

# Literacy Unlimited Annual Report 2018



Unlimited

## July

Ten conversation classes (Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced) met at Framingham Public Library. Five groups (Beginner and Intermediate) met at Morse Institute Library in Natick. Summer attendance is very high – one class has 27 students!

Final reports submitted for May Baskets Raffle and Community Development Block Grant.

Meeting for tutors interested in GED preparation. Planning for new initiative with Basic Literacy students. Tutor in-service with Dr. Marcel LaVerigne (Listening skills)

## August

Application submitted for Foundation for MetroWest grant (grant denied in December). Planning for citizenship classes.

Tutor In-service with Marcel Lesson Planning – the Backward Design Model).

## September

Pizza party before a concert of Brazilian music.

Registration for new students during the week of September 11th (70 new students). Citizenship classes begin in Natick (Tuesday evening) and Framingham (Saturday morning). Two sections of "Survival English" begin.

## A Great Learning Community

LVM Literacy Unlimited, the adult tutoring program at Framingham Public Library and Morse Institute (Natick) is a great community! We work diligently to create a respectful and friendly place for our community to thrive. From our wonderful tutors to our extraordinary students to our exemplary staff – our community learns from each other and enjoys the process in our tight corner of the library. For me, I love the fact that every day I get to meet new people from all over the world – some become friends and some are just passing through the MetroWest area. My life is so enriched by these experiences.

I hope that this report gives you a sense of our program – the different aspects of what we do and the many people that we serve.

**Each year, our program grows as seen in the number of tutoring pairs, total hours of tutoring, numbers of conversation classes and number of students served.**

This year, our program expanded even more with the addition of the Citizenship Corner and the Saturday Conversation classes. I am so proud of all our accomplishments!



Out Staff - Kiera, Kate, and Anne.

Many thanks to Kiera Stock, office manager for her partnership in this journey. Together we seem to make it work! Thanks also to Kate Newcomer, our intern-par-example who was with us for 9 months. Kate is now off to Amherst as a first-year student at UMASS. All best wishes to Kate! Thank you to the Advisory Board and Foundation Board for their help with events and fundraising. Many thanks to the staff at the libraries (in particular, to Mark Contois, Director of Framingham Public Library) – all our work would not be possible without your support.

Looking forward to another wonderful year!

Onward,

*Anne O'Connell*  
- Coordinator

**The Literacy Unlimited Advisory Board**, composed of 11 volunteers, enjoyed another successful year of guiding and supporting our very special and important program. As well as raising funds with the May Baskets Raffle and monthly bake sales, we provide a strong link to the local MetroWest community, holding multiple social events throughout the year where students and tutors join together for great international food and fun! Our Board holds meetings six times a year and is always interested in new members.

~Thanks to all, *Lisa Gelin*, Chair

Attended CAPER meeting for Community Development Block Grant program. Tutor In-service with Marcel (Reading). Afternoon Meeting with conversation leaders – well-attended. First Advisory Board meeting! First Bakesale!

First meeting of Coordinators of Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts!

## October

Low Beginner class begins on Wednesday mornings.

Recognition Evening on October 13th – beautiful evening, good food and fun!

## November

Citizenship class for Low Literacy students begins.

Advisory Board meets.

Coordinators of Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts meet.

CDBG site visit by Nathalie Jean and Sarbjit Kaur.

## December

Hire conversation leader for Saturday classes – Wayne Sullivan.

Citizenship Workshops with John McCarthy of USCIS.

Community Development Block grant submitted.

Holiday luncheon in Literacy Center – very well attended.

## January

Advisory Board meets.

Registration for Saturday classes. Classes begin.

First May Baskets meeting!

Party for Dick Constant's 100th conversation class.

# Citizenship Corner in Framingham

With great pride, we opened the Citizenship Corner, a dedicated section of the 3rd floor for citizenship and literacy resources. Grant money from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, under the Library Services and Technology Act, allowed us to purchase new furniture, computer, and print resources. Also included in the grant was an expansion of our conversation classes in Framingham. We hired Wayne Sullivan to teach two classes each Saturday (Beginner and Intermediate). The grand opening in March was attended by the Mayor and other politicians as well as students, tutors and staff.

We also conducted 3 citizenship classes in Framingham – two Civics and American History with instructor Christopher Ahearn (intermediate level speakers) and Civics and Literacy with instructor Alice Carroll (low level English speakers). Our students are becoming citizens!



HongYe Cai



Alice's Class



Laurie and Anne

**Celebrate the launch of our new Citizenship Corner!**

**Friday March 23, 10:00am**  
**Main Library, 2nd floor**

Explore our new space and resources, meet Library and Literacy Unlimited staff, and hear from recently naturalized staff and community members as we recognize their status as brand new US Citizens.

Made possible by a generous grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

**Framingham**  
 Literacy Unlimited  
 Look here first,  
 49 Lexington Street  
 508-532-5570  
 www.framinghamlibrary.org

Ciudadania  
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 مواطنة

## News From Natick

This has been a busy year in Natick. We have had two well attended, ten-week Citizenship Classes, led by tutor Isabel Wesley. We held a workshop for tutors with John McCarthy of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to help guide students through the preparation for the interview. Plans are in the works to add more dedicated citizenship resources to the library.

