



# 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

February 2015

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 39 Number 1

**Happy New Year to all!**

**Our Fall 2014 Tutor Class!**



We are very happy to have our new graduates of the Fall 2014 tutor training workshop actively tutoring their students. We had 20 tutors who completed the workshop on November 15th:



Some of the new tutors in our workshop will tutor with Literacy Solutions (formerly Literacy Westchester/Rockland). We'd like to also welcome Catherine O'Keeffe – an experienced tutor who joined our program in the fall.

So many individuals volunteered their time to produce a new class of trained tutors, so our heartfelt thanks to the Fall workshop team: Anna Li, Kathy Kee, Promila Saxena, Elizabeth Siracusa, Sharon Hart, Nancy Kaufman Panagacos and Marilyn Ghilardi. Our new tutors enjoyed coffee, tea, treats and friendly service from our experienced tutors: Connie Holcombe, Michele Stone, Eileen Quinlan, Kathy Kee, Claire Davis and Ann Cashen.

### President's Report

*Mary Jane Driscoll*

We all enjoyed the holiday party on December 7th. It was so nice to have both new and seasoned tutors in attendance with their students and families. Many thanks to the board members for the food, beverages and decorations they provided. Thanks to some of our tutors who also brought tasty items to share.





I gave each tutor at the party a “Thank you for Caring” card which entitles volunteers discounts at some local restaurants and shops. If I missed anyone, there are more available in the Tutoring Center. Follow this link to see which establishments honor the card: <http://www.thankyouforcaring.com/>.

### ***Board News***

As many of you know, Jim Kittler who was a tutor, tutor advisor, and our Director of Student-Tutor Matching, passed away last June. Jim contributed so much time to his students, our tutors and to our organization as a whole. In many ways he was the face of Literacy Volunteers of the Tarrytowns – always at the library, board meetings and holiday parties. When the board decided that we needed to have the Tutoring Center painted, we asked Jim to get some estimates to do the job. He was so shocked by the amount others wanted to charge that did the job himself and only charged us for materials. We will miss him very much.

Nancy Kaufman Panagacos has been appointed by the board to serve the balance of Jim’s term as Director of Student-Tutor Matching.

Teresa Shean retired from the board due to work commitments. Kathy Kee has been appointed by the board to serve the remainder of Teresa’s term.

## **WCF Grant!**



Our affiliate has been awarded a grant of \$2500.00 from the Westchester Community Foundation’s Arnold E. And Olga C. Feldman Fund to support literacy efforts in Tarrytown. We are most grateful for this funding. The funds will be used to recruit and train additional tutors.

Please help us show our appreciation by following @WestchCommunFdn on Twitter and **Liking** their Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Westchester-Community-Foundation/230676723629658>.

The Westchester Community Foundation (WCF) is a nonprofit community endowment for the benefit of Westchester County. Its mission is to develop and manage philanthropic resources, and to distribute them in a way that is responsive to donor interests and community needs. The Foundation actively promotes charitable giving on behalf of the area’s nonprofit organizations. WCF is a division of The New York Community Trust, one of the largest community foundations in the country, with assets of approximately \$1.8 billion.

### ***Attendance Awards!***

Two of our students have received the Ted and Lucille Hutchinson Award for completing more than 15 hours of tutoring within the last reporting period. Congratulations to Rosa Dutan and Yessica Rojas and their tutors – Allison Tapley and Ann Chillemi for your dedication and commitment!

### **Tutor Student Matching** ***Nancy Kaufman Panagacos***

We currently have 46 active students and 25 students on the waiting list, most of whom would like to be tutored in the evening. Sixteen students have been matched with tutors, but we have not yet received an Initial Student Report form to confirm that the match will work. Please turn in your ISR if you have met with your student and tested them with the ESLOA!

If you need a new student, fill out a tutor-student matching form (available in the Forms binder in the Tutoring Room) and leave the form in the LV mailbox.

