

FALL 2025

STUDENT & TUTOR NEWS

Literacy Volunteers of Washington County



CONNECT WITH US



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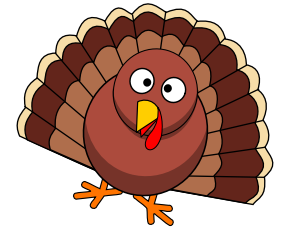
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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Literacy Volunteers of Washington County will close this fall for the following:

- Monday, October 13 for Columbus Day
- Tuesday, November 11 for Veterans' Day
- Thursday & Friday, November 27-28 for Thanksgiving break.



Halloween in October 31. This is a fun holiday but not a federal holiday, so we will be open that day.



Hey Tutors, remember if you are meeting outside of the LVWC, you need to submit your hours using our Off-Site Tutor Reporting Form from our website. Thank you!

Have you visited our Digital Lesson Library, yet? We have beginning workbooks, reading, pronunciation, math, computer literacy materials and more. Check it out.

Need something printed? Let us know, and we will have it ready for you at our office.



SPOTLIGHT

Coffee & Conversation

We've brewed up a brand-new conversation class every Monday from 11am-12pm at the oh-so-cozy Fresh Cup Cafe! Spearheaded by our volunteer tutor, Sharon, this class is your golden ticket to sipping on a delightful coffee, cappuccino, tea, matcha, or even a milkshake while you chat away.

Swing by and join the fun!



SPOTLIGHT

Summer fun for the Graduate Village conversation class.

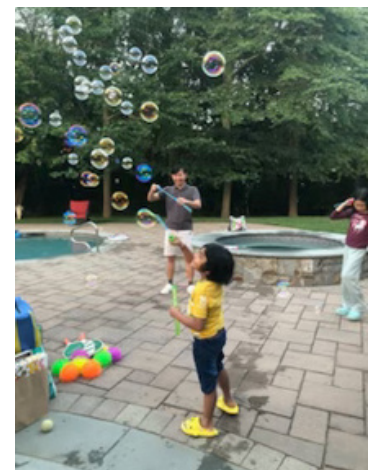
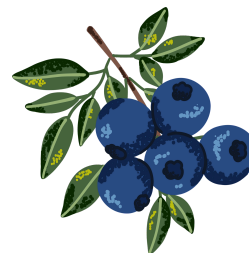
Initially, the URI Graduate Village conversation class intended to hold sessions exclusively via Zoom in July. However, LVWC tutor Anne generously opened her home to the class starting on July 7. That evening, they explored the Point Judith Lighthouse and Camp Cronin before returning to Anne's house for delicious food and lively discussions. They had such a wonderful time that Anne kindly invited them to gather at her home every Monday throughout July, making use of her in-ground pool and yard games.

On July 28, Anamika and her family headed to India after her husband celebrated earning a PhD in electrical engineering in May. LVWC tutor Barbara remarked on how lovely it was to spend time with them before they left.

On August 2, Barbara accompanied Quoc and his roommate Jenna to Schartner's in Exeter for a delightful blueberry picking adventure, marking a memorable first experience for both of them.



FUN



TUTOR TIPS

by Barbara Heuer

"Isn't this just common sense?"

I was sitting in my first graduate-school class. The course title was "Adult Development." Our professor was a rockstar in the adult education field (yes, there are recognized scholars in this little recognized discipline). As we examined theories of how adults move through their adult lives, physically, psychologically, sociologically, emotionally, etc., I thought I'd died and gone to heaven. Here we were examining in depth how, where, and when adults proceed through life. Because we qualified as adults (defined as over 18 and having job/family/other responsibilities), we could compare the research on adult learning with our own experiences. As a young widow, responsible for 2 teenage sons, a Connecticut Yankee in the deep South, far away from family, I welcomed this chance to reflect and discover a path forward. Luckily, I landed in a program that concentrated on learning for and by and with adults.

A little history in broad strokes: believe it or not, up until the 20th century, little attention was paid to adults as students in the United States. You graduated from high school or college or not, started a job and worked until you didn't/couldn't. Eventually, perhaps in part because of ongoing English

language literacy classes for immigrants, educators realized that adult audiences may learn differently from children. They may be motivated differently.

