



Vermont Reading Partners

A Volunteer Literacy Program

Student-Tutor Newsletter, December 2012

September Tutor Training Workshop

In September this year VRP's four day workshop training was conducted for new tutors at the Martha Canfield Library in Arlington. Twelve tutors completed the training that qualifies them to work with students in the Adult Program, the School Program, or both. Tutor trainers were Koshka Pabst, Sally Brown, Cindy Krautheim, Jackie Kelly, and Suzanne Rose. Doing an outstanding job this year as our guest trainer was Yuval Sela. Exemplary veteran tutor Dick Bailey joined us for a discussion of our tutoring experiences, always a highlight of the final training module. The workshop was again a great success.

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Tutor trainers and new tutors. Top, l to r: Dick Bailey, Suzanne Rose, Debra Lyneis, Susan Corcoran, Linell Pike, Pam Nalefski, Bonnie Barnes, Jeanne Mills. Bottom, l to r: Merry McDonnell, Koshka Pabst, Frances Stelz, Barbara Morrow, Cindy Krautheim Not shown are Gail Dexter, Patricia Michael, Terry Roberts, Jackie Kelly, and Yuval Sela.

Sixteen tutors in our School Program are currently tutoring one-on-one children in grades one through six at Currier Elementary in Danby, Fisher Elementary in Arlington, Floodbrook Union School in Londonderry, and Manchester Elementary and Middle School. These children, who meet with their tutor after school, need help and encouragement with reading and writing. One tutor is helping in the homework club at Shaftsbury Elementary, and two are working as classroom assistants at Molly Stark in Bennington.



Hubert Watson, Bennington, student of Karen Tibetts, holds the first book he has ever read to his grandchild. Karen has been working with Hubert for over a year. Her photo is now displayed at the ProLiteracy headquarters in Syracuse, N.Y.

We also tutored twenty-five students in our Adult Program in basic literacy skills and English language comprehension during the past year. As in the School Program, student/tutor pairs meet one-on-one, with the exception of the students in the Bromley Mountain English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program who meet as a group, five last winter. Meetings take place in public places at the convenience of the tutor and the student. All of our services are free.

We are so fortunate for our volunteers who make such a difference in the lives of their students. If you have a desire to help children or adults improve their literacy skills, or if you would like to speak to a tutor and find out, first-hand, the ins and outs of tutoring, please don't hesitate to call June at 362-2323 or e-mail vrp2323@sover.net



In Celebration of Vermont Authors

"Celebrating Vermont Authors" was the theme for our August 2012 Summer Social held on August 26th at the Manchester Country Club, where we gathered to visit and browse and to sample hearty hors d'oeuvres. Guests received tickets at the door for books by Vermont authors, either donated by VRP board members or by the authors themselves, to be drawn at an appropriate time during the evening. We were fortunate to have several Vermont authors attend this event. We were also recipients of additional books from a kind benefactor; the centerpiece on every table was a gently used book by a Vermont author. Anyone attending could take home a centerpiece book, and we are delighted to say that all books found good homes with one of our sixty-two guests.



Book arrangement with each author's biography at VRP Summer Social.



As in past years, we held a silent auction of items donated by regional businesses and interested individuals. This year's event generated \$3535 from the dinner, \$3505 from the auction, and \$1445 in donations. With expenses of \$2904, VRP's total Summer Social income was \$5581. We thank all who contributed to our event—authors, businesses, and individual donors—as well as all who attended the Summer Social. We look forward to next year's fundraising event.

2012 Maple Leaf Half-Marathon

On September 7th and 8th, Vermont Reading Partners, along with other volunteer organizations, again had the opportunity of being part of the Maple Leaf Half-Marathon and 5K run/walk. VRP volunteers registered a record number of runners/walkers to support the Lions Club—more than 1,000 from 26 states, Canada, and the Virgin Islands. This year the Lions Club was assisted by both the Manchester Chamber of Commerce as well as the Manchester Select Board and Town Manager John O'Keefe. Walkers/runners and Lion's Club members are grateful for the town's assistance in opening the closed bridge, under construction, to those participating. Perfect Wife kindly provided Friday evening's volunteers with snacks. VRP's participation in the Maple Leaf Marathon is one way VRP can say thank you to the Lions Club for their generous support and contributions to our programs.

Reach Your Goal in Reading During February Literacy Month

At Vermont Reading Partners, every month is literacy month, but in February we shine when the Vermont Law Enforcement Hockey Club and the Green Mt. Boys arrive at the Riley Rink to champion our mission: to promote literacy in southwestern Vermont and to provide free and confidential tutoring for children and adults. This will be the 14th consecutive year the clubs have shown their support for our programs with an exhibition match and a generous donation. The support of businesses and individuals, sponsors of this event, make it all happen.

The event will be held on Sunday, February 17, beginning at 3:00 p.m. with an enormous Bookshare table full of books for children to young adults. They are encouraged to make up "literacy" bags of books, as many as they like, to take home and read. The books are gently used and donated by the community.



Team portrait February 2012

The match begins at 4 p.m. when the teams take to the ice. Chuck-a-puck will be played at half-time. The crowd can buy pucks for \$1 each and when directed, throw them onto the ice. The person who comes closest to the center of the ice wins half the purse. Raffle baskets will be offered as part of the program.

Admission to the match is free; donations are gladly accepted. Please call or email the VRP office for further details, 362-2323 – vrp2323@sover.net. Mark your calendars for February 17 and enjoy an afternoon of fun.

Board of Director Opportunities

Vermont Reading Partners is pleased to announce the opportunity to serve on VRP’s Board of Directors. Board meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 4:00 p.m., and members are responsible for assisting in the maintenance and expansion of VRP’s programs as well as aiding in plans to implement ways to finance VRP programs. In addition, members of VRP’s Board coordinate public relations efforts and Board development. We would be happy to discuss Board opportunities with all interested parties. Please contact VRP at 362-2323 or Suzanne Rose at 362-1727.

Bookshare Locations

Early Childhood Through Teens	Agency Bookshares
Mach’s Market, Pawlet	Bennington Area Food Cupboards
Shaftsbury Country Store, Rt. 7A, Shaftsbury	Oakhill Child Center, Pownal
Stewart’s Shops, Manchester	Sunrise Family Resource Center, Bennington
Winchester’s, Pownal	WIC—Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program, Bennington

The Gift of Reading

This Christmas consider giving a gift of reading by donating to Vermont Reading Partners. Your gift will help an adult or child in our community improve his literacy skills and open doors to the wonderful world of reading. Donate in a friend or loved one’s name, and that special person will receive a holiday card announcing your gift. Or we’ll send the card to you and you can present this generous gift yourself. Your friend or relative’s name will also appear in our annual newsletter thanking all donors. Just send your donation to Vermont Reading Partners, P.O. Box 72, Manchester, VT 05254, or call 362-2323.