

Literacy

Volunteers

of America – Rochester NY Inc.

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(585) 473-3030
www.literacy-rochester.org



LitBits

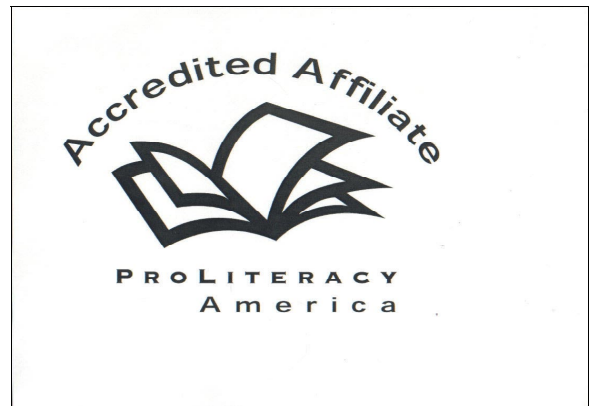
Spring 2003

Congratulations! Accreditation Achieved

If you visit the offices of Literacy Volunteers of America- Rochester (LVA-R) you will notice a new addition to our photos on the walls – a Certificate of Accreditation. The National Accreditation Review panel of ProLiteracy America has officially recognized our affiliate. This honor came after our official site visit on September 25, 2003 and many months of preparation and review by staff, administrative volunteers and board members of LVA-Rochester. The accreditation process included a review of 32 standards. Our affiliate passed all standard areas that were reviewed.

Our accredited status is in effect for the next four years. We will be reviewed again in 2006. Standards for review included areas such as training, program and financial reporting, board and volunteer involvement, student and volunteer recruitment, training and intake. Of particular note by the site surveyor was the quality of our training and our Board involvement in many aspects of the organization.

Our thanks to everyone in our organization who works hard each day to make the program the best it can be, but also to the many individuals who gave of their time on the day of our site visit including trainers, librarians, and board members. We should all be proud of this accomplishment and the continued success of LVA-Rochester.



Reading Rally 2003 Highlighted by Student Poster Contest

Reading Rally 2003, an annual event that helps promote family literacy and raises financial support for the adult literacy programs of Literacy Volunteers, takes place on Saturday April 26, 2003. This year's event includes a poster contest for 4th-8th grade students centered around a 16-part serialized novel which has appeared this winter and spring in the Our Towns section of the Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle*. The novel Desolation Canyon

by children's author Jonathan London focuses on a rafting trip through Utah's Desolation Canyon. Additionally students are asked to donate new and used books for use by pre-school children at Rochester's Even Start programs. To get more information about Reading Rally 2003 check out the events section of our web-site. Look for the next issue of *LitBits* for coverage of this year's events.

SAVE THE DATE!

Spring Conference May 31, 2003

Annual Meeting June 17, 2003 Writer's & Books740 University Avenue Rochester NY

Message from the President - Peter Giopulos

Agents of Change

Volunteers are giving people and they become agents of change. Our name alone reminds us of what we do and the way in which we perform. How generous! Last year 24,030 volunteer hours were given to help adults learn to read! Together with all our donors, we created a culture of giving.

The Board of Directors and staff undertake fund raising to meet our program needs through the Annual Appeal, Brain Game and Reading Rally (fund raisers). Government and foundation grants contribute significantly to our budget. Last year Senator James Alesi and Assemblyman David Koon sponsored membership items for us.

You Can Help

To offer more programs and keep a stable organization we need more funds. Inflation alone does not allow us to remain financially complacent. We seek assurances of stability in these difficult and shifting financial times. You can help.

Write a check to the Annual Appeal. There is no end date to this mail drive. **Review your charitable giving budget**, hopefully increasing your donation each year.

Consider Literacy Volunteers in your planned giving by including the agency in your will. Encourage friends and family to will a gift. Reference board member Paul Keneally's article in this issue of *LitBits*.

Give in memory of an honored or loved one, friend or relative. Special events such as a birthday, anniversary,



*Peter Giopulos, Ph.D.
President,
Board of Directors*

LVA-R Receives Support from Xerox

The Xerox Corporation has provided two grants totaling \$4000 to Literacy Volunteers of America-Rochester to create updated video tapes for the training of ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) tutors. The grants are from the Xerox Community Involvement Program (XCIP) for \$3000 and the Xerox Leadership Association (XLA) for \$1000. The money will be used to give tutors an accurate representation of lessons with a learner.

