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A Newsletter for Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley

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

Training Schedule

**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
Sept 9th (due to Labor Day Wkend)
and Oct 7th
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.

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Celebrated annually on September 8, since 1966, International Literacy Day calls attention to the global effort to promote literacy, and education, as a central United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) mission. This year, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan advocated for increased efforts to close the education gap, which he calls "a fundamental inequality in our globalizing world." The UN launched the **United Nations Literacy Decade** in January 2003 - an initiative agreed by all countries to energize work towards reaching the goal of increasing literacy levels by 50 per cent by the year 2015. "Let us rededicate ourselves to playing our full part in that mission," he says.

Following are excerpts from the declaration by UNESCO Director-General, Federico Mayor on International Literacy Day, 1996:

"Today, nearly seven years after the launching of the International Literacy Year in 1990 and the convening of the World Conference on Education for All in Jomtien, Thailand, during the same year, I am pleased to report that significant progress has been made in creating a literate world. Indeed, the number of literates has increased by over 400 million since 1990. This is both a continuation and acceleration of the progress that has been achieved over the past 50 years with the inspiration and, very often, under the leadership of UNESCO. In 1950, when UNESCO first sought to gather statistics on adult illiteracy, it was estimated that roughly three adults in five were literate. By the year 2000, we project that four out of every five adults will be able to read and write. This is progress of historic significance that has been achieved even as the world's population has more than doubled.

"This is an intolerable situation. Illiteracy is not a fact of life, but a consequence of inaction on the part of governments and societies. Its consequences are pervasive and powerful. If we wish to combat poverty, injustice and the violence that so often results from them, we must begin by mobilizing minds through education and literacy. The facts are crystal clear. Those societies that, over the past decades, have invested most heavily in the education of their citizens have been the ones that have advanced most rapidly and where the conditions of life have been fundamentally transformed. A literate world is not only one where people can read and write, it is a world in which the human potential has been liberated and placed in the service of progress. There is, in short, no secret about what is required to build a better world for tomorrow. It is increasingly evident that we must begin by investing substantially in improving education today: investing not only our financial resources but our imagination and hope as well. Investing not only in the education of children, but also in the education of parents, especially mothers, who are their children's first teachers and who, throughout childhood and adolescence, continue to play the central role in sustaining the child's motivation for learning. "International Literacy Day must be a celebration of the vast potential of education and literacy, a potential that, when fully exploited, can literally re-make the world.

National Institute for Literacy

**Thank you
for your
donations**

Anonymous (7)
Ann Bailey
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Wendy Blake
Alvin Board
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Jasper Brundage
Patricia Collins
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Richard and Carolyn Sue Terrell
Harold Turner
Verizon Foundation
Virginia Literacy Foundation
Wal-Mart Foundation
Connie Welch
Tara Wiedeman
Dudley Woody



**September and October
Tutor Anniversaries**

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

Susie Fetter, 15 years; **Emily Moore**, 13 years; **Natalie McMahon**, **Barbara Carraher**, and **Lewis Crossgrove**, 9 years; **Fred Taylor**, 7 years; **John Divers** and **Carol Sheahan**, 5 years; **Dick Hawkins**, **Lorrie Huffman**, **Ann Richardson**, **Betty Jo Hayes**, **Nancy Steinweg**, and **Drema Sylvester**, 4 years; **Kay Westermann**, **Joe Caselles**, **Ragena Jordan**, **Linda Kruse**, **Maggie Nevers**, **Ginny Craig**, and **Robert Wright**, 3 years; **Edna Whittier**, **Emily Watkins**, **Margaret Walters**, and **Barbara Norton**, 2 years; and **Claire Morra**, **William Mangus, Jr.**, **Elaine Scott**, **Frances Young**, **Carol Tate**, and **Maria Lindell**, one year.



**LVRV Awarded ProLiteracy Accreditation
Through 2009**

Following a year of self-study, LVRV has been awarded accredited status by ProLiteracy America, the US Programs Division of ProLiteracy Worldwide. The accreditation process is designed to recognize literacy organizations that are distinguished by superior professional leadership, effective programs, committed governing boards, and outstanding volunteer support.

Peter Wait, Executive Director of ProLiteracy America, says "We are proud to add Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley to our growing list of accredited organizations. They have demonstrated that their program meets the highest national standards for volunteer literacy programs and that their services to the community are effective. We applaud the many volunteers, staff, and students who have devoted their time and effort to achieve this goal."



2004-05 Program Results

Enclosed you will find our annual program statistics. 372 learners received LVRV services this past year and accumulated a total of 8,389 instructional hours. These totals include EL/Civics classes and computer-based instruction, but our volunteer tutors delivered over 5,100 of those hours. And, educational gains (learners completing an educational functioning level as measured by the State Department of Education) increased this year from 33% to 42.48%. In five of the 12 categories (one in basic literacy and four in ESOL), State targets were exceeded. Congratulations! You did it!

Our volunteers are the greatest! Whether you tutor, serve on the Board of Directors, work in the office, or help with special events, your contribution of time and talent to this organization is greatly appreciated. You make the difference in the lives of our learners!

