

Winter 2013

The Reader



Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County

1915 Fifth Avenue
Troy, N.Y. 12180

(518) 274-8526
www.lvorc.org

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Famous Ladies' Tea to Support Literacy, March 10th

History comes to life in Troy! Join Eleanor Roosevelt, Laura Ingalls Wilder, and other fascinating women for an elegant and entertaining afternoon, as gifted historical interpreters bring famous and influential ladies to your table. Make your reservations now for the Famous Ladies' Tea.

**Sunday, March 10th
1:30 p.m.**

**Kellas Commons
Emma Willard School
285 Pawling Avenue
Troy**

**To register, call
(518) 274-8526
\$35/pp required in
advance. Make
checks payable to
LVORC
1915 Fifth Avenue
Troy, NY 12180**

Silent Auction

*"Real famous lady"
mystery guest!*



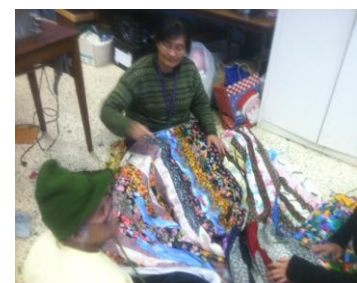
Comfort and Joy for Rensselaer County Seniors

In December, students in the Sewing and English Class brought comfort and joy to seniors with a delivery of handmade quilts to 12 residents of Van Rensselaer Manor in Troy. Two more quilts will be given to children at Ronald McDonald House.

The presentation of quilts was a project developed by students in the Sewing and English class who have formed a Home Bureau chapter

called the Rensselaer International Crafters. One class each month begins with a Home Bureau meeting. The Home Bureau connects English language learners in the sewing class with the larger Rensselaer County community.

The group has shown its goods at a few local craft fairs and plans to participate in similar events throughout the year.



*Students in the Sewing and English Class working on a quilt.
Photo: courtesy of Betsey Kuzia.*

Please see Page 6 for a photo of the whole class.

**FOR
BOWLATHON
TICKETS:
(518) 274-8526**

Please join us in thanking our sponsors for their support. Event sponsorship provides much of our funding and makes it possible for us to provide free tutoring and literacy programs for adults and children.

Sponsors

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Bowlathon for Literacy – Fun for All Ages!

**Sunday, February 24th
12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m.**
Uncle Sam Lanes
600 Fulton Street, Troy

All tickets include 2 hours bowling, bowling balls and shoes.

Advance tickets:

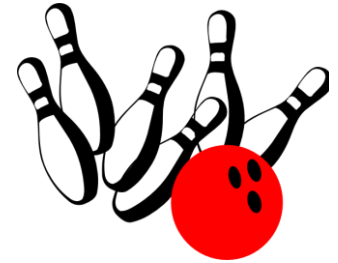
\$10 kids/students,
\$15 adults

Day of event tickets:

\$20 each

**FOR TICKETS, CALL:
(518) 274-8526**

- Glow Bowl on Kids' Lanes
- All prepaid kids age 12 and under will receive glow-in-the-dark prizes
- Prizes for highest-scoring male and female individual
- Basket Raffle



Save the Date! Literacy Run 2013

Literacy Run/Walk 2013 will take place on **Sunday, May 5th**. Details will be sent by mail and posted online at www.lvorc.org.

To volunteer, contact Barbara Wyman at 274-8526.





Celebrating 45 Years

Thanks to all the
volunteers who
make our programs
possible!

Board of Directors

Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County is actively seeking volunteer board members with experience in fundraising and development, marketing, special events, and community building. Interested parties should contact LVORC's Executive Director, Barbara Wyman at 274-8526 or BarbaraWyman1035@aol.com.

Board of Directors 2012-2013

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Citizenship Class at Rensselaer Public Library

There are many benefits to United States citizenship. A U.S. citizen holds a passport that makes it easier to travel between many countries and to get help when traveling outside the U.S.A. A naturalized citizen can find it easier to bring family members from their country of origin to the U.S. and to be reunited with

loved ones. A citizen can vote and collect retirement benefits. For all of these reasons and more, immigrants and refugees who come to LVORC for help with English are also encouraged to explore the possibility of becoming naturalized citizens. Information about eligibility and the application process is

available online at
www.uscis.gov.

English language learners who would like to study for the U.S. Naturalization test ("the 100 questions") are welcome to join us at the Rensselaer Public Library, 676 East Street, Rensselaer. For more information and to register, call the LVORC office at 274-8526.



Welcome New Citizens

Edelmira Verastegui and Kamrun Nahar became Naturalized U.S. Citizens on September 21, 2012.

Elena Shakhova passed her citizenship interview and test on December 17, 2012 and will be sworn in on January 25, 2013.

