, but it should be on one of the odd numbered nights of the last ten days of Ramadan. Since that time, Muslims believe that Laylat Al Qader comes with the blessing and mercy of God, sins are forgiven, supplications are accepted.

Although fasting helps the body to be healthy, it is not obligatory for many groups who have health problems, or pregnant women, children, the elderly, and people with chronic diseases. After Ramadan ends all Muslims celebrate the Festival of Breaking the Fast (Eid al Fiter), which falls on the first day of Shawwal in the Islamic calendar; this does not always fall on the same Gregorian day. Eid Al Fiter has a particular prayer (Salat al Eid), which is generally performed in an open field or large hall. It lasts for three days (or one week), in all Islamic countries. During these days relatives and neighbors exchange gifts and make charitable donations.

Olga's Farewell

Olga Levin, Russia

My beloved teachers and my beloved friends:

I want to thank you for coming to my house today so that we can be together again. I thank each of you for your endless love and respect for me.

My first English class started in February, 2018. From that day on, I began my acquaintance with you. When I came to your class, I did not know a single letter of the English alphabet. I didn't know a single word of English. But I saw in your eyes love and a desire to help me, and this gave me a lot of strength. I fell in love with English and can no longer imagine a single day without it. Such changes in me were made only by you, my beloved teachers and international friends!

Every Monday, Linda taught me to read! Reading magazines, we traveled with her all over the world! It was a really exciting journey. And in real life with her, we will also make a trip to Europe! Then Jan taught me grammar. We discussed English with her many times, and she was always patient and tolerant of my problems. On Tuesday, I always ran to Beth and we read and retold newspapers with other international classmates and did crosswords! When Wednesday morning came, I ran with great desire to the class of our beloved Frann, who gives me every corner of her soul every year. Each class with her always includes a joke, joy, and a lot of conversation. She teaches us starting from the very basics of the English language, and now we already know a lot of idioms. Soon we will have fun learning American youth slang, which will also help us to be adapted to this country.

Now we are all knee-deep in the sea! And we are like a fish in water in English!

But how I loved Thursday morning, when we all got together in our favorite club, International Neighbors, which is already 51 years old! It is a great and important tradition of this city to bring all foreign visitors together and share their stories about their countries. And also thanks to Miyoko for always making us delicious meals on this day! It was a great time that I can never forget. When Friday came, I became a first grade student because our beloved Marianna taught us accuracy in calligraphy. These were wonderful lessons, when we could not only study classical English, but learn a lot about the most important teacher, about God, who also heard my prayers all the time and made it easy to learn a language I didn't know and a country I didn't know. Also, Mary's husband, Gary, was teaching how to drive.

I love all of you very much, and I cannot imagine that I can no longer be in your classes. But thanks to Covid-19, I will still continue to be with all of you in my favorite class, and we will study online.

I will always remember this city where the kindest, most tolerant and beautiful people in the world live. I really hope that all of you will have the opportunity be our guests in Tennessee! Thank you all very much! Love you!!

A Scheduled Management Plan for Christmas Day

Shasha Zhang, China

One week before Christmas, when I was busy in the kitchen, my eight-year-old twin girls came home from school and told me that they wanted to help me organize the family Christmas day. I was very happy that they were willing to help and told them they could first start by creating a plan. I created a google document and shared it with everyone in the family. I told my twin girls their first job is to consider everything related to Christmas day and write down what we will do, what we need and what everyone's job is on Christmas day. I told them this is a very fun and important project, and in college we call it creating a "schedule management plan." They soon became very excited knowing they were about to do a serious college project.

The most exciting part for them is opening the Christmas gifts in the morning, so the first thing they wrote down is that in the morning we wake up at 9:30 am and start opening gifts at 10:30 am. Then they discussed what we should do after opening the gifts. One girl said we should watch a Christmas movie, my other girl said we should start playing a game. Both agreed we will have lunch at 1 pm and take a break to start preparing for dinner.

Making dinner is a big job. When it came to the dinner menu, they first wrote down their favorite dishes: sliced potato (土豆丝) and sweet & sour pork ribs (糖醋排骨). They then asked me what else I was planning to make. I told them we also will have fried fish (煎鱼), braised shrimp (红烧虾), salad (青菜沙拉) and chicken soup (鸡汤). When daddy and brother returned home, we would discuss with them the Christmas dinner menu. They also planned to make a Christmas fruit tree.

