

Literacy News

*Making a Difference in our Community
One Reader at a Time*

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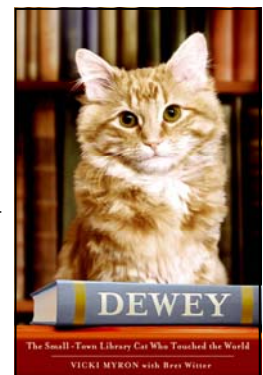
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Literacy Volunteers of Maine Hosts September Event in Portland

“FACES OF LITERACY: VOICES OF COURAGE” celebrates hope and success by highlighting people who have changed their lives through the Maine Literacy Volunteers Network. A special evening of entertainment will take place September 17th at Portland’s Abromson Community Education Center, headlined by VICKI MYRON, author of the #1 New York Times adult bestseller DEWEY: THE SMALL-TOWN LIBRARY CAT WHO TOUCHED THE WORLD. Also, in a first-ever collaboration with Literacy Volunteers of Maine, photography students from Maine College of Art have traveled the state to create compelling portraits of real people who have achieved literacy. These portraits will be exhibited with their extraordinary individual stories on September 17th.

Presented by Literacy Volunteers of Maine (LV Maine) “FACES OF LITERACY: VOICES OF COURAGE” aims to erase the stigmatized, narrow world that surrounds adults with low literacy. Fifteen percent of Maine’s population struggle with reading to the degree that activities of daily living are often compromised. Yet each year, over 1,000 adults bravely step into Literacy Volunteers offices throughout Maine to better their lives and open new doors with the help of dedicated tutors. Still, over 200,000 Mainers need help with literacy to become more independent citizens.

DEWEY: THE SMALL-TOWN LIBRARY CAT WHO TOUCHED THE WORLD is a heartwarming true story that is being made into a major motion picture starring Meryl Streep. In her exclusive Maine appearance, author Vicki Myron will recount her experience as librarian of the Spencer, Iowa Public Library during the farm state’s worst economic crisis of the late 1980s. Her discovery of an abandoned kitten not only transformed her life, but also uplifted the downcast spirits of patrons and captured the hearts of millions around the world. Vicki will take audience questions and sign copies of DEWEY.



September 17th festivities begin at 5:15 with a reception of live jazz by The Clam Flat Five, hors d'oeuvres, raffles, book buying, viewing the photography exhibit, and more. The stage program follows at 6:00 pm, with a book signing at 7:30.

Tickets are \$25; \$15 for teens/students/seniors. All proceeds benefit the nonprofit Maine Literacy Volunteers Network. To purchase tickets or to learn how to be a program sponsor, call 207-773-3191, 1-800-322-5455, or email info@lvmaine.org.

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Learner Advisory Committee (LAC) Goes to Washington

Literacy Volunteers of Greater Sanford's student group, the Learner Advisory Committee, recently attended the National Adult Learner Leadership Institute & Adult Literacy Congress in Washington D.C. The theme of the conference held May 3-5 was "Adult Education: The Consumer's Perspective." Sponsored by Voice of Adult Learners United to Education (VALUE) and Pro-literacy, the conference included workshops on advocacy training, coordinating the adult education and literacy system, and public policy platforms.

The founding members of the LAC — Bruce Couture, Bernice Chadwick and Dennis Nadeau — also attended scheduled meetings with staff members of Olympia Snowe, Susan Collins, and Chellie Pingree. During the meetings, our students gave their personal testimonies about the benefits of adult literacy programs like LVGS, and also advocated for reauthorization of Title II of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), and asked for special programs to address problems that keep learners from attending class or tutoring.

During their visit, Bruce, Dennis, Bernice and family members also visited the Air & Space Museum, the Museum of Natural History, and the US Botanical Garden, along with other attractions. They are already planning fundraisers to fund their next trip to the Leadership Conference in California.

Over the past year, the LAC has held several fundraisers to pay for travel expenses, accommodations and fees to attend this conference. Additional financial support was provided by LVGS, Sanford Community Adult Ed, and Altrusa International. Thank you for your continued support as our students promote adult literacy here and around the nation!



LAC and relatives in D.C.

Join Book Club

Please join us for the next Book Club session beginning in the Fall of 2009. FMI call Linda Gulnac at LVGS.

2nd Annual LAC Walk-a-thon Great Success

The second annual three mile walk-a-thon for literacy was a great success with over \$1,000 raised by LVGS students! Walkers gathered sponsorships from relatives and others before the event.

Students and tutors walked in this year's event, but next year LAC hopes more San-



Bruce and Bernice

ford residents will participate.

Proceeds from the walk-a-thon will help provide scholarships for members of the LAC to attend the next Literacy Leadership National Conference scheduled for California in 2011. If you would like to sponsor a student, please call LVGS and ask for Amy or Michele.

