



# LITERACY LINKS

**Services for All  
Everyone is  
Welcome**

## Haverstraw Literacy Zone Family Welcome Center

### Community Calendar/Info

- Haverstraw Collaborative  
1st Wednesday of the Month  
(845) 429-5731
- Rockland Office  
for New Americans  
(845) 826-5022
- HLZ English Classes  
(845) 825-6141
- North Rockland Central  
School District  
(845) 942-3000
- BOCES Information  
(845) 348-3500
- Haverstraw Elementary  
School  
(845) 942-3400
- Immigrant Affairs Unit  
(845) 638-5022
- Literacy Solutions  
Rockland Headquarters  
(845) 499-5464 x 3

## HLZ BEGINS 7TH YEAR OF SERVICES TO HAVERSTRAW RESIDENTS

The Haverstraw Literacy Zone, an integral component of Literacy Solutions NY (LSNY), inaugurated services for Village residents in 2013. At that time, few people in the community knew about Literacy Solutions. Agency staff was focused on meeting community residents, and developing a bond with both residents and service providers. Since those early days, LSNY has become a "household name", expanded services, added programs, and established a LSNY Rockland County administrative center at 63 New Main Street.

The newest LSNY program, the Rockland Office for New Americans, while not an HLZ program, is under the Literacy Solutions umbrella and works closely with the Literacy Zone to publicize services including citizenship applications and legal assistance to immigrants throughout the county.

All services provided are free of charge and without regard to immigration status.

Services provided by the Haverstraw Literacy Zone include:

- English Classes
- Case Management
- Monthly Seminars for Local Parent Group in Collaboration with Haverstraw Center
- Special Community Presentations Focusing on Immigration Issues
- Annual Job Fair
- Community Outreach
- Citizenship Classes

The Board and staff of the Haverstraw Literacy Zone are deeply grateful for your support.. LSNY is eager to continue services to Village residents, and proud to be part of the collaborative effort to improve the lives of the citizens of Haverstraw. Thank you for inviting the HLZ to become part of the Haverstraw Family.

### Partners in the HLZ

- Haverstraw Center
- Haverstraw Collaborative
- Catholic Charities Community Services
- Haverstraw King's Daughters Library
- Head Start of Rockland
- Haverstraw Elementary School
- North Rockland Central School District
- Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
- Rockland County Dept. of Social Services
- Rockland County Workforce Development Board
- Rockland County YMCA
- United Way of Rockland County
- Literacy Solutions NY, Inc.

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES IN HAVERSTRAW

Haverstraw residents live in a community overflowing with **free** 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

### Head Start of Rockland

117 Route 9W

Haverstraw, New York  
(845) 429-4122

Literacy Solutions  
63 New Main Street  
Haverstraw, New York  
(845) 499-5464

### Haverstraw King's

### Daughters Public Library

#### Main Branch

10 West Ramapo Road  
(845) 786-3800

#### Village Branch

85 Main Street  
(845)429-3445

Take advantage of your community's resources.



## 40 Year's of Dedication to Bringing Literacy to the "Hardest to Reach and Hardest to Teach" *Pat Rajala*

Patricia Rajala, Pres/CEO of Literacy Solutions, earned her undergraduate degree from Marymount College, Tarrytown, and her Masters in Business Administration from Stanford University. But her love of literacy and education is a product of her heritage. Her mother, Patricia, was an Elementary School Teacher; her father, Peter, a Professor of Economics at Fordham University.

In 1979, with a toddler in tow and one on the way, Pat decided to take on an additional responsibility: volunteering with Literacy Volunteers of Mount Vernon. Through that involvement, Pat began what would become her life-long passion: bringing literacy services to the "hardest to reach and hardest to teach"—adult basic education students, both native born and new arrivals, many of whom had little access to education in their formative years.

During the next few years, she joined the Board of Directors of Literacy Volunteers of Mount Vernon, and helped guide the merger of 6 local literacy agencies into Literacy Volunteers of Westchester. That organization, along with Literacy Volunteers of Rockland, is now known as Literacy Solutions NY, Inc. (LSNY).

In 1992, Pat was asked to become the new Executive Director, the position she holds today.

Pat's vision and leadership has enabled the agency to add new programs, the Haverstraw Literacy Zone in 2013, the Rockland Office for New Americans in 2016, the Rockland Golden Door in 2019, as well as develop English Language curriculum "U.S. Civics for Immigrants: From Native Language to English Literacy", and industry based curricula to provide employment centered ESOL for hospitality industry employees.

In a time when people rarely spend their career with one company, Literacy Solutions is grateful that Pat Rajala has chosen to share her expertise and love of literacy with LSNY and its students for over 40 years. Thank you Pat, for all you have done to help so many! Here's to 40 more!!!



