

WINTER 2024

# STUDENT & TUTOR NEWS

Literacy Volunteers of Washington County



## CONNECT WITH US



## WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Announcements and Events, p. 2

A Message from Mary Carol, p. 3

Spotlight: Holiday Party 2024, p. 4-5

Congratulations Seongbin!, p. 6

Tutor Tips by Barbara, p. 7

Online tutoring: the magical world where learning meets convenience!, p. 8

The Block Island Beat, p. 9

Current Classes, p. 10

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS



- Literacy Volunteers of Washington County will close for the holiday break from December 23 to January 1, and will reopen on Thursday, January 2, 2025.
- Have you seen our LVWC Tutor Playlist on our YouTube Channel yet? This playlist will be updated regularly with new videos highlighting our online resources. Take a look today.
- Thanks to everyone who came out to the LVWC holiday party. We had a great time.

**40 YEARS** LITERACY VOLUNTEERS  
and growing! of Washington County

## Holiday Closure Dates

**Closed** December 23, 2024-January 1, 2025  
**Reopening** Thursday, January 2, 2025

The graphic features a light beige background with illustrations of a white gift box with a red tag, a red gift box with a yellow ribbon, and a red and white striped candy cane with a green ribbon.

**CLICK HERE**

Welcome  
TO THE  
LVWC TUTOR CHANNEL

**40 YEARS** LITERACY VOLUNTEERS  
and growing! of Washington County

The graphic has a colorful abstract background with pink, purple, and orange shapes. It includes a red button with a white hand cursor icon pointing to it, and social media icons for YouTube, a thumbs up, and a notification bell.



**TUTOR HOURS**  
DON'T FORGET!

**Important Tutor Information**

**Off-Site Tutor Reporting Form**

If you meet your student off-site (not at the LVWC office), please use this form to submit your hours.

## Upcoming Tutor Gatherings

January 27  
11:30am-12:30pm  
LVWC, Westerly

February 24  
11:30am-12:30pm  
Kingston Free Library, Kingston



# A note from the Executive Director

[www.literacywashingtoncounty.org](http://www.literacywashingtoncounty.org)

Winter brings transitions as the last leaves fall, the weather flutters between warm and cold, and the everyday hum of life continues. Here at **Literacy Volunteers of Washington County**, we too are going through a transition.

After six happy and productive years as Executive Director, I will be retiring at the end of December. And on January 2, Torey Malatia, most recently CEO of The Public's Radio, will be taking over as Executive Director.

We are thrilled to have Torey join LVWC! Although his official start date isn't until January, Torey has already visited with students, tutors, staff, and the Board, sharing his eagerness to assist and his passion for our organization's mission. He brings to the table a storied background in journalism and communications, as well as vast experience in nonprofit management.



Our **Annual Appeal** is up and running; your support is essential to the mission of our 501©3 nonprofit. All of us—students, tutors, staff, and Board—are grateful for your generosity.

It has been my pleasure to work with LVWC, and now I'm looking forward to watching the organization flourish under Torey's leadership. I hope to see all of you at the next LVWC event!

All the best,  
Mary Carol Kendzia

# SPOTLIGHT

## Holiday Party Highlights



# Holiday party highlights continued...





# CONGRATULATIONS SEONGBIN!



PAUL D'ANDREA AND SEONGBIN  
HYUN CELEBRATING SEONGBIN'S  
ACHIEVEMENT WITH SOME KOREAN  
BARBECUE

Seongbin Hyun successfully defended his master thesis in history at URI.

Seongbin came to us through our Monday evening conversation class at the URI Graduate Village and then registered for individual tutor literacy help in May 2023. Though Seongbin is fluent in English, he wanted to work on informal English and accent reduction.

He was matched with his tutor Paul D'Andrea, and they have been meeting regularly since.

