



The Literacy Letter

Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County

Fall 2009

Uncle Floyd and Marshal Manlove to Headline Comedy Night

Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County is hosting a comedy show - *Laugh for Literacy* - featuring New Jersey comedy legend Uncle Floyd and comic hypnotist Marshal Manlove on Saturday, October 24, at the Somerville Elks Lodge in Bridgewater.

Tickets are \$35 with all proceeds benefiting Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County (LVSC). A buffet dinner will be served and a cash bar will be available. Doors to the event will open at 6:00 p.m. and the show will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Uncle Floyd is well-known for his television show broadcast throughout the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area from 1974-1998, which has created a very loyal following. He has appeared on numerous television



shows and is currently a regular on the Sirius Satellite Radio program, *The Wise Guys*.

Marshal Manlove is a certified Hypnotherapist, member of the National Guild of Hypnotists, founder of First State Hypnosis in Delaware, and a former local sports television show host. He brings a unique and witty twist with him on stage to his hypnosis and mentalism shows.

"We are excited to have not just one, but two comedic icons appearing for us," said Alan Karmin, LVSC Executive Director. "It should be a fun night and the lineup guarantees a lot of laughs for all."

For tickets or more information, go to www.LaughforLiteracy.com.



A View From The Top...

Thoughts from LVSC's Board President

*Every leaf speaks bliss to me,
Fluttering from the autumn tree.
Emily Bronte*

Autumn at Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County begins with lots of energy and planning. The Fall Tutor Training Workshop is scheduled to start on September 30 with Orientation on September 16. As you may know, Catherine Mitch has committed to a three-year assignment in Indonesia to teach English, but we are fortunate to have Arlyn Reed step in and take her place. "Catherine, we wish you the best."

Our Annual Meeting will be on Monday, October 5, at 6:00 p.m. in the PeopleCare Center's cafeteria. This has traditionally been a fun night where everyone has the opportunity to sample many wonderful ethnic dishes prepared by our students. It is also a night of celebrating our volunteers, supporters, and students for their dedication to our wonderful organization.

On that evening, it will be my pleasure to present a new slate of Board members, who are committed to helping LVSC continue to succeed. A warm welcome to: Morris Balacco, Laura Belanger, Michelle Bobev, Michelle Molinaro-Burke, Patricia Flannery and Martine Grant.

During my years with Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County, I have immensely enjoyed working with all the

volunteers, especially with Trustees Aimee Lam, Geri Krolin-Taylor, and Tina Martin, who have left the Board after years of loyal service. Thank you for the indelible footprints of caring that you leave with LVSC.

With new members there is always a great deal of new energy and excitement. To that extent, Michelle Bobev and Laura Belanger stepped up and have orchestrated the organization's first-ever comedy night fundraiser. The night should be quite enjoyable for everyone.

Also, we will soon be asking our faithful volunteers to participate in the holiday gift-wrapping at Borders, which will start after Thanksgiving. Please give of your time when Peggy Koppen, Lisa Leifer or Michelle Burke call for scheduling, as this is a very important fundraiser for us and we cannot do it without you.

As we say goodbye to summer vacations at far away destinations, to carefree days at the shore with family and friends, and leisure times spent on the back porch, we slowly begin the transition into the busy routines of autumn. Revitalized, we at LVSC are ready to meet the tasks before us, and ask you to join us in our efforts. We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming events, and thank you for your continued support.

Martha Davis, Board President

Our Mission

Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County is committed to promoting literacy throughout the community by providing student-centered tutoring for adults so that they may function more effectively in their daily lives. Our mission is founded on the belief that the ability to read and communicate is imperative to leading a productive and functional life, and is essential for the protection of individual freedom and equality of all people.

