

LVWC Student & Tutor News

Spring 2023

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Literacy Volunteers of Washington County

7 Elm Street

P.O. Box 245

Westerly, RI 02891

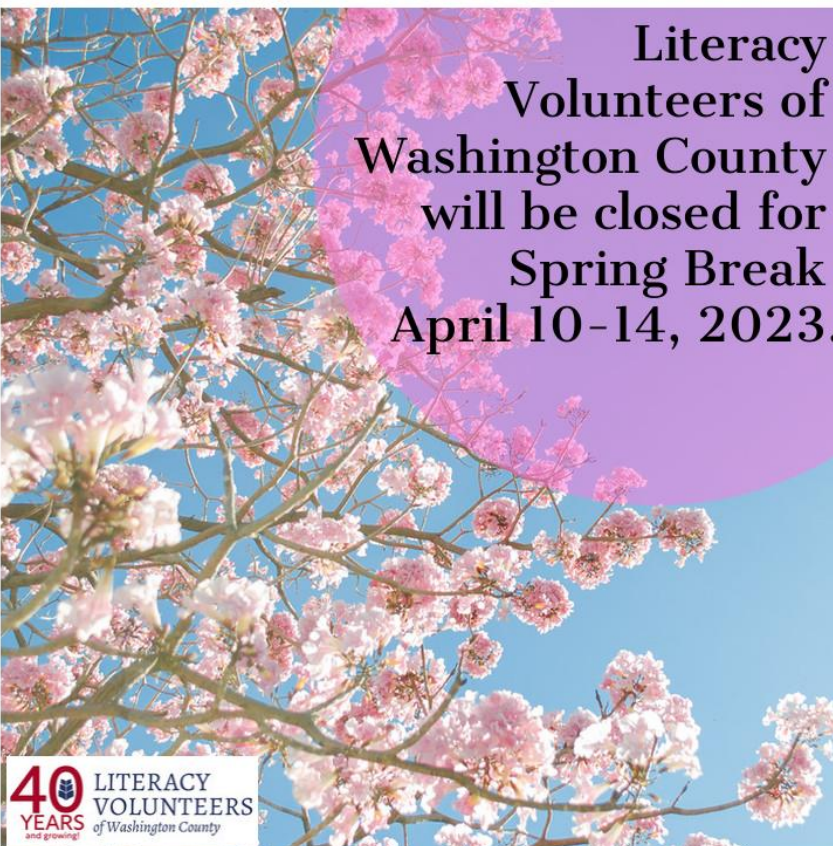
401-596-9411

www.literacywashingtoncounty.org

Join us!



Literacy
Volunteers of
Washington County
will be closed for
Spring Break
April 10-14, 2023.



Literacy Specialist
Contact Information

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Monday-Thursday
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401-596-9411

Executive Director
Mary Carol Kendzia
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Carl Krueger, Immigration Lawyer



Carl Krueger came down to Westerly to answer immigration and citizenship questions this past January 11. He answered questions from the audience and questions that were submitted online.

Did you miss our January event featuring Carl Krueger from Dorcas International?

The event was recorded and notes were taken. This information can be found on our **Citizenship Resources** page <https://www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/citizenship-resources>

More about Carl:

Carl Krueger is a 1983 graduate of Boston University School of Law, and since then has practiced exclusively in the area of U.S. immigration and nationality law. He has been employed as staff attorney at the Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island, a non-profit social service agency providing legal assistance to immigrants and refugees and their families since 1987. He is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, has sat on the board of directors of the Rhode Island affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union, and is a frequent lecturer at continuing legal education programs on matters of immigration law.

Have you visited our Citizenship Resources page, yet?

