

“Nowsy” the ESOL Tutor Newsletter

January, 2026



## Welcome to “NEWSY” the Literacy Unlimited Tutor Bulletin



Hi Everyone,

The new year is upon us. Our resolution here in the office is to continue finding ways to support our incredible community of students and volunteers - and to get our newsletter out earlier next month! We hope you all had a warm and joyful holiday season, and we look forward to seeing you around in the coming weeks.

## Important Information

### Literacy Unlimited Annual Appeal – We Did it Thanks to You!

This year, we set the goal of raising \$25,000 in individual donations through our Annual Appeal. With your help, we blew that goal out of the water, raising a total of \$28,155. Thank you to everyone who has so generously donated! Official thank you notes will be going out in the next few weeks – if you made a tax-deductible donation, these can be used as receipts for your records.

### January Library and Literacy Unlimited Closings

The **Framingham libraries** will be closed **on Sunday and Monday, January 18 and 19** in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

### Permanent Office Hours Change – A note from the coordinator

In the fall, Literacy Unlimited reduced our office hours to Monday-Thursday, 9am-5pm while I (Martha Coleman, Literacy Unlimited Coordinator), took a nonprofit management course

through the MetroWest Nonprofit Network. At the time, we envisioned this would be a temporary change. Over the last few months, however, it has become clear that reducing our office hours has allowed me to have more flexibility to show up for the program in other ways. Student assessments, tutor workshops, social events, and grant presentations often require me to work outside of our normal hours, and closing the office on Fridays ensures I have time in my schedule to support all of these as needed. If you have any questions regarding this change, please don't hesitate to reach out.

#### **NEW – Reference Only Collection in Literacy Lending Library**

In response to feedback from some of our wonderful tutors and class leaders, we have revamped the Literacy Unlimited lending library located in our space at the Framingham Main Library. The bookshelf in the front corner now features a Reference Only Collection on one of the shelves. This collection contains favorite texts and resources organized by subject and content type. The idea behind this collection is to ensure those preferred materials are always available for photocopying or on-site use in a lesson with your student here at Framingham Main. All books in this collection now have a Reference label on them. If there are texts you think should be added to the Reference Only Collection, please contact the office to let us know.

Books not marked with a Reference label may still be signed out using the clipboard, borrowed, and taken home. Please deposit any books you are returning on the top shelf of the front corner bookshelf. This will allow staff to maintain the organization of our lending library. This project is still in progress, as we work to update labeling and refine the organization of the collection. Please contact the office with any feedback on these changes.

## **Tutor Workshops**

**Tutor Time - Tuesday, January 13 at 6pm, Zoom – All About Ellii!** - Do you want to learn more about Ellii, our subscription database of ESOL lesson plans and other resources? Martha will show you how to navigate the service and how to utilize it with your ESOL learners. The session will be on Zoom and will last for about an hour. We will send out reminders and the Zoom link ahead of the meeting.

## **For Students**

#### **Citizenship Seminar, February 3-March 10<sup>th</sup>, Meets Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7:00 – 8:30 at the Framingham Library**

If your student is eligible or close to becoming eligible for citizenship and speaks English at an intermediate or higher level, this might be just the course for them. This free 6-week seminar covers key elements of the application process and provides support with interview prep. If your student is interested, please have them complete this registration form no later than Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## New Tutors

There are several ESOL tutor trainings coming up on:

**Wednesdays, 6-9pm, Online via Zoom**

January 21, 28; February 4, 11, 18, 25

**Thursdays, 1:30-4:30pm, In-Person, Framingham Main Library**

February 26; March 5, 12, 19, 26; April 9

If you know someone who you think would be a great tutor, please refer them to us. There is a new tutor information session on Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. More information and registration forms for upcoming information sessions and trainings can be found [here](#).

## Student Registration for Tutor Waitlist

Student registration to join the waitlist for a tutor will take place February 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. If you know of an English learner who would like to work with a tutor, please have them visit us at the Framingham Library during our Monday-Thursday office hours. Share will conduct an initial intake and share more details about the program and the upcoming registration.

## Tutor Volunteer Opportunities

### Student Registration – Sign Up to Help!

If you would like to volunteer to help with student registration, please complete [this form](#). We will have six registration shifts, and we need at least 4 volunteers for each shift. We promise it's a lot of fun!

### Events Committee – Interest Form

Literacy Unlimited is looking to put together an ad-hoc committee to help plan and execute social events for the program each year. Social events may include our December and June potlucks, monthly/bimonthly tutor socials, Literacy Unlimited anniversary events, and more. The committee would convene and meet according to program need; frequency and meeting times TBD.

If you are interested in joining the Events Committee, please fill out [this form](#) to let us know!

## Tutor and Student Accomplishments/Activities – 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 these accomplishments, we are truly grateful. By the way, tutors are doing a fantastic 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.

**Zelda and Petra** - Petra had a goal to be more comfortable in restaurant dining situations, including ordering food and communicating with wait staff. We have discussed food types, restaurant staff, and restaurant food items using flash cards and role play. Petra's food vocabulary has increased, and she has improved in communicating with staff.

**Sedi and Magda** – Magda did her English homework even while visiting her home country.

**Roberta and Jin** - Jin and I went to lunch at a hot pot restaurant and successfully ordered and enjoyed our meal.

**Bettina and Sheila** - Having completed the classroom portion of her Interior Design program at Mass Bay Community College, Sheila will be applying for internship opportunities in January.

**Diane and Ana** – Attended the Art Show in the Library lobby.

**Alissa and Jianny** – Jianny passed her US citizenship test after studying the 100 citizenship interview questions and answers with Alissa.

**Karsh and Celmo** - Celmo was able to use the words "I want to borrow this book" to borrow a book from the library. He was also able to understand, albeit partially, the instructions to get the driver's license from his car due to a communication he missed from the library regarding his residential address.

## Last Word

Hope you were all able to enjoy the holidays and find some time to rejuvenate. We are looking forward to helping you and your students accomplish a lot this year and sharing our journey with each other.

See you soon!

Martha, Karen, Marjie, and Kyara