



# LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF THE TARRYTOWNS INC.

[www.lvtarrytown.org](http://www.lvtarrytown.org)

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

July 2017

NEWSLETTER

Volume 40 Number 3

## Our Spring 2017 Tutor Class!



The following new tutors completed our Spring Tutor Training. Welcome to Literacy Volunteers!

### *LVT 2017 Spring Graduates*

<i>Ambreen Adnan</i>	<i>Kimberly Marcus</i>
<i>Nonnie Balcer</i>	<i>Jill Muller</i>
<i>Diane Calise</i>	<i>Anne Rybicki</i>
<i>Gina Carey</i>	<i>Simran Sanyal</i>
<i>Kevin Donohue</i>	<i>Jay Seagren</i>
<i>Susan Engel</i>	<i>Leslie Schulte</i>
<i>Maria Grosso</i>	<i>Trupti Shah</i>
<i>Fran Higgins</i>	<i>Samantha Sperber</i>
<i>Lloyd Hirsch</i>	<i>Lucia Squires</i>
<i>Ankita Lambda</i>	<i>Kim Mai Tran</i>
<i>Abby Luby</i>	

Thanks to the volunteers who helped train our new class: Anna Li, Darla Kohler Steiner, Promila Saxena, Ben Hunter, Nancy Kaufman Panagacos, Barbara Cohen, Sharon Hart and Fred Steigman. Presentations included information on tutoring materials, learner-tutor matching, survival kit preparation, Warner Library materials, LV materials

and tutor advisors. Thanks to John Lough for collecting the workshop fees.

We are grateful to Peter Marrinan for the Dunkin Donuts discount extended to us. Thanks also to our refreshment hosts: Ginny Stillman, Eric Kemperman, Joan Stern, Ben Hunter, Priti Khatri and Eileen Quinlan.



### President's Report *Mary Jane Driscoll*

Our annual meeting took place on June 10th at Warner Library. It followed an in-service program that Marie Olenych and Niamh Fitzgerald organized. Marco Bohorquez and Gail Vidales gave a presentation on the services and educational opportunities offered by the Community Resource Center in Mamaroneck. CRC helps with vocational training in construction, childcare, restaurant work and more. They offer OSHA certification, English classes, high school equivalency (TASC), citizenship, health and wellness and housekeeping programs as well. Their website is [www.crcny.org](http://www.crcny.org).

Andrea Carson spoke to us about the RSHM Life Center in Sleepy Hollow. They offer educational and social service programs for both adults and children including ESL classroom instruction and computer learning. Babysitting is provided during evening

classes. Their website is [www.rshmlifecenter.org](http://www.rshmlifecenter.org). Brochures for both the Community Resource Center and the RSHM Life Center are available in the Tutoring Center.

We are very grateful to both organizations for introducing us to their programs and taking the time to answer our questions.



The annual meeting was an opportunity for us to look back on a year of renewal for LVT. We have benefitted from the renovation of the third floor of Warner Library. Our Tutoring Center was repainted and re-carpeted by the library. Thanks to a grant from the St. Bartholomew's Clothing Sale, we were able to purchase new chairs and an entryway table to enhance the room's appearance. Funding from our membership was used to steam clean the partitions in the tutoring center and to purchase corkboards that were installed in the cubicles. We will also be able to purchase a new computer for use in tutor training and BEST Plus Testing.

Kathy Kee increased our publicity efforts and recruited the largest Spring Tutor Training Class we have had in a long time. The Ossining library reached out to us to find ways to encourage more Ossining residents to train to be tutors to address the increasing demand for ESL instruction there. We are also investigating online tutor training as a possible option to get more people trained and tutored – both in Ossining and in Tarrytown/Sleepy Hollow.

