

LVWC Student and Tutor News



LVWC
7 Elm Street, Westerly

Literacy Volunteers of Washington County

7 Elm Street
P.O. Box 245
Westerly, RI 02891

401-596-9411

www.literacywashingtoncounty.org

Join us!



What's Happening...

We are back in our offices! We were temporarily housed in and near the parish hall while the church installed a new geo-thermal heating/cooling system. Now that construction is over, we are set up again in our regular office space. Please come by and visit us.

We are also excited what our students and tutors have accomplished. From passing an important exam or earning citizenship, our students are doing amazing things through dedication and hard work. That hard work will also be acknowledged on Thursday, June 16 at our International Potluck & Awards Ceremony from 6:00-7:30pm. We are excited to have it in person this year and to visit with all our students, tutors, and their families. This is Literacy Volunteers 40th year, so please join us.

We have also been collaborating with other literacy organizations to provide other opportunities for our students, especially via Zoom. Check out our website for more information.



The LVWC Classroom



The LVWC Office

Free Classes...try one today!



Free Conversation Class for Adult English Language Learners at the URI Graduate Village. Join Us!

When: Mondays 5:30-7:00pm
Type: IN PERSON
Where: URI Graduate Village Community Center, 2900 Kingstown Rd, Kingstown, RI 02881

Please follow state COVID-19 guidelines
www.literacywashingtoncounty.org

Type: Conversation Class--IN PERSON
When: Mondays 5:30-7:00pm
Where: URI Graduate Village Community Center, 2900 Kingstown Rd, Kingstown, RI 02881



Conversation Class Tuesday

IN PERSON at LVWC
11:00am-12:00pm
See our website for more information

www.literacywashingtoncounty.org

Type: Conversation Class--IN PERSON
When: Tuesdays from 11:00am-12:00pm
Where: 7 Elm Street (Christ Church), Westerly, RI at the LVWC Center
All levels welcome



Join the Women's International Book Club



Email Josephine for information and to register at jo.carubia@gmail.com

www.literacywashingtoncounty.org

Type: Women's International Book Club
Where: Currently meeting on Zoom.
Email: Josephine at jo.carubia@gmail.com for more information, schedule, and to register.



Conversation Class Wednesday



ZOOM (Online only)
11:00am-12:00pm
Meeting ID # 834 5600 8651
See our website for more information

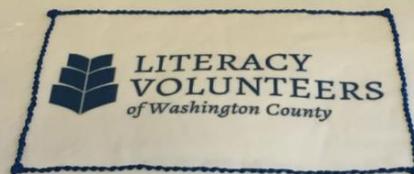
www.literacywashingtoncounty.org

Type: Conversation Class--ZOOM (Online only)
When: Wednesdays from 11:00am-12:00pm
All levels welcome
Meeting ID: 834 5600 8651

Literacy Volunteers of Washington County will be closed for the Spring Break from April 19 through April 22.

**We will open Monday, April 25, 2022.
See you then!**

Save the date!



Congratulations Everyone

International Potluck & Awards Ceremony
Thursday, June 16
6:00-7:30pm

Tutor Tips

"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I remember, involve me and I learn."
Benjamin Franklin

In previous newsletters we've discussed two components of the adult learning equation. We've examined the characteristics of the adult learner, e.g., her practical nature and his experience, which we can and should build on. We've looked at the environment, both physical and attitudinal, that promotes learning. Now, we'll look at the experience of tutoring your student. This is the third and concluding element of the learning picture. What do you actually do in the time you meet with your student?

As you well know, our approach at LVWC is student-centered. Rather than formal classes with a pre-set curriculum, we and you provide one-on-one challenge and support in the areas the student designates. Improving their conversational English, job-related soft skills, citizenship, etc., are some of the broad topics adult students say they want to pursue.

When you meet with your student, how do you translate their goals into manageable chunks of learning? After the initial "getting to know you" conversations, the tendency is to continue these free range "discussions" between tutor and student in subsequent sessions. Often tutors follow any responses the student makes, adding explanations/comments. However, best practices suggest that your time together is more productive and effective if the "discussion" is focused, organized and repetitive.

1. Focus: Give your time together with your student a focus e.g., 5 new vocabulary words,

pronouncing the sound of "th," or one or two conversational phrases. Hopefully, this emphasis relates to the student's life, and this new information will be immediately applied and used. By limiting the scope of each session, you're making it easier for your adult student's brain to incorporate the material and remember it. Of course, you'll have asides and digressions, but keeping the focus of this particular session in mind reinforces the learning.

2. Have a beginning, middle and end: The old adage, tell them what you're going to talk about, talk about it and then tell them what you talked about applies to your time together. After you and your student agree on a relevant, applicable topic for her, you introduce what your session will concentrate on. Then play with the material, defining, pronouncing, writing maybe, using in a sentence, illustrating, etc. to ensure your student understands and practices usage. Finally, wrap up with a review of what you've worked on. The student should leave feeling good about herself and having mastered a small part of our crazy English language.