Carl Krueger Recording

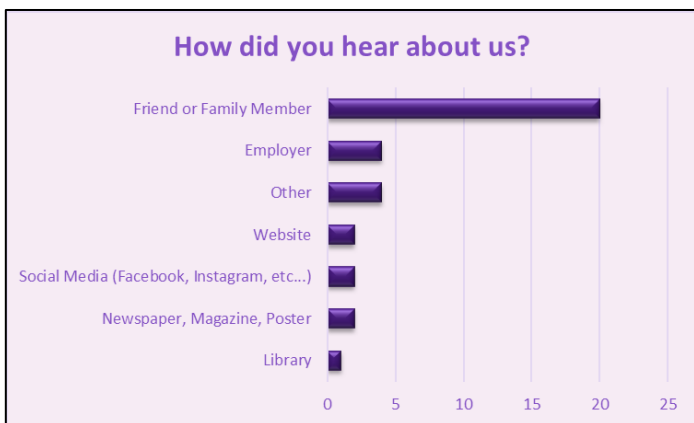
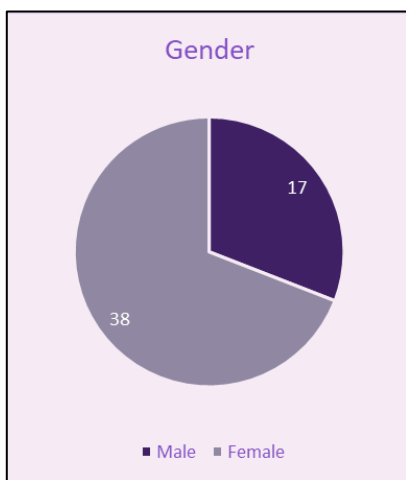
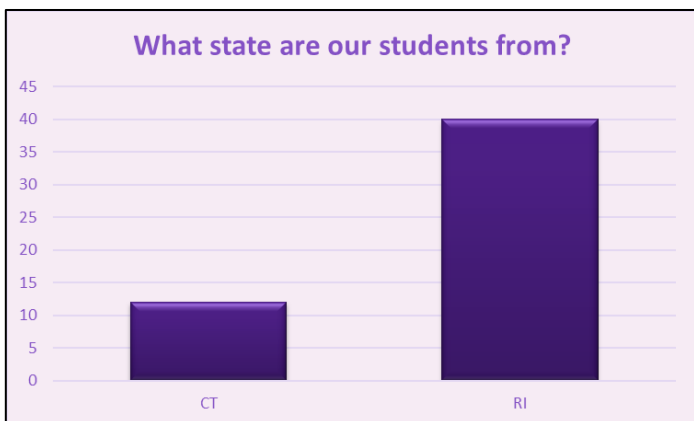
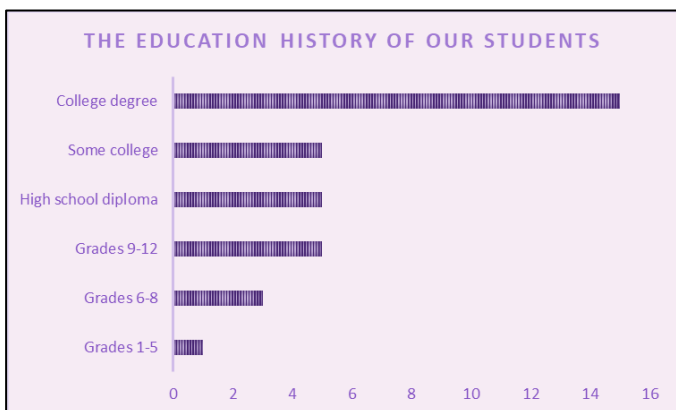
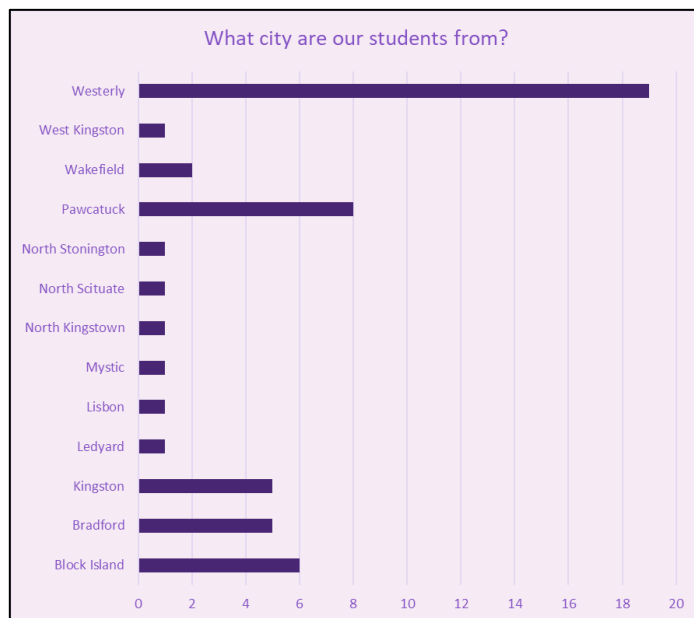
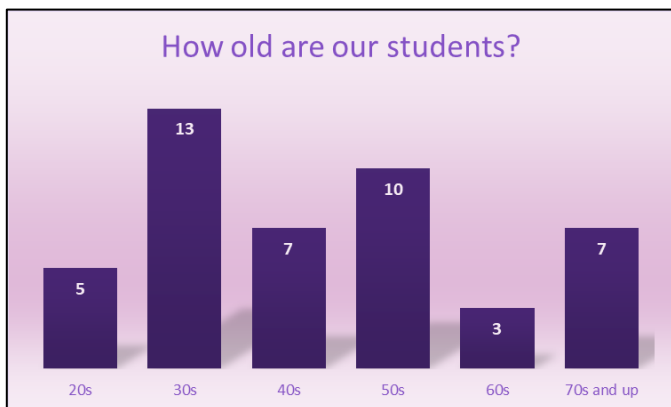
Helpful Citizenship Links

