



# LitBits

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## The Judy Dauphinee Volunteer of the Year Award

*Judy Emerson, Program Coordinator*

Bonnie Martin received the Judy Dauphinee Volunteer of the Year Award at the 2007 Annual Meeting on June 13, 2007. Bonnie joined LVR in January of 2003 and has been enthusiastically involved in many activities. Similar to the characteristics of Judy, who passed away in 1991, Bonnie exemplifies selflessness, team spirit, positive attitude, dependability, follow-through, and a willingness to go beyond a job description. Bonnie is enthusiastic and supportive in all that she does – she completes anything that is asked of her and volunteers to do more.

Bonnie works with two students, assists in the library weekly, and has been our “Musical Director” at an-

## Coming Down the Home Stretch

*Jane LeBlanc, Development Director*

The '06-'07 Annual Giving Campaign came to an exciting finish, as we pursued and reached our stretch goal of \$40,000, a 20% increase over last year. These unrestricted funds account for 15% of the annual budget, which is so important to the operation of program, library, facility, and services.

*Thank you for your generous support!*



*From left to right, back row: Bill Martin, Jr., Bill and Bonnie Martin, Wendy Tang, Hillary Lindley, Pati Martin. In front: Bonnie's granddaughters, Taylor Lindley & Jennifer Martin*

nual meetings and Brain Game. Soon after she became a tutor, Bonnie began working in the library. “Bonnie has a vibrant personality that adds life to the library,” says Gini Allen, library chair. “She has many innovative ideas and is bringing the library to the new Web site.”

When Bonnie accepted her award,

she listed four main reasons for giving time and money to LVR. “It’s a no-waste, no-frills organization with an efficient, hard-working staff. The volunteers do every job imaginable and everyone works together to fill a great need in our community.”

Congratulations to Bonnie for this well-deserved honor.

**Fear is a skunk  
Letting go isn't easy,  
Confront the boogeyman  
When fears pass,  
the wind is clear  
Relief is like clear water  
The lights go on,  
I can see.**

*Poem composed by learners in  
Friday Drop-In*

# From the Executive Director - Bob Mahar

*Giving Thanks for Another Year – July 2006 – June 2007*

Another year has come and gone at LVR. As in many recent years, there have been changes. Our training corps piloted the new “Literacy Training” this spring, combining the curricula of the ESOL and Basic Literacy training into one. Our assessment tool for basic literacy is now the TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education), and we have a new orientation/ intake process for incoming basic students. LVR learners can now access library materials on their own. And we are slowly beginning to change the description of our learners from ESOL and Basic to native English speakers and



non-native English speakers.

At our last Annual Meeting, we recognized the many people and organizations that help support LVR. Our organization is built upon the courage of our learners, the dedication of our volunteers and staff, and the support of our friends throughout the community.

As we close our year let me say thank you to:

**Our adult learners** for your courage, dedication and cooperation.

**Our volunteers** – tutors, trainers, interviewers, preview presenters, tutor mentors, outreach callers, office helpers, previewers, librarians, and board members.

**Our dedicated LVR staff** for their hard work and caring.

**Our donors** – including individuals, foundations, legislators and groups throughout the community.

**Our literacy partners** – religious organizations, libraries, community groups that share our mission and work with us to make it a reality.

In the next program year, we look forward to many new initiative: engaging our learners with “computer-based instruction,” and blanketing Rochester libraries, churches, etc. with new LVR posters to recruit additional volunteers and to spread the word about Mayor Robert Duffy’s initiative on literacy. We can and will accomplish these goals and much more with your help. My thanks to you in advance!

## President’s Corner – Jon Lazenby

A few weeks ago, along with Ed Hourihan, a fellow LVR Board Member, Bob Mahar, and I attended an informational session geared towards board members and



executive directors of volunteer adult literacy organizations throughout New York State. The session was presented by Literacy New York, a kind of umbrella organization that acts primarily as an intermediary with the State Education Department on behalf of LVR and other adult literacy organizations. The program was designed to foster a conversation and elicit comments about “who we serve” – a seemingly obvious and benign topic, but one that will likely become an issue for LVR over the coming years. As I listened to the observations and

comments being made, I was somewhat taken aback by the many ways each local literacy volunteer organization serves individuals within their own communities. Financial realities and the presence of concentrated immigrant populations force some local organizations to offer adult literacy services in a fashion that some of us here at LVR may not even recognize. From this cacophony of approaches, Literacy New York must present a unified front when lobbying on behalf of adult literacy issues. Unfortunately, it is quickly becoming apparent that there is a disconnect between the standards by which the Education Department measures success and those personal goals the students work so hard to achieve.