We wish them happiness as New Americans.

Students and tutors can find links to a wealth of learning resources on the LVORC website

Have you tried our Tool Kit? Help is one click away!

Do you need to build vocabulary? Are you looking for help with grammar or pronunciation? Students and tutors can find links to a wealth of learning resources on the LVORC website. Visit

www.lvorc.org and use the **Tool Kit** link at the top of the home page. Resources for beginning readers, English language learners, and students and tutors of all levels are just a click away.

Try the Tool Kit today!



Congratulations to our Students

Congratulations to our students who have met their goals!

Garfield Wisdom passed his GED test in June 2012. His tutor was John Schmidt.

Erica Hartman passed her GED test in September 2012. She is a *Ready for Work* graduate from the YWCA and worked with one of our math tutors, Heather Kline.

If you have news about passing a test, getting a certificate, finding a new job, or anything else you would like to share, let us know! Call Marie at 274-8526.

Spring Training Dates

It might be deepest winter now, but the sun will be back and so will the Tutor Training Workshop. Our spring Tutor Training Workshop will be held at St. Mary's Church, 163 Columbia Turnpike (Rensselaer) from 6:00PM-9:00PM on Wednesday nights: March 13, 20, 27 and April 10, 17 and 24.

St. Mary's church is located in the Clinton Heights part of East Greenbush, across the street from K-Mart. The church's website is: www.stmaryny.org

Please join us there for a one-hour Volunteer Opportunity Information Session on Wednesday, March 6th at 7:00PM. Call 274-8526 to reserve a spot.

If you would like to become a tutor, we can train you.

"I am grateful that I made the initial call to inquire about volunteering with Literacy Volunteers. It has been a wonderful experience for me and I intend to continue to learn with my learners in the coming years."

—Nancy Machold, Tutor

"Volunteering at LVORC gives me a better experience, new friends and a great satisfaction to be needed by those who really need help."

—Svetlana Kessler, Tutor



EVERYBODY WINS! Power Lunch

With funding from the Pitney Bowes Foundation, LVORC is proud to provide EVERYBODY WINS!, a highly successful national program that recruits, trains, and supports reading mentors for children in elementary school. The Power Lunch program gives students at Arbor Hill School and Sheridan

Preparatory Academy in Albany, as well as Sacred Heart School and School 14 in Troy, a chance to meet with adult volunteers while the kids eat lunch.

EVERYBODY WINS! Power Lunch aims to cultivate a love of reading and to encourage children to become lifelong readers.

"I look forward to Tuesdays when I go to Power Lunch because I can get away from my chaotic work day and spend some great quality time with my reading partner friend. I have worked with the same student for 2 years now and have really enjoyed sharing my time with her as well as watching her grow from reading "picture" books to "chapter" books, which is now her preferred choice! The program has been fantastic and makes me feel that I am making a difference." – Lisa Fanning, Pitney Bowes



An EVERYBODY WINS! volunteer and student at lunch

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for EVERYBODY WINS!

Teachers recommend that certain children be part of the EVERYBODY WINS! Power Lunch program. The teachers pick children whom they feel will best profit by having a reading mentor come to the school to read to them over lunch once a week. Right now we have teachers requesting mentors for additional children in all the schools that we serve. Children are asking to be part of the program.

At Sacred Heart School we've had to pair several mentors with more than one child because two of our volunteers were unable to continue in the program.

Our schools and times to read are as follows:

1) Sacred Heart School, 308 Spring Ave., Troy, Tuesdays from 11:55AM – 12:25PM

2) School 14, 1700 Tibbits Ave., Troy, Wednesdays from 11:25AM – 11:55AM or from 12:20PM – 12:50PM

3) Sheridan Preparatory Academy, 400 Sheridan Ave., Albany, Tuesdays from 11:50AM – 12:20PM

4) Arbor Hill Elementary School, 1 Arbor Drive, Albany, Thursdays from 11:55AM – 12:30PM

Please contact Barbara Wyman or Katie Hayden at 274-8526 if you are interested in volunteering to read to a child once a week. You won't regret it!



EVERYBODY WINS! Power Lunch aims to cultivate a love of reading. A volunteer meets with an elementary school student during lunch.

LITERACY
VOLUNTEERS OF
RENSSELAER
COUNTY
1915 Fifth Avenue
Troy, NY 12180



We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.lvorc.org

LVORC
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Troy, NY 12180

PHONE:
(518) 274-8526

E-MAIL:
LVORC@nycap.rr.com

Non-profit Org.
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Albany, NY
12288



Sewing and English students and tutors with quilts to be donated for the holidays. Photo: courtesy of David Holmes.

Do you have a skill
you'd like to share
with others?
Volunteers are
needed now! Look
inside for details.