

LVWC Student & Tutor News

Spring 2024

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Spring Break

Literacy Volunteers of Washington County will be closed for spring break April 15-19, 2024. We will be back in the office Monday, April 22, 2024.



Literacy Volunteers of Washington County

7 Elm Street

P.O. Box 245

Westerly, RI 02891

401-596-9411

www.literacywashingtoncounty.org

Join us!



Literacy Specialist
Contact Information

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Spotlight Minji & Kate

In June 2023, Minji came to us through our URI Graduate Village conversation class and requested a tutor to help her with her English while she was here for a year. Minji then returned to South Korea.

Kate agreed to work with Minji the following month. They worked on conversational skills by getting out and about in the area. Here they are enjoying the beach on a chilly day with Minji's daughter and Kate's son Rusty. They also got busy baking Christmas cookies.



Announcements & Events

Closed April 15-19, 2024

(Spring Break)

Open Monday, April 22, 2024

LVWC Conversation classes will not meet
April 16 & 18, 2023.

Closed Monday, May 27 for Memorial Day.

International Potluck & Awards Ceremony,
June 13, 2024



We are here to help!
Mary Carol, Theresa, Barbara and Jess

Tutors, don't forget to submit those hours.

A screenshot of the LVWC website. The header includes the address: 7 Elm St., P.O. Box 245, Westerly, RI 02891, (401) 596-9411. The logo features '40 YEARS of growing!' and 'LITERACY VOLUNTEERS of Washington County'. There is a 'Donate' button and social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn. A language dropdown menu is set to 'English'. The navigation menu includes HOME, ABOUT US, STUDENTS, TUTORS (highlighted), RESOURCES, EVENTS, and CONTACT. The main content area is titled 'Tutors' and contains a yellow button that says 'Click here to become a tutor!'. Below this is a photo of three people and a 'Tutor Handbook' button. To the right is a 'Off-Site Tutor Reporting Form' with instructions: 'Please report your hours with this online form if you do not meet at the literacy center in Westerly or if you do not use the LVWC Zoom account. This information is very important. Thanks you.' The form has fields for 'Email *' and 'Tutor Name *' with 'Your email' and 'Your answer' labels below them. A red asterisk indicates required questions.

If you and your student do not meet at the LVWC office and sign in, please remember to fill out the Off-Site Tutor Reporting Form.

You may have noticed it looks a little different as it is now a Google Form. This helps us collect better information, and it enables us to send you a copy of what you have submitted to help you keep track.

Current Classes

These classes are for adult English language learners.

Visit www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/classes-gatherings for current offerings.



URI Graduate Village Conversation

Type: Conversation Class—HYBRID (in person and Zoom)

When: Mondays 5:30-7:00pm

Where: URI Graduate Village Community Center,
2900 Kingstown Rd, Kingston, RI 02881

Email: Barbara at oberlejj@verizon.net to register

LVWC Center

Type: Conversation Class—IN PERSON

When: Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 11:00am-12:00pm

Where: 7 Elm Street (Christ Church) Westerly, RI
at the LVWC Center

All levels welcome—No registration required



Conversation Classes

for adult English language learners
Tuesdays & Wednesdays

11:00am-12:00pm



All levels
no registration required
7 Elm Street, Westerly,
RI 02891



See our website for more information
www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/classes-gatherings

Conversation Opportunities Online

ELL Beginner Class on Zoom
Mondays from 10 am-11:30 am

ELL Conversation Groups on Zoom:
Tuesdays from 6 pm-7 pm
Wednesdays from 5:30 pm-6:30 pm

These classes are free and open to any adult English language learner.

Click Here: [Email Bridget for Zoom Link](#)

somerville PUBLIC LIBRARY

Contact Bridget Pigott,
Literacy/Volunteer Coordinator for
the Zoom link.
Email: bpigott@somervillema.gov
WhatsApp: +1 617.366.7684
Office: 617.623.5000 x.2935

ELL Conversation Groups (Zoom)

Thursdays
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Online event

Description: Practice speaking English in an informal setting with Community Literacy Council volunteers online.

