

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

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Springtime Fundraiser

Our fourth annual fundraising breakfast was held on June 4th in the ballroom in the conservatory at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square. VEP students, tutors and board members as well as civic leaders, corporate sponsors and community members enjoyed a delicious breakfast, inspiring speakers and complimentary admission to the gardens.

This year's Betsy Hawkes Memorial Award for outstanding commitment to VEP's mission was presented to Ralph Johnson whose service in the program spans many years and includes the tutoring of several students and a stint as board Treasurer. The award was presented by Bob Hawkes, husband of the late Betsy Hawkes, former tutor and long-time board member for VEP.

Homa Tavangar, keynote speaker and award-winning author of "Growing Up Global" charmed the audience as she shared her story of emigrating as a small child with her family from Iran to America. She also spoke of her experience living in Gambia, West Africa for three months in 2007 with her own children.

VEP student, Gete Wubshet from Ethiopia, spoke of how working with her VEP tutor helps her meet the challenges of being a wife and mother of three young boys in a new country.

Jingmin Guo from China, a former VEP student, shared in a video



*Keynote speaker and local author, Homa Tavangar.*

her story of the role VEP played in giving her the communication skills she needed to eventually become a successful small business owner well adapted to American life and culture.

We at VEP are all very grateful to everyone who worked to make the Breakfast successful once again this year and to everyone who showed support of our mission by attending. VEP continues to reap the benefits throughout the year of the friend-raising and fund-raising accomplished at this event.

### Welcome



I would like to introduce our Program Director, Edith Smith (left). Edith comes to VEP with solid experience in education as a teacher and tutor of reading and math. She has several years of experience as a university grants and departmental administrator.

Edith holds a Bachelors degree in Psychology and Communications from Oberlin College and a Masters degree in Public Administration from the University of North Carolina. She has volunteered as a literacy tutor and a narrator for The Blind and Dyslexic, as well as numerous other volunteer experiences.

Some of her professional affiliations include ProLiteracy Amercia, Keystone Reading Association (KSRA), National Council of Teachers of English, and Toastmasters International.

Please join me in welcoming Edith as our new Program Director.



*Attendees enjoy breakfast in Longwood Garden's ballroom.*

## VOLUNTEER ENGLISH PROGRAM

in chester county

From the Executive Director .....	1
Carol and Sandy's Retiring .....	2
Students Write .....	3
Tutor Tips .....	3
New Tutors .....	4
Congratulations .....	4
Music to Our Ears .....	4
Save the Date .....	5

# NEW BEGININGS FOR CAROL AND SANDY

Retirement may be an ending, a closing, but it is also a new beginning.

-Catherine Pulsifer

After many years of commitment to adult education and the mission of VEP, Sandy and Carol have decided it's time for "new beginnings." With wisdom, creativity and humor, Carol and Sandy have provided leadership and educational support for VEP and its learners, volunteers and staff. In their letters, they share with us their thoughts on retiring.

## On Retirement



Thanks to 20 years of working to support the mission of VEP, my life has been enhanced and enriched in ways I could never have imagined. I will miss meeting and getting to know the outstanding immigrants and dedicated volunteers who were the focus of my work. They are the reason my job was always so pleasurable and rewarding.

But even in retirement, I will retain many wonderful stories which will continue to nourish my soul. No matter

where I go or what I do, my retirement from VEP will be only a physical retirement, not a spiritual retirement, because I will take with me memories to last my lifetime.

