

Spring 2019

The Reader



Upcoming Events



Famous Ladies' Tea
Sunday, March 31
1:00-4:00 p.m.

Hilton Garden Inn, Troy



Literacy 5K Run/Walk
Sunday, May 5
7:45--11:30 a.m.
Schodack Island
State Park

**Student and Volunteer
Recognition Dinner**
Monday, April 15
6:00 p.m.
Italian Community Center
1450 Fifth Avenue, Troy

*Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County
Partners in Building a Literate Community Since 1968*

Lens on Literacy

Learners from the Literacy Study Circle and LVORC tutors met in the Upton Center Café on a remarkably rainy day in January to participate in a taping of training videos for Literacy New York (LNY). LNY, the service organization providing support to literacy affiliates throughout the state, is making videos to prepare volunteers to tutor basic literacy learners as part of Literacy New York's online tutor training program. A total of ten videos were taped on January 24, using scripts to give demonstrations of techniques for individual tutoring and group instruction. This is the second time that LNY has asked LVORC to help to produce these videos: the first were produced five years ago, and they focused on English language learning.



Above, left to right: Cookie, Cliff, tutor Mary Krenceski, Bill, LNY's Kathy Houghton, and Olga

Below: Making the video for LNY in the Upton Center



Dine to Donate at Panera

On Tuesday, March 12 from 4-8pm, Panera in Troy will donate 20% of sales from its store at 16 North Greenbush Road, Troy, to LVORC. Please start spreading the word! In order to participate, diners must download or bring an electronic version of the donation form. You can find a link on our website: www.lvorc.org

Student Achievements

Congratulations to Brian Roberts for receiving two job promotions. Kudos to Hugues Benissan for becoming a permanent resident. Applause for Haifa Ismail who is studying at Hudson Valley Community College. Hats off to Lilia Bakalets, Jong Lee, Shagufta Bibi, and Liaqat Masih, our newest U.S. citizens!

Are You Ready to Apply for Citizenship?

Naturalize New York gives eligible immigrants and refugees access to free legal assistance and the opportunity to register to win a \$725 fee voucher. Call (800) 566-7636 or visit www.naturalizeny.org

Good News! 50 Years and Counting

On February 7, the City of Troy recognized LVORC 's 50-plus years of service to the community with a Certificate of Commendation. Executive Director Judy Smith and Board President Caitlin Stein-Miner were in attendance to accept the certificate, awarded during the part of the meeting dedicated to good news in the community. Senator Neil D. Breslin also issued a Proclamation commending LVORC on this accomplishment.



Troy City Council members with Caitlin Stein-Miner and Judy Smith at Troy City Hall, February 7, 2019

Literacy 5K Run/Walk at Schodack Island State Park



Register for the 5K online:
www.zippyreg.com

Runners and walkers of all ages and abilities are invited to participate in the Literacy 5K at Schodack Island State Park in Schodack Landing, New York on **Sunday, May 5, 2019**. Multiply the fun by forming a team with friends or co-workers! The 5K trail event will have prizes for runners in different age categories. The Youth Mile is open to children, and a Story Walk and guided nature walk are open to everyone. There will be raffles, refreshments and fun for the whole family. For a complete schedule of the day's events and to register, go to www.zippyreg.com

Celebrate Women's History Month with the Famous Ladies' Tea

Local actresses will portray ten notable women at the Famous Ladies' Tea, **Sunday, March 31** from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn, Troy. Among the famous ladies will be Maureen Stapleton, Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, Carrie Nation, and the biblical Elizabeth. The event follows a unique format, as the historical women introduce themselves to the audience by joining each table for a personal chat, each telling her own story. A silent auction and raffle will include tickets and goods from local merchants and services. For tickets, visit www.lvorc.org

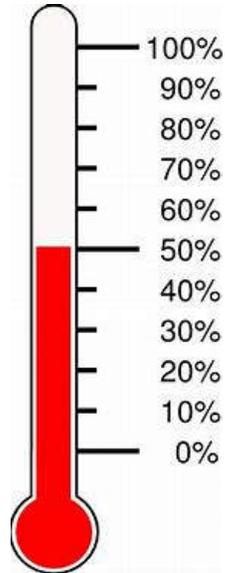


Maureen Stapleton

Please Help with the Annual Appeal

If you haven't contributed yet, we still have a way to go to meet our goal, and there is still time to donate. Gifts in any amount help LVORC continue to provide free programs and services to learners in greater Rensselaer County.

