



LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF THE TARRYTOWNS INC.  
www.lvtarrytown.org

The Warner Library, 121 N. Broadway, Tarrytown, NY 10591 914-432-3052

August 2010

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 35 Number 3

### Welcome New Tutors!

Literacy Volunteers of the Tarrytowns enthusiastically welcomes the new tutors who have joined us since September.



1 Mary Jane Driscoll, Nancy Connor, Barbara Breen, Courtney Angle, Bridget Thorne, Sandra Mirsky

Our Fall 2009 training class prepared Courtney Angle, Barbara Breen, Nancy Connor, Sandra Mirsky, Bridget Thorne and Alaric Young to be ESL tutors. Mary Jane Driscoll is very grateful to Carol Hagglund who served as workshop assistant.

The following Spring 2010 training class graduates received their certificates and ivy on April 10<sup>th</sup>: Jane Berger, Gabriela Calderon, Jeri Cipriano, Anika Choy-Kee, Jennifer Choy-Kee, Jack Davis, Monica Griffin, Linda Levine, Grace Lowney, Christine Pepe, Patricia Poland, Mary Sands, Wolfgang Stupel, Jennifer Volpacchio.

Sincere thanks go out to Jill Benzenberg, Barbara Breen, Ann Cashen, Carol Hagglund, Sharon Hart, Susan Lewis, Jim Reisler and Alaric Young for hosting refreshments and sharing their experiences with our new tutors during the workshops.

Carol Hagglund, Sharon Hart, Jim Kittler, Promila Saxena, Liz Siracusa and Fred Steigman all served as workshop presenters. Many thanks to you all!



2 Wolfgang Stupel, Jeri Cipriano, Linda Levine, Jennifer Choy-Kee, Mary Sands, Gabriela Calderone, Christine Pepe, Grace Lowney, Jane Berger, Jennifer Volpacchio, Pat Poland

We would also like to welcome Shelley Robinson who joined our program with many years of experience as an ESL instructor.

### President's Report

by Nelson Correa

The Literacy Volunteers of the Tarrytowns is celebrating its 36<sup>th</sup> year anniversary this year, after its founding in June, 1974.

A successful Annual Meeting was held on June 19, with the attendance of 29 members in person or by proxy. The meeting included the election of the Board of Directors for the 2010-2012 term. I welcome Marilyn Ghilardi as our new Secretary, Niamh Fitzgerald, Susan Lewis and Terry Sullivan as new Directors, and Susan Gitlitz as Community Representative. I would also like to thank Anne Cahill who retires from the Board after many years of service, past Secretary Carol Hagglund and past Community Representative Sr. Lynne Jacoby.

We currently have a total of 89 volunteer members, including 43 currently active tutors who tutor 45 students. In the past year we provided 1,783 hours of tutoring English as a Second Language (ESL) to 77 students; all tutoring was done by volunteer tutors, in 860 tutoring sessions. We also held two tutor

training workshops and trained 27 new ESL tutors. In addition to the tutoring, volunteers provided approximately another 800 hours of non-tutoring volunteer work.

LVT is seeking volunteers to assist in the production of its newsletters for members and students. If you are interested in the opportunity or would like additional information, please email [ncorrea@lvtarrytown.org](mailto:ncorrea@lvtarrytown.org).

#### Board of Directors - Effective July 1, 2010

Nelson Correa	President
Joseph Ambrose	Vice-President
Sharon Hart	Treasurer
Marilyn Ghilardi	Secretary
Position open	Director of Publicity and Grants
Mary Jane Driscoll	Director, Tutor Training
Jim Kittler	Director, Tutor- Student Matching
Frederic Steigman	Director, Tutor Advisory Services
Promila Saxena	Director, Teaching Materials
Susan Gitlitz	Community Liaison
Debra Portnoy	Director
Susan Lewis	Director
Niamh Fitzgerald	Director
Terry Sullivan	Director
Elizabeth Siracusa	Warner Library Liaison
Tomoko Tanaka	Student Representative

#### Director of Tutor Advisory Services:

Fred Steigman reports that as of 6/7/10 we had 45 students in our program and 43 active tutors. Two of our tutors were each tutoring small classes of two students. There were four more tutors waiting for a new student to be assigned. Five tutors were inactive, most of these for health-related reasons.

