



Literacy Volunteers
of Greater Worcester
Phone: 508-754-8056
www.LVGW.org
e-mail: info@lvgw.org

INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK DINNER



On June 16th, our community gathered for our annual International Dinner at the Worcester Public Library to mark the end of academic year. Tutors and faculty brought their students and everyone brought food from around the world. It was a wonderful opportunity to come together and enjoy each other's company and cuisine. Thank you to all who contributed to make this a wonderful event!

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Stay Connected!
Find out about upcoming events



Dates to Remember

June 29—Start of Summer Vacation (Madison Street Closed, Main Office open limited hours)

July 7—Tutor in-service workshop (6 pm-7:30 pm, Worcester Public Library)

July 13—Summer ESL classes begin

August 17—Registration opens for Fall Classes

August 27—Faculty Meeting

September 21—Fall Classes Start

October 6-22—Tutor Training (every Tuesday/Thursday, 3 pm—6 pm)

October 12—Columbus Day (office closed—NO CLASSES)

Summer Office Hours

June 29—July 12

Main Office (Worcester Public Library)
3 Salem Square Room 322 Worcester, MA
Mondays... closed
Tuesdays... 9 am-2 pm
Wednesdays... closed
Thursdays... 2 pm-5 pm
Fridays... closed

Madison Place Satellite

This office will be closed for summer vacation for these two weeks.

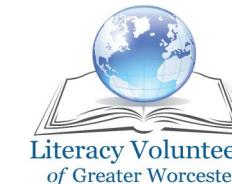
July 13—August 17

Main Office (Worcester Public Library)
3 Salem Square Room 322 Worcester, MA
Mondays... Noon-3 pm
Tuesdays... 9 am-2 pm
Wednesdays... 9 am-2 pm
Thursdays... 9 am-5 pm
Fridays... closed

Madison Place Satellite

Mondays... Noon-5 pm
Tuesdays... 9 am-3:30 pm
Wednesdays... 9 am-1 pm
Thursdays... 9 am-1 pm
Fridays... closed
Saturdays... 9 am-1 pm

A publication of Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester



The Printed Word

Summer 2015

A Word from the Executive Director



Dear Friends of Literacy Volunteers,

Summer is upon us, and here at Literacy Volunteers we are getting ready for our summer schedule. Though our offices will not close completely this year, we will have reduced hours. Please check the last page of this newsletter for our summer hours.

With the change of seasons comes internal change as well. Terry Curtin, our former Literacy Academy Coordinator, retired in April and we are pleased to welcome Susan Arraje to our organization. Terry will, however, be back in the fall as one of our Literacy Academy teachers. Please see Susan's message for more information

After almost 5 years at Literacy Volunteers, Fabienne Charlemagne will be moving into the family business as she and her husband work on building their IT consulting firm. Fabienne will also come back in the fall – as a tutor trainer for our October workshop. We are excited to have Melissa Cohen as our new Office Manager – please read her message in this newsletter to learn more about Melissa and her passion for reading and writing!

Lastly, our Director of Education, Emma Britton, is heading off to Amherst to embark upon a doctorate program at UMASS in Language, Literacy, and Cultural Studies. She, too, will be back for the tutor trainings and we are most grateful to her and Fabienne for their continued dedication to Literacy Volunteers. Emma's position will be filled by Sara Schweiger – a former journalist for the Telegram & Gazette and literacy aficionado. Sara will work side-by-side with Emma for the first few weeks in July. You can also learn more about Sara in the pages that follow.

Please rest assured that throughout this transition, the office will continue to serve the needs of our students, tutors, and teachers. I am sure that you will all enjoy working with our committed, new staff! (*continued on page 3*)

Congratulations, New Tutors!

In May 2015, 23 tutors successfully completed their 18-hour tutor training in English for Speakers of Other Languages. We welcome all of our new Literacy Volunteers!

Amanda Addeo	Susan Arraje	Timothy Barwise	Nicole Benjamin
Marla Collins	Susan Crossley	Patrick Daly	Martha Diaz De San Lucas
Lynne Erickson	Rebecca Gabrielli	Emily Hall-Hampton	George Jreije
Maureen Kenefick	Sharon Legasey	Mark Leslie	Patrick McAdam
Paula McAdam	Deborah McGee	Mary Miner	Linda Morelli
Nancy Roberts	Lynn Roy	Elyse Waksman	



New tutors receive their certificates on the last day of the training (left)



Tutors develop lesson plans in groups (right)

Spread the Word: New Tutor Training begins on October 6!

