



# LitBits

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www.literacyrochester.org

## Awards Ceremony Honors Students, Volunteers and Friends



Chuck Lundeen Dauphinee Winner

On June 12, 2013, LVR held its Annual Awards and Recognitions ceremony to honor student and volunteer achievement. The Judy Dauphinee Volunteer of the Year Award was given to Chuck Lundeen for exemplary service to LVR. Chuck has been a volunteer with LVR for more than 5 years. He has served as tutor workshop trainer, previewer, event planner, office volunteer and assisted with student orientation and intake.

A Friend of Literacy Award was given to the Arnett Branch Library for their assistance with the Literacy Navigator Program, a new program located at Arnett which assists low literate individuals to navigate paperwork, forms and personal



Deb Leary (Arnett) Friend of Literacy Award

documents.

A Friend of Literacy Award was also given to BOCES I, for hosting LVR's Access Classes.

A Friend of Literacy Award was given to Canandaigua National Bank for committing to 5 years of support and promoting adult and financial literacy through a program called "Making Change in our community."

A Friend of Literacy Award was given to the Rochester Housing Authority for hosting educational and vocational classes at their location.

Nancy Bader received a President's Literacy Award for contributing to LVR's work at BOCES I.



BK Guar 20 Year Volunteer

Bhagwan K. Guar and Joanne Joyce received recognition for 20 years of service to LVR, Barbara Clements, Joann Dale, Kathy Dear, and Larry Steehler for 15 years of service, and Terry Hin and Bonnie Martin for 10 years of service. Russ Camp, John Chapman, Nancy Deissinger, Elmar Frangenberg, Laurel Goodwin, Jackie Hagelberg, Nora Jones, Chuck Lundeen, Jacob Pietruszewski, Deborah Pulley and Rainer Schmidt received 5 year recognition.

13 students graduated from LVR's program, 20 students received Student Recognition Awards, and 23 tutors received Tutor Recognition Awards.

# A Message from Executive Director Bob Mahar

## A busy summer at LVR

Fall has officially begun and while there are lots of things planned for the coming months, it has indeed been a busy summer at LVR. In mid-June we held our annual awards night, recognizing the accomplishments of our students, volunteers and the support of our many friends in the community. At the end of June we held a week long Family Literacy camp at the former St. Mary's hospital site on Genesee Street, in conjunction with the Southwest Family Resource Center of Hillside. This was an opportunity for families, with the help of LVR volunteers and staff, to get some great ideas for summer activities to support literacy. In July we began summer ACCESS classes for students at LVR. These small group classes are a continuation of those that we have done throughout the past year at BOCES 1, BOCES 2 and Rochester Housing Authority. The classes are aimed towards those students that are seeking to increase their math scores and gain entry into

local GED programs. And finally we continued to build our Literacy Navigator program (note the article about this program in this newsletter) at the Arnett Library and will soon be expanding services to the Greece Ridge Mall and the downtown library.

## Fall Brings Change!

With the change of seasons we also have change at LVR and in the adult education world. LVR Development Director, John Williams has departed LVR after six successful years in that role. We wish John all the best and thank him for all his support. We welcome Susan Kramarsky as our new Development Director. You can read more about Susan in this newsletter as well. We also welcome back former intern Phillip Gigliotti in a new role as Coordinator of the Literacy Navigator program.

In our world of adult education much is changing. The GED exam, used to measure high school equivalency, will be replaced in

New York State as of December 31, 2013. A new instrument to be introduced soon, the TASC (Test Assessing Secondary Completion), will begin in January. It will not only be a new assessment tool but will ultimately be given on computer - a major change for many students. This pending change has driven many more students to LVR and other programs during the past year. As more information becomes available on the new test we will keep you posted!