## Director of Tutor Advisory Services

*Marilyn Ghilardi*

Thanks to LVTs 12 Tutor Advisors and 63 tutors for working on the last 3 consecutive reporting periods. We logged 277 tutoring hours for the November and December period alone! Keep up the good work! The next report for January–February will be due the first week in March. For 2015, let's focus on having the ESLOA and Best Plus tests up to date.

- ❖ **Tutors:** Give your Learner the ESLOA test every 6 months to encourage your learner by seeing the progress they have made. Report the first ESLOA test score on the Initial Student Report and leave it in the Tutor Room. Then email subsequent ESLOA test dates and scores to your TA.
- ❖ **BEST Plus Test:** Has your student been tested? It is very important that we test each new student in our program, as well as students who have not been tested in the past 12 months. To request a BEST Plus test appointment, please call and leave a message at 914-488-4250. Include in your message: your name, telephone number, your student's name, the day and time your student(s) can be tested.

## Director of Teaching Materials

*Promila Saxena*

As mentioned in my emails, we have some new books in the tutoring center that contain CDs. There is a CD player available in the last bookcase in the Tutoring Center. Below are the new books:

Number	Title	Author
103.1 A	Modern Dramas - Solomon the Superintendent - 1	Elizabeth Neblett
103.2 A	Modern Dramas - Lucy and the Piano Player - 2	Elizabeth Neblett
103.3 A	Modern Dramas - Victor's Secret - 3	Elizabeth Neblett
103.4 A	Modern Dramas - Ramona's Adventure - 4	Elizabeth Neblett
14.1 A	English Structure Practices	Keith S. Folse

We also gratefully acknowledge that The Warner Library has donated some ESL materials to our collection from their collection. One item in particular is a set of Living Language – English books and CDs for listening practice.

## Help Wanted!

### *New Student Liaison*

The board is currently seeking recommendations for a student to be the student liaison to the board – an appointed position to serve until August 2016. The student must be willing to attend 6 board meetings per year, most of which are held on Mondays at 5:30 P.M. The student liaison is expected to bring a student perspective to board discussions. Please send your recommendations to [Info@lvtarrytown.org](mailto:Info@lvtarrytown.org).

### *Board Secretary*

We are looking for someone with good listening skills to serve as Secretary on our board. The position requires taking the minutes at six board meetings per year, typing them, and distributing them to the board via email for corrections and comments before each board meeting. If interested, please email us at [info@lvtarrytown.org](mailto:info@lvtarrytown.org).

### *Tutor Advisor*

If you have been a tutor for one year or more, you can serve as a Tutor Advisor. We need at least two new tutor advisors to contact a few tutors every two months to collect their tutoring hours. The information is then sent to Marilyn Ghilardi and reported to Literacy New York in our annual report. Please let us know if you can help by contacting us at [info@lvtarrytown.org](mailto:info@lvtarrytown.org).

## The People We Serve

On January 10th some of the new tutors from the Fall tutor training workshop got together with Mary Jane Driscoll and Promila Saxena to share some of their tutoring experiences.

Debra Cowart's first student moved away and she just started with her second student **Maria**, a woman from Ecuador who has been in the U.S. for 10 to 15 years. Maria had been tutored by one of our other tutors for a while, so she is not new to our program. Debra says Maria is able to read English fairly well and wants help with writing and speaking. Maria works in housekeeping at EF full time.



**Mary Beth Mylott's** student **Miguel** is from Spain, and has been living in our community for nine months with his wife who is Portuguese and their 3 year old child. They have extended family on his wife's side in Sleepy Hollow. Miguel had two to three years of classroom English instruction in high school and completed four years of college. He works as an electrician, but he only speaks Spanish to his co-workers. Mary Beth describes him as "flexible, adaptable, and knowledgeable." Miguel is also taking a class at WCC. He needs help with irregular verbs and has been asking what the rules are for when to use an "ed" ending on a verb. They have been using the internet a lot. Mary Beth has a collection of photos from the "Atlantic Monthly" that she uses to practice present and past tense.

