

CENTRAL VERMONT ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

~~~Local Partnerships in Learning~~~

Serving Washington, Lamoille, and Orange Counties



NEWSLETTER · Spring—Summer 2015

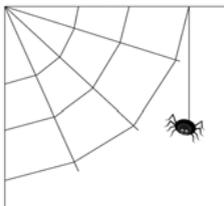
## Chortling with Charlotte

Starting last September, a reading group at the Morrisville Learning Center met once per week to complete E.B. White's classic, Charlotte's Web. By May, all the participants agreed that the book was definitely better than the movie!

The five students in the group, all at varied reading levels, were led by teacher Charlotte Bill with the assistance of Gina Brown, a CVABE volunteer of fourteen years. Students developed many skills during the reading of Charlotte's Web including comprehension, listening skills, following along with reading, reading aloud, and taking turns. Teacher, Charlotte Bill described her students' reactions to the humor in the book: "As some of the humorous sections resonated with one student, he would start to chortle, and the chortle would grow into a full-scale 'belly

laugh' and the rest of the group would burst into heartfelt laughter, too. E.B. White would have loved it!" Charlotte Bill goes on to describe her group: "...students truly developed their concept of the friendship theme and applied it in their interactions with each other. Lovely to experience!"

Many thanks to Jan Steinbauer and the Voices program of Vermont Humanities Council, which, by providing copies of Charlotte's Web, helped make this reading group a great success.



### Charlotte's Web: the class

Standing: Paula Bocash, Jay Crawford, James Higginson, Chris Touchette Seated: Patty Grassette

## Graduation

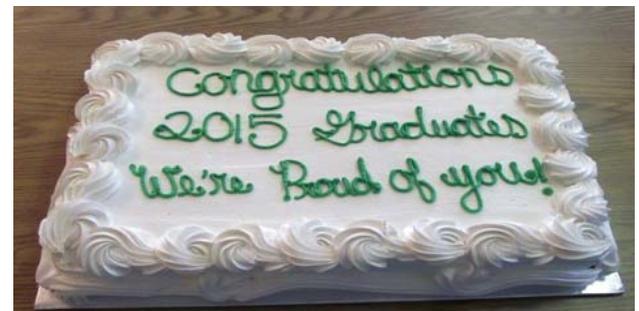


CVABE student, Megan Brown received her high school diploma at the Twinfield High School graduation on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Megan worked hard with her CVABE teacher, Dan Jones (left) to earn her diploma and hopes to pursue a career as a bank teller. Congratulations and best wishes, Megan!



A few of the many CVABE students to achieve their high school diplomas this year gathered at the Barre Learning Center on June 10<sup>th</sup> for a brief ceremony and pizza party. Many of the graduates brought their extended families to share in the celebration. We're proud of all our graduates for their hard work and dedication to the goals they set out to achieve. You've done it! **Congratulations!** pictured to the left: Marina Leno

Graduates pictured to the right: (alphabetically)  
Sammi Bussiere  
Sarah Descoteaux  
Jason Hurlburt  
Jenna Hurlburt  
(and baby, Daniel)  
Amanda Hussey  
Jaxon LaFoe  
Fern Moore  
Josh Morway  
Rey Mulcahy  
Heidi Woodworth



## In This Issue:

- \* Chortling with Charlotte
- \* Graduation
- \* Staffing Changes
- \* Hard Work
- \* The World As I See It
- \* Vermont Has Talent
- \* Volunteering at CVABE
- \* Job Fair
- \* Poetry in Montpelier
- \* Painting The Way into the Future
- \* Stepping Stone to the Future

## Staffing Changes in the Works



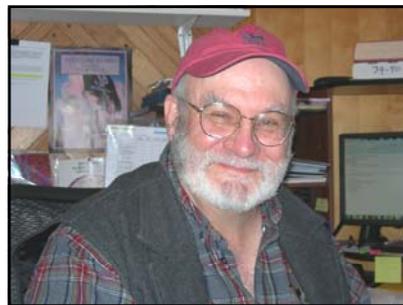
Jennefer Jolls left her full time position with CVABE to return to a former part-time position as After School Program Coordinator at Williamstown Elementary School. We are happy to welcome her back to her role as a volunteer with CVABE in either Randolph or Barre!

