

# BEYOND THE PAGE



ADVOCACY . NETWORKING . EDUCATION  
LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF MAINE . JULY -- SEPTEMBER 2008

## LV MAINE PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES PROMOTE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



As part of our outreach efforts to volunteers, tutors, learners and the adult education community, LV Maine encourages adult learners to increase civic engagement through self-advocacy and voting in this year's November 4 general election. We have done this on two, non-partisan fronts: by producing the *EASY TO READ VOTER GUIDE* in partnership with the **League of Women Voters of Maine** (LWVME), and helping to promote the Maine division campaign of **Voter Education Registration and Action** (VERA).

The *EASY TO READ VOTER GUIDE* was designed in-house by LV Maine. **Alliance Press** printed 18,000 copies, and we have targeted

statewide distribution of the publication for October. Radio announcements and morning program interviews have helped to promote the *GUIDE* partnership project as well as the important work of the Literacy Volunteers of Maine network.

*GUIDE* language content has been targeted at the 5th grade level to help native Mainers and new American citizens with varying literacy skills gain information about the voting process. Readers can learn how to register, understand positions of candidates who are running for state and federal offices, what state ballot issues will be decided this year, and where and how to vote. If you would like more information on this project, please contact LV Maine Executive Director, **Sarah Robinson** [sarah@lvmaine.org](mailto:sarah@lvmaine.org), visit the LWVME website [www.lwvme.org](http://www.lwvme.org), or our website [www.lvmaine.org](http://www.lvmaine.org). Remember to vote on November 4th!

### INSIDE

Regional Meeting

New Tutors Graduate!

Literacy and the Arts

Volunteer Recruitment Tips

# LV SPOTLIGHTS

People and affiliates that contribute to our LV Family



## New Training Model Graduates Volunteer Tutors

Based on participant feedback on learning activities and new tutor-learner matches underway, LV Maine's first Regional Tutor Training was a resounding success. As we heralded in this new model which combines instruction for Basic Literacy with English Speakers for Other Languages, we thank **MaineHealth** for loaning us their Learning Resource Center classroom.



To the harmonious humming of *Pomp and Circumstance* -- belted out by our training team of **Kristen Stevens, Katherine Kilrain del Rio, Sarah Robinson** and **Elaine Tselikis** -- 17 dedicated volunteer participants became certified LV tutors. The program was greatly enhanced by guest speakers **Pris Bilodeau, Rosanne Graef** and **Francoise Habimana**, who shared their personal experiences for Basic Literacy and ESOL segments.

To inquire about future tutor trainings, or to learn how your adult education program, business or company might host an LV tutor training, call **207-773-3191** or email [elaine@lvmaine.org](mailto:elaine@lvmaine.org).

## LV Maine Staff Notes

**Sarah Robinson**, Executive Director, was interviewed by **Annie Snook** of the **Portland Radio Group** in August. On October 5, an interview will be aired by **Sandra Harris** of **Citadel Broadcasting** with Sarah and **Elaine Tselikis**, Director of Communications and Educational Outreach. Both broadcasts highlight student outreach, tutor recruitment and training, and the **EASY TO READ VOTER GUIDE**.

A teaching artist and member of the Maine art and educational community for over 20 years, Elaine was also awarded a grant with colleague **Cindy Visbaras** from **Bates College** to teach expressive painting to people living with cancer for the new **Patrick Dempsey Center for Cancer, Hope and Healing** ([www.dempseycenter.org](http://www.dempseycenter.org)). The free, 6-week course ends October 27 and culminates in two exhibits.

**Abbie Embry Turner**, Curriculum Coordinator, has returned to the office from family leave on a limited basis. You can email [abbie@lvmaine.org](mailto:abbie@lvmaine.org) for information on her schedule or to touch base about her health literacy curriculum which is expected to be released in early 2009.



*Participants practice tutoring methods and exercises at the LV Maine Regional Tutor Training in July. These new tutors are now matched with adult learners through our affiliate offices.*



## Connecting Art and Literacy: Out CAST Players Exit Stage...For Now

*Beth M. Gifford, Executive Director LVMCM*

Those of us at **Literacy Volunteers of Mid-Coast Maine** are celebrating the successful end of a wonderful program, our learners' theater, *The Out CAST Players*. We decided as a group to end on the high note of a memorable performance at our annual meeting. We ended where we started, at home with family and friends! While we are sad to conclude a program as great as this, we are also thrilled with the many ways we have grown as a group and as individuals. As a way to say good-bye and thank you, the Out CAST Players created one more poem, based on our interpretation of the painting *Shipwreck off Cape Ann*, by **Augustus Buhler**.

