

Greetings!  
Happy New Year!

While it may feel like 2022 is off to a rocky start, I am pleased to report that English At Large learners and volunteers continue to be optimistic and resilient, and focused on expanding their opportunities for a bright future. **This positive energy and commitment is contagious and inspires us every day!**

Here are some highlights that I don't want you to miss:

- Our **Spring Conversation Groups** are fully enrolled; virtual group meetings will begin next week and run through May.
- In December, we hosted our first-ever virtual **Learner Enrichment Event**, Learner Jeopardy! Great fun was had by all. As part of this new project, we plan to offer monthly activities to engage our learners outside of their regular instructional program hours. **Read on to learn more!**
- We were beyond excited when the **New England Patriots chose EAL volunteer Phyllis Brooks as a 2021 Difference Maker!** She was nominated for this honor by EAL staff, in recognition of her *17 years of service* as a volunteer tutor. Links to the announcement and highlights from the recognition event can be found below.

Like you, we are looking to the spring of 2022 as a time to return to in-person programs and events. Until then we remain committed to keeping our programs accessible to as many learners as possible, while also helping everyone feel connected and safe.

**Your continued support of English At Large helps make this possible.**

Thank you for all that you do to make our world a better place for others.

Best regards,  
Maureen

*Maureen Willis, Executive Director*  
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## EAL Phyllis Brooks is honored by the New England Patriots as a 2021 Difference Maker!



**PHYLLIS ELLIS**  
**ENGLISH AT LARGE**  
WOBURN, MASS.

- Lexington, Mass. resident
- Nonprofit provides free English language services to adult immigrants and refugees in 21 communities
- Longest-serving volunteer tutor – since 2004
- Tailors her instruction to meet learner's individual needs; often takes on clients with more immediate and critical language needs
- Has helped many learners achieve life goals including employment, passing the citizenship exam, furthering their education, communicating with teachers and doctors, and more



Meeting: Job Hunt  
Job Hunt  
Job Hunt

Unmute  
Participants  
Chat

While we truly believe that all our volunteers are real Difference Makers, we had to nominate Phyllis for this special distinction!

Phyllis joined EAL as a volunteer tutor in 2004, and has delivered more than 1,200 hours of tutoring instruction, helping her learners achieve their life goals.

**The impact of her service is truly immeasurable!**

[Read the full Press Release Here](#)

## Learner Enrichment Events

In December we were excited to launch a new *Learner Enrichment* project, inspired by information gained through a recent learner focus group.

Moving forward, we plan to host monthly events for our learners, alternating fun "Learner Game" activities with informational opportunities, including this month's "Ask a Teacher" event.

We look forward to sharing updates on the success of this project in future newsletters!



**Special Thanks to our [NAIP AmeriCorps Member](#) Julia Mason, for volunteering to organize and lead this exciting new project!**



**Now Enrolling for March 2022:  
CAL Career Groups**

CAL's 15-week Career Group Program is for adult learners who want to gain the skills they need to secure employment and/or advance their career in the U.S.

Enrolled learners will receive instruction and coaching on all aspects of a job search, including resumes, interviews and networking.

[Learn more about the Career Access Lab Here](#)

### **Save the Date**

for the EAL 2022 Online Auction  
*A Bid for Literacy*

Featuring gift certificates, tickets to sporting and entertainment events, local venues and more!

**February 28 to March 27, 2022**

**[Bookmark this page and plan to BID HIGH to support EAL Programs!](#)**



**Watch for an Auction Preview in next month's newsletter!**

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**Donate now to English At Large**

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[www.englishatlarge.org](http://www.englishatlarge.org)

