

LVWC Student and Tutor News



LVWC location
7 Elm Street, Westerly

Literacy Volunteers of Washington County

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www.literacywashingtoncounty.org

Join us!



Student Highlights

Tammy's reading has progressed tremendously. She and Eve enjoy reading history and biography books because they both like learning about new things together. So far, Eve and Tammy have read 50-60 books together. They just finished reading a biography of Susan David, a young spy for the French Resistance during WWII.

Kai On and Yau Mui are working very hard to prepare for their upcoming citizenship exam. Both their tutors, Paula and Ellie, are happy with their progress.

Bahar is making progress on some grammar with her tutor, Linda. Bahar is learning about singular verbs and plural nouns. When time permits, they enjoy working on some crossword puzzles to grow English vocabulary.

Bill continues to improve his reading proficiency with his tutor, Paul. They often read the news articles on Engoo and Breaking News English,

consistently using level 6/Intermediate on these sites. They have started reading some of the advanced articles on Engoo.

Daniel and Allen are making progress in both reading aloud and comprehending what they read. Their tutor, Hugh, gives them two idioms per week, and they never forget them.

According to her tutor, Joel, Yu Hong is ready to take her citizenship test when the time comes and is now reading *Modern Comfort Food: A Barefoot Contessa Cookbook*. Joel's other student, Hong, finished reading an American history text and is now reading *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi.

Genevieve and her tutor, Sylvia, have been working on adjectives and their opposites, and words for quantities. Sylvia says the Genevieve is a very hard worker.

Student Highlights continued...

Sousan has said that her tutor, Tony, has helped her improve her English language skills. She says that Tony's patience, niceness, and gentle correction have really helped her.

Sindi has been working on pronunciation and conversations (making appointments, shopping, etc.) with her tutor, Jen. Jen says that Sindi has demonstrated great reading comprehension.



WHAT DOES THIS EXPRESSION MEAN?

Let's Talk

Looking to practice your English language skills?

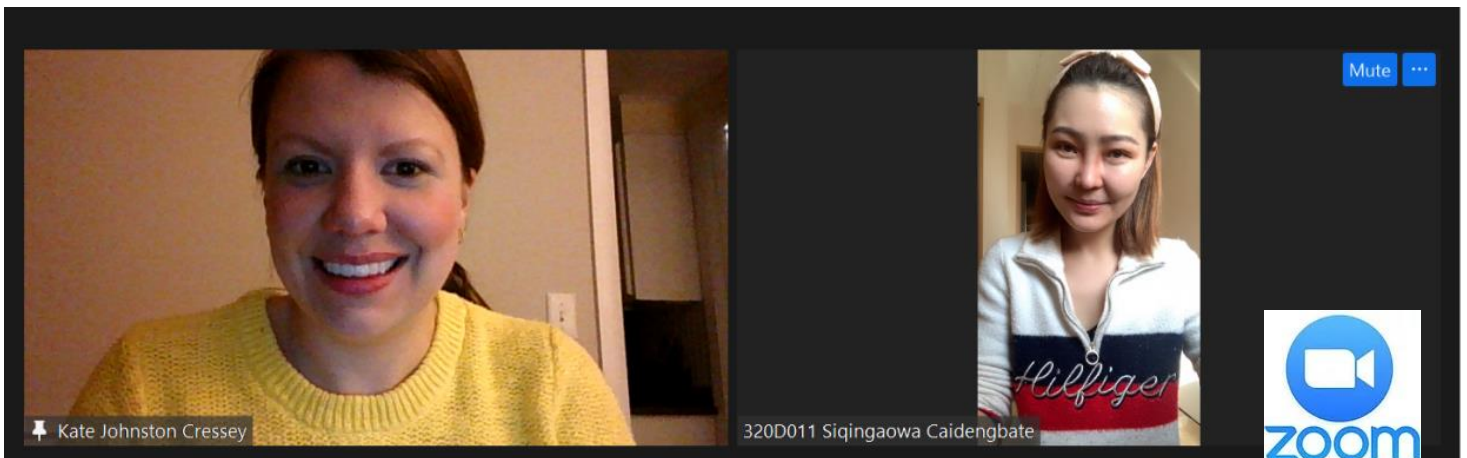
Want to make friends?



Literacy Volunteers of Washington County has online conversation classes and groups you could join.

Visit our website for more information.

www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/students



Kate and Siqingaowa are working hard. Kate is here in Westerly, and Siqingaowa is in Japan.

Zoom makes it possible to keep learning wherever you are.



