

LITERACY LINKS

All services, except ESOL books, are provided without charge to participants.

Haverstraw Literacy Zone

HAPPY SUMMER 2023



Best Wishes to Pat Rajala—Enjoy Your Retirement

“It is difficult to imagine LSNY without Pat Rajala after decades of her leadership. The program has become a solid entity in English education & citizenship preparation for some of the neediest adults in our community. The mission is a noble one & the impact is important as it helps immigrants achieve their American dream. Thank you Pat for your work all these years. Best wishes & much happiness to you & your family in retirement.” Benito Herrero

“Not many people have the privilege to work under someone as caring & understanding as you. I am grateful for that & if had to pick a boss, I would pick you.” Teresa

“I would like to thank Pat for always being supportive and encouraging. Thank you for being great leader, colleague & friend. You will be missed. Congratulations on your retirement!” Jennie

“Pat, I wish you to have this new chapter in your life as a forever vacation. Have fun doing what you want.” Ana

“Shortly after joining Literacy Solutions, I was invited to attend the annual White Eagle Literacy Conference. While gathered with colleagues from across the State, a woman said to me “We would give anything to work with Pat Rajala.” It was then that I realized the impact of her leadership across NYS. It’s been an honor to work for you Pat. Congratulations on your inspiring career,” Christina

“Pat, you will be missed (though you are leaving us in good hands). I appreciate your leadership style— openness, even handedness, & generosity. Our loss is the back nine’s gain.” Lisa D.

Partners in the HLZ

- American Job Center
- Haverstraw Center & Haverstraw Collaborative
- Catholic Charities Community Services
- Haverstraw African American Connection
- Haverstraw King’s Daughters Library
- Haverstraw Elementary School
- Head Start of Rockland
- North Rockland Central School District
- Rockland County Dept. of Social Services
- Rockland County Work Force Development Bd
- Rockland Community College
- Rockland County YMCA
- Rotary Club of North Rockland
- United Way of Rockland
- Village of Haverstraw
- Literacy Solutions NY

Community Calendar

- Haverstraw Collaborative Meetings 1st Wed. of each Month Haverstraw Center (845)429-5731
- Head Start of Rockland (845) 429– 4122
- Haverstraw Literacy Zone 845 499-5464 X 3
- North Rockland Central School District 845 942-3000
- Haverstraw Village Hall 40 New Main Street (845) 429-0300 Village Board Meeting 1 & 3rd Monday

COMMUNITY RESOURCES IN HAVERSTRAW

Haverstraw Center

50 West Broad Street
845 429-5731

Family, Children and Youth, Educational Programs. Counseling. Sports & Recreation.

Village of Haverstraw

40 New Main Street

Summer Camp Registration is Open

Contact Village Hall at (845) 429-0300

Haverstraw King’s Daughters Library

Main Branch 10 W. Ramapo Rd. Garnerville (845) 786-3800
Village Branch 85 Main Street, Haverstraw (845) 429-3445

Adult, children & teen programs, programs, library cards, digital services, book clubs & more.

Open 7 days a week.

Please take advantage of the many resources your community provides for you.

They are here to help you achieve your goals.

Everyone is Welcome!

From Pat's Desk

Dear Valued Colleagues: After 31 years at the helm of Literacy Solutions NY, Inc., I am moving on to the next phase –retirement (at least for now), formally on June 30th. However, I will be staying on through August 31, to help my successor Benito Herrero, currently Principal of Haverstraw Elementary School, settle into his new responsibilities at LSNY.

I cannot say how pleased and grateful I am to Benito, who has been on the Board of Literacy Solutions since 2017, for stepping into this new role. I know I leave my cherished staff and organization in good and capable hands. And of course, without a strong and supportive Board of Directors, we would not now be in a position to effect a seamless and successful transfer of leadership.

I have been involved with Literacy Solutions in its many iterations since 1979, when I took tutor training at my local affiliate of Literacy Volunteers of America, Literacy Volunteers (LVA) of Mount Vernon, which incidentally was the first library-based affiliate of LVA. I remember meeting the founder of LVA, Ruth Colvin of Syracuse, NY, at the then-tiny LVA National Convention in 1980. She founded the Syracuse LVA group in 1962 and watched it grow into a national force. Ruth received the Presidential Medal of Freedom –the nation's highest civilian honor- from President George Bush in 2006. Ruth recently celebrated her 106th birthday and is still a force to be reckoned with. My husband and I are traveling to Syracuse on June 12th to play in a golf tournament in her honor. Ruth herself will be playing!!

Special thanks to Mayor Michael Kohut for inviting LSNY to bring its services to the Village of Haverstraw in 2013. It's hard to believe we have been here for 10 years! Appreciation and gratitude to Marion Breland and Haverstraw Center for providing office space and necessities to LSNY from 2013-2016—we could not have done it without you. The Haverstraw Literacy Zone's Stakeholders have provided support and inspiration, and have helped the program excel—thank you for your dedication.

Many thanks to all the remarkable people and organizations who have helped LSNY provide services to so many people and families in Rockland and Westchester. I will miss each of you and wish you success and happiness in the many years ahead.