Please contact us at: 508-754-8056 ext 1 or info@lvgw.org for more information on how to sign up

Welcome, New Staff!



Susan Arraje—Literacy Coordinator

Hi Everyone,

My name is Susan Arraje and I am the new Literacy Academy Coordinator. After a whirlwind, but very fruitful few days of training with my predecessor Terry, I am delighted to be joining the very committed staff, faculty, tutors and students who contribute to and are part of the great work that is offered at Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester.

Having worked with new immigrants over the years in various settings in the human service field, it is so exciting to be part of an organization that has long addressed and responded to the ongoing language needs of new immigrants in our community with such growing and dynamic programs.

By far, my favorite part of working here is the students, especially as they share their stories and progress in integrating their new and evolving language skills into their daily lives. The laughter that I hear from behind every closed classroom door speaks volumes about the mutually shared hard work and joy that our instructors, tutors and students experience from day to day.

I am thankful for this new adventure and I look forward to working with you, learning from you and sharing with you the wonderful journey at Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester that we have all embarked on.

Melissa Cohen—Office Manager

Hello Everyone!

My name is Melissa and I'm so happy to be the new Office Manager for Literacy Volunteers. I will be working limited hours during the summer (Mondays-Thursdays from 9am—2 pm), and starting on August 17, I will be in the office on Mondays-Fridays.

As a lifelong bookworm, I can't imagine anything better than working with an organization devoted to helping promote the ability to read. As a busy stay-at-home-mom with three children, reading has been my lifeline and my saving grace for the past twelve years. Now that my youngest is starting kindergarten, I'm thrilled to find a position with an organization that so closely matches up with my own passions.

In the few short weeks I've been here, I've found that my favorite parts of the job involve working directly with students and faculty. I'm grateful to be a part of Literacy Volunteers and can't wait to meet everyone.



Sara Schweiger—Director of Education (Incoming)

Hi! My name is Sara Schweiger and I'm thrilled to join Literacy Volunteers as the new Director of Education. I will be in the main office starting June 30, and I look forward to getting to know all of our wonderful students, tutors, and teachers.

I bring to Literacy Volunteers 15 years of print journalism experience and a passion for literacy and learning. I am honored to become a part of ESOL students' English-language journey.

I look forward to continuing the great work of my predecessor, Emma Britton, who has graciously offered to bring me up to speed during my first few weeks in the office. Please feel free to stop by or call me with any questions or just to say "hi"!



Literacy Academy Summer Schedule of ESL Classes*

July 13—August 22, 2015

Beginner ESL Classes in the **Worcester Public Library—Computer Lab**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ESL Beginners Reading and Writing <i>Rosetta Stone®</i> 9:30-11:00 am Celeste Steffancci	ESL Beginners English for Work <i>Rosetta Stone®</i> 9:30 – 11:00 am Susan Palis	ESL Beginners Pronunciation/Grammer <i>Rosetta Stone®</i> 9:30 – 11:00 am Celeste Steffancci			
ESL Beginners <i>Rosetta Stone Tutorial®</i> 11:30 am – 1:00 pm George Jreije	ESL Beginners <i>Rosetta Stone Tutorial®</i> 11:30 am – 1:00 pm George Jreije	ESL Beginners <i>Rosetta Stone Tutorial®</i> 11:30 am– 1:00 pm George Jreije			

Intermediate/Advanced ESL Classes at **90 Madison Street (Room 303A)**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	ESL Intermediate Conversation 9:30 – 11:00 am George Jreije	ESL Intermediate Pronunciation and Listening 9:30 – 11:00 am George Jreije	ESL Intermediate Reading and Writing 9:30 – 11:00 am George Jreije		ESL Intermediate Conversation 9:30 - 11:00 am George Jreije

Registration begins June 9th, 2015 and continues until
the start of class on July 13th, 2015

Students must register for classes in person.

