



LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF THE TARRYTOWNS INC.

www.lvtarrytown.org

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

February 2020

NEWSLETTER

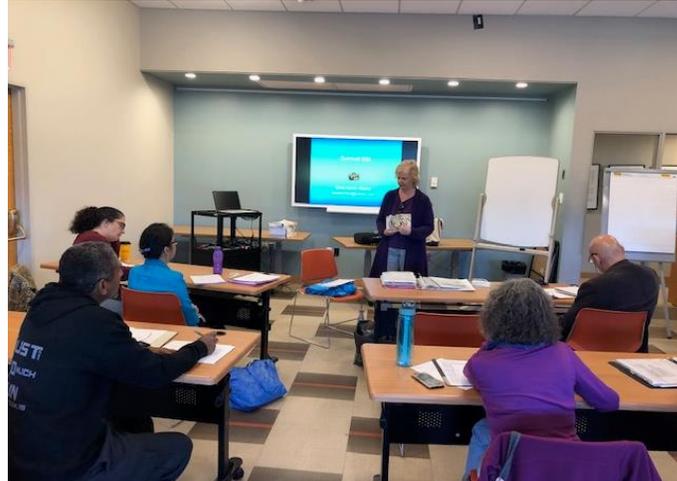
Volume 43 Number 1

Fall 2019 Tutor Class

We welcome the new Tutors who completed our Fall Workshop.

LVT 2019 Fall WORKSHOP GRADUATES

Patricia Elliot	Anthony Kaufman
Shirley Eng	Mary Klette
Rolando Garcia	Jacqueline Ray



Online Tutor Training

We also welcome the new tutors who have completed our online training:

ONLINE TUTOR TRAINING GRADUATES – FALL 2019

Gabriela Bost	Verona Johnson
Angela Ashley-Holland	Jen McCaffery
Cathy Bobenhausen	Domenick Vita
Richard LaFontaine	Peter Walsh
Roseanne Macari	

Thanks to the volunteers who were presenters/assistants at the new workshop class: John Lough, Anna Li, Darla Kohler Steiner, Nancy Kaufman Panagacos, Barbara Cohen, Promila Saxena and Ben Hunter.

We also thank our refreshment hosts: Chris Carter, Jayne Wissner, Kim Tamura, Veronica Vatter, Anna Li and Kathy Kee. It was break time, and Veronica assisted our new tutors with some delicious refreshment.



President's Report *Mary Jane Driscoll*

We continue to celebrate our 45th year of Literacy Volunteers of the Tarrytowns. Congratulations to you all for being a part of

the legacy of this community organization! We are strong! We currently have 67 active tutors and 17 active volunteers fulfilling other roles in our affiliate. We are currently serving 81 learners, but we still have 25 learners waiting for a tutor. There is work to be done to reach our goal of eliminating our waiting list by our 50th anniversary. Toward that effort we have received some generous donations and matching gifts through our annual appeal. This money will be used to develop a brochure we can distribute when we speak to local clubs, agencies, and places of worship to recruit new tutors. We are also very grateful for the grant we received from Rivertown Runners to support our work training tutors and tutoring English language learners. To learn more about Rivertown Runners and the work they do – visit <http://www.rivertownrunners.org/>.

Holiday Party



It was a small but stalwart group of board members, volunteers and students who braved an early December snowstorm to attend the holiday party. The food and drink provided by the board was delicious and the view from the library meeting room of the snowy skies and Hudson River made the holiday all the merrier. Unfortunately, the party had to end a bit early when the library decided they had to close for the safety of patrons and employees. We cherish the time we had to share some holiday spirit.

Fundraising

Our 2019 annual appeal raised **\$3,875.00**. Many thanks to all who have donated to our affiliate so far. In addition, we thank Rivertown Runners for the **\$500 grant** we received in January.

Training News

We offer a 12-hour online tutor training program for volunteers who wish to be trained and start tutoring in between our classroom tutor training workshops.

You don't have to wait until April to begin tutoring!! Our online tutor training is also appropriate for volunteers who cannot attend Saturday morning classroom training. To find out how to be trained to be a Literacy Volunteer ESL tutor via online training, please email info@lvtarrytown.org and request more information about online tutor training. We will send you the information and let you know when our next orientation session will be held.

Spring 2020 Tutor Workshop

The Spring Tutor Training Workshop will begin March 7th. Please share this newsletter and your enthusiasm with anyone who might be interested in helping someone on our waiting list 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.

