

Individual Sessions to use Rosetta Stone! A staff member will be available to help with logging on and learning to use the software each day. Register a week in advance; space is available on a first come, first served basis.

Rosetta Stone on PC—Worcester Public Library Computer Lab 3rd Floor

Rosetta Stone may be used to learn English on the computers in the third floor computer lab in the afternoons. Literacy Volunteer Staff will be available to help you.

Mondays: 1:00-1:30 pm

Wednesdays: 1:00-1:30 pm

Thursdays: 1:00-1:30 pm

(The Computer Lab is available all afternoon, however, staff will only be available to assist at the times listed above.)

The computers are available for use when the library is open, most afternoons and evenings. See the librarian at the Periodicals Desk to get into the classroom.

Main Screen of the Computer

1. Double click on **Rosetta Stone Folder**
2. Double click on **Rosetta Stone Version 3**

Student Login

Username: guestuser

Password: guestuser



Dear Literacy Volunteer Friends,

We are now midway through our fall semester and our tutor training program just finished last week, with 13 new tutors ready to take on students

and assist them in their quest to learn English. We were fortunate to have Fabienne Charlemagne, our former Office Manager and dynamic tutor trainer, conduct this series of workshops.

I had the good fortune to sit in on some of these sessions and was amazed by how much thought and effort goes into teaching some of the most basic concepts, such as buying milk in your local grocery store! Coming from the United States, this should seem fairly straightforward; however, when you come from a country where there is no such thing as low fat, 1%, fat-free, 2%, and whole milk, never mind almond milk, coconut milk, rice milk, and soy milk, purchasing “milk” becomes a drawn-out, complicated process. Now, try explaining these various products to someone who doesn’t speak English! Not an easy task. Kudos to all of our new tutors who came up with creative, out-of-the-box ideas on how to explain this concept.

As an organization, we have had a busy summer and fall as we welcomed new staff on board, participated for the second year at sTART on the Street on September 20th, began classes on September 21st, held our Annual Meeting and Dinner with guest speaker, Nicholas Gage, on October 7th, and continue to work together to develop programming that best meets the needs of our ever growing refugee and immigrant populations.

We also expanded the use of our language laboratories – offering students specific time slots and onsite assistance - both at the library and at our satellite location to encourage extra practice time and enable students to work around their busy schedules. Particularly new is the option to come for an independent learning beginner’s class at the satellite on Friday mornings, using the Kindle Fires.

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Tutor Training—Class of October, 2015

We are thrilled to officially welcome 13 new tutors to the Literacy Volunteers family. Our October Tutoring Training class graduates are: Nina Anderson, Andrea Froelich, Betsy Green-Baker, Jessica Kerr, Caitlyn Kinney, Ralph Lacerte, Chuck Marshall, Claudette Marshall, Jamie Mellan, Joel Newsome, Patrick Nisbett, Pamela Orlandini, and Jeffry Wright.

This month, we matched these tutors to students from Albania, Colombia, Brazil, Russia, Ecuador, Bangladesh, Iran, Germany, Ghana, South Korea and El Salvador.

New Tutor Training
January 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, and 21, 2016
9:30 am—12:30 pm

To register for this session please contact us at: 508-754-8056 or email info@lvgw.org

Scrabble Scrimmage Save the Date!

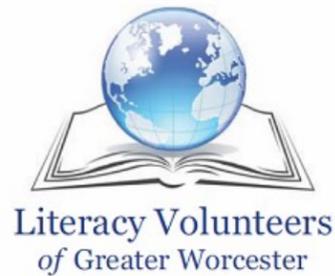
This year’s tournament will be held on
Sunday, January 31, 2016.

We’re looking forward to a fun-filled, “friend-raiser” full of competition and camaraderie. As in the past, there will be raffles, prizes, dinner and drinks.

We hope to make this a real community event, and involve as many participants as possible. Please help us out by spreading the word!

If you’d like to be involved in organizing this event, please let Melissa Cohen know you’d be interested in joining our planning committee. Please also consider donating a basket for our raffle.