-Carol Klaus

## Transition

*What does it feel like to remember your soul's task? When the deepest part of you becomes engaged in what you are doing, when your activities and actions become gratifying and purposeful, when what you do serves both yourself and others, when you do not tire within, but seek the sweet satisfaction of your life and your work, you are doing what you were meant to be doing.*

-Gary Zukav

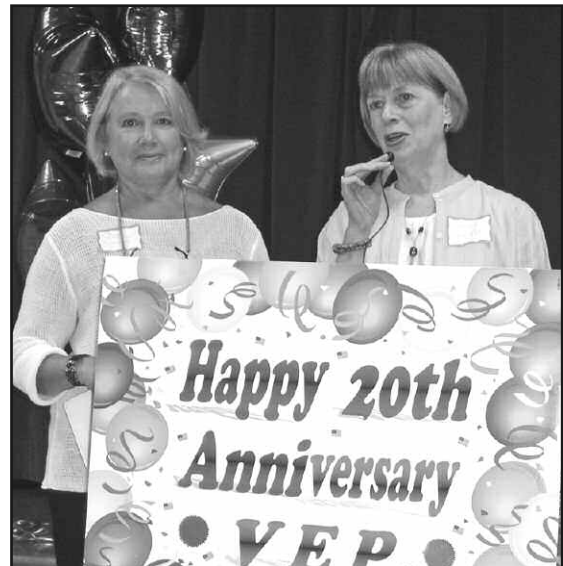


After almost 14 years with the Volunteer English Program and 21 years in adult education, it was with mixed emotions that I decided to retire. I have always considered my work with VEP more a calling than a job. Therefore, in order to leave a calling, I had to sense a stronger calling to invest more time in other areas. Some special interests that have been beckoning more assertively during the past year have been mission work through my church, my family (in-

cluding grandchildren who are growing too quickly!), my hobby of weaving, my love of travel, and my garden. I am grateful that I have been granted the privilege of working with talented and dedicated volunteer tutors, learners, Staff, and Board members. I certainly will miss that stimulation. However, as I've done during my employment with VEP, I hope to continue as a tutor in the Program. Never being fond of good-byes, I much prefer to bid farewell with the German "auf Wiedersehen," until we meet again. And, finally, I end this missive with one of my favorite guiding quotes for life and my work with VEP:

**He prayed--it was not my religion.  
He ate--it was not what I ate.  
He spoke--it was not my language.  
He dressed--it was not what I wore.  
He took my hand--it was not the color of mine.  
But when he laughed--it was how I laughed,  
and when he cried--it was how I cried.  
-author unknown**

Thank you!  
-Sandy Meyer



# TUTORS & STUDENTS

## Students Write

### Christmas

*By Gladys Romero, student of Jo Bewley*

Christmas in Argentina is happy and bright. This time is very important. Everybody meets with their family and friends. The food is special and different. We have a meal; it is pork and beef with vegetable salad and potato salad. The food is cold because it is summer in my country. For dessert we eat fruit salad and other things sweet.

When we finish eating, we go to dance. At 12 o'clock we watch the fireworks then we prepare the table with very special things: walnut, almond, sweet peanut, mantecol, and sweet bread. We drink a beverage: "Sida" it is apple wine.

When the clock marks twelve everybody says "Merry Christmas" and kisses one another, then we toast the whole family. I lived there for 33 years, I miss this time.

### My Vacation

*Mercedes Galeano, student of Jo Bewley*

My trip to Florida was very good. My friend Mario and Marisa were happy because I had come to visit. Marisa prepared special food for me. First day we talked a lot. The weather was cool. I went to the beach only two days. In the morning, we went to the bakery for breakfast. The cake, bread, everything looked delicious. I ate too much. After breakfast we always chatted around the table. After eating, we went to talk on the beach. One night we went to the park with the kids. I had a fun time. I went to dance too. I wanted to stay but the time was short. I had a nice time. I rested too much. I had a very nice vacation.

### Never Stop Dreaming!

*Nataliya DeMarco, student of Kate Keslick*

I had two childhood dreams that I would now like to share.

I did gymnastics since I was six years old and my biggest dream was to become a coach. I got my choreography degree at the School of Culture and started to work as a gymnastics coach in my hometown in Ukraine. It was very important to me to have an opportunity to teach kids gymnastics, a beautiful and powerful sport. The political and economic situation in my country was extremely bad at that time and I had to leave my work, however it opened a new opportunity with a touring dance group. And now, many years later, destiny here in the USA has brought me another opportunity that I had dreamed about. I am now working as a gymnastics coach at the Gymnastics National Training Center in West Chester and enjoying it very much.