Ben Hunter spearheaded an effort with Niamh Fitzgerald, Marilyn Ghilardi and Nancy Kaufman Panagacos to organize our recordkeeping so that we can track and view our organization's historical tutoring hours, number of active tutors and active learners. Ben is also tracking the number of students who have or have not been tested with the BEST Plus

and ESLOA tests. These statistics will help us to recruit more tutors and donors as well as better serve more students.

The chart below is another example of the work Ben is doing to track tutoring hours, which he demonstrated at the Annual Meeting:



## Service Pin Awards

We awarded service pins to the following members and our thanks to them for their commitment and service:

### 1 Year

Barbara Bethea	Lenora Macri
Katie Comando	Carolina Molloy
Patricia Doherty	Susan Robinson
Harold Kennedy German	Kay Semenza
Aisling Geraghty	Clare Solano Coughlin
Helene Gomez	Geraldine Mahoney
Kathleen Kane	Gail Roth
Eric Kemperman	

### 5 Years

Benjamin Hunter  
David Saphra  
Joan Stern

### 10 Years

Niamh Fitzgerald  
Joan Meade

### 15 Years

Fred Steigman

## Attendance Awards

The following students received the *Lucille and Ted Hutchinson Attendance Award* for attending at least 16 hours of tutoring lessons in a two-month reporting period:

### January/February

Maria Florencia Chuchuca Tutor – Claire Davis  
TA – Promila Saxena

### March/April

Julia Gomez Tutor – Virginia Stillman  
TA – Helene Gomez  
Maria Florencia Chuchuca Tutor – Claire Davis  
TA – Promila Saxena

### May/June

Rosa Dutan Tutor – Geraldine Mahoney  
Kleber Pinto Tutor – Maria Grosso  
Jessica Tuba Tutor – Nonnie Balcer  
Angela Orozco Tutor – Catherine O’Keeffe

Congratulations to our students and tutors.

## Learner-Tutor Matching

*Nancy Kaufman Panagacos*

After matching tutors in our Spring training class with learners, we have over 50 matched and/or active pairs. This is exciting progress for LVT. Currently there are about 25 applicants on the waiting list for a tutor. A few of these new learners have been waiting for 6 months or more, so it is our goal to reduce the turnaround time from application to matching with a tutor.

Here’s how you can help! If you know anyone who might enjoy being a tutor, please refer them to our next training class in the Fall. If anyone can accept a new student, please email [info@lvtarrytown.org](mailto:info@lvtarrytown.org) or leave a note for Nancy in the LV mailbox. Be sure to include your contact information as well as the days and hours you are available to tutor. We particularly need tutors who have evening availability, but any times would be helpful.

## Director of Tutor Advisory Services

*Marilyn Ghilardi*

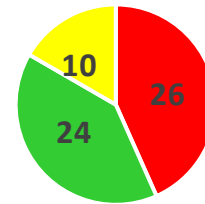
We now have 17 Tutor Advisors with 63 Tutors. Tutor Advisors encourage new tutors when they graduate from the workshop. They also collect the tutoring hours from their assigned tutors every two months. It’s an important job and I want to thank the following TAs for their services:

Niamh Fitzgerald	Kristen Lankester
Marilyn Ghilardi	Lenora Macri
Helene Gomez	Joan Meade
Maria Gorordo-Daly	Gail Roth
Sharon Hart	Sarita Roy
Ben Hunter	David Saphra
Kathy Kee	Promila Saxena
Betina Kleiss	Joan Stern

## A Word about Testing

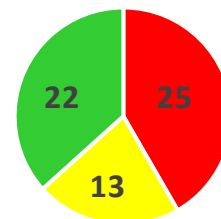
The following charts show the status of our ESLOA and BEST Plus testing as of April 2017:

ESLOA Counts



■ Over 6 Mos ■ Under 6 Mos ■ Matched

Best Plus



■ No Test ■ Over 1 year ■ Within 1 year

If it has been more than six months since you tested your student with the ESLOA or more than 12 months since they were tested with the Best Plus test, you are in the red zones – please do your part and get them tested.

