

# LVWC Student and Tutor News



LVWC location  
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](http://www.literacywashingtoncounty.org)

Join us!



## Welcome Back!

How was your summer? LVWC was open over the summer, and many students and tutors continued working at the center on off-site. It was nice to see.

Thanks to Mary Carol, our executive director, for holding down the fort this summer.

Your literacy specialists, Barbara and Theresa, are back and here to help. LVWC's conversation classes are both in person. The Monday evening Graduate Village class is continuing the hybrid format. We have also listed many free Zoom conversation classes offered by other agencies. Program information is available on our website and keep checking back for updates and changes.

## Student and Tutor Certificates

Your 2022 certificate is ready and waiting for you. Come by our office to pick up yours.

If you prefer us to mail yours, let us know.



# Conversation Classes

## LVWC All levels welcome In Person-drop in

**When:** Tuesdays & Wednesdays from  
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Where:** 7 Elm Street (Christ Church),  
Westerly, RI

## Graduate Village (URI) Conversation Class—Hybrid

**When:** Monday from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** URI Graduate Village Community  
Center, 2900 Kingstown Road  
Kingston, RI 02881 or on Zoom

Email Barbara to join at  
[oberlejj@verizon.net](mailto:oberlejj@verizon.net)

Visit our website for more information.  
[www.literacywashingtoncounty.org](http://www.literacywashingtoncounty.org)

## Conversation Circles—Intermediate and Advanced



ESL & CITIZENSHIP  
Jones Library

Conversation Circles are offered by the ESL Center located at Jones Library in Amherst, MA. These online conversation classes are for intermediate and advanced English language learners.

### Zoom Conversation Circle

**Fridays**  
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.



[Click Here for More Information](#)

## Conversation Circles

ELL Beginner Class on Zoom  
Mondays from 10 am-11:30 am

ELL Conversation Groups on Zoom  
Tuesdays from 6 pm-7 pm  
Wednesdays from 5:30 pm-6:30 pm.

These classes are free and open to any  
adult English language learner.



**somerville**  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Contact Brigid Pigott,  
Literacy/Volunteer Coordinator for  
the Zoom link.

Email: [bpigott@somervillema.gov](mailto:bpigott@somervillema.gov)

WhatsApp: +1 617.366.7684

Office: 617.623.5000 x.2935

"I know that you believe you understand what you thought I said, but I'm not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant." R. McCloskey



**We are here to help!**

**Theresa, Barbara and  
Mary Carol**

## Tutor Tips

Welcome tutors! Whether you're new, coming back, or have been meeting your student through the summer, this column is for you. It's meant to suggest/refresh/ remind you of practical and proven strategies you can use with your adult students. If you have topics for future issues, please let me know.

The McCloskey quote heading this column is a repeat. I hope it rings true for you. It is appropriate for the brief discussion of communication that follows.

You may not think of your tutoring this way, but we are in the communication business. You are helping your adult student navigate in an English-speaking environment. You are

supporting/challenging them in their individual process of becoming English language literate. When you're explaining specific vocabulary words from Google Translate or idioms or practicing pronunciation or working on online medical forms, job applications or drivers' licenses, you are empowering them, bit by bit, to find their own voice and deal with their complicated adult lives.

You may be familiar with an old statistic that holds that most of what we communicate is 7% words, 37% tone of voice and 56% body language (A. Mehrabian). While this distribution has been widely debated and challenged (A. Cuddy, et.al.), the take-away for us tutors is that communication is not just the spoken word. We should be listening more and noting not only our students' words but also their body language and non-verbal cues. To gauge what your students understand, pause OFTEN during your session and ask them. Listen and observe.\*

Your sessions are a joint effort for tutor and student. Perhaps you've heard the old saw (I'm showing my age!) about working with adults. They do not need "a sage on the stage," lecturing (or doing most of the talking!), dispensing content. Rather, adults need "a guide on the side," who facilitates their learning and creates the trust and environment where they feel safe to speak, make mistakes, and clarify this unruly English language. Their engagement and interactivity are crucial to their success.

Here we go off to a good start! Thank you for your tutoring talents. As always, know that Theresa and I are here to support you.

Barbara Heuer 😊

\* No one said this was an easy habit to adopt! Like learning English, it takes practice!

## Tutor Gatherings Coming Up in 2022

**September 26 (LVWC) 11:30am-12:30pm**

**October 31 (KFL) 11:30am-12:30pm**

**November 28 (LVWC) 11:30am-12:30pm**

**See you there 😊**

[www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/tutors](http://www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/tutors)

Congratulations to Maggie Zeng and Tudy Lopez,  
Recipients of the 2022 Bob Richins Scholarship Award and new U.S. Citizens!



Maggie and Tudy shared this year's scholarship. Both used the scholarship to pay for citizenship.



Tudy's dress to impress interview outfit.



Tudy with her tutor Kristen Sweeney

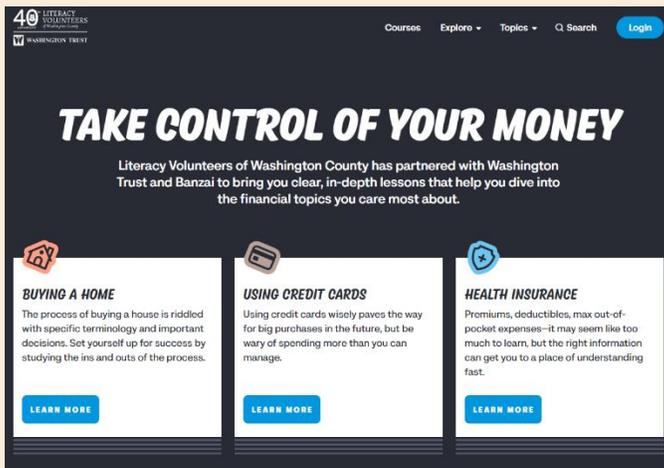
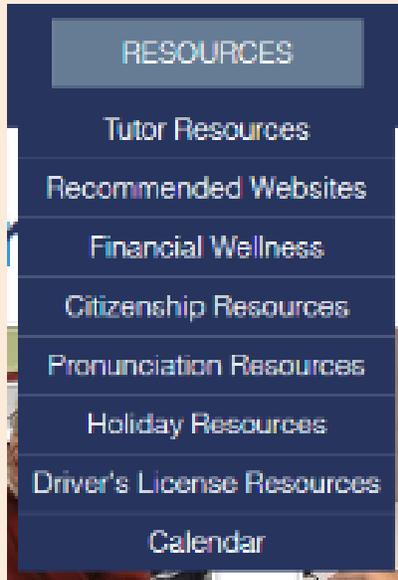


Maggie with her tutor Linda Sisson



Maggie with her tutor Joan Bring

Don't forget to visit our website's  
Resources page for the latest information!  
[https://www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/  
resources](https://www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/resources)



### Literacy Specialist Contact Information

Barbara Heuer  
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9:30am-12:30pm  
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[lvwctgstaff@gmail.com](mailto:lvwctgstaff@gmail.com)

401-596-9411

Executive Director  
Mary Carol Kendzia