

“Newsy” the ESOL Tutor Newsletter

January, 2025



Welcome to “NEWSY” the Literacy Unlimited Tutor Bulletin



Hi Everyone,

Happy New Year! We are excited to welcome the new year and as always, we have some great news to share with you.

**General Information**

**Literacy Unlimited Annual Appeal – \$28,341 raised!**

This community never ceases to amaze me – this year our goal was to raise \$25,000 by December 31st. Thanks to your generosity, we raised over \$28,000! Literacy Unlimited is made possible by the donations of time, talent, and money made by our students, tutors, class leaders, volunteers and community members. Thank you all for helping us surpass our fundraising goal this year!

**The Community Foundation for MetroWest Awards \$10,000 Grant to Literacy Unlimited**

Last month, the Community Foundation for MetroWest awarded a \$10,000 general operating grant to the Literacy Unlimited program. We have been the lucky recipients of funding from their Human Services grant program for the past several years, and we are very excited to continue our partnership with this incredible organization into 2025. For those of you who aren't familiar with their work, the Community Foundation for MetroWest supports nonprofit organizations and philanthropic efforts in 30+ MetroWest communities; they have distributed \$18.5M in grants over the last 5 years alone! Learn more about their work at <https://www.communityfoundationmw.org/>,

and please join us in saying a huge "thank you" to the Community Foundation for MetroWest!

### **January Library and Literacy Closings**

**Both Framingham libraries and Natick Morse Institute** will be closed on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> and Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup> in recognition of Martin Luther King Day.

## **Good to Know for Tutors**

### **Tutor Hours: Exploring Ellii, News for You, and Newsela Wednesday January 22 6:30 – 7:30pm on Zoom**

Are you interested in learning more about how to use our subscription services? We will explore how you can use these resources to augment your tutoring sessions. If you would like to attend let us know and we will send you a reminder email along with the Zoom link. [fplmail4@minlib.net](mailto:fplmail4@minlib.net)

### **Workshop with Dr. Robin Danzak – The Simple View of Reading: Not So Simple! Thursday January 30, 6-7:30pm - Framingham Public Library – Costin Room**

Join this workshop to meet other Literacy Unlimited tutors and dive into how reading skills and activities can help students at all levels improve their English competencies. Participants will discover the many component skills of successful reading and will be guided through what these skills are and how they interact. Participants will then engage with evidence-based strategies for how to teach these skills.

#### **Facilitator Bio**

Robin L. Danzak, PhD., is a multilingual educator passionate about language teaching and learning. Robin lived in Chile for five years where she completed an MA in Linguistics in Spanish. She then worked as a Spanish teacher and curriculum coordinator in Florida public schools, during which time she earned a PhD in Communication Sciences and Disorders with a focus on bilingual language and literacy. Robin has been a university faculty member since 2007, and is currently an associate professor at Emerson College in Boston. Her research explores bilingual writing and its intersection with identity and the immigrant experience through dynamic projects with multilingual-multicultural adolescents and adults.

### **New Tutors Who Have Recently Completed Tutor Training**

Below are the names of the ESOL tutors who recently completed the tutor training. Congratulations new tutors!!!

Christine V	Pamela R
Eric S	Deborah W
Joan S	Claudia B

Maura F      Margaret E  
Tauseef H

### **Tutor Training in March**

Do you know someone like you who could be a great tutor? Don't forget to refer them to our program. The next ESOL Tutor Training will be in-person at the Framingham Library on Saturdays from 9:15 – 1:30 on March 1, 8, 15 and 22.

### **Reporting Hours – Please Try to Respond to the Tutoring Hours Request email by the 8<sup>th</sup> of the Month**

One of the reasons that we collect information on your tutoring and prep hours each month is that the library includes these statistics in their monthly reports. Library staff have requested that we get this information to them sooner each month. ***Please make sure to submit your tutoring hours by the 8<sup>th</sup> of the following month*** (for example, submit your hours for December no later than January 8<sup>th</sup>). Please reach out to us if you have any questions!

## **Volunteers Needed for February Student Registration**

We will be holding our semi-annual new student registration the week of February 10<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help new students fill out a student registration form, we will train you. Many tutors enjoy this opportunity to meet new students. Let us know if you would like to volunteer for this activity by responding to this email. We will contact interested tutors with the days and times when we will need volunteers.

## **Tutor and Student Accomplishments – You Rock!!!!**

Our students with the help of their tutors continue to make great strides forward. Congratulations to all our silent heroes.

**Greyce and Rebecca** – Greyce just finished the FAESL prep class in December 2024. Congratulations Rebecca!



**Sebastian and Jini** – have only been meeting since October 2024 but since then Sebastian has done volunteering, got school going, got his learner's permit, and now has a real job with training! This pair is crushing it.

**Liliane and Lee Ann** – have been meeting since August and Liliane recently wrote a personal statement for graduate college coursework. Nice work!

**Maisi and Lucette** – have been meeting since December 2019. Maisi recently received her work permit and has started a business. Way to go!

**Maria and Lucy** – have been meeting since October 2022. Maria is starting a business partnership with two other people instead of staying an employee at the salon she was working at. Wow...impressive!

**Xiang and Jason** – have been meeting since November 2024. Xiang passed his driver's license exam and received his driver's license. Congratulations!

**Lynn's Beginner English Conversation classes** - Lucie, Obeny, Odny and Rose-Faline have all found jobs in the last couple of weeks. Also, Vania opened an alterations business on Union Street (moved it from a different location that didn't work out) and reports that she is very busy. Very impressive!

***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

It's very cold outside but the warmth and enthusiasm of the team hard at work planning for 2025 is oh so comforting. Staff, tutors, conversation leaders, the Advisory Board and other volunteers are working on new ideas and activities for the rest of the year including an opt-in curriculum for low beginner English conversation classes, enhancements to the student registration process and workshop/tutor hours planning. If you have a suggestion for the program now is the time to share it.

Stay warm and safe,

Martha, Karen, Laurie, and Marjie