

Literacy of Northern New York

Newsletter June 2016



Visit Literacy of Northern NY's table at Salmon Run Mall on Saturday, June 11.



LuAnne E. Rowsam, owner of The Reading Room at Salmon Run Mall, is sponsoring a fundraiser to promote Literacy of Northern NY. We plan to purchase books for our students and tutors with the proceeds. During an 11 a.m. reading celebration on Saturday June 11 featuring Chase from the TV show Paw Patrol, LNNY will have a table set up at the book store to encourage people to buy raffle tickets for the candy bouquet.

The fundraiser at the book store runs through July 4th so if you can't stop by Saturday, you have plenty of time throughout the month to go to the store and support us. There are three ways you can help:

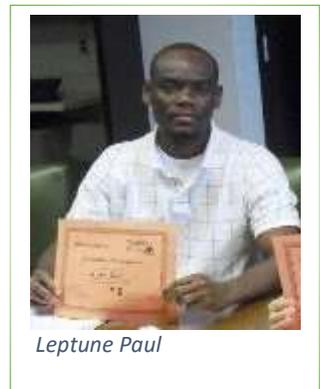
1. Drop some money in the boot at The Reading Room.
2. Take a chance on the beautiful candy bouquet valued at \$85, donated by Sherry Sears. The drawing is July 4th at 4 p.m.
3. Purchase a bird feeder for \$30 and \$10 goes to Literacy of Northern NY.

Here is a link to LuAnne's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Ragsnreads/>

Former Jefferson County Learner Leptune Paul Heads to Law School!

Leptune Paul was accepted into Northeastern University's School of Law in Boston, where he will study for a master's degree in human rights.

After the major earthquake in Haiti a few years ago, Leptune came to Watertown and worked with tutor Gail Kempney. He also attended Deborah's ESL classes and Jessica Yancey's classes while she was teaching at BOCES. Leptune gave back to our program by doing media interviews about his experience learning English at LNNY. His story inspired other ESL learners to come forward and seek help.



Leptune Paul

Leptune taught law at a university in Haiti but wanted to improve his English language skills before pursuing a law career in the U.S. He speaks French, English, Creole, and some Spanish. He attended Jefferson Community College and completed the Paralegal Studies and Criminal Justice programs and made the Dean's list. After graduating, he started working at Convergys.

We are very proud of Leptune and know he has a bright future ahead of him. Congratulations!



Seasonal Beauty

The Watertown office of LNNY is fortunate to be located near the Jefferson County Historical Society. Deborah takes her ESL students there on field trips and the gardens offer a lovely backdrop to the building. You can see some of the spring flowers in this newsletter.

Dollar General Grant Helps Fund ESL Classes at Fort Drum

Literacy of Northern NY has received a \$10,000 grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation to support our ESL classes at Fort Drum. The Dollar General Literacy Foundation is proud to support initiatives that help others improve their lives through literacy and education. Since its inception in 1993, the Dollar General Literacy Foundation has awarded more than \$120 million in grants to nonprofit organizations, helping more than 7.3 million individuals take their first steps toward literacy or continued education.

LNNY will use the money to pay two people to teach classes on-site at the Army Community Services Building. We also plan to purchase books and materials to support the program.

Holding classes at Fort Drum is convenient for both soldiers and military spouses. The setting provides a learning environment as well as the opportunity to meet new friends and socialize. This program is run in partnership with Army Community Services.

Jessica Yancey, who has been involved with LNNY for many years as a volunteer tutor, teaches the advanced class at Fort Drum. The majority of her students are soldiers and many speak French as their first language. We also offer a beginning and intermediate ESL class. All classes meet twice a week so students have plenty of opportunity to practice speaking and listening to English.

Military spouses who are unemployed teachers have taught some of the classes, which is a win-win situation for both the students and the volunteers. The volunteers gain current teaching experience, which helps them obtain local, paid teaching jobs.

Do you need materials for your student?

Give us a call in advance and we can have them ready for you. We have books at all different reading levels, even as low as second grade level, if your student is looking for something to read for pleasure. The more students read outside of class, the quicker they will improve their literacy skills.



New Math Tutors for Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence Counties

Cecilia held a workshop on May 23 in Watertown to train tutors to teach basic math skills. Two new tutors from Watertown, one from Gouverneur, and one from Ogdensburg attended. On June 2, Cecilia also did the same training in Lewis County and two new tutors attended. Our Lewis County tutor training starts Thursday June 9th for reading and ESL.



Lewis County math tutors, from left: Barbara Chamberlain and Kathy Wallace.



New Math Tutors: Allan Johnson & Amy Montpelier



New Math Tutors: Jane Oradat, T. Urling Walker, & Allan Johnson

Take a Leap for Literacy

United Way of Northern NY is seeking 95 people to rappel down the Key Bank building at 200 Washington Street on Sept. 17th to raise money for nonprofits such as Literacy of Northern NY. You can designate which nonprofit gets the money you raise. United Way will set up a web page through FirstGiving for each participant. The goal is to raise a minimum of \$1,000. People can make donations via the web page. For information: <http://www.firstgiving.com/UWNNY/over-the-edge-for-uwnny>