

WINTER 2025

# STUDENT & TUTOR NEWS

Literacy Volunteers of Washington County



## CONNECT WITH US



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Literacy Volunteers of Washington County will close this winter for the following :

- December 24, 2025-January 2, 2026, for the holiday break
- Monday, January 19, 2026, for Martin Luther King Day
- February 16-20, 2026, for the winter break.



Join us on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, for our Dorcas International Immigration Lawyer Event, 5:00-6:30pm in the Westerly Library Auditorium. Free community event.

## Do you have questions about immigration?

Join us and get answers from a Dorcas International immigration lawyer.



This is a **free** event.  
No registration required.

Wednesday  
February 4, 2026  
5:00-6:30 pm

Westerly Library Auditorium  
44 Broad Street, Westerly, RI

More Information, contact us at:  
☎ 401-596-9411  
🌐 [www.literacywashingtoncounty.org](http://www.literacywashingtoncounty.org)

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



Scan this QR code to submit your questions online anonymously

Tutors



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!

# SPOTLIGHT

## LVWC Holiday Party



# SPOTLIGHT

## LVWC Holiday Party



# TUTOR TIPS

by Barbara Heuer

*"We tutor alone...and we tutor together."*

Have you ever attended one of our LVWC "Tutor Gatherings?" Started several years ago, these informal sessions are opportunities for tutors (new, seasoned or, as yet, unmatched) to share stories and problem solve with other tutors. They are held on the last Monday of every month at 11:30 to 12:30. We alternate meeting locations between our LVWC office and the Kingston Free Library at the entrance to URI. You don't have to register. Delicious snacks are always served.

You, being characteristically a practical adult, may want to know WHY you should drop in to a tutor gathering. Below are some comments from your fellow tutors that address that question.

Gerry, one of our regular attendees, notes: "Tutor Gatherings are informative, useful in finding other resources...and it's interesting to meet other tutors. They create a 'sense of community,' which is important for non-profit community organizations. We tutor alone with our students so it is good to know we tutor together as part of a network of like-minded people."

Barbara O., who has run a conversation class at URI for many years expresses a similar broadened view: "Tutor Gatherings have given me a perspective on the range of students served by LVWC. They've been an opportunity to hear what tutors are doing in a one-to-one format."

continued on page 5...

## Upcoming Tutor Gatherings

January 26  
11:30am-12:30pm  
LVWC, Westerly

February 23  
11:30am-12:30pm  
Kingston Free Library,  
Kingston

March 30  
11:30am-12:30pm  
LVWC, Westerly

Finally, Paul emphasizes that Tutor Gatherings allow “sharing other tutors’ experiences and methods...and often provide reminders of useful resources.” He recommends that we add a review one or two resources in future Tutor Gatherings. Note: Look elsewhere in this newsletter for a recommended resource or two.

Studies have extensively analyzed different reasons adults participate in volunteer learning. Personal growth, job-related needs and socialization are several motivations. Whatever your individual reason, we invite you to join the lively discussions at Tutor Gatherings on the last Monday of every month from 11:30 to 12:30. Next one is January 26 at LVWC.

Keep those suggestions and comments coming!

Thank you for all you do.

Barbara Heuer 😊



# THE BLOCK ISLAND BEAT

## Changing things up a bit

The Block Island conversation class has changed its day and time to Sundays at 1:00pm.

Joanne, a retired ESL teacher and a dedicated LVWC tutor since 2016, leads this class. She joined us after recognizing the need for English language support for adults on Block Island.

**Learning English?**  
**JOIN US FOR CONVERSATION CLASS**  
FREE conversation class for adults learning English

**Where:**  
Odd Fellows Cafe,  
232 Water Street,  
Block Island, directly  
across from the Old  
Harbor ferry landing

**When: Sundays**  
November 16  
November 30  
December 14  
December 28

**Time:**  
1:00pm

Odd Fellows Cafe

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of Washington County  
and growing

# RESOURCES HERE! GET YOUR RESOURCES!

You can find a variety of resources for both tutors and students on the LVWC website. We offer useful websites, a digital lesson library, materials for citizenship, pronunciation assistance, and so much more. Be sure to check it out!



