



LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF THE TARRYTOWNS INC.

www.lvtarrytown.org

The Warner Library, 121 N. Broadway, Tarrytown, NY 10591 914-488-4250

January 2019

NEWSLETTER

Volume 42 Number 1

Our Fall 2018 Tutor Class:

The following new Tutors completed our Fall training!



LVT 2018 FALL GRADUATES

Jeymys Airall	Sully Madinabeitia
Carolyn Banfield	Gusta McMorrow
Michelle Bisson	Leonard Ospina
Linda D. Borelli	Brian Sitts
Sue Geisker	Veronica Vatter
Lilian Hayes	Patricia Viger

We welcome our twelve new tutors to LVT. They completed the tutor training workshop on November 17th and had the opportunity to get together for a follow-up session on January 5th.

Thanks to the volunteers who helped train our new class: Anna Li, Darla Kohler Steiner, Promila Saxena, Nancy Kaufman Panagacos, Barbara Cohen, Sharon Hart Fanelli, Ben Hunter and Marilyn Ghilardi. Presentations included information on tutoring materials, learner- tutor

matching, survival kit preparation, Warner Library materials, LV materials and tutor advisors.

We are grateful to Peter Marrinan for the Dunkin Donuts discount extended to us. Thanks also to our refreshment hosts: Kevin Donohue, Sue Byrne, Yeni Morales-Diaz, Ann Lee, Darla Kohler Steiner and Promila Saxena.

President's Report *Mary Jane Driscoll*

Happy New Year to all! More than 25 of our members and some of their students and families joined us for a Holiday Party December 2nd. Refreshments and decorations provided by the board of directors helped to kick off the holiday season in the Reading Room at Warner library. We were very happy to catch up with fellow volunteers and hear about their experiences.



Renovations will soon be underway to replace the ceiling and lighting in all rooms on the third floor of the library. This will affect the tutoring center, but we are not sure how long it will last. If the tutoring center is not available due to construction, please work with the reference librarians to find another place to tutor.

Our annual appeal was mailed in early December and we have received over \$1600.00 to date from

volunteers and friends of LVT. We are very grateful for your support and will use these funds to enhance access to internet resources for ESL in our tutoring center.

Director, Tutor Advisory Services
Marilyn Ghilardi

There are **16 Tutor Advisors** who encourage new tutors after they graduate from the workshop. They also collect the tutoring hours from their assigned tutors every two months. It is an important job and I want to thank the following TAs for their service:

TUTOR ADVISORS

Judith Christopher	Lenora Macri
Niamh Fitzgerald	Joan Meade
Marilyn Ghilardi	Gail Roth
Sharon Hart	David Saphra
Ben Hunter	Promila Saxena
Kathy Kee	Darla Kohler Steiner
Betina Kleiss	Joan Stern
Kristen Lankester	Fred Steigman

Attendance Awards



Congratulations to our Tutors for tutoring their students **16+ hours** during a two-month period. Students received the **Hutchinson Award**.

HUTCHINSON AWARDEES

MAY / JUNE

Tutor Advisor: Kathy Kee
Tutor: Dawn Gibbs
Learner: Maria Silva

Tutor Advisor: Betina Kleiss
Tutor: Teresa Arcuri
Learner: Silvia Morocho

JULY / AUGUST

Tutor Advisor: Lenora Macri
Tutor: Michelle De Savigny
Learners: Yang Kim, Masayo Kawanishi

Tutor Advisor: Fred Steigman
Tutor: Mary Germino
Learner: Rosa Peralta

Tutor Advisor: Ben Hunter
Tutor: Barbara Bethea
Learner: Andres Lucero

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

Tutor Advisor: Sharon Hart
Tutor: Sr. Edna O'Connor
Learner: Manuel Abreu



Sister Edna O'Connor reports that Manuel Abreu has been attending tutoring class faithfully these past months. Here Manuel is receiving an Attendance Certificate to testify to this. He wants to learn to speak English fluently and is making steady progress. It is a pleasure to teach someone so motivated.

Termination Reassignment

When a tutor needs to go on hiatus or terminate their tutoring relationship with their student, please complete a Termination-Reassignment Form and leave it in the LV mailbox. This will let us know the wishes of both the Learner and the Tutor. We need to know if the learner and/or tutor wish to be assigned to a new tutor or learner – and if so, what days and hours they are available.

