

# Old Year's Resolutions

> Elyse Barbell Rudolph *Executive Director*

When talking with my daughters about their New Year's resolutions, I was struck by how familiar their wishes sounded. They were not only similar to the resolutions they made a year ago—they were remarkably akin to ones I made when I was their ages, \$%#\$\$# years ago. I perceive their world as a much different place from the one in which I grew up, and the challenges they face far riskier than my own—yet their desire to have world peace, keep their rooms clean, and earn the right to acquire the latest it toy is as old as the ages.

I had the same feeling when I recently talked with a group of NYC's literacy leaders. The provision of adult literacy services in the age of accountability, under the constant threat of budget cuts, is far more challenging now than it was 20 years ago. Yet, despite the myriad of rules and requirements, these dedicated practitioners-turned-leaders are still deeply engaged in the process of providing extraordinarily tailored services to ensure that every learner need is met—and met well. I am struck (again) by how hard we still work to serve—to teach—our learners in the face of these odds.

With this thought in mind, I have watched and listened to the many individuals who come to the LAC each week from a wide variety of sectors, and have realized that this commitment is not exclusive to the "leaders." I've witnessed the same dedication from everyone—teachers, volunteer tutors, data managers, student organizers, curriculum developers, you name it. After the (legitimate) griping is over, we are left with a community of thoughtful, caring, smart, and surprisingly energized literacy providers who are perfectly willing to reinvent the wheel—each time making it more effective than the last. The value of this investment of time, energy, and persistence is priceless.

So, finally, I sat down to make my list of New Year's resolutions:

- > Work for world peace
- > Buy an Ipod
- > Support the provision of high quality adult literacy services to help adults and families become more confident, productive, and active members of their communities—the LAC's mission statement for the past 20 years. ●



## LITERACY UPDATE

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