

SUMMER 2026

# STUDENT & TUTOR NEWS

Literacy Volunteers of Washington County



## CONNECT WITH US



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

- Literacy Volunteers of Washington County will close this summer on Thursdays and Fridays for July and August. Regular hours will resume in September.
- Have a happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!



## SUMMER SCHEDULE

### July & August

**Mondays**

**Office Hours: 9am-12pm**  
Kingston/URI Area Conversation Class, 5:30-7pm  
July, in-person only-August, no class  
Hybrid resumes in September

**Tuesdays**

**Office Hours: 9am-12pm**  
Zoom English Practice  
11am-12pm

**Wednesdays**

**Office Hours: 9am-12pm**  
LVWC Conversation Class  
11am-12pm

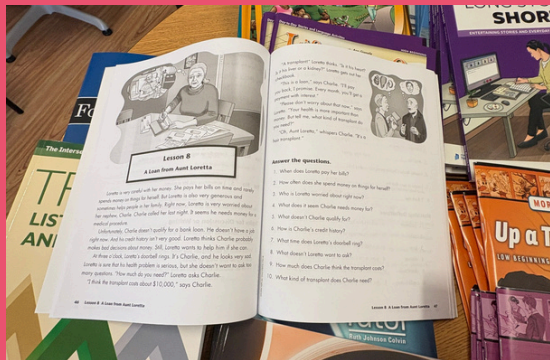
**Thursdays & Fridays**  
LVWC Office is Closed

**40 YEARS** of Washington County  
LITERACY VOLUNTEERS  
and growing!

# THANK YOU

## NATIONAL BOOK FUND 2026

*Literacy Volunteers of Washington County was awarded a grant for \$1400 worth of books from the ProLiteracy National Book Fund.*



# SPOTLIGHT

## International Potluck & Awards Ceremony



**Katherine  
Marin  
Student of the  
Year 2026**

**Diana Linden  
Tutor of the  
Year 2026**



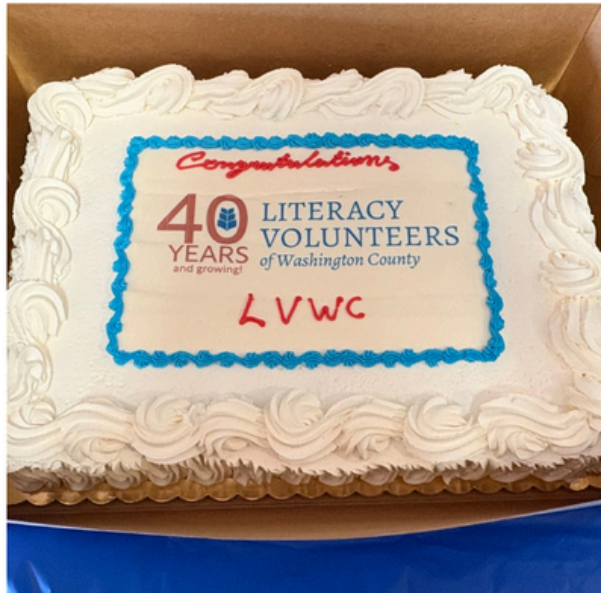
# SPOTLIGHT

## International Potluck & Awards Ceremony



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## International Potluck & Awards Ceremony



# SPOTLIGHT

## International Potluck & Awards Ceremony



# THANK YOU!



LVWC's wonderful students, tutors and volunteers make our Annual International Potluck & Award Ceremony such a fabulous event.

But that's not all...

A big thanks goes out to McQuade's Marketplace for the lovely cake, Lucky House for the great food, and Christ Church for their awesome hospitality.

Tutors



**DON'T  
FORGET!**

Hey Tutors, remember if you are meeting outside of the LVWC, you need to submit your hours using our Off-Site Tutor Reporting Form from our website. Thank you!

## TUTOR TIPS

by Barbara Heuer

*"A goal without a plan is just a wish."  
Antoine de Saint Exupery*

Setting and meeting goals is relatively clear-cut if you are a football team playing in the World Cup. Team players focus on passing and kicking that soccer ball into the opponents' goal. But if your students are trying to "learn English," translating their general goal into relevant lessons/sessions is both an art and a science.

The advantages of setting goals are well documented, of course. They give us focus. They determine our behavior and choice-making. They can lead to a sense of self-mastery. While we appreciate the importance of setting goals in our lives and specifically in our work with adult students, our challenge is breaking down those goals into achievable, retainable steps in the convoluted process of "learning English."

When your student's goal is to obtain a drivers' license or become a U.S. citizen, the pathway is clearly outlined (if not smooth in practice). Using resources from our office and under "Resources" on our LVWC website, we can learn what the process will involve and basically "teach to the test."

