

### Calendar of Events

- **June 20th Wine Tasting** 7 - 11 PM at Cava Winery & Vineyard in Hamburg.
- **July 16,21,23,28 & 30 ESOL Tutor Training** 6:30 - 9:30 pm at Western Hills Church in Tranquility
- **September Tutor Training** evenings at Sparta United Methodist Church
- **October TBA Together Day**
- **October TBA Scrabble** "Letters for Literacy" Tournament

## Congratulations New Tutors

This spring Literacy Volunteers held Spring tutor training for a record number of trainees at Newton First Methodist Church. On Wednesday April 22nd, 24 new tutors graduated. Congratulations to:

- Sarah Bina
- Arthur Braunwell
- Carol Brown
- Jane Butz
- Pete Call
- Deborah Caserta
- Carole Ann Dicton
- Laura Esposito
- Mary Fitzgibbons
- Jayne Flannery
- Nancy Johnson

- Pat Losey
- Debbie McGowan
- Anne McNair
- Lois Myles
- Judith Pitcher
- Laura Quigley
- William Skrips
- Jorge Torres
- Cathie Tourtellot
- Cathy Ulrichny
- Penny Whelan
- Julie Yando
- Rachel Cannell

Thank you to our hard working training team for another superb job:

- Karen McGregor,
- Ann Schoch
- Joe Vancio and
- Adrienne Nixon.

### Board of Directors

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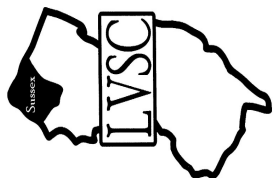
Linda Mahler

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Adrienne Nixon

#### Match Coordinator

Mary Scuralli



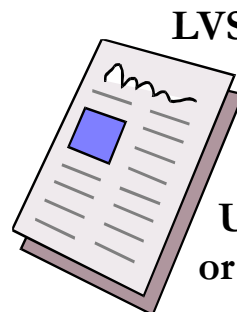
P.O. BOX 453 NEWTON N.J. 07860 973-300-9444  
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# Tutor Talk

## Annual Reports

Please return your annual report and update forms to the office as soon as possible!

## E-Newsletter



LVSC is switching to an e-newsletter. If you would like to still receive newsletter via U.S.P.S. mail, please call or email the office.

# Sounds of Language/Pronunciation

## Spring Inservice Follow-Up

On May 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, participants in the inservice session learned about why learners have trouble producing clear understandable English, and about the help that can be provided. Here's a sampling from the inservice.



hearing, and then on production of a new or problem sound or language pattern.

5. Use minimal/contrasting pairs exercises to help the learner discriminate (auditory) between problem sound pairs, and then produce each sound versus the other.

### *Did you know that*

...

1. Speech is a neuromuscular activity that is learned early in life. To change speaking patterns, one must first train the ear to hear new sounds and patterns, and then retrain the muscles to produce these elements. It takes time and lots of practice.

2. All languages have their own patterns of stress, rhythm, and intonation. Learners are used to the patterns of their native language. Even when learners pronounce the individual sounds correctly, their English can sound foreign – or even unintelligible – if they use incorrect (non-English) stress, rhythm, or intonation patterns.

3. People learning English as another language have trouble with certain speech sounds because those sounds may not exist in their native language, and/or are similar

to ones that do.

4. Changing a physical habit like speech takes lots of practice over an extended period of time.

### *To help learners change speech, tutors can ...*

1. Learn about the possible problem sounds and patterns of the learner's native language, and diagnose the learner's needs through listening and/or taping a natural conversation and listening to the recording.

2. Model (demonstrate) specific sounds and patterns for learners to imitate.

3. Describe and demonstrate what's happening in the mouth when making the sound. Have the learner watch in a mirror.

4. Guide the learner through exercises focusing first on

### *Important points to remember ...*

1. Wait until the learner is beyond a beginner level. Learners need to have a sizable amount of English words in their spoken language, and to be speaking in sentences before working on pronunciation areas.

2. Any work with pronunciation has to begin with auditory recognition and discrimination activities. Learners have to hear sounds and other elements correctly before producing them.

3. Don't overemphasize the area of pronunciation. If you do, you can stifle the learner's speech.

For those who were unable to attend, look for a repeat of this inservice in the future. Contact Karen about any questions, concerns and for specific suggestions.

**Wait until the learner is beyond a beginner level.**