

W_oRDSW_orth

A Newsletter for Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley

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

Training Schedule

TUTOR TRAINING ORIENTATION

Thurs May 11th
6-7 p.m.

LVRV Learning Center

New Tutor Training Dates:

May 18th, 25th and
June 1st, 8th & 15th

Brown Bag Tutor Lunch
(Basic Literacy & ESOL)

*May Brown Bag - May 12th
(VAACE Conf. through May 5th)
June Brown Bag - June 2nd
11:45 am

Come in for new ideas and
program information. Focus:
May - Review of VAACE; June -
Reassessments

Bring a friend!

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



Content Highlights

First Annual Scrabble Tournament, p. 1
Writing from the Heart, p. 2
2006 Book Sale, p. 2
Incredible Reading Rally, p. 2
Tutor News, p. 3

Email Addresses

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

LVRV's First Annual Scrabble Tournament Raises \$11,800 to Support Literacy Efforts in the Roanoke Valley



Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley wishes to thank the more than 130 scrabble heads who convened at Roanoke's Jefferson Center on March 23rd for LVRV's First Annual Scrabble Tournament. Joe Kennedy from *The Roanoke Times* led forty-four teams of three in two brain-teasing rounds of competition for prizes ranging from \$50 Barnes & Noble gift certificates for the six players of the two winning teams (one of which scored more than 400 points!) to a round of golf for four at Westlake Country Club for the most outrageous word played. Members of the low-scoring teams from each round were presented with Official Scrabble dictionaries to make them competition-tough for next spring's Second Annual Scrabble Tournament.

Participants that evening came to have fun and compete! One team member called the office to ask which edition of the Scrabble dictionary we were using the night of the event! Players laughed, challenged each other's words, bought peeks in the dictionary for \$5 each, and purchased chances on a 14-karat-gold bracelet donated by **Fink's Jewelers**. Many participants promised they would return next year.

The event raised \$11,800 to further the work of Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who made the evening possible – Our Triple Letter Sponsors, *The Roanoke Times* and Verizon; Our Double Word Sponsors, Friendship Retirement Community and Wachovia; our Double Letter Sponsors BB&T, Breakell Inc., Dixon Hubard & Feinour Inc., Kandy Elliott, Virginia Jarrett, Lanford Brothers Co Inc., Chas. Lunsford Sons & Associates and SunTrust. Special thanks to Kandy Elliott, Fink's Jewelers, Hasbro, George Kegley, Joe Kennedy, Medical Facilities of America, Teresa Kelly, Merriam-Webster Inc., John W. Lambert, National Linen, National Scrabble Association, Monty Plymale, Sally Rugaber, Lucas Snipes, Lisa Soltis, Willard Companies, Molly Bell, and the Public Relations Society of America – Blue Ridge Chapter. Additional thanks to volunteers Julia Belvin, Luona Blankenship, Susie Boxley, Barb Carraher, Katherine Cazell, Dee Copenhaver, Paul Kelly, Larry Loschert, Vickie Rowe, Peggy Templeton, Bill Van Velzer, Candy Verwey, and Karin Warpula.

Dust off your dictionaries and get ready to join us next spring for LVRV's Second Annual Scrabble Tournament. Watch for details!

PLEASE NOTE: The date for our Annual Pot Luck/Awards Ceremony has been changed to Sunday, July 23rd, due to a scheduling conflict. (See enclosed flyer.) See details regarding *Writing from the Heart*, p. 2.

April/May 2006 Donations

Anonymous (2)
BB&T
Bank of America
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Beagle, Jr.
Mary Kistler Bickford
Nancy A. Bourne
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph K. Bowles
Dr. Charles B. Bray
Breakell Inc.
The Ceres Foundation, Inc.
Hon. Jack B. and Mrs. Coulter
Mr. and Mrs. Warren Crawford
Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Creasy
Dr. and Mrs. William J. Dichtel
Gene B. Edmunds
Morris A. Elam
Kandy Elliott
Mrs. H. C. Fitzpatrick
Luann M. Fitzpatrick
Horace G. Fralin Charitable Trust
W. Heywood Fralin
Ruth H. Frazier
GFWC Woman's Club of Vinton
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Giltz
Hecht's/Strawbridge's
Mr. and Mrs. David A. Henley
Virginia Jarrett
Bonnie Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Krasnow
Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Krippendorf
John W. Lambert
Lanford Brothers Co. Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Calvin L. Lilly
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Logan III
Chas. Lunsford Sons & Associates
Anne Macfarlane
Medical Facilities of America
Merriam-Webster Inc.
National Linen
National Scrabble Association
Sally Rugaber
Scholastic Books
Lucas Snipes
SunTrust
Verizon
The Wachovia Foundation
Dr. and Mrs. Peter A. Wallenborn
Michael E. Warner
Willard Companies
Woods Rogers PLC

