

WoRDSWorth



A Newsletter for Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley

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

Training Schedule

Volunteer Tutor Orientation
Tuesday, March 8th and
Thursday, March 10th
6-7 pm

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TUTOR TRAINING BEGINS ON
MARCH 24th AT 6:00 p.m.

LVRV Learning Center

Training Dates:
March 24 and 31 and
April 7, 14, and 21
6-9 p.m.

Basic Literacy and ESOL Brown
Bag Tutor Lunch
First Friday of the month
March 4th and April 1st (no joke!)
11:45 am

Please come and share. 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

The Learning Center
will be closed on
Fri., March 25 and
Mon., March 28 for
Spring Holiday



Writing from the Heart

Nothing better illustrates the accomplishments of our learners than the annual issue of *Writing from the Heart*. Learners proudly share their stories, essays, letters, and poetry in this annual collection of published works which debuts each year at our Annual Awards Ceremony in June. Start now to prepare for this year's 10th edition by inviting your learners to compose and contribute writing – poetry, stories, essays, letters, etc. 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 prove to be very powerful. Enclosed in this issue of WoRDSWorth is a form for tutors to use to indicate your learner's plan to contribute to *Writing from the Heart*. It should be returned to us with your two-month report. The deadline for submission is Friday, April 22nd. If you would like a copy of last year's edition of *Writing from the Heart* or need further information, call Annette or Susie at 265-9339.

Save the date -- Our Annual Pot Luck/Awards Ceremony will be held this year on Saturday, June 26th. Watch for details.

Program Development

LVRV was selected as one of eight Virginia community-based literacy organizations that recently received funding from the Virginia Department of Education, Office of Adult Education and Literacy. On February 1st and 2nd, staffers **Annette Loschert**, **Susie Boxley** and **Karin Warpula**, and board member **Janey Mountcastle** joined colleagues from the other seven programs for the 2005 Program Development Institute in Richmond. For two days, under the guidance of **Vicky Sanborn**, Director of the Literacy Support Center, Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center and **Jennifer Stuart**, Specialist, Office of Adult Education and Literacy, VA Department of Education, we worked together to share our successes and formulate new ways in which we can successfully develop our programs. Guest speaker **Joyce Whidden**, Executive Director, Adult Literacy League of Orlando, Florida spoke to us about meeting specific funder requirements and our own **Nancy Chapin** led the group through a demonstration of the database she has designed that is now up and running in the LVRV office. This group will meet again on March 30th and 31st at Sweet Briar to continue its work. Board member **Dee Copenhaver** will join the LVRV group for this second session.

Thank you for your donations

Briggs and Cathy Andrews
Anonymous (3)
Appalachian Power
Regine N. Archer
Rachel and Ebbie Bell
in memory of Kenneth Brugh
Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Berry
Walter B. Blair
in memory of Kenneth Brugh
Cabell and Shirley Brand Charitable
Lead Trust
Daniel S. Brown
Dee Copenhaver
Daughters of the Amer. Revolution
General James Breckinridge
Chapter
H. Lawrence Davidson
Mr. and Mrs. Walter P. Dungan
in memory of Kenneth Brugh
Mr. and Mrs. William D. Elliot
Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Foster
Spencer and Joy Frantz
in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Bouldin
Frantz
R. Wayne and Marianne Gandee
Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Garland
in honor of George Kegley
Robert J. Graulich
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Bob and Janey Mountcastle
in memory of Walter Marvin
Kennedy
Abdul Rahim Muhammad
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Carolyn Riddleberger
The Roanoke Times
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Rugaber
Mr. and Mrs. Russell T. Schundler
Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Scholz, Jr.
in honor of George Kegley
St. Mark's Lutheran Church Women
Mrs. L. B. Strauss
Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Strauss
Mrs. Frances Trent
Tuesdays with Ruth & Sig & Harriet
in memory of Miriam Hollander
Louis S. Waldrop, Sr.
Mary and Douglas Waters
in honor of the fourth grade team
at Westside Elementary School
Mr. and Mrs. James Addison White
Mr. and Mrs. M. Lanier Woodrum
James L. Woltz
Mr. and Mrs. Clifton A. Woodrum
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Got Books? Pass Them On!

We are gearing up for our annual book sale to be held at Tanglewood Mall on June 4th and 5th this year. Literacy Volunteers will gladly accept paperback, hardcover books, and children's books in good condition. In addition, we will accept donations of videotapes, books-on-tape, language tapes, and CDs. We cannot accept encyclopedias, textbooks, magazines, *Reader's Digest* condensed books, harlequin-type romances, or books in poor condition. Look for collection boxes at participating Kroger and Bank of America locations. Call 265-9339 for the collection box closest to you.

Sorters Needed!

Help make this year's book sale a success. We need volunteers to help organize the sale at Tanglewood Mall. Join us in March, April, May and June as we collect and sort books in the name of fundraising and fun. If you can help, we need you! Please call either **Susie Fetter** at 982-1034 or **Janey Mountcastle** at 985-0634.

Incredible Reading Rally Inspires Young Readers

Thanks to **Dee Copenhaver**, board member and volunteer extraordinaire, students from Glen Cove, Crystal Spring and Wasena Elementary Schools will participate this year in the Incredible Reading Rally (IRR), an annual celebration of reading to increase public awareness of illiteracy in our community and to raise funds for Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley. Students solicit pledges from friends and relatives who sponsor them to participate in the rally which takes place during March and April. Each school designs its own Incredible Reading Rally with the help of volunteers and staff from LVRV. Activities range from inviting students to read for an hour after school, sometimes enjoying special guest readers, to encouraging students to read 1,000 pages during a four week period, keeping a log of the number of pages he or she reads or is read to each day. The event ends with an awards ceremony where each participant receives a certificate of appreciation and a free book thanks to **Scholastic Books**, and prizes are awarded to the participants who raise the most money. We'll report on results of the Rally in the May/June issue.

