



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

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

March 2007

NEWSLETTER

Volume 33 Number 1

ANNUAL MEETING AND IN-SERVICE WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY JUNE 9

The Annual Meeting of LV of the Tarrytowns will take place on Saturday morning, June 9, at 11:00 a.m. at Warner Library. Program directors will give reports on the year's achievements. Pins will be awarded to members who have completed fifteen, ten, or five years of service.

At 10:00 a.m., prior to the meeting, Carol Solomon will offer an in-service workshop on Best Plus testing and another topic, to be announced. This Best Plus discussion will give tutors an explanation of the test and why it is being used.

A notice with complete details will be sent to all active members a few weeks before the meeting. In the meantime, please save the date—June 9—and plan to be with us.

LVT "AT A FORK IN THE ROAD" OVER ADOPTION OF ALIES

Candie Frankel reported to the board on March 12 that the new data reporting requirements adopted by Literacy New York have put our organization in the position of either complying with them or severing our relationship with LNY. "We truly have reached a fork in the road," Candie said, "and our decision must be made soon."

Candie attended the regional meeting in Newburgh on March 7 at which the reporting software with the acronym ALIES (Adult Literacy Information Evaluation System) was presented. Affiliates who wish to remain with LNY and be eligible for the ALE grant money must make the transition to ALIES.

Training in ALIES will be offered at the annual conference June 4-8 in Hamilton, New York. Candie suggested that key board members attend the conference to find out more about the requirements and how they might impact LVT.

The board will continue its discussion of ALIES at its May meeting.

ROTARY AWARD AND ALE SUPPORT LVT

Early in February the Rotary Club renewed its annual support of LV of the Tarrytowns with another grant of \$500. We really appreciate the Club's continuing commitment to our literacy program.

As suggested by Mr. John R. Jolly, Rotary's Community Service Chairman, we plan to use the funds in part to support our Web site and also to support the Best Plus testing program, which currently makes it possible for us to receive ALE funds.

ALE (Adult Literacy Education) funds are reaching us through quarterly payments of \$325. ALE money is given by the federal government to the states, who channel it to LV affiliates via the State Education Department and Literacy New York.

LITERACY NEW YORK CONFERENCE IN HAMILTON, NEW YORK, JUNE 4-8

We will be invited shortly to send participants to the annual conference of Literacy New York to be held in Hamilton, New York, June 4-8. Workshops to be offered always include workshop leader's training. We expect this year's workshops to offer training in Best Plus testing, as well as training in ALIES.

The events at the conference as well as the hotel accommodations (two to a room) are paid for by LNY. Transportation costs are reimbursed by our organization. Therefore attendees do not have to shoulder any expense.

The Board of Directors would like to hear from any members who are interested in attending all or part of the conference, so that they can be given details as soon as the schedules arrive. Please call Joe Ambrose (after April 15) at 591-6750 or Elisa Carrillo at 631-5715 if you are interested.

JUNE 9, 2007
IN-SERVICE WORKSHOP, 10 a.m.
ANNUAL MEETING, 11 a.m.

TUTORS: BEST PLUS TESTING IS MANDATORY

Carol Solomon, who is in charge of Best Plus testing, reports that only a few students have signed up for and taken the test so far. Since our organization is committed to the test, this poor response is worrying.

Carol is posting another testing schedule in the tutoring center. She will also be stopping by the tutoring center at peak tutoring hours to conduct testing with the students who are present. The test does not take long—about 15 minutes per student. Tutors, please encourage your students to participate.

6 VOLUNTEERS CURRENTLY TRAINING AS ESOL TUTORS

In spite of the wintry weather at the end of February and throughout March, six volunteers braved the storms to enroll in the Spring 2007 Tutor Training Workshop. Soon we will have six new tutors teaching English for Speakers of Other Languages to the adults on the waiting list.

The trainees will have their final session on April 14, to make up for one meeting that had to be cancelled because of icy roads.

Director of Training Mary Jane Driscoll is leading the workshop, with Sharon Hart as assistant leader.

LVT WEBSITE NOW AVAILABLE IN SPANISH

Thanks to Nelson Correa, the LVT Web site (www.lvtarrytown.org) is now available in Spanish. A Spanish translation of every page on the Web site can be accessed with a simple click.

Candie Frankel reported that this news created quite a stir when she mentioned it at the regional meeting. People were impressed that an all-volunteer organization could accomplish this.

REPORT FILED TO NATIONAL BOOK SCHOLARSHIP FUND

A year ago the National Book Scholarship Fund awarded LV of the Tarrytowns a collection of books and other teaching materials valued at \$2,160. We made a donation of only \$216 to help cover the administrative costs of the program.

Lucille Hutchinson has filed the required report on the use of the materials. It showed that 19 students were involved in the program and that 7 family members were known to have benefited; 18 tutors and 3 staff members were also involved.

