



Newburgh Free Library
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It Isn't Right That We Can't ALL Read

I need to share a frightening secret with you. In ours, one of the world's richest nations, 23% of all adult Americans are illiterate.

Whether you are immediately appalled, or not, by this shocking statistic I suggest that you examine the scope of this **horrendous societal inequity**, as we at Literacy Volunteers of Eastern Orange County, Inc., along with the other affiliates in our state, and nation, struggle to meet this crisis. **We must have your attention and your help!**

In Newburgh, the situation is far more critical: **one third of all adults cannot read** their child's report card or the instructions on a prescription bottle or the names printed on an election ballot. They come from every generation and from every ethnic group. They are both native-born and immigrants.

And they are frustrated, embarrassed, and ashamed.

To hide their humiliating secret, they wear reading glasses they don't need, carry pens they cannot use, and clutch unread newspapers like a shield.

We all suffer. Their inability to read denies them equal participation in our nation and robs our economy, government, and society of the potential benefits of their full involvement.

Democracy - government of, for, and by the people- cannot work for this country if its citizens cannot read.

So what can you – a confident reader, a concerned citizen – do to help?

Become a tutor...

An important way for you to help is to consider joining us as a tutor. You can make a big difference in someone's life for only 90 minutes per week! You need not be a professional teacher, just someone who wants to help educate their neighbor.

Share your resources...

To enable us to us to vigorously attack our staggering illiteracy rate your **financial support is urgently needed...**

Honor your loved ones...

Literacy Volunteers of Eastern Orange County, Inc. (LVEOC) invites you to become our partner in the process of removal of illiteracy in Greater Newburgh. To honor every one of your family and friends who can read, please give a tax-deductible donation to LVEOC today.

Let us know how you will help on the **commitment form on page 4.**

With your dollars and a little time we can reach those who want to learn to read.

You can help non-readers to escape their frustration, shame and embarrassment.



How? With your dollars we can **train a larger pool of volunteer tutors** and purchase instructional materials.

With your dollars we can channel a committed business community's efforts to work toward **righting a major inequity** in our community and set a model for the rest of America. It isn't right that we can't all read.

You can make a difference.

Each of you has the power to guarantee that there are more readers in our world right now. Today. This year.

Remember, the more people who can read, the more the economy can grow, the more the children of non-readers, as well as their parents, will become **more equal partners in growing the community.**

Support the far reaching work of the Library by making sure the non-readers in your community learn to read, like yourselves.

Sincerely,

Roanne Patterson
Roanne Patterson
Executive Director, LVEOC

LVEOC is proud to be accredited by ProLiteracy Worldwide





Every Bit Helps

Why not share your pride and joy? **Mary Elin and Mark Carnes** donated \$50 to LVeoc in honor of **Stephanie Carnes'** acceptance to grad school and **Leander Schaerlaecken'** new master's in journalism.

Open Books, Open Doors!

Profound thanks to our gracious host, Newburgh Free Library for enabling us to have "Open Doors."

Annual Grant from New York State Awarded

On June 22, 2007 we received our annual award letter informing us that the NYSED granted us \$5,000 for general operating costs!

These funds will help strengthen our work. Thanks to this award we can increase our tutor corps and better maintain our data needs.

We thank you, State Ed Department for your invaluable support!



Book Sharing News!

Past President Deborah Hill on Books for Babies & More

We continue to open the world of reading to many children in and out of our region. We helped children in a **Habitat** family begin a library with a small selection of books for their new home

Some new sites: The Family Dental Center, Safe Homes of Orange County, The Early Intervention Program of the Orange County Health Dept., The Newburgh Ministerial Association Nursery, the "Wrap-A-Thon" at Orange County Park, and soon Orange's Neonatal Unit.

Hmmm...How often we forget those close to home? At our **Literacy Volunteers Mixer** on July 19 we initiated an age-appropriate-book-give-away for the families of our students who may "practice" read to their children and/or have their children read to them at home! It was a huge success with about 75 books taken home to share with families. Heartfelt thanks go to the Friends of NFL for sharing their used books.



Our hat is off to: Compack Paper, Inc. of Walden which has generously donated 300 gift bags for our programs.

As always, we thank the **Builders' Association of America** of the Hudson Valley and **Reader's Digest** for supporting our cause with new books for our students and their families.

The Post-Test Thank You Party - July 19

On Thursday, July 19, LVeoc held a Literacy Volunteers Mixer in the Auditorium of the Newburgh Free Library. This party was a "Thank You" to all of our students and tutors for being cooperative and hardworking during the month of June when we post-tested over 30 students! These assessments are an important step towards "cleaning" our data and getting accurate reports into the National Reporting Service, which in turn will help our program develop and improve in the future.

Congratulations to several of our students who did well on their post-tests! Now they have moved up from an ESL level to the Basic English student level. Now they can hold a conversation in English as well as be a native speaker! We are proud of these students and their tutors. Congratulations to: **Hector Gregorio** and tutor **Thomas Gayton**; **Raissa Martin** and tutor **Jackie Hey**; **Ju Hee Nam** and tutor **Margaret Hill**; **Gladys Ocanto** and tutor **Mary Ann Melville**; **Violeth Rodriquez** and tutor **Ann Boucher**.



Above: Students and tutors mingle over a buffet dinner at the Literacy Mixer.

Bottom center: Mary Ellen presents students and a tutor with their assessment achievements.





LVeoc Selected as a special Study Group in Dollar General / ProLiteracy Performance Accountability Initiative

In June LVeoc was chosen to be one of the Dollar General/ ProLiteracy Performance Accountability Initiative's "study groups". Over the next three years as LVeoc completes its structural reorganization we will document and report our changes/improvements as we implement them. In exchange for our maintaining meticulous documentation, Dollar General and ProLiteracy have granted a stipend of \$4,500 dollars!

