

Serendipity

Yranne Rivera Osorio, an experienced, professional nurse from Venezuela, and Kim Schroeder, a retired nurse and previous Director of Adult Education, were brought together by forces unknown to them. Some would call it—serendipity.

Last July, LVSSC reached out to our tutors inquiring if any were available to take an additional student. Kim answered the call and was delighted to receive Yranne's contact information. During their first meeting, Yranne shared her goal to obtain her Registered Nurse license in the U.S.



Kim knows that the Florida Board of Nursing has strict educational, English, and testing requirements for foreign-educated nurses. Although Yranne has 5 years of University training in nursing and extensive clinical experience, the journey will be long and challenging.

As part of Kim's educational plan, Yranne attends regular group tutoring at the North Port library as well as working with a Start Now! tutor. Yranne is spending several hours each week studying basic English terms and learning about American culture. Kim's plan is to build upon and reinforce the ESL curriculum while adding medical terminology. And so the journey began!

Yranne learned medical terminology and abbreviations quickly. Kim challenged her with clinical questions and soon realized that Venezuela uses different medical equipment. Another level of learning was required—showing pictures of common medical equipment and explaining their use.

Kim also used Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) resources to prepare Yranne to take the CNA exam.

In spring of 2019, Yranne surprised Kim with a Certificate of Completion from a CNA training program. The next hurdle was the actual exam. Yranne passed her CNA written and clinical exams on her first attempt! Congratulations!

In addition to learning English and American nursing practices, Yranne had other challenges. She worked diligently for nearly a year to obtain her Venezuelan educational records which Kim knew were required for the Board of Nursing's evaluation process. The records finally arrived, and Kim submitted them for formal translation and evaluation. She introduced Yranne to the West Coast Chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses based in Tampa. Yranne joined the organization and can now benefit from nurses who have had similar journeys.

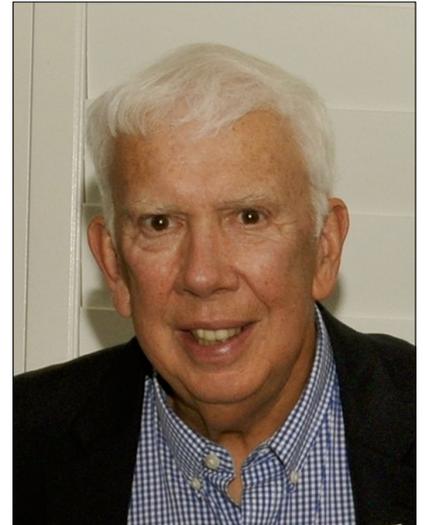
Continued on page 2

President's Corner - Focus on Finances

The Literacy Volunteers begins its 37th Fall providing direct literacy services to our neighbors in our South Sarasota area. If you are reading this newsletter, you can thank a teacher or in our case one of nearly 200 tutors. To each tutor, thank you for your continued dedication to our adult students. To our students, thank you for having the courage to learn a new language as you carry on your busy lives.

Each year, LVSSC directors and staff work to raise the necessary funds to operate our organization. Because our literacy services to students are free and the organization receives no government funding, raising dollars and limiting expenses are always on our minds.

We are pleased to announce that David Baldacci will be the speaker at our winter fundraiser on March 12, 2020 at the Plantation Golf and Country Club. Net proceeds from this event will go directly toward helping with our annual operating costs. More information on buying tickets or becoming a sponsor can be found on our website, www.literacychangeslives.org. This promises to be a fabulous evening with a world class author. Only 300 tickets are going to be available in this intimate setting. Thinking of a special Christmas gift?



Jim Patterson

As we strive to make LVSSC a strong, financially-sustaining organization, we are pleased that the new LVSSC Foundation is now alive and growing. Would you consider making a tax-deductible legacy gift by gifting a sum either directly or to come from your estate to this worthy cause? The annual income from your legacy gifts will be used to support our annual operating budget. For more information on the Foundation, please contact Joe Pokorney at joe@lancastermcginty.com.

We look forward to the 2019-2020 season as we help our students achieve their goals. Without your help no progress can be made.

Thank you for your interest and dedication to Literacy Volunteers.

Save these dates!

Fri. Feb. 7 Opens at 5:00	Jumping Under the Stars	Fox Lea Farm, Venice
Thu. Mar. 12 5:30 pm	An Evening with David Baldacci	Plantation Golf & Country Club
Wed. Mar. 25 1:00 pm	Annual Card & Game Party	Jacaranda Trace, Venice

Continued from page 1

Yranne and Kim continue their work. They attended information sessions at the State College of Florida's nursing and English programs. They are working on the resume and cover letter along with advanced English curriculum. Yranne's next big challenge is passing the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam.