A Word from our Board of Directors President, Kathleen Gagne

I am so very proud to represent Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester as the 2015/2016 Board President. Supporting this organization is a privilege and a natural extension of my life-long passions—reading and writing. I am inspired by the courage and tenacity of our learners and the dedication and selflessness of our tutors.

I am Associate Executive Director of Mechanics Hall where I focus on marketing communications, donor and public relations. The Worcester County Mechanics Association, which built the Hall in 1857 and which continues to operate the Hall today, was an organization of industrial entrepreneurs and their skilled laborers. The intention of the Association was to ensure that their employees were skilled in their trade and educated in cultural, civic, and social reform activities. The Hall housed a lending library of technical materials, classroom spaces and, of course, the magnificent Great Hall for performances and lectures.

The early Mechanics were keenly aware that the world economies were becoming centered around industry and less so around agriculture. They realized that the success of the new economy and of their own businesses depended upon the skill and ingenuity of the workforce.

The Worcester workforce, then as now, was comprised of immigrants from around the globe. The world today is experiencing another economic evolution, also requiring the skill and ingenuity of the workforce to move us forward through the 21st century. It is critically important that we communicate well and take advantage of educational opportunities.

The valuable work of Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester serves individuals, certainly. It also, however, affects the wellbeing of our entire community. How do we thrive without the ability to communicate with each other? How does a newcomer to America or an American without literacy skills get along in our “information age?” Negotiating the language of daily living is a basic need, without which the community falters.

For more than 40 years, Literacy Volunteers has served the Worcester community by teaching the language of daily living. The backbone of the organization is the free one-to-one tutoring program, but other programs evolve as need evolves. I am deeply grateful to be part of a dynamic organization that is blessed with a dedicated team of tutors and teachers and a staff that brings passion to work every day. I am looking forward to meeting everyone involved in our mission and advocating for the organization in the coming year.

Stay Connected and Find out About Upcoming Events



Dates to Remember

November	January
1 Daylight Saving Time Ends	1-2 New Year's: Office Closed
11 Veterans Day—Office Closed	4 Registration Opens for Winter Semester
19 Thanksgiving Festival	5 New Tutor Training Begins
26-29 Thanksgiving—Office is Closed	18 Martin Luther King Day: Office Closed
	19 Winter Semester Begins
	31 Scrabble Scrimmage
December	
14 Fall Classes End	
24-31 Winter Break: Office Closed	

A Word from our Executive Director, continued from Page 1

In addition to examining our programming options, we are preparing for the upcoming fall/winter (yikes....) events. Don't forget to bring your student/s to the Annual Thanksgiving Lunch on Thursday, November 19th – more information is available below and on our website. December will see the launch of our Annual Appeal, but you don't need to wait until then to give. All donations are greatly appreciated – you can send in a check to the office, donate online, or call us to show your support.

Lastly, now that Scrabble is no longer our major fundraiser, we are exploring other options for a community-wide, large-scale fundraiser, to be held in the spring. If you or anyone you know would be interested in helping with this project, please let me know. In the meantime, I wish everyone in advance a Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays.

All the best,

Ellen Benz
Executive Director



Thanksgiving Luncheon

*For
Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester
Students, Faculty, Tutors, and Volunteers*

**Thursday, November 19, 2015
1-3pm**

Worcester Public Library – Saxe Room

Please bring a dish to share.

Your dish should contain apples, potatoes, sweet potatoes, pumpkins, squash, cranberries or other New England fall fruits and vegetables.

RSVP by November 14th by contacting Melissa at 508-754-8056, email at mcohen@lvgw.org, or by stopping by the office.

Mission Moment: Finding

Faith Landrine and Andrey Agafonov

Andrey is from Tashkent, Uzbekistan. He came to the United States in 2009 and wants to learn English so that he can work, go to college and live a happy life. We have worked together for two years. My objective as Andrey's tutor and teacher is to increase his familiarity with the English language and our culture in a creative and productive way.

We focus on speech pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar. We work at creating short sentences that can be made into larger sentences that give more details which inspire conversation. Being able to make conversation is helping Andrey to communicate with others in his class, community and with his family.

We have succeeded in overcoming Andrey's fear of speaking and now he wants to speak to everyone! He is so excited about speaking English that we now work on slowing down and making sure he pronounces complete words. The most fascinating part of our relationship is that Andrey is very happy about his progress and wants to keep learning. What more can a teacher ask for?!



