



LitBits

249 Highland Avenue, Rochester New York 14620-3036 • (585) 473-3030 • www.literacyrochester.org

The Friends of Literacy Award honors the outstanding contributions of Russell Hayes

Wibke Klapetsky, tutor and administrative volunteer

In February 2005, Robert Mahar wrote in the Democrat and Chronicle that it was high time for the community to include "New Literacy" in its focus. Aside from the ability to read and write, New Literacy includes basic computer skills such as using office software or surfing the Internet.

A few days later, Russell Hayes, an LVR tutor, approached the office with ideas for a project called Computer Literacy: Bridging the Digital Divide.

Within the frame of the Honors Capstone Program at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), Russell was working on developing a New Literacy program for adult learners. He asked to implement and realize his ideas with Literacy Volunteers of Rochester.

With an Honors Summer Scholarship and in close cooperation with LVR, Russell combined live and computer-based lesson modules with a strong focus on the needs of the participating students. Five adult learners participated in the class, which took place weekly for six weeks in the fall of 2005. Due to the success of the pilot project, Russell continued to teach – without funding – after the completion of the first course. Two more sequences of classes with an average of seven participants were subsequently offered. The students learned how to use a mouse, type into a browser, and surf Web sites of interest, and they were introduced to the basic concepts of computer usage. All students received a certificate of participation upon completion of the course.

At the LVR's Annual Meeting on June 13, Russell Hayes was honored for his outstanding contributions to the organization with the Friends of Literacy Award.

Russell became part of the LVR team in February 2005, when he returned from Kentucky where he had originally been trained as a tutor for Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. Russell had decided to volunteer as a tutor for immigrant workers when he was "looking for something else to do" during an RIT internship with a local motor manufacturing company. In his own words, he "always loved school and loved being a student," and he wanted to know "what it was like being a teacher." Russell's maternal family lives in Mexico and he is fluent in both English and Spanish. His love for languages and his passion for education led him to tutor in English, and he hopes to keep TESOL a strong focus in his life.

In May 2006, Russell graduated with a B.S. in information technology from the RIT and moved back home to Houston, Texas, in order to complete the Cambridge Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults (CELTA). He intends to "take a year off to experience many different things." He will be traveling to Spain in July to spend a few months with his brother. Then he hopes to move to Argentina in November to teach ESOL for at least half a year. As for long-term plans, Russell aspires to receive a master's degree or a Ph.D. in instructional design in order to strengthen the alliance between education and technology. It is his dream to – "maybe one day" – open a language school in Latin America with a focus on



Russell Hayes teaching computer skills to Evelyn Walker at Highland Avenue office.

computer-based training thus combining his professional and personal interests.

With regard to the Computer Literacy program, Russell has found a competent successor, Ross Dansteen, also a student of information technology at RIT, who will be teaching computer classes this summer. Russell's hope for the continuation of the program is: "I hope that, if I come back in five years, I will find that the program has grown and flourished."

LVR wishes Russell the best of luck with all his endeavors, and we thank him for his strong support. LVR appreciates in particular the leap he has helped us make into the New Literacy. We will do our best to continue to build on the program Russell has so successfully invented.

From the Executive Director - Bob Mahar

LVR Annual Meeting 2006 – a night of Thanks



On June 13, Literacy Volunteers held its annual meeting here at the auditorium on Highland Avenue. The meeting was a celebration of the contributions of students, tutors, volunteers, staff and our friends from the community.

The evening included some wonderful entertainment in honor of Flag Day by Bonnie Martin and the newly formed "Litty Bitty Players." Seventy five attendees joined us to recognize the equivalent of 220 years of volunteer service. Eighteen students were awarded certificates from their tutors for their accomplishments, and 32 ESOL students, who have met the NYS Department of Education standards for speaking and listening English, graduated and were also honored.

We also took time to recognize some of our "Friends of Literacy" from the community. Several of our local legislators were honored for their support: Senator James Alesi for the LVR Drop-In Program, Senator Joseph Robach for outreach and recruitment efforts, Assemblymen David Koon and Joseph Morelle for our recruitment and public relations campaign, "Kids Need Literate Parents," and Senator Michael Nozzolio for our outreach and training efforts in the Webster area.

Computers and our computer literacy program were a major theme for several other "Friends of Literacy" awards, including recognition of Jim Tiefenthal, long-time LVR Webmaster and computer expert who has guided us for many years into the information age. As I mentioned at the meeting, we would be light years behind in technology without Jim's support. Our new computer literacy program was also recognized: RIT student (now graduate) Russell Hayes developed and implemented the computer literacy curriculum for LVR students. Russell's efforts were aided by the National Human Resources Association, which held a fundraising event last fall to purchase computers for the program. Our thanks to all the members of the group, including Barb Foti, chapter

president, Lynne Perri, event chair, and, of course, Sue Habbersett, long-time LVR tutor who is a member of the chapter and connected us with NHRA.