Director, Tutoring Materials
Promila Saxena

Recently we received funds from The Church of St. Barnabas to spend only on books. We used some of that money to buy additional copies of a few books – 22 books. The decision to buy those books was based on the frequency and number of tutors borrowing those books in the last few months. We still have some money left over to spend on more books.

This is your opportunity to have any book of your choice to be added to the LVT collection for the benefit of your learner. Please let me know at psaxena304@aol.com the title and description of the book and I will ask for the board's approval to add the books to LVT's collection.

Attention!! In taking an inventory of the materials in our tutor center, we found that a total of **36 books** are missing. If you borrowed books, please return them promptly so that all tutors and learners can have access to those references. As a reminder, be sure to sign the log when taking any books from the tutoring center.

BEST Plus Testing Update

Tutors should schedule a BEST Plus Test for their Learners once per year. To arrange for the test, send an email to: lvbestplustesters@gmail.com. and let us know when you meet with your Learner. One of our Test Administrators, Amy, David or Ben, will respond. The test usually takes from 15 to 25 minutes depending on the level of your Learner. We find that scheduling the test during your tutoring session is a convenient way to administer testing.

Taking the test is a good learning exercise for your Learner. Please explain to your Learner that it is not an exam as there are no right or wrong answers, but rather a good way to evaluate their level so that lessons can be designed accordingly. Feel free to inform us if you have questions about the BEST Plus Test.

Online Tutor Training

We are offering a 12-hour online tutor training program for volunteers who wish to be trained and start tutoring in between our classroom tutor training workshops. You don't have to wait until April to begin tutoring!! Our online tutor training is also appropriate for volunteers who cannot attend Saturday morning classroom training. To find out how to be trained to be a Literacy Volunteer ESL tutor via online training, please email Info@lvtarrytown.org and request more information about online tutor training. We will send you the information and let you know when our next orientation session will be held.

The Work We Do



Catherine O'Keefe has been tutoring Angela for about 3 years now. She has achieved a nearly perfect score on the ESLOA, and the Best Plus tester said she was an "amazing student" when she was tested about two months ago. Angela's success is due to her intelligence, motivation and determination. She arrives promptly, rarely misses a class, and does homework on a regular basis despite having a full time job and three children. She is always eager to learn something new and is not daunted by challenging assignments. I have enjoyed

tutoring Angela as well as getting to know her as a person. I am very impressed with her progress and her willingness to learn in our tutoring sessions and in her daily life. She was recently hired as a full time assistant in a child care program where she had to interview and write an essay in English. She obtained a driver's license and now drives to work and class. Angela applied for US citizenship, and we are now working on preparing her for the test. She is well aware of the benefits and responsibilities of citizenship and is anxiously awaiting the opportunity to vote. Angela will be an excellent citizen, and I am very proud to have helped her on this journey.

Michelle Bisson has been working with a very bright young woman named **Mitchell** from Ecuador who has been living in the U.S. for several years. Mitchell earned a master's degree in Economics in Ecuador and studied English in high school. She is able to understand spoken English if Michelle speaks slowly and does not use complicated sentences. She scored a level 2 on the ESLOA. Mitchell would like to speak English more because she plans to live in the United States for a long time. She and her husband just purchased a home in Connecticut and will be moving soon. It has been difficult for her to practice her English because she is surrounded by Spanish speakers at home and in her community. Michelle has been working with Mitchell on "s" sounds at the beginning of words and "ed" word endings. They have used repetition drills to reinforce learning.

Carolyn Banfield reported that she is still trying to make contact with a student. The first student assigned was not available to be tutored when Carolyn is available, so she tried to get in touch with a second, third and fourth student but they have not responded to her text messages or emails. Carolyn will try to reach out by regular mail and enlist the help of a translator to try and connect with one of the students by phone.