Personally, I envision LVR as an organization that serves those wanting help themselves. The students establish and achieve unique personal goals. However, what became apparent to me as the discussions continued at this informational session was that this worthy standard, by which I measure LVR’s successes, will not necessarily culminate in increased government funding.

Almost 40% of LVR’s budget relies

on funds distributed by the Education Department. Over the past few years, LVR has done a wonderful job diversifying its revenue streams through the ongoing expansion of its annual campaign, grant writing efforts and solicitation of corporate support. Yet, even with these added revenue sources, LVR may face a difficult choice of deciding what individuals it can and can not serve. To some extent, this selection process already exists, but will likely need to expand as the results LVR achieves get reported to the Education Department.

Yet despite the Education Department’s restrictive parameters, LVR must attempt to continue serving those motivated individuals in a manner that can be reconciled with the Education Department’s parameters and LVR’s own practices. In short, LVR should try to serve the student and not the money if the money distracts us from those that we serve. I know that sounds somewhat circular, but it remains an important reminder as LVR continues to do its good work.

# Play it again, Sam

Melissa Woodhams, Student Services Coordinator

How do you get to Carnegie Hall? As we all know, the answer to that question is practice, practice, practice, which is the same answer we give to our learners about reaching their literacy goals. When attempting to learn any new skill, one must practice with consistency and regularity, but how can learners do that with only two hours a week with a tutor? Our solution was to offer a program we called

“Intensity of Instruction.”

Under a grant provided by Davenport-Hatch, tutors Barb Clements and Karen Barbato delivered three hours of additional instruction for six weeks to six learners. Instruction primarily focused on decoding and word analysis skills. All of the participants continued to work with their assigned tutors during the

six weeks, as well as attend the classes. The participants completed a comprehensive assessment, including word recognition, spelling, vocabulary and comprehension skills. By all accounts, the extra attention seems to have garnered positive results with increased skills in most areas. Our hope is to provide more opportunities to more learners so they too can get to Carnegie Hall.

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## Grant to Build Bridges

Judy Emerson, Program Coordinator

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation has awarded Literacy Volunteers of Rochester funding of \$3,824.00 for 2007-2008. *Building ESOL Bridges: LVR & Ridgeland* recognizes and supports the continued efforts of Maree and Joe Klingensmith and the tutors who work with them at Ridgeland Community Church. For many years, this program has attracted English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) stu-

dents for a weekly tutoring session. Sometimes, as many as 40 learners attend class with 8 or 9 tutors.

The grant funds the building of an off-site library for Ridgeland and also supports the efforts to promote this kind of program at other locations. Maree, Joe, and LVR staff may be visiting sites around the Rochester area to help organizations plan for and devel-

op LVR tutoring sites for ESOL learners.

In a letter to Bob Mahar, Maree wrote, “It will be our pleasure to join you... in presenting the need for ESOL programs at other community-based organizations during the coming year. Thank you for the invitation to do so.” The grant was prepared and submitted to both honor Ridgeland and to replicate their wonderful work.

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## Legacy Circle Established

Jane LeBlanc, Development Director

It is with great appreciation that we introduce **The Legacy Circle of LVR**. The purpose of our newly formed Legacy Circle of LVR is to create a lasting legacy of those who have included Literacy Volunteers of Rochester as a beneficiary in their wills. Gifts to LVR through a will go directly to the Literacy Leadership Fund. This quasi-endowment fund will help to sup-

port Literacy Volunteers’ urgent needs in the future. Supporters can also designate their gift for a particular program through their wills. The need for our services will go on and, through our wills, we can ensure that LVR can continue to meet them.

