



**RUTH JOHNSON COLVIN AWARDED MEDAL OF FREEDOM**

At a ceremony held at the White House in December 2006, Ruth Johnson Colvin, founder of Literacy Volunteers of America, was awarded the Medal of Freedom by President Bush.

The Medal of Freedom is the highest civilian award. It recognizes high achievement in public service, science, the arts, education, athletics, and other fields.

Ruth Colvin founded Literacy Volunteers in 1962 to combat the illiteracy problem in her hometown of Syracuse, New York. She worked with professional reading consultants to develop a program to train volunteers to tutor adults in basic reading and writing. Her early records were stored in an old refrigerator in her basement.

The movement spread, and in 1967 LV was organized as a not-for-profit corporation. It changed its name to Literacy Volunteers of America in 1972, in recognition of its expanded mission to foster literacy in the United States and Canada.

The English as a second language program was developed in 1974. In that same year Literacy Volunteers of the Tarrytowns was founded. It became an affiliate of LVA.

Literacy Volunteers of America merged with Laubach Literacy in 2002 and the new organization took the name of ProLiteracy. LV of the Tarrytowns became a member of ProLiteracy America, its United States division.

We are all proud of Ruth Colvin and

happy that her achievement has been recognized. She was the only woman to receive the award in a group of ten that included William Safire, B. B. King, and David McCullough.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING MARCH 12**

The Board of Directors will hold its next regular meeting on Monday, March 12, at 10:00 a.m. at the library.

**10 ACHIEVE CERTIFICATION AS ESOL TUTORS AT THE FALL 2006 WORKSHOP'S FINAL SESSION NOVEMBER 18**

Ten volunteers received certificates as tutors of English for speakers of other languages at the concluding session of the Literacy Volunteers of the Tarrytowns fall workshop on November 18.

The new tutors are: Erin Baudendistel-Happ, Beverly Chabinsky, Julie Demers, Niamh Fitzgerald, Harriet Goodhart, Susan Hecht, Glauce Postatni, Albert Rubin, John Ryan, and Kim Waddell.

All but Albert Rubin are tutoring with our affiliate. Albert had agreed to take a student from LV of Westchester, but he may take another student from our waiting list later on.

Some of our tutors will remember Niamh Fitzgerald. She was a tutor during 2000-2002. Welcome back, Niamh, and welcome to all the others!

Workshop Leader Mary Jane Driscoll presented the certificates to the group. Mary Jane's assistant leader was Victoria Ritter. Others who helped were: Alice Brothers, Anne Cahill, Ellaine Goodman, Debra Portnoy, and Fred Steigman.

The group scheduled January 6 for its follow-up session. We plan to include a report in our next issue.

**WARNER LIBRARY DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT TELLS LVT OF HER PLANS**

Jenifer Ross, newly appointed Director of Development for the Warner Library, introduced herself at LVT's November board meeting and outlined her plans for the future of the library.

Jenifer, former assistant to Tarrytown's village administrator, established the Third Friday events. Her goals for the library are to design new fundraising and marketing programs and to expand the library's services to the community.

She was happy to become acquainted with the work of Literacy Volunteers.

**ELISA CARRILLO IN CHARGE DURING ABSENCE OF JOE AMBROSE**

Our President, Joe Ambrose, departed at the end of December 2006 for his annual winter sojourn in Florida. In his absence, Vice President Elisa Carrillo will act in his behalf. Elisa and other board members will keep in touch with Joe by phone during this period.

**GERALDINE DENT RESIGNS FROM BOARD**

Geraldine Dent, who served on the Board of Directors since 1998 and until recently was Director of Tutor Advisory Services, has resigned from the board for health reasons.

Geraldine joined LVT as a new tutor in 1994. We appreciate her devoted service, and we are happy to note that she will continue as a tutor adviser.

**HOLIDAY PARTY ENJOYED BY ALL**

About 50 tutors, students, board members, and family members gathered at Warner Library on December 9 for LVT's

annual holiday party. Everybody had a good time and enjoyed the buffet provided by the Board of Directors.

Emily Fanelli, Sharon Hart's new baby daughter, was surrounded by a circle of admirers and seemed to enjoy seeing all the smiling faces.

**FORMER MEMBERS SEND HOLIDAY GREETINGS**

"I hope the LVs are still going strong," former member George Somerwill wrote from his home in Stowmarket, England. "I often remember happy days walking up to the Warner Library for the meetings and the lovely people I met there." George, who was a tutor 1982-1989, sent holiday greetings.

Ruth Varley, who was with us in the early 1980s and who volunteered for many years thereafter with LV of Schenectady, also sent best wishes for the holidays from her home in Niskayuna, New York.

**JANE FORSTENZER INTERVIEWING A TUTOR-STUDENT PAIR; REPORT TO COME IN NEXT ISSUE**

Tutor Jane Forstenzer is interviewing a tutor-student pair. We look forward to publishing her report in our next issue. Look for it in March!

**A.L.E. FUNDS HELP WITH BASIC EXPENSES**

This fall our agreement with Literacy New York, which enabled us to receive A.L.E. funds, was extended through December 31, 2006. We were to receive a total of \$650 for the six months. Partial payment has been received and we expect to apply for the remainder shortly.