...and the students at Monterey,
Glen Cove, Crystal Spring and
Wasena Elementary Schools.



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! If you haven't yet done so, 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. Because of the date change for the Annual Pot Luck/Awards Ceremony, **the deadline for submission has been extended to Friday, June 2nd**. 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.

Celebrate Literacy! The Literacy Fair of Virginia will be held on Thursday, May 18th from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at Southside Virginia Community College in Keysville. The fair offers workshops for ESOL and Basic Literacy tutors and learners. Call Susie at 265-9339 for details.

Got Books? Pass Them On!

It's not too late to make donations to the LVRV Book Sale sponsored by *The Roanoke Times* to be held June 3rd and 4th. Gently used paperback or hardcover books, book-on-tape or CD, DVDs, CDs, VHS videos, cassettes and good condition children's books are in demand. (Please no textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines, condensed books or paperback romances.) Call the LVRV office at 265-9339 to find out where you can drop off your donations.

To volunteer to join in the fun of sorting books at our new sale location in Towers Shopping Center, call Janey at 985-0634 or Nancy at 989-8005.

Local Elementary Students Raise \$4,500 to Support Literacy

Thanks to **Dee Copenhaver**, board member and volunteer extraordinaire, **students from Monterey, Glen Cove, Crystal Spring and Wasena Elementary Schools** raised more than \$4,500 during this year's 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. Special thanks to the following for making this annual event such a success: **Scholastic Books**, for providing a free book to each child participating; **Hallie Stanley, Elizabeth Thomason**, and **Pam Lucus** from Pet Therapy (and their dogs Panzer, Peaches and Ghost) who read to the children; readers **Jim McCorkindale** and **Gary Galbreth**, retired principals, **Juliet Bickford** from NBC News, and **Tom Landon**; the **Vipers** and their mascot, who donated passes and stickers at one of the events; **Frank's Pizza and Subs** and **Pizza Hut** for providing pizzas, **Imagination Station** and **Star City Skate Center** for providing gift certificates to the children who raised the most money at each of the events; and teachers **Betty Wetherington** (Monterey), **Verna Brumfield** (Crystal Spring), **Debbie Bauer** (Glen Cove) and **Jane Field** (Wasena) who organized the events at their schools.

Training Opportunities

Outreach, www.valrc.org/literacy_support_center/, is an online publication of the Virginia Literacy Research Center's support center. It is an excellent resource for upcoming statewide events for volunteers. The following training opportunities are available this summer: VAACE Conference in Virginia Beach, May 3-5th; Literacy Fair of Virginia, Keysville, May 18th, www.literacyfairofvirginia.org; and the 2nd AELPNV(ESL) Conference, August 3rd and 4th George Mason University.

Let Susie know if you need more information. If you're planning to attend, carpooling may be available.

Tutors **Al Brown, June Bridges, Barb Carraher, Jane Ambrose Cosby, Nancy Jaquay, Gail Johnson, Paul McLaughlin, Emily Moore, Karen Recknor, Nancy Steinweg**, and **Virginia Nathan** participated in the Learning Disabilities..*What Do I Do?*..workshop on March 3rd at Blue Ridge Public Television Conference Center. Thank you all for being there. We made a strong statement to the area literacy councils that we want to be the best tutors we can be!

Thank you to **Al Brown** who donated two books to the tutor library – *the talking ape*...how language evolved, by Robbins Burling and *Challenger 6* from the Challenger Adult reading series. (Al is one of the first members of the 100 Hour Club. Way to go, Al!)

Tips for LD Readers

While reading a passage, allow the learner to use a finger to track the sentence. A plain book mark, a piece of paper, or a translucent, color-tinted plastic overlay may also help with eye distractions and muscular coordination.

