



May 2019



# Newsletter

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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

Amongst all the beautiful flowers that blossomed to welcome spring, yellow Forsythia brought such warm memories to me. As a symbol of the 'new beginning' in Korea, Forsythia had been in all my spring colorings when I was a child. I'd like all of us to take a moment to think about what LVKC means and what memories does LVKC bring to each one of us. Perhaps improvement, dedication and friendship were in your thoughts, and all the hours you worked hard to learn to read or to learn the new language and the culture might've crossed your mind. LVKC is more than just a literacy program; it's a community where we belong and grow together.

You can help LVKC to stand strong and stay active by participating in events to better reach out to potential tutors and students; by donating more of your time to meet with more students; by responding to our spring appeal to secure the organization financially; by being an advocate for literacy by talking about what you do with us to your families and friends. I'm very happy to bring the May Newsletter full of stories and useful information to you. Thank you so much for being a part of our LVKC community. Let's make some fun memories and wonderful achievements we can cherish together.

Sincerely,

*Yumi Kim*

## Want to See It Bigger?

### Easy Way to Zoom In/Out Your Computer Screen



Press and hold [Ctrl] key.



Use mouse wheel or trackpad: Scroll up/down.



Or use keyboard: Press +/- keys.

# UPCOMING PROGRAMS



## GASPEE DAYS PARADE

### JOIN US FOR THE GASPEE DAYS PARADE

In June of 1772 brave colonists from Rhode Island burned the British revenue schooner, HMS Gaspee, in the first overt action leading to the American Revolutionary War. The Village of Pawtuxet, Rhode Island has commemorated this act with our annual Gaspee Days Parade since 1966.

The parade runs 10am to 1pm on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. It'll be a 2 mile walk from Narragansett Parkway, Warwick. It is a great opportunity to be a part of this historical American parade in our community and to spread awareness for the literacy! Please remember - **your participation helps us to reach out to potential tutors and students.** For more information or to participate, please contact Youmi.

## Be a Literacy Volunteer Tutor!

Are you interested in helping basic literacy individuals to read and write?  
Do you want to help English language learners to learn our language and culture?  
Join our [2019 Fall Tutor Training Workshop](#) to help adult students in need.



### FOUR SESSIONS

Sessions are on Thursdays,  
**September 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>** (6-9pm)  
and **September 19<sup>th</sup>,**  
**October 17<sup>th</sup>** (6-8pm).



### COVENTRY PUBLIC LIBRARY

It'll be held at the **Town Hall Annex Literacy Room** right across from the Coventry Public Library.



### CERTIFICATION

Midway through training, you'll be matched with a student and receive guidance as needed. At the last session, you will be certified as a tutor!



### REGISTRATION

Registration is required. All tutors must be 18 or older. To register, call 822-9103 or email [lvkc@coventrylibrary.org](mailto:lvkc@coventrylibrary.org)



**Do you want to be more involved in LVKC?  
Here are various ways for you!**



- Be an assessor
- Be a Tutor Trainer
- Be a Grant Writer
- Be a Board Member

**For more information, please contact Youmi**



LVKC Board of Directors 2018-2019: Dorothy Brindamour, William Rogers, Sandy Dupree, Lynn Blanchette, Nancy Abood, and Stephanie Eddleston

# PROGRAM/EVENT REVIEWS

## Tutor Training Workshop

March 14<sup>th</sup>  
- April 18<sup>th</sup>



March was another good month with our 2019 Spring Tutor Training Workshop. TTW was held from March 14<sup>th</sup> to April 18<sup>th</sup>, totaling 10 hours of fun and interactive on-site workshop. We trained 3 new tutors; one of them was a senior student in Cranston High School. As an affiliate of ProLiteracy, an international nonprofit organization that supports programs that help adults learn to read and write, LVKC adapted their new Tutor Training Workshop materials to our workshop. The instructor, Kimberly used different teaching methods such as lecture, discussion and role play, and then Youmi shared her experiences as a Program Director of LVKC and as a person who speaks English as a second language.

Upon completion of the workshop, tutors said it was very informative but not overwhelming; also a variety of topics gave them a good insight as to what a potential student's need might be. One of their favorite parts was group activities that encouraged a welcoming and supporting environment.

**Centreville Bank.**  
Charitable Foundation



**NATIONAL  
BOOK FUND®**

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to **Centreville Bank Charitable Foundation** and **National Book Fund** for funding our 2019 spring Tutor Training Workshops.

A special thank you to our volunteer grant writer Tammy Anderson!

