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A Newsletter for Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley

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

Training Schedule

New Volunteer Orientation

Wednesday, March 17th
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.

ESOL Tutor Training

Mondays, February 23, March 1, 8,
15, and 22
6-9 pm

Basic Literacy Tutor Training

Schedule to be announced.

The current Basic Literacy Training ends on March 10th. We will schedule the next training prior to the March 17th orientation. Call Jack at 265-9339 for more information.

Basic Literacy Training Follow-up

Wednesday April 7th
6-8 pm

For tutors who finish training on March 10th.

ESOL Brown Bag Luncheon

Friday, March 5th
11:45 am

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

Email Addresses

Annette Loschert: annette@lvarv.org
Susie Boxley: susie@lvarv.org
Bill Van Velzer: bill@lvarv.org
Jack Spraker: jack@lvarv.org

The Learning Center
will be closed on
Friday, April 9th and
Monday April 12th for the
spring holidays.

Public Relations Society of America Chooses Literacy Volunteers for Community Service Project

Thanks to the efforts of **Todd Burns**, Corporate Communication Manager of American Electric Power and Vice President of the LVRV Board of Directors, the local chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) has agreed to take Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley under its wing as its public service project for 2004. An impressive group of public relations specialists are contributing to this effort to create a clear identity for LVRV and to help us clearly communicate the services of our organization to the community. In addition to Todd Burns, volunteers working on this project include **Shelly Alley, Michelle Brauns, JoBeth Brown, Donna Wilson, Christina Motley, Elaine Simpson, Jennifer Wright, and Teresa Hamilton-Hall**. They will be working with Board members **Tommy Denton, George Kegley, Susie Fetter, and Kandy Elliott**. We'll keep you posted as their work unfolds.

Literacy Volunteers Showcased on Cox Cable Channel 9's "Round Roanoke"

Round Roanoke is an events program showcasing local organizations in the Roanoke Valley. Each month three different organizations are selected to appear on the show and promote specific projects and events. Executive Director, **Annette Loschert** and ESOL Tutor, **Nancy Steinweg** will appear on the show through March 13th. Air times are as follows: Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun – 1:00 pm, and Mon, Wed, Fri – 7:30 pm.

Writing from the Heart Deadline Extended

The ninth volume of our learner publication – *Writing from the Heart* – will debut at the awards ceremony on June 27th. Since this year's ceremony is later than previous years, we're able to extend the deadline for submission to May 7th. We sent a flyer calling for submissions and a copy of the permission form to all tutors in mid-February. Although the deadline has been extended, the time to begin work toward publication is now, and of course, we appreciate early submissions.

Last year's edition of *Writing from the Heart* was one of the best ever, and we hope to make this year's even better. Please invite your learners to compose and contribute writing ? poetry, stories, essays, letters, etc.? for this ninth volume. Both 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 related to the impact of improving language skills on learners' and their families' lives generate very powerful pieces. If you would like more information or to get a copy of last year's book, call 265-9339.

Thank you for your donations

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Changes in Events – Awards & ESOL Potluck

Traditionally, Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley has held its annual tutor-learner awards ceremony at a cookout in June. The annual ESOL Potluck Supper has been held in late winter or early spring. This year we'll see a marriage of the two events as our annual celebration for both programs moves indoors. We will hold the annual awards ceremony on Sunday, June 27th 3-5 pm at the Second Presbyterian Church in downtown Roanoke. This celebration will include a potluck feast from the entire program, celebrating the blend of cultures that makes Roanoke such a great place to live. Literacy Volunteers board, staff, tutors, and learners will share local, regional, and international dishes as we gather together to honor all the learners and tutors that make this program a success. Mark your calendars now. We'll provide more information as the date nears.

Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley Extends Partnership with Rescue Mission

This February, Literacy Volunteers began a ten-week reading and writing course for participants in the Rescue Mission's residential recovery program. For the past two years, we have partnered with the mission's education center, training their volunteers to work with residents one-to-one on basic literacy skills. However, the mission, like Literacy Volunteers as a whole, struggles to find enough volunteers to meet the needs of their residents. Although adult basic literacy learners seem to benefit most from one-to-one individualized, learner-centered instruction, this ideal is too often impossible to make a reality. Therefore, to extend our partnership with the mission and to meet the immediate needs of their residents, we offered to develop a reading and writing course for their learners at the intermediate level. This current course is part of that development.

This initial offering targets learners in the National Reporting System's Low Intermediate level, which is a 4th to 6th grade-level equivalent. The eight participants have made a commitment to two hours of classroom instruction each week as well as intensive homework assignments. These learners, who are working hard to pull themselves out of the quagmire of addiction, all see education as a vehicle to take their lives into a new direction. The combination of low literacy skills and substance abuse is a dangerous one. According to the Center on Crime, Community, and Culture, seventy percent of prison inmates lack high school credentials, nineteen percent are completely illiterate, and forty percent are functionally illiterate. According to the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, eighty percent of the people in prison committed crimes as a result of substance abuse. The participants in this course realize the dual danger of lack of literacy skills and substance abuse. We are proud to serve these men as they tackle two monumental problems that affect too many people in our community. For more information, contact Jack at 265-9339.

Writing Workshop has Small but Hearty Turnout

Hollins University Professor and Poet, **Eric Trethewey** conducted a writing workshop for tutors on February 2nd. After a postponement due to weather from its original date in January, the workshop brought in four hearty tutors who braved the rumors of an ice event to participate. Those in attendance left with their creative juices flowing and a revitalized sense of writing as an educational tool and means of expression for learners. The tutors in attendance were **Lorrie Huffman, Elly McConnell, Judy Perdue, and Peggy Wade**. Thanks to these four ladies and Dr. Trethewey for a great workshop.



Got Books? Pass them On!

