

BEYOND THE PAGE



ADVOCACY . NETWORKING . EDUCATION

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF MAINE . JANUARY-MARCH 2008

MAKING A RESOLUTION TO CHALLENGE OURSELVES

Benjamin J. Smith, Board Member LV Maine

As this past New Year came and went and I was making my resolutions, I came across a web log by **Seth Godin**, bestselling author, entrepreneur and agent of change. I put a lot of stock in Seth, as he is constantly redefining and questioning the world around him. One of his blog entries, ***Why Not Be Great***, emphasizes that separating success from the lack thereof is the conscious decision to committing to being great.



The question "Why Not Be Great?" can be applied to all realms of our lives, and I think about Literacy Volunteers in this sense. As Literacy Volunteers in the State of Maine, we all know that fantastic work is being done every day within each affiliate and the state office. If you look at all the faces and talents in the network, we are blessed to have

the most motivated and hard-working staff, volunteers and learners around! However, one in three Maine adults needs our services, as their literacy skills are below eighth grade level. And we as Literacy Volunteers need to be GREAT to fill this need.

Therefore, I want to challenge each of us -- individually and as an LV network -- to adopt the mindset of being great. What I take away from Seth's message is that *being great* is not actually one thing that makes you such. It's consciously *pursuing* greatness through every interaction, helping those around you succeed, and in every way attempting to make things better.

I hope that as 2008 progresses and you continue to fulfill your personal New Year's resolutions, you will think about making Literacy Volunteers in Maine

GREAT. Can you donate an extra dollar to literacy? That dollar, in turn, provides \$33.00 in local economic benefit. Can you spare one hour a week to share the gift of literacy with a person in need? Do you know someone who could use our services? Please join me by making Literacy Volunteers and our State of Maine great in 2008.

In addition to serving on the LV Maine Board, Ben Smith is Board President of Literacy Volunteers of Bangor. He is an Assistant Portfolio Manager with Acadia Trust, N.A. and Camden National Bank.

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People and affiliates that contribute to our LV Family



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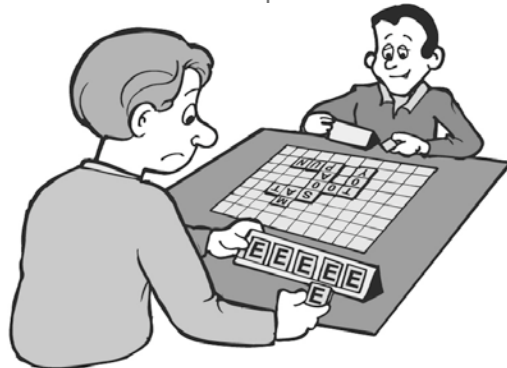
Lori Gray, LVGA Board Chair

We are very excited about the following new offerings at **Literacy Volunteers of Greater Augusta.**

Drop-In Night is a free program held at the *Augusta Library* once a month. We are there for anyone who may need help filling out an application or form, reading a letter or balancing a checkbook. This program can be the first step for many adults to get to know us before they decide to become a student

with Literacy Volunteers. Please spread the word to adults you know who could benefit from this helpful service.

networked with other LV affiliates who have run very successful tournaments and they have graciously



On April 6th, we will run a **Scrabble Tournament** fundraiser. A first for LVGA, we have

shared information and pointers with us.

For our board members, “Growth and Change” is the theme for this year’s summer retreat. Sometimes, you get a little settled and need to shake things up a bit! We are planning a good day to team build and will follow up with a half-day retreat next January to track our progress.

Established in 1973, Literacy Volunteers of Greater Augusta offers tutoring services in Basic Literacy and ESOL and in partnership with area adult education programs. The office is on 295 Water Street in Augusta, or visit on the web www.lva-augusta.org.

