

CONNECTED TEXT



A LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF CAMDEN
COUNTY NEWSLETTER

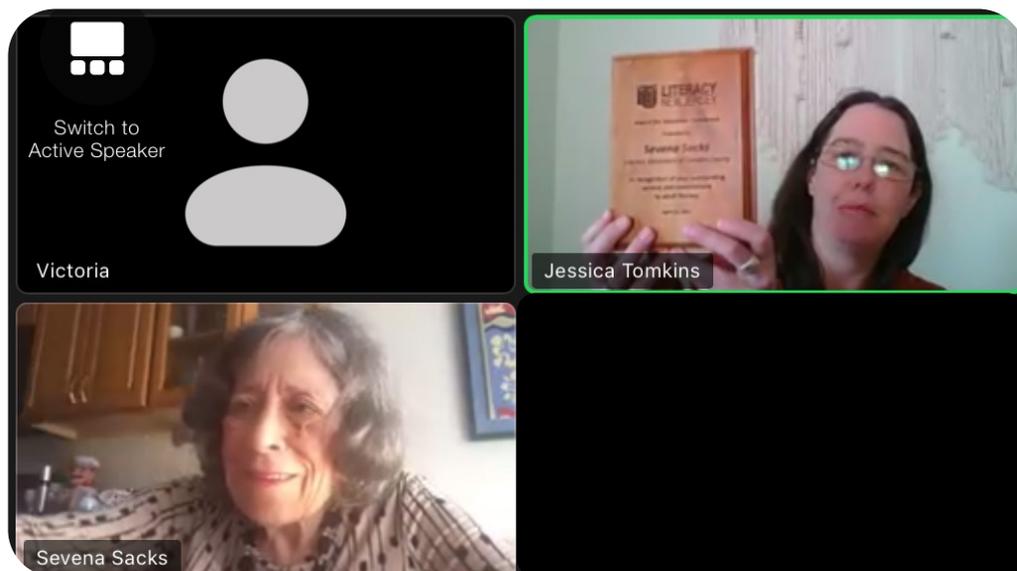
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LITERACY NJ RECOGNIZES LVCC TUTOR

Every year LiteracyNJ hosts a conference, *Literacy for Life*, to bring together program staff, tutors, and students throughout the state with the purpose of exchanging ideas and strategies. Though usually held in person at TCNJ, this year the conference went virtual with sessions held over Zoom. Despite this adaptation, conference organizers were able to keep many of the hallmark features of the gathering - including the awards ceremony on the last day of the programming.

The award ceremony honors a volunteer and a student from a literacy program in NJ who exemplifies LVA's mission. This year, in extraordinary times, LiteracyNJ honored three volunteer tutors and two students from various state programs.

We are pleased to announce that one of LVCC's tutors was chosen for this honor!

Sevena was recognized for her dedication to her students (working with up to 13 at a time) and the numerous hours she has volunteered to the program this year (almost 500 at the time of this writing)! She is a tireless volunteer and we are honored to have her be a part of this program. Congratulations Sevena on this well deserved recognition. And congratulations to all the tutors and students honored this year.



FREE AUDIOBOOKS ONLINE

●●● Gemma Open Door for Literacy ●●●

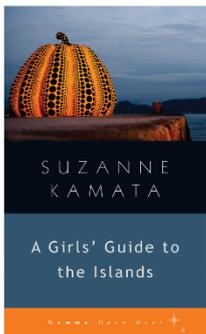
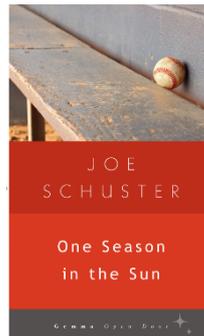
Gemma Open Door publishes Hi-Lo readers for adult literacy students. In addition to the reading material, this publisher has created audiobook editions for 11 of the stories to enable reader to listen and read. The company also has free downloadable teaching aids for select titles. Some titles are below, but check out the links at the end of the article or go to Gemma Open Door's website (<https://www.gemmamedia.org/>) to see the full offerings today!

