

Mission Statement

"We will vigorously recruit, train and support volunteer tutors in Atlantic and Cape May Counties and provide FREE, confidential, individualized instruction to adults who want to improve their literacy skills."



LITERACY VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION CAPE-ATLANTIC, INC.

743 North Main Street, Pleasantville, NJ 08232
literacyvolunteers@comcast.net
www.lvacapeatlantic.org

Financial Literacy

In- Service Set For Sept. 17th

(see page 3)



Lucky Winner In Press Contest Gets A Trip to Margaritaville

Alice Smith of Mays Landing was the winner of two tickets to a Jimmy Buffett Concert in a drawing sponsored by The Press of Atlantic City. Proceeds from the contest benefited the Newspapers in Education Program of The Press and Literacy Volunteers Association Cape-Atlantic.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

I am interested in:

- Becoming a tutor Name _____
- Becoming a student Address _____
- Helping with projects _____
- Making a donation Phone _____

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering with LVA or participating in the student program, please send in this form.

Literacy Volunteers Association
Cape-Atlantic, Inc.

CONNECTIONS



743 North Main Street, Pleasantville, NJ 08232
www.lvacapeatlantic.org

Literacy Volunteers Association
Cape-Atlantic, Inc.

STAFF

Sheila McLaughlin
Executive Director
Alexandra Chileen
Program Director
Ann Shaw
Student Support Specialist
Patricia Epps
Administrative Assistant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS
Clark Doran
President
William A. Cradle
2nd Vice President
Quenby Kotila
Secretary
William Paullin,
Treasurer

MEMBERS
Knoll Bowman
Ana Carena
Robert Fatzinger
William M. Honan,
Barbara Hudgins
Roseann Kobialka
Michael Lentz
Jason Liang
Paul Merkoski
Norman Waltzer
Grant Wilinski

FALL 2008



From the Executive Director

The challenge of delivering our services to as many people who seek them is often daunting. We are grateful for the commitment that our volunteers have made to our program. Always, we are looking for more people who understand, as our volunteers do, the value of literacy tutoring in changing the lives of individuals in the communities we all share.

Included in our newsletter is information about our upcoming Adult Literacy Tutor Training Workshops. We hope you will share this with anyone who might be interested in joining us in this important work. Our unique program which pairs those in need with those willing to help has proven to be a remarkably successful effort. The learners benefit by improving their lives through employment, increased educational opportunities and involvement with their communities, while volunteer tutors experience the satisfaction of giving back to their communities in meaningful, hands-on way.

LVA is constantly seeking to expand what we do through innovative programs that meet the needs of a growing, multi-cultural population as well as the needs of an often overlooked population: that of American-born adults who were failed by the public school system.

In the coming year we will be offering specialized programs for financial and health literacy. Our highly successful conversation groups will continue in the fall bringing together people of diverse cultures and languages to practice their English in a comfortable, non-threatening setting.

We look forward this year to our fall special events which include our 25th Anniversary "sail-a-bration," a Harvest Cruise on Calm Waters, on Friday, October 10th at the Flying Cloud Restaurant, Gardiners Basin, Atlantic City (details page 3). And watch for details about our upcoming Holiday Gala.

We appreciate the support we receive from the community, and as always, acknowledge with gratitude our volunteers who make it all possible. Please call us at 383-3377 if you have questions or would like to become part of our program either as a volunteer or as a student.

Sincerely,

Sheila McLaughlin

Wine Tasting Event A Hit At The Flanders Hotel

The newly renovated majestic Flanders Hotel and Conference Center in Ocean City was the perfect setting for an evening of wine, food and fun as LVA celebrated its fifteenth wine tasting event. Attendees enjoyed sumptuous hors d'oeuvres, a carving station and exotic spirits accompanied by the music of the Hassan Abdullah Ensemble featuring vocalist Angela Burton

NBC Channel 40 Weatherman Dan Skeldon served as host for the Silent Auction where guests were invited to bid on an array of over eighty items.

As in prior years, certified wine expert John Mahoney presented a wine symposium where de-

lighted guests learned about the merits of a variety of fine wines available for tasting.

"Once again, we've enjoyed an extraordinary night," LVA President Clark Doran commented.

Our thanks to Circle Liquors and to sponsors Sturdy Savings Bank, Fox Rothschild, LLP, Glenn Insurance, Rich Services, South Jersey Industries, Cape Bank and *The Press of Atlantic City*.



LVA's 15th Annual Wine Tasting on May 15th, 2008.

Meet Conversation Facilitator Mea Solomon

Mea Solomon is our new volunteer Conversation Group facilitator. She comes to us from Atlantic Cape Community College where she recently completed courses in English as a Second Language.

Mea has been facilitating our highly successful summer conversation group at the LVA Learning Center. Participants have met each week to practice speaking English in a comfortable and friendly environment. As many as seven different countries are represented in the group.

"I feel that they are learning as much from each other as they are from me," Mea said.

"And I'm certainly learning from all of them."

The group practices pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar. American idioms often cause much laughter as



Summer Conversation group. Mea Solomon, standing, second from left.

LVA Partners With Local 54

LVA is partnering with Local 54 Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union to recruit volunteer tutors from the membership to be trained to provide literacy tutoring to other members who want to improve their

reading, writing and English speaking skills.

"We feel this is a natural fit," LVA Executive Director Sheila McLaughlin said, following a meeting with Local 54 Union Official Donna DiCaprio.