## Tutor Gathering at LVWC

April 29<sup>th</sup>

Twelve tutors from two literacy organizations had a great time together sharing ideas and experiences on Monday April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019. It was the first step of our collaboration with Literacy Volunteers of Washington County (LVWC) to create more learning opportunities for our tutors.

Due to the characteristics of one-on-one tutoring, tutors have had a limited opportunity to gather and learn from each other. Perhaps it's time to say good-bye to old times.

LVKC and LVWC decided to open up their workshops to tutors from both organizations. Our tutors can visit LVWC's monthly tutor gathering run from September to April, and the tutors from LVWC can join our Tutor Training Workshops and In-Service. Details of LVWC's monthly tutor gathering will be notified via email by Youmi.

We hope this collaboration provides fun and productive interaction for all tutors.



# THE IMPACT OF BEING A LITERACY TUTOR

Among the social issues of most importance to Americans, these consistently rise to the top: poverty, crime, jobs, immigration, education, health care, and the economy. One factor that can have a positive impact on all of these issues is increasing adult literacy rates. **Fourteen percent of adults in the United States struggle with low reading, writing, and basic math skills.**

According to the 2013 Survey of Adult Skills by the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), the literacy skill level of U.S. adults ages 16 to 65 is well below the international average of adults in 23 other developed countries. The implications of low adult literacy rates are significant. Forty-three percent of adults living in poverty function at low literacy rates. Seventy percent of inmates have low literacy rates. The incarceration rates for high school dropouts between the ages of 16 and 24 are sixty-three times higher than those for college graduates. **Immigrants to the United States must learn to navigate in a country where English is the official language, while often they cannot read or write well in their native language. This fact is especially significant considering that by 2030, nearly one in six U.S. workers will be an immigrant.**

**The cycle does not end with adults. The children of low-literate parents are exposed to 30 million fewer words and enter kindergarten with a much larger skills gap than their peers.** Low-literate adults in the United States add as much as \$238 billion in costs to the health care system every year. In addition, low literacy costs the U.S. at least \$225 billion each year in non-productivity in the workforce, crime, and loss of tax revenue due to unemployment.

**Despite these compelling statistics and the fact that low adult literacy rates have a direct impact on our economic well-being, awareness of the adult literacy issue is low: Only 59 percent of Americans are even aware it is a problem.** To address the issue, adult education programs in the United States must increase capacity, at a time when federal funding of these programs has been cut 21 percent over the last 15 years.

Source: Trends in Private-Sector and United Way Funding: Implications for adult Literacy Programs, published by Peter Waite, ProLiteracy  
**To download the full report click [HERE](#)**

## The Value of Volunteering

Volunteers in the United States are 63 million strong and hold up the foundation of civil society. They help their neighbors, serve their communities, and provide their expertise. No matter what kind of volunteer work they do, they are contributing in invaluable ways.

Dig into the historical national data and the value of volunteers' contribution in time, talent, and effort in our communities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

During the 2019 National Volunteer Week in April, the Independent Sector released the new Value of Volunteer Time of **\$25.43** an hour. You might wonder, aren't volunteers giving their time and effort for free? Why are we associating a monetary value to it?

They calculate this figure each year because volunteers are so critical to the quality of life in all our communities. Just like a check or a pledge card, volunteers are a vital resource that helps nonprofits deliver on their mission. Board members, committee members, and community volunteers contribute in unimaginable ways.

*Thank you for being a passionate advocate for literacy!  
You are making a great difference in our community.*



# DIVING INTO YOUR NEW CULTURE

## The Cultural Adaptation Curve



HONEYMOON

As you continue to adjust to your new location, even if you're a seasoned traveler and have prepared extensively for life in this new culture, you are likely to move through the ups and downs of culture shock. At first everything seems new and different. The first step of adapting to a new culture is called the **Honeymoon** phase.

You may be excited by the new culture as you are exposed to many new people, sights, and opportunities, similar to being a visitor. You are motivated to learn and feel relatively confident in your abilities to adapt successfully to your new environment. This stage can last a relatively long time if you are adapting easily and enjoying the process. It can also last a relatively short time if your adaptation is difficult or slow.



FRUSTRATION

After a while, language and cultural barriers are frustrating and you may long for the familiar.

Your opinion of the new culture and what it has to offer may drastically dip. Things can seem difficult and daily interactions can turn into a burden. This is the second phase of culture shock: **Frustration**.