Board News

The LVRV Board of Directors recently met for its annual strategic planning session and reaffirmed our vision – to equip adults to reach their full potential through literacy. Strategically, as an organization, we will set the standard for delivering quality adult literacy services in the Roanoke Valley by a) fostering corporate relationships; b) enhancing board, tutor and staff development; and c) collaborating with partners who have a stake in adult literacy. Long-term goals established included – 1) to build and maintain corporate relationships which will support our vision; 2) to strengthen our network of volunteer tutors; 3) to increase the number of board members to 20; 4) to provide adequate resources to maintain a professional staff that will fulfill our long-term goals and vision; 5) to develop and support an annual strategic planning process; and 6) to maintain a budget that fully supports the programs that are necessary to meet the demands for services. Board committees are currently developing their annual plans for 2005-06.

We say “good-bye and thank you” to **Seth Polley** who recently left the board and wish him well with his new responsibilities at St. John's Episcopal.

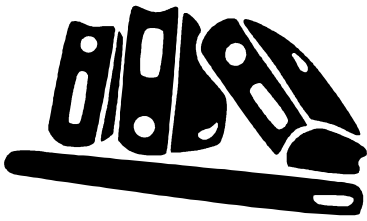




18th Annual Literacy Fair

The 18th Annual Literacy Fair of Virginia will be held on Thursday, May 19th from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Southside Virginia Community College in Keysville. The fair will again offer workshops for ESOL and Basic Literacy tutors and learners.

The registration form, which will come to all tutors in the mail, will be due around the first of May. Learners attend free, but they need to register to receive the lunch that is provided. Please call **Susie or Karin** at 265-9339 if you plan to attend. We will try to arrange a carpool for attendees from LVRV.



An Evening with Nikki Giovanni

Mark your calendars now for “An Evening with Nikki Giovanni” on August 26, 2005. 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*, and on August 26th, *The Roanoke Times*, the Roanoke City Public Libraries and Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley will join together to present “An Evening with Nikki Giovanni.” Details regarding venue and time will follow. Proceeds will benefit Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley. Ms. Giovanni’s 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.

March and April Tutor Anniversaries

Lee Bristor has been with Literacy Volunteers for 16 years. She joined the organization in March 1989. Thank you, Lee, for all your years of tutoring and fellowship. We give a high “paw” to you! (Lee has a passion for Greyhounds and is active in matching dogs with families.)

Judy Perdue joins Lee in the “beyond a decade of service” category. Judy joined Literacy Volunteers in April of 1993. Thank you, Judy, for your 12 years of service.

Stuart Wamsley is our math guru, and he has 6 years of service. **Angela Rauenswinter** celebrates 5 years of service on March 30th. Thank you both.

Celebrating 2 years of service with us are **Steve Sellers**, **Sharon Porter**, and **Noel Ramos**, and celebrating their first year of service are **Ed Bessell**, **Florence Hetz**, **Pat Kniffel** and **Susan Crim**. Thank you all.

As always, without our tutors’ generous support, we would not be able to continue to make the impact in the community that we do. Talk about your work with your learner to others, tell your friends what you do, and help us make the community more aware of the need to help others to read, write and speak English.

Welcome to our newest tutor graduates...

Sandy Gould, Joe St. Clair, Tracy Hall, Amy Hoffman, Sandy Dann, and Lou Marachiello.

Three of our new tutors are taking on small groups of two and three learners. This is slowly becoming the norm in the state and around the country. There is such a great need to provide services, and literacy organizations like LVRV are trying different methods of delivering these services. We’ve found that ESOL tutoring lends itself to this type of small group instruction, and now Basic Literacy tutors are beginning to embrace small group instruction as well. So, if you and your learner are comfortable with another student joining your pair, call Bill or Susie so that we can help you get this new match going. Peer groups have a track record of success. Let us know if you and your learner are interested in expanding the circle.

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

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From the Director, Annette Loschert

With the onset of spring, we again look forward to a wonderful array of contributions to *Writing from the Heart*. I look forward to working with you to put together this impressive collection of published works by our learners. It is a joy to share our learners' excitement as they see their work in print. Please fill out the enclosed form (for each of your learners) and return it/them to us with your two-month report to let us know whether or not you and your learner will be working on this project. I look forward to a record number of entries this year. Happy spring!

From the Program Manager, Susie Boxley

We are again moving into another season. I enjoy the changes each season brings and always look forward to more sunlight. Get out enjoy the day-to-day weather changes and breathe in the new air. While you are out, come visit us at the office.

Happy Spring time.....

From the Adult Education Programs Coordinator, Bill Van Velzer

The past few weeks have been a blur. Tutor training, intakes, computer lab orientations and database management call fill the average work day pretty quickly. Among these responsibilities, tutor training has received much of my attention. I continue to be impressed with the abilities and level of commitment of our trainees, and look forward to supporting them as they begin to work with their learners. With this in mind, I'd like to encourage our readers to pass along word of our upcoming March 10th tutor orientation. It is easy to overlook how much of our daily routine is the result of an unconscious processing of information. For more of us than we realize, this continues to be a daily challenge. Meeting this challenge holds lasting rewards for tutor and learner alike – and the first step is as easy as picking up the phone.