

*****Yard Sale New Date is Saturday June 12*****

Watertown Savings Bank is hosting a garage sale on Saturday June 12 to benefit Literacy of Northern NY. The sale will be held outside, behind Watertown Savings Bank, 111 Clinton St., Watertown. We appreciate WSB's generous support of our literacy programs.

We need **volunteers** to help with set up, sorting through items, manning the tables during the day, and clean up. Please let the office know if you can help by calling us at 315-782-4270. You can also email Deborah at program.manager.literacynny@gmail.com or Cecilia at literacyofnny@gmail.com



We have started to collect items at the office. This is the time of year to clean out all those unwanted items from your home and garage and donate them to the yard sale. All prices are by donation only.

Donations cannot be dropped off at the bank until after May 22, which is the date of WSB's other garage sale, which benefits food pantries. **The contact person at WSB is Denise Randall, who is the vice president of LNNY's Board of Directors.** You should call Denise in advance to arrange a time to drop off items. Her work number is 315-222-7259.

Excellus Grant Funds Translation Services



Excellus BlueCross BlueShield recently awarded Literacy of Northern New York a \$5,000 Community Health Award to support the training of our advanced, English as a second language (ESL) students to provide translation services to assist low-level English speakers with communicating with medical professionals. This service will be used by ESL members of the community to schedule medical, dental, and other health appointments,

as well as for translation assistance during medical office visits. Pictured at left are LNNY Program Manager Deborah Tate, Eve Van de Wal, Utica regional president of Excellus BlueCross BlueShield and M. Cecilia Brock, Executive Director of LNNY.

Through a competitive application process, Excellus BlueCross BlueShield's Community Health Awards help fund programs that improve the health or health care of a specific population, programs that aim to improve the health status of the community, closes the gaps in health disparities, reduces the incidence of specific diseases, promotes health education and assists our communities in dealing with COVID.

"The company's Community Health Awards demonstrate a corporate commitment to support local organizations that share our mission as a nonprofit health plan," said Eve Van de Wal, Utica regional president of Excellus BlueCross BlueShield. "These awards complement our existing grants and sponsorships with agencies that work to enhance quality of life, including health status, in upstate New York."

Excellus BlueCross BlueShield is committed to supporting local organizations that improve community health. The company's corporate giving follows all applicable laws and regulations and does not support funding organizations that conflict with its corporate mission, goals, policies or products.

Excellus BlueCross BlueShield's Utica region encompasses Clinton, Delaware, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Montgomery, Oneida, Otsego and St. Lawrence counties.

Plant Sale Fundraiser

If you are still considering donating plants, seedlings or cuttings for our plant sale fundraiser, just drop off the plants at Watertown Savings Bank, 111 Clinton St. in Watertown. Tell them at the front desk that the plants are for Denise Randall or you can drop them at the literacy office and we will take them over to the bank.

Rosa is One Talented Driver!

Rosa comes from El Salvador and is currently in the Army. During her Army career, Rosa has driven tanks and other massive vehicles. She attends Deborah's Wednesday evening Speaking/ Pronunciation class on Zoom.

At right is Rosa posing with one of the vehicles she drives for the military.



Following our Students and Their Success Stories

Edith, a native of Burkina Faso, Africa, became a U.S. Citizen in spring 2021. She has spent several years in our program, improving her English speaking and listening skills. Her tutor, Board Member Carla Haas, also helped her study for the citizenship exam.

Eve ~ Deborah is working with Eve on math and reading. Eve shows up for every Zoom class and does all her homework. Eve shared a happy story during a recent lesson. Her son is graduating from high school and he turns 18 soon. Eve is so proud of him and is hosting a graduation party in July. Her son is on the swimming team at South Jefferson High School and was offered a scholarship to attend JCC. He is undecided at this time and may go directly into the workforce. He is working at two part-time jobs through a work-study program.

Nikki – Nikki graduates from the Nursing program at JCC this spring and has registered for a four-year, Bachelor of Nursing Science program.

Resources from the Minnesota Literacy Council

Sue Hensley-Cushing, Director of the Capital North Regional Adult Education Network, shared a link in her latest Tuesday Tidbits newsletter. The Minnesota Literacy Council has assembled ESL Instructional Support Kits for tutors and teachers. They are free to download. You just need to enter your name and email.

Each Kit is a printable PDF containing:

- A list of necessary materials
- Instructions for assembly
- A tutor log
- Detailed instruction for a variety of activities
- Activity expansion suggestions
- Handouts and support materials

You can use the content for a lesson Warm Up or an entire lesson. It is worth taking a look. Here is the link: [Literacy Minnesota](#)

The available Kits are:

Speaking and Listening Kit

Reading Kit

Pronunciation Kit

Phonics and Phonemic Awareness Kit

Citizenship Kit

Fort Drum News from Annie

Spring has sprung & all of this rain is helping us to grow our English knowledge!

Our dedicated students have been attending our online classes regularly and are working hard to improve their English language skills.

The beginner students have focused on lessons based on health and wellness, as well as practical everyday living skills. The students have been reading stories,

identifying ideas and characters and building their comprehension skills while doing so. The intermediate students have been focusing on job and career development, the job interview process, as well as every-day topics of discussion and opinion. They have practiced for job interviews and work-related issues that may arise as well. All of our students have stayed

focused and dedicated throughout our online learning over the past year, but look forward to being back in the classroom and learning face-to-face in July. **Pictured at right is Susan Sierra,**

who attends our Fort Drum classes.



Some of the women from our Fort Drum ESL classes shared photos of themselves.

From the left - Zitlalli Salas, Lumiere Ambar McGrail

Mboyo, Luz Munoz and