For information on how to become an LV tutor or learner, contact Gail Dyer info@lva-augusta.org or call 207.626.3440 Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Kristen Stevens Returns to LV Greater Portland in New Role



It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome back **Kristen Stevens**, who has returned to **Literacy Volunteers-Greater Portland (LVGP)** following a **ProLiteracy International** internship in Namibia, Africa, and an extended sabbatical in Madagascar. Formerly the Executive Director with LVGP, Kristen is now the affiliate’s Training Coordinator and is also the Program Coordinator for the LVGP **Windham Correctional Peer Tutoring Program.**



LV Androscoggin to Present at LV Maine Regional Meeting March 18



Best Practices and Updates is the theme of the LV Maine Spring Regional Meeting, to be held at the

Senator Inn in Augusta on Tuesday, March 18. The day begins at 10:00 with LV affiliates sharing news over continental breakfast, followed by LV Maine updates and breakout sessions on EL/Civics materials and the LV Maine Board



Orientation Manual. After lunch, **Tahlia Chamberlain** (top left) and **Mary Schneckenburger** (right) of LV Androscoggin will deliver an interactive presentation about their programs for English Language Learners. The meeting then wraps up at 2:00 pm.

Regional Meetings are a great way to connect with colleagues and professionals in the LV community. Plans are already underway for our Fall Meeting to be held at **Bates College**. Save the date: **Thursday, November 13**.

Candy Cane Train Super Fundraiser for Tri-County Literacy

Darlene Marciniak, Executive Director Tri-County Literacy



Tri-County Literacy wound down 2007 with a successful *Candy Cane Train* event, initiated in 2006 as our annual signature fundraiser. (www.candycanetrain.org)

This event allows people to support literacy in the community while enjoying a scenic holiday train ride that's fun for the whole family. The Candy Cane Train is a round-trip, 90-minute ride between the Bath

Train Station and Wiscasset. Hot chocolate and cookies are served, with Santa and his elves onboard! We sang yuletide songs led by the *Nor'easters Barbershop Chorus* and of course, readers on every train shared holiday stories with the little ones.

In 2006, we ran seven family trains and one evening train for adults that featured hot hors d'oeuvres and wine. We sold out 1,600 tickets well in advance, disappointing a great number of hopeful riders. For 2007, we added another car to each train and an extra family train, to total nine trips and 2,250 tickets. Lucky we did, as we still sold out all family trains, and nearly filled the adults-only to the max!

This program is a large undertaking, and we certainly could not do it without a huge amount of community support and a lot of truly dedicated volunteers. Our Candy Cane Train committee did a fabulous job of organizing the event, and we are most grateful for their hard work and commitment. We offer our deepest thanks to **The George P. Davenport Trust** for providing very generous sponsorship of our event, and to **Bath Iron Works** for their wonderful donation. We also thank everyone who purchased tickets or made donations, baked goodies, provided entertainment, and helped complete the dozens of tasks required to make the Candy Cane Train such an incredible success.

This year, alongside providing sponsorship of the Candy Cane Train, the trustees of The Davenport Trust purchased 40 tickets for **Read With Me** participants in the **Bath Head Start**. Many of our RWM families would not have been able to buy tickets, and the Trustees wanted to make sure that these families could enjoy this wonderful event. Additionally, **Wiscasset Ford** purchased 20 tickets for Read With Me participants in the **Wiscasset Head Start**. What a great gift from these two organizations!

Again, we are so very grateful to the many individuals and area businesses that helped us this year. The event profits help us greatly in our work to provide literacy services in Mid Coast Maine. See you next year!



Annual Electronic Filing Requirement for Small Exempt Organizations: Form 990-N (e-Postcard)



According to the Internal Revenue Service, small tax-exempt organizations whose gross receipts are \$25,000 or less

may be required to electronically submit **Form 990-N**, also known as the **e-Postcard**. The *Pension Protection Act of 2006* added this filing requirement to ensure that the IRS and potential donors have updated information about your organization.

Due Date

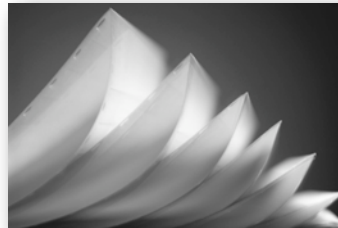
For 2008, the first e-Postcards are due for tax years ending on or after December 31, 2007. The e-Postcard is due every year by the 15th day of the 5th month after the close of your tax year. For example, if your tax year ended on December 31, 2007, the e-Postcard is due May 15, 2008. You cannot file the e-Postcard until *after* your tax year ends.

Visit the following IRS website page for further information: www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=169250,00.html.

