



# English Express

Summer 2019

## Polish Psychology

Eliza Andrzejczyk is from Plock, Poland. She has been a U.S. resident twice, and has been back in the States for a few years. During her first stay she came to live in New Jersey shortly after marrying her American sweetheart. During that stay Eliza did not have a tutor and did not learn to speak good English. She lives in North Port now with her husband and two children. Since returning, Eliza found Literacy Volunteers and Nancy Buffalini to help her with the language.

Although Eliza studied English in Poland, she believes that conversation with native speakers is key to learning the language well. She speaks, reads and writes in English quite nicely and credits Nancy with much of her success.

Eliza is a multi-talented, hardworking woman. She earned a master's degree in psychology in Poland and is now looking for an internship here in Florida that will lead to certification as a psychologist. She is a U.S. citizen and eager to join the professional ranks. Meanwhile she has a YouTube channel, in Polish, for young people who are facing challenges in relationships. Eliza says that teenagers are all the same, with the same problems. She has over 200,000 YouTube subscribers. She is also enjoys riding horses and volunteers as an assistant for an Equine Therapeutic Riding service for autistic children.

Eliza's attraction to the Sarasota area is because it is like Europe in that there is a great



deal of outdoor activity. In Poland people engage for all sorts of outdoor events, something Eliza enjoys here as well.

We wish Eliza well as she continues to improve her English and moves forward to become a certified psychologist.

## Literacy Volunteers Earns Silver Star Rating



Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County earned a 2019 Silver Seal by adding information to our Nonprofit Profile on GuideStar. Now our community members as well as 10+ million GuideStar users can find in-depth financial information about our organization.

*Literacy Changes Lives!*

## Asia Connection

LVSSC tutors, Mike Nevinger and Pam Shakong have been quietly and unassumingly developing a “network” of Vietnamese students in the Venice area. Mike does most of the tutoring; Pam takes care of the ‘behind-the-scenes’ paperwork. Together they make a great team who has affected the lives of many.

Here’s how it started. First they met a young woman of Vietnamese background who was working in a local nail salon. With their help, the student learned English in our ESL program.

Of course, the best recommendation for our work is by word of mouth. And so it was with Mike and Pam. Their student referred coworkers to them. And of course, those students referred someone else, then another and another. Now Mike works with 23 students and Pam works with one. The bond between these tutors and students grew so great that Mike and Pam have gone with some of their students to Vietnam and even attended a wedding in Vietnam.

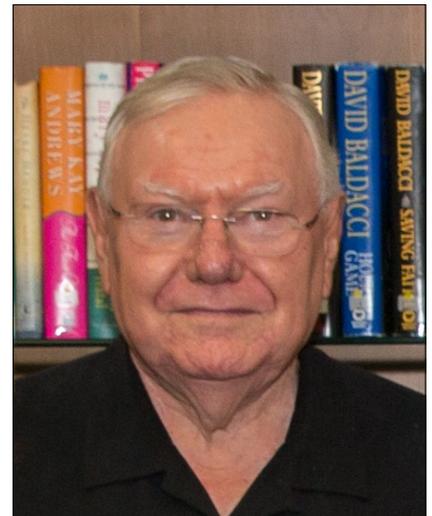
We recently learned some outstanding news from Pam. Three of their students, Mr. Long Van Le, Ms. Dung (Anna) Truong and Ms. Quan Vong all became U.S. citizens. Oh, and Pam just announced that Mike has four new Vietnamese students.

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## President’s Comments

It is time to review the past year and a half and look ahead to the next opportunities and challenges for Literacy Volunteers. Over the past year we have successfully completed our first annual fundraising event, The Evening with Randy Wayne White, established our own Foundation, moved into our new office and tutoring space in the Venice Library, hired Peter Norrman, our new Venice coordinator, held another wonderful Card Party, and expanded our student classes and our Tutor Training and Continuing Education opportunities. Through the hard work of our tutors, staff, and Board we have enjoyed the opportunity to improve the English language skills of hundreds of students. I want to thank all of the individuals who make LVSSC such a wonderful organization that I have been proud to lead. As we look ahead to next year, I hope you all will join with Jim Patterson to continue our mission. We will need continued support for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Authors Event and other fundraising activities. We hope to expand our efforts in Workforce Literacy, and continue to meet the increasing demand for English education.



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## Save These 2020 Dates!

Thu 2/20 6:00 pm	<b>2nd Annual Literacy Evening</b>	Venice Yacht Club
Wed 3/25 1:00 pm	<b>Annual Card &amp; Game Party</b>	Jacaranda Trace, Venice
Sat 4/4 8:30 am	<b>United Way Community Walk</b>	Florida State College Campus
Tue 4/28-29 12 to 12	<b>Annual Giving Challenge</b>	On-Line Fundraising Event

## ***Tutor Appreciation and Annual Meeting Luncheon***

This year, LVSSC met in the Community Room of our new Venice Library. The room was very accommodating and full of high-tech gadgets for audiovisuals. To everyone's' delight, Board member Janita Wisch decorated the room with tiny lights and confetti. It was so very festive! Over eighty members attended, a mixture of donors, tutors and students.

