



May 2018

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Support Us Online
Spread The Word!



Facebook :

[LiteracyVolunteersKentCounty](https://www.facebook.com/LiteracyVolunteersKentCounty)

Twitter : [@lvkc1](https://twitter.com/lvkc1)

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Tutors, students, supporters and friends: Thank you for helping us start out strong in 2018. Your devotion to changing lives through literacy helps us continue to make a real and lasting impact for adult learners and our shared communities.

We launched a 12-week Family Literacy Program, trained 11 new tutors and 2 tutor trainers as well as 1 ELL assessor, and had a wonderful time with our tutors, students and their families, Board Members and LVKC supporters at the Student-Tutor Recognition Evening.

Spring is another season for us to send out the appeal letters to our supporters. Throughout the year, LVKC's program helped students work toward goals as varied as preparing for GED and US citizenship examinations, moving ahead in the workplace or simply mastering the skills to become better parents, neighbors and employees. Much of our program is supported by a dedicated group of volunteers; it takes money to purchase materials for training and tutoring, to pay the two part time employees who keep the program running and the individuals who train tutors. So when you see letters from us please consider making a contribution. Your tax deductible donation, no matter how small, can help someone take the first step toward a better life.

Sincerely,

Yumi Kim

HOW TO BE A PART OF LVKC NEWSLETTER

As varied as each LVKC tutor/student pair is, so is the world around them.

Everyone has something to share that we all can enjoy, and learn from!

- ♦ Send us your photos of any tutor/student related activities
- ♦ Give us examples of any holiday tradition you participate in
- ♦ Share your travel plans/memories with us
- ♦ Make recommendations for books/material used in lessons
- ♦ Write a poem, a story or an essay about any given topics
- ♦ Draw a picture that represents LVKC to you
- ♦ Share anything you have learned or taught while with LVKC - anything that has impacted your life or the lives of others



WE ASKED TUTORS AND STUDENTS

Hi tutors! Can I ask what does volunteering for literacy mean to you?



Meeting new people. Learning about foreign countries.



I love teaching. It is an opportunity to do what I love to do.



Sharing & giving back – meeting lovely people.



Volunteering to me means giving back to the community and positively impacting someone's life.



Friendship. Sharing American + Mexican Recipes. Fun in my retirement. Expansion of cultural knowledge.



For me, it's an opportunity to do something to help someone – to give back to the community.



It gives me an opportunity to make a difference in my students' lives and to expand their knowledge in many areas.



It's very exciting to meet with my students. I enjoy listening to their ideas and working with them to learn together.



Being able to help someone improve their speaking & understanding of the English language. I also have a love for reading and would like to pass that on as well.



It's an easy way to connect with people and help improve/transform their life.



Literacy is empowering. I am thankful for the opportunity to encourage learners to reach their personal goals.

That is awesome!! Thank you so much for sharing. You are the best, tutors!

Students, would you like to share how does meeting with an LVKC tutor impact your life?



My tutor helps me so much with reading and math. I thank her for taking the time to do that. I'm learning more reading and writing so I want to thank the program and my tutor!



I meet my tutor Mr. Ernie at Pontiac library. I passed a test for my permit.



Better English skills. Meeting new friends. Confidence.



I'm happy right now because I feel more comfortable when I go out to a store or supermarket. I'm very happy to be able to become more independent and also having a great tutor as Maria is.

Cool! I'm so proud of you all and look forward to hearing more stories from you.

Thanks again! Later!

ONGOING/UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Join Our Group Conversation

START HERE, a small-group ELL program, serves adult students, 18 or older. The conversational, task-oriented program helps ELL students maximize their English speaking skills.

Participation is free
but registration is required.

To register or for more information, please contact Youmi Kim or Robin Leroux
@ (401) 822-9103 or email: lvkc@coventrylibrary.org

START HERE

Provided at Two Locations

**EAST GREENWICH
FREE LIBRARY
SILVERMAN ROOM**

Mondays 11:00am

80 Pierce Street
East Greenwich

**COVENTRY
PUBLIC LIBRARY
ANNEX ROOM**

Tuesdays 10:00am

1675 Flat River Road
Coventry

2018 In-Service

In-Service will be scheduled in October and Youmi will let you know the date and topic as soon as it's determined.

