



Lit Bits

1600 South Avenue, Rochester New York 14620-3036

(585) 473-3030

www.literacyrochester.org

2011 Brain Game Champions Crowned

Congratulations to the Thomson Reuters team, the 2011 Brain Game champions!

The 11th Brain Game, LVR's annual fun-filled trivia challenge and networking event, was held at the Rochester Club Ballroom on Thursday, October 13.

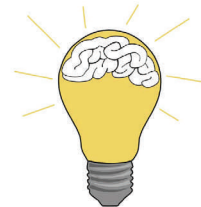
Fourteen teams competed for the coveted Brain Game trophy and over 150 people were on hand to see them vie for Brain Game honors. It was a great evening, led by emcees from WHEC News, anchors Nikki Rudd and Berkeley Brean. The event was sponsored by Harter, Secrest & Emery LLP and, with the support of our



2011 Brain Game Champions Thomson Reuters

participating teams, LVR was able to raise \$14,500 in support of its programs and services.

Thanks to everyone, including our many dedicated volunteers, who made this event a great success.



2011 BRAIN GAME

2011 Teams

- ◆ Bond Schoeneck & King, PLLC
- ◆ Brighton Securities
- ◆ D4, LLC
- ◆ DeJoy, Knauf & Blood, LLP
- ◆ Financial Architects/ Mass Mutual
- ◆ Harris Beach, PLLC
- ◆ Harter, Secrest & Emery, LLP
- ◆ Intellectual Insolvents
- ◆ Lacy Katzen, LLP
- ◆ Monroe Community College
- ◆ Nixon Peabody, LLP
- ◆ St. John Fisher College
- ◆ Thomson Reuters
- ◆ Underberg & Kessler, LLP

GIFT FROM ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LVR has received a generous donation from St. Thomas' Episcopal Church. These funds will allow LVR to purchase laptop computers to use in our tutor training workshops and student intake. We are grateful for this congregation's continuing generosity in support of our adult literacy initiatives.

LVR Hours

Office and library are open

Monday through Friday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The third Saturday of the month 9 a.m. to noon, from September through June



Office and library are closed

Thursday and Friday, November 24&25 – Thanksgiving

Friday and Monday, December 23&26 – Christmas

Monday January 2, 2012 – New Years Day

Monday January 16, 2012 – Martin Luther King Day

Director's Update



Executive Director Bob Mahar

LVR recently celebrated its one year anniversary at its new offices at 1600 South Avenue. It has been an exciting and challenging year for our organization, which, in 2011 passes the 47 year mark of serving the Rochester community. While we see people each week in the office who are here for training, previews, tutoring, computer sessions or to use the library, it has been several months since we last saw many of you at our annual awards ceremony in June.

As mentioned at that celebration, our thanks go out to all who continue to help support LVR, including our courageous learners, dedicated volunteers and community supporters.

A new program year is upon us and many things have been happening at LVR. The enclosed Annual Report shows that we were successful in the outcomes as measured by NYS Education Department as well as the life changing achievements of LVR learners.

This year's list of over 4,000 achievements includes many skills and activities that many take for granted but are changing lives.

Additionally, several new initiatives are taking place including the new math pilot program mentioned in this issue and In-Service Saturdays, a series of training sessions for LVR tutors in areas of interest. Look for more of these training opportunities in 2012.

LVR BOOK SALE

LVR is pleased to announce its first Book Sale. The Sale will be held at the LVR offices from June 1 to June 3, 2012. More details about hours of operation will be announced in the months ahead.

Sale items will include: new and used books, plus CDs, DVDs, videotapes, unabridged books-on-tape, and books-on-CD (all in their original case/box).

Donations are now being accepted at the LVR offices between the hours of 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If you have large quantities of books, please contact LVR Board member Patrick McQuoid at 585-298-0860 to arrange for the books to be picked up at your home or office. Upon request, LVR will be happy to give you a form that thanks you for your donation and allows you to put a monetary value on that donation.

Donations for and purchases at this Sale will help LVR have the funds to support our adult learners as they pursue their personal literacy goals.



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Save The Date

- ◆ December 9, 2011— the Annual LVR Open House 2-4 PM
- ◆ January 15, February 19, and March 19 — 2012 Professional Development Saturdays
- ◆ March 3, 2012 — LVR "Super Saturday"
- ◆ June 1-3, 2012 LVR's First Book Sale



LitBits, as well as other pertinent information, can be accessed on our website www.literacyrochester.org

A Note of Thanks From an LVR Student

Dear Ms. Woodhams:

I wrote the letter to express my appreciation to LVR and my tutor, Susie.