Another childhood dream of mine was so remote and distant that I didn't even hope it could come true some day. It was so simple; I always wanted to see Disney World.

I was born and grew up during the Communist era in the Ukraine. I would not say that it was a bad time. I can remember marching with flags and balloons in parades for almost every national cele-

bration and we had great fun being a member of the Communist Children's Organization and the many other things we did. On the other hand, certain things were bad. Our country was trying to keep us from traveling and exploring the world. The Communist philosophy was to protect us from the outside world and the understanding that our life could be different or even better somewhere else. That is why I understood that it was almost impossible for my dream to come true.

The temptation of Disney World was matched by my desire to turn my dream into reality. Joining the touring dance group provided that opportunity and it was one of the happiest days of my life when I finally went to the magic world of Disney in Tokyo. The smile never left my face all day!

So never stop dreaming, always believe in yourself, and may all your dreams come true.

### Alshemall - North of Iraq

*Nuha Muhammad, student of Sandy Meyer*

It's a beautiful and attractive place.

This place has many towns: Sulemanya, Mosul, Kirkuk and Kanken. In these towns there are many beautiful rivers, mountains, and waterfalls. The tourists visit this place because the weather is cold in the summer and they enjoy the view. It's so nice and many persons use the falls to put the watermelon in to make it cold and ready to eat.

There are many restaurants in Shemall. They cook and barbecue fish. They call it "masgoof" and they do kabob in minced beef. All this food is very delicious.

We drive about eight hours from Baghdad to Alshemall.

## Tutor Tips

**Personal Timeline:** Creating a personal timeline with your student is a useful and fun activity that promotes conversation about significant life events. The timeline organizes the events sequentially and then can be used for writing an essay with more details. It's also a great way to review present, past, and future tenses.

A timeline is easy to make. Ask your student to think about three to four significant events in the past, three to four events in the present and to predict two to three future events. Have your student draw a line across a piece of paper and draw small vertical lines about 1-1/2 inches apart to divide the timeline. Label these divisions with the year and significant event. You can find more ideas on using timelines and timeline templates at the website - [www.emints.org](http://www.emints.org).

**Memory Game:** Find an interesting picture from a magazine or calendar. Show it to your student and let her look at it for a minute. Then put the picture out of sight. Have the student remember as much as possible about the picture. Make a list or have the student make a list of everything that she can remember. This is a good way to review vocabulary and to practice giving descriptions. As a follow up, the student can write about the picture.

## Welcome New Tutors



Valerie Anewalt	Eileen Leypoldt
Leticia Ayala	Stephanie Lutz
Jamie Bachman	John Lynch
Deb Baker	Robert McDonald
Ed Blankenhagen	Mariel McKnight
Bel Broadley	Peggy Miros
Janice Brooks	Linda Munro
Debbie Bryan	Rebekah Nesmith
Raymond Byfield	Mark Nixon
Annie Cappelli	Jack Oakes
Lorraine Capra	Venice O'Donnell
Alfred Carey	Beth Ottensman
Eunice Carpitella	Don Ottensman
Kelly Clark	Fatima Patel
Lenore Clarke	Nicholas Pino
Mariann Demas	Lorraine Possanza
Lana Dickinson	Marie Reid
Anna DiColli	Tracy Reilly
Eleanor DiLeo	Nick Robinson
Kent Donley	Ann Rohrbach
Lynn Dunbar	Janet Sarcione
Arlene Federici	Meredith Schofield
Renate Haeckler	Stephen Sloto
Ursula Hoika	Brett Swailes
Ayesha Hood	Leah Throckmorton
Nancy Hunchar	Nancy Throckmorton
June Huynh	Lori Tyson
Jennifer Jeandell	Veronica Volpe
Tricia Johnston	Carol Welsh
Jo Kircher	Leslie Wheeler
Jane Klein	Carolyn Willey
Gail Kobylski	Ed Woodward
Ed Larson	Rose Woodward
Molly Lenowitz	