**We are pleased to announce the Founding Members of The Legacy Circle:**

Robertta Bradley  
Michelle Bruzee  
Eliza Coyle  
Estate of Geraldine M. McMullen  
Estate of Grace Weinstein

*A special thank you to these individuals for trusting and believing in LVR’s mission, and including LVR in their planned giving. We hope membership in The Legacy Circle will grow as we each consider our charitable giving through our personal wills.*

Estate of Rosemarie Carmody  
Stewart D. Davis, Esq  
Audrey Holly  
Rose-Marie Klipstein

*LitBits*, as well as other pertinent information, can be accessed on our website:  
**[www.literacyrochester.org](http://www.literacyrochester.org)**

# What's All The Buzz About?

*Judy Emerson, Program Coordinator*

LVR is a beehive of activity, much of it caused by the 52 **administrative volunteers** who support the work of the tutors and staff by conducting trainings, offering previews, editing and writing newsletters, assessing learners, answering phones, filing paperwork, entering data, staffing tables at community fairs, creating and modifying our Web site, working in the library, making follow-up calls to tutors and learners, giving speeches, greeting attendees at conferences and other events, etc. etc. Who would have known that so many people play so many roles?

Gini Allen joined us in 1988 as a tutor and administrative volunteer in the **library**. Now she oversees the library with four hardworking volunteers: Bonnie Martin, Renae Sanger, Leslie Mendelson, and Mary Ellen Gaynor. Gini believes that, this is an "important organization and I like doing what I can for it." Before Leslie Mendelson became a tutor, she worked at the front desk and then began working in the library. She had worked in libraries before becoming a literacy tutor, so it was a natural to do both jobs.

Veteran **trainers** George-Ann Schaufele and Michelle Bruzee spent the winter months re-thinking and preparing LVR's training workshop which debuted at the Sisters of Mercy motherhouse in January 2007. With input from Edline Chun, Dorothy Holmes, Barb Wainright, John Marshall, Peg Warrick, and Dianne Collier (all volunteer trainers) the new "Literacy Training" combines the 21 hours of ESOL training with 21 hours of Basic training to prepare volunteers to work with any prospective learner who comes to LVR.

**Preview presenters** Sue Habbersett, Barbara Hussar, Martha Johnson, and Barb Wainright incorporate

a description of the new training into their orientation sessions each month as they present information to potential volunteers.

Some volunteers provide support behind the scenes for tutors and learners. **Outreach callers**, led by Eileen Woods, include Rita Gupta, Jane Doyle, Roger Selsam, and Paul Crough. They call tutors every six months to check in. **Tutor mentors** provide assistance to tutors on an as-needed basis. Susan Boland, Mary June Dowd, Charlotte Klose, Cynthia Goldstein, Kathy Hursh, and Peg Warrick also take turns attending the last session of workshops to offer advice and support to new tutors.

The intake sessions for learners have been re-designed by **interviewers** Renae Sanger and Rowena Scott. Non-readers attend a group session on either Thursday morning or Thursday evening, as well as on Saturday mornings. David Young and Steve Victor orient and assess non-readers and ESOL learners, as well. Alice Holihan does ESOL intake and assessments weekly.

Readiness for Learning classes are held regularly for all new native English speakers who want help with reading. Barb Clements, Frank Owens, Alison DiMarco, Leo Johnson, Sandra Piccolo, and Bree Spencer take turns **facilitating** these classes.

Behind each issue of *LitBits*, is Marie Jolkovski. Marie is a retired copy **editor** who reviews and modifies each article in the newsletter while being careful to retain the author's voice. Marie recently received her five-year pin. One of the newest administrative volunteers, Wibke Klapetzky, **edits** the quarterly newsletter, *Tutor in*



*Trainers, George-Ann Schaufele and Michelle Bruzee develop the new Literacy Training.*

*Touch*, in addition to her tutoring. Wibke used to work in public relations and wrote press releases for a company in Germany. At the same time she volunteered her assistance with a child who was mentally challenged. Today, she has shifted her energies: she is employed as a German teacher and writes our quarterly e-newsletter. She is serious about her work, striving to relay helpful information to tutors in a concise, lively format.

Terry Woodhams **picks up** donated toner cartridges every three weeks from a variety of locations. We recycle them through Image Technologies for cash.

And if it's Tuesday, it must be Carolyn Selsam. She does **data entry** of new volunteers and learners weekly. Bettye Mayers does a **little of everything** from data entry to filing to reminder phone calls.