You begin to feel as though you have lost all your competence in navigating everyday life, and this may cause a loss of confidence. You are no longer just a tourist but rather a local resident. You are reduced to speaking and gesturing like a small child, you can't find your favorite ingredients, you desperately need a haircut, and you have no idea how to navigate a city without street signs and with ceaseless traffic.

You can take some proactive steps to accelerate the development of your competence and confidence.

Acquire the basics of the local language. Learn about the culture through reading and visiting local sights. Reach out to people to ask for help and develop new friendships. Maintain a healthy lifestyle through good diet, exercise, and sleep. Focus on the positive, set small, attainable goals, and celebrate even the small successes. Step by step, you will acquire more competence and confidence, and a sense of control will follow.



ADAPTATION & ACCEPTANCE

You are in the **Adaptation** phase when frustrations subside as your competence in the local culture grows. You have adapted in ways that make sense for you. You have created a home, are managing daily life, and have made new friends, all serving to help you regain some of your confidence. While you still experience ups and downs, they are now more like the fluctuations of everyday life.

In the **Acceptance** phase, you have created a way to live a well-balanced life. While there may be aspects of the local culture that you will never accept or understand, you have found a rhythm and a routine that enable you to feel relatively balanced and in control.

Source: U.S. Department of State

## Tippping Tips

Gift giving is one thing. What about tipping?

Newcomers are also often confused about who should get a tip and who shouldn't.

Some people should not get a tip. In fact, tipping government employees (including customs officers, police officers, or fire inspectors) may be considered a bribe and is illegal. **Do not tip:**

- ✓ airline employees
- ✓ fast food restaurants workers
- ✓ hotel desk clerks
- ✓ teachers
- ✓ bus drivers (except airport van drivers; tip them \$1-2 per bag for baggage handling)
- ✓ gas station attendants
- ✓ store clerks
- ✓ home mail deliverers
- ✓ receptionists
- ✓ ushers in theaters or sport stadiums

These people will expect a tip:

- ✓ restaurant server (15-20%)
- ✓ bartender (10-15%)
- ✓ coat check staff (\$1-2/coat)
- ✓ luggage handling (\$1-2/bag)
- ✓ hotel maid (\$1-2/day)
- ✓ hotel bell man for getting taxi for you (\$1)
- ✓ hair cut (15% except do not tip owner of shop)
- ✓ person who washes hair (\$2)
- ✓ valet parking attendant (\$2-5)
- ✓ taxi driver (15-20%)
- ✓ pizza/meal delivery (10-15%)
- ✓ flower delivery (\$2-5)



As always, use common sense here. If the person has climbed 100 stairs through four feet of snow to bring you a pizza, tip more. Or, if his service has been slow or surly, tip less.

Source: Newcomer's Almanac 2019 July Edition, The Interchange Institute

# AMERICA: HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?

Tutors and Students,  
How much do we know about  
America?

After completing the puzzle as a  
tutor-student team, submit the  
paper or a picture to Youmi.

We'll draw a winner on July 4<sup>th</sup>  
in celebration of our 243<sup>rd</sup>  
Independence Day.

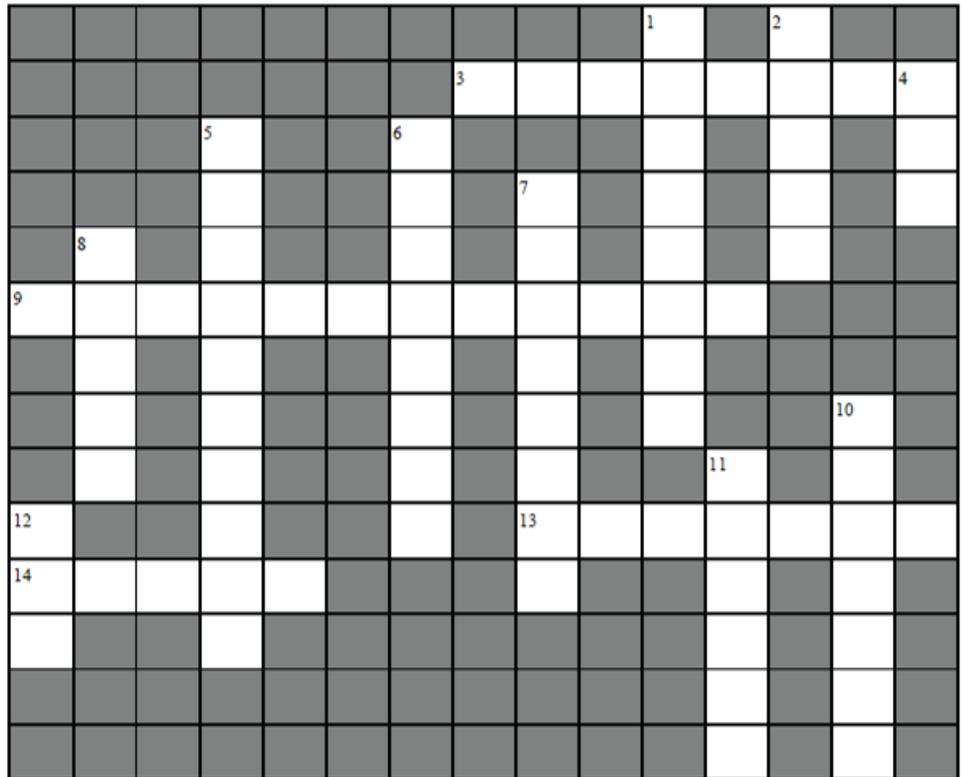
The winner will get \$30 gift card  
to Panera Bread!

