



It's time for the annual
"White Eagle" Literacy Conference
and all volunteer literacy tutors are invited!

Each spring, New York literacy agencies from across the state gather with their executive directors and program managers as one big literacy family to share ideas and discuss the wide ranging issues in the adult literacy community. This year, the conference will be held virtually and is being expanded to include all volunteer literacy tutors and educators.

The event is sponsored by Literacy New York. Courses take place through June 10th, 2021. A full list of course choices with their descriptions is available by clicking here: [Literacy Conference Schedule of Events](#)

There is no charge to attend the event, however, we do ask that you pre-register for your selections.

Here is the registration link:
<https://forms.gle/YV5u1siAYcoRw1Sp7>

We hope many of you will take advantage of this great learning opportunity.

Meet the LSNY Westchester Tutors



Spotlight

Linda Ellis
Literacy Tutor



(Linda Ellis pictured left and in a pic with her ZOOM conversation group, above.)

Success in Group Sessions

Yonkers, NY - Linda Ellis has been a LSNY trained tutor in Westchester for over 15 years. A retired English professor, she has enjoyed bringing her professional experience to group sessions of 5-8 students each week. Group meetings have created a special bond over time between participants. The students have even created their own FaceBook page to remain in touch outside of tutor sessions.

Prior to social distancing, Linda met her students weekly at the Yonkers Public Library where Literacy Solutions is headquartered in Westchester County. Linda will admit that she much prefers in-person instruction. She feels nothing replaces a tutor's ability to peek over a student's shoulder to assess their level of understanding of a writing lesson.

Since virtual lessons were the only option, Linda decided to focus her sessions on robust all-English conversation around current event topics. Many such discussions became very personal at times when students aired their concerns about things like unemployment and vaccinations. Linda feels the most meaningful conversations in the tutor sessions are an indication of how safe her students feel with her and with each other.

One student gained enough confidence to pursue a conversation with her client about a higher fee for the services being asked to perform that were beyond what was initially agreed upon in the household. As a result, the student's pay rate was increased. Linda loves being a tutor. She has expressed being humbled to watch her students grow in confidence and in the fluidity of their English conversation on the road to improved quality and opportunity in life.



Spotlight

Richard Schneyer
Citizenship Coach



(Above is a simulated photo of a U.S. Naturalization Interview showing a candidate on the left and interviewer on the right)

Coaching for Crunch Time

Who wrote the Federalist Papers? And what WAS my former spouse's birthday?

Despite months of study, a citizenship interview can be sabotaged by last minute jitters. That's why Rich Schneyer, a Literacy Solutions coach in Yonkers for the past four years, focuses on potential vulnerabilities, helping students to rehearse and build confidence. To begin, Rich asks why they want to become a U.S. citizen. If they give a robotic response he digs further. Why are you REALLY going through this? Why is this important to you? The goal is to build an honest rapport and develop the student's ease with English communication so an interviewer will recognize this candidate is prepared.

Students and coach often work together for months. But there are also last-minute requests for help for a pending interview. In role plays, Rich uses the Citizenship application because correctly answering civics questions won't get it done if you forget some of those trips abroad or can't explain the meaning of the yes/no question just answered.

Rich is constantly impressed at students' efforts to get here, find jobs, and make time to study for citizenship. The American dream burns brightly for our students.

**Meet the LSNY
Westchester Team!**





Meet Teresa Martinez

ESL Instructor

Teresa teaches the multi-level English classes for our Westchester students and also hosts an ESL conversation class for the Riverfront Library. Though teaching is her love, she also manages the collection of most of the data to fulfill our grant obligations.



Meet Jennie Mosquera

ESL Citizenship Class Instructor

Jennie manages our Westchester Tutor Program. Additionally, she teaches a citizenship class to help new English speakers prepare for a citizenship application and/or interview.



Meet Jordana Rogers

Social Media Coordinator

Jordana manages our social media including posts to our website @ literacysolutionsny.org as well as our Facebook page. She will also be maintaining our newly acquired inventory of Chromebooks for student use.



Donations growing!

Gerald Lenkowitz Citizenship Fund

In April 2020, 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 **\$5000**. All monies raised will be used to offset the increasing costs of a US citizenship application for those candidates in the Literacy Solutions program.

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

It's Memorial Day Weekend!

Let's welcome summer and enjoy time with family & friends.



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