



LITERACY LINKS

Haverstraw Literacy Zone Family Welcome Center

Community Calendar/Info

- Haverstraw Collaborative
1st Wednesday of the Month
845 429-5731
- Immigration Coalition
1st Friday of the Month
peacepoet@aol.com
- ESOL Classes
845 825-6141
- North Rockland Central
School District
845 942-3000
- BOCES Information
845 348-3500
- Rockland Community
College
845 786-2392
- Rockland Office for
New Americans
845 826-5022
- Literacy Solutions NY
Rockland Headquarters
845 499-5464

HAVERSTRAW LITERACY ZONE NEW LOCATION/OLD FRIENDS

This column is usually dedicated to providing an update of HLZ activities and accomplishments. But not this time!

In this issue, we would like to take the opportunity to thank our hosts (since 2013) and HLZ Stakeholders for welcoming us into their “family”. Haverstraw Center extended itself to make room for the Haverstraw Literacy Zone staff, its programs, clients, assorted meetings, and lastly, its signs!

Marion Breland and the entire staff of Haverstraw Center welcomed us and generously shared their limited space with new people and new programs. Brian Merritt, Rockland Community College, and Benito Herrero, Haverstraw Elementary School, willingly shared their resources with us. Without the generosity of so many in Haverstraw, the Literacy Zone would not have had the

opportunity to provide vital services to Village residents—which leads us to another very important acknowledgement.

The Village of Haverstraw and its elected officials have played a significant role in the success of the HLZ. Without Mayor Michael Kohut’s encouragement and support, we could not have become “tenants” at Haverstraw Center.

It is the unwavering support of the Village and Haverstraw Center, and the HLZ Stakeholders that allowed us to flourish to the point that we needed to find local space that would accommodate our growing staff and new programs.

Although our new office is at 63 New Main Street, we will continue to provide services at Haverstraw Center, RCC and HES. Thank you to all of you for welcoming Literacy Solutions into your “family”.

Partners in the HLZ

- The Haverstraw Center & Haverstraw Collaborative
- Catholic Charities Community Services
- Haverstraw King’s Daughters Library
- Head Start of Rockland
- North Rockland Central School District
- Rockland County Dept. of Social Services
- Rockland County Workforce Development Board
- Rockland Community College
- Rockland County Career Center
- Rockland County YMCA
- Literacy Solutions NY

COMMUNITY RESOURCES IN HAVERSTRAW

Haverstraw residents live in a community filled with great resources.

Here are just a few!!

Haverstraw Center
50 West Broad Street
845 429-5731

Children /youth, educational programs, counseling, sports & recreation, and family services.

Haverstraw King’s Daughters Library—Village Branch
85 Main Street
Haverstraw, NY 10927
845 429-3445

Rockland Community College
37 West Broad Street
Haverstraw, New York
845 786-2392

Rockland County Career Center
37 West Broad Street
Haverstraw, NY
845 406-6450

Take advantage of all the opportunities Haverstraw provides for you!!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

PATRICIA RAJALA, PRES. & CEO

Thank You to Our Unsung Heroes!

*“ Our staff,
Students, and
their families,
are deeply
grateful for the
staunch
support of our
Board of
Directors.
Thank you for
being the
backbone of
Literacy
Solutions NY.”*

*Pat
Rajala*

Whenever a program update is given, statistics, anecdotes, and perhaps financial data are provided. It is all pertinent information, but recognition of one vital component is missing —our Board of Directors.

Literacy Solutions NY, Inc. could not operate the Haverstraw Literacy Zone, the Tutor/Volunteer Center, the Rockland Office for New Americans, and our literacy programs in Westchester without the support, approval and dedication of our Board of Directors.

Each member of the Board has a deep commitment to Literacy Solutions NY, Inc., and to our mission to provide services to adults in need of improving their literacy skills. Native English speakers seeking to improve their competency, new arrivals anxious to learn the English language, and recent immigrants eager to fulfill their dreams of American citizenship are examples of the some of the populations we serve.

Our Board of Directors, chaired by Michael Levy, consists of people from the not-for-profit, education and corporate sectors. Most have been involved with Literacy Solutions for many years and have helped guide us through challenging and exciting times. They have cheered when we sought to begin new programs, such as our Office for New Americans, reached into their checkbooks when times were hard, and worked with us to resolve difficult situations. They are proud to stand with us to provide free services to all adults seeking our assistance, regardless of their immigration status.

Thank You to Our Board of Directors:

**Manuel Cerqueiro, Julie Gallanty, Daniel Grijalva,
Benito Herrero,Carolynn Julien, Michael Levy, Susan Thaler,
Patricia Vaughn, Francine Vernon, Deborah Wood.**

We value your guidance, appreciate your enthusiasm, and could not fulfill our mission without your on going support.



**Proud to be Americans. Proud to Continue the
Tradition of Welcoming New Americans!**



The Empire Justice Center, a not-for-profit law firm, is an invaluable resource for New Yorkers in need of legal assistance, and is a great asset to the Rockland Office for New Americans.

