



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

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

September 2007

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 33 Number 3

### **ADDITIONAL A.L.E. FUNDS MAY BECOME AVAILABLE**

At the beginning of August our President, Joe Ambrose, was advised by Kevin Smith, Executive Director of Literacy New York, that additional funds might be available from the New York State Department of Education through A.L.E. (Adult Literacy Education). Such funds would be in addition to the amount we are now receiving from A.L.E.

After consulting with the Executive Committee, Joe applied for the sum of \$6,800. Our wish list included a separate phone line with answering machine, a part time bilingual administrative assistant (a private contractor, not an employee), tutor training materials, and travel to conferences.

We have no guarantee that we will receive the \$6,800 and we may not receive anything at all. Any funds must be spent by June 30, 2008.

Kevin wrote: "LNY is, by this process, trying very hard to bring our network of programs to a higher level of capacity and competency. This application provides significant increases to the smaller programs that are held to program responsibilities with very limited funding."

### **TRANSITION TO ASISTS UNDER DISCUSSION**

The transition to the Web-based database is making it clear that much more time and effort must be devoted to matching, securing data, fielding inquiries and entering records. Nelson Correa, Candie Frankel and Fred Steigman are compiling a detailed list of tasks. The Board hopes that a new A.L.E. grant will help with this necessary work.

### **FALL ESOL WORKSHOP BEGINS WITH 8 NEW TUTOR TRAINEES**

Workshop Leader Joe Ambrose welcomed an enthusiastic group of eight new volunteers at the opening session of the Fall ESOL tutor training workshop on September 29.

Joe, who is temporarily taking the place of Mary Jane Driscoll, long-time workshop leader, enjoyed working with the new group. He hopes that a few more registrants will be added at the second session. Remaining sessions are scheduled for October 6, 13 and 27, and November 3 and 10.

### **FALL PROGRAMS ON LITERACY OFFERED BY WLS AND WLLA**

The Westchester Library System and the Westchester Literacy and Learning Alliance are offering programs on literacy this fall and our members are invited to participate. WLS has moved its headquarters to 540 White Plains Road in Tarrytown, a short trip from our homes.

On October 25, from 9:00-11:00 a.m., "Using Videogames as Learning Tools" will be presented at WLS headquarters. On November 13, from 9:00- 11:00 a.m., the topic will be "Re-thinking Literacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" at headquarters.

"The Health Literacy and Plain Language Institute" will be presented on November 27, from 9:00 a.m to 12 noon, at the Hudson Valley Writers' Center in Sleepy Hollow.

All programs are free and registration is not required. For details, see the flyer in our tutoring center or call Robin Osborne at 231- 3237.

## **ANNUAL REPORT TO PROLITERACY FILED**

Nelson Correa completed and filed LVT's 2006-2007 Annual Affiliate Report to ProLiteracy in August.

His report showed that 45 ESOL students were tutored for 2,083 hours and one basic literacy student for 31 hours. There were 69 potential students, including 54 on the waiting list and 15 who had been tutored for less than 12 hours. Volunteers also contributed 1,179 hours in meetings, workshops and administrative work.

## **TREASURER PRESENTS ANNUAL REPORT AND BUDGET TO BOARD**

At the September meeting of the Board of Directors, Treasurer Alice Brothers presented her annual report for the fiscal year July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007.

Income included grants from A.L.E., the United Way and the Rotary Club, workshop fees, memorial gifts, contributions and interest, with a total of \$3,054.46. Expenses were for workshop and library acquisitions, website hosting (3 years), secure link, conference registration and travel, liability insurance, postage, office supplies and bank service fee. The total spent was \$2,455.48.

Alice also presented the budget for 7/01/07 - 6/30/08. It included United Way, Rotary and A.L.E. grants, workshop fees, donation from Bay Property Management, contributions and interest, totaling \$2,850. The possible new A.L.E. grant would bring the total to \$9,650. Expenses were expected to total about the same as in the previous year, with additional funds to be expended if the new A.L.E. grant comes through.

## **FRED STEIGMAN SUGGESTS GUIDELINES ARE NEEDED FOR TUTOR ADVISERS**

Fred Steigman, Director of Tutor Advisory Services, has suggested that written guidelines are needed to help tutor advisers. In addition to collecting information from tutors, they often are

called upon to solve problems: i.e., a student's failure to appear at a tutoring session. He also suggested that a hiatus taken by a tutor should have a definite time limit.

## **ALL STUDENTS MUST TAKE BEST PLUS TEST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

Carol Solomon is working hard in an effort to have all students take the Best Plus Test. She is dropping in at the tutoring center, and she has posted a sign there. It is essential that all of our students be tested. Tutors, you may phone Carol at 741-2928 to make an appointment for your student.

Janine O'Brien is also working as a tester.

## **NESSA STERNFELD RETIRES FROM LVT**

We have received word that Nessa Sternfeld, who joined us almost two decades ago, has decided to retire from LV of the Tarrytowns. Nessa has been a tutor of small groups for many years and has helped many, many ESOL students to learn English. She also has served as a tutor adviser.

We really appreciate Nessa's long service and we will miss having her with us. She requested that we continue to send her the newsletter and we will be happy to do so.

## **ART BY ANNIE JONES IS FEATURED AT RIVER FRONT LIBRARY**

Art work by Annie Jones, LVT tutor who is on a long hiatus following surgery, was featured in the atrium of the River Front Library in Yonkers during the month of July.

The one-woman show included 28 art works including ceramic sculptures, watercolors, photographs, and oil paintings on canvas. The oils featured still lifes, portraits, and a three-part representation of daily life in a Ghanaian village.

