

Schauffele Receives President George W. Bush's Volunteer Service Award

Wednesday, May 18, a call came to the offices of Literacy Volunteers from the White House Office of the U.S.A. Freedom Corp. Cindy Wilsbach spoke in quick and careful sentences explaining that the President recognizes volunteers when he travels around the country. Her job was to solicit nominations for the Volunteer Service Award from local agencies and she would need the nominations by the following day. A difficult decision and an easy decision, whom to nominate?

On Tuesday, May 24, 2005 when President George Bush visited Rochester, he presented a pin, the President's Volunteer Service Award, to long-time Literacy Volunteer, George-Ann Schauffele.

For 22 years, George-Ann has been working with adults who can't read above an eighth grade level or who can't speak English. She began her work through the Monroe County Association for Retarded



President Bush and George-Ann Schauffele at the Rochester airport.

Citizens. After that she was trained by Literacy Volunteers and for 17 years worked one-on-one with individuals who could not read. In 1999 she began helping refugee families and individuals as they adjusted to a new life in the United States. She teaches English and American culture

for English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) using a collaborative instruction method.

In addition to her one-to-one tutoring, she has provided the organization with many hours of other volunteer service. Beginning in 1986, she became certified as a trainer of tutors in Basic Literacy and in 2003 became a trainer of tutors in English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). She has presented at least one workshop each year for over 19 years. In the 21-hour workshop she helps individuals learn about teaching through a variety of exercises, lectures, and role playing. She has also been integral in revising curriculum. Because she has often gone "above and beyond" in her role as a volunteer, she was presented the Judy Dauphinee award in 1994. George-Ann continues to exemplify the qualities of that award today.

Reading and Camaraderie at Drop-In Center

Susan Kunz, Tutor

After working one-on-one with three students over the past ten years, I started volunteering in the Friday morning drop-in class in June 2004. This program is a way to get students started on the path to reading while waiting for a tutor, which could take several months. However, many of the participants remain in the group, even after they had been assigned their own tutor, and the group has grown from a core group of 5-6 participants to over 12.

I find working with the group to be a stimulating and rewarding experience. I enjoy the participants, who are from many different backgrounds. They all have something to contribute, and I enjoy observing how they support and encourage each other. A real spirit of camaraderie has developed, so there is much fun and laughter as well as hard work. Being

part of the group enhances what the students learn in their individual tutoring sessions and they become more confident in their reading and writing.

This spring we started using the Voyager Series, an integrated approach to reading and writing. This program has met with great enthusiasm, and the students are eager to do their homework. In the fall, college students will be recruited and trained to assist with drop-in so the LVR students can be worked with at their individual level. There is a possibility that this program will be expanded to include an evening class. However, there is always a need for experienced tutors to do planning of lessons tailored to the group's needs and to track the students' progress. If you enjoy working with groups and are looking for a different challenge, contact Mellissa Woodhams.

A Salute to Dollar General

A special thanks goes to Dollar General Literacy Foundation for their recent grant of \$4,434 for a new Literacy Volunteers program, called Readiness for America. This program will give speakers of other languages who are waiting for tutors or who want additional help, opportunities to speak, understand, read and write English in informal but guided group sessions.

Participatory and experiential classes will include hands-on activities, small group conversation, and activities involving games, computer software, role playing and field trips. These classes are free and open to ESOL students on the waiting list and those who need additional help. Readiness for America will be launched in August, 2005.

From the Executive Director - Bob Mahar

The Seven Thank You's

The development professionals tell me that we should say thank you seven times to each donor through a variety of means and methods in order to effectively reach them.



In this update I'd like to take a slightly different approach and instead say thank you seven times to the "Super Seven" groups of people who have supported LVR during the past year.

Thank You – LVR Students – Your courage, hard work and perseverance are an inspiration to us all. The process of learning is a difficult one but as adults we have the added issues of work, family and dozens of other responsibilities in our lives. Yet you all find time each week to practice reading, or to practice speaking English in order to reach your goals, and

Gratitude Expressed From Former Students

Often the staff hears how grateful students are for the help they have received from LVR volunteers. Recently, two letters arrived from former English Speakers of Other Languages students.

