

Also: GED Graduation Recap,  
Meet Khin Khin, and more!

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## All Access Private Screening

**June 17, 2026**

**6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**

Literacy Pittsburgh Downtown Center

411 Seventh Ave., Suite 525

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

# ALL ACCESS

WITH **ANDY GARCIA**

Literacy Pittsburgh is honored to be featured on an upcoming episode of [All Access with Andy Garcia](#), airing on public television.

Please join us for this invitation-only event. We will present a private screening of an original feature that provides a behind-the-scenes look at our programs and how we help our students thrive and succeed. The event will include opportunities to meet the teachers, students, and volunteers who make Literacy Pittsburgh a welcoming and vibrant place to learn. Light refreshments will be served.

**RSVP NOW**

## GED Graduation Recap



On Thursday, May 14, Literacy Pittsburgh gathered to celebrate our most recent GED graduates. Eighteen graduates walked across the stage at JCC-Greater Pittsburgh to commemorate this hard-earned achievement. A special shout-out to two of our grads who passed their last section the same week as graduation!

Mayor Corey O'Connor spoke to our graduates, congratulating them on their accomplishment. Joel Glinka of Highmark Wholecare provided a wonderful commencement speech, and Dejah Monea once again shared her talents as the guest vocalist.

As always, our favorite part of the GED graduation was inviting family members, friends, and mentors to take the stage for an open mic session. [Keep reading](#)



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## Protect Adult Education Funding

The House has released its Fiscal Year 2027 appropriations bill, and, unfortunately, as last year, it proposes eliminating adult education funding.

While disappointing, this bill is not the last word on funding. It is important to remember that strong

participation in advocacy by staff, students, volunteers, and donors helped Congress reject a similar proposal last year. The Senate still needs to release a draft appropriations bill — which included level funding for adult education in FY 2026 — and then both chambers will deliberate final FY 2027 funding levels in the coming months.

**We have proven before that advocacy works, and it is once again time to urge Members of Congress to preserve and increase funding for adult education.**

[EMAIL YOUR REPRESENTATIVES](#)

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## **There's Still Time to Change Lives This Program Year**

As our program year draws to a close, our thoughts focus on the well-being of our adult learners working toward a high school credential, learning English, obtaining U.S. citizenship, pursuing college and better jobs, and improving their reading, writing, math, or computer skills.

More than ever, Literacy Pittsburgh is honored to offer programs that help both our native- and foreign-born neighbors feel valued and respected. These are real people building lives in our city, each with a story of overcoming adversity and moving forward, and we are proud to serve them.

Your support can transform lives in ways you never imagined. By investing in Literacy Pittsburgh, you're not just contributing to a cause —you're igniting hope for adult learners who are striving to build a future for their families.

[DONATE NOW](#)

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## Earn Certifications with Customer Service Class

Our next Customer Service Class begins in September. This 10-week class prepares students for the workforce by providing essential training in technical and soft skills and awarding several industry-recognized credentials. This course is targeted towards students who are looking to enter or return to the workforce, find a stable career with room for personal and professional growth, and those who are prepared to gain marketable skills and certifiable credentials. It is one of several non-degree credentialing classes we offer that bridge the skills gap by equipping adults with the certifications employers actively seek—without requiring traditional degree programs.

In this class, students will be taught critical skills in Microsoft Office, specifically Outlook, Teams, Word, and Excel. They will also learn to set SMART goals. SMART is a strategic framework that will enable students to organize and pursue their goals in a timely, realistic manner.

Participants will develop invaluable soft skills in professional communication, collaboration, problem-solving, and more. These skills will help students remain employed and advance in their career paths. [Keep reading](#)

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## A New Path in a New Country: Khin Khin's Journey



Originally from Myanmar, Khin Khin and her family fled to the United States in 2021 following a military coup. She and her husband both worked as journalists, who were often targeted for arrest after the coup.

