

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF KENT COUNTY

April 2022 Newsletter



NAN'S LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Written By Nan Yao & Kimberly Almeida

I have been a student of Coventry's literacy program for over ten years. I have enjoyed learning English there. With the help of the directors, assistants, and tutors at LVKC, my English has improved greatly. I fulfilled my basic goals, I got my American citizenship, a driving license, a job, and I gradually adapted to American life.

I began learning English at university in my native country. I learned a little British English and mainly how to read articles on Finance and banking (my major), so I focused on the professional English. When I flew to the U.S. for the first time, I asked an air hostess for a glass of tomato juice. She hesitated because of my British pronunciation of tomato. After I passed the customs, the officer asked me for my "papers". I was confused about what papers he was talking about. *(Continue reading on next page.)*

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I only knew the identity document. At that moment I understood that there is a little difference between British English and American English in pronunciation, some vocabulary, and I lacked English skills in my daily life. I was going to face a new world, community, and people. If I was going to know and adapt to this new life, I would need to learn American English. It's a bridge to the new world.

I heard about LVKC from the community's newspaper, it is an ideal program for learning English so I joined it. There are two parts to English learning at LVKC. The first part is the Let's Talk Conversation Group. I have been in three classes at different levels. They had different objectives, content, and methods in each class, but they were all very helpful to my life. In the first group, the teacher Debbie taught us basic vocabulary, grammar, and conversation skills. She often organized activities including holding parties at her house. She taught us about real American life. She built a friendship with the students. In the second group, the teacher Evelyne



led us in learning using a newspaper called "News for You". She taught us about the news from all over the world and expanded our vocabulary. We would answer questions about the news, it helped us understand the articles' exact meanings. We also did crossword puzzles. After class, we had tea time, shared life stories, and practiced English. It was fun! The third group, which I am currently in, has taken place during the pandemic. It is a virtual class.

The teacher, Marjory, has taught us about American culture, including American holidays. She has taught us about idioms, metaphors, similes, and proverbs. I now know more about American culture. She gives students chances to share cultures and customs from their countries and lets us express ourselves. In the process, she corrects our pronunciation, faulty words, and wrong sentences. Marjory is a teacher who is positive, optimistic, and witty. Especially during the quarantine period, her class relieved us of feeling isolated, stressed, and anxious.

The second part of learning English is from my tutors. I had three tutors, Joan, Cheryl, and Carol. They have certain characteristics in common. They are enthusiastic, friendly, and knowledgeable. They have different backgrounds, careers and experiences. They taught me English and covered every aspect of life. There was more focus put on training my conversation skills.



Including ordering food at the restaurant, ordering coffee at the café, going shopping, visiting job fairs, joining the party, working out, and joining activities. It helped me adapt to the new community and new life. In the process, they aren't only my teachers, but also my friends.

Recently, I have a new teacher, Kimberly. She is a young girl studying at university. She is energetic, earnest, and patient. We have chosen an English Textbook to focus on reviewing grammar and learning more advanced topics of life. Including health, emergencies, banking, law, etc. I also read articles and books and she helps me comprehend American buzzwords and phrases that I was confused about.



She also corrects my homework, teaches me how to break down tedious sentences that I made into simple ones. I shared my experiences to practice my speaking, she shared her college life to train my listening. It gave me a new view of young Americans. I got to know American young people, their thoughts, trends, fashion, and lives.

Learning at LVKC is not only improving my English but also helping me learn about the differences between eastern and western civilizations, culture, customs, dietary habits, values, logic, and way of thinking. For example, collectivist vs individual, self-discipline vs freedom, safe vs risk. This topic is very interesting. A few years ago, I went to my hometown, and a university taught me to do a presentation. The topic was the difference between civilization in eastern and western cultures. The students were very impressed. In my opinion, we can learn from each other's strengths to offset our weaknesses. People work together to promote peace and prosperity in the world.



It is called the sea of knowledge, not the shore, people need continuous learning. Similarly, English is a language that is broad and profound, there is endless learning too. I enjoy the process of learning English, it makes me happy! Now my goal is to continue learning English, to have the skills to master and use English, and keep studying the different civilizations between eastern and western cultures. If English opened the window to understand the community, then LVKC opened the door which led me to a new life. I appreciate Jessica, Robin, and all of the LVKC staff. Your effort dedication, and good work changed my life. I believe anyone who was helped by LVKC feels the same.