Estela arrived in the United States in 1999 and worked for five years with tutor, Kaye Brotzman. Her letter told of her hard work and time spent working on speaking, listening, and reading skills. "When I came to LVR for help, I explained that I have two children at school, and that I will be the only one helping them with their schoolwork. I was very worried about not being able to help them, because of my little knowledge from the English Language...As a Spanish speaker I was struggling with my vowels, and word endings, especially verbs in the past tense. With a lot of patience Kaye taught me how to talk in correct English, so people started to understand me. Besides, she helps me to read knitting books, and

we are proud to be a part of that process.

Thank You – LVR Volunteers - You are the backbone of this organization. More than 400 of you contribute your time, efforts and energy to this organization each year. From the tutor to the trainer, interviewer, librarian, previewer, outreach caller, office volunteer, super tutor, assessor, and RFL facilitator. You worked over 26,000 hours last year with a value of your time of over \$500,000 – you make this engine run.

Thank You – LVR Board - You provide direction and support for our organization as well as maintain its financial stability now and for the future.

Thank You – LVR Staff – You are a small but dedicated group who are there to provide the support and resources necessary for our students, volunteers and board to be successful in their efforts.

Thank You – LVR Community Partners – You are the libraries, churches and community organizations who host

taught me to knit...I love to read, I consider myself an avid reader...I started reading easy books with my children, and now I can read almost every kind of book that appeals to me."

Miriam came from Mexico eight years ago. Currently, she is a math teacher in the Rochester City School District and in May 2005 received her graduate degree in Mathematics, Science and Technology Education from St. John Fisher College. In her letter, she reminded us of the difficulties when a non-English speaker arrives in the United States. "All these years I have been working very hard to improve my English and to get the necessary credentials to go back to teach. I had to overcome many obstacles. However this would not have been possible to achieve without the great job done by all the volunteers I worked with like Mary Kammerer, Diane Lilley and Carol Dugan who were wonderful teachers and also became great friends."

our tutors and students. You provide our "classroom" throughout the community.

Thank You – LVR Donors – You provide the financial support necessary to keep our operation running. You fund library books, office supplies, computers, office space, staff support and hundreds of other resources to make our work more effective.

Thank You – LVR Community Supporters – You are our friends and neighbors who help spread the message about the good work we do. You are the media outlets, government officials, and other individuals in the community who help to spread the word about the need for adult literacy services.

While I've hit my limit of seven – let me add one more to the group – **the LVR Founders** – that small group that created the organization more than 41 years ago and to all those who have come after them. They have maintained the mission and the promise to provide literacy and English help for adults – THANK YOU! for all you have done to make LVR the organization it is today.

Super Tutors/ Tutor Mentors

Basic – Evening

Mary June Dowd - 392-3811

Paul Crough - 271-3787

Pamela Langdon - 546-7254

Basic – Daytime

Susan Boland - 442-2844

Susan Brandt (Advanced Basic only) - 248-5786

ESOL - Daytime

Cynthia Goldstein - 334-4557

Charlotte Klose – 377-5481

ESOL - Evenings

Malla Barker - 473-5327

Peg Warrick - 461-0939

Pamela Langdon - 546-7254

Get ready for **BRAIN GAME** October 6, 2005
Clarion Riverside Hotel

Ladies and Gentlemen prepare your teams!

Annual Meeting Gives Tribute to Student and Tutor Achievements

Judy Emerson, Program Coordinator

"I also wish to thank my student for giving me the opportunity to learn as much as she has. Tutoring is one of my passions in life. I cannot think of a greater gift than to be able to read, write and speak a language." Those words written by Barbara Hussar, 2005 Judy Dauphinee Award winner, resonated with many attendees at the 2005 Annual Meeting held June 15, 2005.

