

**Welcome Our New Citizens**

**January 2011**      **April 2011**      **October 2011**  
 Phuong (Tina) Nguyen      Lang Thi Tran      Mary Agyapong  
 tutor: Beth Ottensman      tutor: Kate Chin      tutor: Tom Rivello

**Feb 2011**      **May 2011**  
 Juana Gonzales      JinHua (Cynthia) Murter  
 tutor: Loretta Decker      tutor: Barry Schickling

**Transformers: Recent VEP Tutors Who Are Changing Lives for English Language Learners**

**October 2010**

Mary Ellen Buckley	Judy LaDrew	Cheryl Nash
Barbara Bureski	Allison Lane	Kim O'Rourke
Loretta Decker	Donald Laskin	John Pavloff
Katie Ehret	Susan Laskin	Jennifer Phillips
Sandra Fargher	Florence Lu	Susan Pierson
Celia Guidera	Alexa Manning	Peggy Pillard
Wilhelm Heeb	Mary Massaro	Johnnie Rhines
Jeff Hellen	Diane Molenaar	Steven Sewell
Dana Kaplan	Hlonipha Myambo	Nita Siciliano
Olivia Kenney	Maureen Nacey	Edith Smith
Nancy Liguori	Carrie Navarrete	Hannah Tajo
Carol Ann Marano	Sheila Piernock	Pauline Tuemmler
Elaine Manno	Nancy Pistiner	Sally Ward
Dan McLaughlin	Terri Potrako	Larry Way
Sylvie Minier-Fineman	Kathleen Reitz	
Christian Mota	Valerie Rozek	
Jane Palestini	Alecia Soltes	
Ann Papariello	Suzanne Speck	
Kathleen Price	Bojana Stankov	
Scott Schaffer	Emily Strauss	
Lisa Shen	Joshua Sweet	
Julia Tarquino	Pat Temple-West	
	Paul Tierney	
	Christina VandePol	
	George Webster	
	Laura Woerner	
	Debbie Wojno	

**September 2011**

Marcelle Bacon		
Richard Bailey		
Karen Barker		
Richard Calla		
Olivia Carabello		
Susan Casinelli		
Jeann Connelly		
Rose Day		
Martha Goldner		
Laura Gruen		
Pat Hayes		
Bonita Hellmann		
Kate Hennessey		
Wesley Hosking		
Allison Irwin		
Greg Kraeer		

**Spring/Summer 2011**

Karen Cholminsky		
Sam Connolly		
Debbie Early		
Steven Gerson		
Molly Hackman		
Ruth Hubbard		
Monica Katz		
Keverne Kaytrosh		
Cindy Legates		
David Marion		
Jennifer Muscaro		
Carol Myambo		

**January 2011**

Clara DiCriscio Aluri
Elaine Boyajian
Meg Begley
Steve Deay
Maggie Estes
Beryl Grossman
Johnny Gruneisen
Termyran Howard
Catherine Jachetti
Colleen Lewis
Rowan Lewis
Jean Mansueto
David Marion
Michael Martin
Kunie Miyahara
J Douglas Moran
Mary Ellen Moran
Sarah Newton
Lucille Pardo
Maureen Quinn
Roberta Richard
Thomas Rivello

**Mission Statement**

The Volunteer English Program enhances the economic and social quality of life for immigrant families, community members, consumers, employers, and employees in Chester County by providing tutoring for adults to improve:

- English language skills
- Cultural understanding
- Participation in the communities we share

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**VEP** Volunteer English Program in Chester County  
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 610-918-8222  
[www.volunteerenglish.org](http://www.volunteerenglish.org)



**IN OTHER WORDS**

*During our tutoring sessions, we often must find "other words" to communicate.*

**Fall 2011 Newsletter of the**

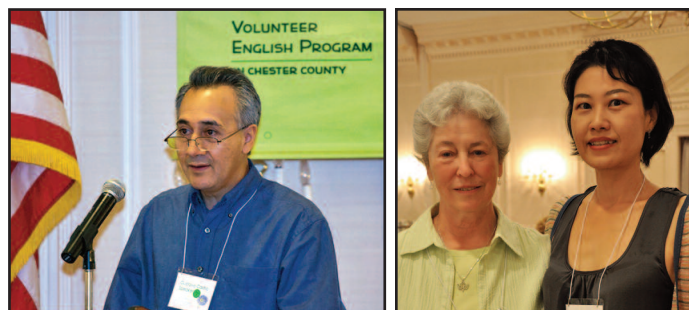


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**VEP NEWS**

**VEP's Silver Anniversary**

This year marks 25 years of service to the community for Volunteer English Program. The program began in a church basement in West Chester with a handful of volunteers and less than a dozen students. Today Volunteer English Program annually serves about 200 students from 40 different countries with the help of 190 trained volunteers who provide free, one-to-one tutoring in English language skills and American culture understanding. Since 1986, VEP tutors have helped thousands of language learners improve their English, become better workers and help their children succeed in school. With better communication skills and an understanding of American culture, VEP learners participate in their com-



Student speaker, Gustavo Castro (Columbia) (left), shares his experiences learning English with attendees, including Valerie and Haeseon (Korea) (right) at VEP's annual fundraising breakfast.

munities, become citizens and help to make their new nation strong as immigrants have for more than a century.