3. Repeat, repeat, repeat: This is how new material finds a path to our long-term memory. Repetition does not have to be a drill. You can use images, fill-in the blanks, definitions to mix up the reinforcement of new concepts. One corollary: If you are introducing an English word that may have different meanings like red, read or too, two, to, stick to one meaning for the time being. You

can refer to other meanings of course, but concentrate on learning only one at a time. Again, you're breaking down the huge elephant of the English language and American culture into manageable bites, to mix metaphors!

These guidelines should not inhibit the flow and fun of your unique sessions. They do not have to be strictly followed or obvious. But they should be part of your tutoring toolkit, because they are proven strategies for long lasting learning.

Please let me know if this refresher was helpful. We welcome your comments and as always thank you for contributing your time and talents to LVWC.

Barbara Heuer 😊



We are here to help!

**Theresa, Barbara and
Mary Carol**



We have new United States Citizens!



Congratulations to Fenny who passed her citizenship exam in February. She and her tutors David Cranmer and Tony Sousa worked hard. Fenny met regularly with David to prepare. She also practiced writing every day with Tony via email. Fenny also credits listening to YouTube videos to learn the vocabulary from the N-400 form.

Tutor David Cranmer and student Fenny Liu working hard on civics questions.

Congratulations to Yun Zhu who passed her citizenship exam in January. She and her tutor Mary Ellen O'Donnell worked weekly to prepare. Yun also put in a lot of time on her own.



Tutor Mary Ellen O'Donnell and student Yun Zhu are all smiles.



Looking for information and resources for U.S. citizenship?
Visit our website.
www.literacywashingtoncounty.org



Tutor Gatherings Coming Up 2022

March 28, 2022

LVWC

April 25, 2022

Kingston Free Library

May 23, 2022

LVWC

11:30am-12:30pm

www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/connect-with-tutors



The Block Island Beat

Marie Henehan
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401-524-5472

Block Island has a new International Book Club. It is a book club for language learners. A group of people chose a book to read that is in a language other than their native tongue, they read it, and then meet and discuss it. Anyone can participate, for whichever books interest them, attending just the meeting for that book.

The first book is in English. It is called Dangerous Crossing to Block Island. It was written by Lars Trodson, who lives on Block Island, was a reporter for the Block Island Times, and is currently director of the Chamber of Commerce. The story is a “thriller” about US government secret agents sneaking an arms dealer to and from Block Island. The book is only 41 pages long.

The descriptions have some hard vocabulary, but I provide a glossary. The dialogue, though, is very accessible to second language learners. The author has enthusiastically agreed to come to the meeting and answer questions. The meeting is tentatively set for late March, on a Tuesday evening.

Free English as a Second Language Class



Information also available at the
Island Free Library

Instructor: Marie Henehan,
MA in teaching ESL
For more information:
mthenehan@yahoo.com
401-524-5472

Tuesdays
5:30-6:30pm Beginners
6:40-7:50pm Intermediate/Advanced

Island Library
9 Dodge Street, Block Island

Other times are possible depending on need and
demand

Block
Island

Student-Tutor Highlight



Tutor Caroline Mellen and student Dr. Francky Jacque working on Zoom.

I passed step 1 USMLE (the United States Medical Licensing Examinations) last November. Now I am preparing Step 2 CK (clinical knowledge), and after that, I will take the OET to complete the process of ECFMG (Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates) and then will apply for residency training.

I went to medical school in Argentina. I had to learn Spanish and revalidate my high school degree to start medical school. I completed medical school in 2015, passed a national board exam, got into a cardiology residency program, but then dropped it to come to the U.S.

My plan is to be a cardiologist so first, I have to apply for the Internal Medicine residency program, which I plan to do this year and after three years of residency, I will be able to apply for the Cardiology fellowship program.

A little about my journey:

One and a half months after arriving in the US, I had a serious car accident. In 2019, I got sick of rare lung neoplasia that caused me a traumatic experience that

took me a long time to recover physically and emotionally. Being on the other side is completely different. It gave me a clear understanding of the vulnerability a patient experiences and the strength to move towards my dream. Despite the difficulties, I keep working for my goals because when you want to achieve your dreams, there is no time for being a victim.

Of course, working for my goals is not easy, it implies commitment, maintaining habits, exercising, and eating well to be able to perform better on my days of study. I went to study at the Groton Public Library CT, every single day. Besides, I was taking an English Conversation class (LVWCT) in a group with Ms. Katherine and a one-to-one class with Caroline. We practiced a role-play doctor-patient relationship and they provided me with their feedback.

The exam I just passed taught me that with hard work we can achieve anything and that every stage has an end. I have been trying to pass that for a long time.

I am excited to get into the residency program and to be highly trained so I can put my knowledge at the service of my future patients.

Written by Dr. Francky Jacque

Our website has a new look. Check it out.

www.literacywashingtoncounty.org



Literacy Specialist Contact Information

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