



In Memory of Dr. Gerald Lenkowitz

March 2, 1936 - April 6, 2020

This is our moment to celebrate the years of service Dr. Gerald Lenkowitz volunteered as a dedicated literacy tutor for many new English speakers in Rockland County.

Since 2012, Dr. Jerry was a regular visitor in many Rockland libraries, sharing a quiet table with a student, sometimes a group of students. They would be observed perusing current events in the latest issue of EZ English News. Though a dentist by profession, librarians often assumed Dr. Jerry was a teacher because of his manner and the way his students were always fully engaged during their weekly tutor sessions.

With English literacy as his priority, Dr. Jerry imbued his passion for American history and US Presidents into his tutoring sessions. He wanted to help his students develop a better understanding of the United States of America, and what it means to be an American. His students learned about Lincoln, FDR, JFK, and his personal favorite, Harry Truman. They also learned about his lifetime passion for the great American pastime, baseball, and about Joe DiMaggio, his favorite player. In fact, a point of pride for Dr. Jerry was that March 2, 1936, his birthday, was a big day in the life of Joe DiMaggio as well. He loved to tell people that while his mother was giving birth to him, the great Joe DiMaggio was signing his contract to wear Yankee pinstripes. In both cases, the rest is history.

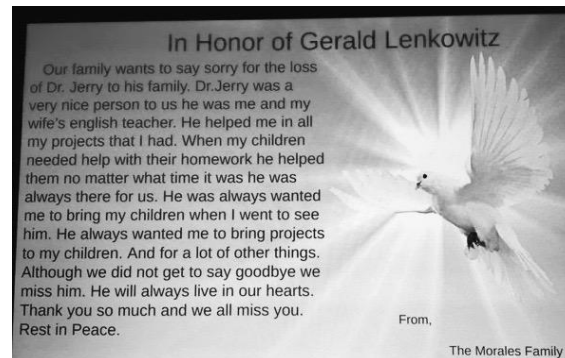
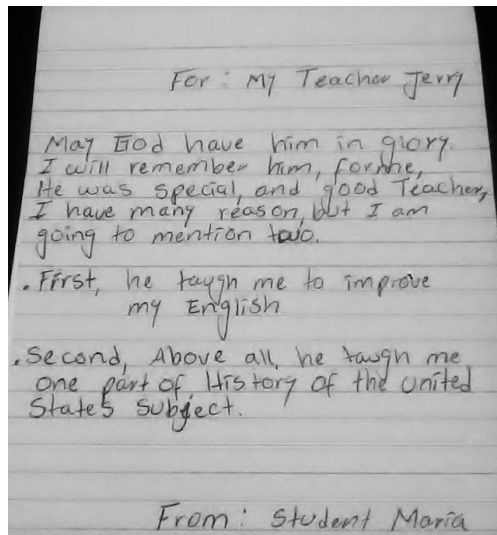
Through the years, Jerry tutored over 15 students in English literacy. Last year, a local landscape company inquired if Literacy Solutions would create a program to tutor their maintenance crew in the off season. Dr. Jerry was up for the challenge! He agreed to meet the new students, at their convenience, on a weekend. Believing that when a family studied together their English proficiency would improve, he graciously accommodated family members of the crew who asked to join the sessions. When the library was closed for a holiday, rather than cancel the session, Jerry moved the group to a local McDonald's. We can only imagine the gathering of patrons Jerry engaged that day to join him and speak English with his students. A wonderful result of those sessions, thanks to Dr. Jerry Lenkowitz, was that one student went on to achieve US citizenship later that year.

Dr. Jerry was a proud New Yorker and loved venturing into New York City to enjoy its museums and cultural sites. As recently as February 21, 2020, we were chatting with him about sponsoring a special tutor trip to the Whitney Museum of American Art on New York's westside. His enthusiasm was so contagious that we asked him to be our docent for the trip. Little did we know what a heartbreaking impact the arrival of the coronavirus would have on the lives and plans of family and friends.

Sadly, Dr. Gerald Lenkowitz passed away on April 6, 2020 due to complications from the coronavirus. Upon contacting his former students,

all were deeply saddened by the news of his passing, and a few have penned personal notes in his honor. The notes bear testimony to the role Gerald Lenkowitz played in their lives, and demonstrates the literacy strides they have made because of the talent and generosity of Gerald Lenkowitz.

Gerald Lenkowitz was a humble, kind, and soft spoken man of integrity. The Literacy Solutions family, its Board, staff, tutors and students, will miss him greatly. He was truly "one of a kind".



Dr. Gerald Lenkowitz Citizenship Fund

Through Literacy Solutions, NY Inc.

The family of Dr. Gerald Lenkowitz has established a Citizenship Fund through Literacy Solutions, NY Inc. to help adults in Rockland County process their applications to become U.S. citizens. Gifts in memory of Dr. Gerald Lenkowitz can be sent as follows:

Checks payable to:
Literacy Solutions NY, Inc.
Memo: *Gerald Lenkowitz Citizenship Fund*

Checks can be mailed to:
Ms. Christina Mandara
Literacy Solutions, NY Inc.
20 Phillips Drive
Stony Point, NY 10980

Dear Tutors,

We want to assure you that we take the health and well-being of our community, tutors, and students very seriously. Like you, we're closely monitoring the developing effects of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. All county libraries including the Literacy Solutions' offices closed six weeks ago and will remain closed until further notice to help prevent the spread of this virus.

Literacy Solutions, NY Inc. will remain in touch with our tutors by phone and email. If possible, we encourage tutors to stay in touch with their students remotely.

All in-person, face-to-face tutoring is suspended until further notice.

We miss seeing you in our libraries sitting alongside your students or visiting the tutor office for new learning materials. We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and will follow guidance from public health officials and government agencies, so we can continue to support our communities as needed.

For more information about what you can do to keep healthy and safe, visit the Centers for Disease Control at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) or your local health department's website.

Stay safe. Stay well.

We are all in this together.

