



TUTOR IN TOUCH

November/December 2010

“Make Change in Your Community”

with Literacy Volunteers and
Canandaigua National Bank



LVR & Canandaigua National Bank and Trust (CNB) have partnered up to make donating easy and profitable to both LVR and our wonderful donors. CNB will be waiving any fees to use their new change sorting machines for customers making donations (through the change machine) to Literacy Volunteers with some of the change. The program will be effective from November 1, 2010 through January 31, 2011. The collaboration will include both Rochester and Ontario-Yates Literacy Volunteers branches: Participating bank locations include:

- Brighton
- Greece
- Honeoye Falls
- Webster: Bay Towne & Jackson Ridge
- Canandaigua (Ontario County)
- Victor (Ontario County)

Donations at any participating Monroe County branch will benefit LVR, while donations at any of the two participating Ontario County will benefit Literacy Volunteers of Ontario County (LVOC).

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New Hours



Monday:

9am - 8 pm

Tuesday-Friday:

9am - 4pm

*Saturday (11/20, 12/18):

9am - 12pm

*Office will be open on the third Saturday of every month through the end of the year. Though we are open, outside of our normal business hours (9am - 4pm) the building door may be locked. Please ring bell (at rear entrance) in this event.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT LVR?

We Have Moved!

Literacy Volunteers of Rochester has moved to 1600 South Avenue, just around the corner from our previous location on Highland. The entrance (and parking) is in the rear of the building, and we are on the 1st floor. Signs are next to the driveway and the walkway from the rear lot.



If you haven't already, *PLEASE* come visit our new location. You'll find it much more spacious, with more rooms for volunteers and learners. It would also be great to get your learner/s in for a quick tour, and to revisit the library collections. Free visitor parking is available.

After-Hours Book Drop

Outside of normal business hours, library books can be dropped of in the library drop box (pictured below) on the Elmwood side of the building. From the parking lot you can drive up to the steps/ramp to deposit materials.



2010 Holiday Closings

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Thursday, November 25 | Thanksgiving Day |
| Friday, November 26 | Day after Thanksgiving |
| Friday, December 24 | Christmas Eve |
| Friday, December 31 | New Year's Eve |

*Near Holidays, call to confirm hours.

Holiday Wish List

Our new office space is immensely larger than our previous location. We have higher ceilings, bigger tutoring and conference/community rooms, but the same amount of furnishings. We would be grateful for any donations to help fill our rooms and — as those of you who have visited probably noticed — help absorb much of the sound that echoes and reverberates around our spacious rooms. We are looking for additions that will absorb sound, specifically **Area Rugs** and **Plants**. If you or someone you know has anything to donate, we would be positively thrilled. If you have any questions about something you would like to donate please contact us via phone or e-mail. Thanks!!

Holiday Open House

SAVE THE DATE!!

We are hosting a Holiday Open House and Public Grand Opening on **Friday, December 10th** from **1-4 PM**.

More information is forthcoming, so be sure to check your mailbox and e-mail. This is another excellent opportunity to get your learner/s into the new office!



TEACHING ADULT LEARNERS

Learner Characteristics & Teaching Strategies: Revisited

During Tutor Training Workshops, volunteers learn about the specific differences between Child and Adult learners. Revisiting some of the characteristics of Adult Learners and the corresponding teaching strategies should prove beneficial at any stage in a tutor's development. The information below illustrates the aforementioned characteristics and strategies, and can be applied to both our ESOL and TABE learners.

