



The LVSA Landscape

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DID YOU KNOW?

- Literacy is the ability to read, write, compute, and use technology at a level that enables an individual to reach his or her full potential as a parent, employee, and community member.
- There are **774 million** adults around the world who are illiterate in their native languages.
- **Two-thirds** of the world's illiterate adults are women.

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SCRABBLE® “Spellebration” a Fundraising Success

“Put away your word lists, make sure there are no letter tiles up your sleeve... and there will be no ‘phone a friend,” MC Sue McGrath playfully warned the crowd at Widener University, as teams from around Delaware prepared to compete in LVSA’s annual SCRABBLE® Spellebration fundraising event. Approximately 100 people came out for the event, held on Saturday, October 23, at Widener University Law School’s Barrister’s club in Wilmington. The event pitted teams of up to five against each another for an afternoon SCRABBLE® competition to win a trophy and prizes, with all proceeds benefitting LVSA and supporting efforts to eradicate illiteracy in Delaware.

Delaware Lt. Governor Mat-



thew Denn opened the event at 1:00, stressing that “this money and this program have a profound difference in our community.”

Gaming lasted until 4:00, with breaks for refreshments, ending with the presentation of

trophies, awards, and raffle prizes. This year’s team winner was “The Beantown Scrabblers,” (their third year!) followed by runners-up “The Happy Camphors,” and “Scrabbled Eggs.”

This is the event’s fifth year,

LVSA Featured in The News Journal

Literacy in Delaware is an issue which can never receive too much exposure. Following the success of its Scrabble based fundraising initiative to support literacy within the state, LVSA was featured in News Journal article on adult literacy efforts in Delaware.

The article featured adult learners Mike Kennedy, Vrendia Ridyolph, Joanne Ushery-Benson who have been studying with



LVSA since March and February, respectively, as well as LVSA tutors. Of his continuing progress, Kennedy said: “There’s nothing that goes by me that I do

not try to read, things that are on television that have words, things that come in the mail... now it’s starting to click a little bit. I’m not a scholar reading. But I’m proud of what I’m doing, because I couldn’t have done this last year.”

To read more about Mike’s story and literacy efforts in Delaware, check out the full article by searching “New Chapter” at: <http://www.delawareonline.com/>

Last Month at a Glance



Above: Drove of word-gamers battling at Spellebration



Scrabblers debate the tough questions: wine or book gift basket?



Students in one of ProLiteracy's Ecuador literacy programs

Organization News

- Oct. 23rd: Scrabble Spellebration Fundraising Event Raises approximately \$10,000
- Nov 15th: New Tutors complete training for Basic Reading. They are: Robyn Graham, Tiara Smith, Geneva Espinosa, Barbara Haire, Carolyn Brock and Judy Crescenzi. LVSA Congratulates and welcomes them!

Student Achievements

- Josefina Cepeda received a **Citizenship Skills certificate** from the state.
- Helen Yu has achieved a **Certificate of Attainment** from the state.
- Boonja Kuk, Ottoniel Mendez, Adassa McIntosh, Aurora Colin, Jenny Yeh, Haekyung Lee and Shabnam Vafapour all achieved the goal of **purchasing books and magazines**.
- Juana Cabrera, Josefina Cepeda, Candida Cuevas, Paola Corredor, Liliana Grajales, Yasmin Ortiz Quinones, Rosario Santos, Wade Shearin and Helen Yu all achieved over **30 hrs of instruction during the first reporting quarter**.

Scrabble Success!

and it serves as LVSA's primary annual fundraiser; this year raised almost \$10,000 for literacy programs in Delaware. These funds provide needed support for tutor training and money to buy learning materials. In addition to support provided by the event sponsors, Major contributors to the earnings included raffle tickets, refreshments, and team registration fees. For a competitive edge, players could also purchase dictionary

time, as well as letter tiles at prices corresponding to the tile's value. Raffle Prizes included gym memberships, wine, book, and autumn themed gift baskets, and an Amazon Kindle. The event was sponsored by the generosity of numerous individuals and organizations, with major contributors including TD Bank, Longview Financial Partners, and WSFS Bank.

