



New U.S. Citizens Take an Oath of Allegiance at the Courthouse

On May 5, three people associated with Tompkins Learning Partners (TLP) stood before a federal judge in the Tompkins County Courthouse to swear an Oath of Allegiance to the United States. After the oath, these TLP students, as well as 37 other community

members, were called forward one at a time to receive their Certificates of Naturalization, the legal document which bestows U.S. citizenship. Vera and Vladimir Nikulin attended with Ariel Royer, their tutor who is also a TLP work-study student from Ithaca College. The couple worked with Ariel to prepare for their interview and test with an immigration officer. They practiced typical interview questions and learned 100 U.S. civics and history questions and answers. Their adult son, Mikhail, also attended in order to be naturalized as a U.S. citizen. Their young son Maxim accompanied his parents. Vera and Vladimir moved from Russia to Ithaca with their family six years ago.

Nora Plasencia attended the ceremony with her daughter. Nora moved to the U.S. 10 years ago from Peru, and is a former TLP student.

She felt confident about studying for the test on her own, but needed advice, study materials and feedback on her progress. For those citizenship applicants who either do not need or do not have time for ongoing tutoring, the ESL Coordinator, Sarah White, can provide consultations to give that extra bit of help.

If you are interested in tutoring an immigrant to help them become a U.S. citizen, contact Sarah at TLP. She offers three workshops per year for citizenship tutors and she can direct volunteers to free online courses.



Nora Plasencia takes the Oath of Allegiance while her daughter stands close.

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From left, Maxim, Vera & Vladimir Nikulin, Sarah White, Mikhail Nikulin & Ariel Royer.

TLP BOARD NEWS

Our board of directors has recently added a number of members. We are pleased to announce that Susan Currie, Director of the Tompkins County Public Library; Rhian Ellis, a writer and instructional designer; Beth Putnam, Vice President/Branch Administration at CFCU Community Credit Union; and Gail Salk, a retired reading teacher, have joined us.

Celia Miller has recently left our board, and leaving the board in September will be Sue Lason, Cecilia Campbell and Mary-Lynn Cummings. TLP has been honored to have these volunteers as board members and we are grateful for all they have done to support our work.

"We believe the ability to read and write is critical to personal freedom and the maintenance of a democratic society." – PROLITERACY WORLDWIDE

Find Out How Tutoring Makes a Difference!

Until every adult and youth learns to speak, read, and write in English, there will be a need for Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language, and Incarcerated Youth tutors. If you are patient, creative, pragmatic, empathetic, adaptable, enthusiastic, organized, and have a sense of humor and are able to commit to ongoing training, come volunteer to be part of their success – and make a difference in the community!

Ongoing training is for active and new tutors alike. Fall training is scheduled for late September through October.

The first step to find out if tutoring adults or incarcerated/residential youth is for you, is to attend an orientation designed by the ABE and ESL coordinators to answer your questions and set the stage for successful literacy partnerships.

Math Group Equals Success

Add one small group of students plus two experienced tutors. Multiply two sessions a week times six. Subtract time off for snow days, federal holidays, and spring break. Divide sessions into clear presentations that include important foundational math concepts such as measurement, fractions, and decimals.

Now add equal parts hands-on practice, shared experiences, and an estimated amount of out-loud laughter. The result just might equal the subtraction of significant amounts of math anxiety.

But what's the actual answer? The # 1 Women's Math Workshop that started to meet in early January. Five participants worked with TLP Tutors, Barb Hatt and Pat Woodworth through March 9 with spirited evaluations from students such as, "This is where I should have started!" and "I told my daughter I'm having fun learning math!" The group took a few weeks off after which a second workshop series was launched in April.

Small groups provide the added benefit to students and tutors to learn from and support each other. TLP will always offer one-to-one tutoring. However, when possible in the future, the formation of small instructional groups will equal an additional way for adult students to multiply success.



Althea Fury, Louise Bailey, Maria Dominguez, Pat Woodworth, Barb Hatt & Barbara Coleman (not pictured Marjorie Short)

LITERACY FOR LIFE UPDATE

Our Literacy for Life Campaign is continuing in its "silent phase" as we work to obtain funds for the refurbishment of our building. We expect to "go public" in late August as we work to reach our preliminary goal of \$600,000. If you would like more information about the campaign or would like to make a donation toward it, please contact TLP's executive director. Everyone's support is needed!