I looked at their plan and explained to them that they did a great job of scoping out the timeline, which gives details concerning the time order of preparation. The next step to think about is a management plan, which means making a shopping list of what we need to buy for every dish we will make. They like making shopping lists and told me they know what resources are because in second grade Ms. Givens taught them about natural resources and human resources. They wrote down oranges, apples, strawberries, kiwis, blueberries, grapes, tomatoes, carrots and frosting to make their Christmas fruit tree. We also needed to buy pork ribs, fish, salad, green onions and cilantro. We had potatoes at home. They also broke down jobs for everyone in the family. Their main job is setting up tables with brother Daniel and making Christmas fruit tree; mommy's main job is cooking; daddy's main job is making tea, serving juice and helping mommy cut foods in the kitchen; brother Daniel's job is helping them cut fruit, bake cookies and wash dishes. I told them to assign a job to everyone, which is called Work Breakdown Structure (WBS).

The work breakdown structure forms the heart of a scheduled management plan. After dinner we would play Texas Holdem or Yahtzee. I was proud of my girls' management plan project and told them we should discuss the plan with daddy and brother at dinner time, just as in a professional communications management plan.

They brought up this topic at dinner. Daddy said he will do whatever mommy asked him.

Daddy also asked them what is the budget for Christmas day? They said fifty dollars. We all laughed as fifty is not enough! I told them two hundred dollars is the budget, and they should monitor and control the budget.

Daniel said he didn't have time to check the google document yet, so the girls explained to him what we are going to do on Christmas day and named everyone's assignments. Daniel said maybe we don't want to make Christmas dinner on Christmas day, so how about we make dinner on Christmas eve and have a relaxing Christmas. We all agreed. At the end of this conversation, I asked the girls to write down ten questions they could think of related to the plan. A few of the questions made me laugh, like what if Daniel cuts himself? (Daniel has rough skin). What if we go over the Christmas budget? What if we make too much food or not enough food? (or make the right amount of food). Now we have a great plan for our Christmas. What we need to do is manage and monitor.

Welcome to New Tutors

Randy Freisinger and Jill Burkland are using the site, Elllo, to help students with their English. Class meets on Thursdays at 4:00. See <https://www.elllo.org>. We're happy to have them!

Holiday Recipes

Shasha Zhang, China

Every holiday I miss my mother very much. I miss seeing my mom busy working in the kitchen cooking for the family during holidays. I miss my mom's delicious dishes; smelling the delicious food filling the whole house that made me feel satisfied with happiness. Every time I miss my mom and the delicious food, she made I can't help but smile. I miss all the food my mom made, especially sweet and sour pork (糖醋排骨), ribs stewed chicken (清炖鸡), egg rolls (蛋卷), fried crispy pork (炸酥肉), fish balls (鱼丸), and braised fish (炸小鱼).

I also want to share the family tradition and build up a nice memory with my children like my mom did. This Christmas, I planned our Christmas dinner menu with my children. We

made sweet and sour pork ribs (糖醋排骨), braised shrimp (椒盐牡蛎虾), fried small fish (炸小鱼), Chinese cabbage salad (凉拌大白菜) and egg soup (鸡蛋汤).

We bought the ribs from Walmart, cut them into small pieces and soaked them in cold water with vinegar and salt for two hours to soak out the blood and bad odor in the ribs. After this step, the next step is to fry the ribs. I used a cast iron pan, which I first seasoned by heating it to prevent the ribs from sticking to the pan. Then I fried the ribs over high heat, added ginger, garlic, two spoons of vinegar, two teaspoons of sugar, one teaspoon of salt, one teaspoon of thirteen-spice powder, one teaspoon of dark soy sauce, one teaspoon of light soy sauce, and one teaspoon of oyster sauce. After adding the seasonings, I turned the heat to medium and continued to fry them until they began to brown, I then added boiling water to cover the ribs, continued to cook them on high heat for five minutes then turning the heat to low for an hour. After an hour, I increased the heat to high to reduce the sauce. Finally, the sweet and sour ribs were done.