STARS IN LITERACY CELEBRATION

It's time to start thinking about which student-tutor pairs your affiliate will honor at the LV Maine Annual Stars in Literacy Celebration on Wednesday, May 7 at the USM Glickman Family Library in Portland!

Report Underscores Key Impact of Maine Nonprofit Sector



Partners in Prosperity: The Maine Nonprofit Sector Impact 2008 is the new economic report from the **Maine Association of Nonprofits (MANP)**.

The publication reveals how Maine's vigorous nonprofit sector is crucial to maintaining and improving our quality of life, and that significantly reducing investments in programs and services could negatively affect the sector's ability to support sustainable economic development. Nonprofit leaders, friends and volunteers can use this report to inform policy-makers and the public about the major impact nonprofits have in partnering with government to serve our citizens.

Think About It

- ★ Reporting charitable nonprofits with annual gross receipts of more than \$25,000 are classified as charitable under the IRS code 501(c)(3).
- ★ While 48% of the nearly 6,000 nonprofits are reporting charitable nonprofits, they contribute \$7 billion to the Maine economy.
- ★ This \$7 billion accounts for 15% of the State's gross product – the same percentage as manufacturing and construction industries combined.

Download your copy of *Partners in Progress* and find more valuable resources at:

www.nonprofitmaine.org/sector_research.asp



LV Maine Calendar and Upcoming Events: March through July 2008

- March 18 Tuesday LV MAINE SPRING REGIONAL MEETING. 10 am--2 pm, Senator Inn, Augusta. RSVP March 10 to Sarah Robinson sarah@lvmaine.org or 207-773-3191.
- March 26 Wednesday 2008 PHILANTHROPY PARTNERS CONFERENCE. All day, Samoset Resort, Rockport. Go to www.maine philanthropy.org for more information.
- April 7 Monday ADULT EDUCATION HALL OF FLAGS DAY. 8 am--1 pm. State House, Augusta. Join LV Maine at this annual event. Call 207-773-3191 by March 31 to participate.
- May 7 Wednesday LV MAINE ANNUAL MEETING & STARS IN LITERACY AWARDS. 6--8 pm. A wonderful evening for students, tutors, boards and staff. Glickman Family Library, University of Southern Maine Portland campus. Watch for more information or email sarah@lvmaine.org.
- July 15-17 Tue--Thu TRAIN THE TRAINER. 9 am--3 pm. Freeport Community Library. With Roberta Reiss of the Literacy Coalition of Florida. Contact sarah@lvmaine.org by April 1.
- July 20 Sunday FAMILY LITERACY DAY WITH PORTLAND SEA DOGS. Noon. Hadlock Field, Portland. Always fun, and free book give-aways! Watch for more details.

LV Maine Chosen as AmeriCorps Host Site



LV Maine is delighted to report that our application to be a host site for an *AmeriCorps* Member has been approved. As of this newsletter posting, we have concluded interviews and are narrowing the process down to one candidate. We are looking to select the final applicant to assist with various projects for a selected-term placement in the

state office, beginning in May. Please watch for further details as this situation unfolds.

A program of the **Corporation for National and Community Service**, AmeriCorps offers adults opportunities to serve through a network of partnerships with local and national nonprofits. To learn more about AmeriCorps, visit their website at www.americorps.org.

LITERACY SOLUTIONS

Addressing challenges through positive problem-solving



NEW!

Summer Regional Tutor Trainings Expand Opportunities for Volunteers and Learners

To better meet the scheduling needs of people who want to become reading tutors, LV Maine is forming a new **Regional Tutor Training**, starting this summer. Most LV affiliates offer two tutor trainings per year, in spring and fall. The addition of a summer training will allow more people the chance to become certified LV tutors in both Basic Reading and English as a Second Language. We aim to:

- ★ help the growing number of adult learners who need tutoring assistance and lower the waiting list in various communities;
- ★ augment the tutor trainings of our affiliates;
- ★ offer volunteers more scheduling opportunities to become tutors and thus increase our tutor base to help adult learners.