[Websites & Apps](#)

See our list of recommended websites and apps for students and tutors.

[Digital Lesson Library](#)

This Dropbox link contains a large amount of lessons, workbooks, and ideas.

[Citizenship](#)

Click here for citizenship information and study materials.

[Pronunciation Help](#)

Click here for pronunciation help

[U.S. Holidays](#)

Click here for U.S. Holidays

[Driver's License](#)

Click here for driver's license information

[TOEFL](#)

Click here for ten free online TOEFL courses

[Financial Wellness](#)

LVWC has partnered with Washington Trust and Banzai with in-depth lessons on financial topics

[Library Card](#)

Need a Westerly library card?  
Click the button to learn how to get one

[DIGITALLEARN.ORG](#)

Online computer instruction for those new to computers or need a refresher. English and Spanish.

## Popular websites

7 Elm St.  
P.O. Box 245  
Westerly, RI 02891  
(401) 596-9411

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HOME ABOUT US STUDENTS TUTORS RESOURCES EVENTS CONTACT

Recommended Websites

- Digital Lesson Library
- Tutor Resources
- Citizenship & Immigration
- Pronunciation
- United States Holidays
- Driver's License
- TOEFL
- Financial Wellness
- More Useful Websites
- Calendar

Recommended We Apps

These resources are for both tutors and students. If you have any questions on these resources, please contact a Literacy Specialist. The best resource for your needs.

ESL & ABE Resources

**Breaking News English**  
1375 Free English News Lessons in 7 Levels

Breaking News English provides free lessons for ESL and EFL students wanting to learn English through news articles. Lessons contain reading, listening, and grammar activities. Two new lessons are added every week based on news stories from around the world. Each news article contains a 2 page mini lesson or full 27 page lesson (with 40 exercises).

**Daily ESL**  
Daily ESL.com

Daily ESL is designed to help you become familiar with common vocabulary and expressions you can use all the time in many situations. Choose a topic, listen, answer questions, read along with paragraph, and then discuss the questions with a partner or tutor.

## Pronunciation help

7 Elm St.  
P.O. Box 245  
Westerly, RI 02891  
(401) 596-9411

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HOME ABOUT US STUDENTS TUTORS RESOURCES EVENTS CONTACT

Pronunciation

This page is for students and tutors. It contains pronunciation videos and websites that are useful in proper American English pronunciation and accent reduction. We encourage tutors and students to use these resources together on a regular basis.

When it comes to improving pronunciation, practice and repetition are vital.

American Pronunciation Videos

- [The Two TH Consonants \[θ\] and \[ð\]](#)
- [TH Rules: Voiced or Voiceless?](#)
- [B\[b\] and P\[p\] Consonants](#)
- [Bee /b/ vs Pee /p/](#)
- [F \[f\] and V \[v\] Consonants](#)
- ["eh" \[ɪ\] vs. "ch" \[tʃ\]](#)
- [How to Pronounce R and L Sounds](#)
- [How to make the L \[l\] Consonant](#)
- [How to make the R \[r\] Consonant](#)
- [\[ɪ\] vs. \[i\]](#)
- [S \[s\] and Z \[z\] Consonants](#)

Pronunciation SDLAs

**Mt. San Antonio College**  
This site offers videos, audio clips, and downloadable activities targeting hard to pronounce vowels and consonants. These were designed to be used independently or with a tutor. **New!**

Pronunciation Doctor

**Pronunciation Doctor YouTube Channel**  
\*Are you a native speaker of a language other than English? Do you speak English fluently, yet with a foreign accent? Does