If you have already given, thank you!



2019 Board of Directors

Caitlin Stein-Miner, President
Christina Ryzner, Vice President
Liz Morgan, Secretary
Shay Harrison, Treasurer

Amy Carman
Dan Fennell
Joy Milne
Sara Schuman

News for Tutors

Professional Development Opportunities

Did you know that all LVORC volunteers can attend any of the professional development workshops for tutors offered by the Regional Adult Education Network? You can meet other tutors and enhance your skills at free trainings offered by professionals in the field of Adult Literacy. To view a calendar of training and professional development workshops for volunteers, visit www.capitalnorthraen.org

Our state office, Literacy New York (LNY), invites all tutors to explore LNY's online training, **Intake to Outcomes Online Training for Adult Literacy Tutors**. Basic Literacy and ESOL tutors have the opportunity to take the following free courses: Employability Soft Skills, Successful Tutoring, Reading Basics, Language Basics, Math Basics and a new course entitled Numeracy. Contact Marie at LVORC if you are interested: (518) 244-4650.



Shop at <https://smile.amazon.com> and AmazonSmile donates to Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County!

Please Join Us for a
Student and Volunteer Recognition Dinner

Monday, April 15
6:00 p.m.

Italian Community Center
1450 Fifth Avenue, Troy

Please bring a dish to share with others.

RSVP (518) 244-4650

Sewing for Success

A new program is giving refugee and immigrant women a chance to gain personal and financial stability in the Capital region. LVORC launched the Sewing and English Workplace Skills class in October 2018 with funding from the Workforce Development Institute. St Andrew's Church in Albany has graciously provided the class a home, and volunteers Nancy Calkins, Julie Elson and Ethel Duncan have given their time and expertise to help refugee women learn to sew. Project Coordinator Linda Feldmann leads the English instruction, and each session introduces the learners to project-based English vocabulary as well as workplace "soft skills".

Nancy, Julie and Ethel are all longtime volunteers with the Sewing and English class that has met for many years on Saturdays at 50 Herrick Street in Rensselaer. That class follows an informal "drop in" format and gives women in the community a chance to work on fabric arts projects for themselves and their families. Last summer the three volunteers met with LVORC's Executive Director, Judy Smith and Linda Feldmann to discuss a new initiative to help women who are specifically interested in being hired to sew professionally by one of the area's employers. Judy was successful in securing funding from the Workforce Development Institute to purchase equipment, fabric and notions to start the class, and a number of community members donated materials as well. We hope to have eight women complete the program this year.



Sewing projects have included skirts and jackets, tote bags with pockets, zippers and buttons (pictured at left), under-door draft blockers, and zippered pouches. Students have learned the fundamentals of sewing original items as well as basic alterations – replacing zippers, adjusting hems and increasing or decreasing the size of garments.

Do you sew? Do you have something to donate?

Donations of good-quality fabric and notions are always welcome. Good-quality new, unopened thread is especially useful. Contact Linda at (518) 244-4650.



According to the Fiscal Policy Institute (FPI), hiring refugees is good for business. The findings of a recent study by the FPI show that:

Three quarters of firms surveyed saw lower turnover rates for refugees than overall.

The turnover rates were lower in all industries, sometimes by half or more. In manufacturing, average annual refugee turnover was 4 percent annually, compared to 11 percent overall. In a hotel it was 29 percent compared to 36 percent overall.

Lower turnover translates into efficiency for companies. Replacing an employee was estimated for these employers to cost about \$5,000, which was greater than the costs of hiring and retaining refugee employees.

The full report can be found at www.fiscalpolicy.org



Contributions can be made payable to LVORC and sent to:

LVORC
65 First Street
Troy, N.Y. 12180.

Donations can be made online:

www.lvorc.org

