

THANK YOU!

We gratefully acknowledge the following donors, who generously contributed to our fall appeal. We raised over \$9,000!

AMT, Inc., Lisa Cardilli and Gordon Sevene, Steve and Kathy Cole, Fenimore Asset Management, Inc., Joanne and Jeff Gleba, Larry and RoseMarie Joyce, Kintz Plastics, Inc., Donna Lavigne, Eleanor Lyon, Mary K. Phillips, Schoharie Valley Veterinary Clinic, Andrea Small, LMSW, Marlene Towne, and Joseph Robustelli, Ed.D.

As always, LVSC silently honors the donors wishing to remain anonymous.

RESOURCE REVIEW

We have several new resources in the LVSC office that should be of interest to a variety of tutors and their students. For tutors working with GED candidates, from Steck and Vaughn, we have the two books from their GED Preparation series that address the most difficult sections of the GED test, "Language Arts, Writing" and "Mathematics." These are practical, comprehensive resources that include sections on Skill Focus, Practice, Simulated Tests and thorough answer keys.

Also from Steck and Vaughn, we have the entire Language Exercise series, Books 1-8, along with two Review books. This series covers a wide range of skill levels, and is appropriate for Basic Literacy students all the way through Pre-GED candidates and even some GED students. The books are chockfull of excellent worksheets and contain answer keys as well.

For our English Language Learners and our lower BL students, we have the latest edition of the Oxford Picture Dictionary. It is an improvement in two ways: the graphics and format are better, and at the bottom of each page are some extended activities for further practice with the vocabulary.

Lastly, we are again subscribing to News for You, a weekly publication from New Readers Press. News for You provides six or seven current events stories, presented in newspaper format. It also contains photos and some simple graphics (i.e. bar graphs, maps). The articles are written at various levels and range in topic from political to geographical to social interest to just plain quirky. There is also a vocabulary list and a crossword puzzle included for the students. In addition, there is a Teacher's Guide for further activities and discussion regarding each issue's articles. Each week, we receive multiple copies of News for You. I encourage you to stop by and pick one up, and to check out any of our resources that might interest you.

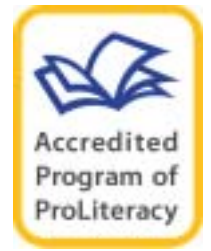


Literacy Volunteers of
America-Schoharie County, Inc.

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LITERACY FOR ALL



107 Chapel Street, Suite 2, Cobleskill, NY 12043 • Phone and Fax 518-234-2576 • Website: www.lvasc.org • email: lvascho@verizon.net

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Board of Directors: Joseph A. Robustelli, Ed.D. - President, Joanne Gleba - Vice President, Zhongchun (ZJ) Jiang, Ph.D. - Treasurer, Tammy Althiser - Secretary, Ann C. Adams, Peter Bent, Carol Greenman Bodnar, Jim Poole and Andrea Small, LMSW.

Second Annual SCRABBLE Tournament

The second annual Literacy Volunteers of Schoharie County Scrabble Tournament is coming up on Saturday, March 27, 2010 at the Radez Elementary School from 8:30am-12pm.

The entry fee is \$60 per team, with a maximum of four people on a team. All teams are required to register before March 27. Literacy Volunteers is currently accepting team registrations for the Scrabble Tournament. To register, please call LVSC at 234-2576 or email us at lvascho@verizon.net.

There will be a grand prize of \$300 to the first place team, with additional cash prizes and giveaways for other teams.

LVSC is also looking for judges for the tournament. If you are interested in becoming a judge and would like more information, please contact the LVSC office at 234-2576.

All proceeds from the tournament will benefit Literacy Volunteers of Schoharie County.



"Teaching reading IS rocket science." - Louisa Moats

TUTOR TIPS

By Sarah Beekman

“With a Little Help from my Friends”

“My student doesn’t have a clue about how to structure an essay! Where do I begin?”

“What sorts of materials should I use that will relate to my Basic Literacy student’s life, in a meaningful way?”

“How do I teach algebra, when I don’t even remember it myself?”

“What should I say to my ESL student, when I don’t understand what she is saying?”

“My student seems uninterested. How do I motivate him?”

Where do you obtain answers to these kinds of questions or advice on other tutoring issues you may encounter when working with a student? Sure, you could try Google, but don’t forget the resources in your own backyard.

Local tutor-to-tutor support

Other tutors can be a tremendous resource for information and tips on difficult tutoring situations. Think about it—you are all doing the same thing, to one degree or another. In fact, as the tutor for a GED candidate, I have gleaned some tips for my student from a BL tutor, and vice versa.

