



LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF THE TARRYTOWNS, INC.

www.lvtarrytown.org

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

September 2006

NEWSLETTER

Volume 32 Number 3

LVT EARNS PROLITERACY ACCREDITATION

The eagerly awaited news has arrived: Literacy Volunteers of the Tarrytowns has been reaccredited by ProLiteracy, the national literacy organization, for another four-year period.

"It is a pleasure to inform you that Literacy Volunteers of the Tarrytowns has been awarded ProLiteracy accreditation," wrote Peter Waite, Executive Director, and Mark Cass, Accreditation Coordinator.

"Accreditation is designed to recognize literacy organizations that are distinguished by superior professional leadership, effective programs, committed governing boards, and outstanding volunteer support. We are recognizing Literacy Volunteers of the Tarrytowns for its excellence in each of these areas. Please extend our congratulations to all of those within your organization who contributed to your success. Your students and your community are fortunate to have such a high-quality program available to them."

Marilyn Morgan, the site reviewer who met with our accreditation committee on June 30, scored LVT as acceptable in all of the 15 standards we had to meet: student recruitment, student intake, instruction, student progress, student support, student involvement, tutor/instructor recruitment, tutor/instructor intake, tutor/instructor support/supervision, training system, volunteer management, organizational planning, board responsibilities, community linkages, and fiscal management.

In her commendations, Marilyn noted that LVT was very well prepared for the site review. She remarked that while LVT is an all-volunteer organization –

the only one of its kind left in New York state – it operates at a professional level under the leadership of an extremely dedicated and well-organized Board of Directors. Her report cites LVT as a model for effective volunteer management.

In her recommendations Marilyn suggested we continue to bring in new volunteers—including board members—to keep the affiliate operating at its current high level; to consider ways to address the student waiting list; and to "keep up the good work!"

Committee members Joe Ambrose, Alice Brothers, Elisa Carrillo, Candie Frankel, and Lucille Hutchinson all took part in preparing for and attending the site review. They were joined at the review by board member Nelson Correa, who described and answered questions about LVT's new data base and web site for the reviewer.

FALL ESOL WORKSHOP TO BEGIN OCTOBER 14

The fall workshop to train tutors of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) will begin on Saturday morning, October 14, at 9:00 a.m. Workshop Leader Mary Jane Driscoll has announced that Victoria Ritter will be the assistant leader.

Dates of the remaining sessions are October 21 and 28, and November 4, 11, and 18. We are hoping for a good turnout since there are about 50 students waiting.

Mary Jane needs volunteers to help with demonstrations and in preparing refreshments. Please call her at 332-4859 if you can be of help.

**CAROL SOLOMON TO BEGIN
BEST PLUS TESTING**

Carol Solomon and Janine O'Brien, two of our trained Best Plus testers, will begin testing current LVT students this fall. The tentative first testing date is Sunday afternoon, October 15. Any student who is available for testing on that day should sign up on the sheet posted in the tutoring room. Every student must be tested, and there will be more opportunities for testing throughout the year, including Monday and Thursday evenings. Tutors will receive details about the Best Plus

test in an e-mail from Carol and are asked to discuss the testing with their students and encourage them to attend.

NEXT BOARD MEETING NOV. 13
The Board of Directors will hold its next regular meeting on Monday, November 13, at 10:00 a.m. at the library.

H O N O R R O L L

LVT proudly publishes the names of members who have contributed one or more years of service. Recognition is given for full years as of June 30, 2006. Thanks to all of you!

30 years	Alice Brothers
	Lucille Hutchinson
22 years	Eleanor Workman
18 years	Donald Spitzer
17 years	Mary Jane Driscoll
16 years	Nessa Sternfeld
14 years	Ellaine Goodman
	Cathy Lawner
12 years	Geraldine Dent
	Maria Weeks
11 years	Anne Cahill
10 years	Joe Ambrose
	Elisa Carrillo
9 years	Judy Levine
8 years	Ludwiga Barabas
	Donald Sommer
7 years	Robert McCoach
	Louise Raybin
6 years	Candie Frankel
	Anne Habig
	Carol Hagglund
	Theresa Sullivan