Beginners Register at:

**Main Office (Worcester Public Library)
3 Salem Square Room 332 Worcester, MA**

Summer Hours (June 29-July 12)

*Monday closed
Tuesday 9 am - noon
Wednesday closed
Thursday 2 pm—5 pm
Friday closed*

Office Hours (starting July 13)

*Mondays Noon - 3 pm
Tuesdays 9 am - 2 pm
Wednesdays 9 am - 2 pm
Thursdays 9 am - 5 pm
Fridays 3 pm - 5 pm*

Intermediate Classes Register at:

**Madison Place Satellite
90 Madison Street Room 303A Worcester, MA
Office Hours (Office is closed 6/29-7/12)**
*Monday Noon - 5 pm
Tuesdays 9 am - 3:30 pm
Wednesdays 9 am - 1 pm
Thursdays 9 am - 1 pm
Fridays 9 am - 1 pm
Saturday 9 am - 1 pm*

The intermediate classes are currently full. Please check back after July 20th for any openings.

Donations are gratefully accepted

For more information, call 508-754-8056 or email us at info@lvgw.org



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of our Scrabble Tournament and Fundraiser



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(Message from the Executive Director, continued from page 1)

Outside the classroom, we were busy raising funds to support our mission. The Scrabble Scrimmage and Silent Auction Gala proved to be a big success – with close to 20 teams joining us for an evening of raffles, auctions, exotic food, and team Scrabble. Judging from the interest in Scrabble, the next Scrabble event will be simply a tournament, minus the auction, to allow us to introduce a different kind of fundraiser – more information will be available at the end of the summer!

We recently launched a second phase of our Annual Appeal, making use of our new marketing materials. If you've already donated, thank you! If you haven't, we'd love to start our fiscal year with some additional dollars, so please either send a check into the office or donate online at www.lvgw.org. To all of our funders – on the local, state, and national levels – your support is much appreciated as we work to provide adults with the English language skills they need. Through our continued partnerships, we can help the newcomers to our area become self-sufficient and contributing members of our society.

We had a wonderful year and we intend to have another great year ahead of us, full of inspiring classes, meaningful tutor-student matches, and programs tailored to meet the needs of our students. Our Rosetta Stone® portable language laboratory is much appreciated by our students and there are often 3-5 students at our satellite location, practicing their English conversational skills with our new Kindle Fires!

Best wishes for a delightful summer,

Ellen Benz,
Executive Director

*Winners of this year's
Scrabble Tournament:
The Bay State
Scrabbler*



Mission Moment: Reaching The Goal of College



ESL Student Elena (left), with her tutor, Emma, (right) on a field trip to Louise May Alcott's home in Concord, MA.

Emma Britton, Tutor

Though I've worn many hats as a staff member of Literacy Volunteers, being a tutor is probably my favorite role. I've tutored my current student, Elena Sokolova from Russia, for 3 years now.

I remember when Elena came to her first tutoring session 3 years ago. She had only been in the country for a few months and spoke at a beginning level of English. As we struggled to communicate through strings of words and picture drawings, I saw in her a great determination to learn the English language. She arrived to every subsequent session ready to work, and requested many homework assignments!

During our time together, I've watched as Elena has made great improvements in her English. She has bravely sought new opportunities for English practice outside of our tutoring sessions. She's listened to audio books, watched many English movies, attended our group classes, and even found a volunteer opportunity in an office.

Last summer, Elena's advanced level of English enabled her to enroll in Quinsigamond Community College's certification program as a financial assistant. With this, I am confident that she will soon achieve her ultimate goal—finding satisfying employment related to her skills in accounting. It has been a real pleasure to help her find her way in America.

Elena Sokolova, Student

My name is Elena Sokolova. I am from Russia and I came to this country 3 years ago so that my son could have a better future in the United States. I wanted to improve my English so that I could feel comfortable and communicate with other Americans. I would like to build my future in the US too. My tutor, Emma, helps me improve my English and helps me understand American culture and traditions. She also helps with every day responsibilities such as shopping, doctor's appointments and understanding my son's college application process. With my tutor, I have met new people and visited new places like Concord.

My dream is to have a career in accounting, like I had in Russia. After my English improved, Emma encouraged me to go to college and she helped me apply. Now I am a college student, and studying to become a financial assistant.

Literacy Volunteers gave me the opportunity to have a tutor, who is now my friend.