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A Newsletter for Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley

July/August 2005 | 5002 Williamson Rd., Roanoke, Virginia 24012 | (540) 265-9339 | FAX 265-4814 | www.lvarv.org

Training Schedule

Volunteer Tutor Orientation
Tuesday, August 16th and
Thursday, August 18th
6-7 pm

TUTOR TRAINING BEGINS ON
September 8th, AT 6:00 p.m.
INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

LVRV Learning Center

Training Dates:

Sept 8, 15, 22, 29 and Oct 6
6-9 p.m.

Basic Literacy and ESOL Brown
Bag Tutor Lunch
First Friday of the month
July 1st and August 5th
11:45 am

Come in for new ideas and
program information. Focus: *GED*
and what it means to you as a
tutor (either ESOL or BL) Bring a
friend!

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

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Email Addresses

Annette Loschert: annette@lvarv.org
Susie Boxley: susie@lvarv.org
Bill Van Velzer: bill@lvarv.org
Karin Warpula: info@lvarv.org

In Memoriam

Dennis Pendleton, retired Roanoke City
Reference Librarian and Basic Literacy Tutor
with LVRV for the past four years, passed
away on Saturday, May 28. Dennis was
named the Basic Literacy Tutor of the Year
in 2004. His gentle, inspirational presence
among us will be sorely missed.



An Evening with Nikki Giovanni

Save the date

Friday night, August 26th, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Fitzpatrick Hall
Jefferson Center

In August, Beth Macy and *The Roanoke Times* Book Club will be discussing *Quilting the Black-Eyed Pea* and *The Collected Poetry of Nikki Giovanni – 1968-1998*. On August 16th, *The Roanoke Times*, the Roanoke City Public Libraries and Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley will again join together to present *An Evening with Nikki Giovanni*. Proceeds will benefit LVRV.

Ms. Giovanni is a world-renowned poet, writer, commentator, activist, and educator. Her three most recent volumes of poetry, *Love Poems*, *Blues: For All the Changes*, and *Quilting the Black-Eyed Pea*, were winners of the NAACP Image Award in 1998, 2000, and 2003. Since 1987, Nikki Giovanni has taught writing and literature at Virginia Tech where she is a University Distinguished Professor. Tickets will be available in mid-July. Watch for notices in *The Roanoke Times* or call our office at 265-9339.

Last year, tutor Eileen Lau graciously donated a beautiful hand-made quilt that was raffled off during "An Evening with Lee Smith." Anyone wishing to donate a special item for a raffle at the Nikki Giovanni event should contact Annette Loschert at 265-9339. *THANK YOU!*

Learners and Volunteers Honored at Annual Awards Ceremony

On Sunday, June 26, more than 60 learners, tutors, board members, family and friends gathered for the Literacy Volunteers Annual Awards ceremony at Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church. We celebrated an enormously productive year for learners and their tutors. Twenty-four learners have made "educational functioning level gains" of one or more, according to their reassessments and the standards adopted by the State of Virginia. With great pride, Susie Boxley announced that two of our ESOL learners and one of our Basic Literacy learners have made 2 standard educational functioning level jumps within the year. Three of our tutors have worked with 2 learners each individually, and those learners each made an educational gain this year. Two of our tutors logged over 100 hours of instructional time alone, and have become the inaugural members of the "100 Hour Club" with another tutor in hot pursuit of this distinction. Final induction will be determined after all fiscal year-end reporting is complete. **Al Brown** and **Stuart Wamsley** were recognized as our first two **Hundred Hour Club** members. Learners are also eligible for membership and we look forward to announcing the learners who achieve this goal in the future.

A sampling of the accomplishments documented on the 2-month reports are as follows: 1 citizenship, 20 consumer skills, 5 health and wellness skills, 18 entered employment, 7 got better jobs, 22 improved employability skills, 4 improved skills needed at current job, 60 improved their English speaking and or listening abilities, 12 improved numeracy skills, 30

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July and August Tutor Anniversaries

Congratulations and thank you to the following tutors who are celebrating anniversaries:

Judy Dunn, six years; **Robert Ripley** and **Lewis Shontell**, five years; **Jack Spraker**, four years; **Audrey Benda**, **Paul McLaughlin**, **Charlotte Hines**, **Rick Terrell**, **Tracey Reynolds** and **Denise Briggs**, two years; **Jane Ambrose Cosby**, **Karen Holtz**, **Nancy James**, **Pam Wilson**, **Sue Joyce**, **Margurette Angell**, **Betty Cahill**, **Marne De Vaughn**, **Brandy Hall**, **Sandy Hall** and **Joan Tinley**, one year.

improved abilities to read and write, 18 increased involvement with children's educational activities, 15 increased involvement in community activities, 3 obtained drivers licenses, 1 registered to vote, and 1 voted for the first time.

