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A Newsletter for Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley

January-February 2004 | 5002 Williamson Road, Roanoke, Virginia 24012 | (540) 265-9339 | FAX 265-4814 | www.lvarv.org

Training Schedule

New Volunteer Orientation

Thursday, January 8th
6-7 pm

This orientation will familiarize potential tutors with our program generally as well as provide specific information on both the Basic Literacy and English-for-Speakers-of-Other Languages Programs.

Basic Literacy Tutor Training

Wednesdays, January 14, 21, 28,
February 4, & 11
6-9 pm

English-for-Speakers-of-Other-Languages Tutor Training

Mondays, January 12, 19, 26
February 2, & 9
6-9 pm

Basic Literacy Training Follow-up

Thursday, January 22nd
6-8 pm

This workshop is for new BL tutors who finished training on December 18, 2003.

ESOL Brown Bag Lunch

Friday, January 9th
11:45 am

All ESOL tutors are encouraged to come and share their tutoring experiences. Bring your own lunch.

Email Addresses

Annette Loschert: annette@lvarv.org
Susie Boxley: susie@lvarv.org
Bill Van Velzer: bill@lvarv.org
Jack Spraker: jack@lvarv.org

The Learning Center will close at noon on Wednesday, December 24th through Friday the 26th and Thursday, January 1st for the Winter Holidays.

Hollins University Professor and Poet, Eric Trethewey, to Hold Writing Workshop for Tutors

Hollins University Professor, **Eric Trethewey** will conduct a writing workshop for tutors on Monday, January 26th from 6 to 8 pm at the Hollins Branch – Roanoke County Library. He is the author of five collections of poems, *Dreaming of Rivers*, *Evening Knowledge*, *The Long Road Home*, *Songs and Lamentation*, and *Heart's Hornbook*. *Evening Knowledge* was a winner in the 1990 Virginia Prize for Poetry. He is also the author of a volume of essays, *Marginal Lessons: Essays on Life and Letters*. His poems, stories, essays, and reviews have appeared in numerous magazines and anthologies, among them *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The Paris Review*, *The Hudson Review*, *Poetry*, *Parnassus: Poetry in Review*, *The New Republic*, *The Southern Review* and *Canadian Literature*. *The Home Waltz*, a screenplay, won the Virginia Governor's Screenplay Competition.

The writing workshop will be informal with time for tutors in both the Basic Literacy and ESOL programs to discuss ideas with and ask questions of Dr. Trethewey as well as other tutors. You should come to the workshop prepared to participate in some writing activities, but the bottom line will be for you to feel more comfortable with yourself as a writer and using writing with your learner. We want all of our learners to be writing as much as possible, no matter their level of proficiency. The workshop will be catalyst for you as you encourage your learner to participate in this year's *Writing from the Heart*, our annual student publication. Please call **Jack** at 265-9339 as soon as possible to reserve your place at the workshop.

ProLiteracy Worldwide Conference Held in Washington, D.C.

Annette Loschert, Susie Boxley and Bill Van Velzer joined more than 800 participants and represented Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley at the ProLiteracy Worldwide Annual Conference held November 13-17 in Washington, D.C.

Annette joined 150 colleagues from the U.S. who made Capitol Hill visits to Senate and House representatives on November 13th to promote adult literacy and the need for increased appropriations. Later that evening at a legislative reception, New York Senator Charles Schumer delivered a rousing speech in support of adult literacy.

The conference honored Dr. Robert Laubach and Ruth Colvin (co-founders of ProLiteracy Worldwide) for their lengthy and dedicated service to the cause of literacy and offered an array informative sessions ranging from Public Policy to Workplace Literacy. Workshops included student achievement and program outcome measurement, trends in training, marketing and fund development, and various approaches to teaching both Basic Literacy and ESOL learners. The format provided a wonderful opportunity to gain new knowledge and to make connections with colleagues from around the world.