5 years	Lauren Foohey
	Sharon Hart
4 years	Cynthia Chesner
	Marchelle Courtney
	Nancy Falco
	Vicki Jacobs-Jones
	Elizabeth Siracusa
3 years	Jane Forstenzer
	Keiko Hirano
	Sr. Anna Maria Lionetti
	Victoria Ritter
	Monica Rosario
	Annette Sitomer
	Carol Solomon
	Fred Steigman
	Edna Zambo
2 years	Nelson Correa
	Sarah Gillespie
	Donna Hamilton
	Jean Lim
	Nancy Loiaconi
	Patricia Madigan

	Mary McCarthy
	Suzan J. Ryan
	Akiko Takano
1 year	Michael Burcher
	Mitchell Cooke
	Leslie Crincoli
	Kathleen Cross
	Emily Herman
	Steve Hoffman
	Jim Kittler
	Shelly Markowitz
	Rachael Murray
	Janine O'Brien
	Lim Chye Pang
	Ymma Robles
	Promila Saxena
	Todd Schmidt
	Vera Soki
	Mary G. Sprague
	Sandy Lynn Stevens
	Mindy Stoller
	Elizabeth Trainer

ANNUAL AFFILIATE REPORT FILED

Statistician Nelson Correa completed and filed LVT's annual 2005-2006 ProLiteracy affiliate report in August. His summary shows that one basic literacy student was tutored for 61 hours, while 55 ESOL students were tutored for 2,177 hours. There were 66 potential students, including 56 who were on the waiting list and 10 who had been tutored for less than 12 hours. Non-tutoring volunteers gave 1,610 hours of service.

14 TUTOR ADVISERS AT WORK

Fred Steigman, Director of Tutor Advisory Services, reports that 14 tutor advisers are now keeping in touch with LVT tutors. The advisers are Joe Ambrose, Anne Cahill, Geraldine Dent, Nancy Falco, Candie Frankel, Ellaine Goodman, Jim Kittler, Louise Raybin, Carol Solomon, Donald Sommer, Fred Steigman, Nessa Sternfeld, Terry Sullivan, and Eleanor Workman. We all appreciate their service!

TUTOR MEMOS

Ingles sin Barreras. This series of videotapes can be checked out on your library card at the circulation desk of Warner Library. A student with a library card may also borrow it. Tutors are invited to write and submit reviews of their experiences in using *Ingles sin Barreras*. We hope to have several reviews to include in this newsletter and on the new LVT web site (lvtarrytown.org).

Easy English News. Copies of this timely teaching aid are available for the taking in the tutoring center.

Blank Audiotapes Available. Ellaine Goodman has a supply of blank audiotapes which can be used by tutors working with their students in the tutoring center. There are recorders in each of the carrels. If you want a

tape, please ask for one by leaving a note for Ellaine in the box near the door.

REPORT FROM NEW TUTORS

In meetings with Mary Jane Driscoll and Sharon Hart, new tutors have reported on their teaching experiences. Mary Jane reports:

Carol Tyler's student, Viviana from Chile, has lived here for six years. She knows a fair number of words but does not connect them well, and she has trouble with verbs. Carol is building lesson plans, and also using *Grammar Step by Step*. They are working on the verbs "to put," "to be," and "to have." Carol applied for and received a picture dictionary for Viviana and it has been useful.

Julie Jarosz and her daughter Kira are tutoring Raquel, 26, who came here from Peru to be with her husband. She was a nursery school teacher in Peru, and works here in housekeeping. Her goals are to speak English better (she reads it well), get a driver's license, get a car, and own a house. She has trouble pronouncing consonant combinations so Julie and Kira are helping with that. They are planning to use tape recorders in their lessons to reinforce the language they are helping Raquel to learn.

Melanie Tripp is tutoring Olga, a bright woman from Ecuador. She has lived here for seven years with her husband and her daughter plus other relatives. She wants to learn more English so that she can speak with her employers and her child's teacher. Melanie has been using *Grammar Step by Step* and making up dialogues to teach to Olga.

Betty Albertson is tutoring Carmen, from Peru. She has been here for one year and wants to learn English very

much. Betty hopes that Carmen will be able to continue but she does have transportation problems. She lives at a distance from the library and, pushing a small child in a stroller, has a very long walk to Tarrytown.