Joe Pokorney, President welcomed the group, gave a brief review of our accomplishments for the year and presented the slate of officers for 2019-2020. They are Dr. Jim Patterson, President; Penny Corell, Vice president; Nancy Pike, Secretary; and Sandy McIntyre, Treasurer.

Jim Patterson unveiled The Foundation of the Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County, recently established to support LVSSC. Once it is publicized, we hope to receive legacy gifts that will generate income in the future. This will allow us to meet the increasing demands for improvement of literacy in our service area.

Laura Gregory, one of our busiest tutor volunteers, gave us a presentation on fun activities for the classroom. And just as Laura does in her classes, she soon had us all singing.

Tutor Charles Francis had his student Ximena Teran talk to us about her experience learning English. Nancy Buffilina's student, Eliza, shared her experiences as well.

Claudia Daniels, our talented grant writer and board member, who is from Germany, talked about her experience learning English and gave us amusing examples of a German idiom 'bitte'.

Thank you to all who attended and thank you to all our tutors and donors for all you do to make our organization successful in its mission to Change Lives. See next page for photos.

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## ***Come to an Orientation & Explore Tutoring***

Over a year ago, we began to conduct orientation sessions for those who are interested in becoming LVSSC tutors. The Orientations have been well received and now have become a prerequisite for the 2 day tutor training course. This one-hour session answers many questions for new volunteers. With this in-depth information, the potential tutor can make an informed decision about going further. The orientations are scheduled during the week before tutor training. They are held in both North Port and Venice. Call either of our Coordinators to register for Orientation.

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## ***Tutor Continuing Education***

We are continuing to offer special Continuing Education sessions for tutors. These were very well received last year as they brought like-minded volunteers together to learn and share ideas. We are offering more opportunities such as using Skype or FaceTime and the Computer Lab. We urge our tutors to attend two or three Continuing Education sessions this year. There is a schedule of all activities on page 9. As new sessions are added, tutors will be notified via e-mail.

# Tutor Appreciation and Annual Meeting Luncheon



# Celebrate Literacy With Your Cell Phone!

## Join Team Sarasota-Manatee for the ALXP Communities Competition



**Funded Through Generous Grants From:**



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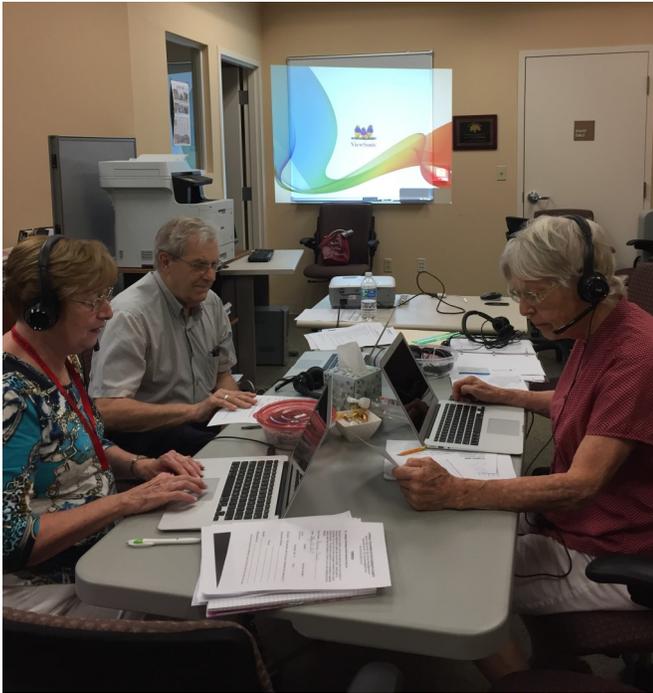
Or go to Google Play Store or Apple Store to download an App and use Code 3388



## ***Explore our New English Learning Lab by Signing up for a Workshop***

Computer Lab Workshop on May 22 with David Williams

(L to R): Beverly Pressly, Robert Miller, Ann Hollander



### ***Scheduled Computer Lab Workshops***

- ✓ June 17, 2019                      David Williams
- ✓ July 19, 2019                      David Williams
- ✓ August 14, 2019                  David Williams

### ***Tutor Training for New Volunteers - Remember to tell your friends!***

**2-day tutor training sessions at Venice Library by Denise Gastineau**

**Fridays, June 14 and 21**

**Fridays, September 20 and 27**

Reserve for Venice workshops by contacting Peter Norrman  
at [venice.literacy@gmail.com](mailto:venice.literacy@gmail.com) or 941-861-1352.

Reserve for North Port workshops by contacting Karen Bridegam  
at [north.port.literacy@gmail.com](mailto:north.port.literacy@gmail.com) or 941-861-1320.

## Welcome New Tutors

Pictured or listed below are the new tutors trained at Lavonne Radonovich's Tutor Training Workshops for LVSSC at West Villages.

Clockwise from top left: Christina Truemper, Joseph Mrusko, Janet Maney, Jean Ellen Trapani, Lavonne Radonovich, Marney Brown

March 19  
March 26



April 11  
April 18



Clockwise from top left: Sonia Flax, Lavonne Radonovich, Nancy Harper, Meg Graf, Rita Benn,  
Not shown: Lauren Austen.

