

W_oRDSW_orth

A Newsletter for Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley

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

Training Schedule

New Volunteer Orientation

Wednesday, July 21st
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
Mondays, August 9, 16,
23, 30, & September 13
6-9 pm

ESOL Tutor Training
Wednesdays, August 11,
18, 25, September 1, & 8
6-9 pm

ProLiteracy America
Training: Research-based
Reading Instruction for
Volunteer Literacy
Programs

Clarion Hotel Roanoke
Friday, August 6th
1-5 pm
Saturday, August 7th
8:30-12:30 pm

We highly recommend this two-day workshop for tutors in both Basic and ESOL. You'll encounter the latest research but also methods to apply theory to practice. The registration fee is \$35 for affiliate members. For more information, call 265-9339.

Email Addresses

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Jack Spraker: jack@lvarv.org

The Learning Center
will remain open
during the July 4th
holiday.

Don't Be the Last Girl to Meet Lee Smith

We are gearing up for a fantastic event on Friday evening, July 16th at Loch Haven Lake Club – “An Evening with Lee Smith.” Lee Smith is a nationally acclaimed writer and Hollins graduate whose current book, *The New York Times* Bestseller *The Last Girls*, is the July selection for review by *The Roanoke Times* Book Club. Lee will be at Loch Haven for a dinner and reading. From a pontoon boat on the lovely Loch Haven Lake, she will read from *The Last Girls* and discuss the themes and thought process behind the story.

We will also have an exciting raffle for a beautiful log cabin quilt made by Eileen Ann Lau, one of our tutors. The tickets are \$3/ticket or four for \$10. This quilt is a beautiful mix of blues with white accents. It will be on display at the event. All proceeds will benefit Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley.

Don't miss this exciting event from 5-10 pm at Loch Haven Lake Club. A \$25 ticket includes a BBQ dinner and live music. A cash bar will be available. Join us and bring a friend. Call 265-9339 now for tickets. July 16th is promising to be a night to remember!

Learners, Tutors, and Volunteer of the Year Announced at Annual Awards Ceremony

130 learners, tutors, board, and family members attended the Literacy Volunteers Annual Awards Ceremony. We packed the 2nd Presbyterian Church fellowship hall and witnessed the announcement of the 2004 Sig Davidson Learners and Dudley Woody Tutors of the Year awards for both the Basic Literacy and English-for-Speakers-of-Other-Languages programs. This year's awardees were learners **Charles E. Rogers** for Basic Literacy and **Bachitar Singh** for ESOL. Tutors **Dennis Pendleton** and **Joe Caselles** were awarded the tutor awards for Basic Literacy and ESOL respectively.

Dennis Pendleton and **Charles E. Rogers**, better known as Roy to friends and family, came forward to receive their awards together. Having worked together for three years, this learner-tutor pair has had great success. Although this past year he suffered debilitating injury when a tractor trailer ran his car off the highway, Roy continued to work with Dennis, determined to meet his goal of passing the GED tests. This spring, Roy passed four of five GED tests with flying colors, reaching a significant milestone but not the end of his work. He has one more test to go – Language Arts, Writing. Because of his determination, Roy will surmount this last obstacle to finish the tests successfully. He truly appreciates the help that Dennis has given over the last three years. They've been a great team.

ESOL Learner of the Year, **Bachitar Singh**, whom tutor **Jim Steffen** nominated, has worked in the program for two years. He has made noteworthy advances in his English studies in that time, moving from an immediate level to advanced. Bachitar's other participation in the program has been very significant as well -- for example, his contributions to student publications like *Cultural Soup*. We send a hearty congratulations to Bachitar for all his hard work.

ESOL Tutor of the Year, **Joe Caselles** came to Literacy Volunteers two years ago. Having moved from Florida, where he had already volunteered as an English language instructor, Joe hit the ground running, taking on small groups of students at a time when the number of ESOL learners waiting was at its highest. In his time with us, Joe has tutored over thirty students, accumulating hundreds of hours of instructions. He currently tutors small groups on Wednesdays and Fridays. Joe truly embraces the English immersion philosophy, focusing on all

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2003-04 Fiscal Year Reports

Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley reports its statistics to its parent organization ProLiteracy America on July 30th. We need all May-June reports immediately as well as outstanding two-month reports. Tutors, please assist us in reporting our data accurately. Instructional hours and learner achievements are important indicators of our program's success. Make your work with your learner count. Send in your reports today. Thanks.