LVR also honored Susan Kunz, our 2006 Judy Dauphinee Volunteer of the Year. Susan has been an LVR tutor for more than eight years and, as lead tutor in the Drop-in Program, she strongly exhibits the attributes of dedication, caring and compassion exemplified by the late Judy Dauphinee.

And we also recognized some volunteers who are retiring at the end of their term of service from the Board of Directors. My thanks to Mary Lewis-Consler, Kathy Driscoll, Bernie Lillis, John Marshall, Gail Pogal, Steve Van Arsdale, and Sue Windsor for their hard work. And a special thank-you to John Laurence, outgoing board president, for his friendship and support.

As students, volunteers, staff and friends, all of you continue to help this organization move forward to meet the challenges ahead. I appreciate your efforts and thank you for another great year.

President's Corner – Jon Lazenby



On those few occasions when I find myself on the golf course, it's not unusual for me to stand over a putt without a clue as to whether it's going to break toward the hole or away from it. In golf-speak, I'm unable to "read" the green. Although golf is but a mere recreational pastime, and a lackluster putting performance doesn't

have any ramifications beyond inflating your score, the ability to read the written word is vital to one's well-being. Thankfully, an organization like Literacy Volunteers of Rochester diligently works to provide the services that empower those yearning to read.

My name is Jon Lazenby, and I am honored to serve as LVR's new President of the Board of Directors. After having sat on the board over the past three years, I have witnessed a number of special individuals devote some of their valuable time and talents to LVR. I am excited to continue to foster this precious tradition of volunteerism, which LVR has enjoyed over its long history.

My fellow board members consist of many new faces. A slate of six new members was

approved at the Annual Meeting this past June. Only three members are currently serving in their second three-year term. Although the turnover of the board is an ongoing issue, as president, I welcome the opportunity to work with the group LVR has assembled, primarily because of the new ideas that these new members will undoubtedly bring to the table. Updating LVR's strategic plan, continuing the focus on minimizing the student waiting list, and developing new program opportunities, such as health and computer literacy, will be some of the issues to be addressed over the coming year.

As these and other exciting developments present themselves to LVR, I look forward to working with my fellow board members and our valued LVR volunteers.

LitVol Leadership Society is Launched

Jane LeBlanc, Development Director

It is with great appreciation and thanksgiving that we introduce the LitVol Leadership Society. The LitVol Leadership Society recognizes those who have given annual leadership gifts of \$250 or more over an 18-month period.

What is the history of the LitVol name? Several long-time tutors have told us that for many years, the volunteers called themselves LitVols, an endearing name that symbolized their dedication to LVR. The LitVols operated the organization before there was staff on board; provided training and tutoring, and kept the mission alive. Many continue to provide leadership in training, tutoring, and organization.

We warmly welcome the first membership class of the LitVol Leadership Society. We express our deepest appreciation for your continued financial support of the mission of Literacy Volunteers of Rochester.

LITVOL Leadership Society

January 2005 – July 2006

Mr. and Mrs. John Bartholomew
William and Susan Brandt
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Briggs
Mr. Richard F. Brush
Ms. Michelle M. Bruzee
Ms. Linda Budinski
Ms. Eileen K. Chiaramonte
Mr. Barbara Clements
Ms. Katharine R. Cliff
Dr. Sarah H. Collins
Brian and Suzanne Conlogue
Ms. Mary Lewis Consler
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James L. Dudley
Mrs. Kathryn Easley (deceased)
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Elder
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ferrari
Ms. Kate N. Flynn
Mr. and Mrs. R. Thomas Flynn
Jeffrey and Kathy Galusha

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Ms. Laura Garrison
Grant and Betty Gillette
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Ms. Audrey W. Holly
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Mrs. Eva Jarose
Peter M. Kaplan and Eleanor Chin
Ms. Diane Kassmann
Mrs. Rose-Marie Klipstein
Tom and Elizabeth Kubiak
John and Nancy Laurence
Jon and Jennifer Lazenby
Laurie and Vincent A. Leo
Mr. Arthur E. Lowenthal
Mr. Jeffery H. Marks
Bonnie and Bill Martin
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Ms. Madeira Meader
Robert and Susan Meisel
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Mr. Michael E. Nix
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Ms. Jill Poremba
Ms. Diane L. Rambo
Ms. Phyllis Ritterman
Ms. Susan M. Rogers
Gary and Kathy Simpson
David and Susan Spector
Mr. Michael J. Sulli
Ms. Marsha Sutton
Ms. Monika L. Thompson
Mr. James Tiefenthal
Barbara and Lincoln
Wainwright
Debbie and Kevin Warren
Ray and Peg Warrick
Ms. Anne G. Whitman
Ms. Sue Ellen Windsor
David and Eileen Woods

Memorials

Let us remember volunteers, donors, family and friends who have passed away. The name of the individual remembered is shown in bold type. We thank donors for these gifts made since July 2005.