Learner-Tutor Matching Nancy Kaufman Panagacos

With over 70 tutor-learner matched pairs working together, LVT continues to support the language learning needs of the community at an impressive level. Our list of applicants waiting for a tutor is down slightly from last year, to about 26. It is good news for LVT that the demand for our tutoring services is in sync with the number of active (available) tutors, and learner wait time for a tutor has decreased in the past year. Tutors are matched as soon as their availability is known, either

through graduation from a workshop, completion of the online training and orientation, or loss of a current learner due to a change in life situations. Since availability does not always align, some new learners may still wait for more than six months, but the picture is improving. It is our goal to continue to reduce the turnaround time from learner application to matching with a tutor, and each new volunteer helps bring us closer to that goal.

You can help us keep the LVT momentum growing. If you know anyone who might enjoy being a tutor, please refer them to our next training workshop or suggest the online training option as a way of getting started sooner. If you personally can accept an additional new student, please email 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 and any specific preferences.

We particularly need tutors who have evening availability and the flexibility to work with either male or female students, as well as any nationality. Whatever you can offer would be helpful and appreciated. Our continuing thanks to all our volunteers for all that you do in support of the learners in our community.

Director, Tutor Advisory Services Marilyn Ghilardi

There are **15 Tutor Advisors (TAs)** who encourage new tutors after they graduate from the tutor workshop and collect their bi-monthly tutoring hours. It is an important job and I want to thank the following TAs for their service:

Tutor Advisor

Judith Christopher	Joan Meade
Niamh Fitzgerald	Gail Roth
Marilyn Ghilardi	David Saphra
Ben Hunter	Promila Saxena
Kathy Kee	Darla Kohler Steiner
Betina Kleiss	Joan Stern
Kristen Lankester	Fred Steigman
Lenora Macri	

Attendance Awards

We encourage tutors to spend 2 hours a week with their learners. You may consider dividing this time into 15-minute segments in order to make the time go by quickly.

BEST Plus Testing

LVT's goal is to give each of its learners the BEST Plus Test once per year. We would like to have new learners complete the BEST Plus Test after 1 or 2 months of tutoring. If you are a new tutor working with an experienced learner, we or your Tutor Advisor can let you know when your learner is due for the BEST Plus Test. Having BEST Plus Test results for all our learners is important for our annual reporting to Literacy New York and very helpful when we make grant requests or request funding from many different organizations. Your participation in this testing process is important and greatly appreciated. BEST Plus scores will be reported by the BEST Plus Tester. To sign up for the BEST Plus, here is the new procedure:

- Send an email to lvbestplustesters@gmail.com.
- Provide times and dates when your learner will be available.

We recommend scheduling the BEST Plus Test during a regular meeting with your learner. It normally takes 15 to 20 minutes to administer the oral and conversational test. The format is:

- the tester asks questions about every day or community issues;
- the tester then assesses the learner's answers for his or her ability to speak and understand English.

There are currently 3 BEST Plus Testers, one will respond to your email and arrange with you to give your learner the test.

Looking for more BEST Plus testers!

At LVT we use the BEST Plus Test to evaluate the level of our learners once a year. We could use some help with giving the BEST Plus Test. Having one or two additional testers would ease the load and help the BEST Plus Testers to be more flexible in scheduling. Becoming a BEST Plus Tester involves a one-day training course and observing the administration of one or two BEST Plus

Tests. In administering the test, the Tester evaluates the responses of the learner on 3 criteria: **comprehension, communication, and complexity**. The training provides a clear explanation of the process and practice in scoring the 3 categories. If you are enjoying your tutoring, and would like to become more involved with LVT, consider becoming a BEST Plus Tester. Alternatively, if you are not an active Tutor but would like to stay involved with LVT, consider becoming a BEST Plus Tester. It is a great way to meet other tutors and learners as well as contribute to LVT. If you would like to learn more, send a note to:

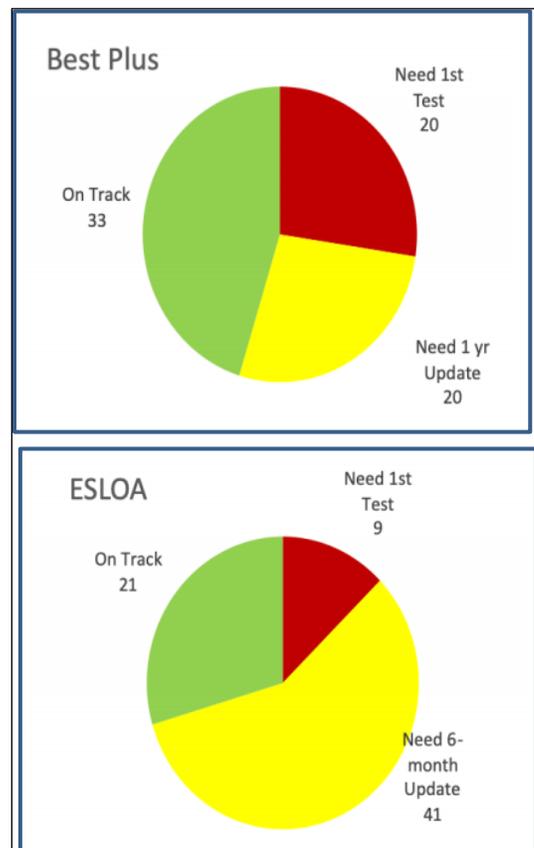
LVTBestPlusTesters@gmail.com.

