

FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER



An affiliate of



Literacy Volunteers of Kent County, Inc.
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GREETINGS

From the Program Director: Kathy Gray

Why it has been an age since we last spoke and we have much catching up to do! But first,

HAPPY 2016!

I have already mostly forgotten 2015, but still, let's review the last quarter. Along with one of the reference librarians, I have obtained my Procter Certification for Northstar Digital Literacy. With this we can administer tests in Microsoft, email, PowerPoint etc. The NorthStar Digital Literacy Assessment is a tool to assess students'/patrons computer skills. It provides a clear set of standards which can be used by employers and jobseekers both to verify computer skills. Feel free to promote it to your students.

I attended the ProLiteracy Conference on Adult Literacy in Charleston, South Carolina in October! It was an interesting and fun event. I came away from it with the confidence that LVKC is doing well, and to do so without any federal/state funding is something special.

Of course, we did our bit of fundraising! Starting with the now annual November Bucket Raffle, then the Fall Appeal, and we also took over orchestrating the CPL Book Sale with the Library Foundation. It all paid off!

As always, thank you for all that you do!



HATMAN (made completely of hats) is a historic haberdasheries' shop mural that indicated to illiterate people just arriving in Charleston that that was the hat shop. Many shopkeepers painted symbols to communicate their wares.

Spotlight on Ruth Colvin

Happy Holidays – from Ruth Colvin. Founder of LVA, co-founder of ProLiteracy.

It's been a long time since I connected with all of you who started with me long ago as I started Literacy Volunteers of America (now merged to become ProLiteracy) in the early 60s, but I decided it was time that I expressed my personal thanks to you for all the work you've done over these many years, teaching adults to read, write, speak, and understand English. You've taken the ball and ran with it, and how I appreciate it. Thank you!

I'm 99 years old, and I count my blessings for I'm still active physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. I lost my husband, Bob, the love of my life, a year and a half ago, and I'm working hard to adapt to this new life without him.

I'm a life member of both Boards of Directors—LiteracyCNY (formerly Literacy Volunteers of Greater Syracuse, where I started my work) and ProLiteracy, as well continuing to teach, give talks on literacy, and write. I'm sure most of you have read *A Way with Words*, the story of literacy in the USA, how I started it and how it grew (you can get it at New Readers Press). There might be stories of you in it.

As you know Bob and I visited 62 countries and worked in 26 developing countries, giving three months each year as volunteers, giving training and teaching. My book *Off the Beaten Path* tells 93 stories of people with whom we worked in 9 developing countries who touched our lives, unsung heroes (you can get it on Amazon – published by Syracuse University Press).

99 may seem old to you, but remember “age is just a number.” It's what you do with your number that counts. I am in three book clubs (yes, I still can't believe a life without reading), work out at the gym 3 times a week, play golf several times a week (a shorter ball and a higher handicap). My latest student is a young mother from China working as a housekeeper at the local hospital. That's the most rewarding part of our work, the actual teaching, and I'm sure all your volunteer tutors agree with me.

The last country in which I gave training was Haiti, and I'm still on a committee helping one destitute village, where I have trained teachers to teach basic literacy in their language, Kreole.

Those of you that are using *TUTOR 8* and *I SPEAK ENGLISH 5* know that I continually do research, asking you in the field where your needs are (the latest was your request for help with those with learning disabilities, and working with the top professionals in that field, there is a chapter on that alone). All our work is “learner centered” and I hope the “Learner Profile

Sheet" in both books, (pages 149-150 in *TUTOR 8* and pages 69-70 in *ISE 5*) has been helpful. Just check your student's individual problems to find the exact pages for the answers.

I had written basic literacy books in Spanish for Guatemala. When I returned I was reminded that the fastest growing minority in American is Hispanics. They want and need English, and we are doing a good job helping them. But we've found that if they cannot read or write in Spanish, learning English is very difficult. If basic Spanish literacy is the barrier, why not teach basic Spanish literacy as a first step to English? If you have that problem in your area, you might want to try the basic Spanish books through ProLiteracy.

I'm sure you all are keeping up with the work of ProLiteracy, that you know we're working hard to bring awareness of the problem and to give you as many helps as possible.

As we meet, work with, and respect those neighbors and newcomers to America of different skin colors, different religions, different cultures, different educational backgrounds, and even different ages, we are working toward a more peaceful world. THANKS for continuing to help so many learn to read, write, speak, and understand English.

Know that you all are a part of my extended family, and I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Sincerely, *Ruth Johnson Colvin*



A sampling of the annual greeting cards sent from Ruth Colvin to LOKC over the years.

Ruth was a guest speaker at the ProLiteracy Conference in Charleston, South Carolina and at 99, she is still going strong!



