

LITERACY MATTERS



Opening doors of opportunity and success through the power of literacy

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New Faces of Literacy Nassau *Fresh Team Energizes Organization's Mission*

Welcome back to **Literacy Matters!** Not only does this newsletter have a whole new look, but our organization does, too.

We have been terribly busy putting together a new Literacy Nassau so that you, our volunteers and tutors, can better access the resources you need for your students and become more informed about literacy issues in Nassau.



Meet the LN Staff (from left): Tim Turner, Susan Bastian Stallone, Karen Williams, Brenda Alui, Tina Sanacore, Helene Weiner, Susan Weickert.

Changes and New Faces

First off, we have a new director, Tina Sanacore. Many of you may know Tina as our 2005 Volunteer of the Year! Her talents and expertise in finance and programming made her the ideal candidate for the role of Interim Director after Anne DuPrey's retirement.

She will be planning the long-term future of Literacy Nassau with the Board of Directors and senior staff, organizing, motivating and

otherwise ushering the organization into a new and exciting phase in its existence.

Our senior staff anchors are Brenda Alui, Director of Program and Volunteer Services – who most of you already know and love, and Karen Williams, Director of Communications and Development – who is convinced that the best volunteers in the world

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PROVEN STRESS SOLUTION

VOLUNTEERING

A survey of 12,000 people from England's University of Essex found that members of communities with high levels of volunteerism have better physical and mental health than those who don't. "Healthy people are more likely to volunteer, and vol-

unteering promotes better health," said Peggy Thoits, Ph.D., a professor of sociology at the University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill.

"In our research, we found that it's one of the best things you can do for your

overall well-being." LN's 2006 Volunteer of the Year, Karen Sewell agrees.

"I can say that in contemplating our retirement, we realize that there needs to be a volunteer portion to it.

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Pronunciation

Workshop

November 7

11 AM - 1 PM

For more...page 4

HURRAY FOR OUR NEWEST VOLUNTEERS!

**Energized.
Committed.
Ready.**



**This is who we
REALLY are!**



OUR VISION

Our dedicated community of volunteers and staff fully believe that one day all of our neighbors will possess literacy skills empowering them to achieve their goals.



OUR MISSION

Through personalized instruction, we open doors to opportunity and success for adults in our communities who seek help with reading, writing or speaking English.



Congratulations to our newest graduates of the Literacy Nassau Tutor Training workshop! The Summer Institute was made possible through a generous grant from the Junior League of Long Island which allowed us to train and certify nine

new volunteers and match them with their new students. Volunteer Trainer Carol Davan led the workshop.

In September, a new crop of tutors (you can see their smiling faces in the photo)



Class of '06 Hicksville Workshop grads pose for a class photo.



Class of '06 Summer Institute sponsored by the Junior League of Long Island.

was certified in part through the support of the Hicksville Library. The library's director, Carol Ahrens, remembered the work of our tutors from years ago when LN's office was in the basement of the Hempstead Library. Eager to have trained literacy tutors in Hicks-

ville, she worked with LN to make this workshop a reality by recruiting and sponsoring resident volunteers.

Thank you Junior League of Long Island and Carol Ahrens of the Hicksville Library.

STUDENT TESTING TIED TO FUTURE FUNDING

About half of our organization's funding comes from the NYS Education Department. Just as the government has become more focused on children's assessment results, requiring they achieve certain standards, so too has the state begun requiring adult assessments and the attainment of certain standards.

While LN used to suggest that all students be retested after 50 hours of instruction, the state now mandates all students be tested on intake and again every year prior to June 30th.

The mandated instruments are the TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) for Basic Literacy students and the Best Plus Oral Assessment for ESOL students.

We can only ensure compliance and continue to receive state funding with your help. The best thing you can do is explain to your student the importance of being evaluated regularly. This is now one of our highest priorities, something we have devoted a considerable amount of time to since July.

VOLUNTEER "BLOGS" FROM THE UKRAINE

LN Volunteer Lauren Tuzzolino (Dix Hills) will contribute a "blog" to Literacy Matters as part of her two-year stint as a Peace Corps volunteer in The Ukraine.

Lauren, an English major from University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, will teach English to high school students in The Ukraine, sending LN bimonthly "blogs" of her experiences as a full-time ESOL instructor far from home.

Trained as a tutor this year with Literacy Nassau, Lauren volunteered in our Communications and Development department until she headed for her assignment in September.

Wait a second! What's a BLOG?

A **blog** is *really* a website where entries are made in journal style and displayed in a reverse chronological order. Lauren will "semi-blog" (since Lit Matters is not a website) and provide commentary on her life as an ESOL teacher in The Ukraine. The term "blog" is a contraction of "Web log". —kjww

Student Success Stories: LN STUDENTS SPARK SPEAKERS' BUREAU

Speak to a Literacy Nassau's student and they will gush about their tutor. Then they'll speak of their lives, how they are moving forward, pushing past barriers. This is the power our students have – their enthusiasm for learning is contagious!

Who better to be ambassadors for Literacy Nassau?

