

“N^{ews}Y” the ESOL Tutor Newsletter

February, 2022



Welcome to “NEWSY” the Literacy Unlimited Tutor Bulletin



Hi everyone,

Happy Valentine’s Day! I know it is early, but it is a great time to recognize and thank-you all for your contributions – read on to hear more about tutor activities and to complete our short survey on topics for the next Tutor Time. We are in deep winter but the days are getting longer, the sun is a bit brighter and before we know it, the robins will be back and the snow drops will be peeking through the snow.

Tutor and Student Social Hours

The virtual January social hour on Zoom had 22 participants which included new and long-time students, tutors, and conversation class leaders. The social hours are a fun way to meet others while doing an icebreaker activity on Zoom. You may want to invite your student(s) if you have them. We do send students a separate email invitation as well so they may mention the invite to you.

Virtual Social Hour

Wednesday February 16th

12:00pm – 1:30pm

New Tutors

We are thrilled to have the following 16 new tutors who will finish their training on February 8th. As part of their introduction to our tutor community, they attended the January Tutor Time.

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Barbara Allen | Chip Nevins |
| Les Bryan | Katherine O'Toole |
| Lee Costa | David Pellauer |
| Jane Eyler | George Perrone |
| Andrea Frank | Joan Sax |
| Edward Gallin | Cynthia Sickles |
| Scott Greenberg | Anna Toro-Bernard |
| Susan Higgins | Kristen Williams |

Call for In-person Conversation Class Leaders and Substitutes

The Framingham library in-person programming will start up again this month after a brief hiatus in January. Covid numbers in Framingham peaked the week of Jan. 18 and hopefully numbers will continue to improve in the coming months.

Given the expected improvement in numbers, we are considering adding a few more in-person conversation classes at the Framingham library. If you are interested in leading, assisting, or substituting for an in-person class leader please let us know.

fplmail4@minlib.net

Call for New ESOL Tutors

There will be a new ESOL Tutor Information session on Monday, February 28 at 7:00pm and planning for spring training is in the works. If you know someone who might be interested in becoming a tutor, please let us know or have them contact us fplmail4@minlib.net or 508 532 5574.

Presidents' Day

The libraries and Literacy Unlimited will be closed on Monday, February 21 in honor of Presidents' Day.

Scheduled Tutor Meetings

Tutor Time – Tuesday, February 15 at 2:00 PM

We would like your input on topics for tutor time this month. Please complete this one question survey and share with us your preferences for February Tutor Time topics. We will finalize the topic(s) for Tutor Time after we review the survey results.

Tutor Time REPEAT – Wednesday, February 23 at 6:30pm

We will repeat the Tutor Time session described above.

For Tutors

Chromebooks

The Framingham library has Chromebooks that Literacy Unlimited will check out for students and tutors to use in the Literacy center. Contact us if you would like to take advantage of this option or hear more about it. fplmail4@minlib.net

Office Hours

This is a reminder that the staff is in the Literacy center Monday – Thursday from 9:00am - 4:00pm. We are happy to meet with tutors to discuss tutoring. Current topics discussed with tutors have included how to make tutoring preparation less time consuming and how to refresh tutoring sessions that seem stale. If you would like to stop by in person, let us know fplmail4@minlib.net

For Students

The City of Framingham has some funds for rental and utility arrearages due to COVID19. Applications should be submitted via

<https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/FRAMINGHAMMA/Participant>.

The website can be translated into Spanish or Portuguese using the translated. The City can provide up to \$7,000 in funds to assist a tenant with up to 3 months for their portion of rent or mortgage and 6 months' worth of current charges for utility costs. Households with mixed immigration statuses will have the eligible amount prorated based on the number of householder members that are legal residents.

Please note that there is a checklist of documents needed on website. Here is a partial list of documents needed:

2 current months of income documentation - letter from employer stating average hours worked and hourly wage can be used in lieu paystubs

6 months of bank statements - if no bank account please contact the office for affidavit of no income or assets

Current tax return - can use 2020 unless 2021 was filed already

Documentation showing Covid related reason- can be statement from unemployment showing receipt of PUA insurance- positive test result or letter from employer or resident documenting Covid reason.

Last Word

At last week's Tutor Time, we asked the in-service tutors to share with the tutors in training some words of advice. It was very inspiring to listen to their words of wisdom so I will share some of them here, paraphrased of course.

“Building a trusting relationship with your student is key.”

“Have fun and expect to learn as much as you teach.”

“It's ok for both of you to make mistakes, the key is creating a safe environment to learn and help each other”.

“Get to know and understand what your student likes and dislikes when it comes learning English”

“Repeat, repeat, repeat and remember everyone learns at a different pace.”

“Humor, self-deprecation and laughter go a long way.”

Hope we see you soon in person or at one of our virtual meetings,

Karen