

APRIL, 2025



Welcome to "NEWSY" the Literacy Unlimited Tutor Bulletin



Hi Everyone,

April is National Volunteer Month and so it is time to celebrate and recognize your contributions.

Did you know there are:

- about 135 volunteer tutors who are currently matched with an English learner.
- 17 volunteer conversation class leaders who together meet with about 100 English learners each week online and in-person.
- 37 new tutors trained since the beginning of our fiscal year July 1.

Your contributions make a huge difference in the lives of so many individuals. Thanks so much for all you do! If you stop by the Literacy space at the Framingham Public Library this month, we have a sweet treat for you.

General Information

Happy Retirement to Laurie Christie (Natick Site Coordinator)

Laurie has been the smiling and dedicated face of Literacy Unlimited at the Natick Morse Institute library for many years. This is her last week in that position, so please join us in congratulating her on her

retirement! But, never fear, Laurie is not gone completely - she still plans to help us out with student assessments and tutor training. And maybe after a break we can convince her to lead another conversation class and/or tutor an English learner!

Let's Think Spring Survey – This is easy and fun – please participate – no thinking required

Click here to take the Tutor Spring Survey. We will share the results in May's Newsy.

New Tutors

The following new tutors completed their ESOL training in March. Please join us in congratulating them and welcoming them to our community. We are so grateful to have them.



Dawn S	Radhika U
Brenna J	Patty F
Seyed S	Dorothy R
	Alivia R

13th Annual May Basket Raffle Fundraiser

Yahoo! Spring has sprung and with it comes our May Basket Raffle Fundraiser. The baskets will be on display and you can purchase raffle tickets starting on Friday, April 18.

Raffle tickets are \$5 for a single ticket or \$20 for a book of 5 tickets. There is a basket for everyone and if you responded to the Tutor Spring Survey you'll know there are 19 baskets and lots of cool things to take a chance on. Spread the word to your students, family and friends and buy lots of tickets. The funds raised will be used to cover some of our operational expenses, including salaries, tutor trainers, office supplies, and materials.

And mark your calendar for the **Raffle Drawing at 1pm on Saturday, May 31st in the Costin Room** at the Framingham Public Library. There will be light refreshments and music.

March Library and Literacy Closings

Both Framingham libraries and the Natick Morse Institute will be closed on **Sunday April 20 and Monday, April 21** for Patriots' Day. Also, the Literacy Unlimited office will be closed on **Friday April 25**.

Volunteer Opportunity –

1 to 1 Conversation Practice with English Learners

Our weekly informal 1 to 1 conversational drop-in practice with Framingham State University students and our English learners has been incredibly popular with our students. It fills a need in our program for

dedicated English learners who want more speaking practice and for those who have contacted us but will not be able to register for a tutor or a conversation class until September.

The FSU students will end their involvement with us at the end of April but we would like to keep the activity going. We will need to make sure we have about 5 – 8 tutors each week on Thursday from 2:30 – 4:00pm to meet with students. There is no preparation required, just the desire to speak in English with an English learner.

If you would like to participate (i.e., sign-up and show up to meet with English learners on Thursday afternoons) let us know by responding to this email. We may also change the date and time to, or add an additional session on, Mondays from 4-5:30pm depending on tutor availability. If you are interested in supporting this group, please respond to this email to let us know the day and time that would work for you.

Good to Know for Tutors

Tutor Time – Creating Tongue Twisters for Pronunciation – April 28th, 6-7:30pm, Zoom

Led by Victoria Yordt, a Literacy Unlimited tutor and the Founder/Executive Director of the dramatic arts education nonprofit [Artservatorey](#), this interactive online workshop will walk tutors through the process of creating and using tongue twisters for English pronunciation practice. Tongue twisters are a fun way to highlight and tackle pronunciation challenges with English learners at every level. We hope to see you there on the 28th!

Tutor Time is a space for you, our wonderful tutors, to gather together to share questions, challenges, experiences, and more. If there is an ESOL topic or teaching strategy that you are passionate about, and you would be interested in leading a Tutor Time for the community, please let us know!

FAESL Pronunciation Workshop - Fuller Middle School (in the library) - Tuesday April 29, 6:30-9:00pm

Debbie Centamore, Dean of Students and Volunteer Coordinator at Framingham Adult ESL is going to run a workshop for a handful of the volunteers in her program, and she has invited volunteers from Literacy Unlimited to join in the fun. The workshop will center on teaching pronunciation to English Language Learners ('tis the season for pronunciation workshops!). If you would like to join the upcoming workshop, please reply to this email so we can let Debbie know how many attendees to expect.