One Season in the Sun

The stories of those who achieved their dreams of playing Major League Baseball - if only for one season.

Teaching aids: Reader's Guide

Physical books available in the LVCC office.



A Girl's Guide to the Islands

A mother and daughter set out to explore the art and culture of Japan's Inner Islands while confronting several barriers and physical challenges.

Teaching aids: Study Guide and Quiz Answers also available.

Queen Serene

After the dissolution of her marriage, a women finds her strength with the help of her coworkers and grandmother while working as a sanitation worker in Texas.

Teaching aids: Comprehension Quiz & Answer Key available.



The Possibility of Lions

A family is flees their home in Nigeria for the USA due to the violence of the Biafran Civil War. There they befriend another man who misses his homeland and who plans to recreate a piece of it in California by establishing a wild animal park. But will the cautious locals embrace the possibility of lions?

Teaching aid: Reader's Guide available

Some More News

New Job Accomplishments

Tutor, Marla, is proud to announce her student has been certified as a long term substitute teacher. Murad was a professor in his home country and is so glad to be back in the world of teaching.

Over at the One Stop, new student Lyayshia has also gotten a new job. She will be taking on a new full time job!

Congratulations on the new jobs!



We have a limited offering of some of Gemma Hi-Lo Readers at the office, please ask a staff member if you are interested in using these materials.

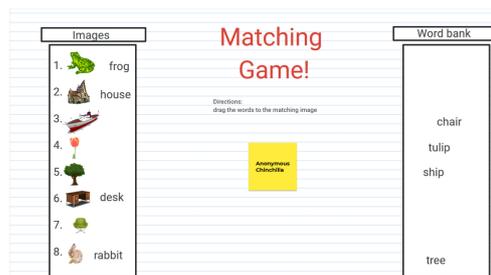
The full list of free audio books and teaching aids can be found at:

- Audiobooks: <https://www.gemmamedia.org/new-library-home/audiobooks/>
- Teaching aids: <https://www.gemmamedia.org/new-library-home/teaching-reading-guides/>

RECOMMENDED ONLINE RESOURCES

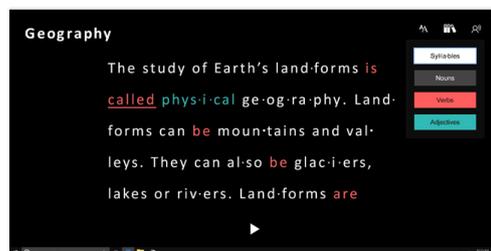
A recent webinar presented by ProLiteracy gave a tutorial on Google Jamboards. This is a platform that allows live or asynchronous interaction between students and tutors. The tutor presenting on the platform used it to create matching games, solve math problems, and other activities that could have been done on the classroom whiteboard.

GOOGLE JAMBOARDS



Another online tool that was discussed the Immersive Reader extension. This Microsoft product (built into the Edge browser and available as an extension in Chrome) allows users to select text and have it read out loud. It can also show parts of speech, syllable breaks, or translate text. This can be a useful tool in listening or reading skills.

IMMERSIVE READER EXTENSION



To see examples this being used check out these videos:

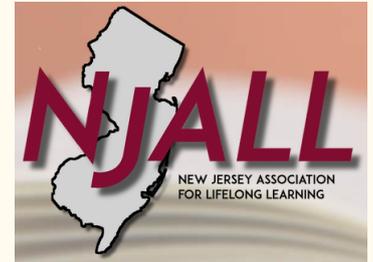
Jamboards webinar: <https://bit.ly/3e0KzEW>

Immersive Reader tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVIXk3BsLVE>

Announcements



NJALL Writing Contest Update



In the previous edition of the LVCC newsletter, we announced the NJALL Adult Learner Writing Contest. This quarter, we are pleased to announce that three of our students received recognition by the search committee for their works!

In the Non-Fiction category, Murad was awarded the Second Place Prize for his essay Dictators & Democracy (printed in the Winter 2021 Newsletter).

