

Literacy of Northern New York

Newsletter May 2016

Scrabble® Tournament

We had an enthusiastic group of teams show up for our Scrabble® Tournament on Saturday, April 30th at Jefferson Community College. There was an adult team first place winner, an adult team second place winner, and a children's team winner.

Players had the option of coming alone if they could not find teammates. This strategy seemed to work out well because they formed a team.

The players had so much fun that a list was sent around for names of people who are interested in forming an informal Scrabble® club to meet from time to time.

Thanks to all of those who donated and helped out at the event. And special thanks to Board President Cynthia Lonsbary for securing the venue and co-sponsorship from JCC's English and Social Science departments. The event raised more than \$1000.



Winning Adult Team: Bonnie Flora, Carolyn Cummings Leeson, & Linda Blake.



Winning Children's Team: Emma and Sarah Larose, Liam Huxley, & Alex Ramsay.



Door Prize Winner: Laura Davis. Director M. Cecilia Brock read out riddles in between Scrabble® games so participants could win door prizes.



John Cramer of Copenhagen plays Scrabble® weekly!



Second Place Winning Adult Team: Asa Holbrook's team

Math Tutor Training (Jefferson & Lewis Counties)

Watertown: Monday, 5/23, from 12:00 – 2:00 pm

Lowville: Thursday, 6/2, from 10:00 am – 12:00 p.m.

Reading & ESL Tutor Training (Jefferson & Lewis Counties)

At this time, we are getting requests for tutors in Lowville and Carthage. An in-house tutor training for both Reading and ESL starts Thursday, June 2.

If you know someone who is interested in becoming a tutor, please pass on the information.

Our Newest Board Member, Marilyn Wekar

Marilyn lives in the Town of Watertown. She has been an ESL tutor since April 2013, and has worked with many ESL students. Marilyn has a strong talent for teaching beginner ESL learners.

Marilyn is currently working with a student from El Salvador who works in construction. She has another student from Colombia, one from Korea who attends Jefferson Community College, and another Korean student who recently added a daughter to her family of two boys.

She also helps sub for Deborah's classes when Deborah attends workshops and trainings. Last year, Marilyn helped out at our table at last year's Cream Cheese Festival and helped distribute flyers for this year's Scrabble® tournament. She currently serves on the board of directors for the Town of Watertown's Ambulance Service.

"It is rewarding when you see the students progress with the English language." Marilyn Wekar



Marilyn, Ye Eun (her student from South Korea), and Seth (Marilyn's grandson)



Success Stories

Congratulations to **Orion from St. Lawrence County**, who passed the TASC test and now has a high school diploma. St. Lawrence Program Manager, Maria Morrison, worked with him on math and reading skills.

ESL Tutors ~ Here's a great resource for helping with the U.S. Citizenship Test

Are you helping your student study for the U.S. citizenship test? The USCIS website has a wealth of information and resources for both tutors and learners and, best of all, is easy to navigate. We cannot help with immigration forms, unfortunately, because we are not certified to



do so, however, we can help people prepare for the test. You can find videos, the 100 test questions, audio files, and more at <https://my.uscis.gov/>

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services won the overall Igniting Innovation Award Monday at The American Council for Technology and Industry Advisory Council's Igniting Innovation Showcase and Award event in Washington, D.C.

A panel of government and industry judges selected USCIS as the overall winner for their work with [myUSCIS](https://my.uscis.gov/), a service, available in both English and Spanish, that helps people navigate the immigration process. The tool launched in December 2014 and provides up-to-date information about immigration benefits, resources to find citizenship preparation classes and tools to help prepare for naturalization, such as the civics practice test.



St. Lawrence County

Spring is in full bloom with local bazaars, health fairs and various activities that have provided opportunities for LNNY to share its services and give away 50 free books! LNNY also participated in the 2nd Annual Economic Fusion event sponsored by SUNY Potsdam.

Gabriel Project of Brasher Falls also invited LNNY to give a literacy presentation, give away 30 more books, and place another SHELFIE!



Five new volunteers have signed on to begin tutor training. Good luck and THANK YOU for joining us!

Conversational ESL class is going strong - we have visited various local shops in Potsdam to practice English in the community. Visitors to the class have included two missionaries from Idaho and Colorado, and a LuLaRoe clothing representative from Texas to experience different American accents.

Sarah's Last Day in Watertown

Sarah Riendeau (second from the left) poses with Deborah's ESL class on her last day. She heads back to her Peace Corps job in Macedonia on Monday, May 9. For the past six weeks, Sarah has helped Deborah with her ESL classes.