If you want to make suggestions on useful topics and speakers, please contact Youmi and/or Robin at 401-822-9103 or email us: lvkc@coventrylibrary.org

If your Tutor Certificate needs to be renewed please plan to join our In-Service or one of the Tutor Training Workshop sessions to receive Re-Certification.

2018 FALL

TUTOR TRAINING WORKSHOP

☆ How Does It Work?

1. Call or Email LVKC for more information. We'll send you a **Tutor Packet** with a Volunteer Application and all the information you need to know.

2. Submit the Volunteer **Application** to LVKC.

Join us for **14 hours of free Tutor Training Workshop.**



3. Midway through training, you'll be matched with a student so you may experience the tutor process and receive guidance as needed.

At the conclusion of the training, you will be certified as a tutor!



☑ Tutor Training Workshop Schedule



Monday, September 10th	Monday, September 17th	Monday, September 24th	Monday, October 1st	Monday, October 22nd
6-9pm	6-9pm	6-9pm	6-9pm	6-8pm

MEET OUR NEW TUTOR TRAINERS

Please welcome our new tutor trainers: Suzanne and Kimberly!

Suzanne and Kimberly were trained as tutor trainers during the Spring Tutor Training Workshop and will continue learning how to lead the next Tutor Training Workshop. Suzanne taught ELL students at Progreso Latino for 20 years and Kimberly is a certified teacher working with students with special needs.

Hi, I'm Suzanne.

We look forward to working with you two at our 2018 Tutor Training Workshop!

Hi, I'm Kimberly.



SPRING EVENT REVIEWS

ELL Assessor Training

March 22nd & 23rd

All new students go through assessment prior to being matched with tutors.

Assessments are to measure the student's current level and to provide essential information to tutors before they meet their student. Usually after 50 hours of tutoring, students are reassessed to determine progress toward goals.

ELL assessments consist of a written and oral test. Last March, we invited Janet Isserlis, Center for Applied Linguistics(CAL)'s regional trainer for a 5 hour workshop to learn about the program we use for the oral test.

Now we have 4 volunteer assessors in the field – Connie and Jerry for the Basic Literacy Assessment and Karen and Pam for the English Language Learner Assessment. You may meet them for the post assessment during your tutoring sessions!



Family Literacy Program

March 28th
- June 13th



REAL
PATHWAYS
Rhode Island



LVKC launched a new literacy program in partnership with Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island (DIIRI) to support the families who speak English as a second language. This program is funded by the Governor's Workforce as part of the Real Pathways Rhode Island Project.

This project is to empower individuals and families to become self-sufficient and fully participating members of our diverse community through the programs that promote education and cultural understanding. Researches show that the more parents are educated with understanding of our language and culture, the better they participate in their children's education.

The class is being held every Wednesday evening 7 to 8:30pm in the Annex Room until June 13th. Gratefully, some of our tutors are helping the program as assistant teachers and child care providers. The instructor, Frank has lots of experience in teaching ELL students and is leading fun and encouraging classes. We also invited the Education Director of Gamm Theater on June 6th for Parent and Child Time. Most of our students speak to their children in their own language, however, on that day parents and children will make a fun play together communicating in English.

This is a one time funded program, although, depending on the needs of our students and the community, we may continue the program. Reviews of the program will be introduced in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Tutor Training Workshop

April 9th
- May 21st



Jennie and
Jonathan
are missing
from the picture!



2018 Spring Tutor Training(TTW) was held from April 9th to May 21st. Throughout the 14 hour workshop we trained 11 new tutors. Training more tutors means being able to help more students in need. During the TTW, the instructor, Jean used different teaching methods such as lecture, discussion and role play, and shared her experiences in the literacy education field to help our tutors be better prepared. Most tutors were matched with their students by the fourth session. Student's information and assessment results were provided along with Intake/Assessment Process Workshop and Possible Materials Exhibition. At the last session everyone shared their experiences and ideas with two of our current tutors in attendance. Tutoring is a very unique experience; you'll find that you are not only teaching, but also learning from your student. We're very excited to hear what stories our new tutors and students bring to us.