ESOL training tapes are used by workshop trainers to show new tutors techniques that they utilize in working with students who are learning to read, write and speak English. Funds will also be used to improve the videotapes used at preview sessions. Tutor preview sessions give prospective tutors an overview of Literacy Volunteers, the adult students

graduation or promotion can be **acknowledged by a donation**.

Talk about your literacy work at organizations in which you belong, such as professional, church, civic or book clubs.

Encourage members to support literacy through group donations to Reading Rally or the Annual Appeal.

Donate empty copy/computer toner cartridges. One from your home computer or many from your work place are wanted. **We collect and recycle** all kinds of cartridges and the agency earns over \$1,000 a year from this project.

Save your TOPS Market register receipts because for every \$600 of receipts collected, we receive \$1 from TOPS. Think big because we submit in \$25,000 lots.

Forward information about workplace foundation giving or corporations that have matching dollar programs. **Identify grant opportunities for us**.

Donate items that can be used in the office. Suggestions include copy paper, stamps, coffee, tea, paper cups, pencils, pens or computer supplies. Services such as printing or copying are welcomed. Encourage friends and businesses to do the same.

Identify friends, family, neighbors or business associates to be added to the Annual Appeal mailing list.

Buy and help sell tickets for raffles or bid on auction items that Literacy Volunteers sponsors. Attend events. We'd like to see you and share literacy stories!

Together we can increase our effectiveness through a stable and growth budget. Your gift dollars are tax deductible.

These gifts are endorsements to the 421 volunteers and 677 students and make every dollar a value added. Remember, gift giving people are change agents and make a difference in the life of Literacy Volunteers.

they serve and some insight into the experience ahead as volunteers.

LVA-R will be working with a Rochester production company to create these videos. A number of Xerox employees who are LVA-R volunteers will be involved in the video project in both planning and production.



*Bob Mahar, Renee Stone, Xerox Employee and Preview Presenter,
Eugene Wicks, Xerox Representative,
and Peter Giopulos*

Message from the Director – Bob Mahar

Thank you to all of our volunteers and students

Believe it or not, while it's 10 degrees outside and the snow is still on the ground its time to think about program year end (June 30th) and all of the things that come with it. First on the list this year are the year-end report forms (the pink sheet) which all of our tutors will be seeing in the mail sometime soon. As you know, changes in the way we make reports to the state make it more important than ever to give your student an updated assessment. In the Basic program we will be using the READ assessment tool and if you haven't yet signed up for a training session please look for a date below and call us today. In ESOL we are still using the NYSPLACE assessment and are offering refresher courses as well – so please sign up if you are interested.



*Robert (Bob) Mahar
Executive Director*

We realize that assessing your student may not be the first choice of how to spend part of your tutoring session, but it is important to gain some knowledge regarding the progress you've made, identify some skill areas to work on and also to help Literacy Volunteers meet state standards for reporting. Meeting these standards helps us remain eligible for funding, accreditation and helps us provide the support to all of you.

The annual meeting is another event we think about at year-end. This year's annual meeting will be held on June 17 at Writer's and Books, 740 University Avenue. You will receive an invitation, proxy vote, and a form to recognize a student's achievements. We hope that as many students, tutors, and friends as possible can attend. In addition to the business part of the meeting (electing new board members and passing an annual budget), the event focuses on students and tutors and their accomplishments.

Finally let me say thank you to all of our volunteers and students who have been meeting faithfully each week during the long cold winter – your dedication is outstanding.

What's new at Literacy Volunteers?

If you haven't been to our offices in a while you may notice a few new things and even people. Our new staff person at the front desk from noon till 4 pm, Monday through Friday is Irene Burch. Irene comes to us through a program at LIFESPAN and is here answering the phones, compiling mailings and workshop materials and anything else she can do to help out. Irene is also learning about computers for the first time but we expect that she'll be surfing the web any day now. Welcome Irene!

In our library you may notice some new General Education Development (GED) and pre-GED materials which came to us through a cooperative grant with the Monroe County Library Literacy Committee. The grant is funded through the New York State Library and the New York State Education

Department. These materials are the most up to date information and books on the GED. If your student is working towards his or her GED please stop in to review the new materials.

