

IN OTHER WORDS

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

Spring 2008 Newsletter of the

VOLUNTEER ENGLISH PROGRAM

in chester county

2007 Breakfast Report	1
VEP News	2
Tutor/Student	3
Lists, Mission	5



Tu Packard (left) and The Honorable Juan R. Sanchez speak at the VEP Fundraising Breakfast held at Longwood Gardens.

my. She told her own story of moving with her family to New York City from the Philippines and graduating from Bryn Mawr College and Columbia University.

The Honorable Juan R. Sanchez, a VEP Honorary Council member, recounted his personal path of achievement; he now serves on the U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. State Senator Andrew Dinniman, represented by Chief of Staff Stephannie Beemer-McLimans, presented a citation honoring VEP's 20th anniversary.

VEP student Alex Loboda spoke about coming to the U.S. from the Ukraine where he was a practicing endocrinologist. He has worked diligently with his volunteer tutor and Board member Ray Sarnacki for the past three years. Alex is presently on assignment with Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, but his goal is to pass the U.S. Medical License exam to practice medicine here. At the breakfast Alex spoke:

"When I arrived here from Ukraine, I quickly realized that language was going to be the biggest challenge. I recognized that the language barrier was going to present major obstacles in my daily life. My question was answered when I found the Volunteer English Program and was matched with my tutor Ray Sarnacki."

Carol Klauss, VEP Program Specialist, concluded with praise for VEP's volunteer tutors:

"It is true that the heart and soul of VEP are the volunteers who generously share their time and talent. Without our volunteers, there would be no VEP. So, much of the expense of providing language learning is underwritten, so to speak, by our volunteers."

HELP VEP BLOOM IN '08

VEP's 2nd Fundraising Breakfast will be held at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA on Friday, June 6, 2008 to benefit the Volunteer English Program.

We invite you to an informative breakfast and to enjoy the gardens following the program. To receive an invitation or to reserve your place, please contact the VEP office at 610-918-8222 or volunteer.english@verizon.net. Sponsorship opportunities available. Please inquire.

Fundraising Breakfast 2007

Last year, more than 180 guests from the business community, friends of VEP, tutors, and students gathered in the Longwood Gardens Ballroom on Friday, June 1 to celebrate VEP's 20 years of providing one-on-one English tutoring for newcomers from around the world, promoting cultural understanding, and supporting community participation. Keynote speaker Tu Packard, a Senior Economist at Moody's Economy.com, discussed the beneficial impact immigrants have on our community's econo-

VEP NEWS

VEP Director's Report

The Volunteer English Program is proud to announce receiving a grant for \$25,000 from the Philadelphia Foundation to strengthen the business and operational practices of our organization. This is critical for VEP to continue our effective delivery of services, implementation of best practices, utilization of data to drive decision-making, and ability to adapt to new demands, risks, and opportunities. We will be working with Meghan McVety, Senior Partner of Capacity for Change LLC, a West Chester public interest consulting group serving nonprofits and grassroots community organizations by helping them position themselves for excellence.

Also, the Volunteer English Program has received the following contributions:

- **\$20,000, a two-year grant for general support**, from the 1675 Foundation
- **\$10,000 grant** from the the Robert D. and Jennifer C. McNeil Fund for general operating expenses
- **\$1,000** through IBM's Community Grants Program in honor of Shirley Warren's volunteerism
- **\$500** grant for general operating support from the Strengthening Communities Initiative of the Fund for Chester County
- **\$500** from QVC's Community Affairs Committee in support of VEP as contributing to our community's well-being
- **More than \$11,000** in response to the fall fundraising letter

We deeply appreciate and thank these foundations, businesses, and individuals for making it possible to respond to our community's need.

—Linda Grosse, VEP Executive Director

Volunteer English Program's New Logo

The VEP Board and staff recognized the importance of having a logo that reflects VEP's mission. We asked Tim Crawford, who designed the invitation for the Longwood Breakfast, for some recommendations. For the new logo, Tim emphasized the word "English" so it would be the focus of the design. The font is easy to read and has clean-line sophistication while still retaining a grass-roots feeling.



(clockwise from top left) VEP Breakfast in the Ballroom at Longwood Gardens; Martina and Paul Keogan, Luminent Counseling Gold Sponsor; Iris Gestram, Bill Simeral of J. Franklin Styer Nurseries, Jim Pinheiro of Pearl Pressman Liberty Communications Group, Breakfast Sponsors; Ray Sarnacki, VEP Board member and tutor, with his student Alex Loboda

Fundraising Breakfast 2007 Contributions

Thank you to the generous contributions from sponsors and donors that allow VEP to reach out to more students.

Gold Sponsors

Blank Rome LLP
Luminent Counseling
Gawthrop Greenwood
Pearl Pressman Liberty

Silver Sponsors

Anchin, Block & Anchin LLP
Brickhouse Environmental
Tim Crawford Design + Illustration
Iris Gestram
Charles Schwab
J. Franklin Styer
The Terrace Restaurant at Longwood Gardens
MT Thomas Consulting
Tycor Benefit Administrators

Consider becoming a Longwood Gardens Passholder.
To learn more, visit www.longwoodgardens.org.