**Mark Kotkin** is tutoring **Lilia**, a woman from Mexico who has lived in our community for about 12 years with her husband and two children. Mark describes her as "very smart." Lilia had completed some college in Pueblo Mexico and was previously tutored by one of our other tutors. She scored about a level 3 on the ESLOA. Mark says it is challenging to schedule classes with Lilia because she works at a local hotel and her schedule changes a lot. He noticed that she knows verb tenses well when they do drills, but she forgets them sometimes when they are just conversing. She needs help with English because at work she has some issues understanding spoken English. There are also some sounds that are difficult for her – like short vowels, so they practice those. Mark and Lilia watch videos together – they watched a music video and went through the lyrics together. He has been trying to get her to think in English, and they practice what to say to her children's teacher and what to say at an infirmary. Mark says Lilia is probably ready to go to a BOCES ESL class, but her work schedule would not work with a regular class

schedule. She would like to open her own business – a hair salon.

**Michael Witt** has been working with **Carlos** – a man in his 30's from Ecuador who lives in our community with his wife and their new baby. Carlos would like to be a policeman or a firefighter, but he is currently driving a taxi. He tests at ESLOA level 2 and Michael says he needs work on pronunciation – especially difficult are the words "oil" and "know". Michael is building dialogues to practice difficult words.



**Marie Olenych** meets with her student **Yeong** – a -77 year old Korean woman who has lived 30 years in the U.S. but was always a stay-at-home mom. Her student can read some English and tests as ESLOA level 1. She prefers to respond to questions by writing her answers rather than speaking. Marie says her student is very dedicated and likes to learn the vocabulary for events in her life. For example, she was recently hospitalized and appreciated learning the English words for body parts. They work together looking at lots of pictures and labeling things. They have found the book – "English in Everyday Life" particularly useful.

**Ben Hunter's** student **Luis** is from Ecuador and has a sister in our program. Luis has a six year old son and would like to be able to speak to his son's teacher. He works as a carpet installer and has an unpredictable schedule so he has had to cancel lessons with Ben a few times. Luckily, one of the first lessons, Ben planned for Luis was to memorize a dialogue to use when he calls Ben to say that he will not be able to come to a lesson! Luis is also studying to be a black belt in Tae Kwon Do. His ESLOA score is level 1, but Ben thinks Luis had trouble understanding what the pictures in the test represented. Ben, an experienced tutor, reminded us all of the importance of teaching words in context.

He found a useful source on the internet – englishclub.com – that lists verbs and the prepositions with which they are often associated.



**Allison Tapley** was unable to attend the session, but she sent the following report via email: My student **Rosa** and I have been working along faithfully since 11/3/14! We will put finishing touches on 2 short stories of her Mom's visit and the - "12 Grapes of the New Year" soon to send you.

**Regina Monte** also shares her experience via email: My student's name is **Jose**. He is 37 years old and has 2 children. At present he works in the kitchen of a Greek restaurant but would eventually like to

open his own place. He comes from Mexico and has been here for 13 years. His English is on a low advanced level. We have met 7 times and do a lot of work with verb tenses, the various types of pronouns, pronunciation, conversation and writing. I find the writing is a great way to discover the areas in which he needs help. Some topics have focused on a Christmas trip to NYC, New Year's Eve with his family, and a description of his family life in Mexico. Jose is very motivated to improve his English and is a lot of fun to teach. He even begs me to give him more "homework," an unusual experience for me, a former high school teacher.

## Upcoming Events!

### *Spring Tutor Workshop*

The Spring Tutor Training Workshop will begin February 21, and continue February 28, March 7, 14, 28, and April 11. Flyers for the workshop are available in the Reference Room of the library.

Please help spread the word to anyone who may be interested in becoming a Literacy Volunteer!

**See schedule below.**

## LVT 2015 Calendar

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME	PLACE
LVT Spring Tutor Training Workshop	February 21, 28 March 7, 14, 28 April 11	SATURDAYS 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Meeting Room B
Board Meetings	March 9, May 11	MONDAYS 5:30 – 7:00 P.M.	Meeting Room C
Annual In-Service	June 13	10:00 A.M.	Meeting Room B
Annual Meeting	June 13	11:00 A.M.	Meeting Room B
Board Meeting	June 13	12:00 P.M.	Meeting Room B