



Volunteer Newsletter - August 2026

Hi Everyone,

It's high summer and time to enjoy summer activities! Martha and I will be traveling on vacation starting tomorrow, and Marjie is taking a break too. The Literacy Unlimited office will be closed from Wednesday, July 29 through Friday, August 7, and we will have reduced hours the week of August 7 due to limited staffing. The libraries will be open during their regular hours during this time. Even though we may be kicking back a bit for the first part of August, there is plenty going on this month. Keep reading so you are in the know.

In gratitude,
Karen, Marjie, and Martha

Upcoming Events and Activities



Tutor Time – What is it like to Lead an English Conversation Class? Wednesday, August 26, 6 - 7:00 pm on Zoom

Martha and some of our current class leaders will explain the conversation class leader experience. The discussion will include how you could participate by shadowing or co-leading a conversation class, being a substitute conversation class leader, or leading a class. If you have ever considered this volunteer opportunity, please join us to learn more. You can sign up for this Tutor Time and get the Zoom link [here](#).

Save the Date – Celebrating 40 Years - November 19, 2026 - 6-8 pm

This fall will mark 40 fabulous years since Literacy Unlimited was founded. We have much to celebrate, so the program will be hosting a 40th Anniversary Celebration at the Framingham Memorial Building (City Hall). Invitations and event details will follow in the coming months, but don't forget to mark your calendar now!



40th Anniversary Sponsorships - Help us spread the word!

This event will be both a celebration and a fundraiser (tickets should go on sale in early September), and **WE NEED YOUR HELP** to spread the word. We are looking for local businesses who would like to be a sponsor for the event and/or purchase ad space in our program. Tutors and class leaders are also invited to purchase ad space in the program to give a shoutout to their students! Please read the details below to learn how you can support this critical fundraising effort.

The Literacy Unlimited program is supported each year by funds raised through Literacy Unlimited of Framingham Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit whose board is made up of active volunteers and community members. Board members Elaine Strongwater and Peter Bearor are coordinating outreach efforts to local and large businesses who may want to sponsor our anniversary event or purchase ad space in our program. They have put together a fantastic [Sponsorship Packet](#) that gives details about the opportunities available.

How you can help:

1. **Email** info@literacyunlimitedfoundation.org to let Peter and Elaine know you're interested in helping.
2. **Forward this information and the [Sponsorship Packet](#)** to your friends, family, or boss to see if they would like to sponsor the 40th Anniversary Celebration or advertise their business.
3. **Let us know** if you would like to be a sponsor for the event or if you have a business you'd like to advertise! Contact info@literacyunlimitedfoundation.org.
4. **Pick up print copies** of the sponsorship packet, the sponsorship cover letter, the Literacy Unlimited FY25 Annual Report, and our volunteer outreach flyer to hand out in-person at your dentist, hair salon, or favorite local coffee shop.

We want this to be as easy for you as possible. Please email info@literacyunlimitedfoundation.org by Monday, August 17th if you want to help with this effort. The sooner the better!

Program Updates and Announcements

Library and Literacy Office Closures

Literacy Unlimited Closures and Reduced Hours Late July and Early August

Wednesday, July 29 - Friday, August 7 - Literacy Unlimited office will be CLOSED
Monday, August 10: 9:00am - 2:00pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (August 11, 12, 13) 9:00am - 4:00pm
Monday, August 17 - normal hours resume (M-Th, 9am-5pm)

Library Staff Day Closure

The Framingham libraries will be closed on **Friday, August 28** for the annual staff day. Please adjust your tutoring schedule or find another public location to use that week if you normally meet on Fridays.

Labor Day Library Closure

The Framingham libraries will close at 5:00 pm on Friday, September 4th and remain closed on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, **September 5, 6, and 7 in observance of Labor Day**. The library will reopen on Tuesday, September 8th.

During August, the Framingham libraries are closed on Sundays. They will reopen on Sundays beginning on September 13th.

Is your Student a Nurse?