Characteristics of Adult Learners. Rochester Institute of Technology. <http://online.rit.edu/faculty/teaching_strategies/adult_learners.cfm>

| Adult Learner Characteristics | Teaching Strategies |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Adults have years of experience and a wealth of knowledge | Use your adult students as resources for yourself and for other students; use open-ended questions to draw out students' knowledge and experiences; provide many opportunities for dialogue among students |
| Adults have established values, beliefs, and opinions | Take time to clarify student expectations of the course; permit debate and the challenge of ideas; be careful to protect minority opinions within the class |
| Adults expect to be treated as adults | Treat questions and comments with respect; acknowledge contributions students make to the class; do not expect students to necessarily agree with your plan for the course |
| Adults need to feel self-directed | Engage students in designing the learning process; expect students to want more than one medium for learning and to want control over the learning pace and start/stop times |
| Adults often have a problem centered approach to learning | Show immediately how new knowledge or skills can be applied to current problems or situations; use participatory techniques such as case studies and problem-solving groups |
| Adults tend to be less interested in survey types of courses and more interested in straightforward how-to | Focus on theories and concepts within the context of their applications to relevant problems; orient the course content toward direct applications rather than toward theory |
| Adults have increased variation in learning styles (individual differences among people increase with age) | Use a variety of teaching materials and methods to take into account differences in style, time, types, and pace of learning |

Giving Thanks Around the World

Alpha, J. "Harvest/Thanksgiving Day Festivals Around the World: A Collection of Educational Resources." [Bright Hub](http://www.brighthub.com/education/languages/articles/11957.aspx). Online posting. 15 November 2009. 3 November 2010 < <http://www.brighthub.com/education/languages/articles/11957.aspx>>.

Giving thanks on Thanksgiving is an important American tradition, but it is not just a tradition celebrated in the United States.

A United Nations Thanksgiving Proclamation

In November 1997, the U.N. General Assembly unanimously declared the year 2000 as the International Year of Thanksgiving. This declaration marked the first time the General Assembly voted unanimously in favor of a spiritual idea, according to the [Center for World Thanksgiving](#) at Thanks-Giving Square in Dallas, Texas, which has coordinated celebrations in different parts of the world and gathered information on harvest and thanksgiving festivals throughout the year.

In fact, seven nations of the world have officially declared Thanksgiving Days: Brazil, Canada, Japan, Korea, Switzerland, Argentina, and the United States. And, while these seven nations have official days of thanksgiving, many countries have unofficial festivals of thanksgiving that are held throughout the year. In Asian countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Japan, harvest festivals have been taking place for centuries.

Indeed, people from various cultures all over the world celebrate the communal gathering of a good crop. These various harvest festivals are observed with different names and in different seasons, with each region embracing its unique customs and traditions to celebrate the occasion. Though the mode of celebration may differ from one culture to another, prayer, parades, and feasts are common with shared feelings of gratitude, harmony, and peace.

A Sampling of Harvest Festivals From Around the World

For **Americans**, this harvest festival is held on the fourth Thursday of November, and is called Thanksgiving. The Thanksgiving feast tradition goes back to 1621 when Pilgrims shared a celebration with the Native Wampanoag People.

In **Canada**, Thanksgiving is a three-day weekend celebrated mainly on the second Monday in October. The first official Canadian Thanksgiving Day was celebrated on April 5, 1872 in gratitude for the Prince of Wales' recovery from a serious illness. The holiday was not officially recognized again until 1879, when parliament declared Thanksgiving to be an annual national secular holiday. The date was moved several times, finally being set on its current date (the second Monday in October) in 1957. For much of the period before 1957 parliament proclaimed the date annually.

The Yam Festival in **Ghana** is usually held in the beginning of August at the end of the rainy season. A popular holiday in both **Ghana and Nigeria**, the Yam Festival is named after the most common food in many African countries—yams, which are the first crops to be harvested. People offer yams to gods and ancestors first before distributing them to the villagers, as a way of giving thanks to the spirits above them.

The Harvest Moon Festival in **China** is a popular East Asian celebration of abundance and togetherness, dating back over 3,000 years to China's Zhou Dynasty. It is celebrated on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month of the Chinese calendar (usually around mid- or late-September in the Gregorian calendar), a date that parallels the Autumn Equinox of the solar calendar.