Watch your learner's eyes as they move across the page. Is the movement choppy and shifty or is it smooth and orderly? If choppy and shifty, suggest eye sweeping exercises. Three "sweeps" of movement – left, middle, and right – "chunking" the words into a "wide angle" approach to brain input. By underlining the group of words to read as a "chunk", the learner can practice the eye movement and the intake of several words at a time. Allow the learner to use his or her book mark or lay the pencil flat, to again track the movement in three sweeps while reading. Practice, practice, practice the eye movements before worrying about the actual comprehension of content. This strategy will increase the speed of reading, and mature the ability to comprehend the text at a faster rate.

Be aware of what you casually say to your learner and how it may make them feel!

Has anyone ever said to you, "Come on, I know you can do it!" You hesitantly attempt and then fail, saying to yourself, "No, I cannot, can't you see!" or "I told you I cannot and you did not listen" or "I must be really stupid for not being able to do this."

As we encourage our learners to progress, we need to make sure we are not discouraging them with well-intentioned praise and encouragement that makes **us** feel good. We serve as tutor, leader and facilitator, and we need to know what the learner cannot do. That makes the learner feel secure. Knowing you have an understanding of what the learner needs to work on builds his or her confidence in you. Otherwise, the learner may say to himself, "this person has no idea about my learning challenges."

May I encourage you to pre-assess your learner to find out what he or she does not know. Plan the lesson, acknowledge the difficulty of the task, be careful of shallow cheerleading, use guided practice often, and use independent practice sparingly. Keep the independent practice to a few selections to build confidence – then repeat the process often.



Congratulations to the following tutors who are celebrating anniversaries with LVRV during the months of May and June: 6 Years – **Al Brown**; 4 Years – **Greg Ewing**; 3 Years – **Sharon Porter**. First Year Anniversaries – **Nancy Ocorr** and **Nia Indelicato**. Thank you for serving the learner, the individual, the organization and the community-at-large.



We welcome seven new tutors - six who graduated in April – **Brenda Elliot, Dorothy Hall, Donna Mitchell, Elberier Mohammed, Joan Ward** and **Brent Weigel**, and one who graduated in February – **Nancy Holdren**. Welcome to all!

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

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ROANOKE, VA
PERMIT NO. 283

From the Director, Annette Loschert

Our volunteers are the greatest! From our tutors to our board members to all of you who make our events like the First Annual Scrabble Tournament such a success – THANK YOU! It is through your efforts that we are able to fulfill our mission to teach literacy skills to adults and raise literacy awareness throughout the Roanoke Valley. Each of you makes a profound difference in the lives of those we serve!

From the Program Manager, Susie Boxley and the Adult Education Programs Coordinator, Bill Van Velzer

There are several wonderful opportunities to receive further tutor training if you are interested. Past tutors who were trained over three years ago may think about returning to LVRV's training for a refresher course to learn about some of the current methodologies and best practices in the industry today. Also, there are workshops in Virginia Beach, Keysville, and Northern Virginia if you have the time. You may also wish to update your tutor skills by going online and take courses through the Virginia Adult Literacy Resource Center and Verizon Literacy Campus, or attend Brown Bag Lunches and network.

Thanks for a good year of steady effort, and we will be calling about reassessments soon.

2005-2006 Corporate/Foundation Supporters

Advance Auto Parts • Appalachian Power • BB&T • Bank of America • Barnes & Noble • Breakell Inc. •
Ceres Foundation, Inc. • CONWED Global Netting Solutions • Dixon, Hubard & Feinour, Inc. • Dollar General • Fink's Jewelers •
First Friday at Five, Inc. • Friendship Retirement Community • Hecht's/Strawbridge's • Lanford Brothers Co., Inc. • The May Department Stores Co. •
Medical Facilities of America • Merriam-Webster Inc. • National Linen • National Scrabble Association • New River Electrical Corp. •
Newman's Own Foundation • Ram's Head Book Shop • Roanoke Academy of Medicine Alliance • *The Roanoke Times* • Scholastic Books • SunTrust
• UPS Foundation • Verizon Foundation • Virginia Literacy Foundation • The Wachovia Foundation • Wal-Mart Foundation • Willard Companies •
Wish You Well Foundation • Woods Rogers PLC