

# INSIDE: Holiday Gala milestone; Horizon Foundation steps up

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Literacy Volunteers Association Cape-Atlantic, Inc.  
Fall & Winter 2010

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# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST TUTORS

## 41 COMPLETE FALL CLASSES

We welcomed 41 new tutors to the LVA family this fall. Twenty volunteers completed tutor training at Shore Memorial Hospital in October and 21 more finished at Boscov's, at right, in November. "These groups were especially bright, enthusiastic and dedicated," Program Director Quenby Kotila said. "We are proud of the commitment that so many volunteers are willing to make to literacy and to helping others in their community."



## The new tutors are:

- |                    |                 |                     |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Aliya Amilani      | Mary Gault      | Diane Mozzo         |
| Ramona Amilani     | Valerie George  | Nanelia Napoliello  |
| Sheryl Anevine     | Karen Guenther  | Andrew Navalance    |
| Astrid Bachich     | Michael Gustray | Audrey Owen         |
| Bernice Bauman     | Leonard Hoffman | Carolyn Peterson    |
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| Cynthia Doughty    | Raquel Jantos   | Donald Ross         |
| Janice Douglas     | Ann Karver      | Vincent Ross        |
| Dolores Douglas    | Karla Liput     | Sandra Smith        |
| Carol Dupras       | Matthew McCool  | Ho "Allan" Young    |
| Carol Esterman     | John McGraw     | Francine Wizov      |
| Diantha Garry      | Jody Medley     |                     |

## LVA-CA Board of Directors Welcomes Patrice Leatherberry

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Patrice Leatherberry to the Board of Directors of Literacy Volunteers Association Cape-Atlantic. Patrice, sponsored by LVA Vice President Grant Wilinski, is Program Coordinator at Atlantic Cape Community College. A graduate of Richard Stockton College, she has an extensive background teaching English and English as a Second Language. She is active in her community working with young people as a mediator, tutor and chaperone. Welcome, Patrice. We know that your skills and experience will be enormously valuable to us.



### Tutor Reminders:

Students need to be re-tested annually under the guidelines of our funding. Ask your student to call the LVA office to schedule.

Please let us know if your student has obtained employment or citizenship while being tutored.

Rosetta Stone is here! There are lots of other resources for tutors and students at the LVA Learning Center. Stop by our Pleasantville office and take a look.

## From the Executive Director

Navigating the health care system can be challenging even for people who are proficient readers and speakers of the English language. Imagine what it must be like for people with limited English proficiency.

LVA has given much thought to health care issues as they impact the people we serve in Atlantic and Cape May counties. We have recognized the struggle they face in communicating their health care needs and in understanding basic information about their health and the health of their families. As a result, over the past few years, we have developed a health literacy program that has been funded by the United Ways of Atlantic and Cape May Counties and New Jer-

sey Reads. Some of the locations where we were able to deliver the program are Even Start and the Spanish Community Center in Atlantic City, the Atlantic Adult Day Health Care in Northfield and to an ESL group that meets regularly in Wildwood. Our program focuses on teaching language immediately relevant to participants' health care needs. Understanding instructions on prescription labels, completing doctors' office forms and becoming aware of health care services in the community are part of the Health Literacy curriculum. Our experience with the program encouraged us to develop it further and to offer it as a viable literacy option for funding. We are excited about

our recent Health Literacy Initiative in partnership with AtlantiCare that has been funded over three years by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The program is already under way at the Spanish Community Center in Atlantic City. More recently, we received a \$15,000 grant from the Horizon Foundation of New Jersey that will enable us to include a health literacy component in our tutor training as well as an outreach program for professionals and paraprofessionals in the health care system.

We are proud to partner with these community-minded philanthropies and to be in the forefront of bringing this important aspect of literacy to our constituents.



Visit our Web site at [www.lvacapeatlantic](http://www.lvacapeatlantic) and take a look at our three-part video. The trilogy sums up what we do at LVA-CA using real participants in our program: tutor, trainers and students. Joe Podlesnik did a great job with the video, and thanks again to Josh Lucchesi for getting it on the Web site.

### In Memorium

We recently learned of the death of Stella Harbison, LVA-CA tutor and long-time friend of literacy. Our condolences go out to her family. She was a wonderful supporter of the work that we do and will be greatly missed.

And we acknowledge the passing of Eugene Cianfrani, our oldest and most loyal LVA-CA student. Gene had been in our tutoring program since 1991 and was tutored by Denise Casey. They formed a literacy bond that endured for more than 18 years.



Eugene Cianfrani and his tutor, Denise Casey.

