



Festivities of the Season

Our annual holiday get-together was held at the Warner Library on December 14, 2008. Tutors, students, families and guests attended. There was a variety of food from throughout the world and desserts and drinks aplenty. Thanks to all who made this event possible and the Warner Library for graciously allowing us to arrive early and set up for the event. My taste buds can't wait until next years' celebration.



Sharon Hart Fanelli, Joe Ambrose, Anne Cahill and Ryan Fanelli enjoying our holiday party!



Carol Hagglund putting together our table of delicious food!

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President's Report

by Nelson Correa

There are a number of goals of the Literacy Volunteers of the Tarrytowns for the 2008/2009 fiscal year. Perhaps the most important of these is to increase the number of volunteer tutors available to teach students on the waiting list. Another important goal is to increase the average number of hours that tutors spend with their students improving their English. Even an extra half hour of instruction a week can make a big difference in the student progress.

We also need to complete our Board with the position of Director of Publicity to have a better outreach to the community. The last goal I'd like to mention is to outfit out tutoring room with literacy software and other self-study materials that students can use to make additional progress in their learning.

Our next newsletter will present an analysis of where we are and what we need to do to achieve our goals. Let's all try to do our part to make this possible. I would like to thank you all in advance for your cooperation!

Director of Tutor Advisory Services:

by Fred Steigman

We currently have 46 tutors working with 52 students. I would like to thank those tutors that give the extra time to teach more than one student.

All tutor advisors: Please get your bimonthly information in as expeditiously as possible. This will enable us to deal with any issues or problems in a timely manner.

We have made progress in reducing the number of tutors waiting to be matched with students after the tutor training workshops.

BEST Plus Testing

Volunteers Debra Portnoy, Carol Hagglund and Cristina Bloise were trained in the Fall of 2008 in the administration of the BEST Plus Oral English Proficiency test.

This test should be administered shortly after a student enters the ESL tutoring program, and at least once a year afterwards. This enables us to evaluate student learning needs and track student progress.

Please contact Cristina Bloise at (914) 432-3052 or by email at info@lvtarrytown.org to set up an appointment to have your student tested.

Tutor student matching:

by Jim Kittler

At this time we have 30 student applications waiting to be matched with tutors.

This number will undoubtedly increase because our workshops will not graduate new tutors until the Spring of 2009.

Hopefully our Spring workshops will be as successful as those in the Fall.

Anyone who can take on an additional student please contact Jim at jim.kittler@lvtarrytown.org.

In Memoriam

By Mary Jane Driscoll

Our friend and colleague Alice Egan Brothers passed away October 17, 2008.

Alice had been a member of Literacy Volunteers of the Tarrytowns for 32 years. She served as a tutor, treasurer and board member. Many in our organization met Alice when they attended our tutor training workshop - for many years she assisted with the workshop when the format of the training was to show filmstrips cued by recorded presentations. For the past 14 years, she was present at the first session to collect workshop fees and serve refreshments. Behind the scenes, Alice kept track of our income and expenses, made timely reimbursements and provided formal financial statements at each board meeting.

Alice was well known in our community through her work with many other volunteer organizations - Meals on Wheels, Friends of Warner Library, The Historical Society, Project Time Out (respite help) and the Burke Rehabilitation Hospital. Her keen mind, welcoming smile, pale blue eyes and helping hands will be cherished and missed by us all.

Library Security - Open Hours

All Tutors: Please make sure that our doors are locked when you leave and

that the keys are returned. This is both ours and the Library policy and it is important that it is followed. The security and safety of our tutors and students are the first priority to us. There have been some failures in this area, especially not returning the keys. We appreciate your attention to these rules. Thank you.

Also be aware of the days and times the Library is open. The current schedule is in effect until the end of June 2009; unless financial problems force a cutback. As we all know, Monday and Thursday evenings, when the library is open late, is our busiest time and space may become a problem. Contact a librarian if there is no room in the tutoring room, It's possible that you would be allowed in one of the bigger rooms, as long as the library doesn't have an event going on.

Spring Tutor Training Workshops

This Spring, Literacy Volunteers will offer two 18 hour ESL Tutor Training Workshops at Warner Library. One will begin Saturday, February 28 at 9:00 AM. The other will meet in the evenings beginning March 9 at 6:30 PM. Now is the time to register!

- Saturday workshop: Feb 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4 — 9:00 AM to noon. Classes will be taught by Mary Jane Driscoll.
- Evening workshop: Mondays & Thursdays, March 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30, April 2nd — 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Classes will be taught by Sharon Hart.

These training workshops will prepare new volunteers to accept a student from a waiting list of men and women in our community seeking help in learning to

speak English. There is no need to know a foreign language in order to help a neighbor learn English. If you have friends, relative, neighbors who are at least 19 years old and can commit to tutoring a learner for approximately two hours a week for one year, please encourage them join us!

Applications for the workshop are available at Warner Library or can be completed on-line using our volunteer application form. For more information please call Literacy Volunteers of the Tarrytowns at (914) 432-3052, or e-mail info@lvtarrytown.org.

Looking for Help!

Literacy Volunteers of the Tarrytowns is looking for a volunteer willing to serve the position of *Director of Publicity*. Interested volunteers please email ncorrea@lvtarrytown.org.

We are also calling upon anyone with writing and artistic skills to help with the newsletter. Items of interest to add to our newsletter – open ended-stories about students, tutoring strategies that could be helpful for our other tutors, recipes, ideas to bring in new members, etc.

This publication is one way to reach the public, tutors, students and members of the board. Your feedback is very important to us. Please email your comments to info@lvtarrytown.org.

Literacy Volunteers of the Tarrytowns
Warner Library
121 North Broadway
Tarrytown, NY 10591

Visit our new website:
lvtarrytown.org