



**LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF THE TARRYTOWNS, INC.**

www.lvtarrytown.org

The Warner Library, 121 N. Broadway, Tarrytown, NY 10591 914-631-7734

December 2007

## **NEWSLETTER**

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### **LVT AWARDED A.L.E. GRANT OF \$7,381; ASISTS ADOPTED BY BOARD**

President Joe Ambrose has received word that Literacy New York has awarded a supplemental A.L.E. grant of \$7,381 to LV of the Tarrytowns. This represents part of a total of \$516,000 received by LNY to support literacy in New York State. We have been assured that a check will reach us early in January.

The grant will be used for the purposes outlined in LVT's application which Joe submitted:

- A phone/fax line that can be accessed by computer;
- Payment to a contracted bilingual clerk to handle administrative/clerical tasks;
- New tutor training materials;
- Travel to conferences and training.

Nelson Correa is researching the phone/fax line, and Sharon Hart is advertising on the internet for the clerical assistant, whose work will ease the strain placed upon our volunteers in meeting the new time-consuming requirements.

At its November meeting, the Board of Directors had voted to adopt ASISTS (Adult Student Information System and Technical Support), the new web-based data system adopted by Literacy New York, with the provision that the privacy of our students and tutors would be respected.

Within a few days, Secretary Candie Frankel circulated a memo on privacy prepared by Nelson Correa from the NRS (National Reporting System) Manual. This included a statement that NRS and the State Education Department do not require programs to submit any information that could be used to identify specific students. A numeric student identifier is used instead.

LVT has always had a policy of keeping student information confidential.

### **10 NEW TUTORS WELCOMED TO LVT**

Ten new tutors characterized by workshop leaders Sharon Hart and Joe Ambrose as "exceptionally dedicated and eager to begin" were welcomed to LVT at the conclusion of the fall ESOL workshop.

They are: Peggy Brome, Nina Coulter, Tess Donohue, Steve Dyott, Barbara Friedlich, Ursula Guzzo, Angelica Hinojosa, Joan Meade, Tom Nee and Amy Plofker. We are delighted to have them working with us.

Sharon Hart, who had been very occupied caring for her new daughter for the past year, was able to return as a workshop leader during the second session and relieve Joe of much of the task he had willingly shouldered. The two worked together to make the workshop a success.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO REPLACE RETIRING OFFICERS**

This spring our organization is undergoing the loss of several long-time program administrators. A few have been replaced, but there are still many posts to be filled when our new year begins July 1.

The Board of Directors intends to send out a letter to all our members identifying the openings, and urging members who would like to serve in ways additional to tutoring to investigate and, we hope, volunteer to accept added responsibility.

### **NELSON CORREA TRAINED IN ASISTS**

In December, Nelson Correa completed the course in ASISTS given by the Literacy Assistance Center

in New York City. Participation in ASISTS is essential for all affiliates who wish to remain in the LNY network and to receive its benefits.

### **SPRING 2008 TUTOR TRAINING WORKSHOP PLANNED FOR MARCH 1 - APRIL 12**

Workshop Leader Mary Jane Driscoll, returning from her fall hiatus, will lead the training in the spring 2008 ESOL workshop.

Opening date has been set for March 1. Additional sessions will be held on March 8, 25 and 29, and April 5 and 12.

April 19 has been reserved as an extra day in case one of the other dates has to be cancelled because of bad weather.

### **SISTER ANNA MARIA GOES TO MEXICO; HER SUCCESSOR IS SISTER LYNNE**

Sister Anna Maria Lionetti, RSHM, who has served as representative of the L.I.F.E. Center on the Board of Directors, will be leaving in a few days for Amacuzak, Mexico, where she expects to be stationed for three years.

We could not find Amacuzak on our maps, but Sister Anna Maria tells us that it is a small village south of Cuernavaca, which is south of Mexico City, in the state of Morelos. She welcomes the challenge of her new assignment and looks forward to helping the people there.

Sister Anna Maria has found a replacement in Sister Lynne Jacoby, RSHM. Sister Lynne was introduced to board members at the holiday party, and she is expected to attend the January board meeting.

### **NEXT BOARD MEETING JANUARY 14**

Vice President Elisa Carrillo will chair the January 14 board meeting in place of President Joe Ambrose, who is now in Florida for a few months. The meeting will convene at 9:00 a.m.

Elisa is substituting for Joe while he is away. Please contact her if necessary. Board members are in touch with Joe at his address and phone number in Naples, FL, if he needs to be consulted on LVT business.