### Newspapers In Education and LVA: A Perfect Partnership

The Press of Atlantic City, through its Newspaper in Education program, has invited us to share in the proceeds from a series of raffles. Donated tickets to concerts as well as a donated big screen TV were raffled through ads in The Press. The raffles raised \$3,700 for the LVA-NIE Partnership. Our thanks to The Press, a longtime supporter of LVA-CA.

## Holiday Gala: A Dining Delight for a Decade

The beautifully decorated Ebbitt Room of The Virginia Hotel in Cape May was the perfect setting as Literacy Volunteers Association Cape-Atlantic celebrated the holiday season with its 10th annual Gala and Silent Auction. Once again, guests were treated to a spectacular dining experience. This year, Chef Lucas Manteca prepared a four course extravaganza served with an array of dazzling South American wines.



**LVA BOARD MEMBERS AT THE GALA**  
From left: Nancy McKinney, Bill Honan, Paul Merkoski; in front, Executive Director Sheila McLaughlin, Anne Nguyen and Roseann Kobialka.



**PRESS OF A.C. FRIENDS AT THE GALA**  
From left: Alisha Owens, Todd Nehmad, Neill Borowski, Charmaine Borowski, Paul Merkoski, Kay Merkoski.

"The Gala has been a mainstay of our fundraising," Gala Chair Roseann Kobialka said. "As one of our two premier

events, it always delights our friends and supporters." Special thanks to sponsors AtlantiCare, Harrah's Entertain-

ment, Morey's Piers, Signal Graphics, South Jersey Industries, The NIA Group and The Press of Atlantic City.

## Verizon Check into Literacy Grant Supports Tutor Trainings

Literacy Volunteers Association Cape-Atlantic's tutor trainings will receive a substantial funding boost this year with the receipt of a \$5,000 Veri-

zon Check Into Literacy Grant. Verizon awarded 46 literacy grants in 2009. These grants demonstrate Verizon's commitment to literacy and are

unique in that they are made possible by the generous donations of Verizon customers who donate one dollar a month to literacy programs

across New Jersey by simply checking off a box in their monthly payment slip. LVA-CA is grateful to be among Verizon's grant recipients.

Speaking of Checking the Box...

**WHEN COMPLETING YOUR  
NEW JERSEY INCOME TAX FORM**

**Check the Box**  
to help Literacy Volunteers of New Jersey



- ✓ Go to **Line 62**
- ✓ Fill in **Code 05** for **LVA-New Jersey Fund**
- ✓ Enter the Amount **\$\$** of Your Contribution

Please support Literacy Volunteers of New Jersey by making a contribution on your New Jersey Income Tax Form. Our network of 2,500 volunteers provides free instruction to adults who need to improve their reading and writing skills or their ability to understand and speak English.

Call 1-800-848-0048 or visit us at [www.lvnj.org](http://www.lvnj.org) to learn about volunteer opportunities and ways to support Literacy Volunteers of New Jersey

**LITERACY VOLUNTEERS  
OF NEW JERSEY**

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[www.lvnj.org](http://www.lvnj.org)

1(800) 848-0048  
[director@lvnj.org](mailto:director@lvnj.org)

## Looking for Spring in the Depth of Winter

We are pleased to announce that Cookie Till has agreed to host our spring event again this year at Steve & Cookies By the Bay.

Those of you who were fortunate enough to attend the event last year will remember the great food and wine, the music, the vendors and the wonderful atmosphere that Cookie created for our friends and supporters at her restaurant in Margate. Watch for details in late spring.

## Tell Us Your Story, qualify for a prize

Tutors, encourage your student to write about his/her tutoring experience in 300 words or less and submit it to our Tell Us Your Story Contest via mail, fax or e-mail. We'll select a winner, award a prize and print the story in our next newsletter.

## Calling All Tutors

Would you like to be part of our exciting new Health Literacy Programs? Call Ann at the LVA office 383-3377. We have some opportunities you might be interested in.

## Kudos Corner

Tutor Karen Phillips reports that her student, James M., an avid car enthusiast, has made great progress in reaching his goal of being able to read automobile manuals and magazines. We salute him and Karen for their efforts.

Tammy, a student from China, is working with her tutor Andrew Navalance in an interesting variety of activities, including writing life experience stories, preparing grocery lists and menus, learning how to get around in New York City, understanding the map of New Jersey and writing a letter to a friend in China. All very useful and practical endeavors which Andrew reports have led to interesting and worthwhile meetings. We're sure these two LVA stars will enjoy a busy and productive New Year.