Finally, some of you may have noticed a new piece of equipment in the office. Covered in a nice wood case is the "Vera system" talking scanner. The system is on loan to us from the Learning Development Center at the Rochester Institute of Technology. The scanner reads basic text aloud (as well as through a headphone system). We are hopeful that students and tutors will stop in the office and make use of this new tool.

| READ Training Schedule | | NYSPlace Assessment Training | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| 4/21 Monday 6:30-8:30 pm | Michelle Bruzee | 4/25 Friday 10:00 am-Noon | Edline Chun |
| 4/24 Thursday 12:30-2:30 pm | Eileen Woods | 5/3 Saturday 10:00 am-Noon | John Marshall |
| 5/1 Thursday 6:30-8:30 pm | Michelle Bruzee | 5/8 Thursday 6:30-8:30 pm | Edline Chun |
| 5/6 Tuesday 1:00-3:00 pm | George-Ann Schaufele | | |

Readiness for Learning Class

from Mellissa Woodhams

Readiness for Learning, a 4-hour class for basic literacy students, first came to life in March of 2000. The program became a mandatory step in the intake process in July 2002. Ellen Arnold, EdD., a member of our advisory board, and educational consultant, developed the curriculum. Ellen's philosophy, like many other educators, is that the best teaching takes place when taught to the student's strength. Readiness for Learning is designed to help students become aware of their strengths so they can share that information with their tutor. Unfortunately, many of our students feel they are the only one in the world lacking the strength needed to learn to read.

The success and value of any venture should be measured and evaluated, which usually consists of counting numbers and data. There are times when success and value are measured through personal statements, especially when working with people. Barbara Clements, who has been a facilitator since May of 2000, was asked recently for her perspective regarding the value of RFL. Barb stated, "It is incredible to see the bonding that occurs with students once they realize that they are not alone." Barb also stated how "fulfilling it is to see the students become aware of their strengths and talents."

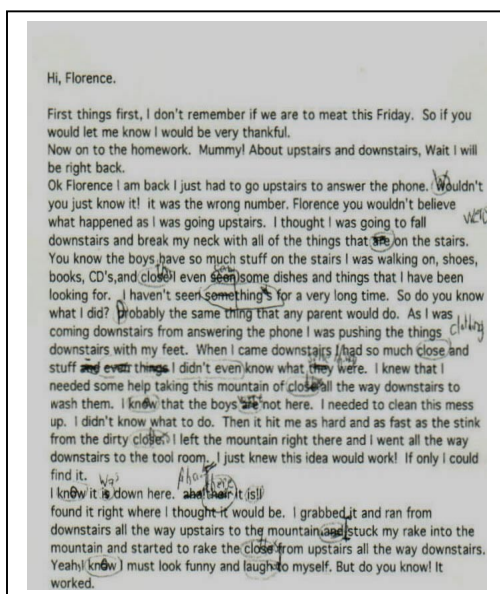
The dedicated group of volunteer and student facilitators, who deliver the program on a monthly basis, include Barb Clements, Sue Jaschik, Andrea Lane, Frank Owens, and Scott Yantz. Every student attending the program completes an

evaluation form. Up to date, the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. While positive feedback could lead to a sense of complacency, we are continuously working to meet better the learning needs of our basic students.



Frank Owens
RFL Facilitator

Steven Lane works with tutor Florence Smith



Upstairs and Downstairs by Steven Lane

I just had to go upstairs to answer the phone. Wouldn't you just know it! It was the wrong number. And you wouldn't believe what happened as I was going upstairs. I thought I was going to fall downstairs and break my neck with all of the things that are on the stairs. The boys have so much stuff on the stairs I was walking on - shoes, books, CDs, and clothes. I even saw some dishes and things that I have been looking for. I haven't seen some things for a very long time.

So do you know what I did? Probably the same thing that any parent would do. As I was coming downstairs from answering the phone I was pushing the things downstairs with my feet. I had so much clothing and stuff - I didn't even know what some things were. I knew that I needed some help taking this mountain of clothes all the way downstairs to wash them. I knew that the boys were not here. I needed to clean this mess up but I didn't know what to do.

