



## REMOTE TUTORING NOW PRACTICED HERE!

It may not be our preferred method of connecting with our students, but remote communication has become an important skill during these disconnected times.

This issue of *Tutors In Touch* highlights a pre-COVID success story, two RCLS librarians and the new techniques tutors are using to engage our adult learners remotely.



### **Spotlight** Citizenship Coach Judith Judka

Tutor since October 2019

Judith was new to Citizenship Coaching when she was assigned a student who was approaching a second attempt at passing the US citizenship test & interview.



(Pictured above right is tutor Judith Judka with her student.)

## **US Citizenship in the Nick of Time!**

A candidate gets two chances per application to pass a US Immigration & Citizenship test. As a result of their coaching sessions, Judith Judka's student had greatly improved her English language fluency and was well prepared to pass when the second chance arrived. In hindsight, little would they know how significant an interview date of March 16, 2020 would be. One week later, all scheduled interviews were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Currently, the wait for an interview is estimated at 12-18 months. Their hard work was rewarded with the luck of great timing and Judith's student becoming a US citizen.

*"Citizenship tutoring is a wonderful experience. It is a win-win situation for all involved. I have been helping someone achieve a goal...a dream come true and a chance to move forward and make a better life for herself, her family, her community and her new homeland. So gratifying."*

- Judith Judka

**Spotlight**  
**Literacy Tutor**  
**Lucille Mazarin**

Tutor since September 2019

If technology is a stumbling block for you or your student, read how this dedicated and successful tutor uses a simple phone call to tutor quite effectively. Thank you, Lucille!



(Pictured above is tutor Lucille Mazarin.)

**Secrets to a good language learning lesson - done by phone.**

*"I do all tutoring by phone, the old fashioned way, but I believe that it is working fine! I try to have a very varied hour session with my student. We start with an informal discussion of the week. We talk about news, what we are doing in general, any plans in the making, any concerns that she may have. I then incorporate a section on a selected reading.*

*For example, I am now using **Aesop's Fables** as a reading, questioning, and vocabulary building device. Also, I have assigned books like **The Giving Tree** by Shel Silverstein for her to read alone and we then read aloud together for pronunciation sake. Then we work on developing the vocabulary from this reading. Surprisingly enough, children's literature is great for adults too! Fortunately I have a large collection of books to help me in this regard.*

*My final thought: A good lesson in language learning can be quite simple. It consists of listening, speaking, reading, and writing... the 4 necessary components. As simple as this sounds, it is quite effective." - Lucille Mazarin*

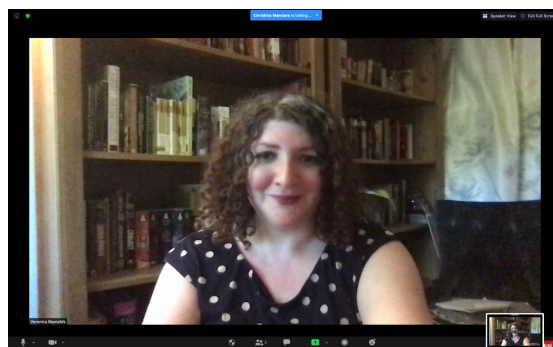


Literacy Solutions needed to quickly transition to remote methods of learning once social distancing was put in place by State executive order. And though our libraries were closed and all in-person sessions cancelled until further notice, that didn't stop two librarians, Veronica Reynolds of the *New City Library*, and Robert Boyle of the *Nanuet Library* - both working in our *Ramapo Catskill Library System* - from rising to the occasion to offer our tutors their valuable expertise and time. Thank you very much, Veronica and Bob!



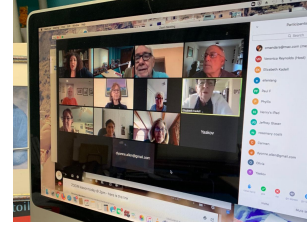
**Thank You! Veronica Reynolds**

Head of Community Relations  
New City Library  
<https://newcitylibrary.org/>



The New City Library is open for browsing and limited computer use during regular

summer hours. Curbside pickup is still available. Here is a link to the [Events Calendar](#). All programs are conducted online. All are available to you!



