



The Partners Press

TOMPKINS LEARNING PARTNERS

FALL 2017



Congratulations to PL! She worked very hard to pass her citizenship test. PL is pictured with Sue Chaffee of Catholic Charities Immigrant Services. Sue helps TLP students with the application process.

Well Done Students!

TLP students, tutors, and non-tutoring volunteers are off to another successful academic year. Since July, 2017:

- **110** adult learners have enrolled in our Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs
- **3** passed their driver's permit tests
- **3** passed their driver's license tests
- **8** learned how to use a computer
- **3** passed all five subject area tests on the TASC (Test Assessing Secondary Completion) and earned their HSE (High School Equivalency) certificate
- **9** got a job for the first time or improved their employment
- **5** passed some of the subject area tests on the TASC (reading, writing, math, science, and/or social studies)
- **8** passed their interviews for United States citizenship

TLP students commit to meeting at least once per week with their tutors, for a minimum of two hours, to work on the literacy and life goals of their choice. We could not be prouder of our students and all they have accomplished while also balancing family, work, and other responsibilities.

Karaoke for a Cause

A large crowd thoroughly enjoyed the Karaoke for a Cause fundraiser at K-HOUSE on Sunday, September 10. The second year event raised over \$5,000!

Country's 103.7 radio personality Chris Allinger emceed as singers from all walks of life sang to raise money for Tompkins Learning Partners. Special guests, who persuaded everyone to join in singing "We are the World," were seven Cornell Humphrey Fellows representing Sudan, Ghana, Thailand, Pakistan, Zambia, Nigeria and Zimbabwe.

Additional thanks go to CFCU Community Credit Union, Tompkins Trust Company Insurance Agencies and Financial Advisors, and Associate Broker Grace McMenamin at Warren Real Estate and TLP's board president for underwriting the event. Many thanks go to Alina Kim, K-House owner, for her generosity in holding the event.



Grace McMenamin & Chris Allinger

"VOLUNTEERING is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote everyday about the kind of community you want to live in." –Unknown

welcome to Our New Staff

WE are happy to announce that **Anthony Paolangeli** joined our staff in February. Anthony is our afternoon Program Assistant and handles data for reporting purposes (including tutor reports), along with other duties such as monitoring the computer lab and greeting students, tutors, and visitors when they arrive at TLP.

Previously, Anthony worked as a Program Assistant for Catholic Charities' Immigrant Services Program. While there, he interacted with many current TLP students and also collaborated with TLP and BOCES ESL staff on the Office for New Americans Grant.

Anthony grew up in Ithaca and resides in Dryden with his wife, Diamando. He attends TC3 for computer information systems and is an avid basketball player and fan. His favorite team is the Chicago Bulls.



Anthony Paolangeli

TLP is also pleased to welcome Lori Abbott to our staff.

Lori has taken over our contracted part-time literacy teacher position from Ginny Schumacher, who recently retired. Lori is a retired special education teacher who brings lots of valuable experience to her work here at TLP. In addition, she has been a volunteer with TLP since 2007, so she is already a familiar and friendly face to many current students and tutors. Lori lives in Lansing and has two grown sons who are both musicians. In her free time, Lori volunteers at the State Theater and enjoys traveling and birdwatching, among many other hobbies.



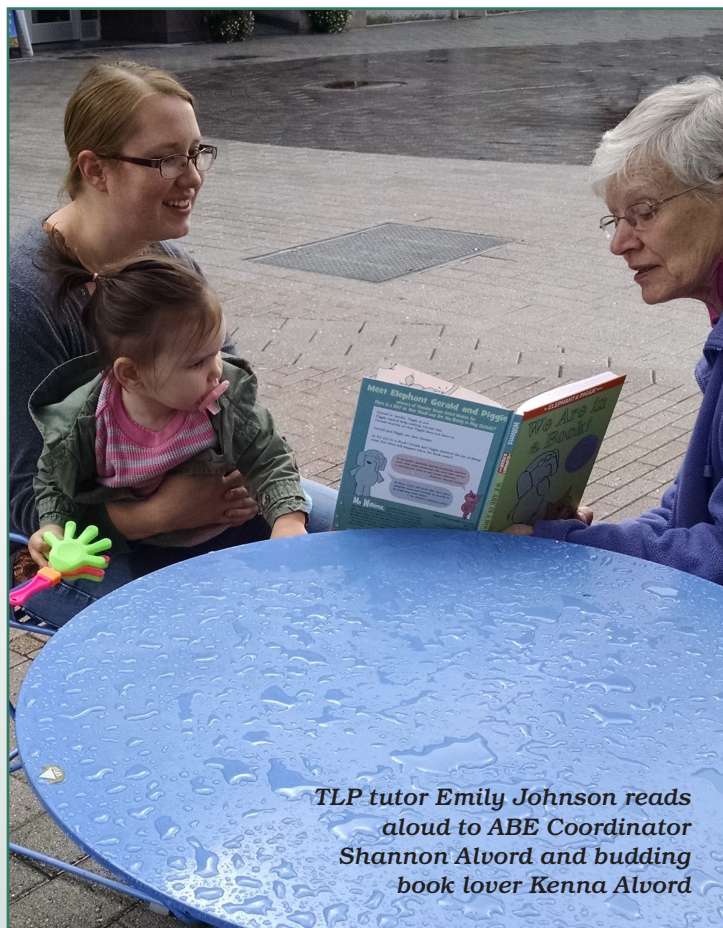
Lori Abbott

We believe the ability to read and write is critical to personal freedom and the maintenance of a democratic society.