On a wonderful personal note, Yranne found love and married. Her husband Don, has been dedicated to Yranne's learning and provides invaluable support. Thank you, Don!

Kim is honored to mentor this exceptional student. We congratulate her for her achievements.

Literacy Volunteers present:

AN EVENING WITH DAVID BALDACCI

PLANTATON GOLF &
COUNTRY CLUB
VENICE

March 12th, 2020
5:30 PM

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE HERE:

Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County
www.literacychangeslives.org
(941) 861-1352



Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County announces its second annual author event at Plantation Golf and Country Club featuring:

New York Times Best-Selling Author David Baldacci

The event will begin at 5:30 pm with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. After David speaks, there will be time for questions and answers. Copies of David's books will be available for purchase, and he will sign them. Tickets are available at: <https://www.literacychangeslives.org/events>

LVSSC COMPUTER LAB WORKSHOPS FOR TUTORS



Rosetta Stone  and Rocket English 

Plus, FREE online tutoring resources you can use on any device

FALL WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:

Wednesday, October 23, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Friday, November 15, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Monday, December 9, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

ADDRESS:

North Port Family Service Center

(LVSSC Start Now! Office/Computer Lab)

6919 Outreach Way, Suite B

North Port, FL 34287

(941) 429-3717

To register, please contact:

Karen at NP Library: north.port.literacy@gmail.com, (941) 861-1320

Peter at Venice Library: venice.literacy@gmail.com, (941) 861-1352

Kim at LVSSC Start Now! Office: start.now.north.port@gmail.com, (941) 429-3717

Student Success Story - Putting New Writing Skills to Use

Rosemarie Sulzbach, long-time ESL class instructor, is pleased that one of her students, Oksana, had such good results from their lesson on “How to Write a Complaint Letter.”

Oksana wrote to her insurance company using the letter format she learned in class. She explained that her family and many of their Russian-speaking friends have that insurance. She wrote, “For some reason, we were transferred to another doctor who does not speak Russian.” Their doctor spoke Russian, and some of them aren’t able to communicate effectively in English yet. Oksana asked, “Is it possible to return our doctor to us, or do you have other doctors who speak Russian?”

Oksana received a call from the insurance company saying their doctor would be returned to them. Rosemarie thinks that other adult language learners will be encouraged by Oksana’s confidence.



Oksana Drobina

News from the North Port Coordinator

LVSSC now has a Level 0 class (Beginning ESL) that started on Wednesday, August 14, at Shannon Staub Library. The volunteer instructor for that class is Roni Meyer-Force.

The following Literacy Volunteers’ students became citizens recently: Liliya Soifer, Igor Soyfer, Grazyna Pierzak, Ekaterina Shpak and Yudania Baracalda. Alisa Ricardo passed her test and will join the list of new citizens shortly. The Myakka Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) of Venice provides American flags for our new citizens.

The North Port Public Library will be closed from Nov. 25 until early Jan. 2020 to upgrade the air conditioning system. The North Port Literacy Office Coordinator, Karen Bridegam, will be working off-site during this closing. Current and potential tutors and adult learners may contact her via email at north.port.literacy@gmail.com.

Continuing Education for Tutors

Phonemic Awareness Training using Barton Reading & Spelling System materials

Most LVSSC tutors are working with ESL students. The reading foundation that you will acquire in this training can help ESL students who speak English well, but who want to improve their English reading, spelling, and pronunciation skills. It will be particularly helpful to students who need to read difficult material to satisfy professional and university requirements.

Monday, November 11	10:00 – 4:00	West Villages Office Park
Thursday, December 12	10:00 – 4:00	Start Now Office, North Port Family Service Center
Thursday, January 30	10:00 – 4:00	North Port Library
Tuesday, March 3	10:00 – 4:00	Shannon Staub Library

Please register 2 weeks or more in advance for one of these classes via email to Karen Bridegam, north.port.literacy@gmail.com or 941-861-1320. Karen will email you instructions for pre-class preparation.

