

LITERACY MATTERS

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF MA-QUINCY

Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts - Quincy • www.thomascranellibrary.org/read • 617-379-1314 • quliteracy@ocln.org
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A Family Reunion... *32 years in the making*

Like many of our students, Nathalie Devis' family has an interesting and special story to share. Nathalie and her 7 siblings were raised in Massachusetts by her Cuban mother who came to the U.S. when she was only 17 years old. For 32 years, Nathalie remembers her mother talking about wanting to return home for a visit to Cuba. Of the many things her mom missed about her home country, the most important was her sister, Nathalie's aunt, who stayed in Cuba to raise her own family. For 32 years, plans for a trip were discussed and plans for a trip were set aside for different reasons.... until last July.

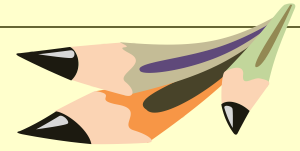


Last summer, Nathalie, with her 2 children, 4 sisters, 3 brothers, 13 nieces and nephews, and -

most importantly - her mother, boarded an airplane to Havana, Cuba. If you ask Nathalie if it was easy to organize this trip for 24 people she will respond with a very animated, "No!" Nathalie jokingly tells us, "I think our family took up the whole plane!" Then more realistically she says, "Well, one side of it actually." She says getting the family to agree on plans for the trip was

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"painful" but the moment her family stepped into the airport in Cuba, Nathalie says, "All the frustration and difficulty of getting there just melted away." She describes a very touching scene in the airport of family members meeting for the first time, cousins hugging and crying, and - most importantly - two sisters reuniting after 32 years apart. So was getting there difficult? Yes. But if you ask Nathalie if it was all worth it, she will give you a very enthusiastic, "Yes!" Nathalie and her siblings don't speak Spanish and her Cuban relatives don't speak English but she tells us, "Without even talking you could see and feel all the emotion. It was overwhelming... such a nice feeling. There was not a dry eye." Thinking back on the whole scene, Nathalie sums up the moment with a very simple but significant statement. She says, "I looked around and thought, '*We made it!*'"

(Story continued on page 2)

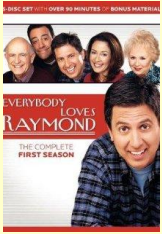
ABOUT US

LVM-Q offers free, one-on-one, private tutoring to adults in basic reading and writing. Literacy Volunteers of MA-Quincy is one of the thirteen affiliates of Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts and an accredited member of Proliteracy America.



📌 UPCOMING EVENTS! 📌

TV Night for Literacy Students



Tutors and students, please join us for this fun new program. **TV Night** is a chance for students to watch a fun tv program, meet new students and practice reading comprehension skills.

We will watch the television sitcom “Everybody Loves Raymond” then use the show’s characters and content to discuss reading comprehension concepts like plot lines, predictions, inferences and settings.

When:

Wednesday Nights February 1, 8, 22 & 29 and March 7 • 6:30-8:00PM

Where: The library’s Community Room

Thank you to volunteer Tina Taormina for heading up this new program!

Next Step Basic, Basic Computer Class for Literacy Students

Congratulations to our students who completed part one of our Basic, Basic computer class last fall! We are happy to announce that our tech-savvy volunteer Mitch Wolf will lead a “Next Step” computer class.

Who can Join: Anyone! This class is for students of the “Basic, Basic” class who would like to continue practicing and learning computer skills and new students who have very basic computer skills they would like to build on.

When: Thursday Nights February 16 & 23 and March 1 & 8 • 6:30–8:00PM

Where: The library’s Computer Lab

What you will learn: Basic typing skills, searching the internet, sending & receiving emails, sending and opening email attachments

To sign up for an upcoming event, call (617) 376-1314 or email quliteracy@ocln.org.

A Family Reunion (cont'd)

For the next 2 weeks, Nathalie spent time connecting with her new family and learning about life in Cuba and on her aunt’s farm. They rode donkeys and horses, learned how to milk a cow, learned how to boil and prepare the milk for drinking, collected fresh eggs in the morning and rode in classic American cars from the 1950’s. Nathalie tells us, “The first week was tough without the conveniences we are used to, but then I got into the very different pace of life there. It is a very different life.” Most importantly Nathalie thinks about how happy her mother was to be home. She says, “I can’t explain how happy she was. Hearing my mom speak Spanish... it was like seeing a different part of her.”