This gives a welcoming feel to the word “English.” The colors green and brown and the three budding leaves represent growth—reflecting our future.



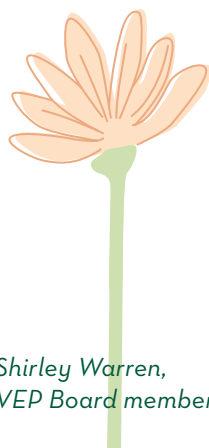
Volunteer English Program full logo (left) and initials logo.

Shirley Warren Receives Prestigious Award

For the past 5 years, IBM has donated \$1,000 annually to the Volunteer English Program in Chester County through the IBM Community Grant Program in honor of Shirley Warren’s volunteerism. Shirley is a Customer Service Manager at IBM’s West Chester office and has served as a volunteer tutor. Currently, she is a member of the Board of Directors and is Chair of the fund-raising committee, which aims to increase VEP’s annual budget, enhance VEP’s profile in the business community, and support a significant increase in clients served.

Shirley chaired VEP’s successful first annual fund-raising event at Longwood Gardens last year and is currently planning for the June 2008 event. Because of the efforts of volunteers like Shirley, IBM’s On Demand Community recently achieved a significant milestone; more than 100,000 IBM employees volunteer their time and talent to improve their communities, representing more than 6 million hours of community service.

For her service, Ms. Warren was recently awarded the prestigious Points of Light Award. This award honors an

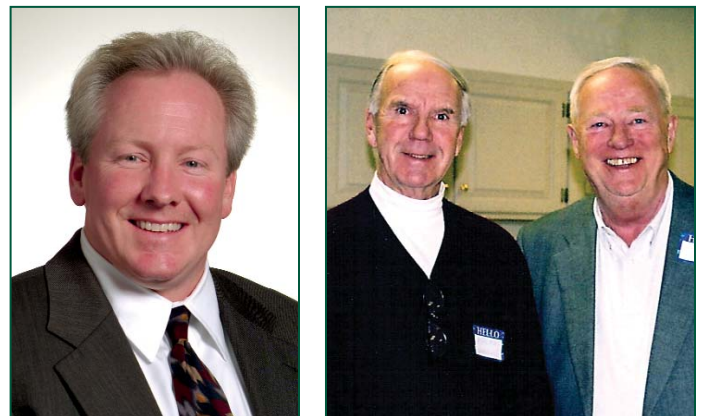


*Shirley Warren,
VEP Board member*

individual or organization that is making a positive and lasting difference in the lives of others. The Points of Light Foundation, founded in Washington, DC, promotes community service through partnerships with the Volunteer Center National Network and through alliances with corporations, nonprofits, government agencies, individuals, and the media. She received a congratulatory letter from President George W. Bush and Former President George Bush.

VEP Board News

The new officers who will be serving for 2008 are: David Garrison, President; Ray Sarnacki, 1st Vice-President; Shirley Warren, 2nd Vice-President; Bonnie Friedman, Secretary; and Edward Gilardi, Treasurer. Dave is an environmental attorney with Gawthrop Greenwood in West Chester and Chair of VEP’s nominating committee. Ray is



*David Garrison (left), new President of the VEP Board
Ralph Johnson (center) and Jim Murphy retire from VEP Board*

a visiting professor of business at St. Joseph’s University and Chair of the planning committee. Shirley is Customer Service Manager for IBM Global Technology Services and Chair of the fund-raising committee. Bonnie is a retired teacher and serves on the publicity committee. Ed is an environmental engineer retired from Weston Solutions Inc. and serves as Chair of the finance committee.

The Board and staff warmly thank outgoing Board President, Bill Lalicker, who served so effectively as President for 3 years, and Ralph Johnson for his tenure as Treasurer. We also send our deep appreciation to two members leaving the Board: Jim Murphy, a long-standing board member, and Ralph Johnson, who has also served as a tutor since 1998.

We announce three new Board members: Shannon Almquist, a teacher retired from Westtown School; Cynthia Lyman, retired Spanish teacher from the Downingtown School District and current instructor at West Chester University; and Michael Reese, Fulton Bank Branch Manager for the West Chester and West Goshen branches. We enthusiastically welcome them to the Board.

The Three Little Pigs

VEP thanks the Three Little Pigs for holding our conversation class at their restaurant in West Chester.