Tutor Training Workshops at Tompkins Learning Partners

Wonderful groups of volunteers came together recently to learn, share and discuss materials and methodologies needed to be a successful literacy volunteer.

Special Thanks Go To

Lifelong for generously providing space

GINNY SCHUMACHER, Barb Hatt & Pat Woodworth for facilitating workshops

New Volunteers Who Attended Training

Kendra Bartell	Deborah Miller
Brittany Campese	Miriam Musco
Elena Casey	Corey Niswender
Jackie Cassiniti	Kate Payne
Casey Clausen	June Pollack
Emily Coon	Beth Rubin
Scott Davis	Pelle Rudstam
Judy Groves	Monica Savedoff
Bill Halton	Janet Steiner
Deepali Herlekar	Katie Wallace
Elizabeth Herman	Cora Yao
Lisa Hogarty	Kathy Weinberg
Diana Kenyon	Rob Weinberg
	Ken Keyue Yuan
	Jeni Zhang

Experienced Tutors Who Attended Training

Cheryl Barbasch	Julie Jackson
Lizzy Evett	Carol Stammer
Jessica Evett-Miller	Wally Powers
Jan Frieswyk	Rebecca Rozek
Shelley Garvey	William Tyler
Chris George	Marian Van Loan
Maggie Goldsmith	Pat Wagner
Barb Hatt	Tom Weiler
Carol Hockett	Amalia Weinberg
	Pat Woodworth

Accreditation Awarded to TLP

Tompkins Learning Partners has once again been awarded accreditation by ProLiteracy, the organization that represents a nationwide network of approximately 1,200 community-based volunteer and adult basic education member organizations.

The accreditation, valid for four years, is based on a set of 16 nationally recognized standards that address instruction, training and management. In seeking the ProLiteracy seal of approval, TLP had to complete a self-evaluation, document in detail its compliance with the aforementioned standards, and submit to an on-site review by a member of the national organization.

In granting the accreditation, Jane M. Hugo, vice-president of programs and professional services, wrote: "ProLiteracy Accreditation acknowledges literacy organizations that are distinguished by high-quality professional leadership, effective programs, committed governing boards, and outstanding volunteer support. ProLiteracy recognizes Tompkins Learning Partners for its excellence in each of these areas. We are proud to have this organization as part of our network of local literacy providers.

Through accreditation, ProLiteracy seeks to promote continuous quality improvement and to support capacity building. The fact that Tompkins Learning Partners has voluntarily and successfully participated in this process speaks to its commitment and ability to hold itself accountable to high standards. We believe this process prepares literacy organizations to achieve the outcomes that funders and supporters expect and that adult literacy students deserve."

April Yard Clean-up thanks to Cornell's Beta Theta Pi Fraternity members!



TLP's Mission

Our mission is to help adults and young people who live or work in Tompkins County meet their personal goals, free of charge, by improving their ability to read, write, and speak English, and to use math and computers. Students achieve these goals by working together with professionally trained and supported volunteer tutors.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Sarah B. White, *English as a Second Language Coordinator*
Tom Connors, *Program Support Assistant*
Sharon McGee, *Administrative Assistant*

TLP respects the privacy of our students. We never use students' full names or photos without their permission.

Spread the Word

The next two volunteer orientation dates are Wednesday, September 7, from 5:00 – 7:00 pm, and Saturday, November 6, from 10:00 am – noon at Tompkins Learning Partners. Call 277-6442 to pre-register.



Tompkins Learning Partners

124 W. Buffalo Street
Ithaca, NY 14850
Phone: 607-277-6442
URL: TLPartners.org
E-mail: literacy@TLPartners.org

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Ithaca, NY 14850
Permit No. 909

Tutor Recognition Event

Saturday, August 13,
from Noon – 2:00 pm

Join us at Lifelong
119 W. Court Street, Ithaca

**Mark
Your
Calendars!**

Tutors, please come and
enjoy a luncheon that the

students will be putting
on to say thank you
for all of your help and
hard work!

Please RSVP