Denise Ferrari rejoined the CVABE staff on June 1<sup>st</sup> as the Program Support Assistant. She has resumed some of her former duties and is working her magic on new responsibilities, as well. We all welcome Denise back into the CVABE family.



CVABE's staff, retired colleagues, and several volunteers wished Jennie Martin a happy retirement with a retirement luncheon on June 12<sup>th</sup> at the Cornerstone Pub and Kitchen in Barre. Jennie has worked as a Teacher/Community Coordinator in Chelsea/Tunbridge and at CVABE's Randolph Learning Center for nearly 10 years and will be greatly missed. Please come back to visit often, Jennie.

Ed Pirie will be picking up the reins as Teacher/Community Coordinator in Chelsea/Tunbridge and at CVABE's Randolph Learning Center upon Jennie Martin's retirement on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Ed's deep love of teaching and working directly with students will create an easy transition for him and will lessen some of the pain of transition for Jennie's



## Hard Work = Dreams Come True



Kim Paige, seventeen, graduated from Randolph Union High School on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Her daughter, Amber, is almost four months old. Jennie Martin, Kim's CVABE teacher, reports, "We are all very proud of Kim. She's a great mom, has a full time job, AND has worked very hard to achieve her high school diploma!" Kim hopes to become a nurse one day. In the fall she plans to take a training course at Randolph Technical Career Center to become a Licensed Nursing Assistant (LNA). Congratulations, Kim!



*Todd Washburne,  
a student at the Barre Learning Center*

The reason I write poetry is that Gail, my facilitator, introduced me to this form of writing and I found that I thoroughly enjoyed writing this way as I can tell a story in a few sentences and feel that I have accomplished something.

**Todd Washburne**

## The World As I See It

*By Todd Washburne*

The world is full of wondrous things.  
I see the river flowing free,  
And I think how I wish it could be me.  
The trees are starting to bloom,  
And the flowers are peeking through.  
The birds are coming back to Vermont,  
And I wish I could fly.  
The snow is done with us,  
And I wish autism was done with me.  
The art world is fun to see,  
As the imagination runs wild with the colors  
and form.  
The feel of sculpture under my hand is  
smooth and  
Incites my senses and I feel transported to  
another place.  
There are many wondrous things to see and  
touch and feel.  
The touch of my mother's hand,  
The friendship with my facilitator, Gail,  
And the kindness of George and Patti  
Allow me to be the person I am.  
The world is a wondrous place and isn't it  
nice  
That we are all here to play and sing  
And live in such a place?



**Volunteer**  
 To inquire about opportunities contact us at 802-476-4588 or info@cvabe.org Visit us at www.cvabe.org

## VERMONT HAS TALENT



Jacob D'Antonio poses after his piano concert in Barre on March 29th.

My name is Jacob Louis D'Antonio. I am almost 22 years old and I live in Randolph, Vermont. I am taking classes at Central Vermont Adult Basic Education because I want my high school diploma. My writing sample is about Vermont Has Talent. It was one show in Barre, Vermont, where I played the piano. I hope other people will like my writing sample.

For more information about Jacob, read about him in the March 19, 2015 issue of The Herald of Randolph: <http://bit.ly/JDA21VHT>.

## A poem by Jacob Louis D'Antonio

(about his experience in *Vermont Has Talent*, 03/29/2015)

I Saw The People Bow.  
 The Crowd  
 Yell. Aw! Clap.  
 Happy  
 Excited  
 Performers  
 Stage  
 Piano Lights  
 Balcony  
 The Piano  
 I Went Down Stairs.  
 Waiting  
 Getting Ready To Play  
 Playing the Piano  
 Extraordinary  
 Proud  
 Happy  
 9 Feet  
 Grand Piano  
 I Saw The Strings.



## Volunteering at CVABE - Many Possibilities

Jim Conneman, professional handyman and licensed electrician by trade, has volunteered on numerous occasions to help CVABE with specific needs around the office. At left, Jim helps Joanne Fitzgerald, Development

Coordinator, to install her new desk.