Useful YouTube Videos

Government Links & Forms

Student Demographics

Where are our students from? How did they hear about Literacy Volunteers of Washington County? Let's take a look at our demographics.



Demographic (noun) dem·o·graph·ic [de-mə-'gra-fik](#)

demographics plural: the statistical characteristics of human populations (such as age or income)

www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary

Announcements & Events

Reminder: LVWC will be closed for the spring break April 10-14 and will reopen Monday, April 17.

LVWC will be closed on Monday, May 29 in honor of Memorial Day.

SAVE THE DATE! June 15 at 6:00pm
International Potluck & Awards Ceremony: A Celebration of Success. Be on the lookout for more information via social media, website, and emails.



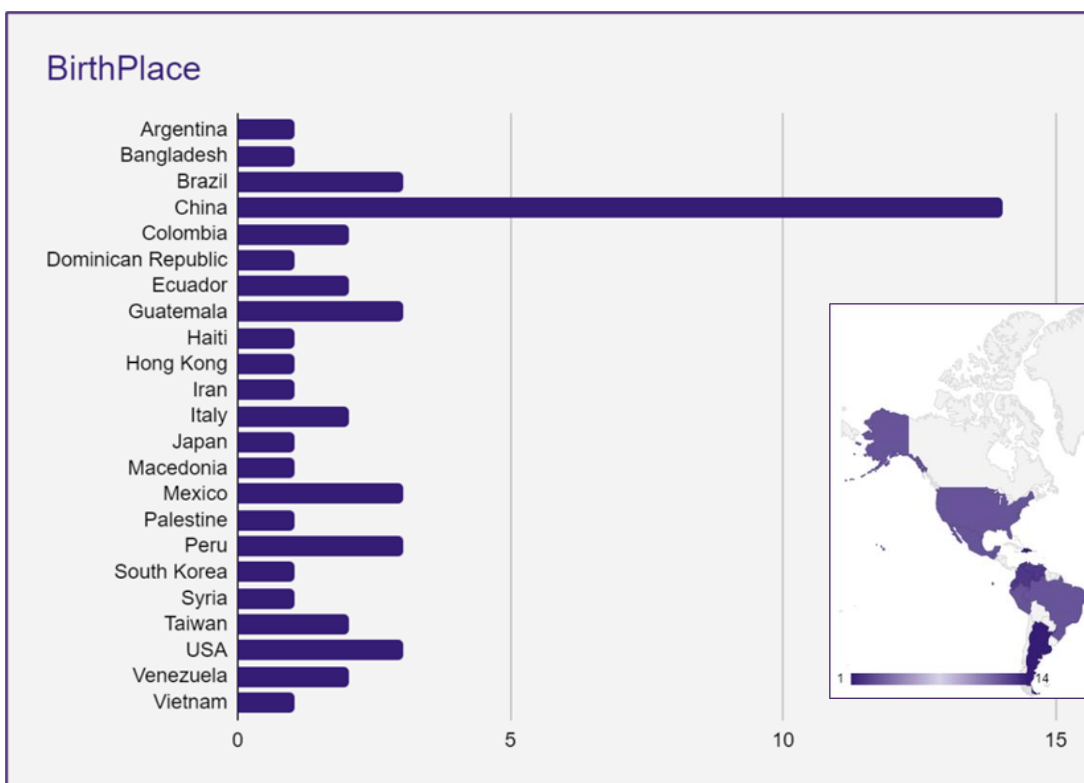


40 YEARS LITERACY VOLUNTEERS
and growing! of Washington County

Join us for our International Potluck & Award Ceremony

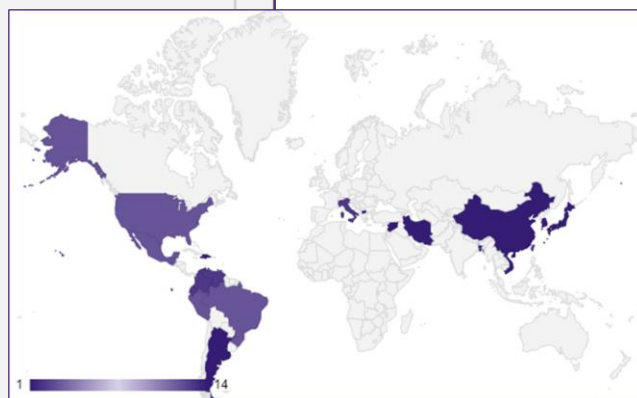
Thursday, June 15 at 6:00pm
at the Christ Church parish hall, 7 Elm Street, Westerly

Student Demographics continued...



Total Student Hours for 2022

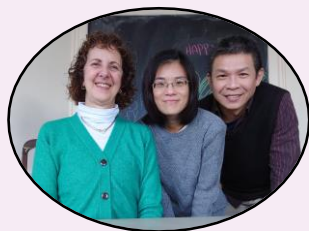
1500



Student to Student

LVWC students share their learning journey and offer tips on how to be successful.

Wei-Chen and Lee-Kuo's Story



Wei-Chen and Lee-Kuo with tutor Lois

Because of LVWC, our whole family is lucky to have more chances to experience American culture and culture shock this year. During the class, we usually have short talks of our daily life, solve the problem which we had or discuss the plan that we want to do next with Lois. Thank Lois for her patience and kindness, in her class she always made us feel welcomed and comfortable.

In our everyday life, we try to improve our English by talking with people and using the words which we have learned before in different situations, reading books which are borrowed from the library, listening to audiobooks or music while driving and watching films or news. Lois took us to the library where there are many resources. We also went to watch the basketball game at URI university. Those are helpful and easy ways for us to get used to the new environment. Although there are still more challenges, we are so grateful to take part in LVWC and the classes. We are ready to take on the world together.

Bill's Story

My name is Bill S, and I have been a student with LVWC for close to three and a half years now. I had a stroke which caused me to have a really hard time reading. My doctors told me that while I had made great progress through physical therapy in regaining my ability to use my left leg and arm, I needed to work with someone to help me read again. That is why I contacted LVWC.