## ***Pilot Class for Low-Level English Students in the LVSSC Computer Lab***

We will begin a new Computer English Learning Lab program this June focused on Low-Level English students who want to take advantage of our technology.

Walt Koenig will begin a pilot class on Tuesday afternoons at 2:00 pm in our computer lab at the StartNow! office in North Port.

If you know any Beginner level ESL students who might be interested contact Kim at (941) 429-3717 or [start.now.north.port@gmail.com](mailto:start.now.north.port@gmail.com).



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## ***Speakers Bureau***



In South Sarasota County, the best way to get the tutors we need to meet the demand is through promoting LVSSC. Local clubs such as Rotary, Lions, Sertoma, book clubs and church groups all have a wealth of possibilities. Currently, we go to these clubs and organizations when requested and address their members at their regularly scheduled meetings. We provide information about LVSSC and talk about the fun and rewards of being a volunteer. Audience members are usually surprised at the amount of work we do and the success stories.

We want to do more of this! If every member of our group would pursue opportunities for our Speakers Bureau, we could better inform the public about our mission. If you know of a social, service or church group, please inquire as to whether they would like one of our speakers to come to a meeting.

Also please consider becoming a speaker for LVSSC. If you are interested, let us know. We have prepared talks and will get you well oriented to the process. When you help us find tutors, you are changing lives.

## LVSSC Calendar

Date	Title	Time	Workshop Type	Location	Instructor
<b>June 2019</b>					
Tue-Jun-4	Orientation	11:30 AM -12:30 PM	Volunteer workshop	Start-Now Office North Port	Bridegam, Karen
Wed-Jun-5	Orientation	11:00 - 12:00	New Tutor Training	Venice Library	McGinty, Judith
Fri-Jun-14	Tutor Training Day 1	10:00 - 4:00	New Tutor Training	Venice Library	Gastineau, Denise
Mon-Jun-17	Computer Lab 101	1:00 - 3:00 pm	Volunteer workshop	Computer Lab	Williams, David
Fri-Jun-21	Tutor Training Day 2	10:00 - 4:00	New Tutor Training	Venice Library	Gastineau, Denise
Fri-Jul-19	Computer Lab 101	1:00 - 3:00 pm	Volunteer workshop	Computer Lab	Williams, David
<b>August 2019</b>					
Wed-Aug-14	Computer Lab 101	1:00 - 3:00 pm	Volunteer workshop	Computer Lab	Williams, David
<b>September 2019</b>					
Wed-Sep-18	LVSSC Board of Directors Meeting	1:00 - 2:30 pm	Board Meeting	Venice Library	
Fri-Sep-20	Tutor Training Day 1	10:00 - 4:00	New Tutor Training	Venice Library	Gastineau, Denise
Fri-Sep-27	Tutor Training Day 2	10:00 - 4:00	New Tutor Training	Venice Library	Gastineau, Denise
<b>October 2019</b>					
Wed-Oct-16	LVSSC Board of Directors Meeting	1:00 - 2:30 pm	Board Meeting	Venice Library	
Thu-Oct-17	Tutor Training Day 1	10:00 - 4:00	New Tutor Training	Venice Library	Gastineau, Denise
Thu-Oct-24	Tutor Training Day 2	10:00 - 4:00	New Tutor Training	Venice Library	Gastineau, Denise
<b>November 2019</b>					
Wed-Nov-20	LVSSC Board of Directors Meeting	1:00 - 2:30 pm	Board Meeting	Venice Library	
<b>2020</b>					
Fri-Jan-10	Tutor Training Day 1	10:00 - 4:00	New Tutor Training	Venice Library	Gastineau, Denise
Fri-Jan-17	Tutor Training Day 2	10:00 - 4:00	New Tutor Training	Venice Library	Gastineau, Denise
Tue-Mar-10	Tutor Training Day 1	10:00 - 4:00	New Tutor Training	Venice Library	Gastineau, Denise
Tue-Mar-17	Tutor Training Day 2	10:00 - 4:00	Staff Continuing Education	Venice Library	Gastineau, Denise

**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](http://www.LiteracyChangesLives.org)

**Mailing Address and Venice Literacy Office:**  
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

**Officers**

President..... Joe Pokorney  
Vice Pres..... Jim Patterson  
Secretary..... Nancy Pike  
Treasurer..... Sandy McIntyre

**Literacy Coordinators**

Peter Norrman, Venice  
Karen Bridegam, North Port

**Start Now! North Port**

Kim Pike

**Directors**

Penny Corell  
Claudia Daniels  
Judith McGinty  
Paddy Padmanabhan  
Helen Russette  
Mary Seyler  
Polly Skinner  
David Williams  
Janita Wisch

**Tutor Trainers**

Denise Gastineau, Venice  
Lavonne Radonovich, North Port

**Newsletter**

Judith McGinty, Editor

**Speaker's Bureau**

Paddy Padmanabhan

Yes, we will mail printed copies to members who do not have an e-mail address or who request paper copies.



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