IN MEMORIAM



ROXIE M LANDERS

LVKC Tutor Roxie Landers died Sunday, January 17, 2016. She was dedicated to learning and teaching and devoted to Literacy Volunteers in general, and to her student Jane in particular. She personified the spirit that it is never too late to volunteer! While Roxie would not appreciate any mention of her age...(!), it certainly is amazing that a woman in her late 80's would begin to volunteer so enthusiastically with LVKC! ***NB! Roxie would insist that she was more of a 39 forever, and who could argue with a woman with such vigor!?!***

She was a successful popular singer in the 1940's (singing at one point for wounded soldiers), went to broadcasting school in Boston; was named ***A most beautiful voice of New England*** in the mid-1950's; was an early Return to College student at URI where she earned her B.A. in English; a master gardener/horticulturist with exceptional gardens at her beloved home; and an inveterate traveler who was always ready to explore new places. She was quite a character and certainly made an indelible impression on all the folks with whom she came in contact!



TUTOR TRAINING

2016 SPRING Tutor Training Schedule To register call: 822-9103

FREE ONLINE Prerequisite Classes at www.proliteracyednet.org/
Principles of Adult Learning and *Working With Adult Literacy Learners*

Prior to taking the Tutor Training Workshop (TTW), prospective tutors must take 2 required classes on line at www.proliteracyednet.org/. They are free and are *Principles of Adult Learning* and *Working with Adult Literacy Learners*. Prospective tutors will be provided with certifications upon completion of these free online classes which they submit with their registration to the TTW. Tutor training is then conducted in a series of workshops totaling 15 hours in a classroom setting. Midway through training, volunteers are matched with students so that they may experience the tutoring process and receive guidance as needed. At the conclusion of training, tutors are certified.

Thursday, April 7, 2016 * 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Coventry Public Library

Thursday, April 14, 2016 * 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Coventry Public Library Annex Room

Thursday, April 21, 2016 * 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Coventry Public Library Annex Room

Thursday, April 28, 2016 * 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Coventry Public Library Annex Room

Thursday, May 19, 2016 * 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Coventry Public Library Annex Room



LITERACY...FOR LIFE!

TUTOR NEWS



Board Member and Tutor Trainer Stephanie Eddleston instructs a new group of Tutors.



Please extend a warm welcome to our new tutors!

Joanne Audette

Barabara Cardano

April Garnetto

Kathy Kettle

Robyn Levine

Karen Liner

Tonya McBride

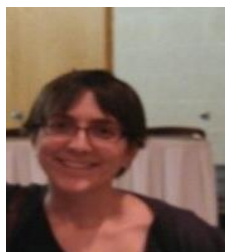
Hannah Sampson

Karen Sciolto

Donna Soares

Connie Zach

And our New Tutor Trainer!



Lauren Rathbun

WOOT!
WOOT!

TUTOR NEWS

On September 17, 2015 we held an in-service titled **Common Threads of the Common Core Standards from Basic Literacy to the GED**. The presenter Janet Lopes has over 10 years' experience teaching adult GED classes at Dorcas Place in Providence. Ms. Lopes explained how Common Core came to be and how assessments and gains are achieved using the NRS chart. The program explored general knowledge of the anchor standards and how important skill building, especially reading and critical thinking is for the adult learner. Eleven Tutors received recertification and two of our students attended as well.



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Janet Lopes is returning on March 10, 2016 6 - 9 pm

Tutor In-Service: Janet is returning and this time her presentation will start with a brief review of *Mind in the Making*. She will then tie in and turn her focus to the new to Rhode Island option for completion of High School program the NEDP (National External Diploma Program), the GED, and relate changes to the SATs. It all takes place at the LVKC Annex Room. Light dinner served. Call 822 - 9103 to register!

TUTOR TIPS – CHECK IT OUT! FREE!!!

For free GED Test Prep go to the Coventry Public Library Website www.coventrylibrary.org
Go to **Reading, Research, and Technology**, click on **Databases**, click on **AskRI**, click on **Learning Express**, click on **High School Equivalency Center**, click on **GED**



2016

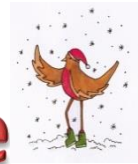
**3rd Annual Race
for Reading**

5K Run/Walk

The Pawtuxet Valley Rotary Club has announced it will be holding its annual 5K Run/Walk on Saturday June 4th at the Coventry Public Library. All proceeds go to Literacy Volunteers of Kent County and the Coventry Public Library Foundation. Mark your calendars and start moving!

Robin says:

Send in your hours please



Tutors!

