



# The Partners Press

TOMPKINS LEARNING PARTNERS

FALL 2016

## Our Little Lending Library

*Ellen Bonn, former TLP tutor, board president, donor, editor, advocate and friend, passed away this past March.*

Ellen took over as TLP board president in 1998 and helped guide the agency through a difficult transition as it sought to hire new leadership and gain a better financial footing.

In a fitting remembrance of Ellen, her love of reading, and all that she did for TLP, we have accepted a bequest of the Little Library that once graced the lawn of her home. The Little Library is now installed in TLP's lawn and passersby can now either take or leave an adult or children's book. If you have books that you would like to donate to the Little Library, please drop them off at our office.



## TLP Garage Sale

*TLP's annual garage sale on August 20 was once again a success.*

WE raised over \$1,000 selling items donated to the agency from tutors and friends. Once again we send a special thank you to Judith Ashton for her expert leadership and her many, many hours of help with this event! Additional thanks to our Board, tutors, student and staff volunteers, as well as to a group of POST (pre-Orientation Service Trip) students from Cornell.



*Cornell POST volunteers*

## We have a Bike Rack!

Last fall the Ithaca Rotary Club sponsored the purchase of a bike rack via their Community Grant Fund. Thanks to a crew from Cayuga Landscape, the new bike rack was securely placed in the ground next to the sidewalk leading up to our porch. This bike rack is not only a visual delight, but helps to keep the bikes of our students and volunteers safely locked while they meet here for their studies. Thank you Rotary Club!



*“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote everyday about the kind of community you want to live in.” –Unknown*

# Fifth Annual Finger Lakes Crossword Competition!

*Mark your calendars for Saturday afternoon, March 18, 2017!*

Gary Weissbrot, event chair, will once again emcee our annual crossword competition. Our puzzle master, Adam Perl, is ready to construct three new puzzles for us—easier, trickier, and tougher! Rex Parker, well-known puzzle writer and blogger who participated in two of our events, said that Adam's puzzles, "could hold their own in any major tournament in the country." Past players said their favorite parts were, "Being surrounded by others who share the same addiction," "Figuring out Adam's twists and themes," "Doing puzzles with friends," and "Camaraderie!"

NY Times Crossword Puzzle Editor Will Shortz wrote, "I know that everyone who attends the Finger Lakes Crossword Competition, and who solves Adam's puzzles, will have a terrific time."

This year's event will be leaner and meaner, meaning less talk, more puzzling! We hope to add new players again this year because the more players, the more fun, and more money raised for TLP programs! Information, exact schedule, prizes and practice puzzles along with registration forms will be posted *very soon* on our website, [www.TLPartners.org](http://www.TLPartners.org).

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# Volunteers Help Get the Work Done!

We often discuss the great work done by our dedicated volunteer tutors but there are many folks working just as hard, behind the scenes, to help us keep things afloat! For example, did you know that the TLP library is an all-volunteer operation? Volunteers make it happen from book check out to book check in and everything in between. Whether working on mailings, covering the front desk when administrative staff is out, developing student teaching materials, sorting through files, cleaning out our closets, or helping with special events (volunteering at the Friends of the Library Book Sale, crossword, karaoke, tabling at community festivals and events), our "non-tutor volunteers" are SUPER-STARs!



*Kaye S., TLP Office Volunteer, helps sort files and keeps us organized!*

# Seeking New Volunteer Tutors!

*Want to sharpen your mind and give back to your community at the same time?*

Sign up to become an Adult Basic Education or English as a Second Language volunteer tutor! All of our tutors are professionally trained by TLP staff to help adults learn to read, write, use math and computers, or pass their U.S. citizenship exam. Our next orientations will take place in January. To learn more go to our website at [www.tlpartners.org](http://www.tlpartners.org), email Meredith at [meredithc@tlpartners.org](mailto:meredithc@tlpartners.org) or call 277-6442.



*ESL tutor June with two of her students.*

# welcome to Our New Staff

*Ginny Schumacher is the new Adult Literacy Instructor for Tompkins Learning Partners.*

**I**N this position, Ginny supports both Helen in ESL and Shannon in ABE. She provides mentoring for new tutors and helps instruct and assess new students while they are waiting for an appropriate tutor match. She also identifies reading difficulties so appropriate instruction ideas can then be provided to the tutor.