Literacy Volunteers' Value to Our Communities

July 2018 - June 2019



\$358,300

Estimated value of

11,519 Instructional Hours to Adult Learners
Reading, Writing, and Speaking English

6,789 Non-Instructional Volunteer Hours
Tutors Prep & Travel, Tutor Trainers, and Board Members

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics 2018 Occupational Wage Estimates
for workers in North Port - Sarasota - Bradenton

COMMUNITY OUTREACH - TELLING OTHERS WHAT WE DO

Several times each year, volunteers are needed to represent Literacy Volunteers at community events and talk with potential tutors, students, and donors about our organization. In North Port, Newcomer Day happens three times per year and is a good opportunity to talk with new residents about becoming volunteer tutors.



Tutor Ruth Boysworth and ESL student Natasha Kulenko

Another North Port outreach event is the Community Wellness Fair at New Hope Community Church. This photo was taken on Oct. 12 when Ruth and Natasha and Board members Paddy Padmanabhan and David Williams represented LVSSC. Ruth said, "We had an interesting time, met a lot of new people, and handed out some brochures."

In Venice, volunteers will be needed for our booth at the Venice Book Fair on March 21 in Blalock Park and at the Rotary Club's Annual Fine Arts and Crafts Festival on January 18-19 at the Venice Airport Festival Grounds.

A new outreach and fundraising event will take place at "Jumping Under the Stars" at Fox Lea Farm on Auburn Road in Venice on Feb. 7. Literacy Volunteers will be taking tickets, shuttling attendees in golf carts, and selling beer and 50/50 tickets. Fox Lea Farm hosts various types of horse shows throughout the year that attract visitors from all over North America to Venice.

Watch for emails requesting volunteers for these events. We hope you'll join us.

Empowering Students with Guided Self-Study

LVSSC was fortunate to have the creative efforts of tutor Walt Koenig design a course called ‘**English Quick Start**’ for our Computer Lab in the North Port Family Service Center. The program was piloted this spring (2019) with five students participating and was focused on lower level learners. The techniques demonstrated could be used with any level students. The class met once a week. Each class was ‘stand-alone,’ so missing a lesson was not an issue.



Walt Koenig (standing) with course students

The key to the program was student empowerment. Within 3 months, students would ideally move from the lower to the Intermediate level if they practiced the techniques taught in class for one hour a day. It was better if a student had a tutor, but by empowering the student, the program worked well even if a tutor had not yet been assigned.

The ‘**English Quick Start Guide**’ we developed contained the following:

Encourage students to read as much as possible:

We assigned an interesting text, some of which the students could choose to listen to online. We found that text from Newsela.com and Voice of America (learningenglish.voanews.com) are quite effective. The optimum learning sequence is to:

- listen to the recording 3 times and learn what you can
- read along while listening
- read it out loud yourself
- record yourself reading it and compare

We also used *Side by Side* and other texts to reinforce the day’s learning objectives. We sent the links out to the students via email the week before the class so the students could do the reading and look up any vocabulary they needed or they could do the lesson if they could not come to class.

Sizeable Vocabulary:

We know that with the right words a person needs only 625 words to express themselves in any language; 1,000 words gives a person 80% proficiency. So emphasis was put on key vocabulary. Students used an online translation application (we used Google Translate) with their native language. This can even be used in the grocery store! We introduced students to a flash card memorization app (we used ANKI) or a method such as ‘Goldlist.’

Use a Self-Study Program:

Our computer lab has self-study courses like Rosetta Stone and Rocket English. The students were encouraged to sign up and use the programs consistently. If the students were lucky enough to have been matched with a tutor, the tutor’s job was then to provide **comprehensive input just above the student’s level, not total immersion** which is too overwhelming. Also, the tutor was a resource to clarify any areas of confusion.

We didn’t obsess about grammar. That will come naturally as students get more exposure by reading and listening. We encouraged the class to make these activities part of the student’s lifestyle and incorporate them into everyday activities.

Perhaps the best outcome is that students learned and comprehended English as it is actually used! They were empowered to continue to use these techniques with or without our help.

We plan to do more of this in the future.

Welcome New Tutors

THANK YOU to these volunteers who will be making a difference in lives of adults who want to learn English or improve their reading skills.

On September 20 and 27, these volunteers were trained by Denise Gastineau, Tutor Trainer, at the William H. Jervey, Jr. Venice Public Library.



Front Left to Right: Nancy Barusso, Alma Martinez, Rosemary Peterson, Denise Gastineau (Tutor Trainer), Steve Arbuckle, and Peter Norman (Coordinator in our Venice office)
Back Left to Right: Mike Kenney, Dianne Kimball, Katie Flynn, Bill Sitterley, Lynette Barr, and Nancy Williams

Tutor Training for New Volunteers - Please tell your friends!

