

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

**Don't Miss Our Upcoming
Student-Tutor Recognition Night
May 21, 2008**



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

Upcoming Health And Wellness Fair In The Villas

Atlantic Cape Community College nursing students are presenting a Health & Wellness Fair at the Millman Center, 209 Bayshore Road, Villas, on April 18, 4-8PM. There will be free screenings, information from various organizations (a representative from LVA will be there to answer questions), food and family-friendly fun.

This fair is designed to help families acquire better knowledge of health care and health care services available for themselves and their children so please pass this information on to your student(s).

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.

I am interested in:

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

CONNECTIONS

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Literacy Volunteers Association
Cape-Atlantic, Inc.

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Alexandra Chileen
Program Director
Ann Shaw
Student Support Specialist
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Spring 2008

From the Executive Director



I consider my experience as a tutor for LVA some years ago as one of the highlights of my adult life. So I when I accepted the position of Executive Director this past fall, I was well-prepared for the quite singular joys that our organization can bring into the lives of tutors and students alike. The pairing of those wanting to learn with those willing to teach strikes a special human chord in all of us.

One of the goals my student Winnie Liu wanted to achieve in her tutoring sessions was to prepare for the citizenship test. There were one hundred questions on the list that she had to be able to answer although she would be asked only ten of them when she was tested. I was delighted with how highly motivated she was and stunned by how quickly she learned every one of the questions. While I was struggling to recall the original thirteen colonies, she rattled them off without breaking a sweat. We laughed a lot during our sessions. Of course, she passed the test with ease, and we celebrated her success. It was one of many happy moments that we shared.

So many of our tutors have told us that they learn as much from their students as the students learn from them. What begins as volunteer commitment of time and talent becomes an enriching shared experience. We invite our tutors to tell us their stories for future newsletters. We know what they have accomplished in their tutoring will be inspiring to others who may wish to join them as tutors for LVA.

It's been an exciting six months for me as the new Executive Director of Literacy Volunteers Association Cape-Atlantic. We had a hugely successful Holiday Gala in November and are looking forward to our 15th Annual Wine Tasting on May 15th at The Flanders Hotel in Ocean City. At our March board meeting we welcomed Roseann Kobiarka from Atlanticare as a new board member. We graduated twenty-two tutors from our fall tutor training workshops, another eighteen from the January workshops and eight more in March. It's clear that interest in our program continues to grow as the demand for our services increases.

Our thanks to all of our volunteers and supporters for their continued involvement in Literacy Volunteers Association Cape-Atlantic. The staff and our hardworking students are deeply appreciative of your efforts.

Sincerely,

Sheila McLaughlin

LVA Welcomes 48 New Tutors

LVA Cape-Atlantic held two tutor graduations in early 2008. In January, twenty-two volunteers who completed their 15 hour workshop training last fall, joined the

ranks of LVA's certified tutors. At graduation ceremonies in April, another eighteen tutors who completed their training in March came on board.

"We are delighted with the number and caliber of volunteers who have chosen to serve the community in this way," Executive Director Sheila McLaughlin said. "This is truly a remarkable group. Their commitment and enthusiasm are inspiring."

The new tutors from the fall 2007 Atlantic County

workshop are: Patricia Adams, Veronica Allenacker, Leonard Cianfrani, Angela Cianfrani, Brigid Cummins, Mary Diaz, Pat Dougherty, Dee Drevnak, Daniel Franus, Sandra Knorr, Eileen Kraus, Art Lowen, Susan Saponaro, Cathleen Palmentieri, Mary Pat Palombo, Erna Lloyd, and Joyce Warrington.

The new tutors from the fall 2007 Cape May County workshop are: Mary Brodsky, Matt Hook, Robert Newman, Kathleen Shaw and Reuben Nyvelt.

New tutors from the winter training at Shore Me-

morial Hospital are Judy Brandis, Dina DeSalvo, Curtis Davies, Nella House, Patty Maddox, Lorraine McCarthy, Donna North, Paige Patrizio, Patricia Petinga, Carolyn Picorale, Marianne Previti, Heather Scism, Ann Shaw, Jan Smith, Maureen Stueber, Joseph West, Edwina Wilinski and Carol Zubkov.

In addition, eight tutors wrapped up training at our Spring workshop. They are: Scott Alcorn, Amanda Buhler, Carey Kasky, Maggie LaBrosse, Phil Lattimore, Marie Nicholes, Katie Platt and Anita Walker.

Pair Recognized For 200 Hours

On January 17, tutor Charles Coyle and his adult learner Aguinardo received certificates of recognition for achieving more than 200 consecutive hours of tutoring.

Charles, a retired business man who resides in Absecon, is also the Literacy Chair of Rotary International District 7640.

"My student and I have developed a unique friendship," said Charles. "I feel good about helping

him learn to speak English." 'Augie,' who was a teacher in his native Colombia, and has been in the USA for four years.

The pair was awarded at the January LVA Board meeting at the Carnegie Library in Atlantic City.



left to right: Tutor Charles Coyle, LVA Executive Director Sheila McLaughlin, adult learner Aug and LVA Board President Clark Doran.

Reading Celebrations

Reading Celebrations are ongoing throughout schools in Atlantic and Cape May Counties. Mainland Regional High School held theirs on March 3, 2008. Students

read works of poetry and prose and raised \$435 for LVA which was matched by a gift from A. E. Stone.

Our thanks to all who participated.

Save The Date For Student-Tutor Recognition Night

Be sure to mark your calendar so you don't miss LVA's Annual Student-Tutor Recognition Night scheduled for Wednesday, May 21, 6:30-9:30PM. All tutors and students from Cape May and Atlantic County are encouraged to attend and we invite you to bring along a friend who might be interested in becoming part of our program.