*(Pictured above, right, is librarian Veronica Reynold with a group pic (below) of her info session with Literacy Solutions' tutors.)*

### Group Info Session on using ZOOM

On May 4th, 2020, librarian, Veronica Reynolds, hosted a group session of tutors on how to use the video conferencing program called ZOOM. Her approach immediately put everyone at ease by acknowledging that no prior experience was needed. She welcomed questions and left the group feeling much more tech-savvy! Eighteen (18) LSNY tutors logged on to participate and learn!

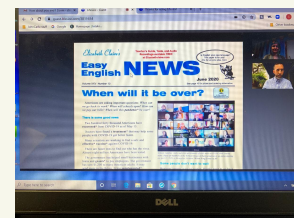
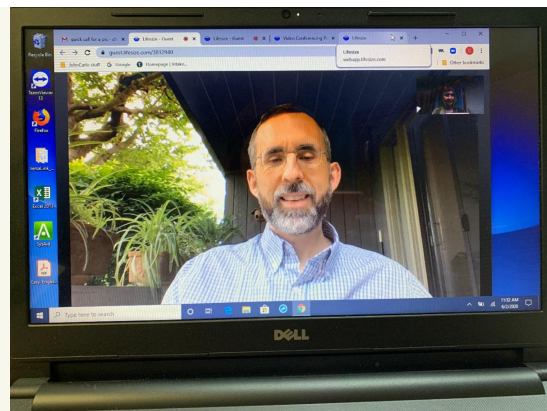


Nanuet Public Library

**Thank You! Robert Boyle**

Librarian I  
Nanuet Public Library  
<https://www.nanuetpubliclibrary.org/>

The Nanuet Library holds programs and events for the educational, cultural, and entertainment needs of the community. To see what is happening now, please check the [monthly calendar](#).



*(Pictured above, right, is librarian Bob Boyle with an example, below, of how to "screen share" an issue of EZ English News while online.)*

### One-to-One Sessions on using ZOOM

Starting May 14th, 2020, librarian Bob Boyle, was quick to offer any interested literacy tutor a step-by-step instruction sheet on how to install ZOOM on a device prior to scheduling a one-on-one session with him. A session with Bob was designed to work out the kinks of your understanding on how to host a ZOOM session with your student. To date, fifteen (15) tutors have taken advantage of Bob's knowledgeable and user friendly instruction.

**Spotlight**  
**New Literacy Tutor**  
**Constance H.**

Tutor since March 2020



Constance became a tutor for our program in March 2020 just as we were entering the new normal of remote tutoring. Here, Constance shares her first impressions of tutoring and ways she is optimizing her student's home environment to build a virtual literacy lesson.



*(Pictured above is a room where your student may be located while video conferencing. Identify items in the room as a way to build English vocabulary.)*

## Working a Room with ZOOM.

*"Thank you for assigning me such a nice student. I'll admit, I was really thrown after our first session when I realized she couldn't understand anything I was saying. I thought maybe I was in over my head and not sure how to proceed. But she was so eager to learn and showed such intelligence, I couldn't quit on her. We've done things like (virtually) walk around her kitchen and name things, learn numbers, then American money and how to read a receipt. She asked if I would help her with cosmetics and skin care products so she could shop, so we both got out our products, looked at labels, and figured out her shopping list.*

*Last week she was so very excited to tell me that she had had her first conversation with a neighbor while out for a walk! I hadn't really imagined how important that would be to her."*  
- Constance H



## **Update!**

### **Gerald Lenkowitz Citizenship Fund**

In April, Literacy Solutions NY, Inc. announced the creation of the **Gerald Lenkowitz Citizenship Fund** in memory of longtime literacy tutor, Dr. Gerald Lenkowitz, who sadly passed away from complications relating to the Corona Virus. The fund was initiated by Dr. Jerry's sister, Gloria Aronson, who is a fellow literacy tutor in our program and at the request of the Lenkowitz family.

Today, contributions to this Citizenship Fund total \$1300. All monies raised will be used to offset the increasing costs of a US citizenship application for those candidates in the Literacy Solutions program who are in financial need.

Last week USCIS announced a new fee increase for a naturalization application will begin on October 2, 2020. The fee will increase to from \$725 to \$1200. Donations can be endorsed to Literacy Solutions NY, Inc. memo GL Citizenship Fund and mailed to LSNY, 220 North Main St. New City, NY 10956. Attn: Christina