We have already signed an agreement with Literacy New York to participate in the next period, which runs from January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. A total of \$1,950 will be available to us during that time.

A.L.E is important to LVT since it contributes to our basic expenses.

**WAITING LIST FOR ESOL TUTORING DOWN;  
POSTCARDS TO BE SENT TO NEW APPLICANTS**

Anne Cahill, Director of Tutor-Student Matching, notes that the waiting list of potential students for ESOL tutors has declined to under 50. This is a more manageable number for us to deal with.

Anne is designing a postcard to be sent to new applicants, telling them that their applications have been received and that they will be matched with tutors when they become available.

**NEW LVT WEBSITE PAGE OFFERS LINKS TO WEBSITES OFFERING ESL MATERIALS**

Mary Jane Driscoll has informed us that a web page has been added to our Internet site that gives tutors links to other websites that offer information useful to ESOL tutors: lesson plans, etc.

If anyone has found other websites that might be helpful, please contact either Mary Jane at 332-4859 or Nelson Correa at 610-0535.

**LVT'S WEBSITE NOW AVAILABLE IN SPANISH**

Nelson Correa has made it possible for our website to be offered in Spanish. After discussing the matter with the board, President Joe Ambrose worked out an agreement with Nelson for the use of the software and presented it to the executive committee for approval. Visitors to our website ([www.lvtarrytown.org](http://www.lvtarrytown.org)) can access the Spanish version by simply clicking a button. Thank you, Nelson!

**NON-READERS TURNING TO US FOR HELP**

After a long period during which we had no requests for help in reading, we now have six people who have called upon us

to teach them to read.

We would like to respond to their need by offering a workshop to train basic reading tutors. The training workshop is available on video, along with an outline of the workshop given in the 1990s. If someone in our organization would like to study these materials with the idea of leading a workshop, we would like to hear from you. A person who has taken the basic reading training or who has teaching experience would be an excellent candidate. It would be necessary in addition to take the workshop leader's training given by Literacy New York in June, in order to be qualified. This training is offered in Hamilton, New York, and LVT would pay the expenses.

**REPORTS FROM TUTORS ON NBSF MATERIALS ARE COMING DUE SOON**

In February 2005 the National Book Scholarship Fund awarded LVT books, workbooks, and tapes valued in excess of \$2,000. Soon the NBSF will be expecting our report on the use of these materials.

Tutors are reminded that they must submit individual reports on their use of the following items:

- Citizenship: Passing the Test
- Citizenship: Ready for the Interview
- English-No Problem
- Lifeprints
- On-the-Job English
- Voyager: Reading & Writing for Today's Adults
- Vocabulary Workbooks

*If you have used one or more of these items and have finished with them, please send in your report now.*

*If you are currently using an item but have not yet finished, please send in your report by March 1.*

There is a supply of report sheets in the tutoring center for those who need them.

**NEWSLETTER COMPOSITOR NEEDED**

Is there someone in our group who would be willing to volunteer as a compositor of the affiliate newsletter? The articles would be typed into a computer file and sent via email to the volunteer, who would arrange the articles in finished form for publication.

Our newsletter editor, Lucille Hutchinson, has for years done the newsletter on a typewriter, but the board wants it to be computerized, so that it can also appear on our web site. Candie Frankel has graciously taken on this job twice. The need for a helper would continue for only a short time, since Lucille intends to learn Word Perfect in the near future. Please call Lucille at 631-1848 if you can help.

**TUTORS: HAVE YOUR STUDENTS SIGN UP FOR BEST PLUS TESTING**

Carol Solomon and Janine O'Brien have begun to evaluate students with the Best Plus Test. Eventually, all of our current students are to be tested.

There is a sign-up sheet posted in the tutoring center. Tutors, please have your students sign up. There is a choice of times and dates.

If your student is sensitive about the word "test," please explain that it is just a way of finding out what the student knows and what he or she needs.

**IN-SERVICE WORKSHOPS: ANY SUGGESTIONS?**

The Board of Directors is seeking suggestions for in-service workshop topics, and also volunteers who would be interested in leading them.

Since Don Sommer, who was in charge of

planning and giving these workshops, had to retire for health reasons, we have not had anyone to take his place.

Possibilities would include meetings to just get together and discuss our tutoring experiences, and perhaps a reprise of the Voyager workshop developed by Don. His outline is available for use by anyone who might be interested.

Please think over what topics you would like future in-service workshops to cover and let us hear from you.

**SPRING ESOL WORKSHOP BEGINS FEBRUARY 24**

Workshop leader Mary Jane Driscoll has announced that the Spring 2007 workshop to train tutors of English for speakers of other languages will begin on Saturday morning, February 24, and will continue on March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31. All sessions will meet at Warner Library from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Mary Jane is happy to tell us that Sharon Hart, who was busy with her new baby during the fall workshop, will return as assistant leader. Anyone who would like to help with the workshop is asked to call Mary Jane at 332-4859.

Literacy Volunteers of the Tarrytowns  
Warner Library  
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Visit our new website:  
**[www.lvtarrytown.org](http://www.lvtarrytown.org)**