Theresa had my tutor Paul contact me and we met and talked about what I wanted to get better at. First, I wanted to be able to read and understand my church program and bible. Also, I was a captain of a fishing boat and ran a trucking company before I retired so I wanted to be able to again read about mechanical things such as diesel engines. We first worked on word sheets to relearn how to read and pronounce sounds, and then read things like my church bulletin. Since then, we have been reading articles from "Breaking News English" and "Engoo Daily News" that my tutor has found on the LVWC website. I am happy to say that I have been able to get better at reading as I am now reading at the intermediate (and sometimes advanced) article levels.

My advice to a reading student would be to make sure you work with your tutor so they know what your goals are, provide them feedback so they can figure out what is working best for you, and most importantly be steady, don't give up and read as much as you can in between your meetings.



Bill with tutor Paul

Maggie's Story



Maggie

My name is Maggie. I have been a student of LVWC for six years. I would like to suggest some ideas about how to improve your English. First of all, don't be shy or afraid to speak. Practice with your tutor and use English at home. During class, I write down words that I don't recognize. I look up the meaning of the words. I keep the written words in my pocket, so I can practice saying and spelling them. It is also helpful to practice with your family member if they speak English.

Student to Student continued...

Xochitl's Advice



Xochitl

- Do not be afraid of speaking with others, they know English is not your native language, and most of the time people will help you.
- English is not your first language so your pronunciation won't be the same as a native speaker.
- Find your learning styles.
- Learn English by your interests: arts, news, TV series, exercise, books, games and so on.
- Find the place and meet local people: if you like to exercise go to the gym, if you like to attend church find the closest to you. Meeting people who have the same interests like you can help you to find a conversation.
- Listen for new vocabulary. English expressions are almost never taught at the school, I learn more of this in the community.
- Go shopping, yes this is a clue that I have been using for years. Visiting the supermarket or any store, and take a product, read the label, and keep walking. There are hundreds of products in the stores and you can learn more vocabulary.
- English is so diverse you might understand some people better than others, but that will help you with your listening.
- Set a goal and achieve it. We as students have different goals; having specific goals will motivate you to go forward in your learning.
- We are never too old to learn. It took me time to understand this but it was just an obstacle that I had to jump.
- Share with others your interest of learning, you are always going to find gentle people that love to help others.
- Be part of the community. When we move to another country, everything might be difficult, but understanding local culture and traditions allow you to share your own.

