

WordsWorth



A Newsletter for Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley

January/February 2006 | 5002 Williamson Rd., Roanoke, Virginia 24012 | (540) 265-9339 | FAX 265-4814 | www.lvarv.org

Training Schedule

TUTOR TRAINING ORIENTATION
Tues Jan 3rd and Thurs Jan 5th
6-7 p.m.

LVRV Learning Center

New Tutor Training Dates:

Jan 19th, 26th, Feb 2nd, 9th, & 16th

Brown Bag Tutor Lunch
(Basic Literacy & ESOL)
First Friday of the month
Jan 6th and Feb 3rd
11:45 am

**Come in for new ideas and
program information. Focus:**
Lesson Planning

Bring a friend!

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

Content Highlights

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Unique Partnership Brings “*The North Star*” to Mill Mountain Stage

Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley is proud to partner with Mill Mountain Theatre, Fable Vision and Verizon in supporting an exciting addition to the annual Festival of New Works – the world premiere production of the children’s story, “*The North Star*.” The story of a young boy’s journey to discover his own path in life through unique experiences that enable him to develop his full potential parallels the exciting discoveries encountered by an adult learner while he or she strives to achieve personal goals while working with a volunteer tutor.

The educational component of this production complements the annual Incredible Reading Rally sponsored by Literacy Volunteers by promoting reading and raising literacy awareness at the elementary school level. Congratulations to Peter H. Reynolds and Mill Mountain Theatre for imparting the excitement of discovery in us all.

“*The North Star*” will run on MMT’s Waldron Stage from Tuesday, January 17 through Sunday, January 22 and will include three student performances. Tickets at \$15 for the regular production are available through the Mill Mountain Theatre Box Office.

Attention all tutors and learners: You are invited to attend an in-service on Sunday, January 15th at 7:00 p.m. at Mill Mountain Theatre. This in-service is being held for teachers regarding the North Star study guide which will be used in conjunction with the school performances. You are also invited to attend the final dress rehearsal to take place on Monday, January 16th at 7:30 p.m. Please let Susie know (at 265-9339) if you are interested in attending either of these events.

SCRABBLE® Tournament to Support Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley

Coming next March, there’s going to be a new game in town! Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley is going to hold a Scrabble Tournament on March 23, 2006, to help raise funds and awareness for literacy in our area. The event will be at Fitzpatrick Hall at the Jefferson Center and we expect an evening of fun and fast-paced Scrabble competition. The tournament has several corporate sponsors so far, including *The Roanoke Times* and Friendship Retirement Community. Come cheer on the Scrabble players, enjoy the refreshments and be a part of the very first Scrabble tournament in the Star City. Look for more details in the next issue of WordsWorth.

Thank you for your donations

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Congratulations!



Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley founders (from left to right) **Sarah Rubush, Pat Dungan, Ruth Lipnik Johnson, and Sig Davidson** were recently honored at a Founders' Day Luncheon to commemorate the organization's 20th year of providing adult literacy services in the Roanoke Valley.



Writing from the Heart

The annual debut of *Writing from the Heart* has been the highlight of our summer awards ceremony for many years, and it just gets better and better! Start now to prepare for this year's edition by inviting your learners to compose and contribute writing – poetry, stories, essays, letters, etc. – for our eleventh volume. 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 based on the impact of improving language skills on learners' and their families' lives create very powerful pieces. The deadline for submission is Friday, April 21st. Further information will be sent to you. If you would like a copy of last year's edition of *Writing from the Heart*, call us at 265-9339.

Got Books?

Please begin putting aside books you wish to donate to the LVRV Book Sale sponsored by *The Roanoke Times* to be held June 3rd and 4th at Tanglewood Mall. Watch for ads in *The Roanoke Times* in March announcing the beginning of book collection. If you love books, don't miss out on the fun of sorting. To help, call Janey at 985-0634 or Nancy at 989-8005.

Welcome New Board Members

We extend a warm welcome to two new board members. **Marion Vaughn-Howard** has been with the City of Roanoke's Office on Youth for 25 years and is currently its head. Marion has served on a wide variety of community, arts, human services and youth-related boards including United Way and The Arts Council of the Blue Ridge. She is the owner of Vaughn-Howard Associates, a wedding and party-planning business. A familiar face at the front desks of the Raleigh Court and the Downtown libraries, **Susan Ewald** retired this year after 30 years as a librarian in the city system. Susan works as a volunteer for the SPCA and for the library, and in the summer, she works at Walter's Greenhouse in Franklin County. Welcome Marion and Susan!

Thank You

Winter Brown Bag Tutor Lunches

Basic Literacy and ESOL Tutors – Plan to come to the January and February brown bag lunches at 11:45 in the LVRV Conference Room. These informal gatherings have provided great support for our tutors. Come share your successes and challenges. Bring your own lunch and drink.