Tutor Lois Jacobs has found a way to sustain her tutoring with her student Eric while she spends the winter months in Florida. She and Eric share a weekly phone call on Monday nights from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Because Eric was especially anxious for Lois to be able to listen to him read, part of the phone call is devoted to his reading from a Harry Potter book while Lois follows along with her own copy of the book some 1,200 miles away. She's also sending him some work sheets so that he can work on his writing skills. Lois reports that Eric has maintained his enthusiasm for achieving his literacy goals and she can see and hear his progress. This team should win a "Where There's a Will, There's A Way Award!"

Diane Mozzo is giving a pat on the back to her student Gladys M. for her enthusiasm and dedication to their tutoring sessions. "Not only is Gladys a responsible and motivated student," Diane says, "but she also makes a delicious flan!"

## Spotlight on Ann Shaw

Ann Shaw, Student Support School District where she Specialist for the past two taught Adult Education, GED years, is wearing a new hat Preparation, Computer Classes these days: Health Literacy Co- and English as a Second Lan- ordinator. Recent grants we've guage. She also teaches medical received from the Robert coding and billing at Atlantic Wood Johnson Foundation and Cape Community College. Lit-

from the Horizon Foundation of New Jersey for Health Literacy Programs required us to find a competent, experienced, creative adult educator who could develop a curriculum and coordinate a series of health literacy



training workshops for adults in Atlantic and Cape May Counties. Fortunately, for us, we didn't have to look far. We found just the right person to take on the challenge under our own roof. Ann Shaw has long and diverse experience in adult education. She came to us from the Cape May Technical

eracy testing and evaluation and student intake are among Ann's duties as a key member of the LVA-CA team. She has completed our Tutor Training Workshops and this past year, qualified as a Tutor Trainer.

About her new role promoting health literacy, Ann said, "It is a wonderful opportunity to provide a much needed service to the community. It will also give students the chance to improve their English language skills while learning how to handle their personal and family health care issues."

## We'll miss Quenby

We are sorry to announce that our program director, Quenby Kotila, will be leaving Literacy Volunteers-Cape Atlantic at the end of February. She will be joining Cape Bank as loan processing manager.

During her tenure at LVA-CA, Quenby made significant contributions to our program. A creative and hard-working professional, she improved our tutor trainings, completed the extensive work involved in the renewal of our ProLiteracy ac-

creditation and has been a willing participant in all aspects of our work.

As a result of her leaving, we will be doing some re-organization in the office. We expect to hire a new staff person in the future, and are working on a job description now. If any tutors have an interest in potential employment with LVA, please contact us at the office.

We will miss Quenby and wish her great success in her new endeavors.



# Harvest Cruise Sets Sail Again

On a delightfully sunny autumn afternoon, LVA-CA supporters set sail on our second Harvest Cruise in Calm Waters. Again, we were able to enjoy a perfect afternoon aboard AC Cruises Cruisn I and afterward, at a delicious buffet dinner at The Flying Cloud Café. "We had a great time last year at our first Harvest Cruise," LVA President Clark Doran said, "so we thought we'd do it again. We really lucked out with the weather both years." Thanks to sponsors Harrah's and The Press of Atlantic City and to ShopRite of Absecon for supplying a beautiful cake.



Guests board the Cruisn I for LVA-CA's second annual Harvest Cruise.



From left, LVA-CA Board Member William A. Cradle, Program Director Quenby Kotila and her husband, Marty Block.



LVA-CA Vice President Grant Wilinski and his wife, tutor Edwina Wilinski.

**REMINDER:**  
Tutors, please! Don't forget to submit your tutor time sheet each month. You can e-mail, fax or call in your hours. It is vital that we get this information for our funding sources.

At right, guests enjoy the view aboard the Cruisn I during the Harvest Cruise in Atlantic City.



Please Recycle this Newsletter— pass it along to a friend or colleague who may be interested in learning more about Literacy Volunteers and how what we do help to improve the communities of Atlantic and Cape May counties.

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering with LVA or participating in the student program, please complete and return this form:

**I am interested in:**

- Becoming a tutor
- Becoming a student
- Helping with projects
- Making a donation

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Cape-Atlantic, Inc.  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Calling All Tutors

Would you like to be part of our exciting new Health Literacy Programs? Call Ann at the LVA office 383-3377. We have some opportunities you might be interested in.

**Our Next Tutor Training**  
Where: Mt Pleasant United Methodist Church  
When: 5 consecutive Thursday evenings  
Time: 6:15pm to 9:15pm  
Dates: March 10, 17, 21, 28 & April 5

Follow us on Twitter.com:  
<http://twitter.com/LVACapeAtlantic>



**Our Mission Statement**  
Helping individuals in Atlantic and Cape May counties improve their English language skills so they can participate more fully in family, workplace and community life.



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