Max Bentele

Harriette and Donald
Ginsberg

Judy Dauphinee

Stanley Dauphinee and
Nancy Wheeler

Donald Davis

Marjorie Davis

Samson Donovan

Simon Donovan

Dr. Robert Johnston

Peter Giopulos

Lu Kane

Jane Plitt and Jim Bruen

Sara Kash

Gertrude Kash (2)

Carol Modern

Ted Modern

Henen Sikaras

Peter Giopulos

Mary Mallory Vercolen

Ann Casey
Alen and Mary Diane Casey
Family of Marjorie Edmeston
Jeffrey and Kerri Grizer
Alice Hauser
Jim and Carol Kelly
Ken and Jeanne Lill
Colleen and Robert
Regelsberger

Alyssa Rose Welenken

Jane Plitt and Jim Bruen

In Honor Of

The following gifts help LVR fulfill our mission, while honoring an individual who celebrated a special occasion, such as a birthday, anniversary, or retirement. Those honored by gifts made since July 2005, have their names shown in bold type. Many thanks for your support.

Margaret and Bill Bartlett

Kari Horowicz

Gerry Gahwe Bulger

Dorothy and Neal Madden

Eileen Jungbluth

Jessica Pacitto

Kati Machi

Marian Ketterer

Gail Merzke

Renae and Mike Sanger

Marsha Sutton

Joshua and Beth Bruner

Bryan and Laura Swanson

Greg and Linda Swanson

James and Deanna Tiefenthal

Peter and Joan Mitchell

Barbara Wainright

Harvey and Jean Wainright

Pam and Taskeen

Judy Emerson, Program Coordinator

At Drapery Industries, on the third floor of 180 St. Paul Street, fabrics are cut and sewn into drapes, curtains and shades for commercial enterprises and private homes. Taskeen Shah works here part time and Pam Killaby works full time. Pam and Taskeen earn paychecks working on draperies but they also work on literacy skills, particularly reading and writing. This tutor-learner match extends beyond two hours of lessons each week. It includes a work relationship and what has become a true friendship between the two women.

From Pakistan to Rochester

Taskeen arrived in the United States from Fasalabad, Pakistan, about 20 years ago. She came to Watertown, NY, to live with her parents and her sister's family. Taskeen's first introduction to learning English came from the television set, and from her nieces and nephews, who spoke English.

She remembers working with someone for a few months on English skills before she returned to Pakistan to get married. She and her husband, Ali, returned to Watertown, but before long, they moved to Rochester where Ali began driving a taxi and they began raising a family. As with many advanced English-language learners, Taskeen is able to speak and understand English. She works with Pam to learn to read and write English.

Taskeen and Ali have four children who, except for the oldest son who will attend middle school next year, all attend #5 elementary school in Rochester. Taskeen and the children speak both Penjabi and English at home. Her family and her work dominate her time, although she would like to be more active with the large community of Pakistanis in Rochester, many of whom attend the Islamic Center.

To stay one step ahead of and involved with the school studies of four children, ages 5 to 12, is a great motivator for Taskeen. Pam fits in tutoring lessons as often as time permits. Pam attended LVR training in 2003, learning to tutor reading. She worked with two other students before being matched with Taskeen in Octo-

ber 2003. Pam knew about Literacy Volunteers, and once her grown children left home, a son attending college and a foreign exchange student returning to Brazil, she was free to "give back."

Partners in learning

Pam thinks of Taskeen as "a lovely person who is so grateful for the [LVR] program." This match was "easier, and fun. She is so enthused." And the energy the two have for each other is visible. They seem to have a comfort level around each other that sets others at ease. Pam feels fortunate "that our paths have crossed. Taskeen has taught me so much about Pakistan and being a Muslim."

For the lessons, Pam tries to find things that are interesting for both of them. They always read something – recently it was *Pride and Prejudice* and *Charlotte's Web*. (Taskeen's children will read their mom's books, too.) Pam and Taskeen read out loud to each other. They work on grammar, particularly verb tenses, using a favorite grammar book from the LVR library. To expand on the reading, Pam has even found videos that the family watches after they finish the book. Each lesson includes spelling words, which the children are interested in, as well. Taskeen is interested in applying for citizenship soon. Tutoring is a fulfilling experience for Pam. She has been interested in other cultures for years, first as an exchange student in France as a teenager, and later sharing her own home with a foreign student. In the future, Pam and her husband, Don, have plans to travel to Brazil to visit Luis who moved home four years ago.