—Adam Koppeser



Team *Scrabble Qats* scrabbles for purchase on a cunning word strategy

Literacy in the News

National

- Recent UCLA Research Study, funded by the National Institute of Health, finds that a **mother's reading skill** is the **greatest determinant of her children's future** academic success, outweighing other factors, such as neighborhood and family income.
- Former Adult Literacy Learner and current ProLiteracy board member elected to California board of Education

International

- In Ecuador, ProLiteracy, the world's largest organization of adult literacy and education programs, and Interweave Solutions, offering business training in developing countries, work together with residents in 30 communities throughout the country to help small business operations.

For more, visit www.proliteracy.org

Learner Focus: Favorite Holiday Feasts

The following are selected student writings from the English 200 Class, a small upper multi-level ESL group that meets Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Recently, learners were asked to write a paragraph about a favorite holiday meal that they remember.

“My favorite holiday is Thanksgiving. My family and I make a big party. We buy fresh fruits and vegetables. It is love, Thanksgiving dinner with turkey.”

D.D. is a single woman from Ghana. She lost her job at a laundry and has been unable to find another. She has been taking classes with us for a year now, and knows that as she is improving her English, she is also improving her chances to get a good job. D.D. wants to become a citizen, and attends our afternoon Civics class. Recently, she has also begun attending an LVSA book group, where she is working to improve her reading. She is very excited about learning English and learning to read.



“My favorite holiday is Thanksgiving. My family and I, we make a big party for that day. We have a big dinner together. Around 12:00 a.m. we make a fire – a big fire in the street, with all the neighbors. It is a good excuse to make noise. We play music so loud all night long!

We forget all the problems in life. We hug together. We drink beer, wine, and Coca Cola. We do not like Pepsi.” R.T.

R.T. is a young, single man who has been a part of LVSA tutoring and groups for five years now, originally from Mexico City. He found himself on disability from a work injury, and decided to use the time to improve his English. Starting from a level where he could barely understand and be understood, he achieved his goal and is now quite fluent and almost completely functional in spoken English. About two years ago, he decided to improve his writing proficiency, which was at a very low level. Today, his writing has improved dramatically, as witnessed by the above example, which contains only a few very minor corrections.

“My favorite holiday is January 1st. That is the Independence Day of my country. When that day comes, all Haitians are happy because they were slaves. They couldn’t eat Giromon. That’s why my family also cooks Giromon soup. It contains some macaroni, goat, bananas, celery, etc. When I was a child, I couldn’t wait for that day. My mother prepared good food. We bought new clothes, went to see our grandparents, and went on a picnic. I enjoyed the Giromon soup. It tasted good to me. Then the whole family ate together and shared a lot of wishes for the new year. I felt really comfortable.”

M.D. is a brand new student, a young woman from Haiti. She learned about our program from

a friend, another Haitian student. She is shy, but very serious about improving her English.



“My holiday is the New Year for my country. The holiday meal is rice with kebab and chicken. There, most people with children go to family homes to have dinner or lunch together, and many people get gifts of money from grandmothers and grandfathers. Offices are closed for one week. Other food for many children is pizza, chili, and spaghetti. They like that food. That day is a celebration day for my country.”

H.N. is a middle-aged man from Iran who has been in our program for over a year. He has two part-time jobs, one as a stock clerk at a grocery store, and the other as an auto mechanic. He was doubtful about learning English “at his age”, but is doing very well. He will be eligible for naturalization next year, and is very excited about becoming a citizen. With that in mind, he is studying very hard to learn more English, and is also attending our Civics class. If you get a chance to look at H.N.’s textbook and homework, you will see that they are filled with his notes – he works diligently to make sure that he understands every word!”

“Around 12:00 a.m. we make a fire – a big fire in the street, with all the neighbors. It is a good excuse to make noise! We forget all the problems in life.”



Literacy Volunteers Serving Adults

Opening Minds ... Changing Lives

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The purpose of Literacy Volunteers Serving Adults is to help adults improve literacy skills and thereby realize their potential to be confident, self sufficient, and productive employees and community members. We deliver services and programs in reading, writing, English language, math, workplace, and computer skills. LVSA works to create public understanding of the impact of illiteracy and advocates for literacy solutions.

LVSA Horizon: Upcoming Events and Info

December Office Closing

LVSA's main downtown Wilmington office will be closed down from Dec. 8th - 15th for refurbishing and reorganization (a makeover, if you will). Unfortunately, during these dates, it will be unavailable for visitors, and will have limited access to e-mail and the telephone. Happy Holidays!



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