Conversation Groups have grown to capacity and we are anxious to add more sessions. This year, we held two tutor trainings which have helped us to increase our volunteer tutor base, so we can help more students. The library has purchased about 40 new titles in Spanish, Russian and Chinese for International Language pleasure reading.

The program is strong and growing!

*Laurie Christie*, Literary Services, Morse Institute



Denise's Class and New Tote Bags



Chris Ahearn and Isabel Wesley





Elaine Satlak, Tutor and May Basket Winner

## Literacy Unlimited of Framingham Foundation, Inc.

With much anticipation and delight, *Literacy Unlimited of Framingham Foundation, Inc.*, a nonprofit corporation that supports the educational and charitable purposes of LVM Literacy Unlimited has finally become a reality! After many hours of preparation and work to create by-laws and acquire tax exemption, it's official.

We are the fundraising arm of the program and our existence allows some important changes: all donations are now completely tax-deductible and we can now apply for grants that are only available to charitable non-profits. We actually got a checking account!

Our main fundraising activities continue to be the End-Of-Year Appeal (\$7496 in FY 2018) and the May Baskets Raffle. Many thanks to all our donors, especially the corporations listed in this report. Your donations make a difference! We particularly recognize *Framingham Library Foundation*, sponsor of the May Baskets Raffle and *Mutual One Bank*, sponsor of the end-of-year barbecue.

*Joan C. Grzywna*  
President

## 2018 Budget

### Income Sources

Government Grants	\$ 33,261
Foundation and Corporate Grants	\$ 14,718
Individual contributions	\$ 8,844
May Raffle Baskets	\$ 6,000
Monthly bake sales	\$ 920
Interest	\$ 88

### Total Income

\$ 63,831

### Expenses

Salaries	\$ 53,052
Trainers' fees	\$ 5,600
Bank fees and state filings	\$ 48
Books	\$ 2,465
Events and food costs	\$ 1,260
Professional development	\$ 562
Supplies and materials	\$ 291
Fundraising expense: May Basket supplies	\$ 198
Fundraising expenses: Raffle tax	\$ 300

### Total Expenses

\$ 63,775

Excess income \$ 56

In-kind donations (Framingham Public Library) -estimated \$40,000

In-kind donations (volunteer tutors and conversation leaders) -estimated \$150,000

## February

Potluck Dinner with Winter Olympics Theme – very festive!

Best Plus re-certification for all testers.

## March

Citizenship Corner Ribbon cutting with Mayor Spicer and many other dignitaries. HongYe Cai was new citizen speaker.

Student registration during week of March 26th (40 new students).

Evening citizenship class begins.

## April

Staff attend NETWORK 2018 – conference for Massachusetts Coalition of Adult Educators.

Small book club begins meeting for "News of the World" – chosen for Framingham Reads Together.

Meeting of Library Literacy programs in Newton.

Final push for May Raffle Baskets preparation and photography.

## May

May Raffle Baskets presented in Framingham Main, McAuliffe Branch, and Morse Institute!

Our first Tutor U! – an afternoon of workshops for tutors followed by dinner in the lobby.

Annual testing begins!

## June

Drawing for May Basket winners.

Tutor In-service with Marcel (Reading).

Farewell Lunch for Kate Newcomer.

3rd Annual Barbecue in parking lot – great weather, food and fun.

Annual testing is complete – 172 tests administered.

Another great year!

**Thank you to our sponsors and contributors**

# Literacy Unlimited Annual Report 2018



## Staff & Advisory Board

### Staff

Anne O'Connell, Coordinator  
Kiera Stock, Office Manager  
Kate Newcomer, Intern and Database Administrator

Wayne Sullivan, Saturday Conversation Class Leader  
Marjorie Hurwitz, Tutor Trainer  
Leah Hurwitz, Tutor Trainer

### Advisory Board

Lisa Gelin, Chair  
Tina Golden, Vice Chair  
Rose Lawrence, Secretary  
Nancy Agler  
Maria Barry  
Doris Bickley  
HongYe Cai  
Barbara Gainsboro  
Elzira Hastenreiter  
Robin Kynoch  
Christina Rier

### Morse Institute Library

Laurie Christie, Literacy Services  
Anna Litten, Community Services



Tamiris, Elzira, and Nancy

### Literacy Unlimited of Framingham Foundation Inc.

Joan Grzywna, President  
Barbara Gainsboro, Clerk  
Anne O'Connell, Treasurer  
Mark Contois, Director  
Whitney Dean, Director

### Framingham Public Library

Mark Contois, Director  
Lena Kilburn, Assistant Director  
Amy Sadkin, Community and Outreach Services



New Citizen AiHua

## Corporate Sponsors



Tony (Muxiang) and Margie

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Amazing Things Arts Center  
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Belkin Family Lookout Farm  
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Common Street Spiritual Center  
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Framingham Police Association  
Framingham Public Library Foundation  
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Stone's Public House  
Taqueria Mexico City  
Terra Brasilis Restaurant  
The 99 Restaurant  
The Center for Arts in Natick (TCAN)  
Trader Joe's  
Trustees of Framingham Library  
Uncle Cheung's  
Uno's Pizzeria and Grill  
Vltorno  
Volunteers of the Friends of  
the Framingham Library

Many thanks to our  
corporate sponsors,  
contributors to the  
May Baskets Raffle  
and to the Program.