

LITERACY LINKS

Haverstraw Literacy Zone Family Welcome Center

Special Points of Interest

- Haverstraw Literacy Zone Update
- President's Corner

Community Calendar

- Haverstraw Collaborative
1st Wed. of the Month
Haverstraw Center
845 429-5731
- Immigration Coalition
1st Friday of the Month
peacepoet@aol.com
- ESOL Classes
Haverstraw Literacy Zone
845 429-5731 ext 13
- North Rockland Central School District Info
845 942-3000
- Information Rockland
845 364-2020
- BOCES Info
845 348-3500

JOYOUS HOLIDAYS TO ALL WELCOME 2017

The past few months have been a bevy of activity for Literacy Solutions NY and the Haverstraw Literacy Zone.

HLZ ESOL classes began on September 27th in the space generously donated by Benito Herrero, Principal of Haverstraw Elementary School. This year the demand for classes increased significantly. In response, we were pleased to add an additional USCFI class, our basic literacy course, bringing our total number of classes to 5, with an enrollment of over 140 students.

In addition to classes 4 evenings a week, the HLZ also offers case management to students, their families, and the community at large. In collaboration with Haverstraw Center, we offer presentations to students and the HC parents group on the first Wednesday of each month. Topics are determined in consultation with the parents.

On November 1, the Haverstraw Literacy Zone hosted its first "Job Fair" at Rockland Community College-Haverstraw Campus. Students, parents, local residents, and anyone interested in speaking with local employers were invited to attend. This was a unique opportunity for anxious job seekers to speak with prospective employers in a professional, yet friendly, atmosphere. We were delighted to have 9 prospective employers and over 70 job seekers participate. We look forward to hosting another job fair in 2017. Thank you to Rockland Community College and Rockland County Career Center for their assistance with this event.

Happy Holidays to All
We look forward to working with you in 2017 and for many years to come.

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 Work Force Development Board
- Rockland Community College
- Rockland County Career Center
- Rockland County YMCA
- Literacy Solutions NY

COMMUNITY RESOURCES IN HAVERSTRAW

Haverstraw residents have a host of great resources within walking distance of their homes. Here are just a few!!

Haverstraw Center
50 West Broad Street
845 429-5731

Family, children and youth, educational programs. Counseling. Sports & Recreation.
Monday thru Saturday

North Rockland Central School District
65 Chapel Street
Garnerville, NY
845 942-3000

Catholic Charities Community Services
75 Hudson Street
Haverstraw, NY
845 942-5791

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

Please take advantage of the resources in your community. They are here to help you achieve your goals.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER
PATRICIA P. RAJALA, PRES/CEO
LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA FOUNDER
RUTH J. COLVIN CELEBRATES 100 YEARS!



Patricia Rajala,
Literacy Solutions
Pres/CEO
and
Ruth Colvin,
Founder of Literacy
Volunteers of America,
Celebrating Ruth's
100th birthday.

Dear Friends:

I was privileged to attend LVA Founder Ruth J. Colvin's 100th birthday party in Syracuse on November 18. 300 of her closest friends gathered in the grand ballroom of the Hotel Syracuse to celebrate and honor this remarkable woman who continues to serve on the Board of Literacy Central NY, write books, train tutors, work out at the gym, and play golf—seemingly all at the same time.

I first met Ruth and her husband Bob in 1980, at the Literacy Volunteers of America National Convention in Harrisburg, Pa. The organization was then 18 years old.

In 1962, LVA's founding year, Ruth was shocked to discover that over 11,000 Onondaga County residents, home of the City of Syracuse, could not read. In response, Ruth and some friends from Church Women United, with the collaboration and guidance of

Syracuse University School of Education, created a program that used trained volunteers to work with adult learners. The program quickly spread around the state and the county.

As the program grew in the U.S., Ruth and Bob took their literacy expertise on the road, visiting over 80 countries around the globe. They worked with local adult educators in China, Angola, and India, to name but three, to create local language adult literacy programs.

Ruth convinced then-First Lady Barbara Bush to create her Bush Family Literacy Foundation, and during the administration of President George W. Bush, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation's highest civilian honor. In addition to this prestigious award, Ruth is also the recipient of dozens of honorary doctorates from colleges and universities around the county.

The organization that Ruth founded in 1962 has helped hundreds of thousands of educationally disadvantaged adults achieve their goal of English literacy. Thousands of tutors have been recruited and trained to work one-on-one with adult students.

But Ruth Colvin also created an organization in which hundreds of professionals like me have found not just employment, but a calling—a vocation, if you will—to help our students improve their lives and the lives of their children, and their community, through the gift of literacy.

THANK YOU
AND
HAPPY BIRTHDAY RUTH!!

**New Volunteer
Opportunity Available**

**Are you interested in
helping
immigrants fulfill their
dreams of
American Citizenship?**

**The new Rockland
Office for
New Americans
Needs you!!**

**For information please call:
Anne Carey-Colorado
(845) 429-5731 ext. 13**

The New Rockland County Office for New Americans
is
Open for Business

The Rockland County Office for New Americans, administered by Literacy Solutions NY, Inc., began serving Rockland residents in September. Office space, donated by Rockland Community College, is located on the second floor at 37 West Broad Street, Haverstraw, and the first round of ONA ESOL classes are based at the Salvation Army, 179 Main Street, Spring Valley.

We have hosted legal consultation days, a citizenship drive, citizenship classes, a community seminar, and have taken ESOL students on a trip to the NYS historic site at Fort Montgomery, NY. On December 8, we are sponsoring an entrepreneurial workshop to be presented by Andrea Giraldo, of the Small Business Development Center, and on December 12, from 10 AM to 4 PM a legal consultation day is scheduled. and in the an evening immigration seminar presented by immigration attorney Linda Bennett- Rodriguez, of the Empire Justice Center.