You will see other tutors from our affiliate at various events: One of our two or three yearly in-services, the annual Brooks’ barbecue fundraiser, the upcoming second annual Scrabble tournament, and tutor recognition events. Take advantage of this “face time” to introduce yourself to other tutors and make connections regarding literacy. Even if you don’t have specific concerns right then, perhaps in the future this other tutor could prove helpful to you.

Also consider, for example, the “Pleasures and Pitfalls of Literacy Tutoring” discussion of Saturday, February 6, planned as an informal gathering focusing specifically on our tutors providing support for other tutors. Hopefully, in the future there will be more discussions like this one to provide a forum to openly address local tutor concerns and questions, and yes, also share and celebrate successes!

LVSC support of tutors

Lisa and I are always willing to assist you in any way we can to make your tutoring experience as productive and rewarding as possible. Our goal is to help you help your students achieve their goals. That is why we are here.

As Program Coordinator, one of my primary functions is to provide support and resources for you, our tutors. You are always welcome to call, stop in the office, or e-mail me (lvascho2@verizon.net) with questions or concerns.

LVSC also provides in-services not only to keep our tutors up to date with their skills and perhaps develop new ones, but also to facilitate opportunities for you to discuss tutoring issues with your peers.

Literacy NY

On April 17 Literacy New York will be presenting a Spring Tutor Conference in Saratoga. It will be held on the campus of Skidmore College. This conference is designed to cover a variety of topics, as yet undecided, but definitely of interest to our tutors. To save on gasoline, we plan to carpool from Cobleskill to Saratoga. We encourage you to attend this regional conference, where you will have a chance to meet and talk to tutors from other affiliates and compare diverse experiences and techniques. Please remember, in all of these venues, no question is too basic. The rule of thumb should be, “If you’re wondering about it, so might another tutor.”

WELCOME NEW TUTORS

LVSC would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new tutors who completed our tutor training in the fall of 2009.

Irene Burke

Jean Burton

Kathleen Clarke

Jane Fountain

Gwen Medak

Kathy Moller

Robert Thomas

Rebecca Truesdell



VISTA VIEW

by Andrew Poole

By now I've had the pleasure of meeting most of the people involved with Literacy Volunteers of Schoharie County, and I am looking forward to meeting the rest in the upcoming months. I joined Literacy Volunteers in September 2009 after graduating summa cum laude from Gettysburg College in May 2009. My efforts in the program will have me working in Schoharie, Montgomery, and Fulton Counties, with much of my focus centered on recruiting tutors and students.

My work in Schoharie County includes re-designing the LVSC website to make it easier for tutors and students to use, and designing a Facebook page for Literacy Volunteers of Schoharie County. The Facebook page is still in its early stages, but we're hoping to use it more to communicate with people and advertise our upcoming events. I did some early work for the second annual Scrabble Tournament, compiling lists of possible sponsors, as well as a list of businesses and organizations that may wish to send teams.

I spoke to students at ONC BOCES and the Department of Social Services in December and started communicating with Schoharie County churches, re-introducing Literacy Volunteers and setting up meetings with church service organizations to recruit tutors and students.

Lisa, Sarah, and I are working with Becky Reid to bring our tutors together for a breakfast on February 6, 2010, at the Cobleskill United Methodist Church. We think this will be an entertaining way for the tutors to meet each other and discuss their mutual interests in tutoring.

Montgomery County has begun to occupy more of my time as well, now that LVSC expanded to cover the western half of Montgomery County. At the moment I'm working with churches and other service organizations (I have meetings with the Fort Plain Senior Center and the Canajoharie Lions Club in January) to recruit tutors. We are hoping to organize a tutor training in the upcoming months for tutors from Montgomery County.

The April Literacy Conference is something about which I'm very excited and hopeful that our tutors will be able to attend. The conference will bring tutors from over ten counties together in Saratoga for workshops and breakout sessions and a chance to meet each other and learn new instructional strategies to help their students. At the moment everyone involved is working on recruiting conductors for the workshops. We will send out more information to our tutors as we move closer to April.

•Reminder: If you are a tutor and have not provided your email address to Literacy Volunteers, please do so as soon as possible. It will improve our communication and save postage.

TUTOR CONFERENCE

Literacy Volunteer programs from Albany, Clinton, Fulton, the North Country Region, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, and Washington Counties invited their tutors to a conference on Saturday, April 17, 2010 at Skidmore College in Saratoga. This will be an opportunity for our tutors to meet tutors from other counties and learn new strategies in workshops and breakout sessions. The conference will run from 9:45am - 3pm. Light breakfast and lunch will be included.

LVSC is planning on carpooling up to Saratoga for the conference.

Questions can be directed to the LVSC office at 234-2576 or lvascho@verizon.net.