Student-Tutor Recognition

May 9th



Youmi has done a wonderful job in directing LVKC. I always look forward to her updates. Youmi's warmth permeates the organization and lends a friendly and encouraging response. Thank you, Youmi and Robin.

-from a happy tutor

For the past 38 years, all the achievement our students have shown, the enrichment of their lives and the deeper understanding they've gained of this country and culture was possible only because of our tutors, those who volunteered their time to share their passion, knowledge and even friendship.

Student-Tutor Recognition was to express our gratitude to our tutors' volunteerism as well as our students' dedication and their families' support. 36 people including Board Members, tutors, students and their families attended. Kathy Gray, our former Program Director, also stopped by to meet everyone.

A former student, Mirta came to visit from Florida. She donated a \$70 gift card to Cracker Barrel for the raffle in honor of her tutor Hilda. The lucky winner of the raffle was one of our students, Sinang and her family. There was great food, music, speeches from students and an award ceremony for tutors. We also prepared beautiful goody bags with chocolate pops and pens. Thank you to those who joined us and those who missed it but sent loving hearts.

**Looking for More
Pictures from LVKC?**



**[Click here](#) to See
Our Facebook Page**

TUTOR SUPPORT



*This article is adapted from *Notebook: Resources for the Adult Educator*, a membership publication of ProLiteracy, Fall 2017
*Sources: NPR, The News Literacy Project, and *The New York Times*

WRITING A LETTER TO YOUR LAWMAKERS

Purpose

To guide students through the process of writing a letter to their local senator or member of the House of Representatives.

Rational

It's more important than ever that students stay involved in the civics process and make their opinion heard. Students can choose an issue of importance to them and write a letter to voice their opinions to a local lawmaker. This activity is appropriate for any motivated adult who may not be familiar with writing a letter to local law makers.

The Basic Activity

1. **Think about an issue that's important to your students.** It could be at a national or local level. To help decide on a topic, consider what students have discussed as important to them. The topic you write about will flow more naturally if it is something important to students.
2. **Ask students how to let a local lawmaker know their opinion on a specific issue.** Brainstorm ideas, but focus on writing a letter that can be emailed or sent via regular mail.
3. **Let students know that a good letter to a local lawmaker usually follows a specific style.** Be ready to show students a copy of the letter on page 7 of this issue. Point out the different parts of the letter, including their own address, the representative's address, and the body paragraphs. Point out that the first paragraph talks about why they are contacting the representative. The second and third paragraphs provide more details. The letter ends with a signature. You can point out that this sample letter is to a representative from Congress, but you may also write to other lawmakers, including your state's U.S. senators.
4. **Discuss with students what to focus on in your their letters.** Ideally, you will have some idea of the topic before your students reach this point.
5. **Show students how to find the name of a local congressperson.** For example, if you are writing a letter to your local representative in the House of Representatives, you can use the website <https://www.house.gov/htbin/findrep> and search that person's name by your zip code. A full list of senators, and their contact information, is available at <https://www.senate.gov/senators/contact/>. You can remind students that each state has two senators and that states have various representatives, but there is always one specific to your local area. If the topic of your letter is even more local, you may want to research who the right person in local government is and their contact information. You'll want to decide ahead of time if you plan to send a letter to this person by mail or email.
6. **Work with students to create their letter.** Depending on your students' level, you may want to help them create a generic letter where they sign their name or add one or two original sentences toward the end. Use the letter on page 7 as a model. At this point students don't have to do anything except help you create the letter text.
7. **Work with students to type their letters.** Decide if you will email the letters or print and mail them. If you use email, prepare to guide students through the standardized email form that many lawmakers' websites use.

**MORE
INFORMATION**

① Writing to Your Legislators

<http://www.nea.org/home/19657.htm>

This link from the National Education Association shares some helpful tips. The reading may be too difficult for some classes, but you as the instructor can keep the tips in mind when helping students create their letters.

② Effective Communication With a Legislator

<https://www.flsenate.gov/About/EffectiveCommunication>

The Florida Senate shares helpful suggestions for letter writing that can apply to anyone in any state.

