

IN OTHER WORDS

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

Fall 2008 Newsletter of the

VOLUNTEER ENGLISH PROGRAM in chester county

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BETSY



Elizabeth H. Hawkes (left) embodied the life of VEP.

In 1991, Betsy became a volunteer tutor. Until her death on April 24, 2008, she served VEP in many capacities.

First and foremost, she was an outstanding tutor. She taught and mentored students from all over the world. Not only was she their teacher, she was their friend and even after the formal teaching ended, Betsy nourished those friendships. As a teacher, she was extraordinarily skilled. As a mentor, she gently and thoughtfully guided

those who needed and wanted her help. Her home became her students' home where they were welcomed to warm and wonderful dinners. In a quiet, unassuming way, Betsy was a true ambassador for the goodwill of the American character.

In addition to being a dedicated tutor, Betsy served for many years, in different positions including President, on VEP's Board of Directors. She was the quintessential board member, generously assuming responsibility for directing and leading VEP toward growing into the vital and effective organization it is today. In 2007, Betsy co-chaired VEP's first annual fundraising breakfast at Longwood Gardens. Recently, on June 6th,

at the second annual breakfast at Longwood Gardens, State Senator Andrew Dinniman awarded a citation to Betsy's husband, Bob, acknowledging and honoring her as an exemplary Chester County citizen.

Bob Hawkes said, "The work of VEP epitomizes Betsy's promotion of a better appreciation and acceptance of various peoples and cultures."

Betsy's spirit will always be a positive force for VEP. We will remember her and how she lived her life and, in remembering, will be guided to do our best for those who come to the U.S. for a better life.

This was Betsy and so very much more:

She earned a B.A. in Art History from Mary Washington College and an M.A. in Art History from the University of Delaware. For nearly 20 years, she was a curator at the Delaware Art Museum and then worked privately as an independent art researcher. She authored several books and articles concerning the artists John Sloan, John McCoy, and Howard Pyle and Pyle's students.

As a member of West Chester United Methodist Church, she was active in the Church's God's Global Village events which promoted understanding and respect for diverse cultures and religions.

Betsy loved the land and things natural. Together with her husband she was a beekeeper and serious vegetable gardener. They sustainably produced, canned and froze, preserving and storing 80% of the food they consumed.

She made many summer trips to hike and backpack in wild and scenic areas of the American West. Many miles were hiked in Glacier National Park where she experienced nature in its most pure state.

This was Betsy. She will forever be missed.



Left to Right: Andrew Dinniman presents Betsy's husband, Bob Hawkes, with a citation for her outstanding service. Carol Klauss, Mr. Hawkes and Shirley Warren, chairwoman of the 2008 VEP breakfast.

VEP NEWS

VEP Director's Report

More than 200 guests and supporters filled the Conservatory Ballroom at Longwood Gardens for the second annual Volunteer English Program (VEP) fundraising breakfast, "Help VEP Bloom." In attendance were community leaders, dignitaries, tutors, students, friends and representatives from sixteen local sponsors who helped make the event a success. We sincerely thank all our sponsors (some of whom are second year sponsors) for their generous support of our mission. This event

would not be possible without their assistance.

Sponsors included: Gawthrop Greenwood Attorneys At Law, Fulton Bank Brandywine Division, Pearl Pressman Liberty Communications Group, Verizon, The Terrace Restaurant at Longwood Gardens, Tellurium 3, The Inn at Chester Springs, Brickhouse Environmental Consultants and Engineers, Beth & Eric Packel, Woodcock Washburn Intellectual Property Law, The Law Office of Charles R. Goerth P.C., Capacity for Change Public Interest Consulting Group, Three Little Pigs Restaurant, Moten Associates, Charles Schwab, and First National Bank of Chester County.

On behalf of the students, volunteers, board members and staff of the Volunteer English Program, I would like to extend sincere thanks and appreciation to the following foundations for their recent generous support of our mission to strengthen the communities we share by teaching English to America's newcomers in Chester County:

Edward H. & Dorothy K. Dickol Foundation - \$250

Chester County Fund for Women & Girls - \$8,500

Reed Hamilton Foundation - \$1,000

Dollar General Literacy Foundation - \$10,000

Patricia Kind Family Foundation - \$10,000

The Philadelphia Foundation - \$25,000

Claneil Foundation - \$10,000

Verizon Foundation - \$5,000

IBM Community Grant - \$1,000

(in support of Shirley Warren's volunteerism)

Board News

The VEP Board is happy to introduce our newest Board member, Noemi Viveros, who is currently a student in the Volunteer English Program and who was recently a speaker at the Longwood Gardens Fundraising Breakfast in June.