Our parent organization, ProLiteracy America, is the largest adult literacy organization in the United States. Established on October 1, 2002, with the merger of Laubach Literacy and Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc., ProLiteracy America has 1,200 affiliates representing 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Thank you for your donations

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Nelson S. Teague
Frances Trent
Peter and Dolly Wallenborn
Joy Wright
J. L. and Carol Yosafat

Long-time Supporter, Jeanne Scott, Remembered

This past November, long-time tutor, board member, and supporter, **Jeanne Scott** moved on. The Literacy Volunteers community – learners, staff, board members, tutors, and friends – will miss her very much. Jeanne’s work for our program provides a great example for all of us. She tutored in our English-for-Speakers-of-Other Languages Program for over seven years, starting in 1996 working well into 2003. In those years, Jeanne worked with eighteen adult learners, both individuals and in small groups, phenomenally accumulating over 1,000 instructional hours with those learners. Her involvement with her learners, however, went further than instruction. She became their good friend, often considered part of the family, going way beyond the expectations of a tutor by helping them find jobs, places to live, and services for their families.

Jeanne also served on the board of directors from 1996 to 1999. One of her greatest contributions to Literacy Volunteers was her leadership on the letter writing campaign during those years and for some time after she left the board. She'd always write her own personal letter describing her experiences as a tutor. She hand-addressed her envelopes, and on each letter, she'd write individual notes to people asking them for their support. The response to Jeanne's letters was excellent.

Again, we will miss Jeanne, but her spirit of commitment and effort continues in our program.

Food Lion Supports Literacy Volunteers

Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley is enrolled in the Food Lion “LionShop & Share” program. “LionShop & Share” is the easiest and most convenient way to raise money for LVRV. Each time you shop at Food Lion and use your MVP card, a portion of your grocery purchase will be donated to LVRV. Please take time now to link your MVP card and shop at Food Lion. You can link your MVP card by visiting Food Lion’s Web site at www.foodlion.com. Remember to shop Food Lion and scan your MVP card! This program will not interfere with MVP discounts and no MVP product has to be purchased to participate.

Fall Donation Drive

Each fall, we mail a letter asking community members to support Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley. Through the generosity of the people in our valley, we are able to support the valuable work of our volunteers. Last year, donations from individuals comprised 13% of the budget, and corporate gifts contributed 12%. As you can see, gifts from local donors are critical to the success of our programs.

This project takes the work of many hands to make it a success. Special thanks to **Floyd Addison, Pat Dungan, George Kegley, Barbara Landon, Carolyn Riddleberger, Sally Rugaber, Lucas Snipes, Wlodek Zaryczny**, and the LVRV staff for their many hours of signing, folding, stuffing, stamping, sealing, and sorting the recent mailing!

Holiday Book Sale a Success

The Holiday Book Sale held on Saturday, November 29th at Tanglewood Mall was made possible through the efforts of **Ron Swenson, Dee Copenhaver, Janey Mountcastle, Wes and Phyllis Johnson, Barbara Carraher, Rebecca and Sarah Liu, Sally Rugaber, Steve Sellers, and Bob and Susie Fetter**. A heartfelt “thank you” to this outstanding team of volunteers. The sale was a great success and raised \$2,453 to benefit LVRV.

It’s Time to Write for *Writing from the Heart*

Last year’s edition of *Writing from the Heart* was one of the best ever, and we hope to make this year’s even better. Please invite your learners to compose and contribute writing ? poetry, stories, essays, letters, etc.? for this ninth volume. Both fiction and non-fiction of any length are acceptable. Learners may either write or dictate their pieces, taking credit for their work or publishing it anonymously. Tutors should help learners edit and polish their pieces for publication, keeping in mind that learners’ voices should come through. Any topic is acceptable, but topics related to the impact of improving language skills on learners’ and their families’ lives generate very powerful pieces. The deadline for submission is April 23rd. More information will arrive in the mail in the near future. If you would like a copy of last year’s book, call 265-9339.