*For several days we were full of excitement  
To know we had loved ones sailing in.  
They set sail with lots of laughter  
As their journey was to begin.*

*They set sail across the great ocean  
Their destination a quiet New England shore.  
Unaware that a low was developing  
To be in place when they entered our shore.*

*A steady gale just a pounding from the Northeast  
A heavy rain just a soaking the deck.  
They buckled down just to keep the mainsail standing  
Lots of prayers and lots of human sweat.*

*Mother nature with all her fury  
Unleashed more strength than any ship could stand.  
The mainsail snapped and left the ship in troubled waters  
It brought much heartache to loved ones here on land.*

*Just as soon as those strong winds had subsided  
We ventured out to see the splashing waves.  
At the shore glancing out at the horizon  
On solid ground we were all in such a daze.*

*In the distance we could see the red light flashing  
As it journeyed closer to the shore.  
With binoculars we could read the writing  
It read U. S. Coast Guard – who could ask for more.*

*It motored into the safe water of Cape Ann  
Those on shore walked down to lend a hand.  
On their faces you could see such great expression  
They all survived and now were safe on land.*

*In the days that followed each one told their many stories  
And the fear that each one held inside.  
That they may never touch the homeland  
To be rescued from that Shipwreck off Cape Ann.*



***See you in our next incarnation!***

***The Out CAST Players***

*Read more on Art and Literacy, page 4*

# LV NETWORK NEWS

News and resources for our affiliates



## Volunteer Management Best Practices Highlights Fall Regional Meeting

Sarah Robinson, Executive Director LV Maine

Our next LV Network Regional Meeting takes place **Thursday, November 13** at **Bates College** from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. in **Chase Lounge**. Special guest, **Anne Schink**, will help us learn more about best practices in volunteer management.

Anne is the Program Manager for **Project INVEST**, a grant-funded project that encourages colleges and universities to develop volunteer management courses. From 1995 to 2008, she was the Program, Training, and Disability Officer for **AmeriCorps** programs at the **Maine Commission for Community Service**.



In her volunteer work extending over 25 years, Anne has been a leader in organizational development and nonprofit and volunteer management for the **League of Women Voters**, **Planned Parenthood**, and church and community groups. With a CVA designation from the **Council on Certification in Volunteer Administration**, Anne provides nonprofit groups training, coaching and mentoring in volunteer management and organization development.

We are fortunate that Anne will share her considerable expertise in the crucial area of volunteer management for our network. Don't miss this active program! And come share your news with your friends and colleagues! **RSVP by November 7** to [sarah@lvmaine.org](mailto:sarah@lvmaine.org) or call **207-773-3191**.

## Connecting Art and Literacy: Exhibits and Blogs

### Photography Showcases Love for Reading



**André Kertész: On Reading** is on display at the **Portland Museum of Art** [www.portlandmuseum.org](http://www.portlandmuseum.org) through November 16. This exhibit celebrates 89 photographs by photographer André Kertész. Taken in Europe and the United States, his images illustrate his love for the poetry of life, tapping reading as a universal pleasure. Contact us for exhibit discount coupons for your LV affiliate staff, friends, tutors or students: [info@lvmaine.org](mailto:info@lvmaine.org) or 1-800-322-5455.

The Museum has also launched a blog in recognition of the Kertész show and **National Book Month**, which is in October. Post your comments at [www.portlandmuseum.org/about/blog/](http://www.portlandmuseum.org/about/blog/).



## 8 Tips on Volunteer Recruitment

### 1. Recruitment vs Publicity

Recruitment and publicity are different. A flyer or email blast citing unfilled volunteer positions is information. However, it is not a true invitation for people to sign on. Don't assume everyone knows what help is needed or whether she or he is right for the job.

### 2. What Do You Want?

Be clear what you want people to do before you recruit them. Write a volunteer job description. Be specific. Avoid vagaries like "*Do you want to volunteer?*" This can lead to incorrect assumptions about duties. "*Are you willing to coordinate the quarterly newsletter distribution*" is better. It is far more appealing if asked to become a "unit manager" or "site coordinator" or other definable role or title.

### 3. Be Honest

Tell prospective volunteers the time and effort a role entails. Do not minimize work by saying "*This will just take a few hours*" or try to sway people with "*Try it and see what you think.*" Be up front if you need someone several hours each week or for a full year, or to drive 30 miles. While it may take longer to find someone to fill the position, you'll eventually have the right person.

### 4. Available Support

Define the training, supervision and support the volunteer will have. People are often cautious about being tossed in to sink or swim. When they know they will get help as they learn the ropes, they are more likely to try volunteering.

### 5. Why Volunteer?

What are the positives of volunteering? Express how much the community benefits. Share personal payoffs. People have many different reasons and motivations for volunteering. Some like interaction, while others want to learn new skills for career development. Convey skills or interpersonal traits that make someone a good candidate for the position, just as if it were a paid opportunity.

### 6. Don't Jump the Gun

It is far better to live with a short-term vacancy than to assign someone unqualified or unwilling to fully commit to the work. It is amazing how one poor placement can negatively affect other volunteers on your team.

### 7. Do Me No Favors

Never recruit anyone by asking her or him to do it as a "favor" to you. Instead, communicate that you don't want them to miss a marvelous opportunity to participate in an important project!

### 8. Ask for Help

The best way to recruit volunteers is simply to ask people to help. Even if you are turned down, remember that you have helped your organization by reaching out to new people and giving worthwhile projects greater visibility.

