



The Partners Press

TOMPKINS LEARNING PARTNERS

FALL 2018

TLP says Thank You to APO!

We would like to thank Cornell's Alpha Phi Omega (APO) for representing TLP for the third year as volunteers at the Friends of the Library annual Fall Book Sale.

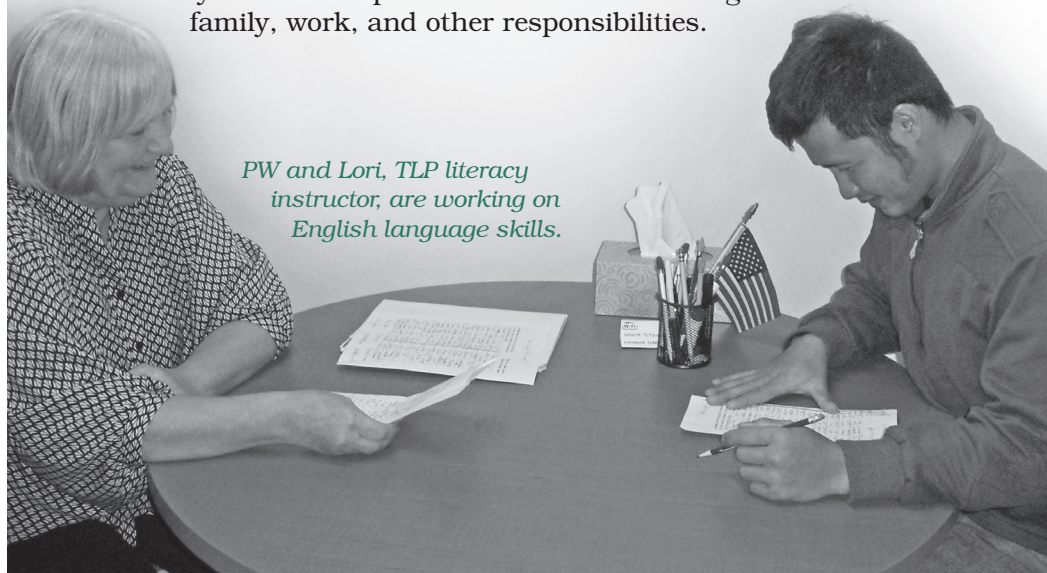
APO, chartered at Cornell in 1927, is one of the largest on-campus student organizations and the longest continually-running chapter of this national service fraternity. These wonderful students have also been a huge help to us the last six years at our Crossword Competition fundraising event, as well as the last two years at our Karaoke event. We thank them for doing such a great job of representing our organization throughout the community!

Well Done Students!

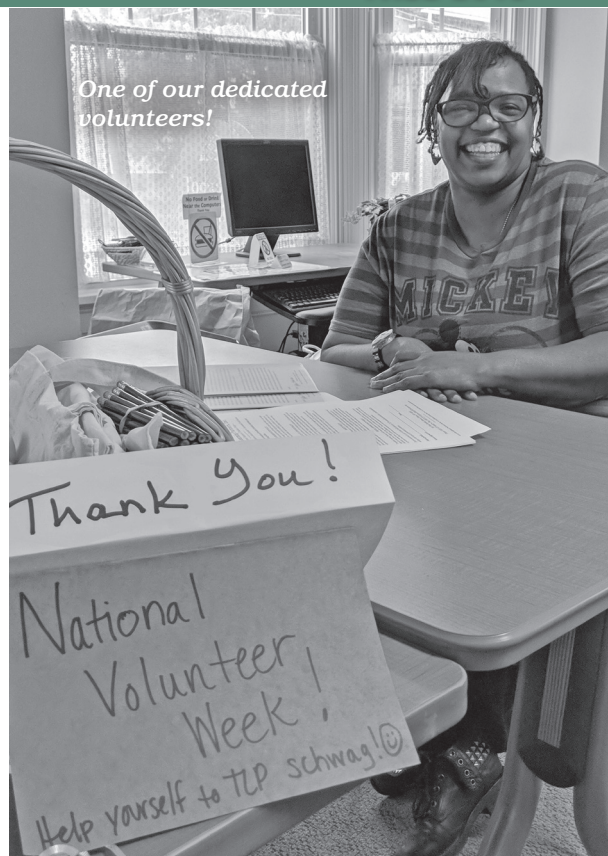
Since July of 2018, TLP students and tutors have been hard at work. Here are just some of the students' remarkable accomplishments:

- **131** students enrolled in our Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English as a Second Language (ESL) Programs
- **67** retained or improved employment
- **9** got jobs for the first time
- **4** passed one or more of the subject area tests on the TASC (Test Assessing High School Completion)
- **10** entered a post-secondary education or training program
- **9** began volunteering in the community
- **9** 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.



PW and Lori, TLP literacy instructor, are working on English language skills.



One of our dedicated volunteers!

Thanks to our Volunteers!

Most of our volunteers are tutors, but we have a crew of incredibly helpful office volunteers too! They deserve some special recognition, as the tasks they do each week support our programming, keep our classrooms neat and tidy, maintain our library, and keep staff sane! TLP loves our volunteers!

