

*Literacy of Northern New York  
August 2020 Newsletter*

*We haven't forgotten our tutors!*

Some of our tutors have asked when they can get a new student or resume tutoring. They tell us that they miss tutoring. Unfortunately, there are still restrictions on most of our public places for tutoring. Some libraries are open with limited access, such as curbside pickup for books. The library in Philadelphia is open and the library in Depauville said we can make arrangements for students and tutors to meet. We do encourage you to look for an alternative site in your community to meet with students, such as a church or fire hall. If you live in Watertown, you can meet your student in our conference room if you reserve it with us in advance. Anyone entering our office must wear a mask.

*Upcoming Yard Sale*

Our yard sale is scheduled for Saturday, September 26. See the flyer about dropping off donations. You can also call the Literacy office (315-782-4270) and drop off small items. Please take a look around your home to see if you have any household items to donate. Please consider attending this event. NYS has not released any of our grant funding since April and will likely cut what they owe us by 20 percent as they struggle to deal with the costs of the pandemic. Our bills, unfortunately, have not also been delayed.

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**Garage Sale**

**Saturday**  
**September 26th**  
**8am – 2pm**

Watertown Savings  
Bank Main Office  
111 Clinton St.

Proceeds to  
benefit

Literacy  
of  
Northern New York

Donations can be dropped  
off at Watertown Savings  
Bank starting  
Monday, September 14



***Congratulations to Audrey!***

Audrey, pictured at left, was accepted into the Certified Nursing Assistant's training program at Samaritan Hospital in Watertown. Audrey is from West Africa, where French is the official language and lives in this area because her husband is a soldier stationed at Fort Drum. She has attended Deborah's classes since she came to the U.S. at the end of 2018. Audrey is well-suited for the CNA course – she is friendly, outgoing, and all the students enjoy having her in class. She starts training on August 28.

## ***Off to College!***



*Nabin*

ESL student, Nabin, is off to college at the end of August. Nabin will be attending classes at Jefferson Community College. He will take online classes and on-campus classes if they are open to students. Nabin is from Nepal and has a Master's degree but he decided to get an Associate's Degree in Computer Science at J.C.C. so he can have more exposure to English, both listening and speaking, as he meets new people. He has attended Deborah's classes and also had a tutor.

## ***Leptune Gives Back by Helping Immigrants Obtain Jobs***

We were delighted to hear from Leptune at the beginning of August. Some of you may remember reading updates on Leptune during the past several years. He attended Deborah's ESL classes when he first came to Watertown after the earthquake in Haiti. Leptune had been a law professor in Haiti but wanted to improve his English. He enrolled in the paralegal course at Jefferson Community College, then completed the criminal justice program at JCC. He went on to achieve a Master's degree in Law at Northeastern University in Boston. Leptune's career path has taken him to a position where he is now working at JVC, a non-profit agency, where he teaches and helps immigrants and refugees get jobs. He also shifted to getting a Master's degree in public health. His wife, Denise, is working as a nurse in school. They live in Watertown, MA.



## ***Children's Books Are Available for Students***

We have some children's books left over from our holiday giveaway. If you have a student with preschoolers, we have some hard-cover books we would like to give to families who cannot afford to buy reading materials. Please let us know if your student wants some free books.