One of the current Testers (Amy, Ben or Dave) will respond to your inquiry.

ESLOA Testing

English as a Second Language Oral Assessment is an oral assessment designed to evaluate the tutoring needs of beginner ESL learners.

The following **BEST Plus** and **ESLOA Charts** are progress reports as of December 2019:



The Work We Do

A few of our new tutors shared some of their tutoring experiences on January 25th at Warner library:

❖ **Angela Ashley-Holland**, one of our online-trained tutors, has been working with **Luis** who is from Ecuador, lives in Sleepy Hollow, and works as a carpet installer. They have only met a couple times, but Angela learned that Luis has been in the U.S. for about 8 years. Luis had been tutored previously for six months by one of our other tutors. He passed level 2 ESLOA and has told Angela he needs to improve his English so that he can do things like order lunch and be understood. His wife would also like to be tutored. Angela joined LVT as a certified TOEFL instructor and has an Art degree, so she has been making a lot of the materials that she uses in her lessons. She has also created some flash cards for animals, actions and prepositions.

❖ **Anthony Kaufman** has been tutoring **Carmen** who is from Ecuador and has been in the U.S. for 12 years. She has five children, two of whom are in Ecuador with her mother. She works five days a week at a restaurant in Hartsdale. Carmen needs to learn more English so that she can help her children with homework and make appointments with their school staff and therapists. She is not yet passing level 1 on the ESLOA. She had six years of school in Ecuador. Anthony has been focusing on helping Carmen with *days of the week, months of the year* and the appropriate use of *'before'* and *'after'*.

❖ **Patricia Elliot** is tutoring **Bertha** who has been in the U.S. for about 30 years and has children, a son at home and her daughter in North Carolina. Bertha completed high school and some college in Ecuador, and also went to sewing school. Patricia says that everyone in Bertha's family sews, which is just one of many things the two have in common. Bertha likes to travel and has visited Italy and Greece. She has come to her lessons with some of the books her husband used in his English lessons. She says her grown children tease her about her poor English, which is the reason she does not feel confident speaking English in public. Bertha is working on ESLOA level 4. Patricia and Bertha have been reading *Samurai Story* and working on

correcting Bertha's tendency to say "I don't know nothing." and "I no talk." The two have also been working on some pronunciation problems -- *cause* should not sound like *cows*. They have been using a book called "English Grammar for ESL Students" and working on the simple present tense.

❖ **Shirley Eng** has been working with **Maria**, a very enthusiastic level 2 student from Ecuador who has been in the U.S. since 2015. Maria lives in Sleepy Hollow and works as a housecleaner. Despite long work hours, she really wants to make time for her English sessions. Shirley finds that she is only able to cover about 20% of her planned lessons, and then "goes with the flow" for the rest of the lesson. She describes Maria as a modest person who needs to open up more. They have spent some of their lessons talking about the holidays and working on vocabulary. Shirley says, if she asks a question like "What does match mean?" Maria responds, but sometimes her responses omit a subject or a verb. They also have been working on the *past tense*. Maria has not had much opportunity to speak English with others, but she watches TV in English and learned some English from doing so. Shirley says two hours go by really fast.

Kay O'Keefe reports that **Angela Orozco** became a citizen on 12/5/19 and registered to vote on the same day. Kay wrote "I am very proud of her."



TUTOR CHAT

Come and share your experiences with fellow tutors at our **Tutor Chat on Monday, February 24th** from **7:00 to 8:00 PM**. If you have friends who are interested in becoming a Literacy Volunteer, please invite them to join us.

LVT BOARD MEETING 2020 CALENDAR

Date	Day	Time	Meeting Room
January 13, 2020	Monday	5:30 – 7:00 P.M.	Conference Room 2nd Floor
March 16, 2020	Monday	5:30 – 7:00 P.M.	
May 18, 2020	Monday	5:30 – 7:00 P.M.	
June 20, 2020	Saturday	Noon – 1:00 P.M.	
ANNUAL MEETING June 20, 2020	Saturday	11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.	Rooms B and C 2nd Floor

LVT TUTOR CHAT

Date	Day	Time	Location
February 24, 2020	Monday	7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.	Warner Library Meeting Room A 2nd Floor

LVT SPRING 2020 TUTOR WORKSHOP CALENDAR

Date	Day	Time	Meeting Room
March 7	Saturday mornings	9:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	Warner Library Meeting Room B 2nd Floor
March 14			
March 21			
March 28			
April 4			
April 18			