Then it hit me as hard and as fast as the stink from the dirty clothes. I left the mountain right there and I went all the way downstairs to the tool room. I just knew this idea would work! If only I could find it. I knew it was down here. Aha! There it was! I found it right where I thought it would be.

I grabbed it and ran from downstairs all the way upstairs to the mountain. I stuck my rake into the mountain and started to rake the clothes from upstairs all the way downstairs. Yeah, I knew I must look funny and laughed to myself. But do you know what? It worked.

Florence says: "This was written in January 2003. He was always writing these two words as 'up stairs' and 'down stairs'."

Is Planned Giving for You?

from Paul Kenealley, Esq.

When creating or revising your estate plans, you may wish to consider making a gift to Literacy Volunteers. Not only does such a gift support Literacy Volunteers, but it may offer you important tax incentives. Charitable gifting is an excellent opportunity for you to reduce capital gains associated with large securities and investments, and to reduce income and estate taxes.

There are several ways to take advantage of charitable gifting opportunities. First, you can make a testamentary gift under your Will as either a bequest for a specific dollar amount legacy or for a percentage of the remainder of your estate. Depending upon the size of the bequest, you may be able to create a named fund or support a favorite program of Literacy Volunteers.

Second, trust gifts made during your lifetime may provide annual income for you and/or your family. A Charitable Remainder Trust will pay income to you and/or your family for a designated period of time. When the trust ends, the remaining proceeds will be paid to Literacy Volunteers. A Charitable Lead Trust, on the other hand, will pay income to Literacy Volunteers for a designated period of time and, upon the trust's termination, distribute the remaining assets to your non-charitable beneficiaries.

Third, making a gift of real property, stocks or retirement plans is an excellent way to remove highly appreciated assets from your estate while benefiting Literacy Volunteers. Life insurance can also be used to support the organization. By naming Literacy Volunteers as owner and beneficiary of a life insurance policy, you may be entitled to tax deductions on the payment of future premiums.

To learn more about charitable gifting opportunities to LVA-Rochester, please contact Paul F. Keneally, Esq., Secretary, Board of Directors (258-2882).

Sue Schaefer Fund

Tutors and Learners: have you wanted to attend an event together but couldn't find the necessary cash for tickets, admission, etc.? We have the Sue Schaefer Fund to assist you. This fund can be accessed by contacting Bob Mahar, Executive Director or Judy Emerson, Program Coordinator at least 24 hours before tickets are necessary for a specific event. Preference is given to those who have not previously received a sponsorship from this fund. You'll be asked to write a short article for *LitBits* that may be passed on to the Schaefer family. You are eligible for a reimbursement of up to \$35 which can be received upon submission of receipts to Bob Mahar at least 24 hours before tickets are necessary for a specific event.

Judy Dauphinee Volunteer of the Year Award

Nominations are welcome for the Judy Dauphinee Volunteer of the Year Award. This award is named for Judy Dauphinee, a valued tutor and volunteer, who passed away in 1991. You may nominate yourself or any volunteer tutor, trainer, office administrator, or other individual who exemplifies selflessness, team spirit, positive attitude, dependability, follow-through, and a willingness to go beyond a job description. A current member of the Board of Directors is not eligible for the award. Former winners are Virginia Buechel, George-Ann Schaufele & Dorothy Holmes, Michelle Bruzee, Grace Weinstein, Roger & Carolyn Selsam, Paul Crough, Virginia Allen, Michelle Bruzee & Dorothy Holmes & Anne LeBlanc, Marcia Johnson, and Cynthia Goldstein. To nominate

someone, please complete the application form by Friday, May 9, 2003. The application form is available from the office or via e-mail. Nominations will be presented to the Board of Directors on May 20.

A note to Tutors

Barb Wainright, former tutor and current administrative volunteer, has agreed to publish a monthly e-newsletter to tutors. This will be up to one page of information, tutor tips, notes from the office, etc. and will be sent to each tutor's e-mail address. Please e-mail or call the office with your address if you are interested in receiving this newsletter. We will be using the addresses that we have on file and the first issue will arrive this spring. Send updates to jemerson@literacyvolunteers.org or call 473-3030.

