

**Barnes & Noble
Fundraiser**

December 3, 2014

Once again LVBTC will hold a fundraising event at **Barnes & Noble**, Vestal, during the holidays. On Wednesday, December 3 from 10am to 9pm, patrons of the bookstore (and online customers) use a coupon code when purchasing to give LVBTC a portion of the sale. Last year, over \$400 was raised, and with your support this year we hope to double that amount!

Can't attend the bookfair that day? Visit BN.COM/bookfairs to support us online from 12/3/14 to 12/8/14, by entering Bookfair ID 11378122 at checkout. Follow the directions in the gold box. A percentage of your Barnes & Noble purchases will benefit our school/organization. See the Special Insert Flier in this issue for more details!

Inside this issue:

Adult Literacy Program	2
Help Support Literacy	2
Barnes & Noble Holiday	SI
Adult Literacy Facts	SI
A Student's Story	3
Shop Smile.Amazon to	3
Contact Our Staff and Board	4

Linked By Literacy

From the Executive Director's Desk

"A lot of people ask me—if I were shipwrecked and could have only one book, what would it be? ...I always say, 'How to Build a Boat.'" — Comedian Stephen Wright

Mankind just landed a spaceship on a comet 317 million miles from earth, yet one-fifth of Americans can't read well enough to decipher a news article about it. Almost everyone in the U.S. has a cell phone, a sophisticated multi-purpose mini-computer—but one-fifth of Americans can't read or understand the contract they sign to get one. We can splice genes, and prevent and cure diseases that wiped out multitudes, but one-fifth of Americans can't follow basic written directions from their doctors or take medicine as ordered. Just like the widening income inequality gap separating the rich and poor in this country, the adult skills gap has erected a barrier that will soon create an ever-more permanent underclass in a nation where there should be opportunity and hope.

Our skills gap in the United States is not just

about reading, although that's always the most basic measurement. One-fifth of our citizens also struggle with basic math, writing abilities, and computer literacy. Currently, in industry and government the "unskilled labor" pool is defined as high school graduates with no additional education or training. *By definition, our LVBTC students are all below this achievement level!* With the help of our excellent volunteer tutors, these men and women try so hard to improve their overall literacy, and look to gain steady employment in the community. What is our society's responsibility to help those who try to help themselves? Surely more than is offered to them right now by either commerce or government!

It doesn't need rocket science to see that unless we address the education/skills gap affecting one-fifth of adult Americans in a meaningful way—unless we make it a major advocacy priority soon—we will be a country in hopeless decline. The widening gulf between the educated and skilled, and those trapped in ignorance on the other side, will be

unbridgeable for generations to come.

Maybe rocket science can't save us, but common sense and clear thinking can lead the way: Get the facts about adult literacy. Support programs that assist adult education. Advocate for public policy that seeks solutions to the skills gap and plans for jobs creation. If able, please lend your time by volunteering at LVBTC.

Humans solve complex problems all the time. Adult literacy is an entrenched problem with a known solution—if only we have the will and the commitment to fight for the human potential of our one-fifth.

**Jane Clair,
Executive Director**



Adult Literacy Program Happenings

Just about a year has passed since Ann Marie Carmon started working at Literacy Volunteers. At that time, there was a backlog of paperwork, along with services for students needing a more focused, new direction. Annmarie, along with other staff and tutors, has made a good deal of progress in tailoring programs to meet the needs of students, as this proves to be an ongoing process.

In addition, New York State (which helps fund our programs) has changed procedures for determining accountability for student performance. We are continually working to improve our data collection and information as part of our New York State funding requirements. Tutors and students are instrumental in providing office staff with this critical data.

All in all, some of our goals have been met, but many of the others are still on the back burner. Our staff, along with input from our tutors and board members, work continuously to improve our programs.

Since September of 2013 we have had three volunteer “Meet & Mingle” events designed to give our volunteers program information, share stories and tips with each other, and gain the latest information we have regarding Adult Education. Each “Meet & Mingle” have been well attended and enjoyed by the volunteer tutors. We will continue to offer more of these events in the future. Also, a Tutor/Student Recognition dinner was held in the spring—always the highlight of our program year.

Tutors have gained insight

into the TABE (Tests of Adult Basic Education). Many tutors recently attended a workshop held by our office designed specifically for the purpose of developing Individual Plans to help tutors focus their lessons on skills students need to practice. Our funding from New York State requires us to give these tests to every student entering our adult learning programs at least once yearly. TABE tests are an important component and good measurement of student progress.

We have started a Math Lab, an English Lab and a Reading Roundtable for students without tutors and students who want more help. These sessions provide students without tutors the opportunity to learn in small groups while waiting for a one-to-one tutor match. While only in practice for several months, this model of in-

struction has proven to be very successful and is warmly received by both tutors and students alike. Labs are offered as follows:

- Math Lab—**
Mondays, 10:30 to Noon
- Reading Roundtable—**
Wednesdays, 10:30 to Noon
- English Lab—**
Thursdays, 10:30 to Noon

With more funding, further planning and the cumulative hard work of volunteers and staff we look forward in the future to purchasing new materials for tutors and students, offering a variety of workshops, and are always willing to plan programs according to what our tutors and students need. The old saying “many hands make light work” rings true; we can accomplish much when we work together on behalf of our students.