Thus developed the broad academic field of "adult education." This umbrella term refers to any formal and informal learning adults engage in. It includes literacy programs like LVWC and HR corporate training and community organizing. Now, of course, "life-long learning" is a catch phrase, and continuing education programs abound. Many professions require CPE credits. All those life and career coaches you're offered are engaged in adult education.

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In our program, we examined many studies and theories of how adults learn applicable at LVWC. We discussed assumptions about adult learners: that they are practical, task and problem oriented; have valuable life experiences to build on; are ready to learn at different phases of life; and tend toward self-direction. We investigated whether there are cognitive/psychological stages or phases in the adult's growth. We looked at differences/similarities in the trajectories of men and women lives. We inspected adult behavior in groups and individually. I found all these studies fascinating because we could always compare our own experience with our readings. I ended up writing my dissertation on "Conditions that Foster Learning in Online Communities" (way before Facebook!) because of my own professional participation in an online community.

Nowadays, we take for granted that adults can and do change/develop as they age. My fellow grad student's comment in our adult development class, "Isn't this just common sense?" ('this' being a discussion of traits of the adult learner) indicates how far we've come in understanding the adult student.

Thank you for joining us in this circuitous path of adult learning-yours, theirs, ours!

Barbara Heuer 😊



Upcoming Tutor Gatherings

Sept 29

11:30am-12:30pm

LVWC, Westerly

October 27

11:30am-12:30pm

Kingston Free Library,
Kingston

November

2411:30am-12:30pm

LVWC, Westerly

THE BLOCK ISLAND BEAT

Exciting News About the New Conversation Class on Block Island

After a refreshing summer break, LVWC tutor Joanne is enthusiastic about returning to Block Island with a new conversation class.

This year, the Block Island conversation class will take place every other Tuesday at 10:00 AM at the Odd Fellows Cafe.

Joanne, a retired ESL teacher and a dedicated LVWC tutor since 2016, will be leading the class. She joined us in 2016 after recognizing the need for English language support for adults on Block Island.



**Odd Fellows Cafe, 232 Water Street,
New Shoreham (Block Island).**

Learning English?

JOIN US FOR CONVERSATION CLASS

Free conversation class for adult English language learners

Where:
Odd Fellows Cafe,
232 Water Street,
Block Island, directly
across from the Old
Harbor ferry landing

When:
September 30
October 14
October 28
November 11

Time:
10:00am

Odd Fellows Cafe

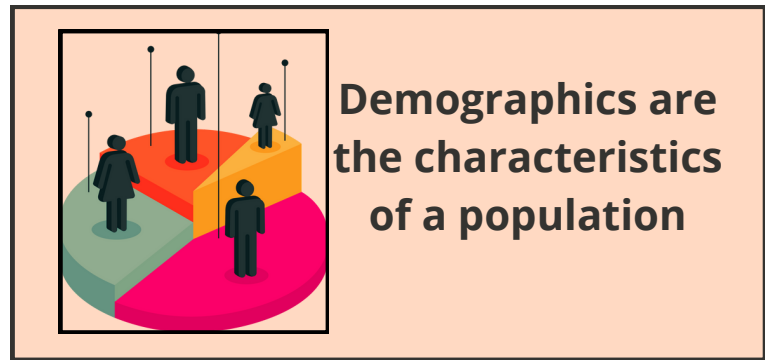
40 YEARS LITERACY VOLUNTEERS
of Washington County