Below, Kim Pelkey, receptionist in Barre, enjoys the first day at her new work station, assembled and installed by Jim. Jim also welcomes opportunities to mentor students who may be considering careers in the building trades.



## CVABE at the JOB FAIR

CVABE participated once again in this year's Central Vermont Job Fair at the Barre Municipal Auditorium on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Jobseekers passing CVABE's table were encouraged to seek further education or additional skills to increase their employability. Shown here is Ed Pirie who, along with several other staff and volunteers, helped to staff CVABE's table.

## POETRY IN MONTPELIER

On Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, CVABE students, staff, and volunteers celebrated National Poetry Month with a Poetry Party at the Montpelier Learning Center. They created "found poems" from magazine text and a group poem, as well as poetry with word blocks and letter-shaped cookies! The celebration ended with a read-around of favorite poems. This was an enjoyable time for both students and teachers and an event that may well be repeated.



*The celebration ended with a read-around of favorite poems.*

**A Group Poem** ---- each line of this poem was created by a member of the group after having seen only the one previous line

The stars swirled in an icy sky.  
The ocean waves rumbled in black darkness.  
Briny spray tastes like cherry tartness.  
The ocean growled into the gray sunset,  
Blue and white trembling.  
The rainbow always comes out after the storm.  
We turn our faces to the sky smiling.  
Then we say--- ME! ME! ALL ME!  
Jumping in a happiness ocean,  
Ha Ha Ha Happy!



### Painting the Way into the Future

Hallie VanCor, an eighteen-year-old Peoples Academy senior, poses with some of the artwork she made this spring. The art class, led by Morrisville CVABE teacher, Casey Lussier, was created as part of Hallie's High School Completion Plan, as she was lacking an art credit; her high school wanted to see that she gained some familiarity with and appreciation for the arts. The class focused on acrylic painting – using different brush strokes, different blending techniques, mixing colors, and basic color theory. Hallie will graduate this June. She plans to work or intern for a year before pursuing college; her long-term plan is to work in the sciences, perhaps biology or astronomy.



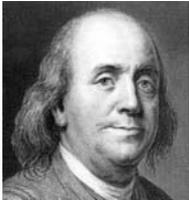
### High School Diploma: A Stepping Stone to the Future

Jenna Hurlburt speaks fondly of the three years she and her twin brother, Jason, were homeschooled by their mother, Mechelle. Eighteen months ago Jenna and Jason decided to proceed towards their high school diplomas through the High School Completion Program (HSCP) working with CVABE's Ed Pirie who helped to coordinate their efforts with Spaulding High School. Jenna admits she "was never a fan of school" and the HSCP became an exciting option for her to finish what she had started with homeschooling.

Becoming pregnant at age sixteen might have presented an obstacle to finishing high school, but for Jenna it was only then that she realized she had some serious life and educational goals. The HSCP helped her to articulate those goals. Now she has graduated and plans to take courses at CCV this summer and next fall to eventually pursue a career as a Veterinary Technician. Jenna states that her baby, Daniel, is her inspiration to pursue her goals and keep them alive and vibrant.

Jason, has also graduated and will be entering basic training for the U.S. Army in the fall. Congratulations to both Jenna and Jason for their hard work and determination and for achieving their diplomas and developing their career paths.

# CVABE Celebrates Leadership Giving Among Vermont's Banks and Credit Unions



An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.  
*Ben Franklin*

## Platinum Level

**KeyBank**

**Mascoma Savings Bank**

**TD Charitable Foundation**

## Gold Level

**merchants BANK**

**NORTH COUNTRY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**

**People's United Community Foundation**

## Silver Level

**LAKE SUNAPEE BANK**  
*the advantage of leadership*

**NORTHFIELD SAVINGS BANK**

**WELLS RIVER SAVINGS**

## Bronze Level

**Community National Bank**

**GRANITE HILLS CREDIT UNION**

**VSECU**