In the Memoir category, Pallavi was awarded the Third Place Prize for her writing entitled Life is Uncertain (see essay on next page).

In the Photography category, Priyanka was awarded the First Place Prize for her photograph (on next page).

All were invited to present their works during the NJALL conference on May 15th.

Congratulations Murad, Pallavi, & Priyanka!



NJALL WINNER SPOTLIGHT

As seen in the Announcements section, we announced the contest winners from our program. We would like to share the winning entries with you. Murad's submission can be found in the Winter 2021 edition of the Newsletter. The other submissions are below.



Pallavi Jain

Pallavi was awarded 3rd Place Prize for her essay in the NJALL writing contest. The essay reflects her experiences and emotions when confronted with an uncertain and scary situation.

Life is Uncertain

It was a rainy evening. We were going from Bangalore to Chennai for visa stamping. We had an appointment at 7:30. As we were leaving the rain started but we had to go there because we had an appointment. That time my daughter was 2 years old. While we were half way, heavy rain started. Somehow we reached the immigration office by walking. Due to the heavy rain, they cancelled all of the appointments. While returning we saw heavy floods coming our way. It was unexpected because by that time the gates of the dam were opened.

We were stuck in the middle of the way. The Water level was increasing very fast and very soon reached till our chest. My husband carried our daughter on his shoulder and I was holding all the documents over my head. We were scared, lost and confused about where to go, as we were not aware about the city and the area. Then a guy told us to take the next left turn as the water level was a little less over there. We didn't know what to do other than go with the flow. We took the advice and took the next left turn. We came to a place where the current was very high but two people were standing in the middle of it with long bamboo to help people cross the current. Without them we would not be able to cross the current.

While we were scared and looking for a safe place to reach, our daughter thought that we were in a water park and she started asking to get down so she could play in water.

After going further the water level came down and we took a deep breath.

Suddenly we saw our hotel across the street. Really that was the best moment in our life. that feeling was like we got another life.

Safely we reached our hotel. But all the scenes were scrolling in front of our eyes. After all we realized those two people came like an Angel and saved our life. That's true life is uncertain but God is everywhere and inside everyone.

He can come in any form to help you when you really need him.



Priyanka Jain

Priyanka's image of Antelope Canyon in Arizona won 1st place in the Photography category.



LETTER FROM A STUDENT

To the Literacy Department at the Voorhees Public Library:

My name is Blanca Cordova. In May of 2018 I began attending tutoring at the VPL. I got my GED in December of 2020!

I want to say a big "THANK YOU!" to the Literacy Department, who helped me so much, from the moment I first went there.

When I first walked in, I asked for a tutor, not knowing that the department was separate from the library staff. A front desk associate told me to proceed to the third floor, and when I went up, the first person I met was Susan Mulholland. I explained to her what I was looking for, which was a tutor for math and writing, and she immediately took down my information and explained the placement test process. Susan gave me an appointment for the next week. When I arrived to my appointment, I met Vicki Chisholm. Vicki administered the test to me and told me not to worry about passing or failing, as it was just to show my future tutors what I really needed help with. Susan called me two days after to tell me that she had found me a writing and math tutor!

Mr. Paul Miles was my math tutor. He is a really nice person and a great tutor. Thanks to him I was able to understand all my math concepts. I went to tutoring every week for two and a half years. The first ever math test I passed was on June 4th, 2019!