We are committed to accomplishing this mission by:

- *Training volunteer tutors in the fundamentals of Basic Literacy and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) instruction that include reading, writing, listening and speaking skills*
- *Providing tutors with ongoing support and in-service skills development programs*
- *Locating and recruiting functionally illiterate learners*
- *Creating and maintaining collaborative tutor-learner matches*
- *Helping learners establish and reach realistic personal goals*
- *Promoting learner self-sufficiency*



Tutor Brag Book

We had to set new goals because we're finding that Flory doesn't have the correct paperwork to enroll in a college program. So we discussed new short-term and long-term goals. Our short-term goal is for Flory to practice listening to English and having a better understanding, and also to practice speaking about what she has heard and to improve her speech. She will also be writing down sentences and questions about what she has listened to and we will go over vocabulary and sentence structure. One of the tools we're using is my computer, where we listen to shows of interest to her, then we discuss what the show was about. She will write questions about the show, we'll work on the sentence structure of the questions as well as spelling and vocabulary. I've also assigned her to listen to 30 minutes of news during the week. She will write down questions about the show (I will watch the same show) and we'll go over the content, her understanding of the news and what was talked about, as well as the vocabulary used and sentence structure. Her long-term goal now is to be fluent in English in speaking, reading, writing and listening, and when she eventually goes back to her own country, she'd like to be able to work teaching English.

Carol Katz

Yolanda's goals are to be able to read stories to her children, understand coins and their values, and talk more confidently with her daughters' doctors. Yolanda is smarter than she realized, but with encouragement has become more confident. She is very eager to learn. She often comes to our sessions with ideas and questions and our time becomes more of an expanded lesson in conversational English. Because I do not want to cut her off we sometimes do not get through the planned lesson.

Rochelle Levin

Fernando continues to make progress and has become much more proficient in English-speaking situations. During this period he had a medical emergency, and he had no problem communicating with doctors and nurses. Also, he went to NYC by himself and had no difficulty getting around.

Loretta Casalaina

Someone cut off my student while driving. She noticed the car had a bumper sticker saying, "Courtesy is my goal." She understood the words and thought to herself, "I don't think so."

Ann Jones

Success stories like these only begin to tell the story about what is accomplished by hard-working students and volunteer tutors. If you have a story you would like to tell, email it to info@literacysomerset.org.

FUN WITH ENGLISH

The English language can be very tough to master. As hard as that might be, it can also be a lot of fun to see how silly the language can actually be. The word oxymoron itself is quite humorous. Well...here are 36 oxymorons that you might just take for granted:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 36. Jumbo Shrimp | 18. Sweet sorrow |
| 35. State worker | 17. Rural metro |
| 34. Legally drunk | (ambulance service) |
| 33. Exact estimate | 16. "Now, then . . ." |
| 32. Act naturally | 15. Passive aggression |
| 31. Found missing | 14. Clearly misunderstood |
| 30. Resident alien | 13. Peace force |
| 29. Genuine imitation | 12. Extinct life |
| 28. Airline food | 11. Plastic glasses |
| 27. Good grief | 10. Terribly pleased |
| 26. Government | 9. Computer security |
| organization | 8. Political science |
| 25. Sanitary landfill | 7. Tight slacks |
| 24. Alone together | 6. Definite maybe |
| 23. Small crowd | 5. Pretty ugly |
| 22. Business ethics | 4. Rap music |
| 21. Soft rock | 3. Working vacation |
| 20. Butt head | 2. Religious tolerance |
| 19. Military intelligence | 1. Quiet riot |

Annual Meeting, October 5

Please join us for our annual meeting to celebrate the past fiscal year and honor those who have helped us in our mission to battle illiteracy in Somerset County. All tutors and students are invited and encouraged to attend.

It will be held in the cafeteria of the PeopleCare Center on Monday, October 5, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

As is the custom, please feel free to bring your favorite appetizer, main dish or dessert. Beverages will be provided.

RSVP—info@literacysomerset.org

*LVSC wishes to thank all
of its generous supporters!*



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Donate Today and Become a Friend of Literacy!

The vitality of any institution is often defined and measured by the strength of its annual giving program, both in terms of financial commitments and the rate of participation. An annual gift is truly a vote of confidence in Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County and its mission.