*Adapted from an article by Susan J. Ellis*

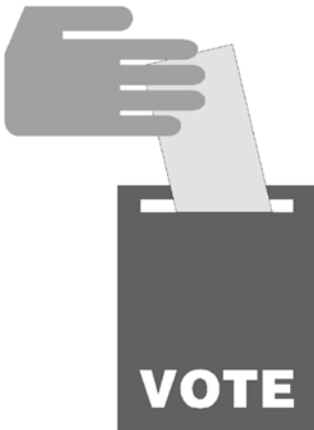
# LITERACY SOLUTIONS

Addressing challenges through positive problem-solving



## VERA: Voter Education, Registration and Action

*Kathy Kilrain del Rio, Project Coordinator LV Maine*



The **Voter Education, Registration, and Action** campaign of 2008 (VERA 08) is a non-partisan effort aimed at adult learners and program staff in New England. Its goal is to educate adult learners about voting, electoral topics and issues, and mobilize them to vote in

the 2008 elections. VERA is sponsored by the **New England Literacy Resource Center (NELRC)** at **World Education**.

Did you know that voting rates in the United States are among the lowest of any democracy in the world? Barely one half of voting-age adults participated in the last election. Adult educators can play an important role in increasing voter turn-out and helping learners explore advocacy and civic participation. The 2008 election offers a teachable moment with high stakes outcomes for adult learners. Here in Maine, we hope to mobilize 1,000 learners to vote.

### Joining VERA

Any New England adult education or Literacy Volunteers program can join, as well as individual teachers, although teachers need to first check with their program directors. New members receive an email confirmation from NELRC and a follow-up call from state VERA organizers. **Sarah Robinson**, Executive Director of LV Maine, is a VERA organizer for Maine. For more information on participating in VERA and teaching about

representative democracy, or to sign up, go online to <http://www.nelrc.org/VERA/>.

If you have a tip, resource or lesson plan that you'd like to share, please contact me at 207-773-3191 or email [kathy@lvmaine.org](mailto:kathy@lvmaine.org).

### Advocate!

You can be a voter advocate each time you send an email by adding a reminder about the election to your email signature. If you have multiple email addresses, add the reminder to all your signatures to reach a larger number of voters.

## **VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES**

### **LV Network Regional Meeting**

**Thursday, November 13**

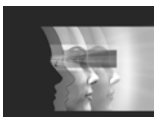
**10 am to 3 pm**

**Chase Lounge, Bates College, Lewiston**

- ◆ **Morning: Anne Schink**
- ◆ **Luncheon**
- ◆ **Afternoon: Affiliate Roundtables**

Enjoy this productive professional development opportunity and sharing experience with your LV colleagues and friends.

**RSVP NOW: 773-3191 or**  
[\*\*sarah@lvmaine.org\*\*](mailto:sarah@lvmaine.org)



## Major Book Give-Away Partnership

LV Maine and **Volunteers of America Northern New England** gave away 3,000 books at our annual *Family Literacy Day Celebration* with **The Portland Sea Dogs** in July.

Books were made possible through the **Scholastic Book Grants Program**.

Remember summer? These photos of volunteers from both organizations -- provided by **Glenn Michaels**, Director of Marketing and Communications for VOANNE -- testify to this fun day!



## LV Maine Board News

LV Maine Board Vice-President **Chip Brewer** has stepped up as the new President of the Board. He replaces **Brian Deveaux**, who now serves as Treasurer. **Ben Smith** is Vice-President, and **Sherri Parks** continues her tenure as Secretary.

We wish all the best to **Scott Schnapp** and **Richard Paulson**, following their invaluable service to the Board. Scott carries on with his busy schedule as Executive Director of the **Maine Association of Nonprofits**, and we congratulate Dick on his new position as Chief Financial Officer for a New England charter school.

On a personal note, we extend the warmest congratulations to Brian Deveaux and his wife **Kelli** on the birth of their son, **Bennett**, who came into the



world on September 2. Bennett is learning the ropes from his big brother **Colby**!

*Above: Father and child are doing just fine, thank you. Brian Deveaux holds new son Bennett.*

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### HOW TO SUBMIT NEWS ITEMS

E-mail articles up to 150 words to [elaine@lvmaine.org](mailto:elaine@lvmaine.org)  
with "Newsletter Item" in the subject line of the e-mail  
message. Attach jpg or tiff digital photographs if desired.

### DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER ISSUE

Friday, October 31, 2008

## LV MAINE BOARD

Maureen Belanger	Shannon M. Parker
Chip Brewer	Sherri Parks
Marcia Cook	Sally Serunian
Brian Deveaux	Benjamin Smith
Frederick "Ted" Dey	Janet Sorter
Gerald Galuza	



## REMEMBER TO VOTE NOVEMBER 4

*The secret of happiness is freedom. The secret of freedom is courage. -- Thucydides*

207.773.3191. [www.lvmaine.org](http://www.lvmaine.org)

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