

Literacy Matters

Quarterly Newsletter from Literacy Volunteers Fox Valley

Winter 2020

Message from the Executive Director

February brings Valentine's Day, which makes me think of great partnerships. Lennon and McCartney, Bert and Ernie, even peanut butter and jelly have come together to make something greater than themselves.

Besides our tutors, board members, and key volunteers, we have many community partners who elevate our adult learners.

We receive grants from the Secretary of State Literacy Program, Kane County Grand Victoria Riverboat grant, Geneva Community Chest, Batavia United Way, Fox Valley United Way, and a number of foundations. We couldn't exist without their financial support.

In-kind support is equally important. The St. Charles Public Library provides office space, utilities, training rooms, meeting space, security staff, and maintenance. Geneva, Batavia, and Town & Country Public Libraries provide meeting space for tutors and students. Messenger Public Library of North Aurora recently added their name to our list of tutoring locations. The City of St. Charles and The Holmstad provide training space. Hosanna! Lutheran Church provides space for tutor/student recognition and has joined a number of churches that will provide meeting space for tutor/student pairs when the St. Charles Public Library undergoes renovation this spring. Pro bono design and marketing are provided by Cooper Hong Inc. and Designer Papers Inc.

Grant and in-kind support is supplemented by fundraisers. At these events you can see a full measure of talent and generosity on display.

Thank you, partners! Would you like to join our circle of advocates? Give me a call.

PsyColar

Peg Coker, Executive Director

UPCOMING EVENTS

TOWN HOUSE'S GIVING TUESDAY

TUESDAY
MARCH 3
9:00AM TO 5:00PM
TOWN HOUSE BOOKS & CAFÉ
105 N. 2ND AVENUE, ST. CHARLES
20% OF SALES WILL BE DONATED TO LITERACY
VOLUNTEERS FOX VALLEY ON THIS DAY

TRIVIA BEE FOR LITERACY

SATURDAY MARCH 21 9:00AM TO NOON FONA INTERNATIONAL 1900 AVERILL ROAD GENEVA

TUTOR TRAINING

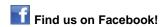
MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS APRIL 20, 22, 27, AND 29 ART/COOKING STUDIO POTTAWATOMI COMMUNITY CENTER ST. CHARLES

Literacy Volunteers Fox Valley

One South Sixth Avenue St. Charles, Illinois 60174

Temporary Address: 305 S. Ninth Street St. Charles, IL 60174

Phone: 630-584-2811 Email: info@lvfv.org





Happy Birthday, Trivia Bee! Celebrating 21 Years

It's our golden birthday! The Trivia Bee will be 21 on March 21st and we want you to join in the fun. There are lots of ways you can help make our annual fundraiser successful:

Be a sponsor

We need a sprinkling of donors who will help offset the cost of table rental, refreshments, decorations, printing, and prizes.

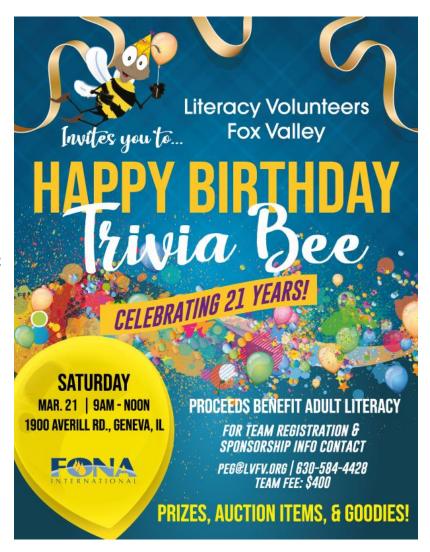
Form a team

Gather a team of three friends or co-workers and enter the competition. You can win trophies, prizes, and best of all, bragging rights. We have 32 tables available but they are going quickly. Reserve your table now. Observers are welcome to attend for free.

Volunteer

We need lots of volunteers to make this party happen. If you can keep team scores, find silent auction donations, help with silent auction checkout, serve food, set up, or clean up, we can put you to work.

For more information about any of these opportunities, contact peg@lvfv.org.



Deborah Newsam joins the Board of Directors



Deborah Newsam creates a display at the St. Charles Public Library.

"It felt like a good fit," That's how Deborah Newsam described her decision to join the Board of Directors. Deborah will be filling an empty seat until June when she will be nominated for a regular term.

Deborah recently retired from Long Grove Confectionary Company. As the director of new product development, she was used to making things happen. She would help grow a client's idea into a finished item.

As a volunteer tutor, she also makes things happen. Since 2018, she has been helping adult learners grow and adapt to our community. "What surprised me is how much I get back," Deborah said, "It offers me an opportunity to do the right thing for people on a basic level; to become fully functioning adults in the U.S." Thanks for your leadership, Deborah.

U.S. Census 101: What Tutors and Students Need to Know

In mid-March, you will receive a postcard from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Census Bureau in the mail. The postcard will have a code that invites you to respond in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail.

Everyone should reply.

Regardless of your citizenship status, YOU COUNT. The census counts every person living the United States once and only once at the place they claim as their residence.



It's 10 questions.

The first three questions apply to all people living at the address. It asks for the number of people who live at the address, if you own or rent, and your phone number. The other seven questions apply to the individuals living at the address including name, relationship, gender, age, date of birth, race, and whether the person is of Hispanic origin.

It's absolutely confidential.

