

Literacy of Northern NY Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2016

Lowville Cream Cheese Festival Saturday, September 17

Stop by the LNNY table. We will have raffle baskets with great prizes. Tickets are only \$1 for one ticket and \$5 for 7 tickets. The baskets will be in the Watertown office until the festival so you can stop by to buy tickets.



We still need **volunteers** for the LNNY table at the Cream Cheese Festival. Let Deborah know if you can help and what time slot you'd like to work. We are looking for people from 11 pm to 4 pm. We have people for set up and clean up. Call 315-782-4270 or email literacyvolunteers@verizon.net

Over the Edge Fundraiser

Our board president, Cynthia Lonsbary, is taking a leap for literacy on Sept. 17th. She has raised \$1,001 as part of United Way's Over the Edge fundraiser and will rappel down the Key Bank Building at 200 Washington Street. We appreciate her courage and her willingness to raise much needed funds for LNNY. Come out and support Cynthia. She will be in the first group to climb down the building - around 9 a.m.

Tutor Training in Watertown

Our student waiting list grows each week. We especially need reading and math tutors. There is an in-person Reading and ESL tutor training starting Wednesday, September 14 in Watertown. The sessions are from 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm. and continue on Mondays and Wednesdays until October 3. People who want to take just one of the courses, either reading or ESL, only have to attend four sessions. Please pass on the information to friends and family. Information at www.literacynny.org or by phone at 315-782-4270.

United Way's Food Drive

We have a box outside our Watertown office for donated items. Boxed or canned dry goods, pet food, and personal items are always appreciated. United Way of Northern New York is collecting items from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday Sept. 9th at the parking lot of St. Anthony's Church on Arsenal Street in Watertown. Help us feed the hungry in our community.

Congratulations to Leptune Paul!

It is with bittersweet feelings that we say goodbye to Leptune. We are thrilled that he leaves Watertown for a fantastic opportunity, but we are sad to see him leave.

Leptune Paul, a former ESL student at LNNY, stopped by the office recently to express his gratitude. He came to the United States after the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Leptune attended Deborah's ESL classes here and also worked one-to-one with a tutor. After spending three years in our program, he went to Jefferson Community College and obtained two degrees there. Then he worked two years at Convergys, a call center, which also helped him to improve his English skills. Leptune is enrolled in a master's degree program at Northeastern University in Boston to study law. He wants to become either a human rights or immigration lawyer. Leptune thanked Deborah for instilling him with the confidence to speak English. We are very proud of Leptune and know he will go far in life.



Leptune

Fort Drum

Congratulations to Jessica Yancey, Watertown/Fort Drum ESL Instructor!

Jessica was accepted into SUNY Potsdam's Masters in Education Program. She will major in math and also obtain ESL certification.



The ESL classes at Fort Drum are in full swing, with excellent volunteers who bring much experience to the program.

St. Lawrence Office closed

We closed our St. Lawrence County office recently due to fiscal constraints. It was a difficult decision to make. While we will no longer accept new students or train new tutors in St. Lawrence County, we will support the existing students and tutors. We have donated all the books, materials, a photocopier and office furniture from our former office to the Potsdam Library, where the office was located. We will continue to test new students and train new tutors in Jefferson and Lewis Counties.

Jefferson County Student is accepted at JCC

Congratulations to Freshta! She came to LNNY in May 2015 and she attended ESL classes. She then worked with math tutors, Mary and Doug Anderson. Freshta went on to attend the TASC Prep class at Jefferson Community College, taught by Jessica Yancey.



Freshta

Following the TASC Prep class, Freshta took a reading course at JCC. This year, she will be studying Math, Introduction to Business, English, and History of Civilization. She is dedicated to learning and we wish her well.

Carla Haas, Tutor Extraordinaire

Carla teaches a beginner ESL class on Fridays and meets individually with two other students, one of whom is currently away for the summer in her home country, Burkina Faso.



From left: Nan, Luda, Carla, and Ava

Whenever we need a tutor to work with a new ESL student, Carla is always accommodating. She is patient and flexible. She currently has all females in her class and entertains them with all things “girlie.” She makes learning English so delightful.

Thanks, Carla, for all that you do at LNNY.

Tutor Tips

Here is an interesting link for tutors when trying to describe something, <http://visual.merriam-webster.com>, which is “an online dictionary with a different point of view.” The dictionary has clear illustrations, graphics, and photos, all done with great detail. The site has 15 major themes and over 6,000 images.

If you are looking for short stories for reading or ESL students, check out this website: http://resources.marshalladulthoodeducation.org/reading_skills_home.htm. The stories are categorized by reading levels as low as first grade level up through eighth grade. Each story also contains questions and writing activities for students. The stories focus on employment, housing, health, school, money and government. There are other helpful tips on this website such as how to chart a student’s fluency progress. Students who read fluently have better comprehension skills.