The tutor/learner pairs with the greatest educational functioning level gains this year were named the Sig Davidson Learners and Dudley Woody Tutors of 2005. In Basic Literacy the awards were presented to **JoAnn Taylor** and her tutor **Kathleen Lautigar**. In ESOL the awards were presented to **Jackson Saturne** and his tutor **Nancy Steinweg**.

Barbara Carraher received the 2005 Ruth Lipnik-Sarah Rubush Volunteer of the Year Award. In addition to her dedication as a tutor, Barb has contributed countless hours for many, many years to make our Annual Book Sale a success. Barb's passion, energy and commitment to LVRV are greatly appreciated.

The following long-term, active tutors were recognized and thanked for their outstanding, dedicated service – 5 years: **John Divers**, **Carol Sheahan**, **Al Brown**, **Angela Rauenswinter** and **Donna David**; 9 years: **Claire Blake** and **Barbara Carraher**; 12 years: **Kathleen Lautigar**; 13 years: **Emily Moore**; and our tutor with the longest service of 15 years: **Susie Fetter**.

A highlight of the event was the debut of *Writing from the Heart* and learners who read pieces from the publication.

Thank you to everyone who participated!



Computer Lab Serves Record Number of One-Stop Learners

Last July, thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor/Education and Training Administration, Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley partnered with the Virginia Workforce Center's One-Stop, upgraded its computer lab, and began to provide a series of self-guided computer courses available to One-Stop clients. The interactive, instructional software used in our lab teaches computer fundamentals, word processing, spreadsheets, internet and e-mail. Since July 2004, 103 One-Stop clients have logged more than 1,500 hours in our lab. The series of self-guided courses used in this program meets the needs of adult learners and job seekers who need scheduling flexibility and the ability to learn at their own pace. Computer literacy is an important part of workforce development, and we at Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley are proud of the new skills attained by the individuals who have taken advantage of this service.

2005 Book Sale an Outstanding Success

Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley raised \$9,300 this year at our Annual Book Sale held at Tanglewood Mall on June 4th and 5th. Special thanks to **The Roanoke Times** for sponsoring the event and **Tanglewood Mall** for providing excellent space for the sale.

Thanks to the countless people who donated thousands of books and the work of a wonderful Book Sale Committee chaired by **Dee Copenhaver** and **Janey Mountcastle**. More than 50 hard-working volunteers logged in excess of 800 hours to make the event a success.

Congratulations and special thanks to all: **Barry Akers**, **Maggie Angell**, **James Ballard**, **Connie Bierly**, **Barbara Carraher**, **Nancy Chapin**, **Nuria Crowe**, **Susan Daugherty**, **Donna David**, **Tommy Denton**, **Libby Dungan**, **Stayce Eller**, **Bob Fetter**, **Susie Fetter**, **Tom Grupe**, **Helen Guthrie**, **Sarah Higgins**, **Charlotte Hines**, **Lorrie Huffman**, **Gail Johnson**, **Carol Jeffries**, **George Kegley**, **Calvin Lilly**, **Rebecca Liu**, **Sarah Liu**, **Ann Martyn**, **Tracy Mulholland**, **Judy Perdue**, **Marsha Pratinsky**, **Pam Reilly**, **Sally Rugaber**, **Carol Sheahan**, **Rusty Schundler**, **Don Steinweg**, **Nancy Steinweg**, **Carol Tate**, **Joan Tinley**, **Stuart Wamsley**, **Karin Warpula**, **Kay Westermann**, **Edna Whittier**, and **Lisa Yeatts**. Thanks also to **Walden Books** and **Barnes & Noble**, and the students, advisors and parents from **North Cross School** who sorted books.



Writing from the Heart Debuts at Annual Pot Luck on June 26th

*Writing from the heart
can be sweet can be tough
Writing from the heart
may be light might be dark
But writing from the heart
is strong and true
Writing from the heart
is from me to you* - Susie Boxley

One of the highlights of our annual awards ceremony is the unveiling of *Writing from the Heart*. This year, our tenth edition contains 29 entries written from the heart by LVRV learners. In addition, the first graders in Mrs. Bauer's class at Glen Cove Elementary School in Roanoke County offer a very special message to our learners that is included in the publication. If you were not at the awards ceremony on June 26th and would like a copy, stop by the office and pick one up.

LVRV Board News

Officers for the 2005-06 year were elected at the June 8th Board Meeting: President – **Floyd Addison**, retired President and CEO, Virginia Lutheran Homes; Vice President – **Todd Burns**, Corporate Communication Manager, Appalachian Power; Secretary – **Janey Mountcastle**, Community Volunteer; and Treasurer – **Carolyn Riddleberger**, Vice President and Branch Manager, Bank of America – Crossroads. We welcome new board member **Doris Ennis**,



Support LVRV at Barnes & Noble

A percentage of the net sale of any book purchase you make at Barnes & Noble on Friday, Saturday or Sunday, July 8, 9 or 10 will benefit LVRV. Just present the enclosed voucher at the cash register at the time of purchase. We'll report results in the next newsletter!