Click Here for More Information

Canton Public Library
connecting your community

ELL Conversation Classes from Literacy Volunteers of Kent County

Tuesday mornings from 10:00 - 11:30 AM
East Greenwich Free Library (82 Parice St., East Greenwich, RI 02818)

Click Here for More Information

Zoom Meeting (link provided after sign up):
Wednesday Nights from 7:00 - 8:30 PM

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF KENT COUNTY

Online Conversation Opportunities

Visit our website to learn about Zoom conversation classes from other literacy organizations that are open to all.

www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/classes-gatherings

Tutor Tips

By Barbara Heuer

“To tutor is to learn twice” Joseph Joubert

Last week, I ran into a friend who told me that she had stopped tutoring many years ago (not at LVWC) because her student never put in the work of learning English. She tired of trying to motivate him. She became frustrated that he didn't progress because he didn't take responsibility for his language learning. In fact, he told her, emphatically, he just wanted to snap his fingers and immediately become fluent.

Wouldn't we all?

In the real world, of course, we know that learning English or any language is a process with a nonlinear trajectory. To make progress requires effort, practice, repetition, mistakes with setbacks and successes for the learner. The dictionary defines “process” as a “series of actions or steps taken in order to achieve a particular end.” I'd like to highlight several dynamics of the tutoring process.

The one-on-one tutoring at LVWC is a partnership. The process expects buy-in and commitment from the learner. Working with a tutor is a participatory sport. Both tutor and student must “be on the same page” in terms of objectives. Most importantly, the student must be willing to be an active learner, putting in the effort and energy that that entails, at least in weekly sessions if not in homework!

We know that our adult students, like us, bring their work, family, and life responsibilities, unique backgrounds, education, learning preferences, personalities, etc., with them. Consideration and respect for these individual situations should inform our tutoring.

As you know our program at LVWC is student centered. Flexible tutors tailor their sessions to address the student's evolving specific needs. In

practice this means that tutors talk less and listen/observe more. In education-ese, this is called “informal or formative assessment.” It is the reflecting and observation you do every time you meet with your student to see their progress (or lack thereof). This “noticing” is much more nuanced than standardized testing and much more helpful in tweaking your sessions to meet your student's needs and goals. It is also organic and ever-changing, as you know. One week, you may notice that your student's pronunciation is precise. The following week, they've “forgotten.”

Because tutors here are not handed a one-size-fits-all set of lesson plans, they naturally seek out resources and guidance to support their unique situations. As Theresa and I have said many times, you don't have to reinvent the wheel. Whatever challenge you may face along the bumpy road to fluency has usually emerged before. We can advise you on resources and strategies. That's what we're here for. We also love suggestions for what works for you!

Our ongoing support extends to when or if the student/tutor process stalls. It happens, though rarely, in any process involving adults. If, for any reason, you feel your tutoring has reached its limit, we're here to make necessary adjustments. We handle this transition or ending in a student/tutor relationship thoughtfully and professionally. From experience, we've learned to explain to the student that the tutor's situation has changed and she/he is no longer available to tutor the student. Depending on their preferences, students and/or tutors can be reassigned.

Continued on the next page.

Tutor Tips

Continued...

It's not as easy as snapping our fingers (!), but our formula for language learning success is active, engaged adult students and tutors, backed up with tools and techniques and LVWC staff. You are enriching the quality of your student's life in the never-ending process of lifelong learning. Thank you for joining the journey with your time and talents.

Happy Spring!
Barbara 🥰



Throughout March, we are collecting peanut butter for Washington Trust's Peanut Butter Drive for families in need. Proceeds benefit The WARM Center. The donation box is located in our LVWC office by the sign in sheet.



Save the Date!
June 13, 2024
International Potluck & Awards Ceremony



Tutor Gatherings Coming Up This Spring

March 25 at LVWC, 11:30am-12:30pm

April 29 at the Kingston Free Library, 11:30am-12:30pm

May 20 at LVWC, 11:30am-12:30pm