(clockwise from left) Tutor Carol Recupero with student Min Du (China), Carol Klauss and Krishanth Paramgothy (Sir Lanka), student Ebrahim Ghahreman (Iran) with tutor Wilhelm Heeb.

**VEP Director's Report**

Volunteer English Program (VEP) celebrates 25 years of making communities stronger by providing free English tutoring to hundreds of Chester County's adult immigrants and refugees. Ana's story, told in the accompanying annual appeal letter, demonstrates the far-reaching and long-lasting impact of VEP's work. You will find in this newsletter more evidence of this impact. Tough economic times have resulted in decreased funds, so VEP struggles to meet the need. With faith in your generosity, VEP goes forward with much appreciation for the generous support received, a careful eye on spending, and renewed dedication to provide free, high quality English tutoring to limited English proficient adults working and living in Chester County.

Linda Grosse  
 Executive Director

**Continuing to Bloom at VEP**

I would like to thank everyone who has been a part of the VEP family over the past 25 years. I am sure you are delighted that your efforts continue to make such a profound and lasting impact on our community. You should be very proud of VEP's accomplishments as VEP continues to change lives, make families stronger, and build a stronger Chester County in which to live, work, and play. While this has been a challenging financial year, it has also been a year of many accomplishments. Our increased emphasis on communications has resulted in additional press, government and local foundation recognition, and our largest new tutor training class.

With our new strategic plan in place, energized staff and volunteers, we believe VEP is poised for greater accomplishments in the coming years. We do, however, more than ever, need your time, talents, and financial support to help VEP continue to bloom.

Paul Koegan  
VEP Board President

### **Sandi Kwisz Passes the Baton**

My years in the adult education field and my time at VEP have been very rewarding. Although I will be officially retired, I hope to continue as a VEP volunteer. I have enjoyed working with the many dedicated and talented tutors, learners, staff, and board members. Thank you for your support.

Best Wishes!  
Sandi Kwisz



*Sandi Kwisz with student Vicki.*

### **New Staff Member at VEP**

As a former high school English teacher and a tutor for VEP for several years, I am pleased to take this step in my professional journey as Program Coordinator. I have been so impressed by the bravery and determination of our students from so many countries, and I am continually amazed and inspired by the dedication of our tutors! I remember how invaluable the VEP staff was as I learned how to teach English to adult foreign-language speakers. I hope to "pay it forward" and be of assistance to all of our tutors and students.

Patty Morgioni  
Program Director

## **TUTORS & STUDENTS**

### **Tutor Training Workshops**

January 23, 26, and 30, 2012  
(Snow date: February 2, 2012)  
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Keshet Israel Congregation  
1000 Pottstown Pike  
West Chester, PA 19380

If you have enjoyed your tutoring experience, please pass along this information to a friend, co-worker or family member.

### **Students Write**

#### **Qualities of Good Friends**

By Yanxia Dong, student of Betty Quigley  
Friends are very important for our social life. Different friends offer different qualities in a friendship. First of all, one quality that is important is honesty. Having honest

friends is important because we can trust them. When we're afraid, or scared to try something new, they provide courage. When we hesitate, as I did when deciding to attend Eastern University, friends can give their opinions and help me make decisions. Another quality for good friends is morality. Friends help us to be moral people by setting good examples, and helping us decide what is the right thing to do. We feel safe and tranquil with friends because we're comfortable around each other. Finally, we choose friends who have more knowledge and experiences. These friends are like a thick encyclopedia; we're always learning something from them. In conclusion, having wonderful friends helps us to improve our life.

### **A Beautiful Landscape in My Neighborhood**

*By JingChun, student of Carol Linsenmann*

In the community in which I live, there is a house whose landscaping impresses lots of people. The house is a traditional Victorian style house in cream color. The front surface of the house is covered with brown and rusty stones. The siding of the house is ivory color vinyl. The cherry red color shutters and door look attractive. The wide driveway leads straight forward from the road to the garage doors. The driveway consists of two parts - asphalt and pavers. At the top of the pavers, a half circle is constructed in the middle. Some grey and white river stones line the two sides of the driveway. The owner of the house uses different types of exterior lighting. First, a light illuminates the house, another light highlights a tree. Second, there are a bunch of lamp posts, some are butterfly shapes and some are elegant styles, placed along the driveway. Third, blue color string lights lace through the railings of the deck in the backyard. The lights look fabulous at night. In the lawn of the front yard, there are different types of trees. There are pear, dogwood, and some unnamed trees planted. They look neat in the green grass. An off-white lawn chair sits under the dogwood tree that is close to the front door. A big smiling grey toad is sitting upon the chair. The small rectangular windows on the garage doors are made of golden frames, which are unique. We have been seeing the house owner hiring the professionals to maintain the garden. Because of the cost and time spent on the yard works, it is the most beautiful landscape in my neighborhood.