This is LVA's opportu-

nity 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.

This very special event will again be held at Greate Bay Country Club in Somers Point (only a 25 minute drive from Cape May Court House) and will include

Upcoming Wine Tasting

Our 15th Annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction has been set for the evening of May 15th. In the past this event has been our most widely attended and most positively reviewed. To celebrate this important anniversary we have worked to make this year's the best ever. Live jazz



vocals will fill the air in our ballroom at the beautiful Flanders Hotel in Ocean City, NJ.

Taste from the buffet, attend the Wine Symposium, sample the variety of wines, bid at the Silent Auction, let the music spin you, enjoy the ambiance that is unique to LVA gatherings. Call for tickets now - 609-645-3800. \$75 per person.

Let's Talk English

Conversational English groups are meeting on Saturdays at the LVA Learning Center. We have both a basic and an advanced group. Jessica Ring, our Stockon service

learning student, is facilitating the conversations.

Let us know if you have someone who would benefit from participating.

ABE Classes Underway

An Adult Basic Education (ABE) class, conducted by Program Director Alexandra Chileen, has been offered at the Atlantic County One Stop in Pleasantville since October. The class, scheduled on Monday mornings from 10AM-12PM, has met with success in providing services to LVA students who are waiting for tutors to become available.

Also, beginning February 9th, an ABE class conducted by Student Support Specialist Ann Shaw has been

underway at Atlantic Cape Community College's Worthington Center in Atlantic City on Saturday mornings, from 10AM-12PM.

We would like to thank Steve Bruner and Rhonda Lowery of the Workforce Investment Board for their continued support. We also extend our appreciation to Dean Bobby Royal and Janet Brenner of Atlantic Cape Community College for their support. Many thanks, as well, to Don Tietje, Security, for his help.

Take A Look At Our New Website!

Be sure to take a look at LVA's updated website. The address is the same (www.lvacapeatlantic.org) but we have a new format and lots more information.

Tutors, if you're looking for tutoring materials and

resources, it's the place to go. Many thanks to volunteer Josh Lucchesi who designed our website and did a great job. Everything you need to know about LVA is a click of a mouse away.

Do You Have A Poem Within You?

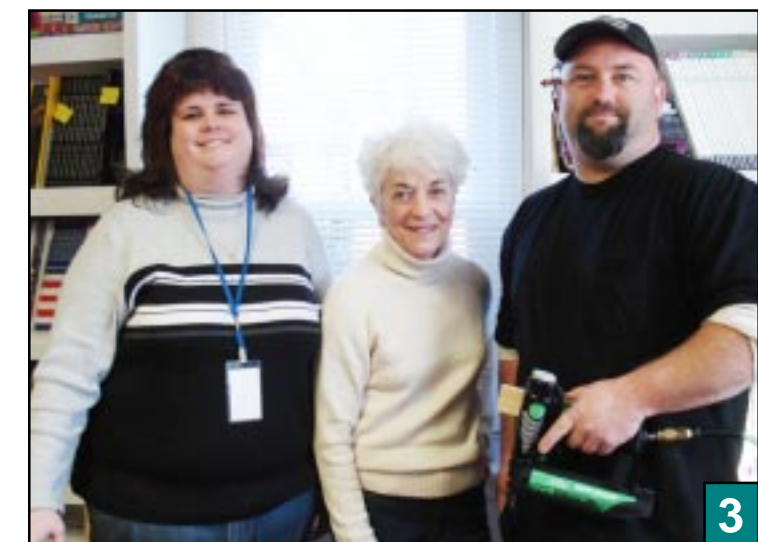
Our first annual Poetry Contest will be held on Wednesday, April 30th 6:30 pm at the Atlantic County Library in Ventnor. There will be prizes awarded for originality, content,

structure and presentation. You may sign up to participate by calling (609) 383-3377 or by going to our website: www.lvacapeatlantic.org.

MLK Day Volunteers

In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 21st, two volunteers from Jewish Family Services put the finishing touches on a carpentry project in the Literacy Volunteer s' Learning Center

at the Pleasantville office. Pictured below are Susann and Chris Roedell (with LVA Executive Director Sheila McLaughlin, center), who spent the day volunteering their services to LVA. Much thanks.



LVA Trainer Nancy McKinney presents his graduation certificate to new tutor Matt Hook.

Citizenship Success

Congratulations to tutor Pat Dougherty and her student Marta, who recently passed her citizenship test.

Kudos, also, to tutor Michael LaNave and his student Mohsen. Mohsen is now a citizen and has registered to vote! Mohsen is looking for-

ward to his first presidential election in November 2008.

Last but not least, congratulations to tutor and LVA Board Member Ana Carena and her student Romona, who has also achieved citizenship!

New Student Support Specialist

Ann Shaw has joined the LVA family as Student Support Specialist. Ann comes to us from the Cape May Technical School District and has extensive experience in Adult

Education. Among her responsibilities will be conducting assessments for LVA as well as teaching an ABE class.

Welcome, Ann!

Reassessment Testing

In order to fulfill the requirements of our grant funding, it is necessary to provide an initial assessment level for all LVA students and then to reassess students after thirty (30) hours of tutoring.

Several tutors will be receiving letters regarding these student reassessments.

Please encourage your student to schedule an appointment for testing during the times indicated on the letter.

If you or your student have questions concerning testing, please contact Ann at lvaann@comcast.net. Thank you for your continued support on behalf of your students