Literacy Volunteers and Rescue Mission Partner to Offer Intermediate Class

Literacy Volunteers will continue and expand its partnership with the Rescue Mission's Learning Center. We currently train and support Rescue Mission volunteers who work with learners in their program. In February, we will begin the first of two ten-week classes in intermediate reading and writing skills – skills that are essential for success in other adult education offerings, e.g., the city's GED classes. The class is open to Literacy Volunteers learners. In fact, we want tutors who work with learners at the appropriate level to strongly encourage them to participate. We will announce the schedule and provide more detailed information soon. Call **Jack** at 256-9339 if this class would interest your learner.

Welcome Aboard New Tutors!!

A hearty group of Basic Literacy tutors finished training on December 18th. Thanks and congratulations to **Kelly Almy, Rosie Layman, Barbara Norton, Melanie Parker, and Karen and Chris Rucker.**

Support NPR and Literacy Volunteers

Think about supporting WVTF National Public Radio and promoting literacy at the same time! A donation of \$200 to WVTF allows you to be a day sponsor. A 20-word message of your choosing will be read on the air several times during a day's broadcast. You can become a WVTF day sponsor and use your message to inform the public about volunteer opportunities at Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley. What a special way for you to help us attract tutors to our program! If you're interested in helping LVRV in this very special way, call Annette Loschert at LVRV at 265-9339. She'll be happy to help you with the wording of your message.

Book Sale 2004: Donate Used Books Now

The LVRV Annual Book Sale will be at Tanglewood Mall in late May. Date and exact location to be announced. In order for the book sale to be a success we rely on your donations of gently read books. We gladly accept fiction and non-fiction, paperbacks, hardcover books, and children's books in good condition. We also accept donations of videotapes, books on tape, language tapes, CDs and DVDs. Please do not donate textbooks, encyclopedias, Harlequin-type romances, magazines, Reader's Digest condensed books, or books in poor condition. Pack your books in boxes or sturdy bags and bring them to the LVRV office. It's best to call first to let us know you're coming. Park behind the Blockbuster store and then we can easily transfer the books from your car to another vehicle. Your contribution will be part of "the best used book sale around."

Also, if you love to read and you enjoy organizing, please consider sharing your sorting talent and enthusiasm for books with us and join core team of experienced, sorting volunteers. Contact **Annette** at 265-9339.

New Hardcover Books

New hardcover books are still available at the LVRV Learning Center at 5002 Williamson Road (Bank of America Building). Donations to Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley are welcome. Drop by the learning center to take a browse.

ESOL Miscellany by Susie Boxley

ESOL Tutor Luncheon: Brown Bag tutor luncheon will be January 9th at 11:45. Since we missed December's luncheon, we will attempt to introduce **Bill Van Velzer** again. We will also go over a learner survey of what ESOL students want from their tutors and talk about mentoring of new tutors. As always, you do not need to RSVP, but do come. I love the opportunity to meet and greet my wonderful volunteers.

In-service: Looking ahead, I will be conducting an in-service for tutors about **ESOL Family Literacy Needs**, in April 2004. This is a topic that continues to come up as our families expand and interact with the school systems. The Roanoke Valley is blessed with many resources available, and we will explore our role, as tutors, in this match.

ESOL Potluck is coming up in March. Any suggestions, comments, ideas, or volunteers to coordinate, contact **Susie** or **Karin**. My thoughts are to have a talent show along with the Potluck, but I cannot pull this off alone. Plus you don't want to see or hear me play or sing anything. So, come up with other talent or be very sorry! Karaoke anyone?

Reassessments: Veteran tutors, I need your help to get learners who are due for reassessments to schedule appointments. I am on the mission of wrapping up reassessments. The reassessments need to be done yearly, and we are a little behind. I will make this easier and more familiar as the next year rolls out. Also, be sure to explain to your learners that they will not lose you as their tutor, for any reason, from the results of the reassessment. It is a conversation based reassessment, and usually is enjoyable. I look forward to meeting your learners!

