



Literacy Council of Northern Virginia

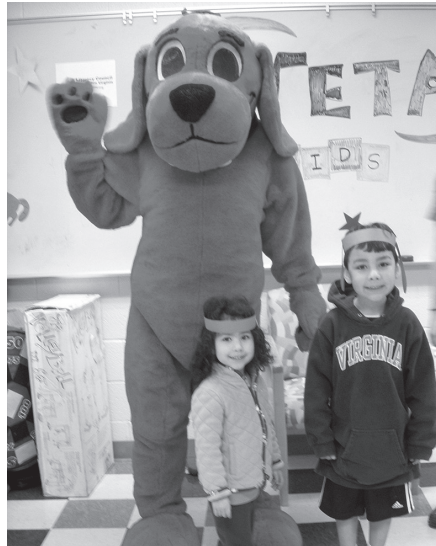
Spring 2011

Literacy Lines

Fifth Annual Reading: A Family Affair a Big Hit

by Stacy Nall

“Thank you for the free book and a great morning!” “Thanks for doing this wonderful program!” “Clifford gave me a high five!” These are just a few of the comments heard throughout the James Lee Community Center on Saturday, March 19, when 600 children and parents filled the hallways for LCNV’s 5th Annual Reading: A Family Affair. Thanks to our visitors, donors, staff, and over 50 volunteers, the event was a huge success!



From musicians and dancers to puppeteers and storytellers (and Clifford, of course!), there was something for kids of all ages to enjoy. New performers at this year’s

RAFA included Emily Gleichenhaus of Sing Books with Emily, who delighted kids of all ages with her songs based on picture books,

and Bob Brown Puppets, whose show “The Reluctant Dragon” was punctuated by audience laughter and applause. LCNV also introduced dance to this year’s event, with the Bolivian dance troupe Fraternidad Cultural Pachamama and senior students from the Kalavaridhi Indian dance school captivating a full house. Storytellers Diane Macklin and authors Lulu Delacre, Mary Quattlebaum, and Tom Angleberger were also big hits. Families with upper-elementary aged children especially enjoyed Tom’s interactive program based on his book, *The Strange Case of Origami Yoda*. One parent said, “Tom was the highlight of RAFA for my 8 1/2 year old son and his

See RAFA, pg.5

What’s Inside

Letter from Executive Director.....	2
Great Reasons to Donate Today.....	3
Tutor’s Corner.....	4
50th Anniversary Approaching.....	4
This Quarter’s Donors.....	5
Volunteer Opportunities.....	6
Student Spotlight.....	6
Donor Spotlight.....	7
LCNV’s Other Adult Ed Program.....	7
Calendar of Events.....	8

Walk for Hope

by Suzie Eaton

In Fairfax County, eight percent of children under age five live in poverty. For many children, this may mean lack of health insurance and adequate health care, family problems, struggles with homework and even threatened homelessness. Connections for Hope opened in 2010 to offer help to families in need, all in one convenient location in Herndon. Last year, more than 2,100 people received help from its partners, including Family Learning and ESOL classes at LCNV.

Can you help us reach even more children and families in need? This path to empowerment can start with just a single step at the Walk for Hope! Join LCNV and its Connections for Hope partners for our first annual Walk for Hope, a fundraising walkathon on Saturday, May 21!

Meet LCNV staff and fellow supporters at our satellite office at 13525 Dulles Technology Drive in Herndon for a three-mile fun walk to raise money and

See Walk, pg.3

Board Officers

Mary Ann Nocerino, president
Kitty Porterfield, vice president
Peggy Balsawer, secretary
Paul Byrne, treasurer

Board Directors

Nancy Burns	Nancy Needs
Ed Choi	John Odenwelder
Kiranjit Dhillon	R. Erica Roque
Gary Evans	Saurabh Verma
Sally Jagger	Cathy Vivona
Dawood Nagda	

Community Advisory Board

Elsa Angell	Mark Emblidge
Rena Baker	Marissa Martineau
Avis Black	Rep. James P. Moran
Doug Brammer	William Newport
Sam Clay	Del. Ken Plum
Lee Collins	Susan Thaler