“Last night at Three Little Pigs I truly felt the spirit of Christmas. There were fifteen of us gathered—a motley assortment to be sure. Part of my ‘agenda’ was to teach some traditional secular Christmas songs, so I took my pitch pipe, and copies of lyrics to Jingle Bells, Deck the Halls, and We Wish You a Merry Christmas. What a choir we were! Actually our voices blended nicely. For me the evening was another metaphor for how the world should be. Despite our vast cultural differences, in delightful harmony, we were all focused on that which we have in common.” *Carol Klauss, VEP Program Specialist*

TUTORS & STUDENTS

Save the Date

Tutor Training Workshop

April 3, 7, and 10, 6 to 9 pm at Keshet Israel Congregation, 1000 Pottstown Pike, West Chester, PA. (Just north of West Chester on Pottstown Pike.) For more information, call the VEP office at 610-918-8222.

Student Writing

Thanksgiving Story

by Pei Lin, student of Carol Linsenmann

Taiwan is a small island in Asia. Taiwan always had a lot of racial prejudice that still exists. It’s a long story and from a long time ago. Some people sailed to escape political persecution from China in 1949. Taiwan’s senators could not tolerate them until now; they have always said that their native country is not Taiwan because they came from China. Is it really important? I don’t think so. The senators should put emphasis on uniting the nation and not talking

about where you came from. I think that’s just important for our country. The fact is national interests are what we need. We need peace and stability. So that’s why Taiwan’s political system still is a mess. Taiwan’s people really have to read about the Thanksgiving story and learn from the Indians’ tolerance. America is like a big family; the big family has different nationalities and different cultures, even religions. So the parents have to unite all nationalities to solve problems. It is really not easy. We have to learn how to tolerate family, even other people from other nations. *(Note from tutor: Pei researched the first Thanksgiving on the Internet. Instead of retelling the story, she wrote a response paper.)*

Congratulations to Six New Citizens

Hassna Benzaakoud, student of Lisa Allum; Silvia Cubos-Palafox, student of Cynthia Lyman; Norys Rodriguez, student of Kathryn Byerly; Ahmed Saih, student of Pat Newland; Alicia Sanchez, student of Pat Newland; and Beuy Soumphonphakdy, student of Kathryn Byerly.

Welcome New Tutors

Please welcome the new tutors who attended the January Training Workshop.

Jennifer Bobalik	Michael Johnson
Loretta Cohen	Michael King
Barbara Collautt	Alex Koren
Kelly Boysen Dohoney	Brenda Koren
Karen Emory	Kim Kushner
Mary Farrow	Betty Ann Monash
Roger Fraley	Rachel Nichols
Pat Freeberry	Mark O’Keefe
Joseph Glace	Charley Parker
Gretchen Hall	Ruth Passo
Arielle Heald	Mary Ellen Smith
Carla Herkner	Margie Stevens
Nancy Holland	Ashley Terlingo
Madiha Irfan	Mikki Washburn
Joana Iverson	Hong Zhu

Music to our Ears

- **Leandro**, student of **Dan Walker**, applied for and received full accreditation for his Brazilian degrees—Chem. E. and MBA.
- **Marta**, student of **Sarah Cass**, is now working two jobs and doing very well at work. Her tutor reports she has “outstanding work habits.”
- **Noemi**, student of **June Bigler**, received her green card (a permanent residency card).

Birth Announcement

Congratulation to student Vanessa Wiese and her husband on the birth of their daughter Patricia Isabella on November 20, 2007.

No significant learning occurs without a significant relationship.

—Dr. James Comer

Tutor Tip

Looking for new ideas? Take a look at the “Tutor Zone” of VEP’s website—www.volunteerenglish.org. Click on “Tutor ESL Website Links.” One of our favorites is Cyber Listening in the conversation section. Students have the opportunity to listen to conversations which use a variety of children and adult voices. Your student can choose conversations from three levels—easy, medium, or difficult. The conversations deal with practical situations, such as, using an answering machine, making an emergency call or placing a food order. Activities include pre-listening and post-listening questions. A reading script of the conversation is also provided. Let us know if you and your student have found a favorite website to practice English. We welcome your tutor tips; send them along with your tutor updates.

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

Board of Directors

David Garrison, President
Ray Sarnacki, 1st Vice-President
Shirley Warren, 2nd Vice-President
Bonnie Friedman, Secretary
Edward Gilardi, Treasurer
Shannon Almquist
Janet Coupe
Betsy Hawkes
Susan Heist
Paul Keogan
William Lalicker
Cynthia Lyman
Connie Partridge
Michael Reese

Honorary Council

Andrew Dinniman
John Hesselberth
William C. Hewson
Juan R. Sanchez

Staff

Linda Grosse, Executive Director
Sandy Meyer, Assistant Director
Sandi Kwisz, Program Director
Carol Klaus, Program Specialist
Sandi Hopkinson, Data Manager
Jolanta Morys, Bookkeeper



Volunteer English Program in Chester County
790 E. Market Street, Suite 215, West Chester, PA 19382
www.volunteerenglish.org





VOLUNTEER
ENGLISH
PROGRAM 
in chester county

790 E. Market Street, Suite 215
West Chester, PA 19382
www.volunteerenglish.org

Helping people from **42** different
countries live their dreams.