LN students Leticia Sambrano (tutor: Tim Turner) and Lucenda Williams (tutor: Melissa Rubino) spoke eloquently at a recent

Nassau Community College Women's Faculty Association Forum entitled "Women and Literacy." Both Leti and Lucenda are excited to take their show on the road and mentor other students to become involved in public speaking.

Brenda and Karen are ready to schedule the first meeting of the Student Speaker's Bureau.

Many of our students speak of giving back and here is their perfect opportunity!



LN Students Leticia Sambrano (far left) and Lucenda Williams (standing) spoke at Nassau Community College. Looking on is LN Board Member Maria Toulas, an organizer of the event.

Want to get Your Student Involved in The Student Speaker's Bureau?

Call or email Brenda Alui, Director of Program & Volunteer Services
balui@literacynassau.org

Tutor roundtables are an opportunity to join other tutors to share methods, ideas and resources. Each session is unique, as the participants vary and new folks bring new ideas.

See page 4

TALES OF THE TRAVELING COOK BOOK HOW FAR WILL YOUR RECIPES REACH?

The "progressive" cookbook began to take shape and then went on a summer vacation. Fall is rolling in, and the cookbook will start its journey once again.

Renamed *The Traveling Cookbook*, it provides an opportunity to speak and write about food with your

student. That conversation will in turn lead to many others – about family traditions, foods from childhood, an ethnic recipe, food likes and dislikes, desserts, and wherever else the road goes.

Tutors and students – write down a recipe that you love, a recipe from your grandma,

a recipe from your country – basically a recipe you would like to share with our LN community.

Call the office if you would like the cookbook to travel to you. If you have previously signed up, be on the lookout, the cookbook will be heading your way!



Remember to share Literacy Matters with your students!

LN Student Picked for National Literacy Awareness Campaign JOHNNIE GILCHRIST SPEAKS AT ATLANTA CONFERENCE

Booking flight tickets on line, tallying receipts and making video presentations have all become part of Johnnie Gilchrist's literacy education.

The 2005 Student of the Year returned to the National ProLiteracy Conference for the second time as Literacy Nassau's student representative to deliver our

mission to help "the hardest to reach and the hardest to teach."

"I just want to help other people like I was helped by Literacy Nassau," said Johnnie. "Reading is the key." The 2006 ProLiteracy Conference, convening all of the



Johnnie Gilchrist will represent LN at the ProLiteracy Conference in Atlanta in October.

volunteer literacy organizations in the country, was held October 3 through 5 in Atlanta. Johnnie has been working with the national student council.

A huge thank you to **Susan Bastian Stallone** who stepped up to fill the volunteer role of ESOL Testing Coordinator, and more recently, when **Marge Glicher** retired in August, Sue stepped up again to fill her shoes!

TUTOR TIPS

WEBSITE of the MONTH

<http://ww2.copiaguellibrary.org/literacy/newsletters.htm>

If you have never seen The Literacy Builder, now is the time to check out this all-encompassing tutoring tool! Ed Mutchnick, the man behind this monthly publication, does an amazing job of pulling together an array of various topics and methods to use with students. One issue can be lesson plans for months! Check it out today!

When your student is... reluctant to speak on the phone —

Try... a 10 minute phone call as homework!

Need
Tutoring Space?
Call Tim to reserve
dates and times
516.486.2789

TUTORING MEANS... ESOL TUTOR REVELS IN STUDENT'S SUCCESS

“In the Coast Guard we say that one plus one equals three. It’s a matter of synergy,” said Tim Turner, LN Program Coordinator and Conversation Group tutor.

Tim is especially proud of one of his students, Leticia Sambrano, our 2006 Student of the Year. Leti is originally from Ecuador. She has been in the United States for just over three years. She has been enrolled in the Literacy Nassau conversation group for 18 months. “She has rapidly progressed with our program and has encouraged others to join in the group and be less shy about speaking.” said Tim.

“Her skills have improved tremendously and she is now conducting full conversations in English! Her peers look to her as a leader and mentor.” It was this motivation that led to her



Leticia Sambrano and Tim Turner at work in their Conversation Group.

choice as 2006 Student of the Year. Leti and fellow student Lucenda Williams recently spoke to the Women's Faculty Association at Nassau Community College with Tina and Karen and Board member Maria Toulas discussing the issue of Women and Literacy.

New Faces of Literacy Nassau

Continued from Page 1
are LN tutors and that they will love the changes that we are making to Literacy Matters. Both Brenda and Karen each have very different roles and goals in the organization, dovetailing and separating constantly as they fulfill the organization’s mission. Stop by anytime and find out what their plans are for fund raising and programs—they can use a few serious volunteers! Call them. No kidding.

Tim Turner, Program Coordinator, shepherds all of the new learners into their educational pursuits and works with Brenda on just about everything. Helene Weiner, Communications and De-

velopment Coordinator, smoothly holds the tiller for the fundraising, marketing, and communications efforts so that Karen can dream up lots of ideas and turn them into reality. Grounding the core activi-

OUR MISSION:
Through personalized instruction, we open doors to opportunity and success for adults in our communities who seek help with reading, writing or speaking English.

ties of Literacy Nassau are two women who provide the support base for the organization: Susan Weickert, Office Manager and the first smiling face you see at the door, and Susan Bastian Stallone, who has taken over the bookkeeping and

the yeoman’s task of volunteering as the Best Plus test coordinator.