Patricia Viger began tutoring **Zoila**, a young woman from Ecuador who scored a level 0 on the ESLOA. Patricia says Zoila is "full of life" and likes to share things. She can understand a fair amount and they have talked about her life with her two year old son who lives with her in the U.S. and

her husband and daughter who live in Ecuador. She has a brother who lives nearby. They have discussed shopping trips, practiced using maps, telling time and calendar vocabulary. Patricia thinks that Zoila needs help with basic vocabulary and tenses. She sometimes writes down the stories Zoila tells her and they review them to fill in missing words or change the syntax to sound more like English. Zoila works long hours six days a week as a beautician. She says she needs to learn English so that she can survive. Over the holidays Patricia and Zoila did not meet very frequently, but Patricia sent Zoila pictures and text messages to keep in contact.



Veronica Vatter's learner is **Darwin**, a young man from Ecuador who has been living in the U.S. for about 17 months. He has two children in Ecuador where he worked as a carpenter, landscaper and picture-framer. Since he has been in Sleepy Hollow he has found work as a landscaper and a carpenter. He told Veronica that he had some English in high school, but he does not remember much of it. He scores a level 1 on the ESLOA. Darwin needs to learn English to become part of the community. He recently had to set up a bank account and Veronica has been using that as a basis for lessons about bank skills like writing checks and keeping a check register. They also cover grammar and vocabulary as the need arises. Darwin asked if he could have a book to help him learn English, so Veronica is going to purchase one of the books from the Voyager series for him to use. She will also be requesting an award book for Darwin – a picture dictionary.

Brian Sitts is tutoring **Mirian**, a young woman from Ecuador who is a single mother of four children and lives in Sleepy Hollow. She has been in the U.S. for 11 years. Brian thinks she could score at level 1 on the ESLOA. Mirian has not really needed to speak English for most of her everyday needs because Spanish is spoken at home, at the supermarket, and at the doctor's office. She has also been able to communicate with her children's teachers and school staff in Spanish. Mirian tried to learn English a few years ago but was discouraged by her boyfriend. She works as a back waiter at Blue Hill where she does not need to speak much English. She says that she wants to learn English for all situations and Brian has been creating scenarios for her to imagine so that she can practice her English. For example, he asks her to pretend that they are at a party where someone asks her the question "what do you do?" First, she needs to understand that the question means what is your job? Not what are you doing? Then she must try to explain her job. Brian has used flash cards of fruits and vegetables and she seems to know the vocabulary, but found it helpful to learn about the meaning of "these" and "those". To her ear, "these" sounds very similar to "this." Mirian's son Fabio came to a lesson and Brian asked if he speaks English to his mother. He does not, but he will speak English to his older sister.

Linda Borrelli described her learner, **Julia**, as "delightful." Julia is from Uruguay and has been in the U.S. for 16 years. She works as a housekeeper, seven days a week and would like to learn English so that she can have more of a social life. She tests at level 1 on the ESLOA. Linda and Julia shared family photos and drew their family trees. Linda says Julia grasps concepts quickly and they were able to discuss the Christmas visit of Julia's son and his wife. They also used a picture of clothing from the tutoring center to discuss shopping for clothes. Linda helped Julia understand that an article is used when we say "I am going shopping for a dress," but not when we say "I am going dress shopping" or "I am going shopping for dresses." Julia has been trying to learn English at her church and Linda suggested a library conversation class for her to attend when Linda is on vacation. Julia thinks Linda's English is very good!



TUTOR CHAT!

Come join our Tutor Chat on Monday, February 11th in meeting room B 7:00 to 8:30 PM . The Tutor Chat is a meeting with both newly trained and experienced tutors who share strategies for communicating with learners, materials used to reinforce skills, and planning for instruction

TIPS ~ IMPROVE YOUR LANGUAGE SKILLS

Online Websites for all levels to help enhance student's overall skills:

- Speaking practice: <http://www.eslfast.com/>
- Reading: <http://learnenglish.voanews.com>
- Grammar: <http://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/>
- Listening: <https://www.eslpod.com/website/>

LVT 2019 Calendar

TUTOR CHAT	February 11	7:00 – 8:30 P.M.	Meeting Room B
BOARD MEETINGS	March 18 May 20	5:30 – 7:00 P.M.	Meeting Room A
SPRING TUTOR TRAINING WORKSHOP	February 23 March 2 March 9 March 16 March 23 March 30	SATURDAYS 9:30 to 12:30 P.M.	Meeting Room B
ANNUAL MEETING BOARD MEETING	June 8	11:00 AM to Noon Noon to 1:00 P.M.	Meeting Room A