

THE Achievers

Literacy Volunteers of Ontario-Yates

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Fall Newsletter 2010

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Carmela Battaglia

Did you know that this was a presidential year? No, we are not electing a new US President. Hugh Price who has been the President of the Board for the Literacy Volunteers of Ontario-Yates (LVOY) has completed his two-year tour of duty and the Board has elected me, Carmela Battaglia to assume this leadership role. Hugh has been a tremendous asset to our organization leading our efforts to consolidate Ontario and Yates counties to form one organization serving the literacy needs of both counties. He was a very visible presence at our Annual Dinner, our Student-Tutor Brunch, our annual summer picnic and a wonderful carpenter. Thank you Hugh for all you have done for LVOY.



We welcome a new Board member, Kelly Johnson of Naples. Her background and wealth of experiences will be a tremendous asset to our mission and goals. We also bid a sad good-bye to TJ Chamberlain who recently resigned from the Board, served as our Secretary and was a member of the Resource/Development Committee. Thank you TJ for your past service and support.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself. I have been a tutor for five years in both Ontario and Yates counties. I currently tutor one basic literacy student but this past year worked with two GED students who have successfully acquired their high school diploma equivalency. I am also part of the Tutor Trainer Team which provides

training to prospective tutors. This is my third year as a Board member. Professionally, I am a faculty member at Keuka College in Yates county in the occupational therapy division.

My involvement in LVOY has been very rewarding. Our students strive to attain many goals to enhance their ability to read, communicate to others, and become active participants in their community. As they accomplish their goals, they are also better able to provide for themselves and their families through newly available job opportunities and a better understanding of health literacy resources.

The coming fiscal year will prove to be very challenging to LVOY. Due to cuts from the state education department and reduction of donations from individuals and fundraising events, we face a significant shortfall of funds to cover program expenses for this year. This amounts to almost one-third of our budget. These cuts will greatly handicap our ability to serve our community at the level you have come to expect from us. This month we will be conducting our **annual mail fund drive**. We need your financial support more than ever. When our letter reaches you, please be as generous as you can. We need your help to do more than just sustain our program.

Lastly, we just had a very entertaining wine walk which we called 'Reading between the Wines' in Bristol Harbor. I would like to thank everyone who attended and all those volunteers who helped to make it such a successful and fun event.

Please contact me at carmelabattaglia@hotmail.com. if you have any suggestions on how we can improve our service to the community.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

By Linda J. Proctor, Director, LVOY



Volunteers make things happen at Literacy Volunteers of Ontario-Yates, as was demonstrated at the September fundraiser, “*Reading between the Wines.*” I would like to thank the following volunteers of the Resource/Development Committee for their time and effort organizing the event: Dawn Hoff-Cowdery and Brad Cohen, co-chairs, Chris Gerling, Sue Cunningham, Pam Tomes, Kelly Johnson, Meg Ewing and Frank Kerwin. THANK YOU.

I am always looking for volunteers. If you cannot attend meetings maybe you would like to volunteer at the day of the event. Please call me and let me know if you are interested in supporting LVOY's events.

I am very excited to announce that there is a new LITERACY TUTOR TRAINING MODEL.

In order to meet the extraordinary need for adult education and literacy across the state, Literacy New York (LNY) has developed a new, researched-based Literacy Tutor Training Program. The tutor training model encourages and supports the professional development of tutors and helps ensure their success through a partnership among the learner, tutor and the literacy affiliate support staff.

With over 12 percent of Ontario County and 15 percent of Yates County's adult population reading at a below basic level, we have a tremendous need to recruit and train more volunteer tutors to serve these learners. One of the hallmarks of Literacy Volunteers is our expertise at training and creating literacy tutors from community volunteers and the new training model from LNY provides additional support to help tutors succeed.

“Adult literacy students will benefit greatly from the new Literacy Tutor Training Program,” said Sue Hensley-Cushing, (LNY Master Trainer). “The training model provides specific instructional strategies that allow tutors to meet the individual needs of learners. It allows for hands on practice with tutoring resources and gives the volunteer tutor a “tutoring toolbox” to work with. The improved model also supports new tutors with on-going training specific to the needs of their students.”

LNY's new Literacy Tutor Training incorporates many strategies to help tutors: lesson planning, individual learning plans, and it breaks down training

workshops into “bite size” modules that tutors can take as they need.

According to Janice Cuddahee, Literacy New York, “the Literacy Tutor Training and support partnership focuses on a standardization of procedures and increased accountability of learner and tutor – with the objective of increasing learner success, both educational gain and other personal goals.”