Annie keeps in touch with us and she plans to resume tutoring as soon as she is able.

## **NEXT BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 5**

The Board of Directors has scheduled its next meeting for November 5, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. The earlier time is to accommodate members who have to go to work.

## **SPRING WORKSHOP FOLLOW-UP**

By Mary Jane Driscoll

Sharon Hart and I got together with Jay Albrecht and Rita Sanchez to discuss their tutoring since they completed the spring workshop.

Jay has been tutoring Jacqueline, from Ecuador. She has been in the USA for several years and has been employed part-time in a money transfer company as an accountant. She does not need to speak English at her job. Jacqueline had three years of university education in Ecuador where she studied management and accounting. She tested at Level 2 on the ESLOA. Jay said she is very bright.

Jacqueline's goal in learning English is "to learn to pronounce". She has a lot of trouble with B and V. Jay met with her a few times. He would ask her to read *El Aguila* for homework—it is a free newspaper available at Warner Library and it is bilingual. Jay would ask Jacqueline to read the articles in English aloud to him during their sessions, and he would stop her and correct her pronunciation by modeling how the words should sound and asking her to repeat. He would also ask her questions to gauge her comprehension. If she did not understand a word or phrase, he would explain it to her. Jay reported that in spite of many repetition drills, Jacqueline was not able to correct her pronunciation. Eventually she stopped coming to their sessions. Jay decided to take a new student.

Rita told us about her student Suzana who is also from Ecuador. She has been in the USA for three years and recently married a man who has two daughters, ages 10 and 12. Her goal is to learn English so that she can speak to her new step-daughters. Her husband speaks both English and Spanish. Suzana owns a store in Sleepy Hollow that sells cell phones, DHL deliveries, cashes checks and provides courier services. She works in the store but has to rely on her employees to

speak English for her. She completed high school in Ecuador and is eager to learn.

Suzana scored a Level 2 on the ESLOA. Rita says Suzana writes very well in Spanish and is very motivated; she asks good questions and takes notes. She told Rita she wants to learn verbs. They have been working on the difference between "What do you want?" and "What do you need?" They have been using the Voyager series for exercises, pronunciation practice and some grammar. Rita says that Voyager can be very challenging. For one tutoring session Rita went to Suzana's store. She asked Suzana to bring a list of all the things she sells in her store to a lesson. They will use the list as a starting point for helping Suzana learn the language she needs for work.

## **ELLAINE GOODMAN NEEDS ASSISTANT**

Ellaine Goodman has suffered a hand injury which will prevent her from performing her work with the tutor training materials for up to eight months. She has appealed for a volunteer—either a member of LVT or an advanced student—to help until she has recovered.

The work is not difficult and does not require a great deal of time. If you can volunteer, please phone Ellaine at 631-1617.

Until an assistant can take over, Fred Steigman and Joe Ambrose are filling in. Also, Elisa Carrillo has volunteered to weed out and discard outdated materials.

## **PROLITERACY ANNUAL CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 7-10 IN ALEXANDRIA, VA**

ProLiteracy has scheduled its annual conference for Wednesday, November 7, through Saturday, November 10, in Alexandria, Virginia. Workshops will include one on Assistive Technology, and one on Strategies for Motivating and Retaining Adult Learners. Trips to Washington will be offered in the evenings.

If you are interested in going, please phone Joe Ambrose at 591-6750.

**STUDENT NEWS ENCLOSED**

We are happy to enclose your copy of The Student News which Maria Weeks prepared in July.

Extra copies, for your student or yourself, can be found in the tutoring center.

**HONOR ROLL**

We are happy to print the names of our volunteers who have completed one or more years of service as of June 30, 2007. Our sincere thanks to all!

31 years	Alice Brothers	4 years	Jane Forstenzer	Rachael Murray
	Lucille Hutchinson		Keiko Hirano	Janine O'Brien
23 years	Eleanor Workman		Sr. Anna Maria Lionetti	Lim Chye Pang
19 years	Donald Spitzer		Victoria Ritter	Ymma Robles
18 years	Mary Jane Driscoll		Annette Sitomer	Promila Saxena
	Nessa Sternfeld		Carol Solomon	Todd Schmidt
15 years	Ellaine Goodman		Fred Steigman	Birgit Simcoe
	Cathy Lawner		Edna Zambo	Vera Soki
13 years	Maria Weeks	3 years	Nelson Correa	Sandy Lynn Stevens
12 years	Anne Cahill		Sarah Gillespie	Mindy Stoller
11 years	Joe Ambrose		Donna Hamilton	Elizabeth Trainer
	Elisa Carrillo		Jean Lim	1 year Betty Albertson
10 years	Judy Levine		Nancy Loiaconi	Robert F. Albertson
9 years	Ludwiga Barabas		Patricia Madigan	Mary Bates
	Donald Sommer		Mary McCarthy	Mary Breslin
8 years	Robert McCoach		Suzan J. Ryan	Juanita Carmi
	Louise Raybin		Akiko Takano	Sr. Catherine Deubel
7 years	Candie Frankel	2 years	Michael Burcher	Lee Eiferman
	Anne Habig		Mitchell Cooke	Linda Herring
	Carol Hagglund		Leslie Crincoli	Julie Jarosz
	Theresa Sullivan		Kathleen Cross	Rhoda Kaplan
6 years	Lauren Foohey		Niamh Fitzgerald	Marlene McLarty
	Sharon Hart		Emily Herman	Debra Portnoy
5 years	Marchelle Courtney		Steve Hoffman	Melanie Tripp
	Nancy Falco		Jim Kittler	Carol Jimenez Tyler
	Elizabeth Siracusa		Shelly Markowitz	