## Across

3. What were the 13 original states of the United States called before they were states?
9. What holiday was celebrated for the first time by American colonists?
13. Independence Day celebrates independence from whom?
14. What color are the stars on our flag?

## Down

1. What is the head executive of a state government called?
2. How many stars are there on our flag?
4. How many years is a Senator's term?
5. What do we call changes to the Constitution?
6. What is the legislative branch of our government?
7. In what month is the new President elected?
8. How many branches are there in the United States government?
10. In what month is the new President inaugurated?
11. What was the 49th state added to our Union (the United States)?
12. For how many years is one term for a member of the House of Representatives?



Source: Practitioner Toolkit: Working With Adult English Language Learners CAL (Center for Applied Linguistics)



The puzzle questions are taken directly from the Sample Civics Questions from *A Guide to Naturalization* (USCIS, 2004). These are examples of questions a USCIS officer may ask during a citizenship interview. The sentences are also examples of the types of sentences a USCIS officer may ask an applicant to read aloud or write during the interview.

As a member of our community, it is important to understand the country we're living in. Here are some useful resources to help you create a lesson to talk about civics with your student.

- ☑ Study Materials for the Civics Test ⇒ <https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learners/study-test/study-materials-civics-test>
- ☑ Civics Lessons on Ted-Ed ⇒ <https://ed.ted.com/lessons?category=civics>
- ☑ Civics for ESL Students ⇒ <https://www.elcivics.com/>

# Sample Vocabulary List for Residency and Citizenship

affidavit	continuous residence	jeopardize
allegiance	criminal prosecution	judicial
amendments	Declaration of Independence	juvenile
applicant	eligible	legislative
asylee	Emancipation Proclamation	mayor
authorization	employment petition	moral character
Bill of Rights	evidence	national anthem
biographic data	executive	naturalization
cabinet member	federal	parole
citizenship	governor	permanent residency
civics	House of Representatives	petition
Civil War	immigrant	Pilgrims
colonists	immediate relative	refugee
Commander-in-Chief	inaugurate	republic
Congress	independence	Revolutionary War
Constitution	interpret	Senate

## Historical Event in Rhode Island - Bristol Fourth of July Parade

The Bristol Fourth of July Parade, or Bristol Fourth of July Celebration, founded in 1785, is a nationally known Fourth of July parade in Bristol, Rhode Island. The parade is part of the oldest Fourth of July celebration in the United States of America. The Parade has 25 bands, over a dozen floats, local New England teams and mascots, the Shriners, and most importantly over 200 Navy Sailors, Veterans from the Korean War, The Frozen Chosen, Vietnam War, Jewish War, the Rolling Thunder Group and an all-female Veterans Group.

The 234th Bristol Fourth of July Parade will be held on Thursday, July 4th, 2019. It will step-off at the corner of Chestnut Street and Hope Street, Bristol at 10:30am. If you visit the Parade, don't forget to send your pictures and an article to Youmi! 😊



# OUR STORIES

Dear All,

We are presently traveling across the US in our RV with a goal of Death Valley National Park, in California. Along the way, we were invited to visit Nourhan and her family. She was my first literacy student and she, her husband, and 3 children moved to Morgantown, West Virginia about two years ago. We have kept in contact by email. She has said she misses Rhode Island, and we had a delightful morning with her, her husband, and youngest daughter, Leen. Her two older children were in elementary school where they are beginning to study Chinese. We met for breakfast at Panera, then followed them to the condo they had bought near the hospital where her husband, a Cardiology Fellow continues his specialization. It was wonderful to see her again and I was pleased to notice her conversation in English has continued to improve.