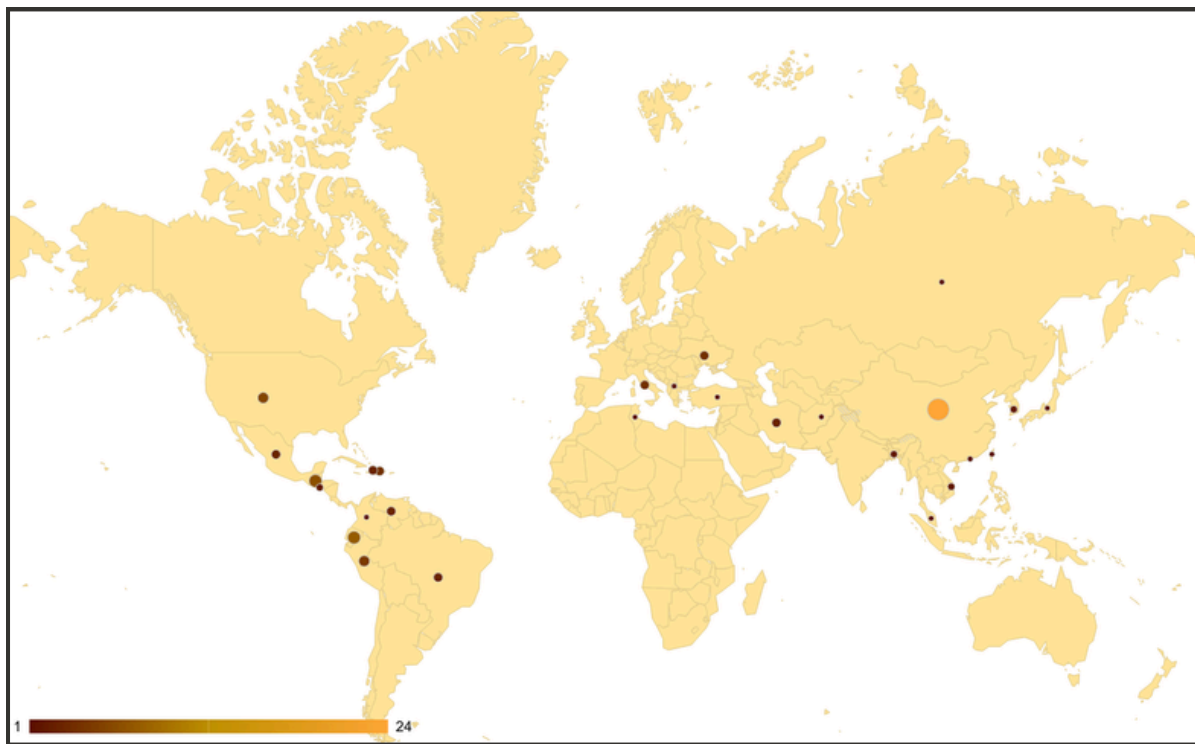
When we informed her about our Coffee & Conversation class at the Fresh Cup Cafe in Westerly, she was thrilled to implement a similar concept on Block Island. After discussing the idea with Kate, the owner of the Odd Fellows Cafe, they were both excited and eager to provide a welcoming space for this initiative.

The class will kick off on September 30, occurring every other Tuesday, with potential for growth in the future.

2024 DEMOGRAPHICS



WHERE ARE LVWC STUDENTS FROM?



Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Brazil
China
Colombia
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Guatemala

Haiti
Hong Kong
Iran
Italy
Japan
Macedonia
Malaysia
Mexico
Peru

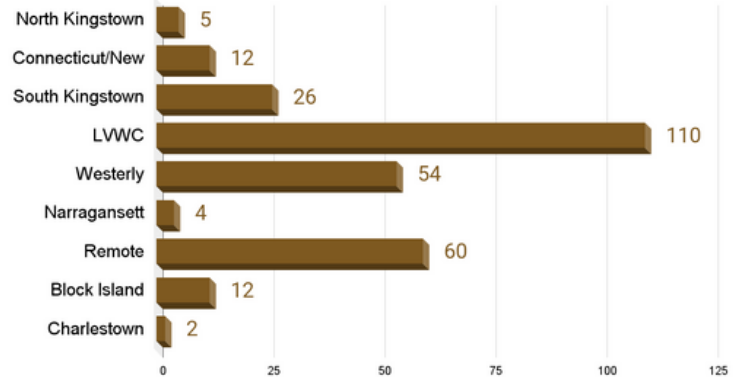
Russia
South Korea
Taiwan
Tunisia
Turkey
Ukraine
United States
Venezuela
Vietnam