Staff

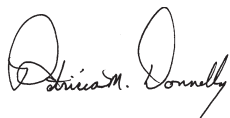
Executive Director
Patricia Donnelly
Senior Director of Operations
Randi Littman
Executive Assistant
Natalie Espinoza
Director of Classroom Programs
Erin Finn
Director of Tutoring Programs
Elise Bruml
Director of Volunteers
Belle Peñaranda
Director of Information Technology
Wayne Shewmaker
ESOL Learning Centers Specialist
Amy Moy
Basic Literacy Tutoring Program Specialist
Molly Chilton
Family Learning Program Specialist
Carisa Pineda
Programs Assistant
Katie Beckman
Senior Director of Development
Suzie Eaton
Development Specialist
Stacy Nall
Grants and Publications Specialist
Matt Kollmeyer
Classroom Instructors
Elizabeth Magee, Serife Turkol,
Sheila Weiss, Virginia Chavez,
Ysabel Lovo, Beverly Thomas,
Josephine Yaqoob, Shahida Zubair
AmeriCorps Instructors
Kerrin Epstein, Jose Flores,
Alicia Nieves, Sara Venjohn

LCNV Approaches its 50th Anniversary

The longer I serve with the Literacy Council, the more I appreciate all the people who made this organization possible and the remarkable history of dedication and service. The 50th Anniversary Event Chair, Jan Auerbach, has been plowing through historical documents and has prepared a long list of former board members, advisory committee members, and staff. In the early '60s, names like Mid Allen Ries, Beulah Katz, Charles Martin, Jan Curtis, and Marcia Ikenberry appear year after year in many different roles. In the '70s those names still appear, but others are added such as Lee Collins, Ron Wise, and Jean Sweeney. And those names stay on the list through the '80s, while others join on, many of whom are still active today! I

No wonder the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia is the strong, successful, sustainable organization it is today—those who laid the organization's foundation have stayed on to see it through decades of growth and improvement. An incomplete list would include such amazing people as Jean Sweeney, Ron Wise, Lee Collins, Elsa Angel, Freddie Lipstein, Ken Plum, David Marsden, Rena Baker, Anne Poad, Michael Wolf, and Ed Jones. What extraordinary devotion—to serve an organization for 30 plus years.

I sometimes wonder if it's the organization, the mission, or the people that attract this kind of dedication and service. I have to believe it's the people. The mission attracts fabulous, caring, and compassionate people, but they stay year after year because of the people they meet and work with. In turn, they're then inspired to bring in new people, and the wheel goes round and round. It is an impressive achievement for an organization to celebrate 50 years of service. And it's only a little more than a year away for the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia. We simply cannot thank our founders and early volunteers enough for their vision, hard work, and steadfast leadership.



Patricia M. Donnelly
Executive Director

“[My student] told me this quarter: ‘When I rode on the bus, I never understood why people would be reading, because the reading I was doing was so dull. But now I have a book I love, and I want to read.’ She also said, ‘I used to ride on the bus and see the signs go by—they had no meaning. Now I understand so much about what is going on around me!’”

—Carol, volunteer tutor

Have some good student news to share?
Send it to success@lcnv.org.

Two Great Reasons to Donate: A Virginia Tax Credit Program and an Anonymous Donor Challenge Grant

LCNV is an approved organization under Virginia's Neighborhood Assistance Program, meaning that businesses and individuals that donate cash or marketable securities may receive tax credits in Virginia equal to 40 percent of the donation. Individuals or married couples who donate a minimum of \$500 to LCNV in the form of cash or marketable securities (maximum of \$50,000) during the tax year will receive a 40 percent tax credit on their Virginia State Taxes. Businesses that donate a minimum of \$1,000 to LCNV in cash, stock, merchandise or real estate (maximum of \$437,500) during the tax year will also receive a 40 percent tax credit on their Virginia State Taxes.