I am still on my process to learn English but this is some of the guidance that keeps me on track, and today student to student I share with you hoping some of these helps you to never give up.

I am deeply grateful for this new chapter in my life so I would like to finish this with some thanks:

Thank you to the church for the facilities, thanks to LVWC for all the wonderful work of helping people without reward, thank you to the tutors to share your time with the students, thank you Mrs. Kim to recommend me to this place and special thank you to my tutor Jenessi for all the patience and all the knowledge that increase my interest of learning.

Speaking another language is difficult: Yes but "All things are possible to him who believes" Mark 9:23

Click this link to read all of Xochitl's journey:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/kj0e66v5nk5pks7/Xochitl%20Cervantes%20Mendoza.docx.pdf?dl=0>

Tammy's Journey

I've been coming to the Literacy of Washington County for 8 years since 2014. I was working with June Hartford-Alley and now I am working with Eve White. I have read so many books that I can't keep track of them. I've read Julie of the Wolves, Frightful About a Peregrine Falcon, and Slavery: The Underground Railroad. I read a biography of Harriet Tubman. I read about the bombing of London of WWII. I read 12 Years a Slave by Solomon Northup. Right now, I am reading The Witch of Black Bird Pond set in colonial Connecticut. It has been a great experience. My tutor thinks it has increased my self-confidence. I look forward to coming to class.

“Practice makes perfect”

Tutor Tips

By Barbara Heuer

Did you take music or other lessons when you were younger?

Did you practice between lessons?

Did you enjoy practicing?

Did you stick with it?

Did you improve?

We know from our own experience that learning something new, whether it's the piano or driving a car, can be tentative and scary. But we also know (hopefully), with practice comes comfort and even competence when you tickle the ivories or buckle up. We know that the only way students are going to improve their English speaking/reading/writing skills is through practice.

But how can we get students to practice between tutoring sessions?

We hear repeatedly that students have no time in their busy lives to “practice.” “Homework” is suggested, but rarely done. The research says ours is not a unique situation. We also hear sometimes that the choices of online resources that students can work on independently in the privacy of their own homes can be daunting, even with guidance. We also know that

developing a new habit, even one good for us, is difficult and takes time.

With all these barriers, how can we get students to practice? I, ever optimistic, suggest taking small bites out of this elephant with a simple, no-tech short strategy. It's a starting step in building the habit of practice.

Take a word or phrase that comes up in your tutoring session. Ask them to repeat it, out loud everyday while they're driving, cooking, etc. For example, in conversation class recently we discussed the word “responsibility.” One student said, “My responsibility is work and take care (sic) my family.” (Amazing, right?) We all repeated this sentence. Some wrote it down. Now, we could ask them to say this sentence at least once a day. When you meet again, you can ask your student how it went. After a while your student will anticipate this follow-up and be prepared.

This repetition has some chance of becoming a habit because it is student derived, relevant, short and sweet. Some sources suggest repeating a quote or whole song. You can gauge what suits your student and, of course, adapt as necessary. We know practice makes perfect, but few adult students do. You and your student are a partnership in this adventure/process of improving English skills. Your role is coach, offering support AND challenge. You can make your realistic expectations of them known...and they



We are here to help!

**Theresa, Barbara and
Mary Carol**

just might rise to the challenge...over time!

If you have other strategies that encourage students to practice their English skills outside of LVWC time, please share. As always, thank you for your thoughtful tutoring!

**Total Tutor
Hours for 2022**

1200

Tutor Gatherings Coming Up

March 27 (LVWC) 11:30am-12:30pm

April 24 (Kingston Free Library) 11:30am-12:30pm

May 22 (LVWC) 11:30am-12:30pm

See you there ☺

[www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/
tutors](http://www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/tutors)

State Senator Victoria Gu Visits LVWC

State Senator Victoria Gu paid Literacy Volunteers a visit this February to learn more about what we do here



LVWC student Hannah Zeng (left) and tutor Terry DeCubellis (center) with Victoria Gu (right).

Learn more about Senator Victoria Gu

Victoria Gu is a Democrat representing District 38 (Westerly, Charlestown, South Kingstown) in the Rhode Island Senate.