## Save the Date!

LVR Open House

Dec. 6 2-4 pm

Office Closed

Dec. 23-27

LVR Conference at St. John Fisher

Feb. 1, 2014 8:30 to 12:30 pm

(Tentative)



Family Literacy Camp



ACCESS Class

# Fall Brings Two New Staff at LVR

Literacy Volunteers of Rochester is pleased to announce two new staff additions to support adult learning in Rochester. Philip Gigliotti will be heading the new Literacy Navigator program aimed at assisting individuals in the completion of forms and on-line applications, employment applications, resume writing and other single issue applications on a walk in basis. The program is supported by grants from Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation and Marie C. and Joseph C. Wilson Foundation. Philip previously interned

with LVR, and recently completed a year of AmeriCorps VISTA service at Compeer Inc.

Susan Kramarsky has been named the Director of Development. She was formerly Town Clerk for the Town of Brighton. She will be working on community awareness and raising the funds needed to support all of the programs offered by Literacy volunteers of Rochester. LVR serves over 400 individuals with assistance in reading, English and math skills.

Kramarsky says, "I am thrilled to

be able to help this organization. The cause of literacy of all sorts is one that has been important to me for many years."

In announcing these appointments Robert Mahar, Executive Director of Literacy Volunteers of Rochester, (LVR) says, "We are pleased to add two highly qualified people to our staff. The services that we provide across our community are critical to increasing academic and economic opportunities for all."

## New Program at LVR: Literacy Navigator

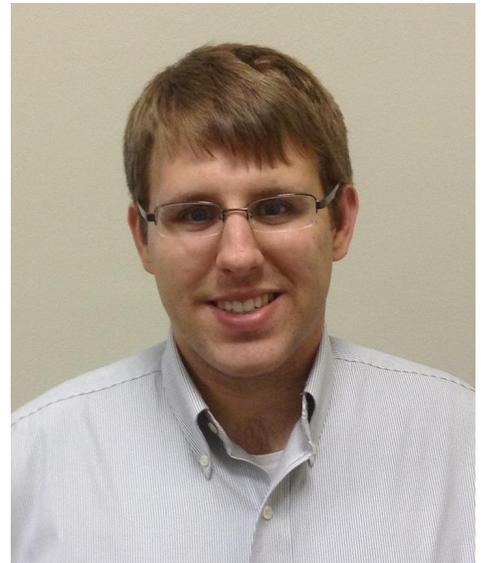
With 57% of the adult population in the city of Rochester reading at or below the basic level (generally 6<sup>th</sup> grade), many residents are struggling with increased documentation and forms in their lives. From applications for services, to employment or health care, low-literate adults struggle to complete these forms and even to understand them. Both on paper and on-line, many residents are unable to keep up without assistance. Literacy Volunteers of Rochester is offering a new service called Literacy Navigator to address this program. Literacy Navigators are trained volunteers who provide immediate face-to-face assistance with forms, resumes, applications, understanding letters, and other communications. The assistance is focused on completing this paperwork as well as helping individuals to "navigate"

systems such as health care, Department of Human Services, the school system, housing, etc.

Additionally, assistance will be offered in access to websites, directions and contact points for services.

Literacy Navigator volunteers must complete a training session and complete volunteer application forms for some locations.

Literacy Navigator services are currently offered at the Arnett Branch Public Library on Mondays from 12-3 and the Central Downtown Library on Wednesdays from 10-1. Additional service will be offered at the Mall at Greece Ridge Center in November. Interested volunteers should contact Literacy Volunteers of Rochester at (585) 473-3030 or via email at [office@literacyrochester.org](mailto:office@literacyrochester.org).



Philip Gigliotti



Susan Kramarsky

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**Roc the Day**

**12.11.13**

Every new or increased donation to LVR will be  
matched by a 50th Anniversary Challenge  
Grant!

**ROC**  
**THE · DAY**

Choose. Give. Matter.



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**Tribute and Memorial Donations**

Please remember that another way to support Literacy Volunteers of Rochester is through your tribute and memorial donations. LVR is pleased to accept donations in celebration of special occasions, such as birthdays, anniversaries, and retirements as well as in memory of volunteers, donors, family, and friends. An LVR contribution is also the perfect gift to honor that person who doesn't need another "gift" and would appreciate knowing that LVR is benefiting from your generosity. Use our secure, online giving option at [www.literacyrochester.org](http://www.literacyrochester.org) or give us a call at 585-473-3030.

**Literacy Volunteers of Rochester, Inc.**

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