### **Kudos: fame and renown resulting from an act or achievement**

**Pei Lin Chi**, former student of **Carol Linsenmann**, recently competed in an accounting team competition with students from West Chester University against students from other Pennsylvania universities. Her team went to the final round, which was an oral presentation of the project. Pei was the only community college student in the competition. Pei was also awarded a certificate of

merit from Delaware County Community College for outstanding achievement in English as a Second Language at the college's annual awards ceremony. Pei has been accepted for the fall semester as a student at West Chester University, where she will major in accounting.

**Noemi Viveros**, current student of **June Bigler** and former VEP board member, has received a Literacy Hero Award from the West Chester Public Library. An award dinner was held this past June at Longwood Gardens. Friends of WCPL and VEP attended as well as family members and members of the press. Kudos to Noemi for the many contributions she continues to make within the Chester County community.

**Nora Jenkins**, former tutor of Rupama Pattrea, remembered VEP with a check for \$325.00! When her employer sponsored a "Wear Jeans to Work Day" contest, employees designated various charities as recipients of their "Jeans Day" fund distribution. Nora nominated VEP to receive a portion of the charity fund. Good will smiled upon us when VEP was selected as one of the recipients. Nora wrote: "I thought this unexpected surprise would cheer your day!" Indeed we were of good cheer to know that our tutors continue to believe in our mission and support us in spirit and financially. Thank you, Nora!

**Jin Hua "Cynthia" Murter**, student of **Barry Schickling**, just graduated from West Chester University with a major in liberal studies and minor in accounting and studio art. Cynthia obtained U.S. citizenship in May 2011, participated in a video production that promotes VEP, and was also selected to recite the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance at the 2011 VEP Spring Fundraising Breakfast. She is currently preparing for a career in financial planning. We wish her much success. Go, Cynthia!



*Jin Hua "Cynthia" Murter with news caster Pat Ciarrocchi of CBS Channel-3 TV.*

**Sam Connolly** served as a tutor this summer. His project was a pilot "summer intensive" where he tutored **Esmeralda De Los Santos** in basic computer literacy, grammar, and reading comprehension. They worked well together and accomplished a lot. Sam will be returning to the University of Pennsylvania this fall. We extend our gratitude for his volunteer service.

**Nuha Muhammad**, student of **Sandy Meyer**, is currently volunteering at the VEP office as an Office Assistant. She is a delight to have on board and seems to enjoy practicing English on the job. We thank Sandy and Nuha for their continued involvement with the Program.

**Shui-Ping Zhu**, student of **Brett Swailes**, recently trav-

eled to Haiti on a missions and business trip. Upon his return, Shui Ping submitted a beautifully written narrative covering the events of his trip along with a photo gallery. Shui-Ping loves to share and talk about his journey to Haiti.

**Marta Diaz De Caruso**, student of **Bridget Hartmann**; **Gustavo Castro**, student of **Fred Crotchfelt** and **Vivian Chen**, student of **Pat Mapps**, gave a presentation at this fall's tutor training workshop. The tutors always enjoy hearing from our students and gain useful insight.

**Mary Agyapong**, student of **Tom Rivello**, passed her U.S. citizenship test. Her swearing in ceremony took place on October 14th in Philadelphia. Congratulations and a big Welcome to Mary.

**Tran Huynh**, student of **Carin Ford**, just passed her U.S. citizenship test in October. She is excitedly looking forward to her swearing-in ceremony.

### **Thank You**

Volunteer English Program would like to thank the following foundations and funds for recent grants in support of our important work in the community:

**1675 Foundation**  
**Springbank Foundation**  
**Connelly Foundation**  
**Genuardi Family Foundation**  
**IBM Corporation**  
**The Philadelphia Foundation**  
**St. Thomas of Villanova Parish**  
**Hutton Family HeLP Fund**

Special Thanks to our VEP Office Intern **Amber J. Hawkins**. Amber single-handedly built VEP's Facebook account as our social media "guru". She then passed the baton on to VEP staff. We are happy to be "on the air" with Facebook and now have many more friends. Find us on Facebook! Amber graduated from West Chester University, PA, with a degree in Communications and Peace and Social Justice. She now resides on the U.S. West Coast.

Thank you to **Anne Schreiber** (tutor) for representing VEP at the Downingtown School District Family Information Night. Parents and children learned more about VEP and opportunities in Chester County for ESL instruction.

### *Holiday Greetings*

*The Volunteer English Program extends warm wishes to all for a pleasant and safe holiday season.*

*Here's to a happy and prosperous New Year for all.*

*The Staff at VEP Linda, Edith and Patty*