Our **greeters** at the front desk include Virginia Barclay, Marjorie Scahill, Mary Ellen Gaynor, and Kathy Dear who work on Saturday mornings. Deborah Cathron, Joy Vandling, and Ann Koral cover the desk during the week. Ann has been working at the front desk once each week for three hours for the last three years. Ann's words sum up the value of the work that administrative volunteers do. We "do a whole lot more than type, look nice, and answer the phone... [we do] everything and more."

# Friends of Literacy Awards

Judy Emerson, Program Coordinator & Bob Mahar, Executive Director

The following awards were made at the Annual Meeting, June 13, 2007.

## LEGISLATIVE

**Senator James Alesi** – support of LVR Drop-In Program, \$10,000 legislative grant.

**Senator Joseph Robach** – support of LVR, \$15,000 legislative grant.

**Rochester Assembly Delegation** – represented by David Gantt, support of LVR, two \$5,000 legislative grants.



Dorothy Lindsey, Co-Director of Mercy Bridges with Sister Nancy Whitley, Sisters of Mercy

## GROUP MERCY BRIDGES

In August 2006, in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Sisters of Mercy in Rochester, NY, Mercy Bridges was created. Sister Nancy Whitley felt that Mayor Robert Duffy had made a strong case for the need for literacy help in this community. She also thought that the Sisters of Mercy, with their vast experience in education along with their volunteer corps of Associates, could work on this need. So she recommended that, in addition to

the celebration, they establish a new gift to the community. They created an adult literacy project to recruit and train volunteers to work one-to-one with adults within the Mercy community; the program is directed by Sister Edwardine Weaver and Associate Dorothy Lindsay. Mercy Bridges sought help and support from a number of local adult education programs, including LVR.

LVR piloted “Literacy Training” with both LVR and Mercy Bridges volunteers in January 2007. This training, which combines techniques for working with non-readers and with non-English speakers, graduated 19 Mercy Bridges tutors. Two additional trainings sessions are scheduled in the fall for 30 more Mercy Bridges tutors.

Wherever Sister Edwardine and Dorothy go, they discuss their new initiative, helping raise awareness about the needs of adult learners in our community. We salute this program and look forward to continued collaboration.

## INDIVIDUAL DEBORAH CATHRON

Deborah became an LVR student in 2004 and has worked regularly on her own and with tutors to achieve her literacy goals. In 2006 she began working in the office as an administrative volunteer, averaging over 30 hours a month. She greets visitors and answers the telephone, files, makes copies, and pulls handouts and library materials for upcoming workshops. Additionally, Deborah has been an active participant in Speakers Bureau, speaking to groups and attending community fairs to

recruit volunteers. Deborah also agreed to be photographed for the LVR poster campaign. Posters with her photograph are displayed in all training workshops and soon they will be placed in libraries and community centers. The posters, highlighting six LVR’s learners, will promote volunteerism.



Deborah Cathron portrayed as Clara in the LVR poster campaign.

Deborah was recently interviewed for the March-June *Tutor in Touch* e-newsletter by editor and tutor, Wibke Klapetzky. (See the entire issue at LVR’s Web site, [www.literacyrochester.org](http://www.literacyrochester.org).) In the article, Deborah described her love of reading and writing; she is currently working on stories about her fictional characters Lydia, Daisy Mae and Clarabella. Congratulations Deborah. Keep on reading and writing!



Dancers from Botsford School of Dance demonstrated ballroom dancing at the Annual Meeting held June 13, 2007.

# LVR to lose Judy Emerson in August

Robert Mahar, Executive Director

In mid-August LVR will bid a fond farewell to Judy Emerson who has been our Program Coordinator for the last 5 and ½ years. Her accomplishments include coordinating two successful applications for national

accreditation and moving our student/volunteer database to a new system provided by the NY State Education Department. In addition, Judy has overseen our preview and training programs, published *LitBits*

and managed our office volunteers. She will be pursuing a career as a classroom teacher, and we wish her great success in her new efforts. Thank you, Judy, for all you’ve done for LVR – you will be missed!

# Literacy Volunteers of Rochester

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## Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Closed Saturdays during July & August  
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Paul Crough - 271-3787

Kathy Hursh - 473-6276

### Basic – Daytime

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Kathy Hursh - 473-6276

### ESOL – Evenings

Malla Barker - 473-5327

Peg Warrick - 461-0939

### ESOL – Daytime

Cynthia Goldstein - 334-4557

Charlotte Klose – 377-5481