



Photo: Left to right: Brenda Alui, Literacy Director of Tutor and Student Services; Norbert Lis, Student; Olga Scileppi, Tutor; and Karen Johnson, Executive Director.

Glen Cove Resident Honored By Literacy Nassau

Norbert Lis honored with ESOL Student of the Year award

(Long Island, N.Y.) Glen Cove resident Norbert Lis was honored with the coveted ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Student of the Year award at Freeport-based Literacy Nassau's Recognition Night, held on May 27, 2010.

The Student of the Year award recognizes its recipient for his/her diligence and perseverance in learning how to read, write, and speak English.

“The commitment is tremendous,” said Executive Director Karen Johnson. “Norbert came to America in 1992 to provide a better life for his family. He selflessly ensured that all of his children received college degrees from Ivy-league institutions, while he himself was unable to read the newspaper. He came to Literacy Nassau in 2008 seeking help with English and has made incredible progress since.”

Lis is not alone – the need for adult literacy services locally can be evidenced in Literacy Nassau's waiting list of over 250 adult learners. “We presently have almost 400 active tutor-student pairs,” said Brenda Alui, Director of Tutor and Student Services. “It's simply not enough. All of our tutors are volunteers, and the need for our service is overwhelming.”

To address the issue, Literacy Nassau offers Tutor Training Workshops throughout the year at various sites in Nassau County. Tutors who complete the session are matched with students one-to-one or in small groups and work at mutually convenient times and locations.

In his acceptance speech, Lis credited the award to his tutor, Olga Scileppi. “Without her, I am nothing,” he said.

Held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, Recognition Night was attended by over 250 students, tutors, friends, and supporters of Literacy Nassau. “Recognition Night is just the party. It's just one night – but the impact of the work lasts a lifetime,” Alui stated.

For more information about Literacy Nassau or to become a volunteer tutor, please call (516) 867-3580 or e-mail mail@literacynassau.org.