“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

Seventh Annual Finger Lakes Crossword Competition!

Mark your calendars for Saturday afternoon, March 16, 2019!

This TLP Fundraiser has grown every year and is now attracting players from around the country. Gary Weissbrot, event chair, will once again emcee. Our puzzle master and native Ithacan, Adam Perl, is ready to construct three new puzzles for individuals and teams—easier, trickier, and tougher!

At the Sixth Annual FLCC, our two-time “Toughest” champ, Jacob Lehman, was finally dethroned by Jesse Lansner, who went on to finish 33rd at the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament. (Jacob finished right behind him at 40th.)

We hope they will both return. Are there any serious solvers out there willing to join the fray and

become our newest champ? (Your initials don’t need to be JL.)

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!” Gary’s favorite parts were the 10-minute Crossword play performance and the free coffee and donuts provided by the Ithaca Bakery.

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 games for 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.TLPartners.org.

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welcome to Our New Staff

Tompkins Learning Partners welcomed **Dawn LaMorte** to our staff at the end of October. Dawn will be the afternoon Program Assistant and will handle the compilation of tutor and student data for reporting purposes as well as monitor the computer lab and assist tutors and students in the office. Dawn has an art teaching degree and a background in marketing, graphic design and event planning. Her previous role at Racker as the Special Projects Manager involved multi-tasking and project management which has prepared her well for her job here at TLP. Dawn lives in Danby and has a six year old son named Xavier, as well as two bonus kids, Anika (age 13) and Damian (age 10.)

Joann Kowalski joins Tompkins Learning Partners as the ABE Coordinator after serving in various roles in educational institutions



Dawn LaMorte

throughout her career. Most recently she served as the Director of Continuing Education and Graduate Studies at Elmira College. Previous to that she worked in Community Education at Corning Community College and as a Community Development educator with Penn State Cooperative Extension.

Joann has a bachelor’s degree from the University of Pittsburgh in Writing and Communications and a master’s in Adult Education from Penn State University—a combination well-suited to the responsibilities of the position. She is a confessed lifelong learner and a firm believer that ‘knowledge is power’ and opens doors to many opportunities.

She is looking forward to working with all the great volunteers at TLP as well as the talented staff who keep the organization running smoothly!



Joann Kowalski

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



Sockin' it to Illiteracy

Friend of TLP Lynn Olcott of Homer, NY, supported TLP this summer with her outreach at community events in Groton and Lansing. Lynn sold beautifully hand-knitted and lovingly made items (socks, mittens, scarves and hats) to raise funds for TLP's adult literacy programs. Her presence at these community events (Groton Olde Home Days and Lansing Community Festival) was also greatly appreciated, as she warmly greeted passersby and approached like-minded agencies to share about our mission. Lynn is a retired teacher—much of her career was spent teaching behind bars. She sums up her career saying, "I met a lot of nice people in prison." Lynn is passionate about literacy because, "Literacy is a human right. It's essential for processing modern life." Lynn raised \$80 for our program and continues to raise funds by having her knitted items available for sale at our office—stop by to get yours today!



Karaoke for a Cause

Sunday, October 28 was the date for TLP's Third Karaoke for a Cause event hosted at K-HOUSE. \$7,000 was raised to support TLP's literacy programs.

A large thank you goes to K-HOUSE owner Alina Kim Hernandez as she emceed—introducing the singers who wowed the crowd with their vocal prowess. The crowd was also treated to Alina's beautiful voice as she took her place behind the microphone.

Additional thanks go to CFCU Community Credit Union, Tompkins Trust Company and Associate Broker Grace McMenamin at Warren Real Estate and TLP's board president for underwriting the event. Many thanks also go to TLP friends and donors whose generous pledges made the event a success.

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 over \$9,000! We will soon be sending out the fall appeal with the hope that we can reach our 2018 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!

Recent Grants

Tompkins Learning Partners recently received three grants. The granters were the Friends of the Library, the Rotary Club of Ithaca and the Walmart Foundation. Funds were requested and granted for student books and materials and for the revision and printing of TLP's brochure.

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.

In Remembrance

Over the past few years, TLP has lost some very dear friends including tutors **Caroline "Julie" Jackson**, **Margaret Dyer**, and student **Aung Htoo**. We miss them and appreciate all they did to make TLP a great place to tutor and learn.



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Helen Ranck,
English as a Second Language Coordinator
Lori Abbott, *Adult Literacy Instructor*
Sharon McGee,
Administrative Assistant
Dawn LaMorte,
Program Support Assistant
Anthony Paolangeli,
Program Support Assistant (Thru 10/18)

Volunteer Librarians
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June Locke
Rachel Testman

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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Thank You...

70 tutors have actively volunteered with Tompkins Learning Partners since July 2018, and 11 new tutors were trained this fall.

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.

31 non-tutoring volunteers helped us with special events, like our Crossword and Karaoke fundraisers and hosting a shift 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.

Volunteers!