- From your good friend Dorothy N.



## **Stefania had worked with her tutor for a year, and graduated from our program upon achieving her goal. Here's her story with us:**

Coming in the United States almost 4 years ago from Switzerland, without a word of English. Trying to do my best in my new life and learning this new language.

Last year I discovered the LVKC ESL adult program, I reach them out and I had a warm welcome. I past an assessment too see what was my level, and quickly I was assigned to Debbie my tutor.

We met once a week for two hours, she is wonderful, ready to help and was listening my need. During the year I decide to take a class for having the teacher assistant certificate, she helped me to achieve my goal, and last month I past the Parapro test and got my certificate. I am very grateful for all what she did for me. Thank you LVKC and thank you Debbie for having helped me to become a better English speaker.

-Stefania B.

## **Congratulations!!!**

*Let us take a moment  
to celebrate our students' achievements and  
to appreciate our wonderful tutors!*

☺ **Became a Citizen**

*Amy, Kara, Antonio*

☺ **Obtained a Green Card**

*Lina*

☺ **Received GED Credential**

*Ashley, Keith*

☺ **Got a Job**

*Elmas, Yan*

☺ **Joined the Training/Educational Course**

*Stefania, Kaitlynn, Kristiana*

☺ **Improved on Standardized Test**

*Hyun, Lina, Shufen, Xio, Vanessa*



# My experience in becoming a US citizen

by Qinge Li

As a new US citizen, I am so proud that I can share my experience with everyone.

I was surprised the process went so smoothly.

Information is available from [USICS.com](https://uscis.com). You must be a permanent resident in the United States for 5 years. During that 5 year period, you may leave The United States; however, you may not stay in another country more than 6 months. If you are married and your spouse is a US citizen you can apply for US citizenship in 3 years, not 5 years. The same 6 months travel outside the US restriction applies if you are married. When can you file the application (N-400 Form), you may file an application 90 days before you complete your permanent resident requirement. I recommend checking the website calculator ([USICS.com](https://uscis.com)) to determine your first day of eligibility. It will be based on when your permanent residence card(green card) was issued. If you don't check this, your application might be denied.

I decided to become a US citizen because I liked the opportunities available to me in America. I became more independent and challenged by these opportunities. However, I still appreciate my native country (China) where I grew up; I did not give up my attachment to my native country.

If you have decided to apply for US citizenship, they have two different ways to fill out the application (N-400 Form). I'd highly recommend filling out the form online if you're Internet savvy. That way you can check the progress of your case anytime. Another way is to mail your N-400 form to the USCIS. Either way, you must pay the naturalization fees at the same time you submit your form. You can pay with a check or money order if you're mailing your form in. You also can pay with a credit card but only if you're filing online. The naturalization fees include both the N-400 form application fee and the biometric services fee (fingerprint and photo). The total fee is \$725. The USCIS will send you a receipt of your payment. Subsequently, a letter will arrive with a date for your biometric appointment. I was scheduled for my biometric appointment two weeks after I filed online. At the biometric services center, you may get a naturalization test book; That book can help you study for your naturalization test. The book has 100 questions about US history.

Two weeks after my biometric appointment, I received my naturalization interview letter. That letter informed me that the test date would be in 2 weeks! I felt pressured that I had only 2 weeks to cram. I was lucky because friends and family have had to wait longer to get their test interview. I also heard that the wait time in other states can be lengthy. Lucky me, I had a helper, my volunteer tutor from LVKC. She's been teaching me English since 2013. She helps me with more than just English.

For the citizenship interview, normally people will arrive there a half hour early. Be sure to bring your interview letter with you, because you need to check in with that. The officer will call your name when they have your information ready. The naturalization test includes reading, writing and speaking. Before the test, an officer will review your case and ask you some simple information about you. Reading and Writing are both easy. You only need to read 3 sentences for reading. For writing, the officer will dictate 3 sentences and you must write them down. Those sentences are all from the test book. For speaking, the officer will ask you 10 questions from the test book, you only need to get 6 out of 10 correct. You will know the results immediately when the testing is done.

If you pass the test, you should receive a letter about taking the oath. Make sure you have your green card with you. That's important because USCIS will take your green card after you take the oath. You will no longer be an immigrant! You will be a US citizen. Remember one thing. You are not a US citizen until you take the oath of allegiance at the naturalization ceremony. On that day you will receive your certificate of citizenship.

Finally, I hope this article will help you if you decide to become a US citizen. Good luck!