An anonymous donor is matching, dollar-for-dollar, gifts from individuals of \$500 or more by June 30, 2011. Individuals must be first time donors to LCNV or must not have given during our last fiscal year, FY 2010 (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010). To make the pot sweeter, gifts of \$500 or more in cash or marketable securities may receive tax credits in Virginia equal to 40 percent of the donation, because LCNV is an approved organization under the Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit Program. To qualify, donations must also be made by June 30, 2011.



Walk cont. from pg. 1

awareness for the programs and services that we offer. A one mile walk is also available.

Check out www.lcnv.org/walkforhope to find out how you can get involved! You can register as a walker, start or join a fundraising team, or set a goal and begin raising money in support of the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia and Connections for Hope. Ask your friends, family and colleagues to contribute online or download a donation sheet from our website. For every \$50 a walker raises, his or her name will be entered into a drawing for an Apple iPad!

Can't make it to the event? You can also donate toward the goals of other participants or directly to the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia team. And your employer or company won't want to miss being an important part of this fun and memorable day! Sponsoring the Walk for Hope is a great way to let the local Herndon community know that you want to help our neighbors in need. Several sponsorship levels are available to suit any company's needs.

Connections for Hope is a partnership of nonprofit organizations and other service providers that operate under one roof to provide individuals and families in need with access to an integrated array of services. From medical care to job skills training, English classes to homelessness prevention, these and other services foster the self-sufficiency, good health, and education people need in order to participate constructively in their communities. At the same time, these members of our community can begin to envision for themselves and their families a life filled with hope, a world where they have the opportunity to succeed. For more information, please contact Suzie Eaton, LCNV's Senior Director of Development, at (703) 237-0866 x 109 or seaton@lcnv.org.

"Janet is a hard worker. She meets for tutoring after working all night. She is also attending an intermediate level ESL class at NOVA for grammar and writing. She loves to learn and never gives up."

— *Cindy, volunteer tutor*

"[My student] seems more confident, especially after reading the Ripley's book. We grabbed it off of the shelf, and he read me passages for 30 minutes! It captured his interest. Also he's more confident in looking up words he doesn't know in the dictionary."

— *Catherine, volunteer tutor*

Have some good student news to share?
Send it to success@lcnv.org.

Tutor's Corner

by *Elise Bruml*

When we at the Council talk about literacy, we usually define it as the ability to read and write. However, there is an additional type of literacy which is becoming increasingly important for all aspects of life. This is computer literacy. The extent to which many of our learners both lack and crave computer literacy was brought home recently when members of IBM's Asian Diversity Networking group, spearheaded by LCNV tutor Elliot Zhang, conducted a workshop for LCNV students on very basic computer skills. The workshop was a big success. Students filled our computer lab to capacity and were pleased and grateful for what they learned. Their only complaint was that the workshop would not be an ongoing class. If your learner was unable to attend or was present and wants to learn more, please tell him or her that there will be another chance. The IBM group has promised to return for another session. We will let you know the date once it has been scheduled.

Meanwhile, if you have access to a computer during lessons, there are many things you can do to help your students improve their English while also practicing their computer skills. The Tutor Resource page (www.lcnv.org/tutors/resources) on the Council's website contains an annotated list of interactive websites which you can teach your learner to use. Some of them, such as www.mcedservices.com/phonics/phonics.html, are appropriate even for students with low levels of reading, writing, and computer literacy. This site uses twelve phonetically based stories to provide practice in listening comprehension, reading, and writing.

Many of our students want to improve their English skills in order to get jobs. However, a growing number of companies only accept online job applications, even for jobs that require little or no reading and writing. Filling out these applications becomes another hurdle for our students to overcome in order to achieve their goals. The web contains several simple practice sites for online applications. For example, you might want to try www.experienceworks.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Practice_online_application with your learner.

The First 50 Years

by *Jan Auerbach*

Amazing—a 50 year program! Consider all the thousands of students who have been helped during that time.

I have been writing the 50-year history of the Council as part of the year-long celebration that begins in June 2012 and runs until June 2013. We have a number of exciting events being planned throughout the year to help celebrate, including a Celebration of Literacy event that will feature well-known speakers and be held in an exciting place, a professional symposium to raise the awareness of the Council as an important component of the regional adult education continuum, a party for all people associated with the Council in the past to celebrate our accomplishments, and expanded annual meetings and Reading: A Family Affair.