For information about the Rockland Office for New Americans, please call Andrea Fermin, Program Manager at (845) 826-5022, Anne Carey-Colorado, HLZ/ONA Communications Manager, at (845) 429-5731 ext 13, or Jane Lemkin, Citizenship Specialist, at (845) 558-4488.

**LET'S COME TOGETHER TO BRING
HOLIDAY JOY TO LOCAL YOUTH**

Each year the staff of Haverstraw Center works diligently to bring the magic of the season to all the young people, and their families, who consider The Center their "home away from home". The staff does a wonderful job of putting smiles on many faces, but with a little help from all of us, they could bring joy to even more local residents. The annual Haverstraw Center Christmas Party and Dinner is a very special event that reaches over 200 local youth with food, gifts, and holiday cheer. This year's festivities will be held in the gaily decorated gym at 4 PM on Monday, December 19, 2016.

There are many ways you can help make the holidays brighter for local young people in need. You can:

- Donate an age specific gift
- Donate or prepare food for the event
- Serve dinner to grateful guests
- Help **Santa** distribute toys & gifts to eager youngsters

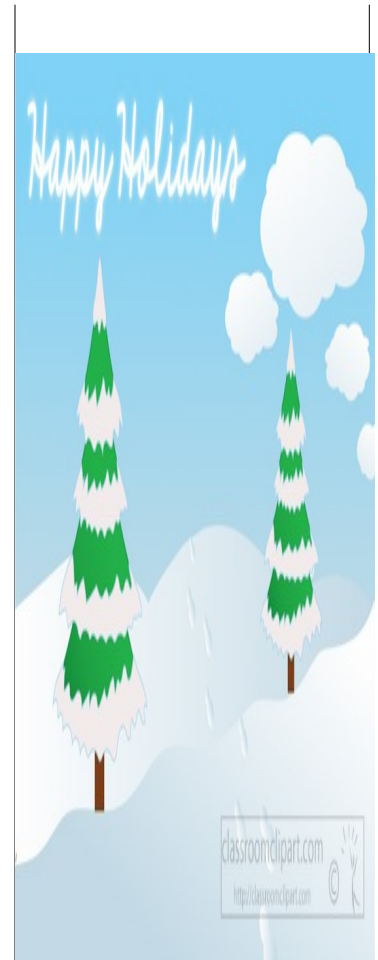
Many times, generous people donate gifts for the Center's youngest participants, but this year the need is even greater for the 12-16 year olds. They have out-grown toys, but still enjoy receiving a special gift from **Santa**.

Gift cards for movie theaters, bowling alleys, local restaurants, and fast food

establishments make a perfect gift for older youth! Any amount is greatly appreciated. Sharing a special meal is an important part of any holiday celebration. But all too often food is scarce for many of our families. Haverstraw Center tries to ease the burden by sending prepared food home with program participants to enjoy with their families. Please consider sharing your blessings with a youngster who will appreciate whatever you can do!!

Call Nikki at (845) 429-5731 ext 20, or Vanessa at (845) 429-5731 ext 10 for more information.

Happy Holidays!!



(ONA continued)

The Rockland Office for New Americans is a County-wide Program. We are eager to reach residents in all corners of Rockland and look forward to hosting workshops/seminars throughout the county—from Nyack to Suffern, Haverstraw to Sloatsburg. Community residents, ESOL students, and anyone interested in participating, are welcome to attend ONA presentations.



Upcoming Events:

December 8, 2016

Building Your Business

Haverstraw Elementary School
16 Grant Street
Haverstraw, NY
6:00 PM

Presented by:
Andrea Giraldo
Small Business

Development Center

December 12, 2016

Legal Consultation Day

Enrichment Center
Finkelstein Memorial Library
17 S. Madison Avenue
Spring Valley, NY
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Registration Required

Call Andrea:
845 826-5022

December 12, 2016

Immigration Information Presentation

Haverstraw Elementary School
16 Grant Street
Haverstraw, NY
6:00 PM

Presented By:

Linda Bennett-Rodriquez,
Immigration Attorney with
the Empire Justice Center

Literacy Solutions NY, Inc.

Patricia Rajala
President & CEO

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

914 375-7964

Rockland County Office
New City Library
220 North Main Street
New City, NY 10956

845 708-9072

Haverstraw Literacy Zone
Family Welcome Center

Office for New Americans

50 West Broad St.
Haverstraw, NY 10927

845 429-5731 x13

ESOL Class information
Contact Ana Diaz,
Academic Coordinator

917 520-1736

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

*The Haverstraw Literacy Zone Family Welcome Center
at Haverstraw Center welcomes you.*



Helping you towards a brighter future

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

for

LITERACY
STUDENTS
and

CITIZENSHIP
HOPEFULS

YOUR DONATION
OF TIME CAN
CHANGE A LIFE!

Literacy Solutions
NY INC.

SERVICES PROVIDED IN WESTCHESTER AND ROCKLAND

Literacy Solutions NY has been providing services in Westchester County since 1983. In 2006, Literacy Volunteers of Rockland and Literacy Solutions NY joined forces to serve 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, Administrative Coordinator, and Jenny 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, in both Rockland and Westchester. For information, please call Teresa or Jenny 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 ONA.

HLZ and ONA activities include:

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

Rockland County contacts:

Ana Diaz
Academic Coordinator
917 520-1736

Gricelda Serrano
Lead Case Manager
845 429-5731 x 13

Andrea Fermin
ONA Program Manager
845 429-5731 ext. 13

Anne Carey-Colorado
HLZ/ONA Communications
Manager
845 429-5731 x 13

Jane Lemkin
Citizenship Specialist
845 558-4488