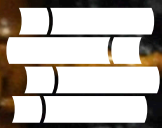


NEXT STEPS

THE NEWSLETTER OF **ALSO** | ADULT AND FAMILY LITERACY IN OTTAWA



ALSO

ADULT AND FAMILY LITERACY

Spring 2024

Kim's Comments

The new year brought many changes for ALSO; our Children's Program closed, we said good-bye to Farzana and Mina, our exceptional early childhood educators, and we dove back into event planning.

The loss of ALSO's Children's Program is felt by all of the member organizations at Heartwood House. EcoEquitable and the Community Laundry Coop were our primary partners outside of the ALSO students. We are not alone, struggling in this climate of funding cuts, reallocations and realignment. The Community Laundry Coop also closed its doors this week. Both programs had been running for over 20 years. Both programs served underrepresented groups including families living in poverty. Both programs will be greatly missed in our community.



ALSO's Board of Directors updated our strategic plan in the Fall of 2023 to re-imagine our way forward. In order to build capacity and resiliency for ALSO, we need to raise \$20,000 each year. No small task.

It would be easy to get caught in the challenges of running a small charitable organization; the gaps in funding, the very lean budget and the 'jack of all trades' role that Executive Directors, staff and Board members often need to play. Instead, I choose to see, really see, the good work we are doing each day. I come in to work and am greeted warmly by the wonderful teaching team at ALSO. I walk into the classroom to see the teachers working closely with students. I see smiles. I see genuine caring and commitment to this small, but mighty organization. I overhear hard conversations. I observe the teachers providing support, as each student works towards their individual goals. We lean in. We lean in with each other. We lean in with the students. Our Board of Directors leans in supporting our mission and safe-guarding our future.

We will continue our good work in the Ottawa community. We will continue to change and adapt. Small, but mighty indeed.

Kim Oastler
Executive Director, ALSO

Success Story



ALSO's Banned Book Night fundraiser on April 12, 2024 was a great success. We raised just over \$11,000!

The idea for Banned Book Night came from conversations we have had about ALSO. We work with adults who feel that they don't fit into more mainstream programs. We work with adults who, often, have struggled to find their voice or their place. Books that have been formally banned or 'shadow' banned are stories that need to be told. The authors and their stories should have a place and should be accessible to everyone and anyone. We need these stories. ALSO's Banned Book Night celebrates the authors and the stories that others have tried to silence.

The evening was entertaining, informative and educational. **'Nathan Burgoine, Kate Heartfield and Dr. Nili Kaplan-Myrth** read excerpts from their chosen banned books.

'Nathan read from *Suicide Notes* by Michael Thomas Ford. Kate read from *Salma Writes a Book* by Danny Ramadan. Nili and her daughter read from *Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank. **Denise Deshaw** signed an excerpt from *And Tango Makes Three* by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell, illustrated by Henry Cole. The audience engagement was excellent with much discussion following each reading.

With 80 tickets sold, it was a full house. We were very fortunate to have **Christophe Elie** play his music throughout the evening. He describes his music as political folk. His performance was exceptional. Our MC, **Mark Underwood**, came from Montreal to be with us. He volunteered with ALSO many years ago. It was a pleasure to see Mark again. The event was catered by **Chef Ric's at the Ottawa Mission**. The food was delicious.

Thank you to our generous sponsors: **Boss Electric, ASIGN, McCay Duff LLP, ACL Accounting and Consulting Services, Cooperators Insurance, Canine Clubhouse.**

Thank you to the businesses/authors/artists/supporters that donated silent auction items: **Perfect Books, Lawrence Hill** (author), **Frances Itani** (author), **Isobel Bisby** (supporter), **Kevin Scully** (supporter), **Salon Fiorella, Merivale Vision Care, Vistek Ottawa, Massine's YIG, Capital Wave Water Polo Club, Kae McColl** (artist), **Kristen Nguyen** (artist), **Alexis Boyle** (artist), **Mama Shell's Cakes, Jennifer Mae Bennet** (makeup artist), **Ann McElroy - Ottawa Valley Weavers' and Spinners' Guild, Powerhaus Fitness Studio, Juice Dudez, Doozy Bougie Candles, True Bijoux, Total Nutrition Diva.**

Thank you to the **Ottawa Little Theatre** for lending us the stage, and the **Ottawa Public Library** for their display of books. Thank you to **everyone who helped** with the event and to **everyone who bought tickets**. It was an amazing night.

You can see more photos on our website at www.also-ottawa.org/events.

From the Ashes, ALSO's Banned Book Night, will continue to give voice to banned books and raise much needed funds for ALSO. There will be more information about the April 2025 event in our Fall newsletter.

ALSO Happenings

ALSO's Deaf Adult Literacy Program has partnered with Deaf, Learn, Now to offer several free online workshops for Deaf adults. To honour Deaf Awareness Month in May, Ali and Sonia will be facilitating *The History of European Sign Language* workshop series.