#### Tutor student matching:

by Jim Kittler

We currently have 80+ students on the waiting list. Most students want to be tutored Monday and Thursday afternoons and evenings. We receive approximately one application every two weeks. Anyone who can take on an additional student please contact Jim at [jim.kittler@lvtarrytown.org](mailto:jim.kittler@lvtarrytown.org).

#### Notes for Tutors!

Did you know that our website has some very useful links to ESL lesson plans and other resources on the web? Go to [www.lvtarrytown.org](http://www.lvtarrytown.org) and click on the Volunteers tab, then select the Tutor Resources link in the left hand panel.

If you know of other useful links, let us know and we will post them!



#### Tutor for Two Hours a Week

In late 2009, the Directors created the Theodore and Lucille Hutchinson Student Attendance Certificate as an incentive for students to increase their learning time with LVT. The certificate is awarded to students with 16 or more classroom hours during a bi-monthly reporting period. Five certificates were awarded during the most recent (March-April) period. Although our experience with the certificates and other policies to increase attendance is still quite limited, these appear to be having a positive impact.

The following students have received attendance certificates in the past four reporting periods. Congratulations!

	<u>Student</u>	<u>Tutor</u>	<u>Tutor Advisor</u>
September- October 2009	Sharona Shaked Nadiya Mysyak Ligia Galindo	Ann Cashen Richard Vasquez Fred Steigman	Akiko Takano Terry Sullivan Fred Steigman
November- December 2009	Rosa Juanacio Juan Hernandez Ligia Galindo	Niamh Fitzgerald Sandra Mirsky Fred Steigman	Penny Brome Marilyn Ghilardi Fred Steigman
January- February 2010	Maria Paccha Juan Hernandez Ligia Galindo Raquel Tenesaca Romulo Luna	Bridget Thorne Sandra Mirsky Fred Steigman Susan Sincero Susan Sincero	Marilyn Ghilard Marilyn Ghilardi Fred Steigman Louise Raybin Louise Raybin
March - April 2010	Oneida Fernandez Juan Hernandez Ligia Galindo Natividad Guallpa Romulo Luna	Barbara Breen Sandra Mirsky Fred Steigman Linda Levine Wolfgang Stupel	Penny Brome Marilyn Ghilardi Fred Steigman Fred Steigman Joan Meade

## Report from the Director of Teaching Materials

Promila Saxena writes:

The following books have been awarded to students by their tutors:

TUTOR NAME	STUDENT NAME	BOOK TITLE
B Crawley	Nelson Lojan	NTC's American Idioms Dictionary
Susan Lewis	Julie Lee	The Oxford Picture Dictionary
Ann Cashen	Sharona Shaked	The Oxford Picture Dictionary
Barbara Breen	Onienda	The Oxford Picture Dictionary

The following books have been purchased for our Tutoring Center:

### Books added in Tutoring Center 2009 - 2010

NAME OF BOOK	AUTHORS
The Salsa is Hot: Dialogue & Stories	William P Pickett
The Chicken Smells Good: A Beginning ESL Readers	William P Pickett
The Pizza Tastes Great	William P Pickett
Voyager Foundation Level Student Book	
Voyager Foundation Level Workbook	
Voyager Student Book 1	
Voyager Workbook 1	
Beginner's Dictionary of American English Usage, 2nd Edition	P. H. Collin
NTC's American Idioms Dictionary,	Richard A, Spears PhD
Cultural Grams Americas	set of 3

## Fall Tutor Training Workshops

The next Literacy Volunteers 18 hour ESL Tutor Training Workshop at Warner Library will begin October 16 at 9:00 AM.

- Saturday workshop: October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 13, 20— 9:00 AM to noon. Sessions will be led by Mary Jane Driscoll and Linda Levine.

This training workshop will prepare new volunteers to accept a student from a waiting list of men and women in our community seeking help in learning to speak English. There is no need to know a foreign language in order to help a neighbor learn English. If you have friends, relatives, neighbors who are at least 19 years old and can commit to tutoring a learner for approximately two hours a week for one year, please encourage them to join us!

Applications for the next workshop are available at Warner Library now or can be completed on-line using our volunteer application form. For more information please call Literacy Volunteers of the Tarrytowns at (914) 432-3052, or e-mail [info@lvtarrytown.org](mailto:info@lvtarrytown.org).

## Help Recruit!

Please encourage your friends and relatives to become Literacy Volunteers. Share our Newsletter and let them know when our next Tutor Training Workshop will be.