③ Sample Letter

<http://www.nlacrc.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=272>

This shows a sample letter to send to a legislator. It's shared by the North Los Angeles County Regional Center.

To access
the link
on the article
just

Click



Youmi Kim
1672 Flat River Road
Coventry, RI 02816

May 30, 2018

The Honorable Robin Leroux
U.S. House of Representatives
1675 Flat River Road
Coventry, RI 02816

Dear Rep. Leroux:

As a student of an adult literacy program, I am writing this to you today to ask for your support for adult literacy and students like myself across the country who want to gain basic skills and live improved, more fulfilling lives.

Research shows that 36 million adults, or 1 in 6, have low literacy skills. Lower-skilled adults are more likely to be unemployed or out of the labor force than they are to be employed. Children of parents with lower literacy levels start school at a disadvantage. This inequality can continue well into a child's education, and into the later years of their lives.

I am meeting with a volunteer tutor, and it has helped me improve my life. I am finding a better job, and I could not do that without the right organization.

Thank you for your time and considering my request for your support.

Sincerely,

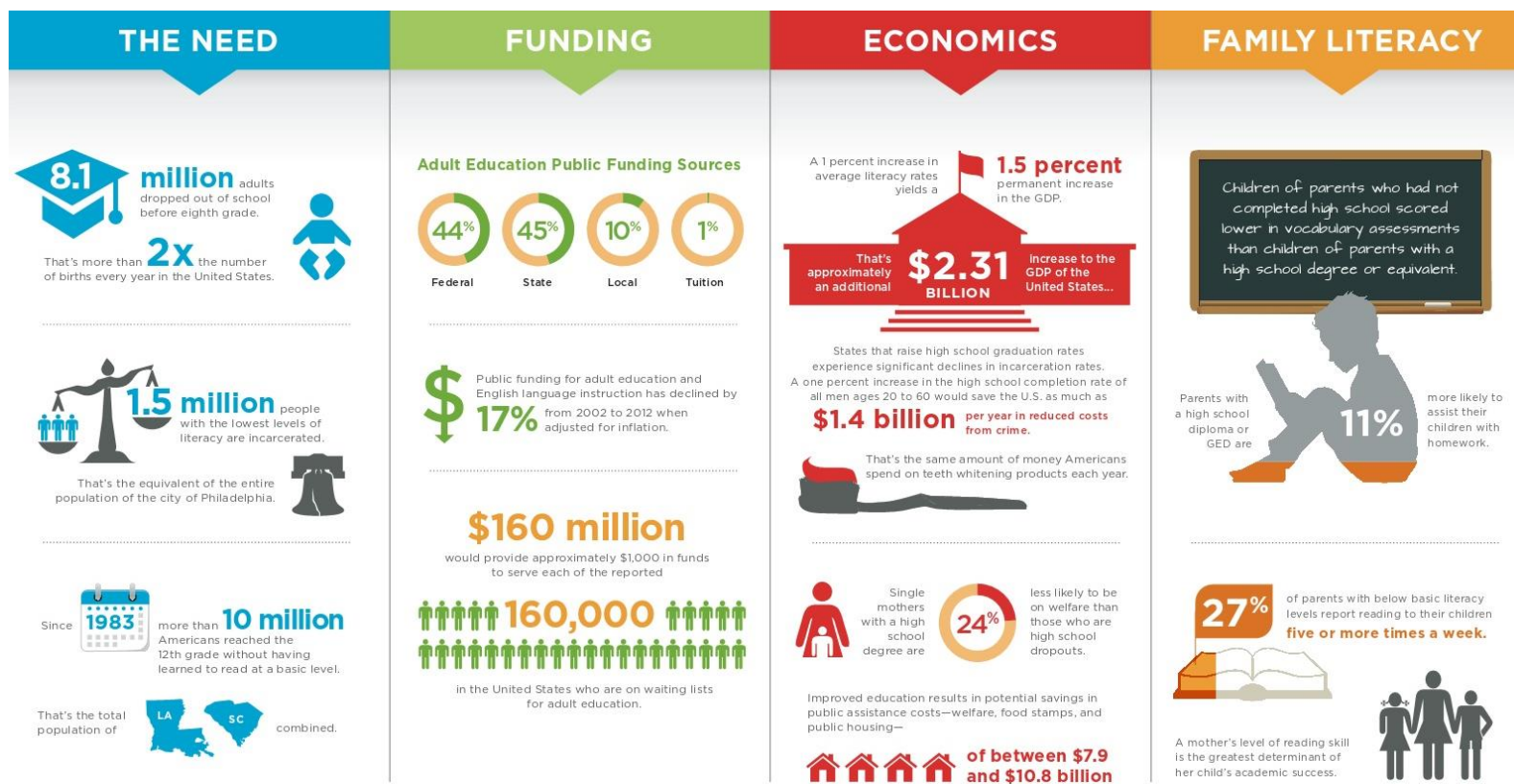


Youmi Kim



ADULT LITERACY FACTS

READ ON TO UNDERSTAND HOW LOW ADULT LITERACY IS AFFECTING EVERY FACET OF OUR LIFE, AND HOW MUCH WE CAN CHANGE BY WORKING TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE TO ENSURE LITERACY IS FOR EVERYONE.



THE IMPACT OF ADULT LITERACY ON...

...WORKFORCE

Each year, American employers spend more than **\$125.9 billion** on training, including remedial reading, writing, and math skills.

That's roughly the same amount Americans spend on takeout food or fast food.



Each high school dropout costs the United States economy about **\$260,000** in lost earnings, taxes, and productivity over his or her lifetime.

If half of the dropouts from the class of 2008 had graduated

\$4.1 billion in additional earnings
\$2.8 billion in spending
\$1.1 billion in investments

The additional spending and investments would have created

30,000 NEW JOBS