A Note from Sara Schweiger, Director of Education

As many of you know, I recently had the pleasure of attending ProLiteracy's annual conference in beautiful Charleston, SC. The Syracuse-based organization, of which Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester is a proud member, was born out of the 2002 merger of Laubach Literacy International and Literacy Volunteers of America. The event included a lovely tribute to Dr. Robert S. Laubach, who passed away this fall at age 96 and who devoted his life to adult literacy. He was the founder of the popular News for You newspaper as well as New Literacy Press, ProLiteracy's publishing arm.



During the four day conference, I attended many great workshops including:

- Blended Learning for Adult Educators
- Language Experience Approach for Beginning
- Incorporating College and Career Readiness Standards into Classrooms and Tutoring Sessions
- Is It Ever Too Late? Library Literacy Services for Adults with Reading Difficulties and Dyslexia
- Employment Skills for Beginning ESOL Classrooms

I intend to weave some of what I learned into future workshops and informational emails, but feel free to reach out to me if you have specific questions about any of the above.

Also, during the conference, I had the profound pleasure of meeting Azar Nafisi, author of "Reading Lolita in Tehran" and "The Republic of Imagination." Ms. Nafisi delivered a wonderfully inspiring keynote speech on the importance of literacy and literature in a democratic society. This, on the heels of meeting locally-based and internationally-known author Nicholas Gage at our annual dinner earlier this month!

Thanks for reading, and as always, thank you for all that you do to support our mission!



International Cookbook

We've been collecting recipes for a while now, but we need more to make this fundraiser a success! We're looking for recipes that reflect our diverse student population. Tutors and teachers, please work with your students on this. The more recipes we get, the better the book will be. If you'd like to contribute a recipe, please email your recipe to Melissa at mcohen@lvgw.org, stop in either office to pick up a blank submission form that you can fill out and return.



Annual Dinner and Awards Night—October 7, 2015



Guest speaker/author:
Nicholas Gage

This year's Annual Meeting was held at The Manor Restaurant in West Boylston. We were honored to have Nicholas Gage as our guest speaker. His books include *Greek Fire*, *A Place for Us*, and *Eleni*, his account of his mother's life and death during the Greek Civil War. *A Place for Us* is based on his experience of moving to Worcester as a child. It was widely praised as a moving saga of the immigrant experience. Mr. Gage spoke about his journey to America, his struggles to learn English and assimilate into our country, and his gratitude to his parents and his teachers for making the journey possible. His speech was the highlight of an exciting and moving night.

An important part of our Annual Dinner is our Awards Presentation. We were pleased to present the *Student of the Year Award* to Gaballa Dakash. Gaballa, who hails from Egypt, has been a student here at Literacy Volunteers since August of 2014. He and his wife Aide reside in Westborough, where they are busy raising their four children between the ages of 3 and 10. In his native Egypt, Gab was a pharmacist, and after a brief stint delivering pizzas when he first came to this country, is now working in a medical lab.

Our *Tutor of the Year Award* went to Eric Capellari. Eric has been tutoring with Literacy Volunteers since 2010. Not only is he one of our most dedicated tutors, he is also a staunch supporter of our organization, participating whenever he can at our numerous events, attending tutor in-service workshops, and supporting our public relations efforts.

The *Volunteer of the Year Award* went to Anita Maurier. Anita has been with our organization for the past five years, and she's contributed in so many ways. Not only is she a dedicated tutor and a vital member of our Scrabble committee, she's also spearheading our latest fundraiser, the International Cookbook, and volunteer taught during the mini-semester in the spring.

At our Annual Meeting, we also voted in our new officers and board members. The 2016 officers are: Kathleen Gagne as President, Marc Sanguinetti as Vice President, Lionel Carbonneau as Treasurer and Denise Carr as Secretary. We welcomed Karen Sharpe as our newest board member.

Congratulations to everyone!



(from left to right), Volunteer of the Year Anita Maurier, Director of Education Sara Schweiger, Carolyn Carbonneau, and Treasurer Lionel Carbonneau.