The use of *Voyager, English No Problem* and *Lifeprints* resulted in student progress in understanding, speaking, reading and writing English for all students. Some beginners were able to overcome their fears of speaking English in public or talking on the phone. More advanced students were able to speak fluently, open a business, and take a college course. Tutors praised

the books as being practical and about real life, and as useful starting points for conversations.

Four students used the Citizenship series. One has become a citizen. Another will take the test when her 5-year residency requirement is completed in December.

Tutors agreed that having the workbooks to give to students to take home was a big plus.

We have an ample supply of the above materials and their workbooks for future use. In addition, there are teacher's guides, placement tools, reproducible masters, and vocabulary workbooks. These items do not circulate but are available for use in the tutoring center.

This was the second grant of materials awarded to LVT by the NBSF. Applications are accepted every three years, so that we will be eligible to apply again in 2009.

GERALDINE DENT

We regret to report that Geraldine Dent, a member of LV of the Tarrytowns since 1994 and a member of the Board of Directors for 12 years, passed away in March. Geraldine served as a tutor, tutor adviser, and Director of Tutor Advisory Services 1998-2006.

We send our sympathy to her husband Tom, who assisted her by compiling LVT's annual reports to LVA and ProLiteracy. Geraldine will be missed by all who knew her.

BASIC LITERACY TRAINING ON HOLD

In our last issue we included an appeal for someone to qualify to give a Basic Literacy training course. This would involve studying the videotapes and other materials, and taking the workshop leader's training this June in Hamilton New York. So far no one has expressed an interest.

Literacy Volunteers of Westchester County, now located at the Riverside Library in Yonkers, is again offering tutor training workshops in Basic Literacy at various locations. If anyone is interested in becoming a tutor of native-born Americans who are unable to read, please let us know and we will inform you of any available workshops.

A WORK IN PROGRESS: AN INTERVIEW by Jane Forstenzer

A social worker in her native Peru, Eva Gonzales, a Westchester resident of 9 1/2 years, is now studying English with her tutor, Judy Levine. Self-described as a housewife with five children at home, ranging in age from 12 to 31, Eva hopes to return to her profession after mastering enough English. For the last three years she has been babysitting for an American family of whom she has become a part. Occasionally, Eva conducts workshops in parenting to Spanish-speaking couples—a paid position.

Eva proudly became a U.S. citizen last year and a 2006 voter, with the help of Judy Levine, her tutor of three years. Judy had taught ESL for six years before working full-time. At present, she is self-employed as a consultant to pre-med students and at Sarah Lawrence College.

Judy's motivation for teaching ESL comes from her "need to contribute to the world." She says, "It's like giving

blood." She sees this avocation as a need to pass on her knowledge and her birthright. Sessions with Eva once a week for an hour or more have concentrated on conversation based on everyday life experiences. Judy also tutors Eva in writing and spelling with emphasis on idioms. *Easy English News* serves as reading material.

She and Eva frequent restaurants, and Eva has introduced Judy to a bakery specializing in Spanish pastries. Through LVT, Judy and Eva have become good friends.

(Editor's note: Jane Forstenzer's article on tutor-student pair Judy Levine and Eva Gonzales will also be featured on the LVT Web site, www.lvtarrytown.org.)

NEW VERSION OF RECOMMENDED BOOKS

A new one-page version of Books Recommended by Tutors is now available in the tutoring center. It is posted on the bulletin board, and individual copies labeled LVT35 are available in the materials box.

Ellaine Goodman prepared the text and Anne Cahill produced the finished product on her computer.

STUDENT NEWS NEEDS STORIES

You may have noticed that you didn't receive a copy of Student News with your December newsletter. Maria Weeks tells us that not a single student story was submitted since last summer.

Tutors, we certainly can do better than that! Please, send your students' written work to Maria, the editor of Student News. Or, leave stories in our mailbox in the library back office, and they will be forwarded to her. We hope to have a great June issue.

And remember, every student whose work is published will receive two complimentary tickets to any movie at the Tarrytown Music Hall.

PROLITERACY ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN VIRGINIA NOVEMBER 7-10

ProLiteracy has announced that its annual conference will take place in Alexandria, Virginia, November 7-10, 2007.

The LVT Board is considering sending one or two representatives, since the travel expense would not be excessive, and it would be beneficial for us to keep in touch with the national organization in this way.

A MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Kris Weltzheimer, Director of Warner Library, reminds us that the door at the top of the stairs must be kept closed and locked while we are in the tutoring center. Recently, a few unauthorized persons have been found wandering around on the top floor where our center is located.

If any one of us has forgotten the rule, please remember that it is for our protection as well as for the security of the library's premises. We are sure that all of our members want to cooperate.

There is one exception to the rule. It does not apply if a library event is taking place in one of the meeting rooms.

CALENDAR

April 14

9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Final Session ESOL Workshop

May 14

10 a.m.
Board of Directors Meeting

June 9

10 a.m.
In-Service Workshop

11:00 a.m.
Annual Meeting

12:00 noon
Board of Directors Meeting

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Visit our new website:
lvtarrytown.org