The new Tutor Training Initiative, which started in October, is made possible because of the fantastic team of current volunteer Trainers: Bonnie Haley, Diane Schoenfelder, Jody Warner-Farnsworth, Mary Ellen Darling, Carmela Battaglia, and Dorothy Kennedy. The LVOY staff who have spent hours preparing for the new training are Carolyn DiDuro, Mary Murphy, Diane Savage and Nancy Richardson. Mary Ellen Darling has been involved at the state level as one of the authors working for two years on the LNY committee that developed the new training modules.

With such a great need for volunteer tutors, community members who are interested in tutoring should contact me to find out when the next Tutor Training sessions are scheduled. I look forward to hearing from you.

LVOY “READING BETWEEN THE WINES” ENJOYS A VERY SUCCESSFUL EVENT

By Dawn Hoff-Cowdery, R/D Committee

The question was: “Want to have fun eating delicious food, sampling wine and sparkling grape juice from Finger Lakes wineries, and



Seated left to right are: Bob Murphy, Craig Larson, and Susan Larson. Standing left to right are: Linda Proctor, Mary Murphy, Bob Eisenberg, and Melanie Eisenberg.

listening to talented local musicians? All in several homes within walking distance of each other?" And the answer was "Yes!" from more than 60 people who participated in LVOY's 2nd annual wine walk, "Reading between the Wines" held on September 25.



Heron Hill tasting room.

This year's event, entitled "Reading between the Wines," was held in a beautiful Bristol Hills neighborhood at the homes of **Mary** (Student/Tutor Coordinator) and **Bob Murphy**; **Susan** (LVOY tutor) and **Craig Larson**, and **Bob and Melanie Eisenberg**. Ticketholders were given driving directions to divide them evenly among the homes and could travel between them by car or on foot. **Arbor Hill, Heron Hill and Imagine Moore** generously

donated several varieties of wine for tasting and many hardworking volunteers provided a great selection of hors d'oeuvres. Volunteer musicians also entertained in each of the three homes. The evening came to a fun close with a dessert buffet, coffee, more live music and basket raffles at the new Heron Hill Tasting Room at Bristol on Seneca Point Road.

"Reading between the Wines" raised approximately \$2300 for LVOY's general fund and we truly appreciate the support of everyone who attended. We also want to thank the Eisenbergs, Larson's and Murphy's again for graciously opening their homes. Thank you to all the volunteers involved in making the event a success, and a final thank-you to the following individuals and supporting organizations/businesses:

Music: Joanna Bassett, Craig Larson, Lynne Westmoreland, John Wiesenthal, Klansee; duo at Heron Hill

Food: **Brown Hound Bistro**; Lindsay Cohen; Sue Cunningham, Joan Geise and members of Delta Kappa Gamma; Monroe BOCES I

Coffee: Finger Lakes Coffee Roasters

Raffle Donations: Angela Cannon-Crothers (author, Grape Pie Season); **The Cheshire Union Gift Shop and Antique Center**; **The Country Ewe**; **F. Oliver's**; **The Goody II Shoppe**; **Heron Hill**; Ray Henry (author, The Natural Science Camp at Tichenor Point); **Ryan's Wine and Spirits**; **Sweet Expressions**.

Tutor News

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW GED STUDENTS

By Nancy Richardson, Student/Tutor Coordinator

The GOOD NEWS in the Yates Office is that, between April and July, nine more students passed their GED test. Congratulations to Arion Smith, Dustin Brown, Joe Romer, Faith Morgan, Rebecca Longenecker, Eileen Longenecker, Sarah Webster, Robert Sneckenburg, and Jeffrey Hulbert. Three of the students entered the workforce. One student improved her employment situation, gaining a promotion and a raise. One student started in a Meat Cutters apprenticeship program. One student entered a Culinary School program.



From left to right are: Joan Geise, Maria Bucci, and Tom Popplaski. These were three of the winners of the raffle.

Two students enrolled in college and one student anticipates starting college in January 2011. We recognize their hard work and commitment. We also would like to thank their tutors who were so dedicated in helping these students reach their goals.



The McKnight and Peck families enjoy the LVOY picnic held earlier this summer at the Seneca Yacht Club in Geneva.

2010-2011 Board of Directors

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- Nancy Richardson, Student-Tutor Coordinator
- Diane Savage, Student-Tutor Coordinator
- Carolyn DiDuro, Student-Tutor Coordinator
- Kristen Liberty, Administrative Assistant



SAVE THE DATE!!
9th Annual Adult Spelling Bee
Sunday, January 30, 2011 – 1:00pm
@ Canandaigua Academy Auditorium



Literacy Volunteers of Ontario-Yates is a United Way Agency



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