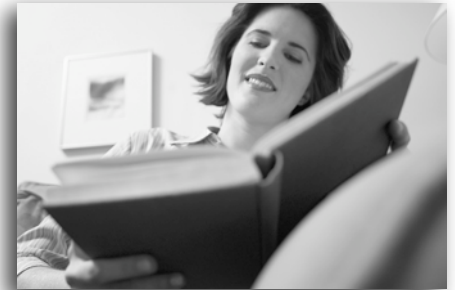
Our Regional Tutor Training will be held in **late July** for four sessions, in the **Scarborough--South Portland** area. Watch for forthcoming dates and announcements, and share this news with friends who are interested in tutoring adults. For more information, call LV Maine at **773-3191** or email: info@lvmaine.org.

ABC News Spotlights Low Literacy

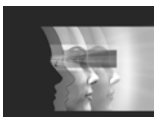
On February 25th, the ABC television network **World News with Charles Gibson** aired a special series *Living in the Shadows: Illiteracy in America* that examined the hidden phenomenon of low literacy in this country. Approximately 30 million people in the United States cannot read a simple sentence, and as Senior Justice Department Correspondent **Pierre Thomas** reported, undiagnosed learning disorders, poverty and unstable homes are among factors contributing to this nation-wide crisis.

While many adults try to conceal their literacy problems or avoid seeking solutions, many more realize they not only need help, but they can also find it in literacy support groups and, right here in our state, through **Literacy Volunteers of Maine** and our network of fourteen affiliates. For all those adults who have overcome their literacy problems, the ability to read has opened new doors and expanded opportunities. For more on the broadcast, go to www.abcnews.com and type *Living in the Shadows: Illiteracy in America* in the search window.

Learning...on Hold? Reduce the Wait and Become an LV Tutor Today!



As of February 2008, **over 100 people** have been on a waiting list to learn to read at just one of our Literacy Volunteers affiliates. You can help people help themselves, their families and their communities, by becoming a Literacy Volunteers (LV) tutor. You will gain training, skills, tools and inspiration to set you and your learning partner on a rewarding and successful path. To ask about being an LV tutor, call LV Maine **207-773-3191** or the **Adult Learning Opportunities Hotline 1-800-322-5455**.



Shannon Parker Joins LV Maine Board



We are pleased to welcome **Shannon M. Parker**, Director for **MSAD #5 Rockland Adult Education**, to the LV Maine Board of Directors. Shannon has spent the last ten years working to help adult immigrants with second language acquisition, improving post-

secondary access for non-traditional students and assisting adults to achieve vocational goals through

training and education. She is a committed volunteer for several organizations including **Knox County Teen and Young Parent Program**, **The Morris Farm** and **The Center for Teens** in Lincoln County.

Shannon holds a B.A. in English Literature from **Saint Michael's College** in Vermont, an M.A. in Applied Linguistics from the **University of Massachusetts Boston** and is currently enrolled in the C.A.S. Educational Leadership program at the **University of Southern Maine**. When not working or volunteering, Shannon enjoys kayaking along Maine's breathtaking coastline or hiking woodland trails with her husband, two children and dogs.

Get in Shape for Summer: Train-The-Trainer!

LV Maine is very excited to host an all-new Train The Trainer program this summer. Our special guest will be **Roberta Reiss**, who leads Train the Trainer (TT) sessions for the *Literacy Coalition of Florida* and other literacy providers across the country. Our goal in hosting TT is to form a robust and progressive Training Corps for regional tutor trainings, updates and roundtables so LV affiliates and their respective communities can benefit from these services.

The TT program will be held at the **Freeport Community Library on July 15, 16 and 17**. On

Tuesday and Wednesday, we will meet 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, and Thursday, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. To participate, contact **Sarah Robinson** by **Tuesday, April 1** by emailing sarah@lvmaine.org or calling **207-773-3191**. You can register one or two persons and an alternate from your affiliate. Signup is limited to 20. Don't miss this opportunity to sharpen skills and be part of a solid and professional Training Corps!



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STAFF

Executive Director: Sarah C. Robinson

Newsletter Editor: Elaine Tselikis,
Communications and Marketing Coordinator

Curriculum Coordinator: Abbie Embry Turner

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E-mail articles up to 150 words directly to the editor, elaine@lvmaine.org with "Newsletter Item" in the subject line of the e-mail message. Attach jpg or tiff format photographs if desired.

DEADLINE FOR JUNE ISSUE

Monday, April 28, 2008

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207.773.3191. www.lvmaine.org

Portland, ME 04101

142 High Street, Suite 526

Literacy Volunteers of Maine