



Providing adults who live in or near Ottawa County with an opportunity to improve and transform their lives by strengthening their reading and language fluency.

November 2025 Newsletter

Change a Life! Give Today!



Lee Overman knows what it is like to live in a place where she doesn't know the language. She served in the U.S. Navy in the communications-electronics field and she and her husband of 44 years have had the great fortune to work and travel around the world. As a READ Ottawa tutor, Lee enjoys helping her learners develop communication skills in order to thrive in the community. This is important to her as she knows first hand how isolating and frustrating the language barrier can be.

When Lee speaks of tutoring for READ Ottawa she says, "It's honestly one of the most rewarding things I have ever done." Quite astounding when Lee's retirement from the U.S. Navy sent her to Colorado for a master's in Psychology and to Oxford for a doctorate in Archeology. In addition to tutoring 2 learners, Lee directs the Center for Cognitive Archeology in Colorado.

Lee is thankful for Richelle Hofman and her attention to detail and encouragement. She also notes, with great admiration, the diligent work of her learners. "Progress can be slow at times," says Lee, "but spending time with them (the learners) brings me great joy."

The Bookman Presents

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AT THE RITZIEST AFFAIR THIS SIDE OF WEST EGG!


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AND STEP INTO A JAZZ-AGE CELEBRATION
AT THE SWANKY LILLEY MANSION

TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 11TH
6-8 P.M.

ENJOY
DELECTABLE EATS AND "GIGGLE WATER",
JAZZ MUSIC, AND A COSTUME CONTEST
THAT WILL MAKE JAY GATSBY GREEN WITH ENVY!

CHEERS
TO 100 YEARS OF
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OTTAWA COUNTY



READ
OTTAWA

SAVE THE DATE!



READ
OTTAWA

9TH ANNUAL SCRABBLE TOURNAMENT

Thursday, April 23 at the Grand Haven Eagles

MORE DETAILS TO COME!

All proceeds will support READ's efforts
to strengthen of reading and language skills of adults in Ottawa County!



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WAWL
Whitecaps



The Director's Corner

A Season of Gratitude

As I reflect on the past eight months, it is clear how much we at READ Ottawa have to be grateful for. I am reminded that helping adults strengthen their reading, writing and English language skills happens because of the amazing people who believe in our mission and keep giving.

First, to our volunteer tutors – you are the heart of READ Ottawa. You show up week after week with patience, encouragement, and compassion – meeting learners where they are and helping them grow in ways that go far beyond literacy. The time you invest truly transforms lives and your commitment inspires us all.

To our individual donors, sponsors and community partners – thank you for standing beside us. Your financial contributions, in-kind gifts, collaborations and advocacy allow us to reach more adults throughout Ottawa County. Through your generosity, you help create a stronger, more connected community based on literacy.

A special thank you to our volunteers behind the scenes – those who serve on our Board of Directors, serve on our committees, help at events, and the many that offer their skills in countless unseen ways. Your contributions may not always be in the spotlight, but they make an enormous difference every single day.

And to our Learners – thank you for your courage and determination. You inspire us with your drive to improve your skills and build better futures for yourselves and your families. Your success stories remind us why this work matters so deeply.

Lastly, I want to express my deepest appreciation to our READ Ottawa staff. Their dedication, creativity, and compassion make this organization what it is. From pairing tutors with learners, organizing training sessions, managing Learning Circles and Meet and Greets, they truly are the backbone of this program. Each staff member goes above and beyond their duties every day because they are committed and are passionate about our mission.

Together, with our staff, tutors, partners, sponsors and volunteers, we are transforming lives through literacy. Thank you for your belief in our mission and for being part of this vital effort.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Vicki Ellis
Executive Director

Interested in becoming a tutor? RSVP through one of the following:

Filling out the form at <https://readottawa.org/volunteer>

Email Lynn Groothuis at lynn@readottawa.org

Call Lynn at 616-414-0295

"Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope." Kofi Annan



Website: www.readottawa.org

Email: info@readottawa.org

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