Upcoming Training Opportunity

Adult Literacy and ESOL Conference
August 4th and 5th
George Mason University
\$25 registration fee, plus hotel expenses
Susie and Bill will be attending
Carpooling is possible
www.opaliteracy.org/AELPNV.html

PROGRAM PERKS with Susie and Bill

What if your learner's goal is: "I want to get my GED"? Does your learner understand what that entails? Do you? Do you know how to get him there?

Understanding what it means to prepare for the GED is crucial to both the learner and the tutor. The length of time it takes to acquire the skills necessary to achieve this goal can be daunting. If you were to meet with your learner for two hours per week for 52 weeks, you would spend 104 hours a year together. With typically eight hours in a school day, in one year your learner would complete 13 school days with you.

How would you plan for those 13 days? What would you cover? Where would you start? What material would you use? How would you ensure that material covered would be absorbed, reviewed and built upon?

A plan is already available for you and your learner to follow. GED and Pre-GED books are great examples. These books have been strategically designed to deliver a proven sequence of learning. Staff guidance is always available.

Setting clear expectations is an essential part of your "contract" with your learner. Impress upon your learner that the path may be long and the commitment is considerable. Emphasize that promptness, regular attendance, completion of homework, etc. are all necessary for success to occur. Make it clear that you will be investing considerable volunteer time in lesson planning to help him achieve his goal. Your learner must also make this commitment in order to achieve his goal.

Our learners have limited time, so focus on the larger goal, spiral the learning to keep it fresh (start a concept, work on it for 15-20 minutes, return to it the next time you meet, try it again for 15 minutes, and so on). Mix up math, reading comprehension, science, social studies reading, and grammar. The writing can be outlined and practiced weekly as homework.

If you are reading this and thinking, wow this is a huge responsibility – it is!

If it has been a while since you were trained, we are now using a great tutoring book called *Lit Start*. We think of *Lit Start* as a tool box containing strategies of varying levels and learning styles. Again, stop in to see us. We are here to guide you.

We have great admiration for all of you and thank you for your investment in literacy. You make amazing gains with minimal contact. We now have the opportunity like never before to offer you more training to fine-tune your planning and delivery skills. So don't sweat the "what am I going to work on tonight with my learner?" issues any more. We know what to do. Just come and ask.

Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley
5002 Williamson Rd., 2A
Roanoke, VA 24012

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From the Director, Annette Loschert

As we celebrate our twentieth year of providing literacy services to adults in the Roanoke Valley and wrap up another fiscal year, I can only share with you how proud I am to be a part of this incredible organization and thank you all for your outstanding commitment to making a difference in the lives of those we serve. Your gifts of time and talent, whether shared with a learner or given selflessly to support a fundraiser or help out in our office, are critical to our success. BRAVO to all of you!

Our staff will be busy during the next month or so completing reassessments and compiling data for our annual report. The results of this incredible year will be published and distributed with the next newsletter.

Have a great summer!

From the Program Manager, Susie Boxley

My wish list:

1. Send me all past and due two-month reports
2. Put Brown Bag Lunch dates on your calendar
3. Volunteer to head up “International Literacy Day” events (September 8th)

From the Adult Education Programs Coordinator, Bill Van Velzer

For this issue, I’m offering a recent thought from my “Who Moved My Cheese” desktop calendar. If you are unfamiliar with this piece of motivational literature, it is the story of four characters and their very different approaches to change. Moving one’s cheese is the author’s euphemism for change. One of my favorite excerpts for this month reads: “Concentrate on what change brings, rather than on what it takes.” This is an eminently empowering statement. I guess it appeals to me because it reminds me of the risks that our learners take when they commit themselves to the challenge of mastering the English language. Regardless of our learners’ origins, each has demonstrated an abiding desire for personal growth. As agents of this change, we might find it useful to keep our eyes on the cheese.

Did you know?

During the past two years, learners from the following countries have participated in our ESOL Program: Afghanistan, *Argentina*, Bolivia, *Bosnia*, Brazil, *Bulgaria*, Czechoslovakia, *China*, Colombia, *Cuba*, Ecuador, *Egypt*, El Salvador, *Ethiopia*, Ghana, *Haiti*, Honduras, *India*, Iran, *Iraq*, Japan, *Jordan*, Korea, *Kurdistan*, Lebanon, *Mexico*, Mongolia, *Morocco*, Panama, *Peru*, Romania, *Russia*, Somalia, *Sudan*, Taiwan, *Thailand*, Togo, *Ukraine*, Venezuela and *Vietnam*.