



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



*We're always in need of tutors. Our fall training workshops have begun and are listed on the next page. Please consider helping an adult learn to speak, read and write English. Share your gift of literacy!*

## Literacy Volunteers of America Essex & Passaic Counties

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## *The Insider*

Greetings LVA family.

If you're one of the thousands of people who visit our website each week (*wishful thinking*) to read our student success stories, or check out our tutor workshops, newsletters and all things concerning adult literacy, or even if you're an occasional visitor, please note that our domain name has changed. Our new website is:

[www.lvaep.org](http://www.lvaep.org)

We also have new email addresses for LVA Essex and Passaic staff, which appear in the staff box on the lower left hand side of this page. Please make the switch to the new website and email addresses as soon as you can so we may continue to stay connected.

It's coming. Every October we gather to socialize and enjoy a few refreshments as we recognize many of the students, tutors and literacy advocates who make it possible for Literacy Volunteers of America to reduce adult illiteracy. This year's Annual Awards Ceremony will take place on October 20<sup>th</sup> at the East Orange Public Library. A copy of the program, which lists the names of our award winners, is attached to this newsletter and also listed on our website – [www.lvaep.org](http://www.lvaep.org) – under the link "Awards & Recognitions."

We're excited about the launch of our fall tutor support workshops which, over the next several months, include sessions on using the graphic novel as a literacy teaching tool, techniques for working with multiple students in small groups, and working job preparedness skills into weekly lesson plans for students.

## *In the News*

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

### **"The Economic and Social Costs of Illiteracy."**

Illiteracy costs the global economy about \$1.2 trillion US dollars per year, according to a report by The World Literacy Foundation, a not-for-profit organization that advocates for free access to education and seeks to reduce global illiteracy. Read the entire report here:

<http://bit.ly/1JqeAqY>



*Manal, an ESL student in LVA's program at Berkeley College in Clifton, wants to spread the word about the crisis in her home country of Syria.*

## Getting to Know Us

### **Manal, LVA student, Berkeley College, Clifton**

The war in Syria is among the worst humanitarian crises of our time, with hundreds of thousands of people killed and 11 million displaced over four years.

The severity of the crisis is something Manal knows well. She wants to make sure that we know it too.

"I need to talk to everybody here, the American people, ministers, everyone, and say we must stop the war in Syria," said Manal, an LVA student and recent Syrian immigrant.

To accomplish this, Manal decided that her English must improve. So she enrolled in an intermediate-level ESL course last spring at Berkeley College in Clifton, part of a joint program run by the school, LVA and Sussex Educational Foundation. She completed that course in June; she'll complete a second course this week.

Manal left her home in the capital city of Damascus about 10 months ago, following her three grown daughters to the U.S.

She has a college degree in library and information systems and worked in Syria as a manager of both an art studio and a small orchestra. Perhaps more important was her volunteer work with a group that aids Syrian children and families devastated by war.

"There were people with no homes, no food, no hope," she said.

The war brought brushes with danger close to home, like the improvised explosive device hurled near a bus that transported Manal's daughter to college last year. The vehicle was damaged, and its passengers were shaken up, but, luckily, no one was seriously injured.

The attacks were unpredictable. Schools were turned into shelters for families driven from their homes by bombs. Volunteers brought displaced families food, clothes, and medicine. Manal joined in, cooking and delivering huge pots of rice.

But even those sites were targeted. Manal arrived at one shelter, a school for 8-12-year-olds, shortly after a bomb ripped through it. "I saw horrifying things," she said. "Children were in pieces. Some children died on the spot."

Others were taken to hospitals. The victims included a boy whose severed fingers Manal gathered and stuffed into his pocket so that surgeons might try to reattach them, she said.

"The children who didn't get hurt, their parents sent them back to school to get an education," Manal explained. "What's amazing about Syrians is their spirit."

## Tutor Support Workshops

Please RSVP

### **"Tutoring Multiple Students in Small Groups," with Mary O'Connor**

Bloomfield Public Library  
90 Broad St, Bloomfield, NJ 07003  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor Boardroom  
Thursday, Oct. 8, 2015, 1:00-2:30 pm

### **"The Graphic Novel: A Valuable Source for Readers," with Erik Jacobson**

Bloomfield Public Library  
90 Broad St, Bloomfield, NJ 07003  
Tuesday, November 10, 2015, 2:00-3:30 pm

## Tutor Training Workshops

Please spread the word!

**Bloomfield Public Library**  
90 Broad Street, Bloomfield, NJ 07003  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor 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

***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.*