



Volunteer Newsletter - April 2026



Hi Everyone,

Spring is upon us, and with it come a couple of changes to our newsletter. Check out our new logo and new newsletter format. The logo represents: “conversation”, “community”, “diversity”, and “growth”. Read more about our new logo [here](#) on our website. Our monthly newsletter is intended to support and highlight these aspects of conversation, community, diversity, and growth as well. The content is similar to previous newsletters, but the layout and organization are updated. We hope you like it.

This month, there are tutor workshops and socials for you to attend, activities for you and your student to attend together, volunteer opportunities, the May Basket fundraiser to support, ideas for using AI to enhance your tutoring, and, of course, student accomplishments to read about. Read on for more details.

And last but not least, thank you to all the volunteers who engage with us - we notice it! Whether it is volunteering to be a Tutor Time panelist, being a tutor buddy, sharing your experience with a group of tutors in training, responding to our numerous feedback requests, sharing your students' successes with us, sharing your tutoring tips and resources, or any of the countless ways you give of your time and talents. You help make this program run fast and strong, and without you, we would never be able to accomplish all that we do.

In gratitude,
Karen, Marjie, Martha, and Kyara

Upcoming Events and Activities

Volunteer Workshops and Tutor Socials

Tutor Social – Thursday, April 16, 3:00 pm at Andina Café – 197 Concord St, Framingham

Meet us at Andina Café, just steps from the library, for a delicious drink and some interesting conversation with your fellow tutors. This is an informal meeting with tutors, conversation class leaders, individuals interested in becoming tutors, and Literacy Unlimited staff to get to know each other and talk about all things tutoring. If you haven't attended a social yet, we hope you will try it out! And if you have attended a social, we would love to see you again. No registration required – just drop in.

Tutor Workshop – How to Teach Pronunciation - Tuesday, April 28, 6:00 – 8:00 pm Framingham Public Library – Costin Room

Teaching pronunciation can be a challenge for tutors. Below are some of the questions that will be answered in this workshop:

- What is sheltered English, and why is it so important?
- How can we set up students for success by teaching pronunciation correctly, from the get-go?
- Sometimes, native English speakers accidentally model the wrong pronunciation. How can this be avoided?

You can bring your questions, concerns, and experience to this hands-on How to Teach Pronunciation to English Language Learners workshop. This workshop will be led by Debbie Centamore, Dean of Students and Volunteer Coordinator at Framingham Adult ESL. You can register for the workshop [here](#).

Field Trips and Learning Activities

Framingham History Center – Saturday, May 2 at 10:00 am

Join us at the Framingham History Center (3 Oak St) on Saturday, May 2 for an interactive tour of the center and their current exhibition, [Framingham's Collective Journeys: Stories of Immigration, 1960 – Present](#). The exhibition is trilingual (English, Spanish, and Portuguese), and this program is open to students of all levels and their tutors/teachers. [Register here](#) to reserve your spot. Email us with any questions!



Program Updates and Announcements

Library and Literacy Office Closures

The Framingham Public libraries will be closed on Sunday, April 5, for Easter. They will also be closed on Sunday and Monday, April 19 and 20, for Patriots' Day. Go marathoners!

May Baskets Raffle Fundraiser



It's finally spring, and that means it is time to buy your May Baskets tickets starting on Friday, April 17. Celebrate spring with the 14th Annual May Baskets Raffle! This year's baskets include: a bike, lottery tickets, Legos, passes to Level 99, Kindles and other electronics, restaurant gift cards, and space-themed and gardening baskets.

Check out the prize baskets in person at the Main and McAuliffe libraries starting Friday, April 17. Or you can view the baskets and a full list of this year's May Baskets on our website [here](#), starting in mid-April.

Tickets are on sale at both libraries from April 17 to May 31. One ticket will be \$5 or five tickets will be \$20 (cash or check only). Winners will be drawn on Wednesday, June 3, at 1:00 PM in the Main Library, Technology Learning Center. All proceeds from this fundraiser support the Literacy Unlimited program.

New Tutors Wanted!