*I am interested in the relationship between the American, British, and German empires in WWII in their treatment of ethnic minorities by examining their bureaucracy and standards when making these domestic and foreign decisions on these ethnic minorities. Seongbin Huyn*

# TUTOR TIPS

by Barbara Heuer

*"Always look on the bright side of life...."*  
*Monty Python*

Prospective tutors often ask if LVWC requires a background in education or experience in teaching. The answer is no. Although many of our tutors do come with educational backgrounds, other strengths help to make them effective guides for adult learners. More than credentials, we are looking for tutors who have a positive and supportive attitude, active listening skills and flexibility to effectively work with adults. A sense of humor helps, too!

In the last tutor tips column, I said I would focus on specific tutoring strategies geared to developing listening, speaking, reading and/or writing skills. A sample lesson plan is below. It is based on the following guidelines when working with adult learners:

- **Relate to adult student's life**
- **Focus on limited topic, material**
- **Ask questions, check understanding**
- **Listen more, Talk less**
- **Repeat**
- **Reinforce**
- **Use visual and physical cues**
- **End with review and feeling of success**

Of course, you'll deviate from these guidelines from time to time. But basing your sessions around these proven adult learning principles as many of you are already doing will best help your student. Trust me!

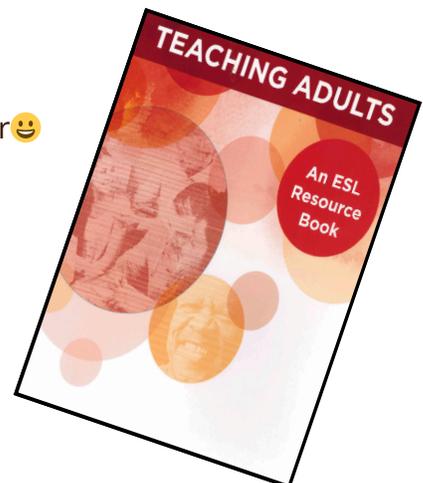
Now, here's a sample session taken from *Teaching Adults, An ESL Resource Book* (on our shelves). You can see how it integrates the best practices listed above.

You may have already considered that your student's fluency consists of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in English. This lesson combines learning new vocabulary with physical movement. You can model the behavior and adapt it to different real-life scenarios and levels. Depending on how athletic you and your student are feeling, you can move around or stay seated. Depending on your student's level, you can adjust the directions.

First, you teach some limited commands like "stand up, sit down, turn around, etc." (or "pick up the pen," or "point to your ear," "write your name," etc. you get the drift), modelling and repeating as you go. Then you ask your student to follow your directions. You can switch and have your student give you commands. You can clear up misunderstandings or mispronunciations as you go along. You can reinforce verbal commands with written ones. When you and your student have had enough, you can review briefly and confirm what he/she has learned. And leave smiling!

Hope you find this helpful. As always, we welcome your comments, questions and suggestions. Thank you for your valuable tutoring.

Warmly,  
Barbara Heuer 😊



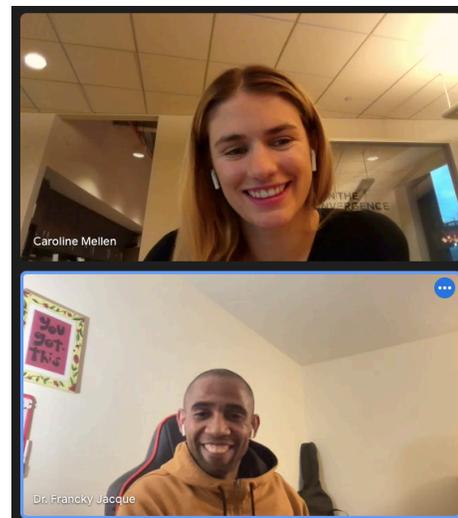
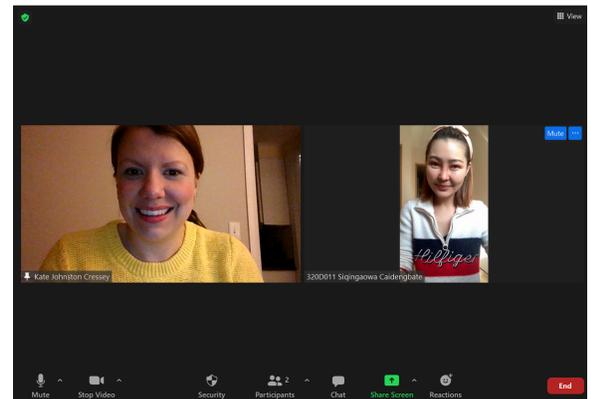
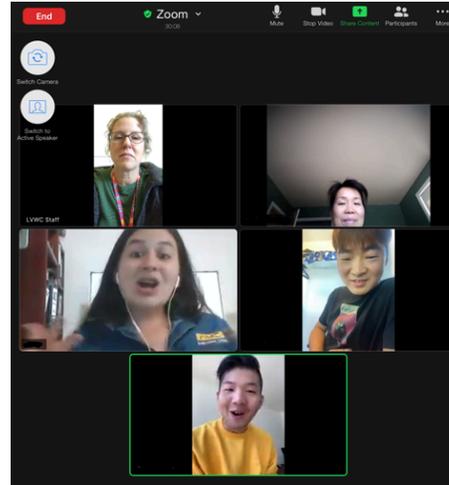
# ONLINE TUTORING: THE MAGICAL WORLD WHERE LEARNING MEETS CONVENIENCE!