2024 DEMOGRAPHICS

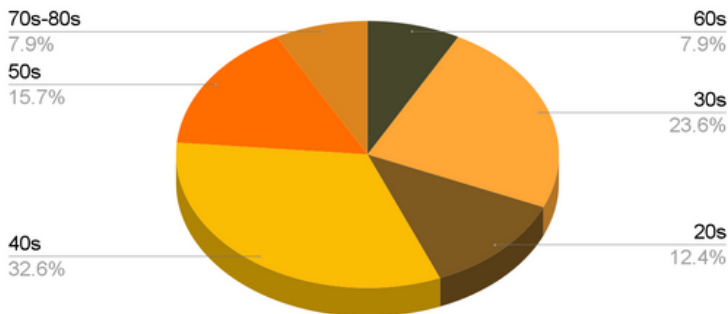
Total students served: 122
Total student hours logged: 1932

Total tutors participated: 86
Total tutor hours logged: 1693

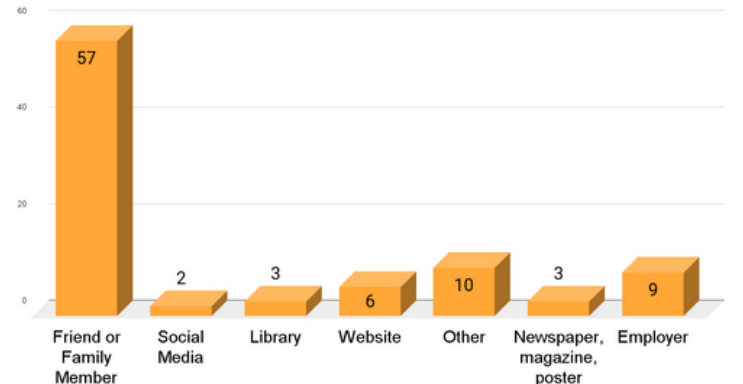
Where did LVWC students and tutors meet in 2024?



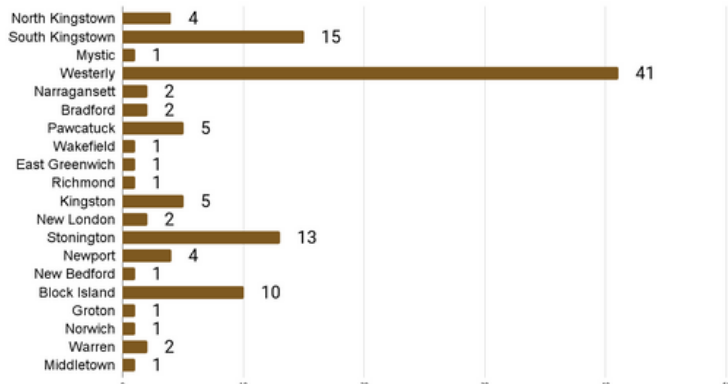
LVWC Student Ages



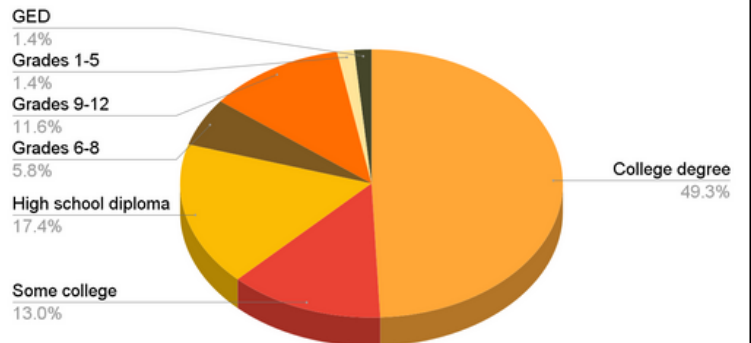
How did students hear about LVWC?



Where are LVWC students live?



LVWC Students Education



FREE CONVERSATION CLASSES

for adult English language learners



Coffee & Conversation

Mondays

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Fresh Cup Cafe

9 East Avenue, Westerly RI



URI Graduate Village (Hybrid)

Mondays

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

URI Graduate Village Community Center

2900 Kingstown Rd. Kingston RI



Block Island Conversation Class

Tuesdays: 9/30, 10/14, 10/28, 11/11

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Odd Fellows Cafe

232 Water Street, Block Island



LVWC Office

Tuesdays & Wednesdays

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

7 Elm Street, Westerly RI

(Christ Church basement offices)



40 LITERACY
YEARS VOLUNTEERS
and growing! of Washington County

www.literacywashingtoncounty.org