## Director of Teaching Materials *Promila Saxena*

During the third floor renovation we had to move everything from our Tutoring Center to the back office of Warner Library. Thanks to Dina Potocki, Ben Hunter, Susan Brennan and Marilyn Ghilardi for their help with the move. Thanks to all our volunteers who, during this transition, continued to provide services to their learners without any break and most of all without any complaint.

By the end of April, a clean, bright and much more inviting Tutoring Center was ready for operation. We have eight new chairs – two in each cubicle and a new side table on the left of entrance of the Tutoring Center. However, more work needs to be done on wall treatments, so we ask you to be patient.

Our thanks to Kathy Kee who recently did a great job in cleaning the table tops in all four cubicles, and graffiti off the partition screens. We also had professional steam cleaners work on the partitions. Let us continue to maintain our Tutoring Center clean and free of clutter. Please avoid putting any thumbtacks on the walls.

Once again, thanks to all library staff for their support during the renovation period.

**From the reference desk** – Please sign in and sign out at the reference desk whenever you come to the library to tutor in our Tutoring Center – even if both keys have already been signed out. This is a security policy! This procedure informs the library staff about who is currently using the Center. It also helps us track who might have a key if one is missing.

### Fall 2017 Tutor Training

The Fall Tutor Training Workshop will begin **September 30**. Please share this newsletter and your enthusiasm with anyone who might be interested in helping someone on our waiting list to learn English. Applications are available in Warner Library and on our website: <http://www.lvtarrytown.org/join-now-.html>.

**Workshop dates and times are on the website and at the end of this newsletter.**

## The Work We Do



On June 24th a few of us got together for a follow-up session of the Spring Tutor Training workshop to share experiences as new tutors.

**Abby Luby** was not able to meet with us that day, but she wrote to us about her student **Maria** from Ecuador: I've been meeting with my student once a week on average. We meet in a small room in the Ossining Library, the only room that has a door and it works out nicely. I am getting to know Maria and the details of her life have been unfolding. Although she came here 27 years ago, her home life is challenging in terms of speaking English. Her family of two adult daughters, 10 year old son and mother-in-law, all refuse to speak English to her. She has developed hard to break habits, but we are working on those. Before the summer, Maria took English classes at BOCES as well. She is a very sweet, sincere woman, who apparently had a bad accident a few years ago and often shows up not feeling well and is in discomfort, for which she takes medication. Sometimes that means our lessons usually can't go for more than one hour, but during that hour she is fine and alert. I gave her the first two levels of ESLOA. The book I've ended up using most is the *Oxford Picture Dictionary*, especially the stories which are bilingual. Maria doesn't seem to have time issues or conflicts except picking up her son in the afternoon. Now that school is over we will be meeting occasionally in the mornings.

**Kimberly Marcus** told us about her student **Sungjin** from Korea. Sungjin has been in the U.S. about 8 years and had worked with one of the tutors in our program before being assigned to Kimberly. She previously lived in Georgia, but now lives in Sleepy Hollow with her two children aged 10 and 14. She is well educated and had been a public school teacher in Korea. Her primary reason for wanting to work with a tutor is that she is taking nursing classes at WCC and does well studying the books (she reads English well) and taking the tests but she has difficulty following the teacher in the classroom. She has little opportunity to practice English at home. Her husband, who works as a sushi chef would also like help learning English. She can't speak to her children in English because they make fun of her. Kimberly discovered a great resource that was shared at the meeting that allows the learner to listen to the news in English at different speeds. The website is: <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/>. Kimberly assigns this website as homework for Sungjin so that she can practice aural comprehension and they can discuss what she does not understand.

