

Literacy of Northern New York August 2017 Newsletter

Thank you to all our students and tutors!

It has been a challenging year, new mandates and rules in mid-year, but we would like to take another opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude. LNNY met the post-testing and educational gain benchmarks required to maintain our funding.

Lowville Cream Cheese Festival 2017

LNNY will have a table with raffle baskets as in past years. We could use a few more people to help at our table. Some tutors and board members have already signed up. Board Member Sally Brennan will again collect basket donations in the Lowville area. Thanks Sally! If you have not attended, this festival has a lot of fun activities, numerous craft and food vendors, along with live music.



If you can help, there are slots available from noon to 5:00 p.m. **Saturday Sept. 16.** For those of you who are interested, you can call the office or email Deborah with your preferred time. The shifts are usually two hours but if you can only help for one hour, we will accommodate you.

Deborah's email: program.manager.literacynny@gmail.com

Steve Bolton, North Country Library System director, retiring after 37 Years



Steve Bolton reminiscing at his retirement reception

Steve served as both past LNNY board president and board member. We appreciate all the help he has given LNNY. With Steve's assistance, we could borrow the North Country Library System's laptop and projector for presentations and workshops. NCLS allowed us to use the microphone and sound system for our auction. Using the NCLS delivery truck, we could do mailings to the libraries advertising events. We saved a lot of postage. Another nice gesture from Steve was the use of the NCLS's graphic arts and printing department. They produced some beautiful large-sized posters for several of our events. He has helped with our fundraisers and accompanied Cecilia many times during our annual meeting with the United Way Grant Review Committee.

Cecilia and Deborah attended a retirement reception for Steve on July 19. It was a fitting send-off for Steve. Many librarians and others from his long career came from

all over the North Country to share their recollections and celebrate his many career accomplishments.

Fort Drum news

Andrea Hoshall has joined the teaching roster at the English classes at Army Community Services on Fort Drum. Also joining is Caroline Booker. Both bring ESL teaching experience and credentials to the program. We are grateful that both are sharing their talents with our students.

Congratulations to Dominica!

Dominica works with Lewis County tutor, Barbara Chamberlain. They have been meeting consistently on a weekly basis and the results show. Dominica improved her math scores and went up a grade level when she was post-tested in June.

Dominica, who reads well, has worked on fractions, decimals, word problems, measurements, and many other areas of math with her tutor. Barbara is shown presenting a certificate of recognition to Dominica.



Dominica (left) proudly shows her certificate of recognition, Barbara is on the right

Did your student take a summer break from tutoring?

Under the new regulations, students with no tutoring hours for 90 consecutive days are automatically exited from our online database by the NYS Education Department. If your student took a summer break and you start working again in September, please let Deborah know ASAP before she sends out the notice for hours on October 1. Deborah will make adjustments in the database so your student is not automatically exited.

A project idea from our board president

LNNY Board President Cynthia Lonsbary has suggested we create a cookbook with recipes from our students and tutors. Please ask your student to write down a favorite recipe and a short paragraph about why the recipe is special. Perhaps it is a family tradition to make this recipe during the holidays, or it is a recipe from your student's homeland. For example, Cecilia's family always makes sugar cookies for the Christmas holiday, using her grandmother's recipe. Her grandmother made the cookies with her mother, and the tradition has been passed down through the generations. Cecilia's family makes frosting in all sorts of festive colors, and

everyone has fun decorating cookies rolled out into the shapes of reindeer, stars, and other holiday figures.

Once we have gathered a bunch of recipes from students and tutors, we will publish the cookbook and sell it to raise money for Literacy of Northern York's tutoring programs.

Congratulations go out to Roland's student, Prema!

Roland Lauther called us last week and was thrilled to share the following story about his students, who live in St. Lawrence County. They are a couple from Sri Lanka.

Prema and her husband, Hetti, have been working on their English language skills with Roland for several years. The married couple had varying degrees of English competence, with Prema having virtually none when she became Roland's student. Recently, Prema reached a milestone in her English language journey when she received her NYS learner's permit. This was her first major accomplishment demonstrating her language comprehension skills in the real world. We are all extremely proud of Prema and are confident that the roads of New York will soon be hers!



Prema & Roland



Prema, Roland and Hetti

Husband Hetti has also been busy behind the wheel but in a different context. It is Hetti's belief that to whom much is given, there is much to be returned. Hetti gives back to the community that has welcomed him by volunteering his time as a driver for Volunteer Transportation Services, Inc. in Watertown and Canton. Hetti, who is eager to learn all he can about St. Lawrence County, is also determined to help many in the community. VTS coordinates non-emergency, medical-patient transportation to physicians' offices and local hospitals. Hetti estimates that over a five-day period, he drives 14-15 people who do not have their own transportation to medical appointments.

It is with great skill that Hetti safely delivers people to medical offices and hospitals in St. Lawrence County. Hetti also takes the time to practice his English skills while conversing with his passengers. "This couple has made St. Lawrence County their home," Roland said. "St. Lawrence County is certainly fortunate to have them."