Award Ceremony continued

language components – reading, writing, speaking, and listening. High interest reading, writing activities, and lively discussions help learners achieve success in their goals. Thanks and congratulations, Joe, for all your hard work.

The two learners of the year rose to the top of a field of very fine nominees, who received certificates of recognition at the event. The learner of the year nominees in the Basic Literacy Program were **Joe Dillon, Ruth Gaither, Carl Jackson, Barbara Johnson, Evan McCreath, and JoAnn Taylor**. The ESOL Program nominees were **Bok Soon Chang, Geanna Cheong, Linh Dang, Ninfa Di Posperis, Laura Duarte, Afshin Farrokhpour, Rita Hastenreiter, Kim Hisaki, Kyoko Jennings, Sook Kim, Sonoko Kubota, Rosalia Munoz, Saring Sahibkran, Beatriz Valencia, America Vinces, and Wang Fei**.

The two tutors of the year make excellent representatives of the fine folks who become volunteer tutors in general. Literacy Volunteers is fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers. The tutor of the year nominees also outstandingly represent the people who give so much to the learners in our programs. The ESOL nominees were **Charlotte Hines, Karen Recknor, and Carol Sheahan**. The Basic Literacy nominees were **Lewis Crossgrove, Donna David, Betty Jo Hayes, Rosie Layman, Melanie Parker, and Susan Woldanski**. Congratulations to all.

Dee Copenhaver received the 2004 Ruth Lipnik-Sarah Rubush Volunteer of the Year Award. Dee has served as a member of the LVRV Board of Directors since August 2002. She currently co-chairs our Book Sale Committee, which organized this year's Annual Book Sale held at Tanglewood Mall in June, helping to raise \$13,125. She and the committee supervise the activities of more than 60 volunteers to make this event a success (see details on book sale). This spring, Dee also coordinated the Incredible Reading Rally that took place at Glen Cove and Crystal Spring Elementary Schools, helping to raise over \$2,000. Dee's energy and commitment to our program are phenomenal. She's a fine example of the volunteer spirit, giving us a model to aspire to.

We also honored the backbone of Literacy Volunteers, our long-time tutors. Five-year tutors were **Judy Dunn, Ron Swenson, and Stuart Wamsley**. **Kathy Seeley** and **Fred Taylor** have six years. **Helen** and **Farley Childress** have seven years. Eight-year tutors were **Claire Blake, Barb Carraher, and Lewis Crossgrove**. **Nancy Chapin** has nine years. **Kathleen Lautigar** and **Judy Perdue** have eleven years. **Emily Moore, Susie Fetter** and **Lee Bristor** have a phenomenal thirteen, fourteen, and fifteen years respectively. Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley could not exist without the long-term commitment of these fine folks.

The event ended with the debut of *Writing from the Heart* and two learners, **Travis Crowe** and **Rita Hastenreiter**, reading their pieces from the book. Thanks to everyone who participated.

2004 Book Sale an Outstanding Success

Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley raised \$13,125 this year at our Annual Book Sale held at Tanglewood Mall on June 5th and 6th. Special thanks to **The Roanoke Times** for sponsoring the event and **Tanglewood Mall** for providing excellent space for the sale. And thank you to **Krogers** for donating the shopping bags for our big spenders!

Of course, it took the contributions of countless people in our community who donated thousands of used books and the work of a dedicated Book Sale Committee chaired by **Dee Copenhaver, Janey Mountcastle, and Ron Swenson**, as well as an enthusiastic team of more than sixty volunteers who spent well over 800 hours to pull off this year's sale.