Our Donors October 1, 2002 – February 28, 2003

\$1,000 +

Anonymous, Rose-Marie B. Klipstein, Arthur E. Lowenthal

\$500 - \$999

Anonymous, Mary Joan Bodensteiner, Audrey W. Holly

\$250 - \$499

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\$100 - \$249

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The following donors designated their United Way contributions to Literacy Volunteers of America – Rochester:

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Tributes/Memorials

Tribute to Bonnie Brauer

Pam Rosenbaum

In Memory of Cheryl Cicchetti

The Bunco Girls

In Memory of Gail Clarke

Paul and Inez Law

In Memory of Ella Davis

Sarah Jackson

In Memory of Sara Kash

Bonnie Baker, James and Helen Beilman, Michael and Selma Berger, Kathy and Milton Camhi, Kenneth and Ellen Carpenter, Tony and Eliza Coyle, Keith Ewing, Melinda Falkoff, Dr. John Fazio and Dr. Ellen Schaeffer, Carl Feinstock, Susan P. Flood, David and Mary France, Eli and Dolores Frankel, Steven Gersz and Marsha Raines, Peter Giopulos, Christine Gleason and Erik Larson, James R. Gordon, Jeffrey and Nancy Heeder, Lois Jenner, Jewish War Veterans Ladies Aux. 41, Allan and Sandra Kash, Sidney, Ruth, Edward and Lawrence Katz, Judith Kennedy, Marcia L. Ketchum, Maureen and Donald Kirsch, Linda Kirschen, Rose-Marie B. Klipstein, Ellen Lerner, Joan Matzner, Margaret and George Maytrott, Geraldine McMullen, Robert and Kathleen Neal, James and Susan Newman, Brian and Ann Nobis, Yetta M. Nusbaum, Isobel Perry, Robert Sandgrund, Ann Santarelle, Carl Schlossberg, Cyril and Gertrude Schultz, Joseph and Judith Sherman, Genevieve Solazzo, Ira and Maria Stein, University Surgical Associates, LLP, Peter and Christine Wagenblass, Harold and Zelda Ward, Ray and Peg Warrick, Carol (Soslow) Weitzman and family

In Memory of Suzanne Schaefer

Richard and Elsie Schaefer

Welcome New Tutors! Fall 2002 - Winter 2003

Basic Workshops

Charlene Ruth Annese
Judith Babcock
Meredith Beales
Susan Boland
Susan Brandt
Mary Lou Brown
Margot Garcia
Karen Hall
Agnes Houck
Pam Killaby
Dana Lawson
Liz Lazarus
Cindy Lindquist
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Alternative Workshops

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Alison Hutchings
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Gail Mallaber
Gay Mattei
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Vesna Parks
Rob Perrilleon
Karyn Renehan
Joanna Tornstrom
Ann Margaret Westesson

Our Thanks To Trainers!

Marcia Nabut
Mike Raha
Peg Warrick
George-Ann Schaufele
Wendy Prince
John Marshall
Michelle Bruzee
Anne LeBlanc

ESOL Workshops

Gabe Angelone
Justin Ballerstein
Barb Baronas
Kathryn Burns
Susan Close
Roger Delthony
Francis DeWitte
Mona DiMartino
Terry Hin
Marty Lawlor
Dan Levine
Bonnie Martin
Hillary Overberg

The LVA-R Office is open
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
and Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon.

The office is closed Saturdays
during the Lilac Festival (5/10
and 5/17), Memorial Day Holiday
(5/24 and 5/26), and Saturdays
during July and August.

Please call the office for specific
weekend openings.

Kyunan Park works with tutor Eileen Beikirch

Last Saturday we had a family portrait taken. In our country when a baby is about three months old his family and relatives celebrate. They have a party and take a picture. That is a tradition. We call that picture "one hundredth day portrait." Everyone has their one hundredth day portrait and the one year portrait. Soohyun and I have our portraits. Hojin also has his portrait. I want to give Justin his portrait. His hundredth day was October 16th. At that time his father was very busy so we put off taking Justin's portrait. We waited one month for Justin's father's break to start in order to take Justin's portrait. The last week of November we wanted to take this picture, but Justin had a cold. He had a runny nose and his condition was not good. We put off again taking the picture until the baby is better. At last he had the one hundredth-day portrait on his one hundred sixtieth day.

Eileen tells us, "It is a custom in Korea to take a new baby's picture on the one hundredth day of his birth.

This was very important to Kyunan and her husband as it is a very important custom in her country."

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