



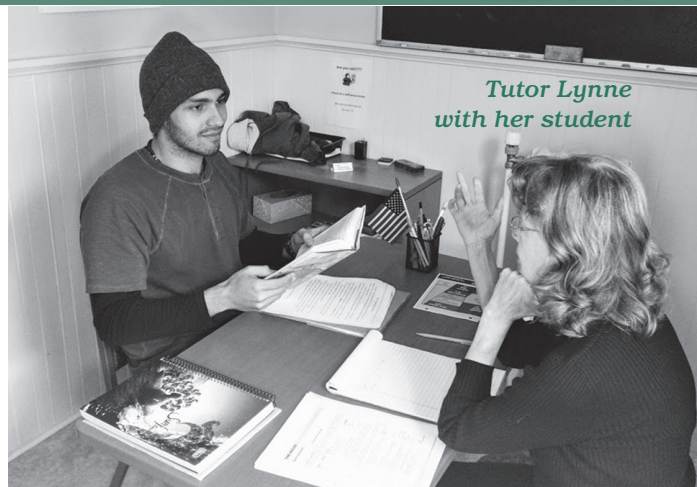
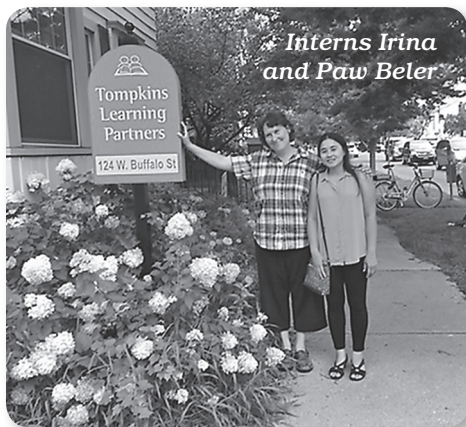
## Summer Interns at TLP

This summer, Tompkins Learning Partners hosted two interns who helped us with multiple special projects. Irina Peress is pursuing her Master of Social Work (MSW) degree at Binghamton University. She has been a TLP ESL tutor since 2016, and has a special interest in working with immigrants and refugees. With the help of her internship supervisors Shannon Alvord and Joann Kowalski, Irina presented a very well received workshop for tutors on boundaries and confidentiality. She also included information on how trauma impacts learning. In addition, Irina hosted a women's conversation group which was also very well

attended. She is now back at Binghamton University full time, but will continue to tutor at TLP. We are very grateful for her contributions to our organization and are pleased she'll remain connected to TLP.

Our second intern, Paw Beler Htoo, is a recent graduate of TC3, with a degree in Human Services. Paw Beler split her internship time

between Catholic Charities Immigrant Services Program and Tompkins Learning Partners. TLP and Catholic Charities are partners on the ONA (Office for New Americans) grant. As part of this project, Paw Beler translated materials for our citizenship students. Through Catholic Charities, she also helped organize women's health and social security benefits workshops for TLP students and for the wider immigrant and refugee community in Tompkins County. As a former TLP student, Paw Beler shared many valuable insights and experiences that will help us with program planning in the future. Paw Beler has achieved countless academic and personal goals since arriving in Ithaca and is truly a role model for her community. We are thankful for her help this summer and hope to work with her again soon.



## Well Done Students!

*Since July of 2019, TLP students and tutors have been hard at work. Here are just some of the students' remarkable accomplishments:*

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

**“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

# What's the Buzz??

*Get ready for something new!*

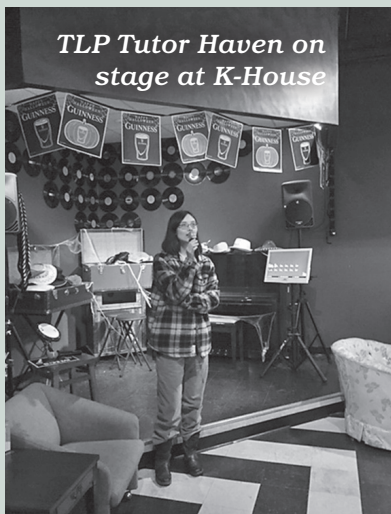
Next fall a new fun fundraising event, Tompkins Learning Partners Trivia *Buzz*, will make its debut. Unlike most local trivia competitions, this event will allow a player's team to use a buzzer to buzz in as soon as they think they know the answer. The judge's control buzzer locks out those buzzing after. If the first responder is wrong, the other teams get a second chance. Plan now to reserve a table to show the world how brainy you and your friends really are! More details will be available soon.



## Karaoke for a Cause 2019

*Another fun fundraiser was held on **Sunday, October 20**, at Ithaca's K-HOUSE.*

The 4th Karaoke for a Cause raised \$4,800 for Tompkins Learning Partners! K-HOUSE owner Alina Kim emceed the event again this year. Thanks to everyone who participated in or pledged for the event. Special thanks to Cornell FingerLakes Credit Union and Grace McMenamin, TLP President and Warren Real Estate Realtor for underwriting the event.



## Recent Grants

Tompkins Learning Partners appreciates the support we receive from our community partners which helps provide TLP students and tutors with adequate resources and staff. Grants from local funders assist us in meeting program needs including providing resources for home-bound immigrant and refugee women, assessments for adult basic education students and electronic tablets enabling citizenship students to practice for the interview.

During 2019, we received grants from the following organizations—ProLiteracy/National Book Fund, Tompkins County Friends of the Library, Legacy Foundation (11/28/18), CFWO: Women Building Community, and the Social Service League.