Fondly, Pat

Pat & Her Furry Friend



**The Rajala Family
Kate, Tom, Pat & Chrissy**

A Few More Words of Affection & Appreciation for Pat

“Pat, thank you for being a wonderful leader and friend to me & all who came before. The kindness, respect & compassion you demonstrate at LSNY is why you are beloved. I hope your retirement is filled with relaxation and adventures! All the best.”
Jordana

“Hi Pat, it has been great working with you for the last 15 years. Enjoy your retirement & live each day like it’s golden.”
Lisa Allen

“You are an inspiration to us all in the way that you authentically care & love on people. I wish you all the best for what the future has in store for you.” Carlos

“Dear Pat, I thought you were immortal! You can’t leave us! We will never find anyone with such quick wit and a heart as big yours! A big thank you & wishing you much happiness in your new chapter.” Merrie

“Pat, wishing you the best retirement ever! Enjoy this next chapter of your life.” Much Love, Judy Levine

“Thank you Pat for being a wonderful leader & for all the support you have given us. We wish you all the best.”
The Northern Westchester Team

“Dear Pat, Thank you for helming LSNY with such high professional standards, but even more for you love and compassion for all. I am forever grateful. “ Alexis Montalban, Esq.

“I wish to congratulate Pat’s leadership as she retires from her beloved LSNY. Even more so than her educational accomplishments, during my short working with Pat, I have come to appreciate her true sense of concern for the welfare of all involved, students & staff alike. She will be missed.” Tom McGrath

“May you build upon your collection of breathtaking moments as you embark on your journey into retirement. You will be missed. Best wishes & bon voyage.” Sherri & the Hudson Valley RAEN.”

“It has been a great pleasure to work & learn from you. I admire the great work you have done for the community & the staff. I wish you all the best doing what you love to do. You deserve it.” Sincerely, Celia

“Although it has been a short time, Pat has been a great supervisor, encouraging & supportive. I am very grateful for the short time that I have worked with her.” Amaldo Torres

“Pat, thank you for your dedication and support of adult literacy. You have greatly contributed to the progress of so many people around the world. Patricia: Polite, Authentic, Thoughtful, Respectful, Intelligent, Caring, Independent, Articulate.”
With thanks, Gricelda

“When one door of happiness closes, another opens: but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.” Helen Keller.
Thank you for providing this opportunity for those who want to better themselves daily.” Marabelle Faustin

“Pat, working with you has been a wonderful experience! You lead with a smile, share your knowledge willingly, & stand up for your staff, students & clients alike. May your retirement be filled with travel, sunshine & many holes in one. You deserve only the brightest of retirement. Thank you for being the special woman you are. All good wishes always. “ With affection Anne

Pat, You Will Be Missed

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
61 New Main Street
Haverstraw, NY 10927
(845) 499-5464 x 3
(845) 502-0114

Rockland Tutor Center
Nanuet Public Library
149 Church Street
Nanuet, NY 10954
(845) 708-9072

Haverstraw Literacy Zone
61 New Main Street
Haverstraw, NY 10927
(845) 429-5464 x3

Literacy Solutions NY
Citizenship Services
61 New Main Street
Haverstraw, NY 10927
(845) 502-0114

ESOL Class information
(845) 825-6141

Citizenship Class

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

for

LITERACY
STUDENTS
and

CITIZENSHIP
HOPEFULS

***YOUR DONATION
OF TIME and
EXPERTISE CAN
CHANGE A LIFE!***



Funding for Literacy Solutions NY is provided by the New York State Education Dept., Rockland County Office of Community Development, County of Rockland, the Levy/VonWald Foundation, the Wallbridge Fund, Finkelstein memorial Library and private donors.

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

The Haverstraw Literacy Zone Family Welcome Center



Helping you towards a brighter future

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 sections of both counties.

Services offered by Literacy Solutions NY include:

- US Civics for Immigrants
- Case Management
- English Classes
- Basic Literacy
- One-to-One Tutoring
- Tutor Training
- Haverstraw Literacy Zone
- Citizenship Services

Westchester County Contacts:
Teresa Avila, Administrative Coordinator, Jennie Mosquera, Yonkers Coordinator, Laura Doty, Northern Westchester Tutor Program

Manager, Jordana Rogers, Data Associate, work together to bring literacy services to all corners of Westchester County. Our students hail from many communities, and we offer services county-wide, in both Rockland and Westchester. For information on Westchester services, please contact Teresa or Jenny at 914 375-7964, Laura at (914) 844-8026

Activities offered in Rockland County are similar to those in Westchester, but include the additional services offered by the Haverstraw Literacy Zone.

HLZ and LSNY activities include:

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

Rockland County Contacts:
Anne Carey-Colorado
Communications, HLZ & Citizenship Program Manager
(845) 502-0114

Celia Coronel-Dizzine
Lead Case Manager
(845) 323-3665

Lisa Delmonico
DOJ Accredited Representative
Citizenship Prep Teacher
(845) 358-3420

Ana Diaz
Academic Coordinator
(845) 825-6141

Christina Mandara
Tutor Program Manager
(845) 708-9072

Thomas McGrath
Immigration Attorney
(845) 502-0114

LSNY is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.