



The Insider, the monthly newsletter of LVA Essex & Passaic Counties, will keep you in the loop on all of the organization's upcoming events.



Teacher Digna Perez (center, front) and graduates of her beginner's level ESL class at Berkeley College in Clifton, a joint program run by the school, Sussex Educational Foundation and LVA. On Oct 5 we'll start a new program of morning ESL classes at the Paterson Public Library; beginners are welcome!

The Insider

Greetings LVA family.

If you're having difficulty making sense of the primary election campaigns unfolding before us, you can imagine how our students are struggling to understand the process and some of the positions taken by candidates. The upcoming primaries represent a unique opportunity to teach our students about the U.S. procedure for selecting a presidential nominee, and answer questions like:

- Why do some states, like New Hampshire, have primaries while others, like Iowa, still hold caucuses?
- Why do Iowa (Feb 1) and New Hampshire (Feb 9) get to go first?
- How does the number of votes a candidate gets in a state's primary or caucus translate into how many of that states' delegates are pledged to them?

Here are several websites that can help us get started:

"Lessons for teaching about presidential primaries;"
Education World: <http://bit.ly/1JSEh1O>

"Everything you want to know about how the presidential primary works;" Washington Post: <http://wapo.st/1IvPEB8>

"Government 101: United States Presidential Primary."
VoteSmart: <http://bit.ly/1IAWvGf>

In the News

To view the following stories, copy and paste the highlighted websites into an internet search

"Close captioning gives literacy a boost." Education Week.

Studies show that reading same language video captions contribute to word-recognition and comprehension skills. <http://bit.ly/1Tin45Z>

"Learner of the year gets GED at Age 64." Jackson Sun

Between illnesses, kidney transplants, and a broken wrist, a Tennessee woman studies for and passes the new GED test. <http://bit.ly/1PfGaJw>

Thank you to all those who hung in there during an often humid July when not all libraries enjoyed the convenience of working air conditioning. You are troopers!

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Education is most important to Beralia, a former teacher from Honduras whose main goal is to help her daughter succeed in school. Beralia (right) is shown here with daughter Nataly (left), and tutor Joan Bloch.

Getting to Know Us

**Beralia, LVA student
Joan Bloch, tutor**

Students come to Literacy Volunteers of America for many reasons. Beralia's motivation was her young daughter, Nataly.

Education has always been important to Beralia, who was a teacher in her native Honduras, and she wanted to make sure her daughter did well in school. However, when Nataly started elementary school in the U.S., Beralia found that she was unable to communicate with her teacher. Today, when she's not overseeing payroll and tax operations at a local accounting office, Beralia not only volunteers in her daughter's third grade classroom, but also participates in extracurricular activities at Nataly's school. Most recently, she designed a game for students at a school fundraiser, and offered her homemade cupcakes for prizes.

Both mother and daughter have demonstrated exceptional learning skills. After only two years as an LVA student, Beralia won the organization's Personal Goal Achievement Award. And Nataly has completed four programs for gifted and talented students – two at her school and two at Montclair State University.

"Oh I'm very excited," Beralia said of her daughter's achievements. She is doing a very good job in school and I hope she has a good future too."

Behind the success of this mother-daughter duo is Beralia's tutor, Joan Bloch. Beralia and Joan formed an instant bond and have worked together for three years.

"Beralia and I share the same sense of humor which we recognized immediately," Joan said. "That is what brought us so close."

Joan began her sessions with Beralia by introducing grammar, civics, and vocabulary. After Joan realized how quickly Beralia grasped these concepts, she added English conversation, idioms and reading comprehension to her lessons. Joan assigns material for Beralia to read and in response, Beralia writes a summary. This approach has worked well for her. In fact, Beralia has advanced from her status as an ESOL student, which focuses on speaking and understanding English, to a Basic Literacy student, now concentrating on reading and writing.

"She wants to steadily improve what she is doing, and she has mastered that," added Joan.

Tutor Training Workshops Please spread the word!

South Orange Public Library
65 Scotland Road, South Orange, NJ 07079
Saturdays, 12:15 – 4:45 pm
September 12, 19, 26, October 3, 2015

Bloomfield Public Library
90 Broad Street, Bloomfield, NJ 07003
2nd fl Boardroom
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
September 22, 24, 29, October 1, 6, 8, 2015

Montclair Public Library
50 South Fullerton Ave, Montclair, NJ 07042
Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:00 – 4:00 pm
October 19, 21, 26, 28, November 2, 5,* 2015
*Final class meets 1-4 pm on Thurs, Nov. 5

Free Webinar

**"Integrating Problem Solving, Digital Literacy and Access
into Instruction"**
LINCS Region 1 Professional Development Center

Adult educators describe how they integrate digital literacy into their instruction. Ideas will be shared on technology and learning activities that offer adult students practice with reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Thursday, August 13, 2015, 3:00-4:30 pm

Note: There is a pre-webinar assignment

<http://1.usa.gov/1IA1qqM>

***Literacy opens a wide door to life. Help us keep
that door open with your donation!***

Thanks in large part to you, we are able to aid hundreds of students each year. Please continue your efforts to improve the lives of others by giving the gift of literacy. You can contribute through our website – <http://www.lvanewark.org/donatetolva/> or by mailing us a check.