Congratulations and special thanks to all who contributed their time and energy to make this event such a success: **Julia Blevins, Connie Bierly, Jon Boettcher, Susie Boxley, Todd Burns, Barb Carraher, Nancy Chapin, Dee Copenhaver, Nuria Crowe, Donna David, Tommy Denton, Jan Dowling, Pat Dungan, Libby Dungan, Stayce Eller, Kandy Elliott, Janis Erb, Bob Fetter, Susie Fetter, Colleen Gibbons, Helen Guthrie, Ann Jenkins, Wes Johnson, Luciana Joseph, Rose Marie Joseph, George Kegley, Rebecca Lui, Sarah Lui, Sheryl Martin, Janey Mountcastle, Tracy Mulholland, Seth Polley, Judy Perdue, Angela Rauenswinter, Pam Reilly, Sally Rugaber, Carol Sheahan, Maria Spencer-Etienne, Jack Spraker, Nancy Steinweg, Ron Swenson, Stuart Wamsley, and Lisa Yeatts**. Thanks also to **Laura Boutwell** and **United with Youth** teens **Amber Dempsey, Arob Ashwil, Brilliant Akapo, David Lefevers, Molly Barnett, Paula Wallace, Soima Caballero and Suzan Ashwil** and the students, advisors and parents from **North Cross School** who sorted books.

*United with Youth is a leadership development program with the core goal of providing meaningful opportunities for service, community building, creative expression and leadership. United with Youth teenagers are active volunteers and engaged leaders in the Roanoke Valley, effectively showing the community the inherent value of youth. For more information about this leadership development program, contact Laura Boutwell, United with Youth Coordinator, at 563.5316 (x4018) or at lboutwell@fsrv.org.

Board Transitions

We welcome new board member **Gray Turner**, Vice President Commercial Sales, Advance Auto Parts. Gray's community outreach experience with Juvenile Diabetes and United Way will be great assets to Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley. At the same time we offer our heartfelt thanks to **Ron Swenson** and **Chuck Hale** for their past work as they leave the board. Special thanks to Ron for his leadership and devotion over the years to make our Book Sale such an outstanding success!

Officers for the 2004-05 year are: President: **Floyd Addison**, retired President and CEO, Virginia Lutheran Homes; Vice President: **Todd Burns**, Corporate Communication Manager, American Electric Power; Secretary: **Kandi Elliott**, Sr. Vice President, Residential & Retail Sales, Friendship Manor; and Treasurer: **Carolyn Riddleberger**, Vice President and Branch Manager, Bank of America – Crossroads.

2004 Literacy Fair: A Report by Natalie McMahon

Natalie, a basic literacy tutor, represented us at this year's fair in May. Here are her observations.

Dr. Judy Cheatham, keynote speaker at this year's Literacy Fair of Virginia, reported that the "Silent Crisis", illiteracy in the U.S., continues at a rate of 40% from third graders through senior citizens. There are a number of programs trying to address the problem: Mother Find, Even Start (family literacy), public and private school, the Department of Correctional Education, junior colleges, and employers. The president's program of "No Child Left Behind" is mainly funding programs aimed at the third grade thus leaving adult literacy programs bereft.

Dr. Judy Cheatham's session of Family Literacy offered some insight and practical help for the tutor; i.e., getting a commitment of at least 12-16 weeks, using what the student knows and building on it (scaffolding), phonics, color coding for types of words (nouns, verbs) and digraphs. The ideal meeting time is four times a week for 20 minutes rather than once a week for 90 minutes.

The session on Phonics Made Easy presented by the Wilson Reading System was much too short. I feel this could be very valuable to learn. Marilyn Milio did present each of the session attendees with a copy.

A beautiful campus program, well planned, good food, nice people, resources, networking, great furniture, shopping in Farmville, a decent motel and restaurant in Keysville but not as well attended as it deserved. Sessions were too short – maybe I'm a slow learner.

Welcome Aboard New Tutors

May and June saw two new groups of tutors, one Basic Literacy, one ESOL, begin their work with learners. The new ESOL tutors are **Pat Kniffel**, **Leslie Jordan**, **Susan Crim**, **Brooke Johnston**, and **Ray Hill**. The new Basic Literacy tutors are **Ed Bessell**, **Florence Hetz**, **Robert Lax**, and **Flo & Bouldin Frantz**. Thanks and congratulations to these new tutors.

ESOL Miscellany From Susie Boxley

Brown Bag lunches resume on the first Friday in September. ESOL Tutors have been busy this spring. Brown Bag lunches have been well attended, and I will resume the lunches in September. July and August lunches need to be cancelled due to vacations and training.