As I go through the files of the last fifty years, I am struck by the vision of the founder, Mildred Allen Ries, but also by the work of thousands of volunteers to implement and sustain that vision. There were the early pioneers—"B" Katz, Marcia Ikenberry, Jan Curtis—who wrote newsletters, ran a speakers bureau, worked out of a room in the Alexandria Board of Education building, and held tutor training workshops wherever kind souls would let them. In 1970, three tutors from Annandale convinced the prison officials at Lorton Correctional Facility to let them tutor prisoners, half of whom were estimated to read below the fourth grade level. The three, Kathy Croghan, Rosa Loeffler, and Helen Bergland, traveled twice a week to the Lorton facility where each tutored three men. Two years later they were still tutoring there. By the late 1970s, Council volunteers had raised enough money to hire a staff. Jean Sweeney was the first paid Executive Director. In 1975 the Council began ESOL tutoring, then in the late 1980s started two computer learning centers, and in the late 1990s began the family learning program. In 1995 the Washington Post magazine had a cover story on Ian Charles, a basic literacy student. The story, at the time the longest article on an individual in the history of the magazine, recounted the difficulties of being an illiterate adult in a literate world.

So many events that I have learned about while researching the history have made me proud to be involved with this organization. I hope you will join me in helping with one of the many anniversary events we have planned. Please contact me at jauerbach@cox.net if you would like to help.

Thank You LCNV Donors

During the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2011 (January 1–March 31, 2011), the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia received gifts in the amount of \$100 or more from the following donors:

Government



PUBLIC LIBRARY



Community Organizations, Corporations, and Foundations



Acumen Solutions
 Anonymous
 Crystal City-Pentagon Rotary Club
 Don BeyerVolvo
 Floris United Methodist Church
 Gannett Foundation Matching Gifts
 GIVE Committee, a Lend-a-Hand
 Organization at Gannett Corp.
 IBM Employee Charitable
 Contribution Campaign

Owens-Illinois Fund of the Charities
 Foundation
 Rotary Club of McLean
 St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
 Verizon Foundation Matching
 Incentive Program
 Wilson Family Charitable Fund of
 the Community Foundation for
 Northern Virginia

Individuals

Elsa Angell	Nancy Burns*	John M. Kristy*	Edwin W. Snider
Anonymous*	Rhoda and Richard	Marilyn P. Lumsden	Richard Somers and
Marcele F. Bartlett	Christenson	Dawood Nagda*	Glen Borden-Somers*
Avis E. Black	Mark Enstrom	Nancy L. Needs*	Cathy Vivona*
Douglas and Elise Brammer	Gary W. Evans*	Magdalena Peñaranda	Susan G. Waterman
Elise Bruml and	Rosie Johnson	R. Erica Roque*	James Wilcox
Gary Burtless*	Richard Kowalczyk	Mark Sheppard	Kristen M. Wulff

* LCNV volunteer during Fiscal Year 2011

Thank you to the following organizations for providing workplace giving campaigns which distribute funds from individual donors to LCNV:



RAFA cont. from pg. 1

buddy [...] who [were] worried there wouldn't be enough for 'older kids like him' to do." And last but not least, RAFA veterans The Rainbow Entertainment Company got kids moving with their lively reader's theater. Reading: A Family Affair was a true community collaboration, and LCNV is grateful for the support

and enthusiasm of the James Lee Community Center staff, LCNV volunteers, RAFA performers, our event sponsors and in-kind donors*, and of course the children and parents who attended the event! We hope to see you next March for the 6th annual Reading: A Family Affair!

*Event Sponsors: Verizon, Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services, WETA Kids, Don Beyer Volvo, Target, Dominion, Crystal City-Pentagon Rotary Club; In-kind Donors: Congregation of Floris United Methodist Church, Cosi, Day and Night Printing, Inc., Giant, Safeway, Gimme Dem Cupcakes, Harris Teeter, Jason's Deli.