In our role as a study group we will discuss and decide upon several key programmatic changes we have learned that will

improve the program. First, we are changing the way we document tutor/student meetings and other events like exits, vacations, leaves, etc. We will begin by adding a "happenings chart" to everyone's folder. That way we can see who is coming and who goes – and why – all at-a-glance, which will reduce paper usage while we improve our tracking system.

Another new policy prompted by the Dollar General/Pro Literacy initiative is our shift to **TABE** testing for students of Basic English. The TABE test serves the same purpose as the **READ** test did previously but TABE is

more thorough and accurate. It is also easier to track and produce more accurate National Reporting System and other reports on our ALIES system which is the data recording process so key for much of our funding.



Special guest Pete Seeger talks to LVeoc Executive Director, Roanne Patterson, at the November 2006 holiday party at NFL. He recited/sang the poem below.

Retired Senior Volunteer Program Offers a Stipend for Volunteer Hours

Lest you think that volunteering is all for "free" please note that if you are 55 or older and wish to receive a stipend for volunteering, Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) can help.

RSVP enables the over-55 community to help sustain it with resources and funding offered to active volunteers.

LVeoc is proud of our RSVP members and we know that this compensation, while modest, helps make their time and efforts more manageable. At the same time it enables New York State to better track volunteering which can lead to improved funding. At this time each volunteer hour in New York is worth \$22.70!

Our volunteers are worth it.

The Craziest Language (A Poem) by Pete Seeger

Chorus: So English, I fancy you will agree
Is the craziest language you ever did see!

We'll begin with a box and the plural is boxes;
But the plural of ox should be oxen, not oxes.
The one fowl is a goose, but two are called geese;
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.

You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice;
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.
If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?

If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

The one may be that, and three would be those.
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose.
And the plural of cat is cats and not cose.

We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his, and him.
But imagine the feminine – she, shis, and shim.

September Tutor Training

Do you have friends with free time? Please send them our way!

The next tutor training session is on Tuesdays & Thursdays:

**Sept. 11 & 13,
18 & 20, 25 & 27
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.**
at Safe Harbors
111 Broadway.

(Located next to The Ritz Theatre, Safe Harbors is a comfortable space with 24/7 security.)

Can't make the September session? Look for a Saturday class in October. Call 845-563-3627 for information.

Thanks to our Sponsors

*The Kaplan Family
Empire State Bank
The Lanza Family
Senator Bill Larkin
Orange County,
New York*

*Special thanks to
Dollar General /
ProLiteracy
Performance
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(LVeoc)**

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We're on the Web!
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Recognition from the Community

Thanks to the kind support of community-minded folks, LVeoc continues to combat illiteracy in your community.

David Jolly, Commissioner of Social Services, sent us a letter to thank us for our donation of books to the Books for Babies program.

Michele McKeon of Safe Homes of Orange County likewise thanked us for helping support "a greater community of caring." Our books for children and young adults

will go a long way to support families learning to retool their lives that have been unhinged by domestic abuse.

Howard Finkelstein, founder of the law offices of Finkelstein & Partners gave a donation to LVeoc in honor of **George Levy**.

To get the word out about the crippling problem of illiteracy we need all hands on deck. Thank you to those who set an example for all.

Thanks to the NFL Support Staff

We are fortunate to have the sustenance of the library for our program. Without the invaluable support of the library Board and staff we simply couldn't operate. Especially during our period of structural overhaul, we at LVeoc have come across many challenges including those that require

technical expertise. Luckily, the Newburgh Free Library technical support team is outstanding and we can't thank them enough for their assistance. Our special thanks to **Jerry Henry, Hector Alma, and Michael Schwartz** for their expert and cheerful help!

Literacy Supported in the Community



Above: Dr. Ronald Loewenstein, Dental Director of Greater Hudson Valley Family Health Center, after presenting books to Yamileth Gonzalez, age 7, Keidy Gonzalez, age 3, and Angel Vaquero, age 2.

Below: Angel Vaquero after receiving his book.



About LVeoc . . .

Literacy Volunteers of Eastern Orange County, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to significantly raising the literacy rate in our community through free, one-to-one, adult training. Located in the Newburgh Free Library, LVeoc trains adult volunteers to tutor adult learners from the community and matches them for one-on-one sessions. We teach basic literacy, GED preparation and English as a Second Language (ESL) for anyone who wants to improve their overall or specific literacy skills. Financial contributions, volunteers & tutors are always needed. Contact Roanne Patterson at 845-563-3627. Learn more about us at our website: www.lveoc.org.

**LITERACY
VOLUNTEERS
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Commitment to Literacy (LVeoc is a 501 C3.)

Your name _____ is proud to help our neighbors read.

Sponsor \$25 - \$100 _____
 Teacher \$100 - \$250 _____
 Professor \$250 - \$500 _____
 Advisor \$500 - \$1000 _____
 Mentor \$1,000 - \$5,000 _____
 Orange County Literacy Leader \$5000 - \$10,000 _____
 Other (please specify) _____
Total donation _____

To honor your friends and family, please circle one designation, below.

This donation is in honor, memory or name(s) of

 _____ Yes, please. I (we) would like to receive a tax deductible form as a receipt for this donation.

___ Yes, link us to the LVeoc website (minimum donation \$100) Web address: _____

Send your check made out to "Literacy Volunteers of Eastern Orange County, Inc." or "LVeoc"

Donor Name: _____ Donor Address: _____

Phone(s): _____ Email: _____