Click this link for her page:

<https://www.rilegislature.gov/senators/gu/Pages/Biography.aspx>

Scholarship for Women

GFWC Women's Club of South County

The GFWC WCSC Scholarship Fund helps Washington County women in need become self-sufficient through the pursuit of a degree or by obtaining credentials for practicing a vocation. For a quarter of a century, the Club each year has awarded scholarships ranging from hundreds to thousands of dollars to selected applicants. All funds are distributed directly to the educational institution for tuition costs only.

For information about applying, email scholarshipWCSC@gmail.com or call 401-287-4392.

www.gfwcri.org/scholarship-program



GFWC Women's Club of South County

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Preference given to highly motivated women, 19 and older at the time of application, who are the primary support for herself and/or her dependents.
- For residents of: Block Island, Charlestown, Exeter, Hopkinton, Narragansett, North Kingstown, Richmond, South Kingstown, Westerly
- Scholarships awarded are for tuition toward certifications or **first degrees** linked to your career advancement.

Deadline

April 1, 2023

www.gfwcri.org

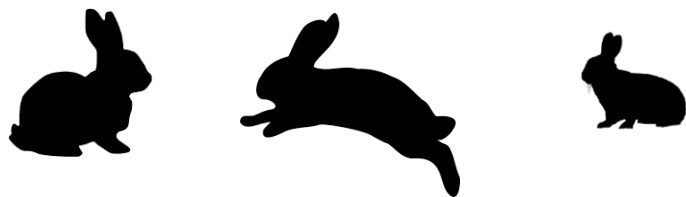
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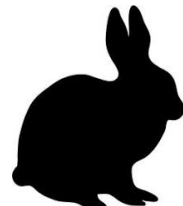
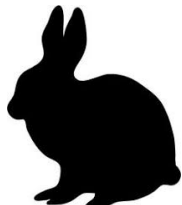
or ScholarshipWCSC@gmail.com

Call 508-561-4477 for more information

Lunar New Year 2023

Our students and tutors brought in the Year of the Rabbit.





In Person and Online Classes

These classes are for adult English language learners.

Visit www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/classes-gatherings for current offerings.



**Free
Conversation
Class for Adult
English Language
Learners**

Monday Evenings
5:30-7:00pm
URI Graduate Village
Community Building

To register, email Barbara at
oberlejj@verizon.net

This class is hybrid (in person and online)

URI Graduate Village Conversation

Type: Conversation Class—HYBRID (in person and Zoom)

When: Mondays 5:30-7:00pm

Where: URI Graduate Village Community Center,
2900 Kingstown Rd, Kingston, RI 02881

Email: Barbara at oberlejj@verizon.net to register


LVWC Center

Type: Conversation Class—IN PERSON

When: Tuesdays from 11:00am-12:00pm



Where: 7 Elm Street (Christ Church) Westerly, RI
at the LVWC Center

All levels welcome—No registration required

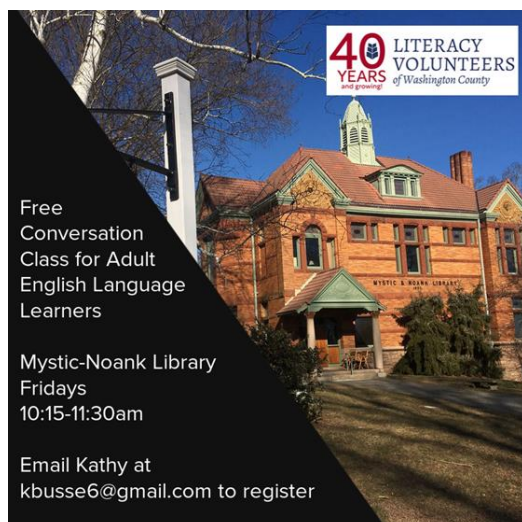


Conversation Classes
for adult English language learners
Tuesdays & Wednesdays
11:00am-12:00pm

All levels
no registration required
7 Elm Street, Westerly,
RI 02891



See our website for more information
www.literacywashingtoncounty.org/classes-gatherings



**40 LITERACY VOLUNTEERS
YEARS of Washington County**

Free
Conversation
Class for Adult
English Language
Learners

Mystic-Noank Library
Fridays
10:15-11:30am

Email Kathy at
kbusse6@gmail.com to register

Mystic-Noank Conversation

Type: Conversation Class—IN PERSON

When: Fridays from 10:15-11:30am

Where: Mystic-Noank Library, 40 Library St,
Mystic, CT 06355

Email: Kathy at kbusse6@gmail.com to register