Brenda Bokenyi is tutoring Marcia, a woman in her forties from the Dominican Republic. She works in housekeeping at Phelps Hospital. She learned some accounting before she came to the U.S.A. and hopes to get a better job, perhaps in accounting. Two children are grown but she still has a little preschooler.

MEMORIAL GIFT
Donald Spitzer made a generous donation to LVT in memory of Ted Hutchinson, who served the organization for 27 years.

Brenda, who has a background in elementary education, feels that she will be a good resource for Marcia when it comes time for her to enroll her youngest child in school.

A few of the newer tutors have had problems contacting the students assigned to them. We hope the situation will improve with the launching of Best Plus.

**PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS:
CROSSROADS CAFÉ and ON COMMON GROUND**

It was just four years ago that we wrote in our newsletter about the Crossroads Cafe program offered by the New York State Education Department and run in Westchester by Joan Uchitelle of Mount Vernon.

We have phoned Joan to ask about the program, and it is still available. There are 26 videos or DVDs and a book;

the student receives them one at a time, views them, and answers questions about them. As each video or DVD is sent back in an envelope provided, another one is sent to the student, etc. This program is for intermediate students.

There is just one change from four years ago. Students must now be tested using the Best Plus test, both before starting and at intervals. A student applying directly by calling 665-5696 would have to go to Mount Vernon to be tested.

However, our currently active students or those on the waiting list could apply to us. Joan said she could come here to test a group of three or four students. Or, we could test them and she would accept the results.

Another program, On Common Ground, has been added for advanced students. It deals with our government, the Constitution, individual rights, freedom of the press, the judicial system, etc. The State requires Best Plus testing as with Crossroads Café.

Joan reassured us that a student could be enrolled in LVT and in Crossroads Café or On Common Ground at the same time.

Crossroads Cafe might be a good program for someone on our waiting list, someone who had lost a tutor, or a student who wanted extra practice. On Common Ground might be a good solution for someone too advanced for our program.

C A L E N D A R

October 14	Opening Session Fall ESOL Workshop 9:00 a.m.-noon
October 21	Second Session Fall ESOL Workshop 9:00 a.m.-noon

October 28	Third Session Fall ESOL Workshop 9:00 a.m.-noon
November 4	Fourth Session Fall ESOL Workshop 9:00 a.m.-noon
November 11	Fifth Session Fall ESOL Workshop 9:00 a.m.-noon
November 13	Board of Directors Meeting 10:00 a.m.
November 18	Sixth Session Fall ESOL Workshop 9:00 a.m.-noon
December 9	Annual Holiday Party 12:00 noon-1:30 p.m.

"ALL KINDS OF READERS" SERIES OFFERED BY WESTCHESTER LIBRARY SYSTEM

Robin Osborne has sent us an announcement of the "All Kinds of Readers" series being offered this fall by the Westchester Library System. Information has been posted in the tutoring center.

"The Learning Processes of People with Autism" will be the topic of the meeting on October 18 at 4:00 p.m. at the Children's Village in Dobbs Ferry. "Empowering Westchester's Newcomers" will be the topic November 2 at 4:00 p.m. at the New Rochelle Public Library. Contact Robin Osborne at 231-3237 if you wish to attend either program. There is no charge.

ROSALINDE MECCA RETIRES FROM LNY

We are sorry to announce that Rosalinde Mecca has sent a note letting us know that she is retiring from Literacy New York. Rosalinde has been of so much help to us in navigating the A.L.E. requirements. She and Janice Cuddahee came here to assist the board in preparations for the accreditation this year, as they had done four years earlier. Rosalinde has also helped us with Best Plus. In so many ways she has been there for us. Knowing her has always been a pleasure, because she is truly a very nice person. We will miss her—but we do wish Rosalinde a happy retirement.

SEEKING NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL HELP

Are you an LVT member with experience in composing a simple newsletter on the computer? The LVT board is looking for a volunteer to assist Lucille Hutchinson, Director of Publicity and editor of the Newsletter, with this task. The newsletter is published four times a year. A computer-composed newsletter will be of great benefit both to our mailing membership and for easy posting on the LVT website. If interested, please contact Lucille Hutchinson at 631-1848 or Candie Frankel at 909-6562 or

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

Visit our new website:
www.lvtarrytown.org