



# LITERACY link

TEACH Newsletter - TUTORS

December 2019

## TUTOR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Mrs. Rouhi Fan has been a TEACH student for almost two years, and she is lucky to have two TEACH tutors help her learn English! One of her tutors, Sr. Jane Nienaber, is a Joliet Franciscan in her second year as Rouhi's volunteer tutor. Sister Jane loves to teach English, and this is what she says about Rouhi: "I continue to marvel at her eagerness to learn. Rouhi works very hard at home and during our sessions. She is a joy to work with."

Her other tutor, Larry Rosenbaum, is one of the busiest tutors we have at TEACH. He tutors several students in various locations in addition to Rouhi. Larry really enjoys the diverse backgrounds of his students, and he loves when they share their culture and traditions. This is what Larry says about Rouhi: "Rouhi is a very happy person and always has a very good attitude. She is enthusiastic and has a great sense of humor. She is always laughing and smiling."

Rouhi came to the U.S. from Shanghai, China in 2010. She is 80 years old and has two children and three grandchildren.

She walks (sometimes using her walker) to and from the Downers Grove Library every Monday to get to her tutoring sessions. Her tutors are very impressed with Rouhi's ability to use her cell phone for both translating and practicing English. She is definitely a modern student! This is what Rouhi says about her teachers:



TEACH Tutor: Larry Rosenbaum, Student: Rouhi Fan, TEACH Tutor: Sr. Jane Nienaber

"My teachers help me speak better; They bring me good books and papers to learn from; Sr. Jane showed me apps on the phone to practice."

Her tutors would like to share a paragraph that Rouhi wrote for homework. She is a great inspiration to us all!

*I walk to the library need 15 minutes. My heart already flown to the library. Because I like my teacher. I like to learn English I feel very happy that English has improved. I can understand simple sentences. I have to work hard to learn English.*



*Need a reason to join us on January 25, 2020 for an afternoon of wine, hors d'oeuvres and fun?*

Well here it is:  
*Proceeds will go towards the cost of a new textbook series called Ventures.*

Cambridge Ventures 3rd Edition has been specifically developed for adult ESL learners.

**What do we like about it?** Everything! It's similar to our beloved Side by Side series in content and topics, and it challenges our students to improve in all the language skill areas: reading, writing, listening, speaking and grammar.

**The best feature?** There are QR codes in each unit that give students access to audio and video lessons using just their smartphones.

So, help us move toward 2020 technology, and have a good time as well! For more information and tickets, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/teach-winter-wine-tasting-fundraiser-tickets-85301159063>

Dear Friends,

### Constantine's Corner

This special time of year is celebrated in so many cultures: Christian *Christmas*, Chinese *Dong zhi*, Jewish *Hannukah*, Hindi *Makar Sankranti*, Irish *La an Dreoilin*, Hopi *Soyal*, Persian *Yalda* and countless more festivals, holidays and holy days around the world.

What they all have in common is that they celebrate the season when the darkest days give way to light and warmth. They symbolize birth and renewal, and give us time to rejoice in finding illumination in darkness, enjoy the warmth of family and friends, and feel the light within us all.

This is not unlike what immigrants and refugees feel when they reach their new homes: they see that there is light beyond the darkness, and rejoice in the rebirth of hope and renewal of their dreams.

To our students, you are a light; you help them find means to reach their dreams and to build new lives. So when you feel the joy, hope and renewal this season brings, please also rejoice that your time and generosity have helped your students experience those feelings as well.

Peace, Constantine





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Welcome our new staff!  
INTRODUCING THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM!

Hi Everyone!

I'm Amy Smetana and I'm a new Program Manager at TEACH. I've enjoyed my time so far meeting all the great people that make TEACH a welcoming place!



I am at three sites: Brookfield Tuesday mornings, Summit Wednesday evenings, and Downers Grove Thursday evenings. I also keep in touch with our offsite tutors and students. I can be reached at [asmctana@teachempowers.org](mailto:asmctana@teachempowers.org) or (708) 968-7023.

Since college, I have worked with a variety of students, from beginner to advanced, to help them improve their English skills and become familiar with US culture. In 2018, I earned my TEFL certificate. I also have years of non-profit experience in youth development and program coordination.

I am a lover of language, travel, nature, and social issues. I speak Spanish and am learning Arabic. Here's a picture of me when I was in Lebanon learning Arabic this summer. I miss the warm weather and hospitality!

Amy

TEACH is sponsoring a health literacy course that is designed for tutors and students to attend together. This eight-session course was created by health professionals. The Brookfield site finished the Health Literacy Classes on December 10th. Our Summit Library site will start the Health Literacy Classes on March 4, 2020. You and your student are welcome to join us!



## BERWYN LIBRARY



TEACH is partnering with the Berwyn Library in 2020 to provide tutoring. The Library has staff who are approved by the Department of Justice to help applicants complete the Naturalization application Form 400 at no cost to the applicant. You do not have to live in Berwyn to receive these services. We already have four (4) students waiting for tutoring and one (1) who wants to prepare to obtain her citizenship.

## Amazon Smiles for TEACH

### Looking for another way to support TEACH?

Do you shop at Amazon? Well, Amazon offers a simple way for you to support TEACH... it's AmazonSmile.

Click the link below.

<https://www.teachempowers.org/support-teach/amazon-smiles-for-teach/>



If you have a Facebook account, look for us at Teach Empowers. Help us spread our message by giving us a like!



We hope you can join us at our next Professional Development Meeting!

February 7, 2020  
9:30 am to 11:00 am  
Mother House  
Welcome Hall  
1515 W. Ogden  
LaGrange Park, IL