Support at work and at home

Taskeen cuts and sews fabric into draperies in a large air-conditioned workshop



Above, Taskeen Shah and Pam Killaby (right) are at Drapery Industries where Taskeen is shown below working.



with other women. Her work may be both for relaxation and income. She is able to converse in English with the other seamstresses. Pam works in a different area, in customer sales, but the two are able to see each other and interact at work. The owners of Drapery Industries, Mark Kossinski and David Geen, are understanding of Taskeen's harried schedule and childcare responsibilities. They appreciate her work ethic and her skills. It's a mutually beneficial arrangement.

For these two women, learning and life are intertwined. Pam understands the busy schedule of a mom with four small children and works around it, sometimes answering questions on the phone or reading a story that appeals to the entire family.

And Taskeen looks to the future, hoping that her children will be able to acquire a good education. She also asks them to read regularly from their holy book, the *Quran*. She values the importance of literacy and is passing it on.

Mary Sue Shafer Fund

Taskeen and her four children visited the Rochester Museum and Science Center this spring with help from the Mary Sue Shafer Fund and tutor Pam Killaby. This is a record of their experiences written by Taskeen.

The Mary Sue Shafer Fund was established to help underwrite the cost of tickets for students and tutors to local cultural and recreational events. Sue Shafer was an active volunteer until 1990; the fund was named in her honor.

OUR TRIP to the Science Museum
On April with I went to the Rochester
Museum and Science Center with my kids
and my teacher.

① Zoya is my eldest son. He is 12 years
old. We liked the Sub Marine under
Lake Ontario. He thought it was so cool
and it was cool.

② Kida is my second one. She is almost
10. She loved the ring snake. She thought
it was amazing how the air makes the
ring.

③ Zoya, the third one, my second daughter.
She was amazed by the fire cave. She
said it was wonderful.

① I liked the baby of the horse, five
years old. He was very excited when he
found out that he's going to the Museum.
He liked everything, but the most exciting
thing for him was the gift shop because
he got to buy things from the shop.

② I liked everything, but the most
interesting that I liked was the
planetarium exhibit. I loved that smell
in that area. I think because that
reminded me of my country, Pakistan.
My village is similar to the Pueblo
Village, especially the stucco houses.
We all enjoyed it. Thank to LVA.

who happen to make that trip possible,
and of course thanks to Pam because she
think of the idea.

Maria S. Shafer
Taskeen Shafer

Annual Meeting Recognizes Volunteers

Congratulations to nineteen volunteers who were recognized at the Annual Meeting on June 13, 2006 for many years of service with LVR.

- 5 Years**
 - Bonnie Armstrong
 - Susan Chapman
 - Kathy Driscoll
 - Bernie Lillis
 - Diana McGee
 - Marianne Overcash
 - Jack Skvorak
 - Marilyn Vandenberg
- 10 Years**
 - Virginia Barclay
 - Cheryl Breitenbuecher
 - Margaret Fien
 - Barbara Hussar
- 15 Years**
 - Martin Fass
 - Sister Noreen Graney
 - Richard Wiener
- 20 Years**
 - Patty George
 - Eileen Woods
- 25 Years**
 - Carolyn Selsam
- 30 Years**
 - Anne LeBlanc

Opening to the Door to the Future *Jane LeBlanc, Development Director*

A beautiful Spring High Tea was held at Rose-Marie Klipstein's home on May 23, 2006 to open the door to the future. Bob Mahar, executive director, shared the vision of the future with those in attendance. John Laurence, outgoing president told about his journey as tutor, board member, and president of the Board, and his insights on the future. Jane LeBlanc, development director introduced the beginning of the Legacy Circle. The Legacy Circle is to recognize those who have made a charitable bequest in their will, or another type of planned gift, such as a gift annuity or a charitable remainder trust.



From left to right: Nancy Rickard, Rose-Marie Klipstein, and Roberta Bradley

their wills for LVR, including Rose-Marie Klipstein and Michelle Bruzee. Three others raised their hand when the question was asked if anyone else had already made the decision to include LVR in their will.

We invite all those who have a stake in the future of Literacy Volunteers to consider becoming a member of the Legacy Circle. Gifts in the form of bequests will be part of the Literacy Leadership Fund unless otherwise noted.

Stewart D. Davis, Esq., a member of the LVR Advisory Board, shared some information with those in attendance on ways

to make a charitable bequest or other type of planned gift. He acknowledged his own planned gift to LVR. Several others said they had already made arrangements in

The Leadership Fund is a permanent Endowment Fund for the future of Literacy Volunteers of Rochester. Our goal over the next 10 years is to reach \$1 million in pledges to the Fund. A very special thank you goes to all who attended the Tea.

Literacy Volunteers of Rochester

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Literacy Volunteers of Rochester, Inc.
249 Highland Avenue
Rochester, NY 14620-3036
Telephone: 585-473-3030
Fax: 585-473-7478
E-Mail: RMahar@literacyrochester.org
website: www.literacyrochester.org

Office Hours

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

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