Noemi is originally from Mexico. She moved to Chester County with her husband, Raul, and her 2 young daughters 6 years ago. She is a biologist with a master's degree in Medical Biology from the University of Mexico and was employed in the field of medical research in Mexico.

Because of her improved English skills as the result of working with her VEP tutor, Noemi sees herself as a "bridge between different cultures." She volunteers as an interpreter for the St. Agnes Nurses Center in West Chester as well as at the West Chester Public Library and cooperates with the Mexican Consulate to help local Hispanic immigrants improve their Spanish language knowledge in order for them to more easily learn English. The Board is proud to have her join us.

The Board held a one day retreat Saturday, July 12th at the Inn at Chester Springs. At that time Meghan McVety and Jason Alexander of Capacity for Change presented board training on roles and responsibilities as well as a development and growth analysis for 2008-2010 for the Volunteer English Program focusing on what the organization needs to do to take its "operations to a higher level of success." Their presentation was both enlightening and challenging. We have our work cut out for us!

Capacity for Change is a public interest consulting group with over 25 years of experience in non-profit and public sector management and consulting. Their work with VEP is being funded by a grant from the Philadelphia Foundation.



VEP Breakfast in the Ballroom at Longwood Gardens (clockwise from top left): Meghan McVety, and Jason Alexander from Capacity for Change with VEP Executive Director, Linda Grosse; Carlos Questell, guest, Concetta Schiattarella & Marilyn Reich from First National Bank of Chester County and the Honorable Judge Juan Sanchez, the keynote speaker; Mike Cromer and Dave Farrington of Brickhouse Environmental, 2nd year Silver Breakfast sponsors, with Dave Garrison (center), VEP Board President; Kossi Sedzro, his wife Josephine and her tutor, Sister Terry Shields.

TUTORS & STUDENTS

Student Writing

Cooking School

By Jung Hyun Kim, student of Fran Johannes

The kitchen of Viking cooking school was very clean, delightful and convenient to cook. I felt like a chef of fancy restaurant. The participants were 11 including me. We cooked some foods in three groups. Most of the members were kind and funny. They looked older than I. While cooking we talked a lot about children, recipe, other cuisine and tasty restaurants. We cooked onion soup, spinach souffle, beef wellington, bearnaise sauce, white chocolate mousse and raspberry coulis. All of them were great. Those taste was less greasy than I expected. However to cook these dishes needs so many cooking utensils and ingredients. I brought onion soup, beef wellington and chocolate mousse with raspberry coulis to home. My husband and son really enjoyed them. They encouraged me to participate another cooking class. So I'm planning to join the dinner party class. I had impressive and funny experience.

A Blue Bird Egg

By Sarah Tsai, student of Sister Catherine Coleman

My friend, Corine, invited us to see birds in her house last Sunday. I thought that she would show her parrot in a birdcage. But unexpectedly she showed a nest on the tree by her front door. I saw two baby birds and one blue egg in the nest. I was surprised, because I never saw a little blue egg like that. We saw a little broken crack on the egg. Corine took that egg in her hand very carefully. Each one of us touched the surface of that egg very softly. We felt warmth and saw the baby bird wanted to go out of the egg. Corine put it back after we touched it. And then we entered her house. When we were ready to leave after 30 minutes, we were surprised to see a baby bird coming out from the egg. It was a wonderful day to see a beautiful nest and three baby robins.

Boomer

By Lin Lu, student of Tom Buchanan

Boomer is a six-year-old male horse. He has a brown coat with a little bit of scattered white hair. There is a white stripe from his forehead down to his nose. Long white hair grows around his lower legs just above his hooves. He is big and strong. He keeps grazing (eating grass) if you let him. Now you should see an image of Boomer from my description.

Tom, my English tutor, is the owner of Boomer. On a recent warm sunny Thursday two weeks ago (Thursdays are our regular meeting time), I went with Tom to the barn where Boomer is looked after. Because of the warm weather, we decided to give Boomer a bath.

Doing things together (such as visiting the barn) is another way that Tom teaches me English. He asked me to do whatever I can to help him, and he explained each step of the horse's bath as we did it.

Bathing a horse is more complicated than bathing a baby. You need many things to do the task. Two nozzles are for wetting and rinsing, one misting nozzle is for the face of the horse and a showering nozzle is for his body. A bucket, a sponge and shampoo are needed for shampooing the horse. A scraper is used to wipe out the remaining water on the horse's body. The towels are used to make his body and face really dry. Conditioner is applied on the horse's tail and mane. The next step is to clean out the mud at the bottom of the horse's hooves, and then apply hoof ointment to maintain moisture and prevent the hooves from cracking.