Volunteer Opportunities

LCNV's programs, trainings, computer labs, library, and administration would not be possible without the help of dedicated volunteers. Please consider helping adults learn to read, write, speak, and understand English by offering your time to support LCNV programs. Even if tutoring or teaching is not for you, we offer many diverse volunteer opportunities to fit a wide variety of interests and schedules. Call (703) 237-0866 ext. 111 or email volunteers@lcnv.org to learn more about these and other volunteer opportunities.

Basic Literacy Tutors

Volunteers are needed to teach English-speaking adults to improve their reading and writing skills. Volunteers tutor adults one-to-one in the community for a couple of hours each week. The schedule is very flexible, and no previous teaching or foreign language experience is necessary. A 12-hour training workshop is required. The next sessions are on May 7, May 14, and May 21 at 9:30 am–1:30 pm. Ongoing support is provided. Please contact volunteers@lcnv.org for more information.

Registrars

Registrars volunteer for an hour on Saturday mornings at the James Lee Community Center. Only one registrar needs to work each session. They are responsible for greeting and signing in people at tutor training workshops, taking payments, helping arrange food, and any other random tasks that come up. There are about 20 Saturday mornings each year that we need registrars, and you can sign up for a shift at your convenience. Please contact volunteers@lcnv.org for more information.

Student Assessment Specialists

Current volunteers: post-testing will be taking place in May and June for the classroom programs. We will need your help staffing each class site. You will be hearing from us with a list of all testing opportunities, but in the meantime, please contact svenjohn@lcnv.org if you want to get on the list now.

Future volunteers: a one-day training for all new Student Assessment Specialists will be held in May. Specialists are responsible for testing learners in the two classroom programs at LCNV, using the BEST Plus. If you are interested in this fun volunteer opportunity, please contact volunteers@lcnv.org.

Walk for Hope Event Volunteers

Show your support for LCNV and Connections for Hope by working behind the scenes to make the event a success! Volunteers are needed to assist prior to the event by gathering in-kind donations and to help on May 21 with walker check-in, t-shirt distribution and as guides along the walking route. If you are interested, please contact Suzie Eaton, LCNV's Senior Director of Development, at (703) 237-0866 x109 or seaton@lcnv.org.

Student Spotlight: Awa Bayo

by Molly Chilton

On a sunny Saturday in March, an equally sunny **Awa Bayo** spoke to the newest group of tutors at the James Lee Community Center. A group of eager tutors listened as Awa described her tutoring experience. She is from Ivory Coast and came to the U.S. in 1998. She learned to speak English in Chicago and began working on her reading and writing when she moved to Virginia and contacted the Literacy Council.

Awa had no education in her native country but she dreams of becoming a

nurse and is currently working as a health aide. She and her tutor, **Julia Yansura**, work together at least once a week, but try to meet more frequently when both of their busy schedules allow it. She has clear and impressive goals and she has the focus and drive to make her dreams a reality. She realizes that her dream of becoming a nurse requires a lot of hard work and that she is still at the beginning of her journey, but she is a dedicated student. Julia told the group, "Your job as a tutor is easy when you have a gifted student like Awa who is so motivated." She practices reading and writing on her own at work and is a willing and able student who learns quickly. Awa's work ethic is matched by her graciousness. She told the new tutors that she is very

grateful to the Literacy Council because, "they really care about you and they really help you." After listening to Awa speak, it's easy to see why her tutor feels so lucky.



Awa Bayo (left) and Julia Yansura

Donor Spotlight on the Virginia Literacy Foundation



The Virginia Literacy Foundation has been supporting the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia since 1998.

In 2007, funding from VLF enabled LCNV to hire a full-time student records manager, a position the Literacy Council urgently needed. Prior to that funding, the Virginia Department of Education and other donors had begun requiring student performance outcomes and other data. The addition of the student records manager allowed program management staff, who until this point had been increasingly tasked with data entry and analysis, to re-focus their energies back on managing and improving LCNV's educational programs.