## Why invest in basic education and literacy?

“As individuals gain literacy, new opportunities arise for building a better life. Building a thriving community is a collective effort.” *KeyBank*

“Literacy is crucial to the success of individuals in both their career aspirations and their quality of life. It has an impact on an individual’s ability to participate in society and to understand important public issues.” *Mascoma Savings Bank*

“Initiatives such as the Functional Literacy Program help to empower community members with financial knowledge that will last a lifetime. We are pleased to partner with an organization that has such a positive impact in the community.” *TD Bank*

“Whether it be earning a GED, learning English for the first time, or gaining education skills for employment, CVABE is there to empower anyone who walks through their door.” *Merchants Bank*

“CVABE provides valuable services to improve the lives of Vermonters. Our community is stronger when everyone is given the opportunity to read, learn and succeed.” *NorthCountry Federal Credit Union*

“CVABE’s hard working staff and volunteers teach the basic skills needed to live daily and to obtain and maintain employment.” *People’s United Bank*

“With each client they touch, CVABE can dramatically increase future opportunities for an individual.” *Northfield Savings Bank*

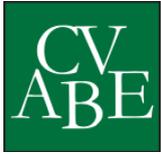
“CVABE provides opportunity, especially to those whom traditional education has left behind. In a nutshell, CVABE is all about building communities, one student, one volunteer, one teacher at a time.” *Wells River Savings Bank*

“A vitally important skill set that can be learned through CVABE is how to manage money, budget funds, and balance one’s monthly checkbook statement.” *Community National Bank*

“CVABE teaches basic academics, as well as the fundamentals of money management, to neighbors who need assistance. Learning these skills changes the future for many central Vermont residents.” *Granite Hills Credit Union*

“For an adult, literacy can open doors to self-sufficiency, personal awareness, and greater involvement in one’s community.” *VSECU*

**Special thanks to each of the above leaders.**



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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. Postage PAID  
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**Barre Learning Center  
(and Main Office)**  
46 Washington St. – Ste. 100  
Barre, VT 05641

**BECOME A VOLUNTEER.**  
To inquire about opportunities contact us at 802-476-4588 or [info@cvabe.org](mailto:info@cvabe.org)  
Visit us at [www.cvabe.org](http://www.cvabe.org)

## CENTRAL VERMONT ADULT BASIC EDUCATION, INC.

CVABE has learning centers throughout the three-county region. Please call your local learning center for more information about student services or volunteer opportunities. You can email us at [info@cvabe.org](mailto:info@cvabe.org) or visit our website at [www.cvabe.org](http://www.cvabe.org).



### Learning Centers

#### Washington County

**Barre Learning Center  
(and Main Office)**  
46 Washington St. – Ste. 100  
Barre, VT 05641  
(802) 476-4588

#### Montpelier Learning Center

100 State St. – Ste. 3  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
(802) 223-3403

#### Waterbury Learning Center

141 South Main St. – Ste. 8  
Waterbury, VT 05676  
(802) 244-8765

#### Orange County

**Bradford Learning Center**  
24 Barton St. – Ste. 1  
PO Box 917  
Bradford, VT 05033  
(802) 222-3282

#### Randolph Learning Center

10 South Main St.  
PO Box 84  
Randolph, VT 05060  
(802) 728-4492

#### Lamoille County

**Morrisville Learning Center**  
52 Portland St. – 2nd Fl.  
PO Box 478  
Morrisville, VT 05661  
(802) 888-5531

### Programs & Services

- Basic Literacy Skills: Reading, Writing, Math
- English Language Learning and Preparation for U.S. Citizenship
- High School Diploma and GED Programs
- Career, College and Technical Training Readiness
- Volunteer Opportunities for Community Members

In classroom settings, community centers, workplaces and homes, CVABE teachers and volunteers work with adults and teens to meet their basic education needs. All classes and tutoring are free to the student. We believe that a person who is literate has the essential key for self-understanding and for full and active membership in the world. Ours is a two-part strategy for the realization of full literacy:

1. Providing basic education for adults and teens and
2. Involving the entire community so that the hopes and efforts of our students will be championed every step of the way.