If you know someone who you think would be a great tutor, please refer them to us. There is a new volunteer information session on Thursday, April 16, at 2 pm. This session will be offered in a hybrid format - prospective volunteers are welcome to attend at the Framingham Main library or via Zoom.

More information and sign-up forms for upcoming information sessions and training can be found [here](#) on our website. Our last scheduled tutor training until the fall will be on Thursdays, 1:30 – 4:30 pm, in-person, Framingham main library, Costin Room (May 7, 14, 21, 28; June 4, 11)

Last Month in Review

Tutor Workshop - Game Night with Robin Danzak - March 4th

It was a fun night learning some new and old games like Bingo, Headbands, Odd One Out, and What Am I Doing? - and how to incorporate them into tutoring sessions and conversation classes. Tutors who attended said that the most interesting things about the workshop were sharing different ideas, the online resources information, and how games can be used so effectively.

Literacy Unlimited at the Danforth, March 19

Literacy Unlimited's pilot program with the Danforth Art Museum is off to a great start! On Thursday, March 19th, 12 students and 4 volunteers joined us at the museum for an interactive lesson on portraits. Next up - landscapes in April.

For this pilot program, students and volunteers will visit Danforth a total of three times. During each visit, students will practice speaking and understanding English while discussing art. We are hoping this partnership will continue and grow in the fall to include more students at more levels.



Tutor Time - Panel Discussion - March 25th

Our first-ever Tutor Time panel discussion was a success. The five tutors on the panel, Barbara, Brenda, Chip, Nancy, and Valerie, did a great job answering the four questions posed to them about tutoring. Based on tutor feedback, there were many helpful takeaways from the discussion. The format could be tweaked a bit (i.e., fewer questions and a little less structure), and having a panel discussion Tutor Time every six months seems about right.

Resource Highlight

Using AI

Using artificial intelligence (AI) is a hot topic around Literacy. If you haven't tried it yet, here is your chance. If you have tried it, this may spark a new way for you to use it.

Sheryl, one of our intrepid tutors, has created a short paper about how she has used AI to support her lessons. The piece (2 pages) is titled "How You Can Prepare Quick, Customized Activities with AI". She shared with us the following:

"I've been using AI to shrink my tutoring prep time from hours to minutes. Yes—from hours to minutes. Curious how? AI can customize training materials around a student's interests, making

learning faster, smarter, and a lot more fun for everyone involved. For me, AI has been a game-changer.”

According to Sheryl, AI can swoop in to steal the boring parts of tutoring and make you look like a lesson-planning genius. So, if you want AI to stand for **Amazing Instructor + Accelerated Impact** and to see how you too can shrink your prep time from hours to minutes, click [here](#) to access the paper on our website.

We are so grateful to Sheryl for sharing this with us!

Celebrations and Accomplishments

Tutor/Student Accomplishments - Take the Win!!!

Here are some fantastic milestones our students are reaching with the help of their tutors. To the tutors who took the time to share their accomplishments, we are truly grateful. By the way, tutors are doing a great job of sharing with us, and these are just samples of accomplishments reported – there are too many to include them all. Congratulations to all our silent heroes whose achievements, big and small, inspire us all.

- **Les and Kruti** – Kruti has been attending Les's TOEFL prep group. After much hard work and study, Kruti has scored 5, which is equal to 100/120, on the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language). She has been working toward this goal for a long time, and now she can confidently apply for graduate dental programs here in Massachusetts.
- **Usha and Shatana** – Shatana is becoming more competent with her English grammar and is completing grammar worksheets with 85% accuracy.
- **Eric and Leandro** - Leandro earned and received his license to sell life insurance.
- **Tina and Juan** - Over the school Winter Vacation Week, Juan held a camp for kids and taught them how to bake from scratch!

Thank You to Our Sponsors and Grantors!

Literacy Unlimited's work is made possible by a vibrant community of supporters. We would like to extend a special message of thanks to our FY26 grantors:



Literacy Unlimited is a program of the Framingham Public Library and an affiliate of Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts





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