

Director's Message



In May, the **Dollar General Literacy Foundation** awarded Literacy of Northern New York an \$8,248 grant for our ESOL program at Fort Drum. We will expand our program to three days a week so we can offer six hours of weekly instruction for both the beginner and intermediate classes. We serve both foreign-born soldiers and their dependents in our classes, which are very popular.

We are very grateful to the Dollar General Literacy Foundation for providing funding to adult literacy programs throughout the United States. The Dollar General Literacy Foundation was established in 1993 by Cal Turner and Cal Turner Jr. to honor Dollar General's co-founder, J.L. Turner, who was a farmer's son with only a third-grade education. Dollar General Literacy Foundation is proud to continue his legacy by supporting students along their educational journey.

A banner for the ProLiteracy 2025 National Book Fund. It features the text "Proud Grantee of the ProLiteracy® 2025 National Book Fund" in a serif font. Below the text is an illustration of several hands holding up various books. To the right of the banner, there is a block of text.

This spring, Literacy of Northern NY was chosen as a ProLiteracy National Book Fund® award winner. For 30 years, ProLiteracy has used this fund to award selected programs with print and digital instructional resources. LNNY received \$1,902.36 worth of ESL textbooks. We will have an in-service so tutors can find out about the materials and see what would be suitable to use with their students.

We are fortunate to obtain this grant because we expect a significant delay in state funding next fiscal year, which begins July 1, and will not have funds to purchase many new materials.

Fort Drum News

Teacher Barb Zembiec took both the Beginner and Intermediate students on a field trip to the Sugar Shack near the Leray Mansion on Fort Drum this spring. This was a new experience for the students. Many of them were unfamiliar with snow and had no idea about the process involved in making maple syrup.

These are photos of everyone at the Sugar Shack



These Fort Drum students received certificates for excellent attendance in March.

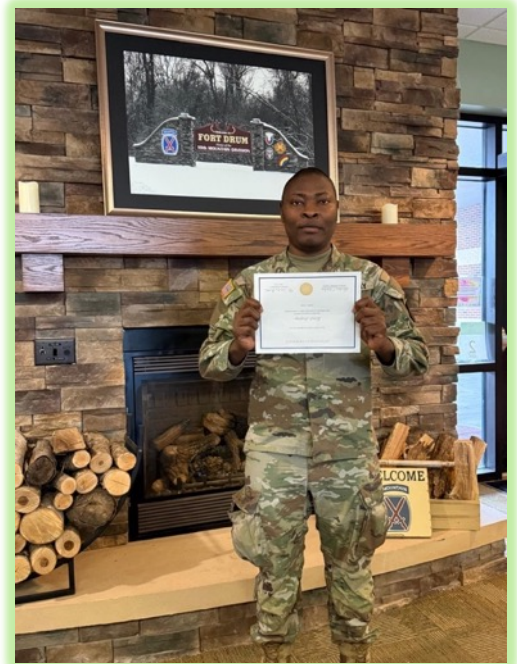


Nagely, Misara, and Charuwan from the Intermediate class.

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*Nagely, & Ashok from the
Beginner class*



Raoul

Cecilia has been helping with the paperwork for the Fort Drum students. On March 27, she took both classes to **McEwen Library** on Fort Drum. The students were given a tour so they could see the many resources that are available. They were all impressed with the 3-D printer at the library! The students also toured the Education Center, which is in the same building.

The Fort Drum students did a “Scavenger Hunt,” which helped them to locate where various resources are located. After the tour, the students discussed what libraries were like in their homeland. They were surprised at how many children’s events and activities are held at the library.



*Photos of McEwen
Library at Fort Drum*



Watertown Classes

Many of the Watertown students have gone on to new journeys in life and are now working. Getting a job is a main goal for them. Others have gotten a Learner's Permit, the beginning of the road to new opportunities. Two of the students have arranged their work schedules so they can still attend classes.

Class Projects

The Intermediate students wanted an opportunity to do public speaking in English. Julia K. was assigned a project about Saint Patrick's Day. She prepared a delightful video in which she talked about its history and how it is practiced in different parts of the world. She did not forget to tell us about leprechauns, shamrocks, and pots of gold at the end of a rainbow. And her presentation had the cutest illustrations.

Zoriana A. did her presentation on measurements. All of the students come from countries where the metric system is used. They become confused with the system used in the US. Zoriana prepared handouts comparing the two systems, including temperature, wet and dry measurements, and speed.

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Watertown Students

We all know that this has been an extraordinarily long winter, extended by rainy and gray days, even snow in April. Deborah's classes decided to celebrate spring by having a potluck lunch for both classes and the Lowville students who could attend. Always, these class lunches give students the opportunity to cook and share their dishes. Of course, all of the food was delicious. Fara did the honors of presenting recognition certificates. One student, Roxy Polan passed the US Citizenship test. Others received a Learner's Permit. And all of them received recognition for motivation, persistence, and good attendance.



On April 21, both Watertown classes participated in an Origami presentation. Former student, Megumi Roberts, showed everyone how to make origami hats, animals, and other items. Megumi showed us several examples of origami that she had made. Megumi now works full-time as a translator for Japanese students at the Indian River Schools.

Megumi also brought in traditional Japanese clothing for the students to try on.



Lowville Students

All the Lowville students have found jobs. Fara Jean-Bart, who is an advanced student and also tutors, is our “Lowville Ambassador”. Fara, below at right, continues to help out as our “Ambassador,” but keeps busy working and tutoring. She was recently accepted at Harvard University for a Fellowship in Infectious Diseases and also qualifies for a Certificate in Clinical Research. Fara was a doctor in Haiti.