Upcoming topics:

Friday, Jan 6: *Lesson Planning Cycles*

Friday, Feb 3: *Content Standards and Lesson Planning.*

NOTICE:

Information regarding learning disabilities and their characteristics can be found at

<http://www.valrc.org/publications/updateonld/updateonld1205.htm>



In the November 6, 2005 issue of *The Roanoke Times*, learner **Joe Dillon** and his tutor, **Dick Hawkins**, share their experiences in Shanna Flowers' article "Literacy gives man new read on life." A copy of the article is enclosed.

Congratulations and a warm **thank you** to the following tutors who are celebrating anniversaries with LVRV during the months of January and February – 10 Years – **Jennie Sue Murdock**; 6 Years – **Donna David**; 5 Years – **Pam Reilly** and **Jim Steffan**; 4 Years – **Karen Recknor**; 3 Years – **Gail Johnson**, **Tracey Mulholland** and **Kevin Unrath**; 2 Years – **Emmy Baker**, **Anna Cork**, **Richard Greenberg**, **Dave Miller** and **Paula Ortegon**; 1 Year – **Joe St. Claire**.

Welcome to our newest tutor graduates:

Jennifer Everidge, **Mary Harris**, **Amanda Hartin**, **Marjorie Nye**, **Bethany Uhl** and **Harold Uhl**.

Thanks to all who stopped by the LVRV office on Wednesday, December 21st to help us celebrate the season. It was great to see learners, tutors, board members and community friends share the joy. We are grateful for your commitment to our work in the Roanoke Valley!

PROGRAM PERKS with Susie and Bill

Continuing from last month's newsletter's "Best Practices" for lesson planning, we are now focusing on the **micro cycle** (20 minute segment) of the lesson. The teaching strategies referenced below are from the new tutor training book, Lit Start. See Bill or Susie if you would like to purchase your copy.

We will look at the first three *micro cycles* of a "typical tutoring lesson" for both ESOL and BL learners. The goal of the lesson is to read an article in the *News For You* newspaper. (This goal may be extended for several lessons.)

Goal #1: Prepare to read an article from *News For You* newspaper.

First micro cycle is the "meet and greet" cycle: (20 minutes)
10 minutes – Greetings: Hi, How are you?, bad traffic, etc.
10 minutes – Homework and review (Vowels: name, keyword, sounds.*Wilson Reading System) Always drill the vowels until you know they are learned.

Second micro cycle: (20 minutes)

Pre-Teach the Vocabulary for the Lesson (possibly focusing on the first 2 paragraphs of the article). Limit the number of new words to 5-7 for the allotted time period.

Strategy: Use a word bank...using the Lit Start strategies # 2,3,6,9. Other options are an index card box with alphabetized index cards or a note book with dividers.

Objective # 1

- A) review old words (pronunciation and correct usage in sentences)
- B) introduce and make cards or entries for new words
- C) dictate and practice writing

Third micro cycle: (20 minutes)

Goal# 2: Read the article's first 2 paragraphs, stressing fluency and comprehension.

Objective #2 KWL

 (know, want to know, and learned)

Strategy: using Lit Start strategy # 14 survey the article for pictures, graphs, headlines, etc. Ask: "What do we know, what do we want to find out? Save "what have we learned" until exercise is done.

Objective #3 Fluency and Comprehension: TLW (the learner will) read with fluency and correctly answer two questions about text.

Strategy: Read simplified version written by tutor using Lit Start strategy # 17, including the pre-taught vocabulary, practice phrasing and rhythm.

Objective #4 Begin reading the original article:

Strategy: Begin the actual article with the pre-taught vocabulary already highlighted, reading in phrases (possibly already marked with underlining) and pausing at the appropriate places.

Take a well deserved 5 min break!



Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley
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From the Director, Annette Loschert

What a wonderful celebration we had on November 10th when we honored the founders of Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley. It was the perfect way to cap off our 20th year of service to adult learners in the Roanoke Valley. We are grateful to Sarah Rubush, Ruth Lipnik Johnson, Sig Davidson and Pat Dungan for their vision back in 1985 and their hard work to bring their dream to reality. Thank you all for your incredible support throughout the years! To all of you, I extend my best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year.

From the Program Manager, Susie Boxley

Goals...keep them simple.... check them daily....keep a success journal until you feel you are on automatic pilot toward your goals...smile!

Happy New Year

From the Adult Education Programs Coordinator, Bill Van Velzer

I hope our holiday newsletter finds you in good spirits and prepared for the busiest time of the year. The pace has picked up at the office as well. We've wrapped up another EL/Civics class and are recruiting more students for the new classes beginning January 9th and 10th. So if you're an ESOL tutor, and your learner has friends or relatives with English language needs, send them along. We have Monday-Wednesday and Tuesday-Thursday evening classes available in addition to a Tuesday-Thursday morning class. Classes meet for four hours every week for eight weeks, and are held at the Literacy Volunteers office or at the Roanoke Main Library on Jefferson Street. Registration for EL/Civics classes begins with a formal English language assessment that takes about an hour. The classes are free of charge and learners receive a free workbook that they can use with their tutor following the termination of the class. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and thanks so much for all you do!

WISHING YOU.....

**A HAPPY
NEW YEAR**