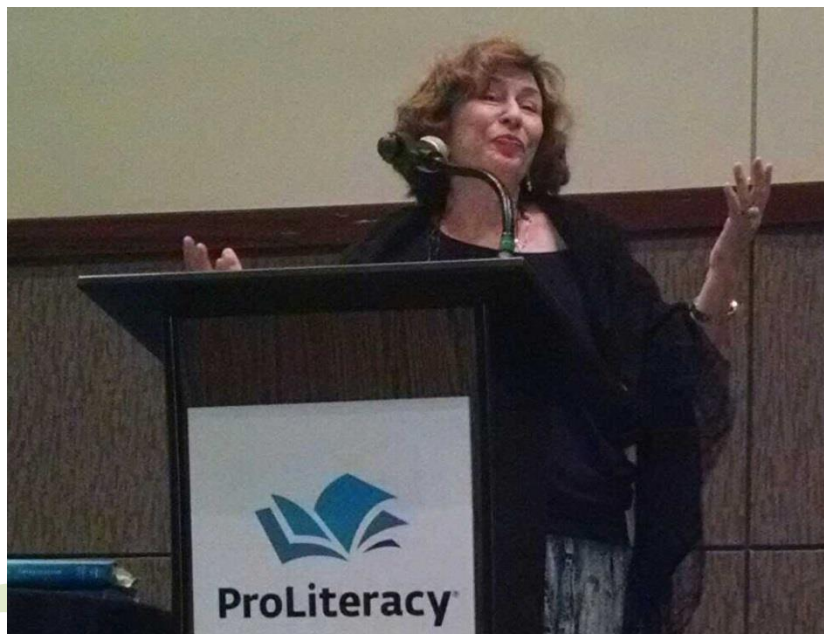
**East Greenwich ELL Group Conversation * Mondays @ 11 a.m.
East Greenwich Library at 82 Peirce Street, East Greenwich**

**Coventry Group ELL Conversation * Tuesdays @ 10 a.m.
LVKC Town Hall Annex Room * 1670 Flat River Road**

Call 822-9103 to register for either class. FREE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

BITS & PIECES

I had the good fortune to meet author of *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books* and promoting her new book *The Republic of Imagination*.



FUNDRAISERS & DONATIONS

**LVKC AND COVENTRY PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION
SPONSOR ANNUAL LIBRARY BOOK**



Both groups will be hosting a mini booksale



LVKC and the Coventry Public Library Foundation (CPLF) hosted the annual library book sale November 6 and 7, 2015.

Volunteers from both organizations helped with presale sorting, set up, sales day selling, and clean up. All proceeds of this event was split between the two groups.

FUNDRAISERS & DONATIONS



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★ Bucket Raffle 2015 ★

Thank you to our generous Donors!

- ★ Sandy Cabral Designs ★ ★ Joan Giusti ★
★ Charles Kokolsky ~ Dog Gone Good Pet Grooming ★
★ Stephanie Eddelston ★ ★ Gary Robichaud Senior ★
★ STARBUCKS Managers: Gary Robichaud, Jr. and Lauren Rathbun ★
★ Trader Joe's ★ ★ Dr. Richard Liner ★ ★ Shabby Cottage ★
★ Twisted Pizza ★ ★ Walgreen's ★

And a few of our happy winners!



*(left) Annette with her Walgreen's Basket
(below)*

Debbie, Lori, and Darlene with their winnings!



FUNDRAISERS & DONATIONS

2015 FALL APPEAL

Georg Sommerer

Frank Joseph

**Robert Iannotti
Iannotti Funeral Home**

Patricia Chaney

**William Marcotte
Crystal Cleansers**

Dorothy Nicholls

**Jody Ward
Concordia Mfg**

Yasuko Fukumoto

Chieko Teramoto

Jerry Roch * Roch Realty

Lisa Tomasso

Lorna Swanson

Barbara Bridge

Donna Morelle

Pat Manire

**Coventry/West Greenwich
Lions Club**

Makiko Takashima

Steven Merolla

Annette Carpenter

Joyce Bryan

Cornerstone of Faith

Jerry Young

Miyuki Ito

Councilman Glenford Shibley

**Thomas & Walter Quinn
Funeral Home**

Bernardine DiOrio

2015 FALL APPEAL (CONT'D)

Marjory Myers

Sandy & Tom Dupree

Carol Mitola

Donna Soares

Pawtucket Credit Union

Mary Holleran

Katherine Patenaude

Anonymous

Ann Byrne

Michael McCarty

Kathy Kettle

Lee Crowley

Priscilla Holt

Robert Haiken

Norman Reels

Jane Peng

Dana DelBonis

Justin (Jia Bin) Xiong

**Craig Carpenter
Carpenter Jenks Funeral**

Eugenia Silva

Nancy Nester

Mark McKenney

Donna Miller

Sandra Farnum


Donna Sherman



Thank you 

STUDENT WRITING

STUDENT ARTWORK



Have your stories, poems, or artwork printed in the LVKC Newsletter or send us a special recipe. Write about a place to visit locally or for vacation; your native country or state of origin; any family holidays you'd like to share with us. Submit as many stories as you want. Also, think about sending pictures along to add a personal touch!