...FINANCES

Among people with low levels of financial literacy,

29% men and **32% women** are likely to engage in problematic credit card behavior.

...HEALTH

Adults with low health literacy go to the emergency room more often than adults with higher health literacy skills.



They are also less likely to get flu shots, more likely to delay or forgo mammograms, and are more likely to suffer from heart failure.

One source estimates the annual cost of low health literacy in the U.S. at between

\$106 billion and \$238 billion

That's roughly the same amount American corporations spend on advertising in one year.

INTERNATIONAL ADULT LITERACY FACTS

IMPACT REGIONS



MORE THAN 1/2 of the global low literacy population can be found in the region of South and West Asia

INTERNATIONAL



Of those with low literacy skills, **TWO-THIRDS** are women.

16%

of the world's population is non-literate.

LITERACY AND ECONOMICS

Per capita income in countries with literacy rate less than **55%** average about **\$600**

GDP

1.5%



A 1% increase in average literacy rates yields a 1.5% permanent increase in the GDP

YOUTH LITERACY



Overall, more than half of countries with data have youth literacy rates of

95% OR HIGHER

CHILD AND TEEN PREGNANCY



Uneducated Girls are

4X

more likely to have a child before their 19th birthday than those with a secondary education

To see the [Adult Literacy Facts] with a bigger font, click this link to access PDF file;

https://proliteracy.org/Portals/0/pdf/ProLiteracy_member-central-media-resources_adult-literacy-facts-letter.pdf?ver=2016-03-08-155040-310

STUDENT SUPPORT

Introducing
Simple English
Wikipedia!



https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

Wikipedias are places where people work together to write encyclopedias in different languages.

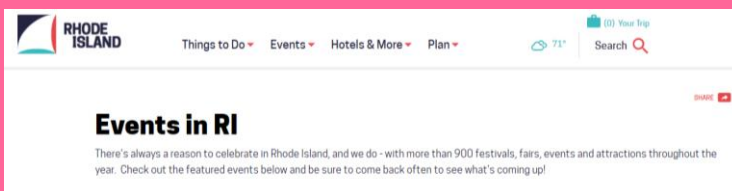
At this website, they use Simple English words and grammar. The Simple English Wikipedia is for everyone! That includes children and adults who are learning English.

There are 133,820 articles on the Simple English Wikipedia. All of the pages are free to use.

PLANNING SUMMER FUN?

Visit this website to see all the events around Rhode Island.