Board President John Laurence and Executive Director Bob Mahar welcomed LVR students, tutors, and supporters to the meeting. Thirty-four students were recognized for achievements and twenty two students graduated from the English Speakers of Other Languages program. Certificates were presented as each student was introduced to the audience and given the tribute they deserve.

Tutors were honored for years of service. Jane Arundel, Harriette Ginsberg, Sr. Veronica Casey, Laurie Leo, Bruce Maclauchlan, Ann Matzek, Jill Miller, Peter Orlando, and James Wallington received 5-year pins. Cheryl Breitenbuecher, Sonia Brown, James Nobes, and Barbara Wainright received

10-year pins. Maeluise Bar-kin, Edline Chun, and Marcia Johnson received 15-year pins, Malla Barker received a 20-year pin, and Pamela Langdon received a 30-year pin.

Barbara Hussar's Judy Dauphinee Award recognized her qualities of selflessness, team spirit, positive attitude, dependability, follow-through, and the willingness to go beyond a job description.

To recognize legislators, organizations, and individuals who have placed literacy on their priority list, the Friend of Literacy Award was presented to Senator James Alesi, Assemblyman Joseph Errigo, Senator Joseph Robach, Paychex, Inc., Wegmans, Inc., and to Peter Giopulos, former LVR board president and student interviewer, and currently member of the board of the State organization, Literacy New York.

To conclude the evening, Glen McClure, drummer and storyteller, shared the history of the steel drum, explaining that non-traditional students, those who had been labeled difficult to teach, had created it over



RuiQing Lin and John Laurence.



Malla Barker and Bob Mahar.



fifty years ago. The audience was given an opportunity to make music with the drums

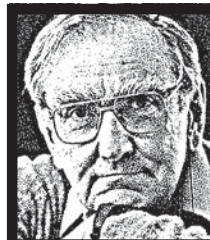
at the end of his presentation. And attendees were reminded that learning never ends.

Annual Appeal Reaches Goal

Literacy Volunteers thanks the many donors and supporters who helped us reach our annual appeal goal. The October issue *Annual Report* will list the names of the many donors who support LVR in fiscal year 2004-2005. We are pleased to announce that we raised \$27,055.

Daisy Marquis Jones Gives Gift

The Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation has provided a grant in the amount of \$7,500 to support Literacy Volunteers efforts to provide support and communication to LVR volunteer tutors for the purposes of increasing volunteer retention. The grant will support our newsletters – *LitBits* and our e-newsletters, tutor chats, tutor conferences and trainings.



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Monday-Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Closed Saturdays during July & August

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

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Leaving a Legacy

Jane LeBlanc, Development Director

Grace Weinstein became a tutor in 1980 after completing the Basic workshop. For 24 years, Grace was very active with Literacy Volunteers, including tutoring both Basic and ESOL students, interviewing students, welcoming them and doing the intake interview. She also became an outreach caller and contacted tutors to ask about their progress with students. She continued as an outreach caller until November 2004.

In 1996, Grace received the Judy Dauphinee Award, which is presented annually to a volunteer who exemplifies the qualities of selflessness, team spirit, positive attitude, dependability, follow-through, and the willingness to go beyond a job description.

In December of 2004, Grace passed away.



Grace Weinstein at the 40th Anniversary Party, April 2004

We miss her presence, but her legacy lives on. Grace left a bequest in her will naming Literacy Volunteers of Rochester as one of her beneficiaries.

We thank the family of Grace Weinstein. We will always remember her legacy of love for the mission of Literacy Volunteers.

Thanks to Underberg & Kessler, LLP and Jon Lazenby

The office has a new look, thanks to Jon Lazenby and Underberg & Kessler, LLP. New desks, office chairs, and comfortable side chairs have replaced the former furnishings. You'll notice the updated

and professional look next time you visit. A special thanks to Bob Janson from Underberg & Kessler who was extremely helpful in identifying furniture and coordinating the move.