Boomer is used to bathing and cooperates very well with us. After the bathing, we walked him to the lawn and he started eating the grass immediately.

The Story of Nada

By Nada Maalouf, student of Joyce Hurt

I have a big house in Lebanon, and it's located next to the sea. It has a nice garden. I live in a quiet and nice neighborhood.

I have a wonderful family and a son and daughter-in-law. So far, I have three grandsons. Most of my family lives here. Only my daughter and her family live in Lebanon.

I came to America to have the American nationality. I came also to America to have education, and I came to America to have safety.

Life in America

By Dinh Lan, student of Pat Brotzge

My name is Dinh Lan. I came to America sixteen years ago from Viet Nam. Life is very different here.

The most important reason I came here is for freedom. I can speak, write, read and watch any TV or movie I want to.

I wanted a better quality of life for my family and me. I can make enough money for my children's education and sending money to my family in Viet Nam. I can make more money to buy a car, a house, clothing and things I like.

My family and I didn't speak much English, which made me feel sad and scared. I couldn't help my children with their homework. We have all taken classes to learn to speak better English. That made me feel better and made my life easier. I don't want my children to forget my language. We speak both English and Vietnamese at home.

Today I woke up early. I went to church at 6:00 A.M. In Viet Nam, I went to church every day. In America, I only go to church on Sunday.

In Viet Nam, I sold children's clothing at the market from 7:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. I felt very good at the end of the day. I liked my job. In America, I work at a nail salon 63 hours a week and spend 6 hours commuting. I make more money but I am very tired.

Overall, I am happier, have more freedom and have a much better quality of life in America. What I miss most about living in Viet Nam is family, friends, the rainy season and the celebration of Vietnamese holidays. I think I made a good choice by moving to America.

Trip to China

By Lan Wu, student of Angela Kitson

My son and I went to China to spend Christmas this year because we have not been back in a while. Everybody say that China has changed a lot and I want to witness the China in the 21st Century. We left very early in the morning for Philadelphia Airport to catch a flight to Chicago, then from Chicago to Shanghai. The flight was about 14 hours long, but we spent more than one day in airports and waiting.

When we met up with my husband and stepped outside of Shanghai, the first thing I noticed is how clean the place seemed to be. We then went to a really nice hotel and then out to eat. It felt good to be back. There were so many people but I felt right at home. The next day, we went shopping near this temple and it was a magnificent site. We ate lots of food that we haven't had in a long time and that brought back a lot of good memories. We visited many places in Shanghai and saw many interesting sites. The night scenes are very pretty.

After Shanghai, we went to Shenzhen for a couple days. Shenzhen is a very nice place because it has lots of palm trees that reminded me of California. The weather is similar to California's too. We ate at great places and visited sites here as

well. After Shenzhen, we went to Zhu Hai. This place had a beach and the food was amazing there as well. The last place that we went to was Hong Kong. Though all the other cities were very modern and westernized, no city is more westernized than Hong Kong. There are so many skyscrapers and the night scene is incredible. We went up on a trolley to the tallest place in Hong Kong to view the scene and took lots of pictures.

While we were in China, we also visited a factory. I was surprised by how clean the environment was and how many workers there were. China exports a lot of goods to different countries and these goods start with the Chinese workers. The workers were mainly girls. They work for four days and get the rest of the three days off.

Overall, China has changed a lot. The people have better value systems and China has become very westernized. It was good to see that China made so much progress. But there still are many poor in China that are ignored.

We learn what we have said
from those who listen to our
speaking.