Michelle M, one of our tutors, shared with us information about the [Boston Welcome Back Center Program](#) at Bunker Hill Community College. This is a program that helps individuals who were nurses in their home country gain their license in Massachusetts. Her student is applying to it. Thanks Michelle, for sharing this important information.

Remember to Refer New Tutors!



If you know someone who you think would make a great tutor, please refer them to us. Our next volunteer information session will be on **Tuesday, August 18 at 6 pm** on Zoom. Interested individuals can contact us directly or sign up for the info session [here](#) on our web page.

Activity Suggestions for Tutors and Students

Library Walk & Talk - August 3 & 17, 9:30 am - Cushing Memorial Chapel (60 Dudley Road).

Take your student and meet for a casual walk and friendly conversation with others. Share what you're reading or simply enjoy the company. Walk at your own pace. No assigned reading, no pressure. Look for a library sign by the parking lot. In the event of rain, this program is canceled.

Library Crawl - August 3 - 8 - Local Minuteman libraries

Ever wondered what other local libraries are like? This is a fun way to check them out. You can visit a few, or if you are serious, you have 6 days to explore all of the participating libraries during their Featured Crawl Days. Pick up your passport at a participating library, visit participating libraries during their featured crawl days, find the scavenger hunt clue and take a photo, show the photo to library staff and receive a stamp in your passport. Collect every stamp to qualify for the Grand Prize Drawing! Here is a [Minuteman Library Crawl Strategy Guide](#) to help you plan your visits or just see a list of all the libraries at which you can use your library card.

Bachata by the Bookmobile - August 11, 6 pm - Academy Building at Cushing Park (80 Dudley Rd.)

Looking for something different to do with your student while also practicing English? Join the fun at Cushing Park for a one-hour dance lesson with J&L Dance Studio followed by 30 minutes of social dancing and light refreshments.

The Framingham History Center is Looking for a Programs & Education Manager

The Framingham History Center is hiring a [Programs & Education Manager](#). The History Center has partnered with us to bring us several student and tutor events - they share the library's commitment to community, education, and access. If you love history, Framingham, and education, this may be an opportunity for you or your student.

The role is "responsible for planning, coordinating, promoting, and implementing the Framingham History Center's public programs, special events, and educational initiatives. The position is ideal for someone who is highly organized, community-minded, and comfortable managing many moving parts. The successful candidate will enjoy creating timelines, coordinating logistics, working with people of all ages, and overseeing programs that are welcoming, well-run, and realistic to implement." You can find out more about the position and to apply [click here](#).

Last Month in Review



July 23 - Tutor Social at Andina Cafe

It was a beautiful day to meet at the Cafe. We discussed ideas for getting a reluctant English learner to speak in a tutoring session, what's being planned behind the scenes at Literacy (you will hear more about this in the coming months), and summer vacation plans.

Resource Highlight

Here's a fun exercise for **teaching the wh (who, what, when, where, why)-words**. Denise, one of our conversation class leaders, shared the following with us to share with you. Thank-you Denise!

Each week, have a different student or your student or you choose to describe a real or imaginary trip that they or you are planning to take. The other students, or your student, or you choose wh-words and form sentences to ask about the trip. For example, "Who are you going with?" or "Where will you stay?" or "What will you do?". The students get practice forming questions, and when playing the "traveler" role, get to practice answering the questions. Denise's class seems to really enjoy this, and everyone learns a little about traveling to other cities or countries.

If you have a tip, resource, or activity you would like to share with other tutors and conversation class leaders, please share it 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 and inspiring activities, 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.

- **Sheryl and David** - David has landed a job at the Framingham School District. He'll be starting with a long-term assignment substituting for the band teacher there, thereby using his strong musical background.
 - **Dorothy and Qixia** - In June, Qixia began work at a large Asian grocery store. This was #1 on her list of priorities for ESOL tutoring. Congratulations Qixia!
-

Thank You to Our 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***



Framingham Public Library | 49 Lexington St. | Framingham, MA 01702 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email & social marketing for free!