Fall Literacy Tutor Training Schedule

Atlantic County

Where: Shore Memorial Hospital Somers Point, NJ

When: 5 consecutive Wednesday nights

Time: 6:30-9:30 PM

Dates: Sept. 24, Oct. 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2008

Cape May County

Where: County Administration Bldg. 4 Moore Road, Crest Haven Complex Cape May Court House, NJ

When: 5 consecutive Monday nights

Time: 6:30-9:30 PM

Dates: Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2008

If you are interested becoming an LVA tutor or know someone who is, please call 383-3377 to request registration forms or you can download at www.lvacapeatlantic.org. Registration is mandatory to hold your place so don't delay!

Mea explains the meaning of many popular expressions.

The group has been enthusiastic about the experience. As participant Rasamee Miller said, "I am happy to be learning a new language and

to read it and write it. This helps me to live in America."

Rasha Sadek who has been in the U.S. for just two months noted, "This group has helped

me to learn new words and to improve my pronunciation and grammar. It gives me a chance to speak English with others because I don't get the chance to do that very often."

Participant Manal Benjamin summed up the value of the experience, "When I talk now, I have no shame." Her 9 year old daughter Sandra who was born in the United States and has been helping her mother with English, added, "Taking classes helps people to speak better so they won't worry about being laughed at."

Mea has done a wonderful job for LVA. We look forward to welcoming her in our tutor training workshop this fall.

Thanks, Mea!

Attention All Tutors! Upcoming Financial Literacy In-Service

The need for knowledge about concepts related to personal finance and basic economics has become evident in recent times. To address that need this fall LVA in cooperation with ABCO Federal Credit Union will be offering Financial Literacy training workshops for

all active tutors. In a two hour workshop, tutors will receive instruction that will enable them to help their students understand such important things as banking, budgeting and credit. Tutors may choose to attend a workshop on Wednesday, September 17 from 7-9 pm or

on Saturday, September 20 from 10 am-12 pm. Both workshops will be held at the ABCO Egg Harbor Twp. office in the Pathmark Shopping Center, Black Horse Pike. Please call us at 383-3399 to register.

In conjunction with the tutor trainings, students who express a desire to further their financial literacy skills beyond the normal tutoring session may sign up for a series of two

hour weekly workshops conducted by ABCO over four weeks beginning on Wednesday, October 8, 7-9 pm at Atlantic Cape Community College, Bacharach Blvd., Atlantic City. Tutors are asked to refer students that they think will benefit from the program.

Thank you, ABCO Federal Credit Union for the good work you do and for helping in this important endeavor.

Harvest Cruise "Sail-A-Bration"

We are celebrating our 25th Anniversary with a *Harvest Cruise on Calm Waters* on Friday, October 10th. The hour-long cruise will begin at 5:30 pm at historic Gardner's Basin, Atlantic City, NJ. There will be a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres onboard with a buffet dinner to follow at The Flying Cloud Cafe.

Tickets are \$40 and must be reserved in advance (10% discount for LVA tutors). Checks payable to LVA-CA can be sent to the LVA office at 743 N. Main St. Pleasantville, NJ, 08232. Call (609) 383-3377 for more information or to pay by credit card.

Tutors And Students Honored

Our annual Tutor-Student Recognition Night, held on May 21st at Greate Bay Country Club in Somers Point, gave us the opportunity to thank all the people who make our program possible, to celebrate the achievements of our students and to applaud the dedication and diligence of our tutors, trainers and Board Members.

Twenty-five tutors were recognized for providing over fifty hours of tutoring last year

and Board Member Quenby Kotila was recognized for five years of dedicated service on the Board of Directors. Also featured was a "Celebration of Language," which showcased the winners of our first annual Poetry Contest

This year's event was dedicated to the memory of long-time board member Jack Thorpe, who had recently passed away and who will be very much missed.

United Way Funds Programs

We are grateful once again for the outstanding support we receive from the Atlantic County United Way. To address UWAC's core priority for providing Basic Needs and Increasing Self-Sufficiency, LVA requested funding for our Adult Literacy Program. For the two-year funding cycle, UWAC responded with an allocation of \$24,500 for 2008-09 which represents a 12.5% increase over last year, and \$25,278 for 2009-2010.

LVA proposed an En-

glish for Health Literacy for ESOL adults program in response to the United Way's core priority for Supporting Community Health Issues and received an allocation of \$3,000 for 2008-2009, a 44% increase over the prior year and \$3,375 for 2009-2010

The United Way of Atlantic County is a major funding source for LVA. Without its support, we would be unable to bring our much needed programs to the community.

Local Poets Own The Night

The Ventnor Library was the scene of a dazzling display of poetic talent as Literacy Volunteers Association Cape-Atlantic presented its first annual Poetry Contest during National Poetry Month in April. Twenty-five participants from all over Atlantic and Cape May Counties delivered their original poems to a packed house of enthusiastic supporters.

The poems ranged from the wildly funny to the seriously intense. All were received with appreciative applause. LVA Director Sheila McLaughlin acknowledged that judging the contest was the toughest job of the night.

The winner was 16 year old Adrianna Rodriguez of Pleasantville. Her poem about making the right life choices was delivered from memory in

an impassioned presentation that proved to be a huge crowd-pleaser. Runners up were Leo Lieberman who read a moving poem about Lot's wife from his Women of the Bible series and Cole Eubanks whose poem Clenched about his relationship



Left to right: Adriana Rodriguez, Sheila McLaughlin, Leo Lieberman and Cole Eubanks.

with his difficult father packed a dramatic wallop.

"You're all poets, and you love the language," McLaughlin told the crowd, "We love the language, too, and at LVA we believe the best way to show it, is to share it."

Bank of America Supports LVA

LVA was the recipient of a \$5,000 grant from Bank of America this past spring.

"We are deeply appreciative of Bank of America's continuing support of our efforts here in Atlantic and Cape May

County," LVA President Clark Doran said. "They are deeply committed to improving the lives of individuals in our communities through literacy. We could not exist without that kind of support."