Ginny is a retired teacher, and also worked as a museum educator. Prior to becoming our Literacy Instructor, she tutored at TLP for over five years and also worked part time in recruitment and outreach.

Ginny and husband, Dale, live in Ithaca and have four grown children and six grandchildren.



*Ginny Schumacher*

*In March, TLP welcomed new staff member Meredith Clarke as the Outreach and Recruitment Assistant.*



*Meredith Clarke*

**I**N her new role, she's made connections with various service organizations across the county and tabled at local festivals and events. Meredith is a former TLP ESL tutor and holds a BA in English from Ithaca College. Her written work has appeared in several marketing and outreach magazines at Ithaca College, as well as in Edible Finger Lakes. She is also involved with the volunteer organization Ithaca Welcomes Refugees.

## Annual Fall Appeal!

*Each year TLP makes two donation requests to donors and potential donors, one in the summer and one in the fall.*

**T**his summer's request brought in almost \$9,000! We will soon be sending out the fall appeal with the hope that we can reach our 2016 goal of \$20,000. Reaching that goal, and even surpassing it, is especially important this year as a local foundation chose not to continue funding and has changed their funding priorities. If you would like to give, but did not receive a request, a simple way to do so is by credit card through our website at [TLPpartners.org](http://TLPpartners.org). Thank you in advance for your support this fall!

## Karaoke for a Cause

**S**unday, August 7th was the date for TLP's newest fundraiser. Through the support of CFCU Community Credit Union, Grace McMenamin, Associate Broker at Warren Real Estate, and K-HOUSE proprietress Alina Kim, this karaoke pledge event raised slightly more than \$6,000! Participants and the audience all had a great time and expressed the desire to hold the event next year. So mark your calendars for Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017, to join us at K-HOUSE for this fun afternoon.



*We believe the ability to read and write is critical to personal freedom and the maintenance of a democratic society.*



## TLP Board of Directors

Grace McMenamin,  
*President*  
Susan A. Currie, *Vice*  
*President*  
Cecilia Campbell,  
*Treasurer*  
Sue Lason, *Secretary*  
Patricia Carey  
Michael D'Angelo  
Jim Groves  
Pamela Kingsbury  
Kim Winter Smalt  
Kari Stamm  
Gary Weissbrot

## TLP Staff

David H. Smith,  
*Executive Director*  
Shannon Alvord, *Adult*  
*Basic Education*  
*Coordinator*  
Helen Ranck, *English as*  
*a Second Language*  
*Coordinator*  
Sharon McGee,  
*Administrative*  
*Assistant*  
Amy Porfirio, *Program*  
*Support Assistant*  
Ginny Schumacher, *Adult*  
*Literacy Instructor*  
Meredith Clarke,  
*Outreach &*  
*Recruitment Program*  
*Assistant*  
Barbara Hatt, June  
Locke, Rachel Testman,  
*Volunteer Librarians*

## TLP's Mission

Our mission is to help adults 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.

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



## Tompkins Learning Partners

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E-mail: [literacy@TLPartners.org](mailto:literacy@TLPartners.org)

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



Community Partner

## Thank You Tutors and Well Done Students!

*So far this year, 110 tutors have actively volunteered with Tompkins Learning Partners.*

**V**olunteer tutors are people from all walks of life who give their time each week to mentor and teach. Many are here early in the morning, after work at night, or on weekends in order to accommodate their students' schedules. TLP tutors give tirelessly and we are very grateful for their desire to help their learning partners reach literacy and life goals.

Tutors and students worked together to achieve these important milestones just since July 1 (the start of our academic year):

**3 STUDENTS** passed their driver's permit tests

**2 STUDENTS** passed their driver's license tests

**5 STUDENTS** passed some of the subject area tests on the TASC test (*Students must pass all five subject area tests in order to obtain high school equivalency: reading, writing, math, science, and social studies*)

**5 STUDENTS** got a job for the first time or improved their employment situations

**1 STUDENT** read her first chapter book

**11 STUDENTS** passed their interviews for United States citizenship