2009 LV Maine Stars in Literacy Award Winners

Every year, Literacy Volunteers of Maine asks each of the 17 LV affiliates around the state to nominate one student/tutor pair of the year. LVGS chose Richard Allain and Jeanne Peckiconis as this year's Stars in Literacy Award recipients because of their dynamic tutoring relationship. When Richard first came to LVGS, he relied on his wife, Irene, to take care of all the household paperwork. He was also hesitant about his ability to become a better reader, but Jeanne immediately put his fears to rest.

Meeting weekly over the past year and a half, Richard and Jeanne have been committed to working on self-sufficiency. Today Richard is reading the mail, answering e-mails, reading the newspaper, planning trips by researching on the internet, and even installing his own GPS system.

Congratulations, Jeanne and Richard!



2009 Awards Dinner with Guest Speaker Dr. Charles Lyons

Our Tenth Annual Recognition Dinner and Annual Meeting was a wonderful night with a banquet served by Great Beginnings Catering and over 100 students, tutors, volunteers, and special guests attending. The keynote speaker was the President of York County Community College, Dr. Charles Lyons, who encouraged students to take the next important step and go to college. The education level of Maine's workforce is below the national average of one college graduate for every three workers. In Maine, only one in five has a college degree.

Last year, Dr. Lyons offered a full scholarship to any LVGS student who held a high school diploma or GED. This year, he announced he is offering the same. The recipient of the first YCCC scholarship, Cheryl Ruel, received a special student achievement award. Cheryl spoke about the dedication it took to finish her first year and expressed her gratitude for the scholarship.

A special award, the Denis Forest Tutor of the Year Award, was presented to Anita Daigle who has been a literacy tutor for ten years, working with many adults in Sanford, including employees at the Baker Company, a college student, a high school student, and many others. The Award is named for the late tutor, Denis Forest, who exemplified the qualities of volunteerism and generosity. His former student, Erin St. Jean, presented the award to Anita.

Other awards were presented for Tutor and Student Pairs of the Year: student Jamie Blake and tutor Linda Gulnac, student Herb Comeau and tutor Darrell Dunn, and student Kim Leng Ouch and tutor Michelle Smith. Special Tutor Recognition Awards were presented to Ann St. Cyr, Sandra Jorgenson, Robert Picone, and Linda Gulnac for extraordinary service over the last year.

On behalf of the Learner Advisory Committee, Bruce Couture presented Marcel Gagnon with a special gift for his commitment and service to the group. Office volunteers Adria Velez, Grace Faylor, and Linda Gulnac were presented with flowers. Finally, Office Manager, Michele Lawrence was presented with a special gift for her dedication to the office and adult literacy over the past two years.



Dr. Charles Lyons



Geoff Titherington



Cheryl Ruel



Bruce and Marcel



Erin St. Jean



Bob and Marcel



Sandy Jorgenson



Michele, Sue, Kim





**Literacy Volunteers
of Greater Sanford**

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LITERACY VOLUNTEERS
OF GREATER SANFORD
PERMIT NO. 162

Summer 2009

Welcome Tutors...Upcoming Training

We have several new tutors here at LVGS who completed the last Tutor Training sessions in April and May. Please join us in welcoming:

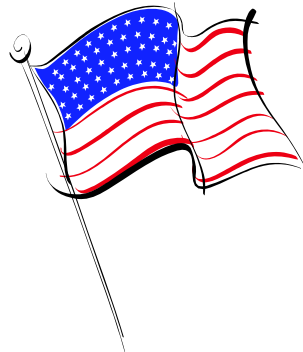
Michael Colpoys, Marie Herdan, Donald Giancola, Suzanne Makoge, Loc Nguyen, Faith Noble, David St. Pierre, Sheila Underwood, Martha Thompson, Christine Dunham, Melany Sagan, Philip Lemay, and Brad Johnson.

We have an upcoming tutor training at Massabesic Adult Ed. in Waterboro over four evenings, September 21—24, (Monday through Thursday), 5:30—8:30 pm.

Congratulations Nara and Margaret!

Margaret Casey and has been tutoring Nara Roen since February for the Citizenship Test, and it has finally paid off. On Friday, June 26, Nara was sworn in as a US citizen after passing the civics-based exam.

A single mother of two, Nara has been coming to the literacy office twice a week to study with Margaret. She moved to the United States 10 years ago from Cambodia. This was her third attempt at the Citizenship Test. Congratulations Nara and Margaret for your hard work!



Supporting Agencies

We would not be able to offer our various literacy programs and outreach events without the generous support of the following agencies and foundations:

**Sanford Community Adult Ed.
Town of Sanford**

United Way of York County

Maine Community Foundation

Stephen and Tabitha King Found.

Virginia Hodgkins Somers Found.

Sanford-Springvale Rotary

Maine Humanities Council

Kids and Transportation

UNUM

*Thank you for your
support!*