Nathalie says that it was amazing to see her mom’s dream of returning home finally realized. Her mom was finally able to share her children and grandchildren with her sister and introduce her to the life she had built over the past 32 years.

It sounds like a trip of a lifetime and we are very grateful to Nathalie for sharing this story with all of us. This family reunion that was 32 years in the making has surely created memories that will never be forgotten!

*Nathalie Devis (center)
with LVM-Quincy staff
Mary Diggle (right) and
Molly Makrogianis.*

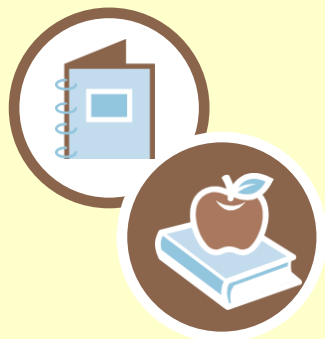




Welcome New Tutors!

Please join us in extending a big welcome to our newest group of Literacy Volunteers. The following people have completed our Fall 2011 training, and we are very excited to be working with them! A warm welcome to...

- Elizabeth Archambault
- Kim Williams
- Roberta Bohan
- Celeste Zelesnick
- Sarah Ciriello
- Mary Cunniff
- Stephen Durkin
- Susan Farago
- Susan Hart
- Sheila Murphy
- Rita Needel
- Julie Miller
- Kevin O'Malley
- Pat Rice



ANNUAL SPRING FUNDRAISER HELP US GET THE WORD OUT!

Our annual spring fundraiser brings program friends and supporters together for a fun night of team trivia and raffles. This is our primary fundraising event so please help us make this year's a success!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2012
6:00 – 9:00 PM
Thomas Crane Library

Here are ways you can get involved:

Join a Trivia Team: Email quliteracy@ocln.org to sign up.

Donate a Raffle Item: Our themed raffle baskets include items large and small. Ideas include: jewelry, a gift certificate to a restaurant, a good book, a handmade item or kitchenware. If everyone is able to bring in or procure 1 donation, our baskets will surely overflow!

Make a food donation: No event is complete without tasty treats. Food donations are very much appreciated.

A Meaningful Donation: Special thanks to the Stebbins Family for our new *Cindy Stebbins Book Collection*

Literacy Volunteer MA-Quincy would like to extend a very special thank you to the Stebbins family for their extremely generous book donation to our program. The donation was made in the name of Cindy Stebbins (1952-2008) in honor of her wonderful work contributions to the fields of adult literacy and ESL in the Boston-area and Quincy communities. We understand Cindy was exposed to volunteer work very early on by her parents who were literacy volunteers and impressed upon her that a literate populace was a valuable asset to any community. Cindy graduated from Boston College where she majored in Special Education, and later worked with the Apollo Group which ran adult education courses at Nazarene College. Her work also included teaching with the University of Phoenix and administering Red Cross programs in Quincy. Cindy's husband tells us, above all, she enjoyed working privately with international families providing support and English language training. Our condolences to Cindy's family and our thanks for their lasting contribution to our program. *The Cindy Stebbins Book Collection* will continue her legacy of providing vital help to others. These books can be found in our New Reader section and include a book plate in Cindy's name.

NEW TUTOR TRAINING THIS SPRING

If you know anyone who may be interested in becoming a Literacy Volunteer, please let them know we will be offering a **Basic Reading and Writing Tutor Training** this spring.

Orientation Meeting: March 14 or 19
6:00 – 8:00 PM

Training Meetings: Mondays & Thursdays
in April
6:00 – 9:00PM



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Be sure to check out the New Reader section on the 2nd floor of the library. New books are on the shelves!

Immunity-to-Change Workshop

“My student says they want to do everything to attain their goals, but they keep finding reasons not to do the things they know they need to do to be successful.”

If you and your student can relate to this statement, then this is the right workshop for you. Mo Sook Park will guide your student (with his or her tutor's help) through a process that will help him or her to understand what is blocking them from attaining their goals and utilize this understanding to begin seeing how progress can be made.

A timely event as we enter a new year, don't miss this valuable opportunity!

When: Monday, February 6th 6:00–9:00PM

Where: The library's Community Room

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