EL/Civics Expands into the Workplace

Who would have known three years ago that Literacy Volunteers' English Language/ Civics project would have such a far-reaching impact on its ESOL program? EL/Civics began as a Department of Education pilot project with the goal of providing learners with a single, eight-week English class while they await their match with a tutor. From this modest expectation, the program has now grown to three classes, while generating lesson plans and learning materials for the benefit of LVRV tutors. In addition, the experience gained from developing EL/Civics curricula has placed LVRV in a position to begin offering its English language services to local employers through a budding workplace literacy program.

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EL/Civics Expands into the Workplace, cont.

The most important key to the success of EL/Civics has been the stipulation that it integrate life skills and computer skills into its English language instruction. This approach was immediately popular with LVRV's ESOL learners, who soon filled every class to capacity. From health-related topics to lessons devoted to banking, housing, on-line billing and e-mailing, recreation and employment, the practical nature of the curricula gave learners skills they could use the next day.

The EL/Civics program's experience with work-related issues promises future opportunities with local businesses to bring English language instruction directly to the workplace. This has come at a time when the demand for on-the-job English language instruction is undoubtedly higher than ever as more immigrants continue to enter the local labor force. Not coincidentally, LVRV has recently concluded an initial workplace literacy pilot project and is currently collaborating with a second employer in the valley. The challenge is similar to that posed by the EL/Civics grant three years ago: to develop literacy programs that meet the specific needs of a constituent population. If the past is any indication, the LVRV's future in workplace literacy looks very bright indeed.



A First Fridays Thank You

Thanks to all who represented LVRV at First Fridays on August 5th – **Barb Carraher, Nancy Chapin, Tommy Denton, George Kegley, Angela Ravenswinter, Joe and Doris St. Clair, Nancy Steinweg, Joan Tinley**, prospective tutors **Donna Mitchell** and **Rise Foster**, and Blue Ridge Bicycle Club friends and supporters...**Danny Foster** (club president), **Paul and Robin Giordano, Michelle Hartman, David and Evelyn Kelly, and Joe St. Clair** (also a tutor). Your presence helped spread the word about our work in the community and helped to raise funds for our cause. Thank you.

“An Evening with Nikki Giovanni”

More than 150 people gathered at the Jefferson Center on Friday evening, August 26th to enjoy “An Evening with Nikki Giovanni.” The second in a series of evenings with authors sponsored by *The Roanoke Times* to benefit LVRV, the event featured Blacksburg poet Nikki Giovanni doing what she does best – speaking her mind. Controversial? Yes – but an honest voice on the state of the human condition.

The evening was a great opportunity to promote literacy and to celebrate the many volunteer tutors who make a difference in the lives of our learners. The event raised \$1,700 to benefit LVRV.

Special thanks to all those who made the event a success: **Beth Macy** and *The Roanoke Times*, **The Jefferson Center, Mary's Party Works, Rams' Head Book Shop, National Linen, WVTF Public Radio** and auction contributors **Susie Boxley, Fink's Jewelers**, and **Larry Loschert**. Thanks also to volunteers **Barb Carraher, Dee Copenhaver, Janey Mountcastle, and Candice Verwey**.



PROGRAM PERKS with Susie and Bill

The Wilson Reading System is the rage in adult education. Bill and Susie have been trained in the application of this program. We see the benefits of this system for you as tools to use when dealing with phonics and word construction, fluency in reading, increasing comprehension, and pronunciation through syllabic instruction.

Call or attend the Brown Bag lunches this fall. We will be addressing how you can use and integrate the Wilson Reading System while working with your learners.

Start the fall off right! Send in your two-month reports with all your goals checked off.

Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley
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Roanoke, VA 24012

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From the Director, Annette Loschert

Congratulations to all of our tutors who made this year such a rewarding one. Your 6,644 volunteer hours have made a difference in the lives of the individuals you serve. Good work!! And to Susie and Bill who provide excellent training and support for both tutors and learners and to Karin who keeps us all organized – thank you for your dedication and commitment to LVRV and the people we serve. It is my great pleasure to be part of this incredible team!

From the Program Manager, Susie Boxley

Fall is around the corner. Make a goal, set your objectives, and progress toward that goal. How does this feel? Exciting? Imagine the feeling your learner will have as he/she works with you on developing a plan. His or her own plan! Keep a portfolio so you can monitor progress toward the goal. Refer to the goal often, examine the timeline, and check off what has been met. It is the only way to make steady progress....

From the Adult Education Programs Coordinator, Bill Van Velzer

Greetings from the fishbowl. It's nice to be back. On Susie's recommendation, I spent two days at the Wilson Learning Program training workshop. It was well worth the time spent. Among the program's obvious advantages, I think what I appreciated most was the program's multi-sensory methodology. Susie has already begun incorporating the Wilson approach in our tutor training, and I'm sure there will be future opportunities to provide it to all of our tutors. Yet for now, I think it's worth keeping on the front burner the importance of keeping things lively by incorporating a variety of activities in our tutoring sessions. Like the old adage says, "there's more than one way to skin a cat."