### **SHARON HART RETURNS TO BOARD**

Sharon Hart, who was unable to participate as a board member for over a year, came to the Board of Directors meeting on November 5 as a guest.

She answered "Yes" when asked if she was willing to be a member again. She left the room, and returned to be told that she had been appointed unanimously.

### **PROMILA SAXENA TAKES POST AS DIRECTOR OF TEACHING MATERIALS, SUCCEEDING ELLAINE GOODMAN**

Ellaine Goodman has had to resign as Director of Teaching Materials. The injury to her hand has made it impossible for her to continue in the job.

Fortunately, Promila Saxena volunteered to take her place. After consulting with Ellaine about the responsibilities of the job, Promila is working with the materials in the tutoring center.

Ellaine will continue as a board member and tutor adviser through June 30.

### **ANNE CAHILL RESIGNS AS MATCHER; REPLACEMENT HAS VOLUNTEERED**

Anne Cahill has decided that she must resign from her post as Director of Tutor-Student Matching. One of our members has volunteered to take her place and discussions are under way with him.

The job involves a lot of time on the phone and the computer, though some of the computer work will be taken over in the future by the clerk provided by the A.L.E. grant.

We look forward to announcing an appointment in our next issue.

### **3 SUBMIT STORIES FOR STUDENT NEWS**

Two students of Birgit Simcoe who received dictionary awards wrote letters of thanks to Ellaine Goodman. They expressed their happiness with the gifts and their appreciation for their training in understanding, speaking, reading and writing English.

Elisa Carrillo's student submitted a story describing the celebration of Christmas in Peru. All three writings have been sent to Maria Weeks for inclusion in The Student News.

All students whose written work is published in The Student News will receive vouchers for two free tickets to a movie at the Tarrytown Music Hall. Tutors, encourage your students to take part!

### **ARTICLE BY LNY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN LITERACY UPDATE**

Kevin Smith, Executive Director of Literacy New York, examined "The Cost of Literacy" in his article published in the November issue of Literacy Update, the newsletter of the Literacy Assistance Center.

He pointed out that we all know the cost of illiteracy, but there is no standard economic model to measure the cost of literacy. He brought up many questions whose answers might be used to determine this cost.

Copies of his article are available in the tutoring center.

### **HOLIDAY PARTY A SUCCESS IN SPITE OF THE WEATHER**

Sunday, December 16, began with snow-covered yards and icy streets. Would our holiday party have to be cancelled?

Shortly after 10:00 a.m., Library Director Kris Weltzheimer notified our President, Joe Ambrose, that the library was open. The party could go on!

Though there was just a handful of people in the room at 10:00 p.m., tutors, students and families

kept coming as the weather improved, and soon there was a crowd of about forty people, all having a good time.

Everyone noticed the exceptionally beautiful holiday decorations that had been placed around the room by a member of the library staff.

The festive board was provided by the Board of Directors in appreciation of the work done by our tutors and students throughout 2007.

### **FORMER MEMBERS SEND HOLIDAY GREETINGS AND NEWS**

It is always good to hear from former members, and especially so during the holidays. Selma Shill, co-founder of LV of the Tarrytowns, sent greetings from the Pacific Northwest, where she now lives near her children and grandchildren.

Ruth Varley, who continued in Literacy Volunteers of Schenectady after her move to Niskayuna, NY, wrote that she now has retired from tutoring. She asks if we remember chestnut trees in Tarrytown. Anyone?

George Somerwill and his wife Jill are happy in their "residential care home" in Stowmarket, England. George wrote that he remembered his association with LVT with great happiness, and that he often dipped into the book we presented to him when he returned to England.

**CALENDAR**

JANUARY	14	Board of Directors Meeting 9:00 a.m.	APRIL	5	5 <sup>th</sup> Session ESOL Workshop
				12	6 <sup>th</sup> Session ESOL Workshop
MARCH	1	Opening Session Spring 2008 ESOL Tutor Training Workshop 9:00 a.m. - noon	MAY	12	Board of Directors Meeting 9:00 a.m.
	8	2 <sup>nd</sup> Session ESOL Workshop	JUNE	14	In-Service Workshop 10:00 a.m.
	10	Board of Directors Meeting 9:00 a.m.		14	Annual Meeting 11:00 a.m.
	15	3 <sup>rd</sup> Session ESOL Workshop		14	Board of Directors Meeting 12:00 noon
	29	4 <sup>th</sup> Session ESOL Workshop			

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