But, more often, student goals are harder to delineate. When Theresa asks incoming students what they want to learn, their responses are often versions of "I want to learn/improve my English." We try to tease out what specifically this means. If, for example, one of their stated goals is to better communicate in English on the job, we practice everyday conversation, question-asking and speaking practice, giving the student time and space and safety to speak. Or if they say they want to concentrate on understanding a manual or reading a medical document, we help them dissect that authentic object, bit by bit. Being "student-centered," we adjust tutoring to the goals of the student.

continued on page 5...



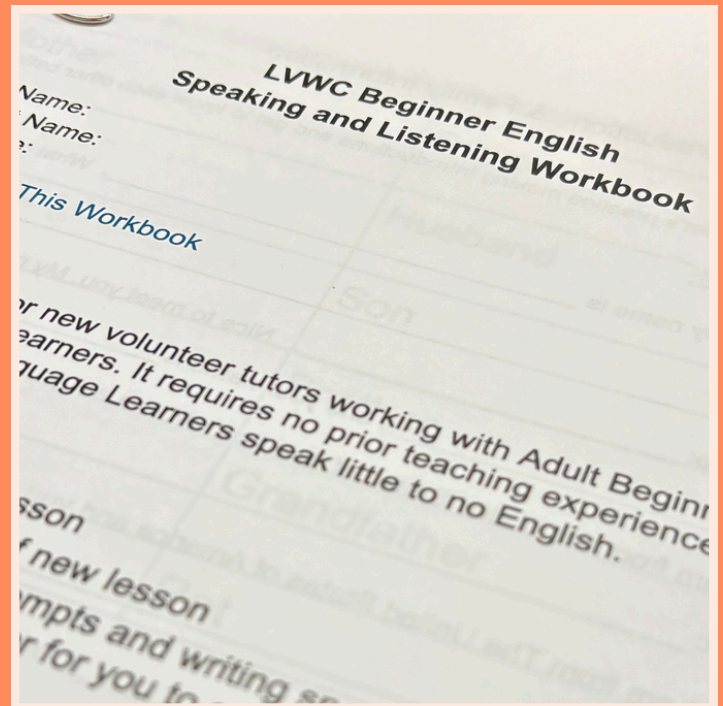
Like many processes, goal setting can be an exercise as formal and informal as the “goal-setter.” You have probably run into the concept of SMART goals. The acronym directs us to make goals, “Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely.” Here at LVWC, because we are dealing with the unruly English language and each individual’s unique situation, we stress flexibility and patience. This involves collaboration in setting goals that match your student’s interests and/or situation. It involves listening to your student, reading body language, asking questions to make sure that your sessions are meaningful. It involves breaking down the large target goal into small, relevant parts--sometimes really small like pronunciation of the “th” sound. Also, it involves ending each session recognizing a student achievement, big or small.

Coming back to the sports analogy (oh, no!). You know that the playing field of English fluency is uneven and circuitous to say the least. And the goal posts keep changing! Translating the process into engaging tutoring sessions calls on your imagination, talents and experience. We’re extremely grateful you contribute all of these and more to the LVWC team!

Go Knicks!  
Barbara Heuer



## LVWC BEGINNER ENGLISH SPEAKING AND LISTENING BOOK



**LVWC designed a book for tutors working with students with little to no English. We hope to add to it as we go. If you want a copy, let Theresa know, and she will have it waiting for you at the office. A big thank you to LVWC’s Tonya Bilotti for doing the lion’s share on this project.**

**You can also access this via our LVWC Digital Library.**

# LVWC AT THE GARDEN MARKET FAIR



## LVWC Staff



Pictured top, right to left: Barbara Heuer, Theresa Gregal, Jessica Wick, Tonya Bilotti. Sitting: Torey Malatia

## LVWC Board of Directors

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Vacant, Vice President  
Anne Driscoll, Secretary  
Stephen K. Lynner, Treasurer

Janell Hayes Bruno  
Bradford Kopp  
Deirdre Lemp  
Kimberlie Rayner-Russell  
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## Advisory Council

Keri Brenner  
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Mary Goodman  
Andrew Nathan  
Tom Reycraft  
Justin J. Stevenson

# FREE CONVERSATION CLASSES

*for adult English language learners*

## Mondays

**Office Hours: 9am-12pm**

Kingston/URI Area Conversation Class, 5:30-7pm

July, In-person only, August, no class

Hybrid to resume in September

Email Barbara at [oberlejj@verizon.net](mailto:oberlejj@verizon.net) to register

## Tuesdays

**Office Hours: 9am-12pm**

Zoom English Practice

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## Wednesdays

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[www.literacywashingtoncounty.org](http://www.literacywashingtoncounty.org)