We are here to help!
Barbara and Theresa
LVWC Literacy Specialists

Tutor Tips

In the last LVWC newsletter, I focused on how creating the trusting environment where it's OK to make mistakes was a crucial part of the uneven path toward learning English. This time, the emphasis is on giving your students every opportunity to practice speaking in English.

"I know you think you understand what you thought I said, but I'm not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant"

Although we wish we could magically make our students fluent overnight (and they do too!), we know that learning a language, especially one as undisciplined and contradictory as English, is a hard-won, non-linear process. And one that thrives on practice and repetition.

That means, in our tutoring sessions and conversation classes, we restrain the natural tendency to do most of the talking and let the students practice speaking English at their level. We ask them questions and actively listen to their responses, gauging their understanding. We model correct pronunciation and have them repeat, repeatedly. We explain succinctly and have them paraphrase. We introduce idioms that native speakers use

and ask for ones they have heard. We answer their questions with questions.

Hugh Ryan, a seasoned LVWC tutor, recently was reminded of these strategies. He is working with two young men from China. After a Zoom session with them from home, his wife, a veteran educator of diverse populations, observed, "Make them talk more, instruct them less. They will learn more from the practice than from listening to you."

She is right, of course. We can help our adult students best by giving them every opportunity to practice, practice, practice speaking and communicating in English...which is usually what they want and why they come to us in the first place!

Barbara Heuer ☺

Tutor Gatherings Coming Up

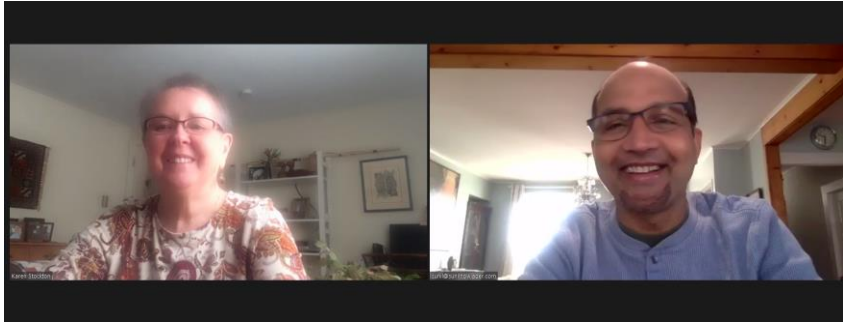
Monday, March 29,
Monday, April 26
Monday, May 24
11:30am-12:30pm.

See you there!

www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/tutors



Student and Tutor Spotlight Sunil Howlader and Karen Stockton



Sunil Howlader and Karen Stockton have been working together for over three years now. Karen joined LVWC in 2014, and Sunil joined in 2016.

They meet every week. During the pandemic, they continued meeting by using Zoom.

Karen helps Sunil improve his English language skills, especially for his profession where he needs to address groups and write about his art.

My name is Sunil Howlader, and I am a visual artist. I am originally from Bangladesh and came to the United States in 2000 on an International Artist-in-Residence Program at the Griffis Art Center in New London. I fell in love with this area and have lived here ever since. I currently live in Mystic with my wife. I love the United States because it has given me the freedom and opportunity to build my career and succeed.



Mystic's history and beauty along with my wonderful childhood memories from Bangladesh inspire me. Nature inspires me with its power, its energy and its beauty. My personal philosophy is that nature is both powerful and beautiful. My paintings try to capture this energy and melody. I try to create a painting with this in my mind.



By Sunil Howlader

Want to read more? Visit our website:
www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/students

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Women's International Book Club



Author Padma Venkatraman with the Women's International Book Club, May 2019.

Email Josephine for exact meeting dates
jo.carubia@gmail.com

The Women's International Book Club is a group for women who want to improve their reading and conversational skills while making friends. If you are interested, please email Josephine Carubia (jo.carubia@gmail.com). This group currently meets online.

Don't forget to visit our website for learning resources!

www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/learning-resources

Monthly holiday lessons and videos

ESL Games

Free lessons from My English Pages

American Pronunciation Videos

Idioms Lists

Citizenship Information

Engoo.com

Breaking News English

and much, much more...

Learning Resources

Daylight Savings Time
Sunday, March 14, 2021

St. Patrick's Day
Wednesday, March 17, 2021

April Fools' Day
Thursday, April 1, 2021

Literacy
Volunteers of
Washington
County will be
closed for Spring
Break, April 19-
23, 2021.

LITERACY
VOLUNTEERS
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