These grants supplement the funding TLP receives from Tompkins County, the City of Ithaca, the NY State Education Department and the United Way of Tompkins County.

Thank you to all our partners for supporting our mission of helping 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.

## 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 \$10,000! We will soon be sending out the fall appeal with the hope that we can reach our 2019 goal of \$25,000. 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.TLPpartners.org](http://www.TLPpartners.org). Thank you for your support this past summer and thank you in advance for your support this fall!

# Eighth Annual Finger Lakes Crossword Competition!

Mark your calendars for Saturday afternoon, **March 14, 2020!** This TLP Fundraiser has grown every year and is now attracting players from around the country.

**G**ary 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 Toughest! (Monday, Wednesday, and Fri/Sat for you NY Times solvers.)

At the Seventh Annual FLCC, our returning “Toughest” champ, Jesse Lanser, again took home the top prize. In 2018, Jesse dethroned two-time “Toughest” champ, Jacob Lehman.

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.)

Last year saw an **over 50%** increase in the number of participants with a corresponding increase in the funds raised for Tompkins Learning Partners. We may be forced to expand the space generously donated by Boynton Middle School to include the hallways adjoining their cafeteria. (Better register as soon as possible.)

Past players said their favorite parts were: “Being surrounded by others who share the same addiction”; “Figuring out Adam’s twists and themes”; “Camaraderie!”; “Finally earning the Perfect Puzzle certificate” and “Doing puzzles with friends.” Gary’s favorite parts were the free coffee and donuts provided by the Ithaca Bakery and Gimme Coffee.

We hope to add even more new players this year because the more players, the more fun and the more money raised for TLP programs! As always, there will be additional games before and after the event and a terrific Silent Auction. Or you can just show up to compete in the main event. Information, exact schedule, prizes and practice puzzles, along with registration forms will be posted right after the New Year on our website, [www.TLPartners.org](http://www.TLPartners.org).

## Community Outreach

*The summer was filled with various weekend festivals and events throughout Tompkins County.*

**T**ompkins Learning Partners is committed to serving all of Tompkins County including our rural communities as well as the City of Ithaca.

TLP hosted an information table at Newfield Old Home Days in July and in Groton at Community Days in August. In September, we were in Lansing for their Community Festival and provided information for an event in McLean. October brought us to Brooktondale for their Apple Festival.

Libraries in the Finger Lakes Library System are also good places to help us get the word out to potential students and volunteer tutors.

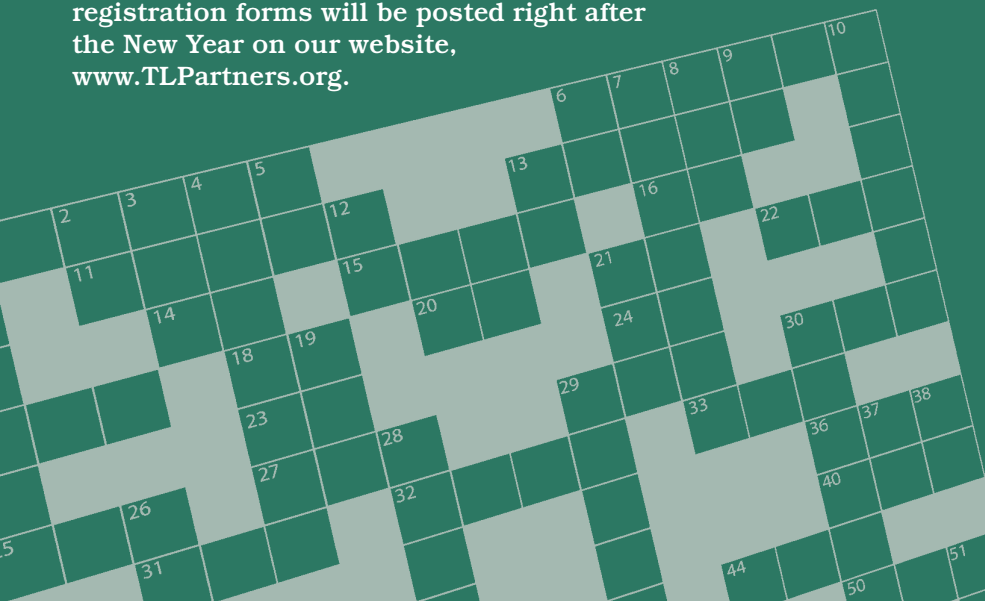
Some also host tutor and student meetings when students have travel constraints.

TLP also held presentations at Lifelong to attract potential volunteers and participated in Lifelong’s early Fall Volunteer Fair.

A TLP representative attended a Summer Open House at the Community Foundation as well as an open house and tour at the Ithaca Re-Use Center.

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





## TLP Board of Directors

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Joann Kowalski, *Adult Basic Education Coordinator*  
Helen Ranck,  
*English as a Second Language Coordinator*  
Lori Abbott, *Adult Literacy Instructor*  
Sharon McGee,  
*Administrative Assistant*  
Dawn LaMorte,  
*Program Support Assistant*

## Volunteer Librarians

June Locke  
Nancy Skipper  
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

124 W. Buffalo Street  
Ithaca, NY 14850

Phone: 607-277-6442  
URL: [TLPartners.org](http://TLPartners.org)  
E-mail: [literacy@TLPartners.org](mailto:literacy@TLPartners.org)

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## Thank You...

**117** tutors have actively volunteered with Tompkins Learning Partners since July 2019, and 8 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.

**28** 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!



Community Partner