Thank You Nan & Kimberly!

LVKC thanks Nan for her article submission to the LVKC Newsletter, and Kimberly for helping Nan with her article! We love to hear about Nan's experiences with the program, and how far she has come with learning English. We hope she continues to enjoy her journey with LVKC in her efforts to improve her English language skills!

Seeking Members for the Future

As a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization, Literacy Volunteers of Kent County needs a functioning Board of Directors. This status is crucial to allow us to apply and receive funding through grants. Our Board meets six times a year (every other month) to discuss topics including the status of the program, finances, outreach and fundraising. We are currently seeking a **Secretary** and **Treasurer** for our Board.

If you do not wish to be a Board member, there are other ways to volunteer with LVKC! We are always seeking individuals who would like to be **Tutors**, **Tutor Trainers**, **Assessors**, and **Conversation Group Leaders**. If you want to volunteer in a different type of roll we are also looking for a **Social Media Coordinator**, **Activities Coordinator**, and **Grant Writers**.

If you or someone you know would like to volunteer with our program, please reach out to us at lvkc@coventrylibrary.org or call us at 401-822-9103.



NEWSLETTER IDEAS?

Have an idea for an article to feature in our Newsletter? Let us know, and you or your student could be featured! We welcome any ideas you have to share in our Newsletter, or

any ideas you have to better our literacy program. Let's learn together! Email us at lvkc@coventrylibrary.org OR submit an idea on the [Newsletter section of our website!](#)

STUDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS



Back to In-Person Conversation Groups

We're meeting back in-person starting with our Conversation Groups! Our students and instructors are ready to meet in-person again! Meet with other students in the Coventry Annex, or in the East Greenwich Library!

East Greenwich - Let's Talk

Tuesday Mornings from 10:00-11:30 AM
East Greenwich Free Library
82 Pierce St., East Greenwich, RI 02818

Coventry - Let's Talk

Thursday Mornings from 10:00-11:30 AM
Coventry Town Hall Annex (LVKC Room)
1675 Flat River Rd., Coventry, RI 02816

Don't worry, if you're not ready to be back in-person or want more practice, we are still having a Conversation Class on Zoom with Marjory!

Zoom - Let's Talk

Wednesday Nights from 7:00-8:30 PM
Please sign up to receive a Zoom Link

FEATURED VOCABULARY

Citizenship - the state of being vested with rights, privileges, and duties of a citizen

Pronunciation - the act or result of producing the sounds of speech, often with reference to some standard or correctness or acceptability

Fundraising - the seeking of financial support for a charity, cause, or other enterprise

TUTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kickstarting the Tutor Social

We plan to have our first Tutor Social on May 4, 2022 at 10:00AM-11:00AM! We are having the session in-person at the Coventry Town Hall Annex. We look forward to hearing about your experiences with an LVKC student! [Sign up on our website](#), and/or drop-in to come hang out and socialize with other LVKC tutors!



ProLiteracy Education Network

As members of ProLiteracy, we have access to tutor training tools online with ProLiteracy's Education Network! Tutors can get access to online courses, videos, lesson plans and classroom activities, and links to useful websites for adult literacy. Plus, the site has just been updated to make it easier to navigate. Individual tutors must make their own accounts, but you can add our organizational member ID for access to member content.

If a tutor would like access to ProLiteracy's Education Network using our organization ID, message us at lvkc@coventrylibrary.org, and we'll send over the required ID number with instructions on how to login.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Thank you for all your support as we begin to go back to in-person gatherings. Your continued support helps the community fight illiteracy, while improving the lives of our students.

Are you interested in featuring an article with our Newsletter? Have any milestones with your student you'd like to share? Please reach out with ideas or topics you'd like to hear about from our Newsletter!

SUPPORT LVKC

Spring Appeal

Please watch your mail for a letter from us regarding our annual spring fundraising campaign in the coming months. If you believe what we are doing is important, please consider a contribution to the Literacy Volunteers of Kent County. If you work for a company that offers a charitable gift matching program, please consider participating in that program. As always, we thank you for supporting our efforts to change lives through literacy - one person at a time.



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You can also shop through AmazonSmile in the app by going to your **Settings**.

Be sure to change your preferred charity to **Literacy Volunteers of Rhode Island!**

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