Wednesdays, November 13 and 20: 2-day tutor training at **West Villages Office Park**
Tuesdays, December 3 and 10: 2-day tutor training at **West Villages Office Park**
Reserve for West Villages sessions and 1-hour Orientation with Karen Bridegam at north.port.literacy@gmail.com or 941-861-1320.

Fridays, January 10 and 17: 2-day tutor training at **Venice Public Library**
Reserve for Venice sessions and 1-hour Orientation with Peter Norrman at venice.literacy@gmail.com or 941-861-1352.

Saturdays, February 1 and 8: 2-day tutor training at **Shannon Staub Library, North Port**
Reserve for Shannon Staub sessions and 1-hour Orientation with Karen Bridegam at north.port.literacy@gmail.com or 941-861-1320.

Note: The 1-hour Orientation is a prerequisite for tutor training.

Thank You for Your Financial Support!

July 2018- June 2019

\$10,000 or more

Dollar General Literacy Foundation
United Way of South Sarasota County

\$5,000

Gulf Coast Community Foundation
Arline Smyth Quinn Charitable Foundation

\$2,000 - \$2500

Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Plantation Community Foundation

\$1,000

Heron Creek Community Foundation
Joyner Family Insurance
Dorothy Louise Kyler Foundation
Marianne Koerner
Venice Regional Bayfront Health
Walmart Foundation
Women's Sertoma

\$500

George Carpenter
George Cooper
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PGT Industries
Madeline Smith
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Women of the Moose

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Kings Gate Round Table
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Judith Pike
David & Nancy Pike
Tackett Wealth Management
Venice Yacht Club Charitable Foundation
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Robert Rainer
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Mykola Shablatovych
Jean West-Walker
Judith Wolf

\$50 - \$99

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Dan and Judith Dees
Marc Hapke
Doris Harper
Lynn Hippensteel
Joseph & Kathryn Ladu
Brian McMenamin
Bob & Marge Miller
John Moynihan
Linda Rines
Helen & John Russette
James Sager
Jennifer & Vincent Sites
Philip Smith
Kevin Van Kleeck
Janita Wisch
Leslie Yard

Thanks, too, to everyone who purchased tickets for the Evening with Randy Wayne White.
Also, thanks to those who attended the 13th Annual Card & Game Party
and those who donated to the United Way of South Sarasota County Community Walk.

Revenue, Expenses, and Net Assets for the Year Ended June 30, 2019

Revenue

Contributions - Unrestricted	\$23,196
Fundraising Events	\$11,075
Grants - Temporarily Restricted	\$21,650
United Way of South Sarasota County	<u>\$9,833</u>
Total Revenue	\$65,754

Use of Sarasota County Libraries in Venice and North Port
and the skilled services provided by our wonderful volunteers **PRICELESS!**

Expenses

Community Outreach and Recruitment	\$475
Copier Maintenance and Copies	\$399
Direct Mailing	\$2,000
English Literacy Computer Lab	\$5,292
Equipment purchases and repairs	\$3,609
Florida State Nonprofit Corporation registrations	\$145
Insurance - Directors and Officers	\$775
Miscellaneous	\$26
National, State, and Local Memberships	\$472
Office Supplies and Software	\$1,625
Printing, publications, and postage	\$1,260
Start Now! North Port Rent, Phone, Internet, Insurance	\$8,937
Training Materials	\$3,008
Venice Library Moving from Temporary Library	\$125
Volunteer/Student Recognition	\$235
Wages and Payroll Taxes	\$43,200
Website and Domain Names	<u>\$673</u>
Total Expenses	\$72,256

Change in Net Assets

Net Assets - Beginning of the Year	\$65,211
Excess or (Deficit) for 2018-2019 year	(\$6,502)
Transfer to the Foundation of Literacy Volunteers S.S.C.	<u>(\$5,000)</u>
Net Assets - End of the Year	\$53,709

Sandy McIntyre, Treasurer ■

**Literacy Volunteers
of South Sarasota County**
300 Nokomis Ave. S.
Venice, FL 34285

Literacy Changes Lives



FIRST CLASS

Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County

www.LiteracyChangesLives.org

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300 Nokomis Ave. S.
Venice, FL 34285 Phone: 941-861-1352
venice.literacy@gmail.com

North Port Literacy Office, 13800 S. Tamiami Trail
North Port, FL 34287 Phone: 941-861-1320
north.port.literacy@gmail.com

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