**G. Horvath with
Ann Marie Carmon**

**Get a jump start on our annual membership campaign! Support efforts to help those who seek our services become more literate by making a tax deductible donation today. Simply fill this out and mail in with your donation to our office today!
Literacy Volunteers of Broome-Tioga Counties is a United Way Agency.**

Literacy Volunteers Broome & Tioga Counties, Inc.
185 Court Street Binghamton New York 13901

I want to help someone increase their Literacy skills. Enclosed is my gift of:

Other _____ \$100 _____ \$75 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ \$15 _____

Make checks payable to Literacy Volunteers of Broome & Tioga Counties, Inc.

Name _____

Address _____

A Student's Story

Our basic mission states, "to assist adults in developing functioning literacy skills...improving the student's ability to read and write, perform basic math functions, and to use computers, as well as to speak and comprehend the English language.", sometimes at LVBTC we don't realize how much an impact our mission focused programs have on an individual. We know our programs and services make a positive difference on our students' lives, but it is always great to hear just how much in *their own* words.

Silvia Morales-Perez is an English as a Second Language (ESL) student receiving tutoring services provided by tutor Jim Boyden. Jim and Silvia work together with a collaborative effort LVBTC has with Family Enrichment Network, Johnson City. Silvia, upon emigrating from Guatemala in 2003, wanted to better her English language and speaking skills. She has been receiving our tutoring services since 2012, and has made great progress in her English language skills. Below is an untouched essay Silvia wrote and wanted to share:

My American Dream by Silvia Morales-Perez

Since I was young my dream was to come to the United States. My family was big. We were nine siblings. We were very poor and sometimes the only food we had were tortilla and beans. Often we did not have money for coffee, sugar or milk.

My dream was to come to the United States, have my own family here and raise them with a better life than I had. I wanted them to have a better education than I had.

I had to leave school when I was in second grade to help my mother take care of my siblings.

I used to see people around in my country who had gone to the United States to work. When they got back they had money and beautiful stories about the United States.

I knew my future could be better in this country.

Now I have a beautiful family, a house here and a house in Guatemala. I also help my parents whenever I can. Now I can say, "My dream has come true."

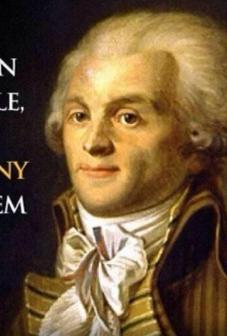
Shop AmazonSmile to Support Literacy Volunteers

Support LVBTC by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know.... Same products, same prices, same service. Anything you would purchase on Amazon.com, you can purchase through AmazonSmile - only better - because LVBTC gets a portion of the proceeds!

Just log on to www.smile.amazon.com, choose Literacy Volunteers of Broome-Tioga County Inc. and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to us whenever you shop on AmazonSmile (all year round, not just holiday time).

THE SECRET OF
FREEDOM LIES IN
EDUCATING PEOPLE,
WHEREAS THE
SECRET OF TYRANNY
IS IN KEEPING THEM
IGNORANT.

MAXIMILIEN ROBESPIERRE



**LITERACY
VOLUNTEERS OF
BROOME/TIOGA
COUNTIES, INC.**

185 Court Street
Binghamton, NY 13901

Phone: 607-778-6406
Fax: 607-778-6402
E-mail: literacy@aol.com

We're on the WEB!
www.broometiogaliteracy.org

Literacy Volunteers of
Broome/Tioga Counties, Inc.
185 Court Street
Binghamton, New York 13901



*Affiliate Member of
Literacy New York*



*Member Agency of
Broome United Way
Tioga United Way*

**Volunteers
Are
Needed!**

We are always looking for tutor volunteers. Opportunities exist to work with student learners, office volunteers and on special projects. Please contact our office at 607-778-6406 if interested.

Literacy Volunteers Staff

*Jane Clair, Executive Director
Ann Marie Carmon,
Adult Education Program Coordinator
Georgianna Horvath,
Computer Literacy Program Manager
Karen Hills, Tioga Adult Learning Lab
Program Assistant
Kristen Gordon-Pier Administrative Manager*

Literacy Volunteers Board of Directors

<i>Karen McMullen</i>	<i>President</i>
<i>Patricia Giglio</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Brenda Fuller</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>Margaret Goodfellow</i>	
<i>Margaret Menart</i>	
<i>Anne Murray</i>	
<i>Naomi Rupright</i>	
<i>Annie Whitman Cartie</i>	

Adults Who Read ... Succeed

**Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Binghamton, NY
Permit 197**