

# W<sub>o</sub>RDSW<sub>o</sub>rth

A Newsletter for Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley

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

## Training Schedule

TUTOR TRAINING BEGAN ON  
October 20<sup>th</sup>, AT 6:00 p.m.

LVRV Learning Center

Training Dates:

Oct 20, 27, Nov 3, 10 & 17  
6-9 p.m.

Basic Literacy and ESOL Brown  
Bag Tutor Lunch  
First Friday of the month  
Nov 4<sup>th</sup> and Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>  
11:45 am

Come in for new ideas and  
program information. Focus:

Bring a friend!

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

Content Highlights

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- New Approaches to Reading  
- Content Standards  
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## Email Addresses

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## Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley Gains National and State Exposure

In late September, **Annette Loschert**, representing Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley, participated in the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration and Center for Faith Based and Community Initiatives conference in Baltimore – *Building on Our Strengths, Strengthening Our Workforce: 2005 DOL ETA Grantee Orientation*. She and colleagues from Connecticut discussed the importance of building partnerships within the community to achieve program goals.

In October, Annette represented Virginia literacy organizations, when she was interviewed for a segment of a short film which debuted at “A Celebration of Words,” in Richmond, Virginia on November 1st. The event recognized the Virginia Literacy Foundation’s 20 years of service and honored its founder/chairperson, Jeannie P. Baliles. **Annette Loschert** and board member **Dee Copenhaver** attended the event which honored literacy tutors and learners from across the state and featured former First Lady of the United States, **Barbara Bush**; five time Grammy Award winner, **Al Jarreau**; and award-winning authors **David Baldacci**, **Rita Mae Brown**, **John Grisham**, and **Lee Smith**.

The Virginia Literacy Foundation, in collaboration with The Virginia Literacy Institute, the Virginia Department of Education, Virginia Commonwealth University, the Adult Literacy Resource Center, and the Literacy Support Center has provided an excellent service to adult education providers in the state. Through this partnership, LVRV has taken advantage of excellent professional development programs ranging from strategic planning and fundraising to best practice workshops in tutor training and volunteer management, as well as programs centering on the most up-to-date instructional methods for both our Basic Literacy and ESOL learners. ...not to mention the financial support we receive from both the Foundation and the Virginia Department of Education.

*Happy Birthday, Virginia Literacy Foundation!*



Learners, tutors, supporters, family and friends  
are invited to a

**Winter Holiday Open House**

**Noon ‘til Three**

**Wednesday, December, 21<sup>st</sup>**

Come join us for food and fellowship

Thank you  
for your  
donations



Anonymous  
Mr. and Mrs. William K.  
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Public Relations Society of  
America - Blue Ridge Chapter  
Ram's Head Book Shop  
*The Roanoke Times*  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. Smith  
Gray Turner  
VA Department of Education



### First Fridays

Thanks to **Mike Baker**,  
**Susie Boxley**, **Barb**  
**Carraher**, **Doug Clarey**, and  
**Rusty Schundler** for  
representing LVRV at First  
Fridays on October 14<sup>th</sup>!  
Also, thanks to **Jane**  
**Ambrose-Cosby** who we  
failed to mention as part of  
the group representing us at  
First Fridays on August 5<sup>th</sup>.



...to tutor **Stuart Wamsley**  
and his learner who earned  
his GED in early June.  
Stuart's learner is now  
seeking admission to Virginia  
Western for the spring  
semester.

## PROGRAM PERKS with Susie and Bill

Welcome new tutors -- **Becky Mcleod, Norm Holth, Tonia Ellis, Nancy Jaquay, Virginia Nathan, Arnie Kropf, Lloyd Long, Jon Butler, Sandra Harris, Gloria Dow.**



### New Approaches to Reading

All those syllables...

What is a syllable actually, you ask?

A syllable is letter(s), with at least one vowel, that takes only 1 push of air to voice it.

There are 6 syllable types.

The 1<sup>st</sup> is the **Closed Syllable**. The **Closed Syllable** is a syllable with only 1 vowel that is followed by a consonant(s). This **vc** (vowel consonant) configuration sets up the vowel for the short vowel sound. The *keywords* for the short vowel sounds are:

A apple /a/

E Ed /e/

I itch /i/

O octopus /o/

U up /u/

These are the Wilson Reading System *keywords*. We use these *keywords* because the vowel sound is easily pulled away from the word. When teaching the vowel sounds, remember to use the *Name of the letter*, the *keyword*, and then the *sound*. This pattern leaves the *sound* as the last *sound* heard and not the ending of the *keyword*.

As soon as your learner understands the rules of pronunciation of **closed** single syllable words, use 2 syllable **closed** syllable words and have them read and pronounce multisyllabic words .ie: mag net magnet;...sub mit submit;...up set upset.

Rule for division of syllables: where 2 consonants come together, that are not a *blend* or a *digraph*, the syllable divides between the two consonants.

