

March 2017

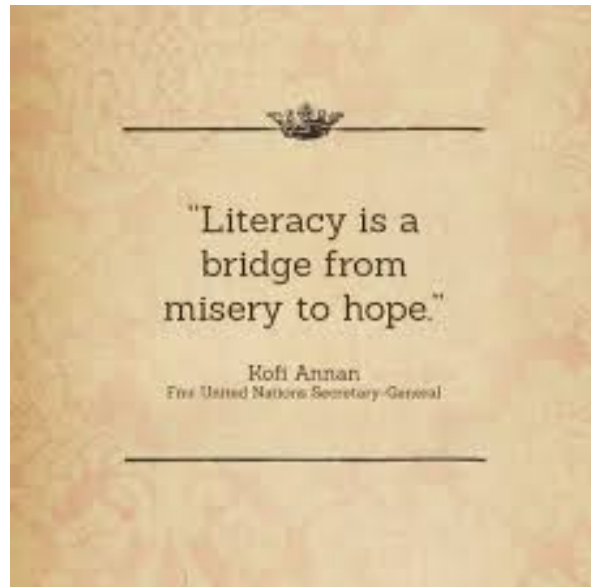
Hello Tutors,

*Over the past month we have had the pleasure of meeting so many of you as you stopped in to visit our New City office. Your stories are inspiring and your dedication to your students' needs is nothing short of heroic.*

*So, we have decided to begin a new feature story entitled "Hero of Literacy" to showcase and share the experiences in the life of you - our Literacy Tutors! This month we introduce Ms. Susan Kirshner!*

Fondly,

Christina Mandara  
Tutor Program Manager



## HERO OF LITERACY

### Meet Tutor Susan Kirshner

I've been a Literacy Volunteer so long I don't remember when I began tutoring, but it was sometime in the 70s, when I was living on Long Island.

My first student was a high school student who had escaped Viet Nam with his sister and her husband and children in a boat. They were Vietnamese boat people. The one thing I remember about him is that he was a crack speller. He had an uncanny ability to spell almost any English word. His spoken English and aural comprehension needed a lot of work, but for some reason that boy could spell like a demon.

I was a tester in Rockland for a number of years, and I recall testing a woman from Pakistan or Afghanistan - I forget which - before she went back to her country for a visit, who told me that according to the custom in her country, her father still had the authority to beat her even though she was a married

### Nyack Library Responds to Changing Needs in the Community

This month we received some exciting news for Literacy from Belinda Cash, Nyack Library's Department Head, Reference & Readers Advisory. The Library has recently created a dedicated ELL (English Language Learning) Collection on Nyack Library's third floor! .

Here's what you'll find:

- Instructional books for all levels of English language learning
- Guides to English grammar
- Math and financial literacy books
- GED study guides
- Citizenship books
- Books geared toward "on the job" English
- Short fiction books written in English that are aimed at ELL students
- Audiobook kits and DVDs to teach aspects of citizenship
- Audiobook kits for learning English
- Rosetta Stone Language Learning program (via the Library's website)

This new ELL Collection is located beside

woman. Needless to say, that made me appreciate being an American.

My most delightful and memorable students were a husband and wife from Taiwan. The wife, a pharmacist, had won a green card in a State Dept. lottery in Taiwan. She came here with her husband, who is a physician, and their youngest child, who was still in high school. The wife was officially my student but her husband wanted lessons too, and I wound up working with both of them. They were extraordinarily hard workers—real learning machines. They invited me to their home for meals, where I learned about Chinese customs. For example, one isn't supposed to bend over one's food to eat. That was hard for me not to do while I was struggling with chopsticks. On Teacher's Day they brought me flowers and took me out to lunch. It was eye-opening for me to learn that in their culture teachers are so honored! I helped the wife prepare for her citizenship interview, which she passed with flying colors, and felt like a proud parent as she was sworn in as a citizen in a ceremony at Pearl River High School. The couple eventually returned to Taiwan to continue their medical practices but we are still in touch by email. They want me to come to Taiwan to visit and to teach some ESL classes that they would love to set up for me.

I am still in touch with another of my favorite students, a woman from Russia. She introduced me to her family, and I was touched when her daughter offered to help me with grocery shopping following knee surgery I underwent as a result of a fall on the ice. She always came to our lessons with a treat for me—chocolates from Russia, or blini (crepe-like pancakes) she had made, special bread from the restaurant where her husband worked, or fresh fruit. She and her husband eventually moved to New Jersey to be closer to their jobs, but we still keep in touch by phone.

It's been a pleasure working with people from diverse cultures and backgrounds. The one thing they have in common is their deep appreciation for someone taking the time and trouble to work with them, to help them learn English and adapt to this country. Doing so gives me a feeling of satisfaction. I've been blessed with a lot in my life and working with these people is a way of saying thank you.

Cheers,  
Susan

Who Has Seen the

the World Language Collection, on the third floor. The World Language Collection was expanded in the summer of 2016 and contains books, magazines, audiobooks and instructional DVDs in many languages.

These collections were made possible, in part, by funds received from the Kurz Family Foundation.

Items from both collections are available for borrowing. All you need is a library card from the Ramapo Catskill Library System. The Nyack Library is located at 59 South Broadway in Nyack, and is open seven days a week.

Thank you, Belinda Cash, for sharing this news and to the Nyack Library for offering your patrons such an important Collection!

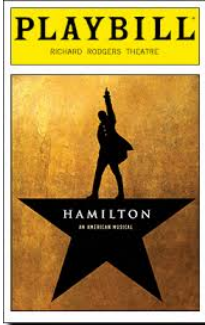


*Literacy Solutions' Tutor and Nyack Librarian, Sharon Aperto, alongside the entrance to their new ELL Collection on the third floor of the Nyack Library!*

## Let's Hear All About It!

**Most of you are so humble and unassuming about your role in your student's literacy. Still, your story makes great inspiration for new tutors, new students, and the staff here at LS. Please don't hesitate to write us about your Literacy experience.**

**Also, if you have a great accomplishment achieved by your student, please share (with their permission of course!) We are**



**Broadway Play,  
HAMILTON?**

It's the quintessential immigrant success story! Some of us want to go, and with the cost of tickets these days, we'd love to know how you liked it!

**all in this together! Let's celebrate how we have made such a collective difference!**

**Submissions will be used solely for the purpose of this internal LS Rockland e-newsletter. If you prefer to remain anonymous at print, that's ok, too.**

**Email your submissions to:  
christina.mandara.litsol@gmail.com**

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## Literacy Solutions NY, Inc.

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