The goal and long-term vision of the Empire Justice Center is to be the statewide leader working to achieve social and economic justice for people in New York who are poor, disabled or disenfranchised.

The firm's President & CEO, Anne Erickson, has been with the firm since 1989. She began as a policy analyst and was appointed President in 2000. She has guided the firm through a merger with the Public Interest Law Firm of Rochester, expanding its White Plains office, and opening a new office on Long Island.

She is a dynamic leader who has combined the two organizations into a legal resource for those without resources.

Ms. Erickson has assembled a talented management team, aligned into five major practice groups:

- Consumer, Housing, C.A.S.H. and Community Development
- Civil Rights
- Education and Employment
- Disability Benefits
- Immigrants and Immigrant Rights
- Public Benefits, Health and Family

Under the auspices of the New York State Office for New Americans, we are privileged to have the Empire Justice Center as our legal partner with our Rockland Office for New Americans program. We are extremely fortunate to have

Linda Bennett-Rodriguez as the attorney assigned to the Rockland Office for New Americans.

Following graduation from Pace University School of Law, she joined the Empire Justice Center. Ms. Bennett-Rodriguez is a talented attorney who has dedicated herself to championing the rights of immigrants. Our program participants may not be able to afford private legal representation, but they benefit from the legal expertise of an attorney who truly cares about protecting and defending the rights of immigrants.

We are deeply grateful to the Empire Justice Center and to Linda Bennett-Rodriguez for being valued partners of the Rockland Office for New Americans.



*And
Justice
For
All*

Rockland Office for New Americans A Local Resource for Immigrants

The Rockland Office for New Americans is open to any resident of the county in need of assistance with immigration issues/questions. We want our neighbors to know that we are here to help.

Our services, funded by the New York State Department of State, include:

- ESOL Classes
- Legal Services
- Entrepreneurial & Community Workshops

- Preparation of Citizenship and Other Applications Associated With Naturalization
- Trips to Local Historical Sites

All services, including trips, are free of charge.

In addition, Literacy Solutions NY offers citizenship preparation classes at local libraries and community centers throughout Rockland County.

For Rockland Office for New Americans, please contact Andrea: 845 826-5022

For citizenship class, please contact Jane: 845 558-4488

For English class, please contact Ana: 845 825-6141

We look forward to working with you and helping you make the USA your home!!



Literacy Solutions NY, Inc.
Patricia Rajala
President & CEO

Westchester County Office
Yonkers Riverfront Library
1 Larkin Center
Yonkers, NY 10701

914 375-7964

Tutor/Volunteer Center
New City Library
220 North Main Street
New City, NY 10956

845 708-9072

Haverstraw Literacy Zone/
Office for New Americans
63 New Main Street
Haverstraw, NY 10927

845 499-5464

ESOL Class Information
Contact Ana Diaz,
Academic Coordinator

845 825-6141

Office for New Americans

845 826-5022

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

for

LITERACY
STUDENTS
and

CITIZENSHIP
HOPEFULS

YOUR DONATION
OF TIME CAN
CHANGE A LIFE!

Call Christina at:
845 709-9072

Literacy Solutions
NY INC.

Literacy Solutions NY, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing student-centered adult literacy services in Westchester and Rockland counties. It offers specialized services through the Haverstraw Literacy Zone, the Tutor/Volunteer Center, and the new Rockland Office for New Americans. Literacy Solutions NY, Inc. is a community resource for the advancement of literacy in both counties.

The Haverstraw Literacy Zone Family Welcome Center

Welcomes You and Your Family. We look forward to working with you.



Helping you towards a brighter future

SERVICES PROVIDED IN WESTCHESTER AND ROCKLAND

Literacy Solutions NY, Inc. has been providing services in Westchester County since 1983. In 2006, Literacy Volunteers of Rockland and Literacy Solutions NY joined forces to serve adult students in all areas of both counties.

Services offered by Literacy Solutions NY include:

- Citizenship Classes
- US Civics for Immigrants
- English Classes
- Basic Literacy
- One-to-One Tutoring
- Tutor Training
- Haverstraw Literacy Zone
- Office for New Americans Opportunity Center

Teresa Avila, Operations/Data Manager, and Jennie Mosquera, Yonkers Coordinator, work together to bring literacy

services to all corners of Westchester County, and are now sharing their expertise with Rockland County. Our students hail from many communities, and we offer services county-wide. For Westchester information, please call Teresa or Jennie at 914 375-7964.

Activities offered in Rockland County are similar to those in Westchester, but include the additional services offered by the Haverstraw Literacy Zone and the Rockland Office for New Americans.

HLZ and ONA activities include:

- ESOL Classes
- Job Readiness
- Community Workshops
- Case Management
- Citizenship Classes
- Skills Development

Rockland County Contacts:

Anne Carey-Colorado
Communications Manager
845 499-5464 ext. 3

Ana Diaz
Academic Coordinator
845 825-6141

Andrea Fermin
ONA Program Manager
845 826-5022

Jane Lemkin
Citizenship Specialist
845 558-4488

Christina Mandara
Program Manager
845 708-9072

Gricelda Serrano
Lead Case Manager
845 323-3665