LSNY Board Members and Assemblyman Nader J. Sayegh celebrate Pat's 40 years of leadership and vision in the field of adult literacy.



## Posthumous Honor Bestowed on Carolina A. Rojas, A Revered Educator

Carolina A. Rojas was born in 1932 in the Dominican Republic. The second of 7 children, she was raised in Moca, a city with a population of just under 62,000 people. At the young age of 22, Carolina decided to share her love of education with local children. When she walked into class on her first day as an elementary school teacher, she began the career that would span 32 years.

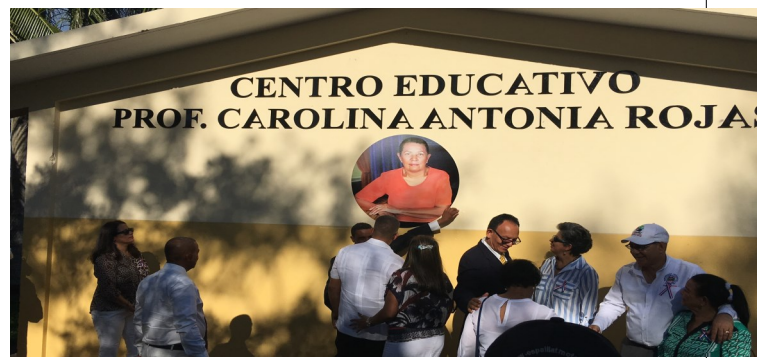
In her late 20s', she married and eventually had 4 children, 2 girls & 2 boys. Her daughters, Literacy Solutions' Academic Coordinator Ana Diaz and Lead Case Manager Gricelda Serrano share Carolina's love for education.

While raising her family, she continued her teaching career.

At the age of 55, following 32 years of sharing her knowledge with her young students, Carolina Rojas retired and began spending much of her time with her children in the U.S. Although she no longer taught, her community and her students never forgot all she gave to them.

Following her death in 2014, the community came together to search for a fitting way to honor her.

In 2019, her 4 children joined El Caimito Moca community to celebrate the life of Carolina A. Rojas.



On October 18, 2019, family, friends, and community came together to re-name the school where she spent 32 years the "Centro Educativo Prof. Carolina Antonia Rojas". A fitting tribute to a woman who educated thousands of children in her native Dominican Republic.

## Haverstraw Elementary School: A Community Resource

When we see the name "Haverstraw Elementary School" (HES) we think of smiling young faces, not adults returning to school. But, if HES Principal Benito Herrero has his way, the school will open its doors each night to adults returning to school to improve their English proficiency, study for the high school equivalency exam, prepare for the US Citizenship written and verbal exams, and other adult education options.

Mr. Herrero began his career in adult education and continues to believe in the power of adult education. He reaches out to local adults to offer HES as an adult education resource to help adults improve their ability to succeed. He hopes to help not only HES students succeed, but their parents and community residents as well. Thank you Mr. Herrero for creating this great community resource.

*" This building belongs to the community. I would be very happy to see all the classrooms filled each evening with adult education programs."*

*Benito Herrero,  
Principal  
Haverstraw Elementary School*

Literacy Solutions NY, Inc.  
Patricia Rajala  
President & CEO

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

(914) 375-7964

Rockland Administrative  
Office/ Haverstraw  
Literacy Zone  
63 New Main Street  
Haverstraw, NY 10927

(845) 499-5464 x3

ESOL Classes  
Ana Diaz

(845) 825-6141

Rockland Office for  
New Americans  
63 New Main Street  
Haverstraw, NY 10927

(845) 826-5022

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

(845) 708-9072

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED  
for  
LITERACY  
STUDENTS  
and  
CITIZENSHIP  
HOPEFULS.**

**THE DONATION  
of YOUR TIME  
and TALENT  
CAN CHANGE a  
LIFE!**

**Contact Christina  
at:  
(845) 708-9072**

Literacy Solutions NY, a not-for-profit organization, is 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 Rockland Office for New Americans. Literacy Solutions NY, Inc. is a community resource for the advancement of literacy in both counties.

**ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE HLZ FAMILY WELCOME CENTER!**



***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. 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
  - Community Workshops
  - Case Management
  - Citizenship Classes
  - Skills Development
  - Assistance with Citizenship Applications & Other Immigration Forms
  - Legal Consultation Days
  - Annual Citizenship Drive
  - Monthly parent meetings
- All Services Are Provided Free of Charge & Without Regard for Immigration Status**

**Rockland County Contacts:**

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Lead Case Manager  
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**Suggestions for articles or comments about the newsletter, are welcomed. Please contact: Anne Carey-Colorado at (845) 499-5464 X 3 or carey colorado 1111 @ gmail.com.**