LVSC's annual fund provides support for every area of activity undertaken by the organization including tutor training and supplies, student assessments, tutoring services and administration, ongoing programs and promising new initiatives that make LVSC's programs not only exceptional...but FREE.

It is imperative that LVSC continually strive to increase annual contributions, establishing a reliable source of unrestricted support to fulfill its ongoing operating needs.

Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We rely strictly on private contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations and other organizations.

Donating to LVSC is a easy. You can make an online donation and know that your information is totally secure and will not be shared with any other entity. In fact, if you are one of the first 100 people to make an online donation of \$50 or more, you will receive a free LVSC t-shirt as our way of saying "thanks" for your support.

Donate online by simply visiting us at www.LiteracySomerset.org. All donations made via credit card will appear as "Netcharge (877) 625-0290" on your billing statement.

All transactions are fully secured for your protection.

If you prefer to send a check, mail your gift to:

LVSC
120 Finderne Avenue, Box 7
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Payroll Deduction

Ask your employer about having your gift to LVSC come directly from your paycheck. And, in a lot of cases, your employer will match your gift by 100%. So that is a way to have your gift make even more of an impact.

Corporate Sponsorship

Corporate sponsorships are available throughout the year for the LVSC website and special events. Check with us to discuss the sponsorship giving levels available.

Legacies and Bequests

Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County deeply appreciates those that have remembered us in their estates. If you would like to consider us when you do your estate planning, please contact us to provide the necessary assistance and appropriate paperwork.

Thank you for your continued support!



Ask Catherine

Dear Catherine,

My student is fairly advanced in that she reads, writes and speaks fairly well but isn't confident in her speaking skills. She doesn't have anyone to speak correctly with on a regular basis. I suggested that she take out a book on tape from the library as well as the book itself. That way she can hear and read English a little everyday and practice more between our sessions. She's done this for about two weeks now and both of us see an improvement in her speaking skills. Also, I suggested that she practice speaking more slowly. In our discussions I learned that she speaks quickly and kind of mushes the words together to get them out because she is uncomfortable with them. When she does that, people have difficulty understanding her. She's learned that if she speaks more slowly, her pronunciations are clearer and she's better understood.

Nancy L.

Dear Nancy,

Suggesting that your student listen to books on tape is a wonderful idea. You can also make your own recordings of either LESEs that you make or readings that you and your student complete together. It's easy. All you need is a headset with a microphone and a computer with Windows XP. Plug in your headset and make sure the microphone is working. Then left click on the start button, left click on "All Programs," then on "Accessories," then on "Entertainment" and last on "Sound Recorder." You'll see controls just like on "old time" cassette recorders. Left click on the button with the red dot (record) and you are set to record. Just speak into the microphone clearly. When you are finished, left click on the button with a square (stop). Just remember that you can only record 60 seconds at a time. If you want to record something longer than that, just click on the stop button and then on the record button again. You can watch the indicator slide along the bottom of the box to see how much time you have left. When you are finished (or anytime in the middle) left click on file and you can save your recording as a wave file. That can now be stored on a flash drive and transferred to another computer, or you can email it to your student. Once you've done that, your student has the chance to re-listen to the exact materials that you used in your lesson. Your student will open the file and then left click on the play button and/or rewind button and listen to his or her heart's content. Have fun!!!

Catherine

This was reprinted from the Tutor Mentor Forum on our website at www.LiteracySomerset.org.

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Donate your used auto!

Get a tax-deduction of full blue book value! Call the LVSC office at 908-725-5430 for details.



Donate your unwanted, used, good clothing!

LVSC is collecting clothes to raise money for our ever-growing organization. Currently, we have collection bins for you to deposit any of your unwanted used clothes in Manville, Somerset and Franklin Township. Email info@literacysomerset.org or call 908-725-5430 for bin locations.

We are also searching for more locations for our clothing donation bins. Email or call the office to find out how you can help with our clothing drive.