Partners in Literacy: International Literacy Day Celebration

In 1965, the United Nations declared September 8th as "International Literacy Day" to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and societies.

This year, TLP joined forces with the Tompkins County Public Library and Family Reading Partnership to set up a community event called "Read-Aloud Along the Commons." Volunteer readers from TLP, the TCPL, and FRP chose their favorite pieces to read aloud to passersby. While rain may have slowed traffic on the Commons that day, it did not dampen our readers' spirits! We will host this event again next year—Saturday, September 8, 2018—so stay tuned for more details!



TLP tutor Emily Johnson reads aloud to ABE Coordinator Shannon Alvord and budding book lover Kenna Alvord

Recent Grants

TLP was fortunate to have recently received three grants. A grant of \$895.00 was received from the Friends of the Public Library for books for emerging readers who are at the beginning to intermediate reading level. Additionally, books were purchased for students studying for their high school equivalency diplomas.

The Legacy Foundation approved a \$2,500 request to be used to increase the hours of our part-time literacy instructor. As a result, the instructor is able to serve 12 students with low English literacy skills that otherwise would be waiting to be tutored.

These grants help us meet program needs as well as supplement funding that TLP receives from Tompkins County, the City of Ithaca, the NY State Education Department and United Way of Tompkins County.



Cornell Volunteers help with annual Fall cleanup!

Freshman Jordan Bryan and senior Ingrid Winter planting spring bulbs—not pictured is first year student Susana Zeng, who was in another section of the garden transplanting wayward daffodils!

For Cornell's annual service day, "Into the Streets," three student volunteers came to TLP to help get our reading garden back into shape! They spent the afternoon raking, weeding, trimming and planting bulbs. We can't wait to see the new bulbs pop up in the spring. Thank you so much for your help!

What is the TASC Test?

TASC (Test Assessing Secondary Completion) is the test used in New York State—formerly called the GED.

The TASC test is similar to the GED in that there are 5 subject area tests that a student must pass in order to obtain their high school equivalency diploma. These tests include: Reading, Writing, Social Studies, Science and Math. Students at TLP work with their tutor to study for all of the sections of this exam. We have many dedicated and patient tutors working with students on this goal. We are actively recruiting additional tutors to help with study for this test—we have a particular need for additional math tutors! Students who pass the test are honored at a graduation ceremony with other BOCES Adult Education students in June. Last year, 7 TLP students passed the TASC test and for this academic year, we have already had 3 students pass!

Sixth Annual Finger Lakes Crossword Competition!

Mark your calendars for Saturday afternoon, **March 17, 2018!** Gary Weissbrot, event chair, will once again emcee this TLP Fundraiser. Our puzzle master, Adam Perl, is ready to construct three new puzzles for individuals and teams—easier, trickier, and tougher!

For the serious crossword fanatics out there, our two-time "Toughest" champ, Jacob Lehman, will be looking to keep his streak alive!

There will be new prizes for the winners and for the first time, there will be separate competitions for kids (grades 5-7) and young adults (grades 8-12).

Past players said their favorite parts were: "Being surrounded by others who share the same addiction"; "Figuring out Adam's twists and themes"; "Doing puzzles with friends"; and "Camaraderie!"

NY Times Crossword Puzzle Editor Will Shortz wrote, "I know that everyone who attends the Finger Lakes Crossword Competition, and who solves Adam's puzzles, will have a terrific time."

We hope to add new players again this year because the more players, the more fun and the more money raised for TLP programs! As always, there will be additional activities before and after the event, or just show up to compete in the main event. Information, exact schedule, prizes and practice puzzles, along with registration forms will be posted very soon on our website, www.TLPpartners.org.

"I know that everyone who attends the Finger Lakes Crossword Competition, and who solves Adam's puzzles, will have a terrific time."

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Program Support Assistant

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TLP's Mission

Our mission is to help adults who live or work in Tompkins County meet their personal goals, free of charge, by improving their ability to read, write, and speak English, and to use math and computers. Students achieve these goals by working together with professionally trained and supported volunteer tutors.

TLP respects the privacy of our students. We never use students' full names or photos without their permission.



Tompkins Learning Partners

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Community Partner

Annual Fall Appeal!



Each year TLP makes two donation requests to donors and potential donors, one in the summer and one in the fall.

This summer's request brought in \$7,500! We will soon be sending out the fall appeal with the hope that we can reach our 2017 goal of \$20,000. Reaching that goal, or even surpassing it, is especially important so that we can balance our budget. If you would like to give, but did not receive a request, a simple way to do so is by PayPal/credit card through our website at www.TLPartners.org. Thank you for your support this past summer and thank you in advance for your support this fall!

Thank You Volunteers!

86 tutors have actively volunteered with Tompkins Learning Partners

TLP volunteer tutors commit to at least one year of service and undergo orientation and initial training with staff. They also attend on-going workshops to keep their tutoring skills sharp. These dedicated volunteers work one-to-one or in small groups with their learning partners on literacy and life goals at least once per week. Students and staff truly appreciate their time, caring and dedication.

35 non-tutoring volunteers have assisted TLP in a variety of ways.

They have helped us with special events, like our Crossword and Karaoke fundraisers and hosting shifts at the Friends of the Library book sale. Non-tutoring volunteers also manage the TLP lending library, maintain our reading garden and help us with administrative tasks such as mailings and record keeping. Our non-tutoring volunteers help keep TLP going from day to day and are an integral part of the TLP team.