Chusok, is a **Korean** harvest (Thanksgiving) celebration, which is also held on the 15th day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar, a time [family members](#) visit the tombs of their ancestors and offer them rice and fruit.

Tết-Trung-Thu in **Vietnam** takes place on August 15. Children are the center of the holiday—also called the Children's Festival—an occasion for parents to show their love of their children.

Giving Thanks Around the World

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In **South America**, many of the native Indian cultures contain expressions of gratitude and thanksgiving, and in modern **Brazil**, a special public day of thanksgiving and prayer has been designated for the fourth Thursday of November every year since 1949.

Succoth is the **Jewish** Harvest Festival that begins on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Tishri—it is usually held in September and October. Succoth traditions and customs that have both historical and religious significance are a part of the celebration that lasts for 7 days.

India has a number of popular harvest related festivals in different regions. Pongal (January 14), Baisakhi (April 13), Lohri (January 13), Onam (mid-August) etc. Though the underlying principles behind each of them is same—joy and hope—every festival is exclusive and different from the other. The Hindu Council of Australia provides a comprehensive list and full details of sixteen of India's varied and zestful festivals.

In **Germany**, there are two holidays associated with Thanksgiving: Erntedankfest and St. Martin Celebrations.

Celebrating the Importance of Cultural Diversity and Foreign Language Study

Though every country shares their thanksgiving in a different way, the common denominator is the overwhelming celebratory unity of family and friends. So this Thanksgiving people all around the world have much to celebrate in the richness of life we all share when we embrace the importance of cultural diversity and foreign language study.

Read more @ <http://www.brighthub.com/education/languages/articles/11957.aspx#ixzz14Ed6UfZ9languages/articles/11957.aspx>.

New LVR Video: Back to Basics

Thanks to a recent St. Thomas Episcopal grant, LVR has launched a new video.

From our homepage — www.literacyrochester.org — the video can be found in the “New and Noteworthy” section (upper right hand corner).

Be sure to show this video to any prospective volunteers as well! *Please visit our website (and this particular section) regularly for important news, updates and upcoming events!* Hope to see you there!

News from the Library

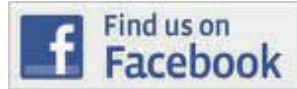
Our new location has given us the opportunity to shelve our entire collection! Most of the books and resources are on the two library stacks in our main hallway.



Coming Soon: Thanks to a grant from Xerox, we are pleased to announce an upcoming addition to our library. LVR will have an Apple iPad available for tutor and learner use in-library only.

Library hours are Monday from 9am to 8pm, Tuesday-Friday from 9am to 4 pm, and every third Saturday of the month from 9am to noon. For information or with questions, please call our office at (585) 473-3030.

We're on Facebook!



LVR is on Facebook! Friend us, write on our Wall, or just check out our Boards for news & updates.

Volunteers needed!!!



Literacy Volunteers of Rochester is *always* in need of new tutors and volunteers. Please tell your friends and co-workers about our programs!

Currently, about 100 learners in the ESOL and Basic Literacy program are waiting for a tutor. Teaching experience is *not* required. Tutors have to be at least 18 years old and have a high school diploma or equivalent. They will receive comprehensive training including practical and theoretical information.

Volunteers for administrative support in the LVR office are also welcome. If you know someone who is interested, please call 585-473-3030 for more information.

MATH TUTORING ANYONE?



LVR is working toward offering Math tutoring to interested learners in the very near future. While our practice has primarily been geared toward reading, writing and speaking, we have witnessed a pressing need to broaden our tutoring capacity to include some math as well. If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer for a math tutoring opportunity please contact the Office and your name/s will be placed on a list. Please be on the lookout for more information regarding this topic.

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MISSION STATEMENT

Literacy Volunteers of Rochester, Inc. is an organization of trained volunteers, dedicated to providing one-to-one or small group tutoring to functionally illiterate adults, and to others lacking English language skills and to fostering literacy in the greater Rochester, New York area.