DEAF ADULT PROGRAM

ZOOM Webinar in ASL

Thursdays
May 16, 23, and 30
10 am - 12 pm

REGISTER by Monday May 6
Email: muhammad@also-ottawa.org

DEAF AWARENESS Month

History of European Sign Language **FREE Course**

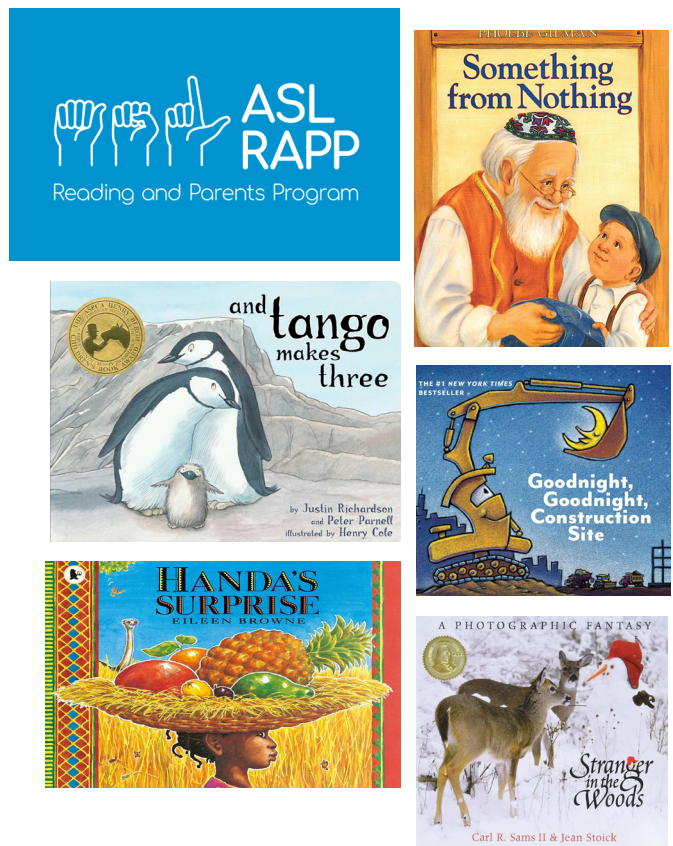
Join us and learn about the important events and people in the history of Deaf Education in Europe.

Instructors:  Muhammad Ali  Sonia Proulx-Prusin

    Ontario

We are excited to let you know that we are releasing 5 new titles on our ASL RAPP website in May. Check out the new story videos, vocabulary videos, tip sheets and craft templates for *And Tango Makes Three*, *Handa's Surprise*, *Something From Nothing*, *Goodnight Construction Site* and *Stranger in the Woods*. ASL RAPP is a free ASL/English language learning resource for parents and families with Deaf children. Sign up today!

aslrapp.org



ASL RAPP
Reading and Parents Program

and tango makes three
by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell
illustrated by Henry Cole

HANDA'S SURPRISE
EILEEN BROWNE

Something from Nothing
PHILIPpe GUILMAN

Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site
THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

Stranger in the Woods
A PHOTOGRAPHIC FANTASY
Carl R. Sams II & Jean Stoick

ALSO ChangeMaker

Chris Mantil

Chris is a graphic designer working with CADTH who volunteered his time, artistry and skill to support ALSO's Banned Book Night. Chris created all of the promotional materials for our event. He, in fact, has been creating the promotional materials for ALSO's fundraising events for the last 10 years. Chris is a gifted graphic designer. He is insightful, professional and kind. It is a privilege to work with Chris.



It also happens to be my (Kim's) privilege to parent Chris. Working with a small charitable organization often means encouraging friends and family to help out when needed. Chris has more than risen to this challenge. He is an ALSO ChangeMaker. Thank you Chris.

Get Involved

Volunteer with ALSO

We are looking for 2-3 volunteers to work with our event planning committee. In addition to our Banned Book Night fundraiser next April 2025, we will host a family friendly event in the Fall 2024. If you are enthusiastic about ALSO and the work we do, please reach out to Kim for more information. kim@also-ottawa.org

Become a Monthly Donor

Becoming one of our valued Champion Monthly Donors is one of the most effective ways of supporting the work we do in our community. We have Champion Monthly Donors who give \$10 a month and others who give \$100 a month. EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS. Every dollar contributes in a meaningful way to the good work we do.

Your gift is most sincerely appreciated by the adults we serve.

www.also-ottawa.org/donate

Sending out a huge thank you to our existing Champion Monthly Donors.
We appreciate your continued support.

Contact Us

Phone: 613-233-8660 **E-mail:** kim@also-ottawa.org

Address: 404 McArthur Ave, Ottawa, ON K1K 1G8

DONATE TODAY!