ESOL Tutor In-Services: Many tutors attended the 2 in services scheduled in May with Bill Van Velzer. The grammar in service drew the most attendance, telling me we all need to be supported in our efforts to effectively teach grammar. The objective setting and lesson planning seminar reinforced the need to pre-test and post-test our learners to maintain our learner-centered approach and to evaluate our own effectiveness as tutors. The two in services were attended by an average of 15 tutors. I am so proud of the time and dedication those tutors put forth. I have copies of material presented in these seminars. Call me or email me if you want a copy.

As a follow up to the pre-testing and post-testing methods of each lesson, I bring you *Practical Ideas on Alternative Assessment for ESL Students* by Eric Digest. The main goal of pre-testing/assessing a student is to gather information on what the student needs to learn. There are many unofficial assessments, e.g. physical demonstration of task, acting out vocabulary and concepts; pictorial assessments of understanding; pointing to correct pictures and parts; oral performances including interviews, role plays, explaining, summarizing; written assessments collected and reviewed to see progress.

In order to see progress, we need to collect information and document the learning for review by you and your student. If objectives did not get met, do it next time. If the learning did not seem to take place, reintroduce it next time in a different fashion. Try a different learning style approach. Do not shy away from some sort of pre- and post-testing; it is the only way to know whether you are being effective as the learner's tutor.

Hours = 2003 Book Awards

Each year Literacy Volunteers shows its appreciation to its learners and tutors through book awards. Learners and tutors who have a certain amount of instructional hours, usually forty or so, in the fiscal year are awarded funds to purchase books for their work together. These awards are offered to learners and tutors separately or the money can be pooled. There are three ways to take advantage of this award -- place an order through the office, reimbursement, or a bookstore gift certificate.

Don't deprive your learner(s) or yourself of this year's book award. Award announcements will come in late August. Please make sure your two-month reports are up to date on or before July 1st. We really need your help to make our reporting as accurate as possible. If you have questions about reporting, call Jack or Susie at 265-9339.

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From the Director, Annette Loschert

The bold print in this issue of *WoRDSWorth* makes me smile because it illustrates both the achievements of our learners and the tremendous volunteer commitment we enjoy at LVRV. Month in and month out our volunteers make a difference in the lives of those we serve. The gifts of your time and talent, whether spent with a learner, sorting books for our Book Sale, or preparing our newsletter mailing, all contribute to our success. It is only through these efforts that we are able to offer quality literacy services to adults in the Roanoke Valley. Thank you! Have a great summer!

From the ESOL Program Coordinator, Susie Boxley

I am so excited to have been here a year. I am growing daily in my abilities to serve you better. I am excited to tell you tutor training is getting stronger in its delivery of the tools every tutor needs to assess the needs of the learner and implement the objectives gathered. If you missed the objective setting /lesson planning in-service, and are struggling, call me. Please get your hours in, it is the end of the fiscal year and we have to do year end reports. Thanks and enjoy the summer.

From the Basic Literacy Program Coordinator, Jack Spraker

This year's award ceremony was my fifth. Each year the successes in our program show me that motivated adult learners and volunteers committed to adult education can produce amazing results. Everyone in our program has, be it big or small, a success story. We gathered at the potluck to celebrate that success. The learner and tutor of the year nominees and awardees should inspire everyone to continue their own outstanding work in our program. They demonstrate to us that our long-term commitment and hard work will lead us to meet our goals. We can look to them and say, HEY, if those guys can do it, so can we. It may be difficult. It may take time. But we *can* achieve our goals.

Each year, a goal that many learners in our program set and meet is to complete a piece of writing for publication. The result of that work is our book *Writing from the Heart*. It's so wonderful that learners share their stories with others in and outside of our program. When I read *Writing from the Heart*, I'm inspired. It's something we can all be proud of. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Tutor Anniversaries in July-August 2004 – Congratulations & Thanks to All!

One-year anniversaries – Basic Literacy: Karen Gray, Tracey Reynolds, Audrey Benda, and Paul McLaughlin. **ESOL:** Rick Terrel, Charlotte Hines, and Carl Robertson. **Three-year anniversaries - BL:** Bob O' Bryan and Dennis Pendleton. **Five-year anniversary – ESOL:** Judy Dunn. **Six-year anniversary-BL:** Roby Page.