The pandemic may be in the past, but online learning is certainly here to stay. There are numerous options available for connecting students with tutors. Let's explore the three most common methods.

- Zoom remains the most widely used platform for online communication. LVWC provides a tutor account specifically for tutors, which became crucial after Zoom implemented a time limit of 40 minutes on free accounts.
- FaceTime is another favored option for virtual meetings. Initially exclusive to Apple users, it has made updates to compete with Zoom, including the addition of screen sharing. Notably, there are no time restrictions for meetings.
- WhatsApp is also a popular choice, especially familiar to students from Central and South America, as well as Europe. This platform features screen sharing capabilities and allows for unlimited meeting duration.

If you are interested in working with a student online and want to learn more, make an appointment with Theresa at [lvwctgstaff@gmail.com](mailto:lvwctgstaff@gmail.com) or 401-596-9411, and she will guide you through the process.



# THE BLOCK ISLAND BEAT!

In 2016, Joanne Warfel contacted Literacy Volunteers of Washington County with the aim of assisting the adult English language learner community on the island.

This journey has been dynamic, featuring a mix of volunteer tutors working one-on-one with adult learners and a vibrant conversation class.

Currently, Joanne and Island Free librarian Susana Gardner are facilitating a drop-in conversation class. Additionally, LVWC will continue to pair adult learners with dedicated volunteer tutors.

There are some really wonderful things happening on Block Island, and LVWC is glad to be a part of it.



## FREE CONVERSATION CLASS

WHEN: TUESDAYS FROM 6:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.

WHERE: ISLAND FREE LIBRARY, 9 DODGE STREET  
BLOCK ISLAND

LED BY JOANNE WARFEL

## CONVERSATION CLASS BLOCK ISLAND

Free conversation class for adult English language learners.

When: Tuesdays

Time: 6-7pm

Where: Island Free Library

**40** YEARS **LITERACY VOLUNTEERS**  
and growing! of Washington County

[www.literacywashingtoncounty.org](http://www.literacywashingtoncounty.org)

## BLOCK ISLAND FLASHBACK

Literacy Specialist Barbara Heuer working with new Block Island tutors back in 2016.

# CURRENT CLASSES



**FREE CONVERSATION CLASS**

For adult English language learners at the URI Graduate Village Community Center

**Learn English and make friends!**

Access by Zoom, too. **Join us!**

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS of Washington County

## URI Graduate Village

**Type:** Conversation Class--Hybrid (in person and on Zoom)

**When:** Mondays, 5:30-7:00pm

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

**Email:** Barbara at oberlejj@verizon.net to register for free

## LVWC Center

**Type:** Conversation Class--In person

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

**Where:** 7 Elm Street (Christ Church), Westerly, RI 02891

*All levels welcome--no registration required.*



### 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.



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

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

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](#)

ELL Conversation Classes from Literacy Volunteers of Kent County

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

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

[Click Here for More Information](#)



## 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](http://www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/classes-gatherings)