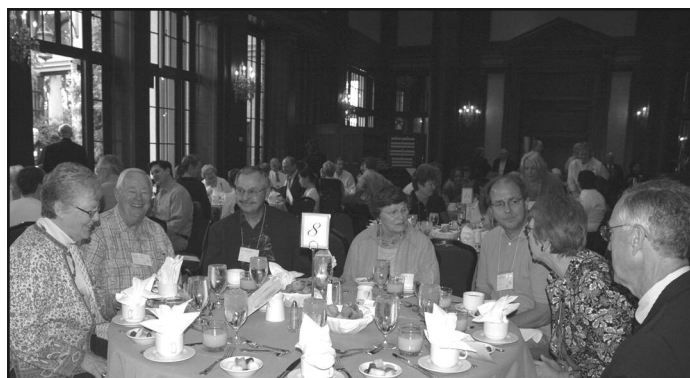
-Kenneth Patton

Music to Our Ears

- **Rashmi**, student of **Sharon Jones**, passed her driver's test. She also volunteers at Surrey for Seniors and is taking a computer class.
- **Pei**, student of **Carol Linsenmann**, obtained her driver's license. She will enter Delaware County Community College in the fall, and she recently discovered she enjoys reading for pleasure!
- **Xiaoan**, student of **Mary Ellen Trego**, registered to vote and voted in the primary.
- **Sherif**, student of **Kimberly Hoover**, passed his citizenship exam in October and was sworn in as a citizen of the USA in December.
- **Janet**, student of **Pat Purcell**, got the promotion she wanted at work!
- **Leandro**, student of **Dan Walker**, is applying to West Chester University for the graduate business studies program. Last fall he received US accreditation for his Chem. E. and Graduate Business Studies received in Brazil.
- **Lin**, student of **Tom Buchanan**, voted for the first time in the April Pennsylvania primary.
- **Myung Hee**, student of **Marianne King**, recently took and passed her nursing board exams. She has applied to serve as a hospital volunteer while she investigates obtaining a nursing job.
- **Xuemei**, student of **Molly Lenowitz**, got a driver's license and

is learning to use coupons. Molly reports that Xuemei regularly takes out books from the library and that she speaks with more confidence as her vocabulary increases.

- **Magali**, student of **Ruth Passo**, after working hard on her resume, interview/negotiation skills, and presentation skills, was offered a very good IT position at corporate WAWA.
- **Sonia**, student of **Joana Iverson**, got a full-time job.
- **Nada**, student of **Joyce Hurt**, finished reading her first novel in English, *Civil War on Sunday*, and did well on a test that Joyce had prepared for the book. They also took a trip to Kohl's, and Nada was able to name almost every household good or article of clothing that Joyce pointed out.
- **Ahmed**, student of **Pat Newland**, voted for the first time in April 2008.
- **Sophany**, student of **Pat Ellison**, passed the test to become a citizen of the U.S.



(Clockwise from top left): guests of the 2008 fundraising breakfast in the Ballroom at Longwood Gardens; Todd Darlington, Director of External Affairs, Verizon, Wendy Harris, Director, Human Resources, The Inn at Chester Springs, Carol Klauss VEP Program Specialist, Susan Terrey, Local Area Manager., Verizon, Jose Castellon, Banquet Manager., The Inn at Chester Springs; Noemi Viveros, VEP student and newest board member addresses the group.

Birth Announcement

Congratulations to Maria Avalos and her husband upon the birth of their baby boy in March. Maria is the student of Michele MacPherson.

Coatesville Area Conversation Group

We have had an inquiry from one of our tutors in the Coatesville area regarding whether there is an interest by other students and tutors in that area to interact with one another to practice English. If you have such an interest and/or would be willing to facilitate such a group (perhaps at the Coatesville Library), please contact us. Thank you.

Welcome New Tutors

We welcome the new tutors who attended the April tutor training, returning tutors, and those who were matched during the summer and plan to attend the training in September:

Shannon Almquist	Mariann Demas
Samantha Krug	Jennifer Sanchez
Russell Appler	Lori Doyle
Christa Krumbhaar	Sheridan Earle
Barbara Arnold	Joan Franklin
Hannah Krumbhaar	Betsy Frayne
Charles Baker	Charu Gandhi
R. Scott Lee, Jr.	Mehul Goradia
Maureen Baldoni	Brian Griffith
Molly Lenowitz	Claudia Hess
Elizabeth Blumen	Amy Hornberger
Stephanie Long	Diane Jaffe
Carol Bossert	Nora Jenkins
Heather Lovelace	Suzanne Kennedy
Pat Brotzge	Nancy Khair
Eric Matuszak	Toby Koch
Lillie May Brown	Barry Schickling
Rob O'Mara	Reuben Schonebaum
Nichole Campanale	Margaret Shannon
Shawn Chatlin	Steve Small
Jane Patullo	Tom Sweeney
Charlotte Pavlides	Linda Sturgeon
Fred Crotchfelt	Kira Tauriello
Jeanie Pecknoe	Fanny Warren
Dick Davis	Kerry Werner
Shawn Regan	Nancy and Russ Wilson
Sheanna Davis	Maria Ruiza Yee
Heather Del Buono	Sandy Yee
Carol Rubinger	Bonnie Zeolla
Anna Rudbarg	

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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