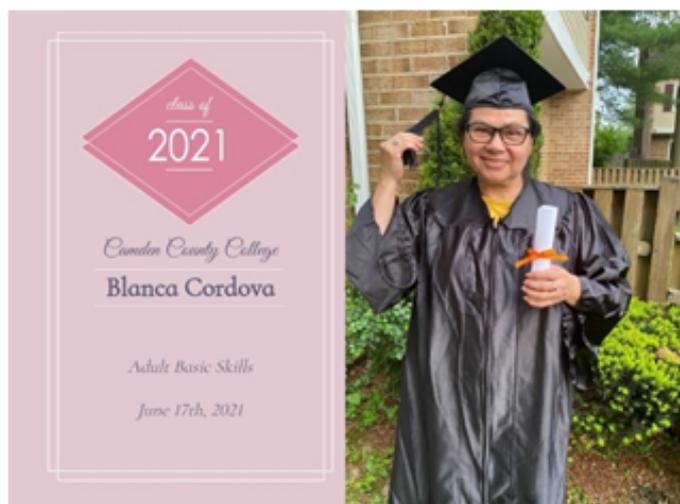
During this time, Mrs. Shyamoli asked me if I wanted to take reading classes, and I said "Yes!" I wanted to accept as much help as possible so that I could finish my GED as soon as possible. Mrs. Shyamoli told me that she would teach the class that I would take. For me, this was fabulous, because I knew that she was very serious about teaching! Then she asked if I wanted to take a class at One Stop in Woodcrest, and of course, I said "Yes!"

It was then that I met Ms. Charlotte Perez, a very nice person who always helped me when I needed it. At this point, I was in two classes – GED classes at Camden County College and tutoring One Stop. This all helped to finally achieve my GED! It was all possible in part because of these amazing people, who I will always credit to helping me make this big step in my life.

Thank you, Susan, Vicki, Charlotte, and Mrs. Shyamoli, for all your guidance and help. Thank you to Mr. Paul Miles for all the patience and encouragement that you always gave me. I really appreciate all of you so much. Thank you all!

Sincerely,

Blanca Cordova



RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT



Shyamoli De
Literacy Director

With the recent retirement announcement by our director we wanted to highlight her service to the organization. Shyamoli has been working with LVCC since 2009 when she started out as a volunteer tutor. In 2015, she took over as director of programming. She has helped the program to grow in size and accomplishments during this time. Shyamoli has tutored over 300 students during her tenure with the program. She is a fierce advocate of literacy and will be missed by all in the program.

Good luck on your next adventure, Shyamoli!

The Students Reflect

Some of Shyamoli's current and former students sent messages to share on her impact as their teacher. Everyone wishes her the best of luck on her next adventure!

Shyamoli is the first teacher I know here. She is very helpful and friendly. Moreover, she is very good at teaching English. I am lucky and happy to know her. Congratulations on your retirement and many warm wishes for a happy retirement!

-Ulker

Congratulations for your retirement. Thank you so much for everything you done for me. You were a magnificent teacher!

-Meryem

Dear, Shyamoli.

I think relationships are very precious. Especially in a strange foreign land. The teaching you have shown me has been more than English. I can't thank you enough. I hope you live a life full of healthy and pleasant days.

Love, Sun

She is the best ESL teacher ever! She is always thinking about her students and gives us many chances to speak English.

-Erika



Student shared photo of an ESL class circa 2015

Mrs. Shyamoli, I already told you how I am grateful for your life, for your teaching, for this awesome and sweet person you are. One more time, thank you. Thank for inspiring me. Thank you for being patient and kind. I'll miss you.

Love, Isadora.

You are a great teacher like a good book - Easy to understand and with many exciting stories , an attractive book cover .

Thank you so much Shyamoli .