The Virginia Literacy Foundation was established in 1986 in order to provide funding and other forms of support to community-based literacy organizations throughout the Commonwealth. Early in its existence, VLF formed a partnership with the Virginia Department of Education's Office of Adult Education and Literacy to address the socio-economic and other consequences of illiteracy in Virginia. It was the first public-private partnership of its kind in the nation.

LCNV's Other Adult Education Program

by Patricia M. Donnelly

The Literacy Council has hosted AmeriCorps members through the Federal Corporation for National and Community Service Grant Program for more than a dozen years. Our four members teach 10 of the 14 adult ESOL classes offered throughout Northern Virginia in their year of service. At the beginning of their service year, members receive training in teaching adults, working with different cultures, and the administrative tasks associated with working in a nonprofit office. It is one of the most cost effective and efficient ways for a nonprofit to do business: leveraging service, education, and job-training with federal and private money to empower adults to become productive members of society. Over the past twelve years, LCNV has hosted 32 AmeriCorps members and hired nine for full time positions after their years of service. Two of the Literacy Council's current Program Directors started as AmeriCorps service members.

An additional, often overlooked, benefit is the impact the program has on the AmeriCorps members themselves. The Literacy Council has watched these young adults, right out of college, take on extraordinary responsibilities, manage volunteers twice to three times their age, work in teams to solve problems, work independently to plan lessons, and teach a rooms full of adults—diverse in age and ethnicity—very beginning-level English literacy skills. By the end of their service year they have acquired confidence, compassion, job training, and a respect for people from all over the world. They develop lasting friendships, too. Our 2002 members are still in touch with the Council and their colleagues. Those still in Northern Virginia continue to volunteer with the Council, and some are roommates with each other. Recently, the 2007-2008 team reunited at a wedding in Nashville, TN, still as close as they were four years ago.

“This week, I returned from a vacation to Nashville, TN, where I joined LCNV's 2007-08 AmeriCorps Alumni for our friend Karen's wedding ... After our year teaching together, road trips, and many phone calls catching up and contemplating life decisions, I look back at the friends I have from my AmeriCorps year and feel so lucky for the opportunities we've shared ... I see so many of us going on to incredible positions, engaging and helping the community.”

—Katie Beckman

The Literacy Council's adult education program actually includes more than the four programs it offers to those needing literacy and language education; it provides a strong continuing education program for college graduates choosing to do an AmeriCorps year of service.

“For the past nine months, we have been working on studying for the U.S. citizenship exam. I am thrilled to report that Suman passed the exam without a hitch a few weeks ago. [S]he was [...] sworn in during the opening ceremony of the annual multicultural festival in Reston. It was a lovely day, and a wonderful experience for us all.”

—Samantha, volunteer tutor

Have some good student news to share?
Send it to success@lcnv.org.

Literacy Lines

Calendar of Events

April

Saturday
the 2nd, 9th and 16th
**ESOL Literacy
Tutor Training**
9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
*James Lee
Community Center

May

Saturday the 7th,
14th, and 21st
**Basic Literacy
Tutor Training**
9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
*James Lee
Community Center

Saturday the 21st
**Walk for Hope
walkathon**
Connections for Hope
13525 Dulles
Technology Dr.
Herndon, VA 20171
Visit [www.lcnv.org/
walkforhope](http://www.lcnv.org/walkforhope)
for more information.

June

Thursday, the 16th
6–8 p.m.
**49th Annual
Meeting and Awards
Ceremony**
*James Lee
Community Center



**Literacy Council
of Northern Virginia**



Come to
LCNV's
49th Annual
Meeting
&
Awards
Ceremony

(703) 237-0866
www.lcnv.org

Thursday, June 16, 2011, 6–8pm
James Lee
Community Center
2855 Annandale Road
Falls Church, VA 22042

May 2nd is the deadline for student
essay contest entries and outstanding
student, tutor, and teacher nominations.

*=James Lee Community Center address: 2855 Annandale Rd., Falls Church, VA, 22042



**United Way
of the National Capital Area**

LCNV United Way affiliate #8356



Combined Federal Campaign
affiliate #28828

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No.
6483
Merrifield, VA

Literacy Council of Northern Virginia
2855 Annandale Road
Falls Church, VA 22042