**Leslie Schulte** has been working with **Klever** from Ecuador, who has been in the U.S. for two years. He had been in the Ecuadorean Navy and is now a healer who works with many Spanish-speaking clients in our area. He uses different modalities, cupping, Reiki, massage, diet counseling, etc. He would like to learn English to expand his clientele. He currently tests at level 0 on the ESLOA. Leslie and Klever meet twice a week for one hour and they have been working on basic skills like the numbers 11 through 20 and also do basic drills. Klever does not have much opportunity to practice English. His children who are 10 and 13 years old do not want to speak English at home. Klever gave Leslie a diet plan for her mother, written in Spanish and Leslie will try to translate that and use it to teach Klever the English vocabulary he would need to use for English-speaking clients. They have been using the *Voyager* book for other basic ESL instruction.

**Jill Muller** was matched with **Miriam** from Colombia who has been in the U.S. for 20 years. Miriam has supported herself doing domestic work. She has a son serving in the army in Afghanistan. Jill says Miriam has lots of vocabulary but tests at level 2 because her grammar needs improvement. She lives in a totally Spanish-speaking environment and is lonely with her son gone. She would like to start dating again – possibly English speaking men. She has a fourth-grade education and is not very literate in Spanish, but she does not want to focus on reading and writing. At first, she only wanted to practice conversation, but she was only able to use the present tense. She realized she would be able to communicate better if she could talk about her life in the past tense. Jill

and Miriam have met 1.5 to 2 hours per week and they have been using basic drills. Jill says Miriam is very motivated now and is also interested in the history of Tarrytown and surroundings, so Jill makes that a part of every lesson.



**Lloyd Hirsch** has been working with **Adrian** from Ecuador, a house painter and a high school graduate. Adrian wants to find out more about working here and getting into a secure job. He lives in an apartment where he has no lease and has no credit card or bank account. Lloyd wants to teach him about these things but is working on basics right now. Lloyd says they have a good relationship because Adrian is “like a sponge” – he absorbs everything Lloyd gives him. They have been working on the present tense and idioms. Adrian has a girlfriend in Queens, NY but does not know anything about Manhattan. More ‘fodder’ for future lesson plans! Adrian listens to News 12 occasionally and may be willing to listen to a sit-com or English radio and discuss what he understands with Lloyd. Lloyd says he enjoys working with Adrian very much.

**Nonnie Balcer** has been working with **Jessica** – a 19 year old from Cuenca Ecuador who has been in the U.S. for four months. She graduated from high school and has been working at Dobbs Diner. She scored as level 1 on the ESLOA. When they first started working together, the whole family came to check out the Tutoring Center to make sure it was ok for Jessica to attend lessons. Jessica is a very serious student – always on time for each of the fourteen sessions they have already had. Her family respects the fact that she is continuing her education. Nonnie says they always start with a review of the last class then go over homework. Jessica already knew some numbers and colors in English. They have been using only English to communicate and have been using the *Side by*

*Side* and *English Step by Step* textbooks. Nonnie also praised Barbara Cohen, a reference librarian at Warner, for all the resources she has guided Nonnie to for ESL instruction. At her suggestion, Nonnie has used the *Lion King video* as a basis for English conversation. She has also been practicing essential phrases with Jessica – like

“have a nice day”. Nonnie keeps photocopies of what they cover in their lessons because it so often differs from the original lesson plan.

## LVT 2017 Calendar

LVT FALL TUTOR TRAINING WORKSHOP	September 30 October 7 October 21 October 28 November 4 November 11	<b>SATURDAYS</b> 9:00 AM – 12 Noon 9:00 AM – 12 Noon 9:00 AM – 12 Noon 9:00 AM – 12 Noon 9:00 AM – 12 Noon 9:00 AM – 12 Noon	MEETING ROOM B
TUTOR CHAT	Sept 14	<b>THURSDAY</b> 7:30 – 8:30 P.M.	Meeting Room D
BOARD MEETINGS	September 11 November 20 January 22 March 19 May 21 June 9	<b>MONDAYS</b> 5:30 – 7:00 P.M.	Meeting Room A
Holiday Party	December 3	1:00 to 3:00 PM	Meeting Room B