

## 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.



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. 2<sup>ND</sup> 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

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### 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](mailto:info@lvfv.org)

 Find us on Facebook!

Accredited member of  
 ProLiteracy

## Happy Birthday, Trivia Bee! Celebrating 21 Years

It's our golden birthday! The Trivia Bee will be 21 on March 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:peg@lvfv.org).

Invites you to... Literacy Volunteers Fox Valley

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
Trivia Bee

**CELEBRATING 21 YEARS!**

**SATURDAY**  
MAR. 21 | 9AM - NOON  
1900 AVERILL RD., GENEVA, IL

**FONA**  
INTERNATIONAL

**PROCEEDS BENEFIT ADULT LITERACY**

FOR TEAM REGISTRATION & SPONSORSHIP INFO CONTACT  
PEG@LVFV.ORG | 630-584-4428  
TEAM FEE: \$400

**PRIZES, AUCTION ITEMS, & GOODIES!**

## 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](mailto: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	Debbie Hedera	Kevin Quirk
Tom Augaitis	Cathy Herbrand	Jessica Reynolds
Maggie Bellinger	Will Jugenitz	Donna Rocha
Alexie Bollman	Helen Jugenitz	Rebekah Salazar
Anna Browne	Sandy Kling	Jennifer Santos
Becky Buchholz	Stan Kostur	John Semenek
Kay Catlin	Chardyce Kott	Michelle Schnair
Steve Clevenger	Ken Kushibab	Doris Sherer
Maribel Colon	Ruth Kuzmanic	Raychelle Sokolow
John Cornwell	Cindy Lederman	Allison Souter
Marilyn Cornwell	Lydia Lesniak	Dave Stern
Samuel Costabile	Donna Liljegren	Mary Stewart
Avi Davalos	Carrie Lisson Winter	Richard Sveyda
Amy Dennis	Lance Marcinkus	Michelle Terry
Jacob Dennis	Brenda Marcinkus	Virginia Tsipas
David Dillenbeck	Derek Marusarz	JoAnn Vanthournout
Jane Dixon	Lynn McHale	Erica Vershaw
Hanna Durocher	Dan McNichols	Jacquie Vigliotti
Reid Ferro	Ron Mercante	Susan Webb-Kmiec
Margaret Fick	Ralph Mooney	Michele Weidl
Karinne Finley	Cynthia O'Kelley	Laura Welmers
David Fujimoto	Julie Ott	Kurt Welz
Lauren Guido	Neil Ott	Lisa Welz
Andy Hanses	Kathryn Panko	
Kristina Hartman	Katelyn Prescott	

### Want more information about Literacy Volunteers Fox Valley?

For more information about:

- Being a tutor
- Being a student
- Making a financial donation
- Sharing your ideas

Visit our website [www.lvfv.org](http://www.lvfv.org) and click on **Contact Us**. We look forward to hearing from you!

#### Literacy Volunteers Fox Valley

One South Sixth Avenue  
St. Charles, Illinois 60174

*Call us at:*

630-584-2811

*Or email us at:*

[info@lvfv.org](mailto:info@lvfv.org).

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