EL/Civics News by Bill Van Velzer

Greetings and Happy New Year! EL/Civics will officially kick off 2004 on Thursday, January 8, with the beginning of yet another 8-week session of evening classes for our intermediate learners. Tutors are reminded that they are welcome to observe these classes any Tuesday or Thursday night from 7-9 p.m. with as little as a phone call to **Susie Boxley** at least a day in advance.

On Friday, January 9, I am looking forward to joining Susie and our ESOL tutors for the New Year's first tutor luncheon at the Williamson Road office. This will be an excellent opportunity to showcase the EL/Civics Web site, to discuss useful teaching strategies, and to exchange observations about our learners and the everyday challenges they face. I hope to see you there

First Fridays @ Five

Our involvement in *First Fridays @ Five* has resulted in a donation to LVRV of \$3,000. Thanks to all of you who participated. Your commitment to this organization goes a long way in helping to provide the quality services that benefit our learners.

Waiting for the Promise of a New Year

On New Year's Eve, we will have over 80 adult learners waiting for the new volunteers who will join us in the coming year. As we celebrate the renewal that a new year promises, let's resolve to work together – learners, tutors, staff, board, and supporters – to broaden our active to base. Let's help these people, begin their journeys on a new path in 2004.

Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley
5002 Williamson Rd., 2A
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From the Director, Annette Loschert

The holidays are a wonderful time to offer thanks for the many gifts we receive throughout the year from family and friends. Let me offer my sincere thanks to each of you – all members of the LVRV family – for your gifts of time, talent, and dollar donations. Your generous contributions allow us to provide excellent service to the many adults in our community who wish to improve their reading, writing, speaking and problem-solving skills. And don't forget, the year is young – why not urge a friend to reap the rewards of becoming a literacy tutor. Asking that person could be your New Year's resolution; a positive response could be theirs!

Happy New Year!

From the ESOL Program Coordinator, Susie Boxley

Holidays are passing me by in a blur these days. I used to get so excited and the anticipation would spur all kinds of creative gifts and activities. But, as I have become busier, the time is passing so quick, that I am short on the follow through and want to be sure to say, "Thank you for making my job so enjoyable". I wake up knowing I am blessed to be working with and for such wonderful people. Happy Holidays, may the time slow down for you to enjoy the friends and family who come to visit.

From the Basic Literacy Program Coordinator, Jack Spraker

I was quite selfish in pursuing Eric Trethewey to conduct this year's tutor writing workshop. His poetry is straightforward and yet graceful as it confronts life's realities – often brutal realities. We're fortunate that this talented writer will come and share his insights with us. Participation the past two writing workshops in has been great. They seemed to enjoy the risk-free opportunity to explore themselves as writers, leaving the workshop with a revitalized sense of the importance of writing in literacy tutoring. Call soon to reserve your place in the workshop.

I hold out hope that we'll have a deluge of new volunteers in the coming year. The fine group of active tutors that we carry over into 2004 give me this hope. Good people, 124 in both programs at last count, have at made a commitment to adult literacy learners in the Roanoke Valley. As a result, these adults make progress everyday to improve literacy skills. Those who hear testimonials from our active tutors can't help but want to get involved. Who doesn't want to join at winning team? So let's hear some chatter out there!

Tutor Anniversaries in January-February 2004 – Congratulations & Thanks to All!

One-year anniversaries – Basic Literacy: Gina DeAngelis, Lorie Keyser, & Jerry Payne. **ESOL:** Gail Johnson, Tracy Mulholland, & Kevin Unrath. **Two-year anniversaries– Basic Literacy:** Moses Stevens. **ESOL:** Gene Freedman, Clara Geist, Marge Higgins, & Karen Recknor. **Three-year anniversaries:** **ESOL:** Pam Reilly & Jim Steffen. **Four-year anniversary –Basic Literacy:** Nelson Teague & Donna David. **ESOL:** Maryette McLaren & Ellie Clark **Eight-year anniversary – ESOL:** Jennie Sue Murdock