It's Assessment Season!

As many of you know, April, May and June is the time when we assess all students who are matched with a tutor. Our staff and a couple of certified volunteers will be administering all the assessments (hundreds of them!).

Please help us out by letting your student know about the upcoming assessment. Details on how to sign up for a testing time will go out via email in the coming days and weeks. It is often easiest if we administer the assessment when you meet with your student, so keep that in mind as an option when reserving an assessment appointment.

Please reassure your student (and yourself!) that the results of the assessment won't impact your student's participation in the program. This is a requirement from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education which helps to fund our program.

There are three types of assessments we administer depending on the student's English level. Below you can find a short description of them.

Best Plus→ This is an oral assessment focused on English communication skills. It can take between 10 and 50 minutes to complete depending on your student's English level. We administer this assessment to low-beginner, beginner and low intermediate level students. It can be administered online if that is how you regularly meet with your student.

TABE→ This is a reading comprehension assessment, administered to intermediate English students and Basic Literacy Students. It includes some phonics. This assessment must be administered in person.

MAPT→ This is an advanced reading test. This assessment is taken online and at the student's own pace. It can take up to 2 hours to complete but it can be taken on more than one day.

Tutor Training in May/June

As you know, we are always looking for new tutors and your referrals are a great way for us to recruit tutors. Our next tutor training will be in-person at the Framingham Library on Thursdays from 1:30 – 4:30pm May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, June 5. If you know of someone who might be interested, please have them contact us. We will host an Information Session for prospective volunteers next Thursday, April 10th in the Costin Room. Prospective volunteers can register for the information session and the tutor training on our website at framinghamlibrary.org/literacy.

Good to Know for Your Students – Please Share with Them

ONGOING 1-1 Conversational English Practice – Thursdays, 2:30 - 4pm, every week through April 24

Literacy Unlimited is partnering with an education class from Framingham State University to provide weekly 1 to 1 conversational English practice for adult English learners. Attendees will be paired up with an FSU student to talk about anything from their lives, to the weather, to current events.

This drop-in group will run every Thursday from 2:30-4pm for English learners at a **High Beginner level or above**. The group is open to anyone in the community – attendees do not need to be registered Literacy Unlimited students to join. Please tell your student(s) about this opportunity – it has been a very popular and high-energy weekly event.

Tutor and Student Accomplishments – You Rock!!!!

Our students, with the help of their tutors, continue to make impressive strides forward. Congratulations to all our silent heroes who provide inspiration to us all.

Elena and Kathy – Last month we pointed out that Elena attended Brian's citizenship seminar and just passed her naturalization interview and received her US citizenship. This month we have a great picture of Elena and also want to mention that she attends Kathy's conversation class which she was made aware of by a fellow participant in the Citizenship seminar. We couldn't be prouder!



Kathy S's Conversation Class – Last week Kathy's conversation class made very cool felted birds and pins. What a fun way to practice English!



Jim M's Conversation Class - English learners in Jim's class have taken turns explaining, in English of course, how different games are played. They have learned Bingo, Mahjong, dominoes, chess, and Monopoly. Next week is Sudoku! What a creative and fun way to learn and practice English.



Peterson and Andy – have been working together since last November. Peterson’s goal is to get a CDL (commercial driver’s license) and I am happy to share that he has started attending a long-haul trucking school program. Way to go to achieve a goal!

Yong and Pete – have been working together since January. Yong recently went to a job interview – we wish him luck!

Hernan and Christopher – have been meeting for about a year. Hernan has become comfortable enough in English to order meals in restaurants and have social conversations on a variety of topics including movies, music and travel. Well done!

Manal and Valerie – have been meeting since June of 2023. Manal is doing so well working as an employee at Framingham High School where she's receiving exemplary evaluations on her performance reviews. Way to go!

Please remember to let us celebrate you and your student’s accomplishments by sending us an email or including a comment when you report your monthly hours.

Last Word

Whew...there is a lot going on. Thanks for reading to the end. And don’t forget to take our Tutor Spring Survey and come see us in Literacy space to pick up a chocolate treat for National Volunteer Month.

Martha, Karen, Laurie, and Marjie