Khin Khin learned about Literacy Pittsburgh from her first ESL teacher, who had formerly worked there. She encouraged Khin Khin to apply even before she moved to Pittsburgh. “I wanted to continue improving my knowledge and English skills.” Khin Khin said.

She started taking classes in 2022, starting with GED and moving on to digital skills courses, Accounting Essentials, and English for Jobseekers, with the goal of working in the healthcare field as a diagnostic medical sonographer. “Having a clear goal motivates me to keep moving forward until I achieve it. I am excited to see how far I can grow in a new country with a new career path.” [Keep reading](#)

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## Literacy Pittsburgh Welcomes New Volunteers in Beaver County

Many know that Literacy Pittsburgh had its beginnings in the 1970s when Mary Yardumian began training volunteer tutors around her kitchen table in Mt. Lebanon. Since then, we have carried on that tradition throughout Allegheny County.

Perhaps less well known is that we expanded our services to Beaver County in 2018. We are now excited to partner with the New Brighton Public Library to get the word out and promote our programs in Beaver County. Judy Pasquale, a Trustee of the New Brighton Public Library, invited us to do our first training in Beaver County in May. "The thing that strikes me...there is such a demand, and the need is so great," Judy noted.

We had a half-dozen enthusiastic new tutors attend the May 9 training, including fellow New Brighton Public Library Board Member Marsha Price. Not only are Judy and Marsha volunteering as tutors themselves, but they are also actively helping us recruit new volunteers. On May 13, they represented the library at the Stars and Stripes Senior Day at Beaver Valley Mall (where Literacy Pittsburgh's Beaver office is also located). At their table, they generously promoted Literacy Pittsburgh along with the library's other community services. Marsha reports that there were an estimated 300 to 500 attendees at the event, and they passed out information to over 50 people about our next volunteer training in Beaver County, which will take place on Saturday, August 8, from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the New Brighton Public Library, located at 1021 3rd Avenue.

Thank you to Judy, Marsha, and the entire Library team for helping to spread the word about Literacy Pittsburgh in Beaver County to create Better Lives Through Learning!

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## Staff Come Together for Family Picnic

On May 21, Literacy Pittsburgh's staff had a picnic at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Pavilion at Schenley Park. Staff and their families gathered to eat, drink, play games, and enjoy a beautiful night in the park. Food was catered by [House of Soul](#), and [Cobblehaus Brewing Company](#) donated beer for the event. Staff members also provided side dishes and desserts. At the picnic we celebrated staff anniversaries and other staff celebrations such as engagements, birthdays, and expanding families. A few staff members also won door prizes, including a day off, Pirates tickets, an Aldi gift card, and more. It is great for us to get together outside of work hours to connect and grow as a team. A great time was had by all who attended!

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## Sign up for our Next Introductory Tutor Training!

[Learn more](#) about becoming a volunteer adult literacy tutor and register for training.

### Introductory Tutor Training: Teaching Adult Learners

#### In-Person Workshop

Saturday, June 13

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Allegheny

1230 Federal St

Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is not the host or organizer of this event.

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh does not support, sponsor, or represent this group or event.

### Introductory Tutor Training: Teaching Adult Learners

#### In-Person Workshop

Wednesday, July 1  
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
CLP-Hill District  
August Wilson Room  
2177 Centre Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is not the host or organizer of this event.  
CLP does not support, sponsor, or represent this group or event

### Why We Do the Work We Do

“Literacy Pittsburgh was the light in the midst of the storm. They really care, and the staff – even on my bad days – were like, ‘You can still do this.’ ”

**Literacy Pittsburgh Student**



Two new merch store items: Tank tops for hot summer days and crewneck sweatshirts for chilly

nights! Check them out at the link! Visit our merch store.

Thank you to Highmark Wholecare for sponsorship of *The Spark Online*.



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**Literacy Pittsburgh**  
411 Seventh Avenue, Suite 525  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
412-393-7600  
info@literacypittsburgh.org  
[www.literacypittsburgh.org](http://www.literacypittsburgh.org)

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