Now I want to introduce myself and talk about how Susie offers me all kinds of help.

I came to Rochester from China, since then my husband found a job.

My English is not good. Reading and writing is Ok, but listening and speaking is very bad. Hence I have serious difficulty in communicating with people. What's more, my husband is very busy, so I have to deal with all kinds of things by myself in the daily life. I feel lonely and helpless. But fortunately I found the LVR by internet. After I passed the test, you arranged a tutor, Susie, for me.

Susie is a very nice tutor. She not only helps me learn English but also encourages me to mold confidence when I confront difficulty.

Once a time, I made an appointment with the dentist. But my husband had an important meeting and couldn't accompany with me. So I had to see the dentist by myself. Before I went to the clinic, I was very nervous and was afraid that I couldn't

understand what the dentist talked to me. I told Susie my concern. The next day, she downloaded and printed some pictures of teeth and files of introducing dental problem. She taught me many medical words, and mocked the situation in the clinic. At last, I succeeded in communicating with the dentist. The experience makes me confident in dealing with the thing in daily life in the future. I am very happy.

As a housewife and newcomer, I have few friends in Rochester. I often feel lonely and miss my parents very much. Susie introduces her friends to me and helps me make new friends, which makes me adapt to the life in Rochester as soon as possible. I really appreciate.

All in all, it is impossible to use one page paper to talk about what Susie helped me. Now, Susie is not only my tutor and friend but also like one of my family members. I trust her and appreciate her sincerely. Moreover, I really appreciate LVR and all the staff. You are doing the great job. Indeed, LVR benefits our community.

Sincerely,
Nan

Volunteer Opportunities!

While there are many volunteer opportunities available every day at LVR – here are just a few opportunities to highlight:

Workshop Trainer: LVR is seeking is seeking knowledgeable individuals with a background in education/tutoring to become a part of our trainer corps.

LVR Preview Presenter: All LVR tutors and volunteers must attend a one hour preview to introduce them to LVR and what volunteer opportunities are available. We are currently looking for one or two people to add to our current group of presenters.

If you are interested in either of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Jennifer Eaton, Program Coordinator at 473-3030 or jeaton@literacyrochester.org.

LVR Piloting Math Program

Thanks to the early support of the Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation, the Davenport Hatch Foundation, and Thomson Reuters to develop a tutor training curriculum, Literacy Volunteers is piloting a math instructional program during the 2011-2012 program year. For a number of years, LVR learners have expressed a need for additional instruction in math and LVR tutors have sought additional training and materials to assist them.

Additionally, as LVR receives referrals from other adult education programs in the community, we increasingly see that the community faces not only a problem of illiteracy but also one of innumeracy.

In the late winter and spring of this year, Mellissa Woodhams, LVR Case Coordinator worked for several months with a team of LVR volunteers (Peg Warrick, Mike Goodwin and Mary Clifford) who developed a training curriculum to allow LVR tutors to provide one-to-one math instruction.

In April an initial training was piloted, offering twelve hours of math instruction facilitated by Mellissa. Tutors were matched with math learners and their progress was monitored. In September, LVR offered a modified workshop with Basic Literacy and Math instruction for current/new tutors. In mid-January LVR will also begin a 10 week math class for learners which Mellissa will facilitate. This group of math learners will be recruited from current LVR learners and other classroom programs where learners are attempting to raise their math testing scores to be eligible for GED/Job Training Programs. The class will begin on January 18 and will continue on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 1-4 PM at LVR, for ten weeks. Learners interested in registering for the class should contact LVR at 473-3030 to register.



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Literacy Volunteers of Rochester, Inc.
1600 South Avenue
Rochester, NY 14620-3036
Telephone: 585-473-3030
Fax: 585-473-7478

Literacy Volunteers of Rochester
1600 South Avenue
Suite 100
Rochester, NY 14620

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Annual Giving Campaign

LVR invites you to participate in its Annual Giving campaign by making a donation in support of our community's adult learners. Help LVR celebrate 47 years of community service with your contribution. Go to www.literacyrochester.org to select our secure online giving option.

More Volunteer Opportunities !

LVR Book Sale: From sorting to selling there will be many opportunities to help before during and after the sale, contact Patrick McQuoid for more information at 585-298-0860.

Literacy Navigator: LVR volunteers often assist their learners in "navigating" - obtaining information about community services, filling out forms or getting information on-line. LVR would like to develop a program in which volunteers would be available at the LVR office to answer questions and assist learners. If you might be interested in becoming a "Literacy Navigator" contact Bob Mahar at 473-3030