Look for more in upcoming editions of *WordsWorth*.

### Content Standards

Content Standards for Adult Education are coming down the pike. The Virginia Department of Education drafted the new standards this past summer and will unveil them this fall. Literacy Volunteers understands and embraces the need for greater accountability in education, and we are positioning ourselves to understand what the implications will be for the future of our program. Annette, Bill and I will remain abreast of these changes, and will keep everyone informed as modifications to our program occur.

The essential point of content standards is that the state of Virginia wants to ensure that all four components of the English language (reading, writing, listening and speaking) are incorporated into each 2-hour tutoring session. Our tutor training has emphasized this approach since 2003. For tutors who completed training prior to this time, we'll be offering additional skill-building workshops over the course of the next several months.

In the meantime, I've outlined a "Best Practices" lesson format below. Notice that each 2-hour lesson (or "macro-cycle") contains a series of "micro-cycles" (or separate activities). Each of the micro-cycles supports a learning objective, and is integrated into the lesson as a whole.

## PROGRAM PERKS with Susie and Bill

Content Standards, continued from page 2...

For example : 2-hour macro-cycle of the lesson

10 minutes – greeting

10 minutes – homework and review  
*break*

20 minutes – pre-teaching vocabulary for the day's lessons:  
    listening/speaking  
    reading/writing  
*break*

20 minutes – communication/lifeskills/roleplay using the day's vocab and topic:  
    pronunciation/speaking  
    listening/understanding  
*break*

20 minutes – reading comprehension - readings using the day's vocabulary and topic:  
    reading/writing  
*break*

20 minutes – Grammar skills using the day's vocab and topics:  
    reading/writing  
    listening/speaking

### Closing Activity

This is a somewhat over-simplified example of the lesson cycle. Still, it highlights the need to break up the 2-hour tutoring session with activities that stress different language skills. Also, tutors should attempt to integrate these components into the lesson so that they are “seamless.” These are the keys to any effective lesson plan.

We encourage tutors to attend our monthly tutor lunches and upcoming workshops as a way to update their skills. Observing a fellow tutor is another good way to access and contribute to the creativity of our talented tutor pool. It is available to you should you decide to dive in.

Call Bill or Susie if you would like help scheduling observations.

## EL/Civics Ready to Go

The *Ready to Go* series has been chosen as the EL/Civics curriculum for our program. This curriculum is a statewide favorite and is approved by the Virginia Department of Education for meeting the Program and Content standard guidelines that are soon to be finalized by the state. Through the generosity of **Verizon**, more of the *Ready to Go* series is available in our library for the tutors. Moreover, tutors, who are being matched with recent EL/Civics graduates, are choosing to continue with the *Ready to Go* series. The series spirals its learning methodologies, content, and topics from Beginning Basic to High Intermediate assessment levels. This is proving to be a strong, consistent, and efficient learning continuum for both learners and the tutors.



Tutors...Don't forget our **Brown Bag Lunches**..Nov 4<sup>th</sup> and Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>. December is the “bad santa” brown bag lunch, so please bring a gift of less than \$10 to participate in the festivities.

Highlights of this October's Brown Bag lunch included the Wilson Reading System's short vowel *keywords* and closed syllable word construction, state mandated adult content standards and how they will affect our tutoring and program design. (See previous articles.) We reviewed the 4 components of the English language –Reading ,Writing, Speaking, and Listening, and how to incorporate them into the student-centered lesson plans. In attendance were **Nancy Steinweg, Gail Johnson, and Barbara Carraher, Susie and Bill**. Come join us, we have lots to talk about.



Happy Holidays!

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

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### **From the Director, Annette Loschert**

As Thanksgiving approaches, I want to take the opportunity to thank all of you who work so hard in so many ways to further the work of Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley. To our **tutors** who selflessly work throughout the year with their learners; to our dedicated **staff members** who provide excellent training and support for our tutors and learners; to the outstanding **members of our Board of Directors** who are responsible for our organization's direction and fundraising; and to **all volunteers** who raise literacy awareness in our community by participating in LVRV's many yearly events – thank you!! You truly make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Happy Thanksgiving!

### **From the Program Manager, Susie Boxley**

I strive to have 100% participation with our 2-month reporting. It is critical to program success to be able to plan for program improvement and direction. So please – mail, email or call in your hours along with learners' goals and progress. It is more essential than ever to keep abreast of our learners' hours, interests, direction and progress.

Happy holidays!

### **From the Adult Education Programs Coordinator, Bill Van Velzer**

Since our last newsletter, we have hired three part-time EL/Civics instructors to meet the growing demands for our ESOL instruction. **Terryee Haley**, **Becky McLeod** and **Chris Jones** each bring public school classroom experience to our program, along with their abilities to adjust instruction to meet the needs of individual learners in a classroom setting. Terryee, Becky and Chris will be responsible for teaching our eight-week classes prior to their learners' match with a tutor. Welcome to EL/Civics!

