



Literacy Unlimited

Volunteer Newsletter - May 2026



Hi Everyone,

Spring is arriving slowly this year, but things at Literacy Unlimited have not slowed down one bit. This month's newsletter includes new activities to sign up for, volunteer requests, new resources for tutors and class leaders, and plenty of tutor and student activities and accomplishments to read about.

And it is also a time of change. Kyara, our Mass Bay intern's last day was today. We have enjoyed her warmth and enthusiasm in addition to her help around the office. We wish her well in her future studies. And Merve has completed her teaching internship, has wrapped up her coordination of the FSU student Conversational English Practice sessions on Wednesday mornings, and will finish her work with the Read with Me Program for English learners and their children next week. We will miss having Merve in these specific roles, but look forward to seeing her around in the future.

In gratitude,
Karen, Marjie, and Martha

Upcoming Events and Activities

Tutor Time – Survival English/Low Beginner Curriculum - Monday, May 18, 4:00 – 5:00 pm on Zoom

Are you working with a low beginner English learner, or have you considered leading a low beginner English conversation class? If you answered yes to either question, then this Tutor Time is for you. A team of dedicated volunteers has been working with Martha since January of 2025 to put together a curriculum for working with our lowest level English learners, and they are ready to share it with you.

If you plan to attend, please sign up here: [Tutor Time Sign Up](#). We will send reminder emails, a link to the curriculum materials, and the Zoom link closer to the day of the session.

Save the Date Event

Annual Appreciation Potluck Dinner – Tuesday, June 9th, 6:00 - 8:00 pm Framingham Main Library - Costin Room

This is always a popular event with students and tutors. It is an informal gathering of tutors, students, and family to share some food, meet new people, and hear about some of the amazing accomplishments of our community. More details will be coming, but if you want to reserve your spot now and let us know what kind of food you plan to bring, please click here: [Potluck RSVP](#)

Program Updates and Announcements

Library and Literacy Office Closures

The Literacy Unlimited office will be closed on Wednesday, May 6, as staff attend a professional development conference offsite.

The Framingham Public libraries will be closed on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, May 23 - 25, in observance of Memorial Day.

May Baskets Raffle Fundraiser



It's time to buy your May Baskets tickets. Celebrate spring with our 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. Or you can view the baskets and a full list of this year's May Baskets on our website [here](#).

Tickets are on sale at both libraries until May 31. You can buy one ticket for \$5 or five tickets for \$20 (cash or check only). Our goal this year for May Baskets is to raise \$6,000, and so far we have raised \$1,855. If you have already bought tickets, good luck, and thank you for supporting our program.

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.

Tutor Buddies Wanted!

We have two groups of tutors who will complete the ESOL tutor training in May and June. Some of these new tutors may want a little extra support as they plan their first tutoring sessions with an English learner. We are looking for a few volunteers to be a "tutor buddy" for these new tutors. A tutor buddy is an experienced tutor who wants to work with new tutors who are being matched with an English learner for the first time. Tutor buddies offer a little extra support to new tutors before they meet with a student and may help the new tutor prepare for the first couple of tutoring sessions. If you are interested in becoming a tutor buddy or want to learn a bit more about the program, please complete this brief form: [Tutor Buddy Interest](#).

Last Month in Review

Tutor Workshop - How to Teach Pronunciation - April 28

Last Tuesday night, about 15 tutors met with Debbie Centamore at the Framingham Main Library for a crash course on how to teach pronunciation to English learners. The 2-hour session was packed with topical information related to pronunciation in English and other languages and practical exercises to use with students to help them with specific pronunciation challenges.



Wrapping Up Semester-Long Partnership with FSU

This semester, Literacy Unlimited has been partnering with a community-engaged education course from Framingham State University to provide a weekly Conversational English Practice program for intermediate learners on Wednesday mornings. Over the last several weeks, the program has focused on using storytelling to prompt conversation and practice English. Our last session was Wednesday, April 29, and several of our English learners shared stories about their journeys. We hope to share these on the website soon!

Visit to the Danforth Museum - Places!

April 16 was our second of three visits to the Danforth Museum this spring. The intermediate-level students who joined us enjoyed looking at landscape photos and paintings, learning vocabulary such as "horizon line", and discussing ideas for hypothetical trips into the scenery the art pieces depicted.



Literacy Unlimited Video - in production

Literacy Unlimited will turn 40 years old in November. As part of our efforts to mark and celebrate this milestone, we are making a short video showcasing our program's work and impact. Filming for the video got underway in April, and we are excited to share the final product with you all later this year. The hardest part of this whole project has been narrowing in on only a few stories to share; thank you all for making this a vibrant, engaging program filled with more success stories than we can possibly capture.

Resource Highlight

Minimal Pairs

During the game night and the pronunciation workshops in March and April, there were several references to using minimal pairs in tutoring sessions with English learners. EnglishClub.com is a comprehensive resource for English grammar and pronunciation, and the website includes a library of minimal pairs for English vowel and consonant sounds. You can view minimal pairs on EnglishClub by [clicking here](#). We are grateful to Chip for sharing this resource 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.

- **Vincent and Pedro** – Pedro continues to gain confidence by initiating conversations.
- **Cynthia and Ekaterina** – Ekaterina has begun looking for a job.
- **Lucy and Larisa** - Larisa continues to work hard in her English classes and is pursuing her application to Mass Bay for accounting.
- **Suzanne and Jeonghee** - On March 9th, Jeonghee successfully passed the TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) necessary for studying a college health program. She is now ready to start the Dental Hygiene Program at Quinsigamond Community College when there is a space open!
- **Safura and Odulis** - Odulis has a new position at work, and is working on conversational English!
- **Roberta and Jin** - Jin successfully completed the many forms she needed to apply to Mass Bay and was accepted!
- **Marilyn and Justice** - Justice began night school in Worcester and is working towards his GED.
- **Karen and Patricia** - At the recent outing to the Danforth Museum, Patricia was the first student to volunteer to share her response to a painting with the entire group, using vocabulary words relating to the artistic process.

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

