



Is your “Green Thumb” itching for a project to do?



Would you be interested in growing plant cuttings for the spring plant sale at Watertown Savings Bank? Proceeds benefit LNNY. We are also looking for tea cups (to put plants in) or some other cute container. You can call the office (315-782-4270) if you would like to help us with this fundraiser. **We certainly could use the income!** NY State has been paying our state contract money six months late and withholding a percentage of the payment owed when it does finally issue a payment.

Fortunately, Cecilia was able to acquire two Paycheck Protection Program loans to keep our doors open and our employees paid while we wait to be compensated for work that was performed for N.Y.S.

In addition to the plant sale, Watertown Savings Bank has been selling used children and adult books in its lobbies, with the proceeds benefitting LNNY. We appreciate WSB’s support of our programs!

Student Success Stories

Walter – Our ESL student, Walter, has been keeping very busy this winter! Between getting a new puppy, enjoying the snow, skiing and helping a fellow ESL student with moving, Walter has ventured into jewelry making! His gorgeous pieces are for now for sale. If interested, please contact Walter via Facebook (www.facebook.com/manrique.ramos.9003). Awesome work, Walter!



Walter was one of the students who agreed to participate this fall during our online meeting with N.Y.S. Senator Patty Ritchie. We appreciate it when students give back to the program by volunteering to tell funders and politicians how they benefitted from our services.



Florence – Florence, a native of Nigeria, is another talented student. She enjoys taking sewing classes at Fort Drum. At left is a quilt she recently made. A busy woman, Florence attends both the Fort Drum and Watertown ESL classes.

We commend Florence for her dedication to learning!



Gernique – Our very dedicated and diligent student, Gernique, recently received her clinical Medical Assistant certification! Medical assistants focus on patient assessment, evaluation and helping doctors with patient care and treatment.

Gernique started studying at Jefferson Community College in fall 2020. She attended classes every Monday and Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Gernique passed the course exam on February 5th and now needs to complete a clinical externship before she is eligible for a job as a medical assistant. A native of Cameroon, who studied nursing there, Gernique looks forward to using this opportunity to do something she loves and to help improve people’s health. Congratulations, Gernique! We are so proud of you.

Eve – If we could give her the title of “Most Dedicated Student,” we would. Eve returned to LNNY last year to work on math and reading skills. She hopes to obtain her High School Equivalency diploma in the future.

Eve shows early up for every Zoom class and is eager to learn. She and her tutor have worked out a simple and good system. Her tutor sends supplemental work by email. Eve prints out the work, completes it, and then scans it back to her tutor via email. Her motivation and dedication are commendable.



Literacy of Northern New York

March 2021 Newsletter



Nikki & Kyle - Both Nikki and Kyle attended the Watertown ESL classes two years ago. Nikki has been attending Jefferson Community College and will graduate from the nursing program in May, 2021. Kyle is working at the Japanese restaurant. They recently purchased their first house in February and have already moved in. Their two dogs love the large backyard and all the rooms in the house. Their former teacher, Program Manager

Deborah Tate, went with the couple while they were house hunting and shared her expert advice. At left is a picture of Nikki and Kyle's new home!

Nabin – Nabin, one of our ESL students, has been in Nepal visiting friends and family since Christmas. He told Deborah that the weather is beautiful at this time. Last fall, Deborah helped Nabin with his English essays while he was attending classes at Jefferson Community College. One of his papers mentioned “stupas.” A stūpa is a mound-like or hemispherical structure containing relics that is used as a place of meditation.” At right is a photo Nabin sent of a rebuilt Stupa that was damaged during the earthquake.



Annie's Fort Drum News

It may be freezing and snowy outside, but our ESL classes on Zoom are just warming up! The beginner learners have been studying and working extremely hard on improving vocabulary, reading comprehension and speaking skills. The students enjoy interacting with each other in class. In February the beginner students learned about a variety of health-related topics such as stress management, how to lift heavy objects properly, how to communicate with a doctor about surgery, and good oral hygiene practices. The students learned about these topics, health-related vocabulary and dialogues through the *Health Stories* books.

The intermediate students are also having a productive time in our Zoom classes, focusing on reading, speaking, dialogue on current events and sharing opinions on controversial topics. They also love sharing current events and interesting articles with each other! The students have been using the *Road to Work* series, and learned about jobs at call centers, spas and emergency medical services. The students also learned

about filling out job applications, writing resumes and cover letters. The teachers are so proud of all of the students and look forward to working together with them this year!

New Materials for Tutors!

ESL Resources – We ordered several texts and a subscription to online lessons and ESL content from ESL Library. Here is a list of the new texts and their content.

ESL Library: The subscription is under Deborah's name but she can download and send lessons and content. The topic list is extensive. There are health topics, shopping lessons, short introduction videos (one minute) to lessons, audio, vocabulary, reading passages, comprehensions questions. The lessons are simple to share with students. Each lesson has the part for the teacher and the same content to share with the student.

These are the new texts:

That's Life: High Beginner, Low Beginner, Low Intermediate: This series contains engaging and amusing low-level stories that students love to read. Everyday life themes are consistent across all the levels.

Conversations for Work: This book helps beginning ESL students develop and practice the language skills they need to communicate effectively on the job.

Skills for Effective Writing: This book reviews writing skills, such as creating topic sentences and recognizing irrelevant information, so students can improve their writing skills.

Speaking Personally: This book is a collection of absorbing and thought-provoking questionnaires and quizzes with related activities for upper-intermediate and more advanced ESL students.

Speaking Naturally: This book focuses on a language function—such as requesting information, thanking, complimenting, and inviting—while readings explain the cultural "rules" students need to know to communicate naturally and effectively in English.

Ask & Task: Questions and Activities for Communication Practice

Potluck: This book contains 24 lessons, including recipes and menus.

The ESL Miscellany: This is a compendium of useful and interesting information for teachers and English Language Learners.