It is against the law for the Census Bureau to publically release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household. No other agency has access to the information; not the FBI, not police, not immigration enforcement. Individual records have to be locked up tight for 72 years. The penalty for a breach is jail time – not a little slap on the wrist – real jail time. Information is only released in a statistical format.

We want to be fairly represented.

The results of the census are used to reapportion seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. Because so many people are moving from Illinois, we will probably lose a congressional seat but we risk losing an additional seat if people are not counted. It's important that we have an accurate count and that we are fairly represented in Washington D.C.

We want our state to get the money it deserves.

The data is also used to distribute more than \$800 billion in funds for more than 300 federal programs, according to a study by the George Washington Institute of Public Policy.

Non-profit agencies like Literacy Volunteers Fox Valley use census data to justify a need for their services. Foundations that give grants take notice when you can quote census statistics.

Here's the plan.

By April 1, every household in the United States will have received a postcard inviting them to participate in the census. May through July, census takers will begin visiting the homes of people who have not responded. July 31 is the last day for people to respond.

Please make the U.S. Census part of your lessons. We want our students to be informed. Visit https://www.census.gov/library/video.2020.html for videos that explain the U.S. Census. Visit https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/2020-census/planning-management/language-resources/language-guides.html for printed guides. Both the videos and printed guides are available in many different languages.

Our Bags are Packed. We're Ready to Go!

On March 9, the St. Charles Public Library will close so we can begin the move to the Haines Junior High building at 305 S. Ninth Street in St. Charles. Our volunteer tutors will miss the privacy that our glassed-in study rooms offer but the new library digs will be worth the wait.

There will be three study tables at the temporary St. Charles Public Library location, but demand will be high and the tables cannot be reserved. For that reason, many St. Charles tutors and students are pulling up stakes and seeking new ground during renovation, which is expected to last 12-14 months.

Who knew that churches and businesses charge \$30 per hour for outside groups to use their space! It's understandable. Everyone has insurance, security, and maintenance costs. But we have about 75 tutor/student pairs who study at the St. Charles Public Library for about an hour each week. Placing learning teams in rental facilities could cost more than \$112,000 annually.

Fortunately, our library partners are stepping up to the plate. They will welcome tutors and students who want to join the learning teams who already call these libraries home. Thank you to:

- Geneva Public Library
- Batavia Public Library
- Town & Country Public Library
- Messenger Public Library of North Aurora

We have several learning teams who must meet for lessons in St. Charles because of transportation or other difficulties. We are grateful that generosity abides at many of our downtown St. Charles churches. Thank you to the houses of worship that embrace us as a ministry or have waived their building usage fees:

- St. John Neumann Catholic Church
- The Salvation Army, Joe K. Anderson Community Center
- Baker Memorial United Methodist Church
- St. Mark's Lutheran Church
- Hosanna! Lutheran Church

Finally, we want to thank everyone who participated in Giving Tuesday last November. Your gifts are allowing us to schedule tutor training at the St. Charles Park District. They are offering us space at a discounted non-profit rate.

For a handout with information about alternative meeting places, email margarita@lvfv.org..

Tutor Resource - Mango



Mango offers over 70 foreign language courses and 20 ESL courses. It's a personalized, adaptive language-learning database that provides tools such as real-world conversations, voice comparison, listening and reading activities, personalized review system, culture notes, and Mango Movies. You can access Mango by searching for language learning databases on our partner library's websites. You can use Mango at the library, remotely, or even on-the-go with apps for iPhone and Android.

Welcome New Tutors

Congratulations to the volunteers who have completed training this fiscal year. We are honored that you decided to join the tutors who are making an important difference in our community.

Nancy Allen Tom Augaitis Maggie Bellinger Alexie Bollman Anna Browne **Becky Buchholz** Kay Catlin Steve Clevenger Maribel Colon John Cornwell Marilyn Cornwell Samuel Costabile Avi Davalos **Amy Dennis** Jacob Dennis David Dillenbeck Jane Dixon Hanna Durocher Reid Ferro Margaret Fick **Karinne Finley** David Fujimoto Lauren Guido **Andy Hanses** Kristina Hartman

Debbie Hedera Cathy Herbrand Will Jugenitz Helen Jugenitz Sandy Kling Stan Kostur Chardyce Kott Ken Kushibab Ruth Kuzmanic Cindy Lederman Lydia Lesniak Donna Liljegren Carrie Lisson Winter Lance Marcinkus Brenda Marcinkus Derek Marusarz Lynn McHale Dan McNichols Ron Mercante Ralph Mooney Cynthia O'Kelley Julie Ott **Neil Ott** Kathryn Panko Katelyn Prescott

Kevin Quirk Jessica Reynolds Donna Rocha Rebekah Salazar Jennifer Santos John Semenek Michelle Schnair **Doris Sherer** Raychelle Sokolow **Allison Souter** Dave Stern Mary Stewart Richard Sveyda Michelle Terry Virginia Tsipas JoAnn Vanthournout Erica Vershaw Jacquie Vigliotti Susan Webb-Kmiec Michele Weidl Laura Welmers Kurt Welz Lisa Welz

Want more information about Literacy Volunteers Fox Valley?

For more information about: Literacy Volunteers Fox Valley

One South Sixth Avenue St. Charles, Illinois 60174

O Being a tutor

O Being a student

Making a financial donation

Sharing your ideas

Visit our website www.lvfv.org and click on **Contact Us**. We look forward to hearing from you!

Call us at: 630-584-2811

Or email us at: info@lvfv.org.

In part, this project was made possible by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a division of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds designated for literacy.