## Corporate Support

Special thanks to Peter Marrinan, CEO of FAC Management Group for extending a discount to our affiliate to purchase Tutor Training workshop refreshments from the Wildey St. Dunkin Donuts.



## The Work We Do -

After the holiday party, Mary Jane Driscoll got together with Barbara Breen and Sandy Mirsky as a follow-up to the Fall workshop. Barbara reported that after a brief period with her first student who had a busy life and a hard time showing up for tutoring sessions, she was assigned to a second student, a woman from the Dominican Republic who has been in the U.S. for 20 years. She works as a receptionist for a BOCES ESL program and manages to get by, but her English vocabulary is limited and her pronunciation needs help. Her goal is to pass the Civil Service exam so that she can work full time and get benefits. She is enthusiastic and would like to meet more than once a week for English lessons.

## Milestones

Joe Ambrose reports of his student: "Juana (Berta) Toyos, a student at LVT for the past five years, received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Mercy College on May 26. Berta, who is a native of the Dominican Republic, has a full-time job at the Kraft Foods testing facility in Tarrytown and attended school nights and weekends in order to obtain her degree. She lives in Tarrytown with her son Danny, who attends Sleepy Hollow High School. All of us at LVT are very proud of Berta's achievement."

## Best Plus Testing

It's time to have your student tested if you have not done so this year. We need to have all students tested with the Best Plus assessment in order to qualify for ALE grants. Carol Hagglund is the coordinator of Best Plus testing. Please call her to arrange a time for your student to be tested. Contact your tutor advisor or leave a message at 914-432-3052 if you need Carol's phone number.



Sandy's student is a young man from Colombia who has been in the U.S. for 1.5 years. He is a college grad in electrical engineering. He needs conversational skills. He comes to lessons with an electronic dictionary and a computer. He writes on the computer and then Sandy helps him correct what he has written. His biggest problem now is finding a job. He has been studying for a commercial vehicle license and just passed four of the required tests in Spanish to get a bus driver job. Sandy says he is very

bright and motivated and they have been using the Voyager series of books to work on the proper use of prepositions like “on May 4th” and “in the month of May.”



On June 5<sup>th</sup>, Christine Pepe, Jane Berger and Mary Sands came together for the Spring workshop follow-up.

Christine is tutoring a young woman from the Dominican Republic who had “no English at all” and who has been in this country for one year. Her ESLOA test score is barely a level one. They meet twice a week for 1 hour. Christine says her student has such a great attitude – they both look forward to getting together. Her student brings her four-year-old daughter sometimes. Christine says her student wants to tell her stories in Spanish and Christine has to keep reminding her to try to speak English. They have worked on dialogues about topics like what do you put in your coffee? Her homework assignments have been to watch an English TV show.

Jane’s student is a young man from Nicaragua who tests at about a level two on the ESLOA. She says he works six days a week but still finds time to meet her two times a week for an hour or more. He is always on time and always has his homework completed. He tells her that he tries to watch TV but he thinks they speak too fast. He has found recreation in going to

the Set Back Inn where they have a pool table. He has played pool since he was 12 and enjoys playing there.

Jane has worked with her student on measurement – feet and yards. She says he listens carefully. They have also worked on tenses and have used English Line By Line. He speaks well on the phone now. On his first phone call with her he had to have his cousin speak for him. They have found ESL materials from the Warner Library collection useful – particularly an easy reader about rodeos. They have also been writing little dialogues and using them to practice “in” and “on.”

Mary’s student is a young man from Ecuador who is married and has two children. He has been here 12 years and has worked as a jack of all trades – in kitchens and as a groundsman. He is punctual, but he needed help leaving a voice message. She said there is a big difference between “I can come to class” and “I can’t come to class.” He reads and understands English, but needs help speaking. His boss speaks English. His goal is to become a citizen. Mary copies pages of the textbook they are using – The Salsa is Hot - and gives them to her student for homework. She says his nine-year-old son sometimes helps him do his homework. They meet twice a week for an hour or more. Mary tries to watch the same game show that her student watches with his family so that they can discuss it in their lesson. She has taped her student to help him hear himself. They work on pronunciation and then she tapes him again.



## Heads Up!

The Tutoring Center will be painted at the end of August. A schedule will be posted on the door. Tutors may need to find other locations to tutor if work is in progress.



## Save the Date!



The next Board meeting will be September 13, 2010 at 5:30 PM in meeting room A. All are welcome.

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Visit our new website:  
[lvtarrytown.org](http://lvtarrytown.org)