

Press Release: English At Large Celebrates the Achievements of Local Immigrants

June 12, 2019

English At Large (EAL) recently hosted its 2nd Annual Learner Graduation to celebrate the achievements of local immigrants enrolled in its Tutoring Program. Hosted at the Lexington Historic Depot, the event featured a formal ceremony to acknowledge the efforts of 48 learner graduates from 9 different communities who completed more than 100 hours of English language instruction to support the achievement of their life goals.

The evening's speakers included EAL tutor Denis Bradford and learners Olga Malynova of Lexington, who recently secured her first professional position in the U.S., and Adjo Zoumakpe of Bedford, who learned to read and write while enrolled in tutoring and also just passed the Citizenship Exam. Their stories were truly inspiring; each learner journey unique but made possible with the support of their EAL tutor.

Hicham Mouhsin, EAL Board President acknowledged the graduate learners in his remarks. "You have inspired the commitment of our board and our staff, the efforts of our volunteers and the support of our donors. You are the reason for our work and our mission and we could not be more proud of your accomplishments."

Maureen Willis, EAL Executive Director offered this message to the tutors and all EAL volunteers. "Your spirit of community and dedication to your learners is the driving force behind the success of English At Large. We, together with the learners who lives you impact in so many ways, say thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

Special thanks to refreshment donors Flatbread Pizza of Bedford, Food Link Arlington, Market Basket Supermarkets, Stop & Shop Lexington and Reading Cooperative Bank. Printing of the event program was donated by Standard Duplicating Machines of Andover.

EAL is a local nonprofit that provides individual and small group instruction through a volunteer network to adult immigrants and other newcomers who want to acquire English in order to adapt to life in the United States. Programs serve more than 500 learners in 21 communities each year, giving them the language skills they need to obtain a job or advance their career, enroll in school or training, obtain citizenship, support their children in school, and participate in community life. Learn more at www.englishatlarge.org.

Learner graduates participating in the ceremony include:

Acton: Kati Gorharkaboudi, tutored by Arlene Weiss; Jing (Ella) Wang, Florence Aldrich Bennett

Arlington: Omika Napit, tutored by Ellenjane Scheiner; Yumi Yoda, tutored by Sarah Harder

Bedford: Natalya Kovalchuk, tutored by Eleanor Carr; Adjo Zoumakpe, tutored by Denise Waldron

Lexington: Artur Ghazaryan, tutored by David Desjardins; Wenjing Guo, tutored by Maureen Bennani; Olga Malynova, tutored by Ilsa Gottlieb; Yoonam Park, tutored by Betty (Blume) Hopkins; Jin Zhao, tutored by Rita Debellis

Stoneham: Heba Kafa, tutored by Marilyn Pennachio; Eloisa Ramirez, tutored by Monica Chamberlain

Wakefield: Adeline Hibroj, tutored by Holly Turner; Lorena Santos, tutored by Geri Cummings

Waltham: Moliette Andrieux, tutored by Julia Hibben; Valentin Marinez Farias, tutored by Mihir Shah

Winchester: Sharon Tan, tutored by Cathy Murnane

Woburn: Blanca Pardo, tutored by Rosalind O’Sullivan

Congratulations to all our 2019 graduates of the English At Large Tutoring Program.