Enjoy the next beautiful chapter in your life ♥

-Pallavi

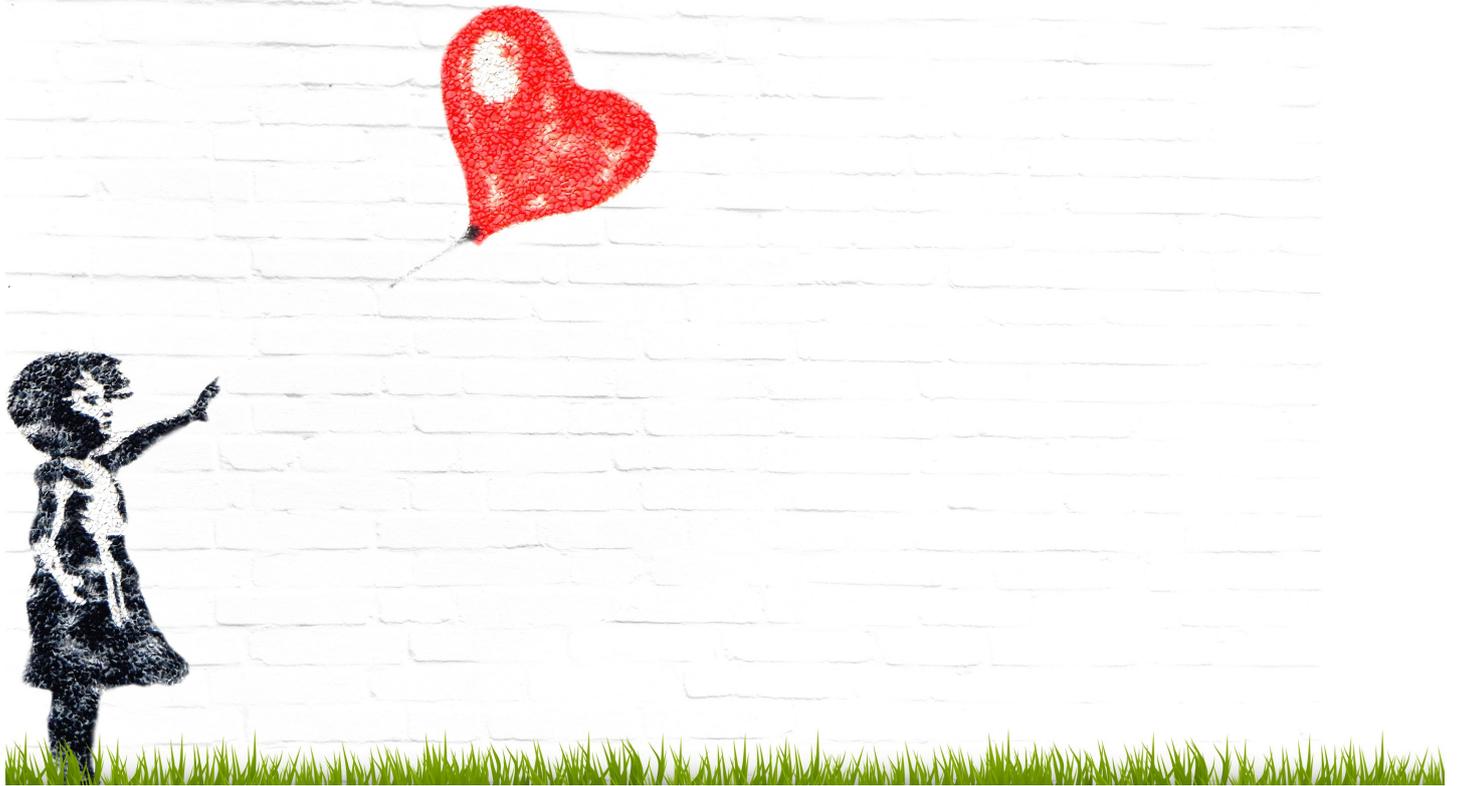
Years ago, teacher Shyamoli gave us a strong recommend so that people who speak the same language cannot sit together in class. Because of that, I always felt nervous as if I was drowning in the sea, but finally I was able to speak and listen to myself, and with the encouragement and help of the teacher. Finally I was able to challenge and pass the Citizenship test. Even though her education was strong I'm grateful that it was a great education that allowed me to do it without giving up.

I would like to thank you deeply.

Grace.(Eunshin Seo)



FROM THE DESK OF...



Some Final Words

It is hard for me to believe that my last day at LV Camden County is almost here. I am very grateful for having the opportunity to be the Program director of such a prominent organization. I've enjoyed every moment of the 6 years I've been with the Literacy Department. Even though I will miss the students and tutors, I am looking forward to starting a new phase of my life that will consist mostly of travels. Hopefully our paths will cross again since I will still be tutoring my classes.

Thanks again, It has been a please working with you.

~ Shyamoli De

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