Salt and Pepper Shrimp and Oysters (椒盐牡蛎虾) is a very easy dish to cook and is delicious. We first prepared the salt and pepper powder. Stir together three teaspoons of salt, two teaspoons of sugar, one teaspoon of garlic powder (or freshly minced garlic), one teaspoon of white pepper, one teaspoon of ginger powder (or freshly minced ginger), and two teaspoons of curry powder. This makes enough powder for six to eight pounds of meat. Then put some oil in the pan, spread the prepared oysters and shrimps, and sprinkle a thin layer of salt and pepper powder on top. Do not put all the salt and pepper powder in the pan as it could be too strong. The rest of seasoning can be used to marinate meat or make Salt and Pepper Shrimp and Oysters several times. Then add one teaspoon of brandy, one tablespoon of water, boil over

high heat and simmer for 12 minutes. The Shrimp and Oysters are ready. Very yummy.

Fried small fish (油炸小鱼) is a bit complicated to cook, but it is a good snack. First wash two pounds of small fish, drain the water, add a teaspoon of vinegar, two teaspoons of salt, one teaspoon of cooking wine, some shredded green onions, and shredded ginger, and marinate them for 20 minutes. Then wash the small fish, pick out the green onions and ginger, add one teaspoon of white pepper, one teaspoon of salt, one spoon of vinegar, two tablespoons of cornstarch and two tablespoons of flour, and mix well. Fry the fish at medium temperature, until crispy.

Chinese napa cabbage(白菜), also known as siu choy, is oblong in shape, and has dense, lime-green leaves with white veins that grow side-by-side and have a smooth surface. They taste crispy yet are soft and crinkly and are mild in flavor. They normally weigh 1-3 pounds. In Beijing, people like to buy tons of napa cabbage and save it for the whole winter. When making napa cabbage salad, marinate two pounds of cabbage with one tablespoon of salt and two teaspoons of sugar for an hour, then squeeze dry and add the salad dressing. I mix one tablespoon of sesame oil with one tablespoon of vinegar, one teaspoon of soy sauce, one teaspoon of sesame seeds, one teaspoon of salt, one teaspoon of mushroom flavored dark soy sauce, two teaspoons of sugar, shredded ginger and garlic. You can also add chili powder if you like spicy food.

Egg drop soup (蛋花汤) is very easy to make and is also known as one of the most comforting, nostalgic, and delicious of soups. Put three bowls of water, two teaspoons of oil and ground ginger in the dutch oven and bring to a boil. After boiling, add two teaspoons of oyster sauce and two spoons of salt. Then slowly stir three beaten eggs into the pot, and finally add some thinly sliced green onion, sesame oil and pepper, garlic powder, and white or black pepper. It is optional to add in seaweed and hot pickled mustard root. My

favorite brand of hot pickled mustard root is Yuquan Zhacai. I normally buy from online from Yamibuy <https://www.yamibuy.com>.

Do you like our Christmas dinner recipes? If you like them, please give them a try.

Climate Difference Between Michigan USA and Sri Lanka

Janaka Pushpakumara, Sri Lanka

My wife and I moved from Sri Lanka to Houghton in August 2021. At that time fall had started in America. But, within a short period of time, winter came. Houghton is one of the coldest places in America. My country, Sri Lanka, is near the equator. Because of that, we do not have seasonal changes. Our normal temperature is 25 degrees C to 35 degrees C, which is 77 to 95 degrees Fahrenheit. So, this was the first winter for both of us. Winter started from around 5 degrees C or 41 degrees F. During our first winter, the lowest temperature was minus 23 degrees C (minus 9.4 degrees F). Since we are not familiar with it, it was really a different experience and somewhat of a hard situation for us. When we go outside, we must wear clothes such as winter jackets, caps and gloves which are suitable for winter. It was so hard on our fingers when we were outside. Even though we tried some types of gloves, we were not able to bear the chill cold in our fingers.

However, since this was a new experience for us; it was not too bad. We enjoyed winter because we could see the ice crystals and we played in the snow. We also went skiing and snowshoeing, and even though we couldn't bear the cold in our fingers, we enjoyed it very much. Since we have the summer climate in Sri Lanka throughout the year, during our free time we play badminton outside, go hiking, visit ancient places and natural places and play at the beach. Everywhere there are pros and cons but honestly, we like the climate in between the warm and cold that is around 20 degrees C or 68 degrees F.

Elaine Bacon Literacy Program Wins the 2021 Scavenger Hunt!