So, that’s us! We are very fortunate to have dedicated, long-term volunteers who come into the office or direct tutor workshops to round out our regular literacy center: Sharrel Kamath, Carol Young, Bobby Weisenfeld, Herb Aldrich, Mary Koenig, Lynn Baker and Carol Davan. There are so many more of you – volunteering your time for mailings, special events, proof-reading, clerical work. For your selfless efforts and on behalf of all of those adults who make daily sacrifices to learn to read, write and speak English, **WE THANK YOU.**

OCT

October 20
A Day of Bridge
9 am - 2:30 pm
Temple Emanu-El
East Meadow

October 23
Consultations with
Adele Scott on
Learning Difficulties
10 am - 12 pm
Literacy Nassau Office

October 26
Tutor Roundtable
10 am - 2 pm
Borders Books
425 Jericho Turnpike
Syosset

October 30
Improving Literacy thru
Use of the Newspaper
With Lori Goldfeder
11 am - 1 pm
Literacy Nassau Office

NOV

November 1
Tutor Roundtable
12 am - 2 pm
Barnes & Noble Books
Country Glen Center
91 Old Country Road
Carle Place

November 7
Pronunciation Workshop
with Karen Smith
11 am - 1 pm
Literacy Nassau Office

November 13
Consultations with
Adele Scott
10 am - 12 pm
Literacy Nassau Office

November 23 & 24
Literacy Nassau Closed

DEC

December 5
Tutor Roundtable
6 pm - 8 pm
Rockville Centre Library
221 Village Avenue
Rockville Centre

December 25
Literacy Nassau Closed



REMEMBER to call
the office to RSVP
so we can contact
you regarding any
changes in
scheduling.

EVENT DETAILS

Learning Difficulties with ADELE SCOTT

A Multi-sensory approach to developing lessons plans for students with learning difficulties. Expert ADELE SCOTT will be available for consultations with tutors about difficulties unique to their student. Call to schedule an appointment. 10/23, 11/13

Using the Newspaper

Come learn new ways to use the newspaper as a literacy tool. Join LORI GOLDFEDER, Senior Sales Manager of Education with USA Today, as she explores interactive methods to work with your students using the daily paper. 10/30

Pronunciation

Pronunciation Workshop with KAREN SMITH, an ESOL teacher at the Long Beach Adult Learning Center has developed this workshop to give tutors different ways to present the pronunciation of English sounds. Using props, lip and tongue placement and one's breath, find fun new ways to work with your student. 11/7

PROVEN STRESS SOLUTION

Continued from Page 1

We have both thought about the opportunities to serve others as well as meeting a need in ourselves."



2006 Volunteer of the Year Karen Sewell

Karen and her husband are organizing a move to Seabrook Island, South Carolina where she is eager to stay active in community. "I think we are realistic about our new lifestyle. The wonderful thing about volunteering in retirement is that you really can choose to do what interests you and still have time to enjoy your life together."

IT TAKES A VILLAGE...

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Each of us has strengths and skills to share. When we link our individual strengths together, we're invincible!

Do you have a skill, talent or interest you can share? Won't you help diversify our program by sharing something unique? Students are a vital part of the LN Community. Let's encourage them to share,



too! Here are a few of our volunteer opportunities.
Call for details!

Tutors: Basic Literacy & ESOL

Conversation Circle Facilitators

Tutor Training Workshop (TTW) Leaders

Librarians

Telephone Conversation Partners

Grant writers

Photographers

Media Spotters

Office Volunteers

(Un)SCRABBLE Event Planners

Newsletter Contributors

Computer Lab Specialists

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The best preparation for
good work tomorrow is
good work today.

Elbert Hubbard



It's not too late to
support Literacy Nassau
at **A Day of Bridge !**

Friday, October 20
9 am to 2:30 pm
At Temple Emanu-El
Of East Meadow

Call Literacy Nassau or
register at the door!
516.486.2789

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THANK YOU. THANK YOU.

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To...**Bobby Weisenfeld, Herb Aldrich, Carol Young and Sharrel Kamath** for their weekly appearances to help lighten the Program staff load.

To...**The Long Island Community Foundation** for believing in our Conversation Groups.

To...**The Kornreich Family** for their generous donation and their commitment to Literacy Nassau.

To...**The Junior League of Long Island** for their grant to support the Summer Institute - Tutor Training Workshop.

To...**Carol Ahrens**

and **The Hicksville Public Library** for sponsoring the newest class of certified tutors.

To...the **Law Offices of Michael Haskel, Tina and Matthew Sanacore, Diana O'Neill, Martha Clara Vineyards and HKM Associates** for recent donations to Literacy Nassau!

We need volunteers for
(Un)SCRABBLE 2007...
Stay tuned ! Event date:
March 12, 2007