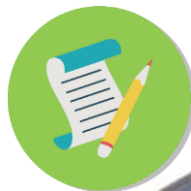
<https://www.visitrhodeisland.com/events/>



2018 Ultimate Survival Guide to Summer provides information on hiking, beaches, shopping, museums, festivals in RI and more! You can pick up this free booklet from local markets and newsstands.



OUR STORIES



My Life in the United States

My husband Craig brought me and our son Alan to the United States on July 27, 2013. My husband worked while I stayed home and took care of our son. My aunt introduced me to her friend who owns a nail salon. She gave me a job. My husband taught me how to drive and get a driver's license. Now I have my own car.

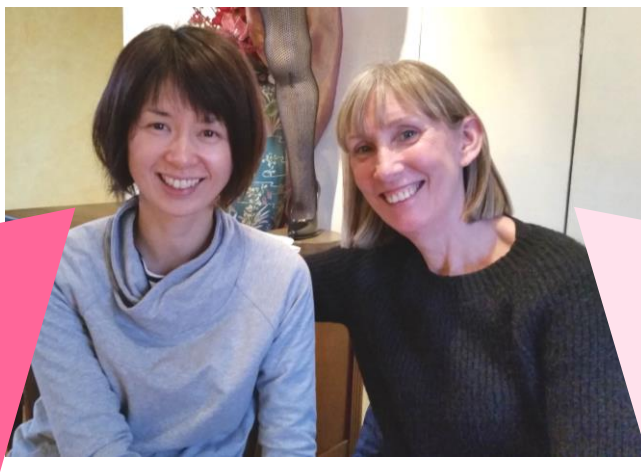
-Sinang Roderick



At the beginning, I would like to say thank you to LVKC that provided me these chances of studying English. It was a great memory in RI to study English with my tutor, Ann. Ann prepared materials for me. These were about things related to the real life, such as a health, education, the public utilities, the post office and visiting the hospital, dentist and physician. We went to the supermarket and had coffee together. To get these knowledge helped my life. After studying, I could call to the hospital to make an appointment and explain the symptoms to the doctor.

Sometimes the topic was about the American national holidays or world culture. We had studied using the textbook as well. I learned a lot of expressions in conversation. And we shared our travel experience or daily life. It was so fun!! We joined tennis classes together. She also supported me at that time. I couldn't completely understand the coach's English, but she explained it more easily for me, so I really enjoyed playing tennis with everyone.

I could always count on her to support me in many things. I think we developed a close relationship and we still stay in touch by email. -Makiko Takashima



Having successfully completed my LVKC training in April 2015, I was delighted to be matched with Maki who had arrived in Rhode Island from Japan just a few months before I had. Like me, she came to the States as a result of her husband's work and was keen to integrate. Even though English is my first language (I am a Brit), I soon

came to realise that I too was on a learning curve (not as steep as Maki's), and not solely in terms of language. On many occasions I had to revert to American friends to clear up any confusion on my part arising from the materials we were sharing. The first part of our sessions together was always spent sharing experiences of our new lives, including any places we had visited and things we had done, then making comparisons with British and Japanese life. The remainder of the session was devoted to improving Maki's reading, writing and most importantly verbal skills through activities focused on daily life.

An adult teacher in my previous working life, my relationship with students had always been formal, and this was my expectation with Maki. This is not how it turned out at all. Maki and I became firm friends and it was a joy working with her. We also became keen tennis buddies. Even though Maki has returned to Japan, we intend to stay in touch and who knows one day we may meet again.

- Ann Byrne

*Literacy Volunteers of Kent County, Inc.,
an affiliate of ProLiteracy is serving area residents
of Kent County, Rhode Island since 1980.*

If additional information about any of the upcoming LVKC events listed in the edition of our newsletter is needed, or if you have any ideas about future activities for LVKC pertaining to their fundraising efforts or tutor/student support, please email LVKC's Program Director Youmi Kim(lvkc@coventrylibrary.org).

All suggestions contributed are a valuable component of LVKC's continuing goal to become an integral part of the Kent County, Rhode Island community.



Literacy Volunteers of Kent County

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**If You Can Read This, Help Someone Who Can't.
Literacy Changes The World. Contact Us Today.**