We are gearing up for our annual book sale to be held at Tanglewood Mall on June 5th and 6th 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.

We are also in need of people who will help sort books prior to the sale. If you are willing to help, please contact us at 265-9339. We will connect you with our Book Sale folks.

Welcome Aboard New Tutors!!

January and February saw several ESOL and Basic Literacy Tutor Training workshops completed. We like to thank and congratulate all these new volunteers as well as two seasoned volunteers who retrained in the Basic Literacy Program. The new ESOL tutors are **Sabra Breslin, Sandy Childers, Richard Greenberg, David Miller, Paula Ortegon, Stephanie Preston and Michael & Athanasia Worley**. The new Basic Literacy Tutors are **Greg Ewing, Gail Johnson, Kathy Saunders and Susan Woldanski**.

17th Annual Literacy Fair

The Literacy Fair of Virginia will be held on Thursday, May 20nd from 8 am until 3:30 pm at Southside Virginia Community College in Keysville. The fair offers workshops for ESOL and Basic Literacy tutors and learners. This year's keynote speaker is **Judy Cheatham**, the co-author of our training manual, *Tutor*.

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

Free Books to Local Organizations

Are you involved in a community organization that could use some free books for their clients? If so, contact **Janey Mountcastle** at 985-0634.

An Evening with Lee Smith – A Preview

The Roanoke Times Book Club and Roanoke City Public Library have joined forces to sponsor *An Evening with Lee Smith* at Loch Haven Lake on Friday, July 16th. Literacy Volunteers will help coordinate the event and will also be its beneficiary. Ms. Smith will read from her latest novel, *The Last Girls*. The evening will also include a BBQ dinner and old-time music.

In a biographical article about Virginia native and renowned novelist, Lee Smith, Jeanne McDonald says: “[She] has never met a stranger. Five minutes after you meet her, you are exchanging intimate secrets and discussing weighty things-metaphysical issues, humanity, the really important stuff.” We at Literacy Volunteers look forward to meeting Ms. Smith. Thus we're starting the buzz on this event early. Look for more information as we move into the spring and summer months. Visit her Web site www.leesmith.com to find a wealth of information about the author.

ESOL Miscellany by Susie Boxley

ESOL Teachers Listserv: There is now an ongoing, issue driven, email listserv for ESOL teachers across Virginia. Log onto www.aelweb.vcu.edu and scroll down to the bottom to find the ESOL subscriber form. Stay in touch with others in our field of interest. Learn about the issues affecting the teachers, and get tips on how to teach. It's a great resource. I highly recommend signing up. Along this vein, do not forget about the Literacy Volunteers Web site. **Bill Van Velzer** has finished putting up his last two blocks of curriculum on the EL/Civics page. There are eight, eight-week, two-hour lesson plans all laid out for the teaching. Part of Bill's granted position at Literacy Volunteers involves the development of life skills curriculum for the tutors we train. Log on and enjoy the wheel already invented.

Tutor Luncheon: It has got to be spring soon! My tutor luncheons were going so well, and then the snows came. Well, let's hope March 5th brings sunshine and lots to talk about. See you then!

New Hardcover Books

New hardcover books are still available at the LVRV Learning Center at 5002 Williamson Road (Bank of America Building). Donations to Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley are welcome. Drop by the learning center to take a browse.

Literacy Volunteers of Roanoke Valley
5002 Williamson Rd., 2A
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From the Director, Annette Loschert

Despite the winter snows, the LVRV learning center continues to hum. As I write, one of our ESOL tutors conducts a class for four students in our conference room, a Basic Literacy tutor works with a learner in our learning lab, while two other learners work independently at computers. I want to thank all of our tutors for your hard work, for it is your dedicated commitment to your learners that creates the excitement in our center from day to day. Congratulations for a job well done!

From the ESOL Program Coordinator, Susie Boxley

February has leaped, and March is rolling in. While on a walk with my son, I saw daffodil shoots emerging. Spring is beginning to sprung, and so is our program. The ESOL program is leaping and springing, small groups are popping up everywhere, new tutors are jumping in with both feet, present tutors are checking in and reporting rising abilities. The temperature is on the way up, and so are we. You all are the tops. You feed me so much energy. I look forward each day to my contacts with you. If you ever doubt what difference you are making, call me. If you need to be reminded of where you and your learner began, just call me. You all make this program great. Breathe in the earth warming up, tell your friends what you are doing, and tutor on.

From the Basic Literacy Program Coordinator, Jack Spraker

One of the things that has been driven home to me as I work on the reading and writing course at the Rescue Mission is the importance of focus. Adult learners in general have a lot on their plates – spouses, kids, jobs, bills, etc. If you think how much you have to deal with just to kept your life in order, then you can empathize with adults who need to make time to improve their literacy skills generally and those specifically who want to improve their skills as they battle an enslaving addiction. The key to learners' success again is focus. We must keep their eyes focused on the prize – the GED, the better job, etc. – but also maintain the daily focus to set and meet the short-term goals to get them there. When I read your two-month reports and see you doing just that, I know in time all the great things our learners want can be achieved.

Tutor Anniversaries in March-April 2004 – Congratulations & Thanks to All!

One-year anniversaries – Basic Literacy: Jackie Mullins & Steve Sellers. **ESOL:** Woody Greene, Sharon Porter, & Shirley Stanton. **Two-year anniversary –ESOL:** Lara Allen. **Three-year anniversary - ESOL:** Vicki Lazarchik. **Four-year anniversary –Basic Literacy:** Angela Rauenswinter. **Five-year anniversaries – Basic Literacy:** Ron Swenson & Stuart Wamsley. **Eleven-year anniversary - ESOL:** Judy Perdue. **Fifteen-year anniversary - ESOL:** Lee Bristor.