## Congratulations

**Nouara and Amar**, students of **Andrea Wrumnig**, upon the birth of their baby boy, Elyes, in November 2009.

**Qefser**, student of **Franz Wiedemann**, upon the birth of his baby boy in December 2009.

**Thanh Kim**, student of **Elsie Reimenschneider**, upon the birth of her baby boy, Jose, in January.

**Eman**, student of **Linda Sturgeon**, upon the birth of her baby boy, Mohammed, on Feb. 20.

**Marta**, student of **Pat Barone**, upon the birth of her baby girl in October.

**Ana**, student of **Cindy Oursler**, upon the birth of her baby girl in March.

## Music to Our Ears

**Favia**, student of **Jane Patullo**, was promoted from Assistant Teacher to Teacher at Head Start.

**Ying Li**, student of **Ashley Smith**, went to a school board meeting and spoke publicly against the district's decision to cut the foreign language program in elementary schools. She referenced her personal experience as an adult trying to learn English.

**Marta**, student of **Bridget Hartmann**, was thrilled to make cupcakes with her tutor. Consequently, she took batches of cake mix and supplies with her to Colombia on a recent visit to share with others in her community.

**Marisol's** tutor, **Stephanie Lutz**, reports that Marisol's confidence in using English has improved markedly in the last few months.

**Sema**, student of **Nancy Snoke**, recently learned about store coupons and is enjoying shopping and making great deals. Sema also took her oath of citizenship on May 28, 2010!

**Grace**, student of **Kathy Sullivan**, recently passed the exam for her PA driver's license. She and her family moved into their new home in April.

**Vivian**, former student of **Rebecca Goss** and current student of **Pat Mapps**, became a U.S. citizen on January 29, 2010.

**Lin**, student of **Tom Buchanan**, registered and voted for the first time.

**Rupama**, student of **Nora Jenkins**, received her green card. Her tutor also reports that she is much more confident in meetings with her children's teachers and no longer needs to rely on others to take the lead in such discussions. This fall she and her family are moving to Georgia.

**Noemi**, student of **June Bigler**, presented a lesson (in English) to her daughter's class in school. The students asked questions and were very interested in what she said.

**Myung**, student of **Marianne King**, attended a health care job fair on her own, something she would never have considered doing a year ago.

**Gustavo**, student of **Fred Crotchfelt**, took his oath of citizenship on July 16th, 2010 at a ceremony in Philadelphia.

**Jung Hyun**, student of **Fran Johannes**, was awarded a yoga teaching certificate after 7 months of study.

**Krish**, student of **Carol Klauss**, took his oath of citizenship on May 19, 2010.

**Rita**, student of **Gloria Campbell**, recently completed the census form and healthcare forms.

**Esmeralda**, student of **Carolyn Gladstone**, will be starting Delaware County Community College to begin her nursing classes in mental health.

**Kimanh**, student of **Jan Brooks**, became a U.S. citizen in May 2010.

**Nasrin** and **Marcella**, students of **Shannon Almqvist**, prepared meals to be delivered to elderly adults in Chester County.

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One's work may be  
finished someday,  
but one's education never.

-Alexander Dumas

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**AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION FOR  
TUTORS AND STUDENTS**

**featuring Recognition of  
Carol and Sandy's New Beginnings**

**Saturday, October 23, 2010**

**12 p.m. to 2 p.m.**

**West Chester Area Senior Center**

**530 E. Union Street**

**West Chester, PA 19382**

**TUTOR TRAINING WORKSHOPS**

**October 11, 14, 18, 2010**

**6 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

**Keshet Israel Congregation**

**1000 Pottstown Pike**

**West Chester, PA 19380**

**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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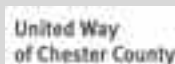
**Staff**

- Linda Grosse, Executive Director
- Edith Smith, Program Director
- Sandi Kwisz, Program Coordinator
- Sandi Hopkinson, Data Manager



Volunteer English Program in Chester County  
790 E. Market Street, Suite 215, West Chester, PA 19382  
610-918-8222

[www.volunteerenglish.org](http://www.volunteerenglish.org)





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