## Citizenship & Immigration

7 Elm St.  
P.O. Box 245  
Westerly, RI 02891  
(401) 596-9411

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HOME ABOUT US STUDENTS TUTORS RESOURCES EVENTS CONTACT

Citizenship & Immigration Information

Helpful Immigration Information

- Dorcas International**  
Dorcas International provides services helping immigrants, refugees, and all Rhode Islanders. Citizenship help available.
- National Immigration Law Center**  
National Immigration Law Center's purpose is to advance and defend the rights and opportunities of low-income immigrants and their loved ones.
- Progreso Latino**  
Progreso Latino's mission is to help Rhode Island's Latino and immigrant communities. Citizenship help available.
- Justicia Lab**  
Justicia Lab helps immigrants and their advocates to navigate the immigration system more easily and fight for workplace justice.
- Immigrant Coalition of Rhode Island**  
The Immigrant Coalition of Rhode Island is an association of 33 organizations committed to ensuring fair and equal treatment of our immigrant neighbors.
- Ready to Stay**  
Ready to Stay is here to provide you with the latest information on immigration laws and help you find trusted legal help near you.

## Financial Literacy

Explore Topics

# Take Control of Your Money

Literacy Volunteers of Washington County has partnered with The Washington Trust Company, of Westerly and Banzai to bring you clear, in-depth lessons that help you dive into the financial topics you care most about.

- Using Credit Cards**  
Using credit cards wisely paves the way for big purchases in the future, but be wary of spending more than you can manage. [Learn More](#)
- Health Insurance**  
Premiums, deductible expenses—it may seem like a place of uncertainty. [Learn More](#)

## The Digital Lesson Library: A Resource for Tutors and Students

The Digital Lesson Library serves both tutors and students, housing a wealth of materials gathered by LVWC tutors and staff throughout the years. New resources are continually added to enhance the collection.

### Interested in Learning More?

To discover how to access the library and explore its contents, watch the informative YouTube video on the Digital Lesson Library for a comprehensive overview.

The screenshot shows the website header with contact information (7 Elm St., P.O. Box 246, Westerly, RI 02891, (401) 596-9411), a Google Translate button, and the 40th anniversary logo for Literacy Volunteers of Washington County. The navigation menu includes Home, About Us, Students, Tutors, Resources (highlighted), Events, and Contact. The main content area is titled "Resources for Tutors" and includes a paragraph explaining that the resources are for tutors, containing ProLiteracy training modules, articles, and TESOL training information. Below this, there is a red banner with a "Digital Lesson Library" button and text encouraging users to click the button for lessons, workbooks, and more. Two yellow buttons offer to download a "new and updated tutor handbook" and the "latest LVWC student and tutor newsletter". At the bottom, there is a video thumbnail for "Breaking News English Overview" and a button to visit the "Tutor Playlist" on YouTube.

The screenshot shows a YouTube playlist titled "LVWC Tutor Channel" by Literacy Volunteers of Washington County, containing 10 videos with 59 views. The playlist includes the following videos:

- Off-Site Tutor Reporting Form (2:05)
- Breaking News English Overview (6:29)
- Breaking News English Mini Lesson (3:09)
- Intermediate Level Vocabulary Lessons (2:29)
- Engoo Daily News (4:34)
- Google Translate on Zoom (4:22)
- Daily ESL.com

## LVWC Tutor Channel

The LVWC Tutor Channel features videos that showcase some of the most popular resources available on our website. Videos are added as necessary, so if there's a specific resource you would like us to highlight with a YouTube video, please reach out to us.

# FREE CONVERSATION CLASSES

*for adult English language learners*



## URI Graduate Village (Hybrid)

Mondays

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

URI Graduate Village Community Center  
2900 Kingstown Rd. Kingston RI



New



## Tuesday Zoom English Practice

Tuesdays, starting in January 2026

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Zoom Only**

Sign up on our website



## LVWC Conversation Practice

Wednesdays

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

7 Elm Street, Westerly RI  
(Christ Church basement offices)



## Block Island Conversation Class

Sunday 12/14, 12/28

1:00-2:00PM

Odd Fellows Cafe

232 Water Street, Block Island



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**YEARS** VOLUNTEERS  
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