Denise Heikinen

In September of this year the Elaine Bacon Literacy Program again participated in the Parade of Nations Scavenger Hunt. The intrepid pair of Dejlah Mezeel and myself, Denise Heikinen, again teamed up to do the actual leg work, but several passersby and EBLP members were on standby as phone-a-friends—when the clues stumped us. This year Dejlah also contributed one of the nine initial clues, which gave all hunters insight into a sense of the long and rich culture of her native country of Iraq. Her clue, about the Ziggurat of Ur located in her hometown of Nasiriyah, Iraq, was hidden in a box at St. Al's Church in Houghton. All hunt teams were given the same nine clues, and each clue was also associated with two additional clues for hunt teams to track down, so having submitted one of the clues ourselves gave us an edge of knowing at least one answer before starting.

As with last year, a QR code attached to each box contained a clue to find the next location, and that clue, in turn, directed hunters to the final location that named a local organization or place. For instance, our first clue of the Ziggurat of Ur led hunters to St. Al's. From there, hunters were directed to Canterbury House for clue #2 and then to the lovely little nature park behind Houghton Elementary School to discover our little promo for Elaine Bacon Literacy Group. Thanks to Jan Handler for writing our last two clues. So if my math is correct, Dejlah and I trampled back and forth through the Houghton and Hancock area looking for 27 clues! Add a few dead ends to that and my Fitbit racked up a lot of steps! It is great exercise.

A windstorm the previous night had played havoc on our first day of hunting because the wind had blown one box under nearby bushes, and our own box at St. Al's

disappeared entirely! (Thanks to Donna Cole for replacing it in time for us to record its QR code and get credit for finding it.) Work on the lift bridge that had been the bane of commuters all summer long, also confounded our hunt efforts. At one point, as my car idled in Sheldon Ave traffic, Dejlah decided to walk the 2.5 miles to her Hancock home rather than let me drive her over the bridge. However, as I will soon explain, traffic congestion proved to be a blessing in the end.

Most clues were challenging—even the dictionary didn't help us figure out where to look for a *sackrider*! In fact, I forgot how we found that one. Thankfully, a few clues were easy to solve. For instance, the Quincy Smelter was the obvious answer to the clue asking about what needs to be heated to at least 1085 degrees. A woman walking her dog helped us decipher the smelter clue, which sent us back over the dreaded bridge-work traffic to the mine shaft. But the Quincy mine shaft felt like a wild goose chase until Dejlah finally found the well-hidden box with the help of some tourists she had recruited for the job. Our phone-a-friends were enlisted for several clues over the course of our search, especially for our last and most aggravating hunt, the historic house where Pewabic Pottery was founded. This is when we developed a new appreciation for bridge work because while stopped in traffic on the Hancock side of the bridge. I happened to spot the Scavenger Hunt sticker on the front door of the small inauspicious house next to a funeral home on Hancock Street and finding that clue clinched the win for us.

We look forward to next year's Scavenger Hunt now and encourage more people to enter the hunt. Scavenger hunts are an American institution dating to the 19th century, and they offer fun ways to teach about American culture while learning more about the local geography as well as about different cultures and organizations within our community.

New from EBLP: Learning on the Go!

Jan Handler

Instructors, tutors, and conversation partners in the Elaine Bacon Literacy Program have led enjoyable field trips to scenic places in the area. There are many wonderful places to hike, picnic, or tour historic sites- all within a short drive. What a great way to informally practice English while having fun with classmates and teachers!

The EBLP Board of Directors is pleased to be able to offer some financial support for outside-of-class learning experiences like these. Also eligible for reimbursement funding are field trips to attend plays or concerts, visit museums, or explore nearby cities.

EBLP volunteers (instructors, conversation partners, etc.) can apply for such expenses as admission fees, gas, equipment rentals, or meals. This “learning on the go” can include their own students as well as other EBLP participants and volunteers. EBLP will aim to provide at least partial funding within budget constraints. We appreciate and encourage innovative ways to help students improve their English communication in a supportive environment.

If you’re planning on an informal learning adventure like this in 2022, just send a note with your plans to Beth Flynn (eflynn@mtu.edu). After the outing, send her your itemized expenses, providing a mailing address to receive a check for partial or full reimbursement. Then, please let us know about the experience... your stories help others learn, too!

ELAINE BACON LITERACY PROGRAM
103 W. Douglas Street
Houghton, MI 49931

