

Literacy of Northern New York

Helping adults with reading, writing or English as a second language

From the Director's Corner

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"I wish to express my personal thanks to (my tutor) for all of her hard work and dedication. She has proven to be very invested in my success and has patiently given me many hours of her time ... so when I do sit for the GED test, I shall have a successful outcome."

Tonya

This has been a tough fiscal year at Literacy of Northern New York. Along with all the other volunteer-based literacy programs in NYS, we have had our Adult Literacy Education (ALE) grant money cut by 25 percent. This resulted in a loss of revenue of \$13,500 for our small agency.

During these troubled economic times, we expect further grant cuts may

be in our future.

As a result of our smaller budget, we had to drastically reduce the number of books and supplies we purchase for students and tutors to use, as well as cut other costs. We have also had difficulty coming up with funds to purchase our tutor training textbooks.

Tutors and students can help us by returning

books they borrow on a **timely basis**. Unfortunately, many tutors and students hang on to these books for years after they are done with them or never return them at all.

If you are no longer using your *Tutor* or *I Speak English* books, consider donating them back to the program so we can give a used copy to a new tutor trainee. Thanks for helping us pinch pennies!

Donate Items to Our Garage & Bake Sale

Literacy of Northern New York is sponsoring a garage sale during Sackets Harbor's Village Wide Yard Sales. Our Board President, Allen Goudie, is hosting a yard sale at his home – 309 East Main Street - and will donate the proceeds to LNNY.

We are collecting gently used items but are not interested in clothing unless it is children's clothes. Items can be dropped off to the Watertown office at 200

Washington Street, Suite 303. We are located in the Key Bank building. We can pick up larger items such as furniture.

The village wide yard sale will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday May 23, which is the start of the Memorial Day weekend.

We could use help sorting the items and putting prices on them. We are also doing a bake sale at the yard sale so if you love to make

cookies, pies, cakes, brownies or cupcakes, we could use your help. Call us at 782-4270 for information.



Get Out Your Scrabble Boards!

We are sponsoring a Scrabble Tournament at 1 p.m. April 19th at Jefferson Community College. We will play two rounds of Scrabble and the teams with the highest scores win prizes. It's a lot of fun and a great way for children and adults to practice their spelling and thinking skills.

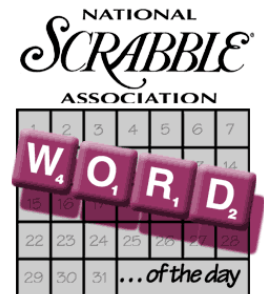
The first six children's teams to register

can play for free. Adult teams cost \$100. Children's teams cost \$50 to register to play. A maximum of four people can play on a team.

Every team needs to appoint a scorekeeper to keep track of points earned.

Volunteers are needed to help us run this event. We need help setting up, cleaning up and people

who will look up words in our official Scrabble dictionaries.



"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free."

- Frederick Douglas -

Volunteer to Become a Reading or ESOL Tutor

We have been inundated with people seeking help with reading, writing or English as a second language services in Jefferson County. As a result, we need more volunteers to help work with our clients.

Volunteers must complete a training course in which they learn basic reading or English as a

second language techniques. The course is free and is held for five consecutive weeks in Watertown.

Once tutors complete the training course, they are matched up with one adult who needs assistance. Tutors and students meet in public places such as libraries or the computer lab at our office. We test every student who

enters the program and recommend what books and materials will be suitable to use.

We periodically conduct additional training programs to help tutors learn new skills and network with each other.

Helping an adult become more literate is a rewarding experience.

Easy to Read Newspapers are Available for Students to Use

We have subscribed to News for You, a weekly newspaper publication from New Readers Press in Syracuse. This four-page newspaper contains current news in easy to read language. It also comes with a teacher's guide insert

containing fun activities for students. The insert contains comprehension questions and writing activities. Each paper also contains a simple crossword puzzle.

Most of our students can't afford a

subscription to the local paper so this is a great way for them to learn about world events. The students who have used this newspaper have enjoyed it.

ESOL Tutor Tips

Two cute tips via Dave's ESL Café –

Future Time



"I use *fortune cookies* to help teach future tense to students. After students have read their fortunes and eaten cookies, we work on making our own fortunes. Creating origami fortune tellers is also fun."

And another tip - Facts and Lies



"Hi everyone!
This is a simple first-day icebreaker that I've found works really well with both small and large classes: The students think of three sentences, two are facts

and one is a lie. One by one, students introduce themselves and say their three sentences. The rest of the class has to guess which one is a lie. It's best for the teacher to go first, not only to provide an example, but also to let the students know that the teacher is interested in interacting with them."

Tutor, Jessica H., & ESOL students, Santa, Norah, Eugenia, & Hong Bin



Student Appreciates the Help She Receives

The following is a letter written by one of our students who is learning to speak, read and write English better:

"I want to say to you that I like to come to Literacy of Northern NY because I need to learn English and here the professors are excellent. They have a lot of patience with us. If you come

regularly to the classes you can learn English very quickly. It has been very productive for me because I am an accountant and I needed to speak and to write very good English. I needed it to find a good job with good pay.

The professors here are very motivated to our professional development.

These classes are a good tool to help us to find a job. And it is very good because in this way you don't have the necessity to depend on governmental economic assistance.

Thanks for supporting this program."

Noemi

"This program helps me to feel confidence and free to speak, to search for a job (nursing) and obtain a better quality of life."

Norma

Reading Better Has Changed Her Outlook on Life

It's hard to keep up with Eve.

Unfortunately, Eve was, "labeled" in her later high school years. Up to that point, she had been managing in school. All it took was a few words to knock her self-esteem to the ground.

Talk about a complete turnaround! Eve joined LNNY's Basic Computer Class and has excelled at learning Microsoft Office applications. She knows MS Word, PowerPoint, and Publisher. At the agency where she volunteers, others come to her for computer

help.

In her computer class, Eve polished her resume writing skills and applied for a job and was hired.

Eve also has a reading tutor and has completed several books. Eve can now envision a better life for herself and her children.

LITERACY OF NNY

Jefferson:
315-782-4270

Lewis
315-376-8188

We're on the Web!

proliteracynny.org



Families Receive Free Books

More than 100 children, parents and grandparents attended our Dr. Seuss celebration at Flower Memorial Library on March 6th. They listened to stories read by Karin Martinez and Jeanne Ney, and sang a song with Hal Shannon.

The Cat in the Hat gave out stickers and Literacy of Northern New York provided every child at the event with a free, quality children's book.

A special thanks to Children's Librarian Ginger Tebo for providing the

refreshments and helping us to promote the event.



Karin Martinez reading at Dr. Seuss

About Our Organization...

Literacy of Northern New York is a non-profit agency that provides free, one-to-one tutoring to adults who need help with reading, writing or English as a Second Language. Volunteers who complete a training course are assigned a student to work with. They meet in public places such as

libraries, churches or at our office.

We also provide English as a second language classes so adults from other countries have a chance to socialize with others who are learning American culture and language.

LITERACY OF NORTHERN NY
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