

*Literacy
Changes
Lives*



Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County

Literacy Offices in Venice and North Port Libraries
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www.literacychangeslives.org



*Serving the people of
Englewood, Laurel,
Nokomis, North Port,
Osprey and Venice*



November 2015

A Different Type of Tutoring

Most volunteers think of tutoring as assisting a student with English skills that are none to intermediate. I have found this not to always be the case.

Three years ago I was matched with Yantong. She had completed high school in China and was planning to attend East China University of Science and Technology. She moved to the States unexpectedly with her family prior to starting at the university.

When we first met, Yantong was fluent in conversational English (with an occasional incorrect past tense with irregular verbs) and spoke without an accent. She was in the process of completing the entry requirements for community college.

So what to plan for tutoring sessions? The materials I first reviewed with her were too easy. We tried Side by Side and stories of intermediate and advanced levels.

She ultimately wanted to work on vocabulary. We were able to find high level vocabulary books such



Lindy and Yantong

as SAT-level vocabulary, "504 Essential words", "Building Academic Vocabulary" and a book that focused on root word development. These worked favorably for her. Yantong and I also used Scrabble, Jumble, Bananagrams, root words examples and sound alike words, cryptoquips and crossword puzzles to add variety to our sessions. Many of these activities were new to her as, for example, Scrabble does not exist in China.

We were able to discuss grammar (the Chinese language only uses present tense), use of capital letters and punctuation (neither used in China).

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These tools were needed when we reviewed papers that she wrote for class assignments. She had been instructed in China to use very long sentences with multiple adjectives. The more adjectives, the better the grade in her English class in China. Reading books such as “The Help” and “Sarah’s Keys” provided us with the opportunity to see different styles of writing.

Our discussions of cultural differences, similarities, and use of idioms were very interesting. As an example for idioms, to study all night for an exam, in the U.S. you “pull an all nighter.” But in China, you “ride the midnight train.” Cryptoquips from the daily paper were fun as she could learn about the sense of humor and the use of puns for Americans.

I learned a great deal from Yantong about her culture. We talked about weddings (brides tend to wear white in the States and brides wear red in China), funerals, Chinese New Year (you get red bags with money), birthday celebrations and school experiences and expectations.

Yantong has completed her AA degree while being a work study student, working part-time, being a math tutor and competing in math competitions. She will transfer to the University of Florida in January 2016 to pursue a degree in civil engineering. Yantong has been an excellent student and I feel confident she will excel in her career choice.

~Lindy Smith

President’s Corner: Tutors Needed for North Port Students

Please help with our big challenge ... recruiting tutors for over 70 North Port residents who are waiting for tutors. Please talk to your friends about becoming literacy tutors. Both of our offices have tutor recruitment cards that may be carried and given to people who might be interested in becoming tutors. If printing cards yourself is more convenient than stopping by the office, here is a link to the 2-sided “WANTED - Volunteers to Tutor Adults” card: www.literacychangeslives.org/cards/tutors-wanted.pdf



readers, and adults who want to learn English in this area. The Venice office has ESL student information cards to hand out and a poster with tear-offs that can be pinned up on community bulletin boards. To print ESL student recruitment cards, go to: www.literacychangeslives.org/cards/esl-student-info.pdf

Both offices also have Basic Adult Literacy cards to give to English-speaking adults who want to improve their reading skills.

There is a different situation in Venice...there are more tutors in Nokomis, Venice, and Englewood and fewer students. Many of these tutors have volunteered to tutor North Port students, but not everyone is willing or able to travel to North Port. We know there are many non-readers, poor

There are people in our communities who are struggling because of the lack of English language skills or basic reading skills. Please help spread the message that LVSSC can help.

~Sandy McIntyre

Academic English at SCF

Is your student interested in pursuing academic goals? Students who have reached at least an intermediate level and who are high school graduates from any country may apply to State College of Florida (SCF). At SCF, students continue English studies in the English for Academic Purposes program. The focus of the EAP program is English communication skills for higher education-analytical reading, academic writing, professional presentations, note-taking, etc. Instructors and advisors assist students to move seamlessly from the English program to a professional degree pathway in the College. It's a great program both for students who want to attend college for the first time, and for those who are college graduates from another country and want to pursue a new area of study or transfer their degree to the U.S.

A new semester begins every August and January, but students may apply for free at any time. It can take well over a month in some cases to complete the necessary paperwork and all the application steps, so interested students are advised to start early by visiting the website below for more information. They are also welcome to contact Maria Spelleri, Curriculum Coordinator for the EAP program. She's happy to meet with students (and their tutors!) to talk about opportunities at the College through the EAP program, as well as to help students complete the applications for admission and for financial assistance with tuition.

For more information: www.scf.edu/LearnEnglish
Maria Spelleri - spellem@scf.edu 408-1505



Need a Tutoring Location? Consider the Library at SCF

Halfway between Venice and North Port, the State College of Florida, Venice Campus, offers its library as a meeting place for tutor-student pairs from LVSSC. The campus is located at **8000 S. Tamiami Trail**, about 1 mile north of River Road. There are seven private rooms available on a first come, first served basis, more easily available after 4:00. If they are full, tutoring may commence at one of the many tables upstairs or downstairs in the library. Mr. Dana Bowker, Library Supervisor, has given his permission for this activity and his name may be mentioned if any staff on duty seems uninformed.

SCF Library Hours: Monday-Thursday 8-8, Friday 8-2.

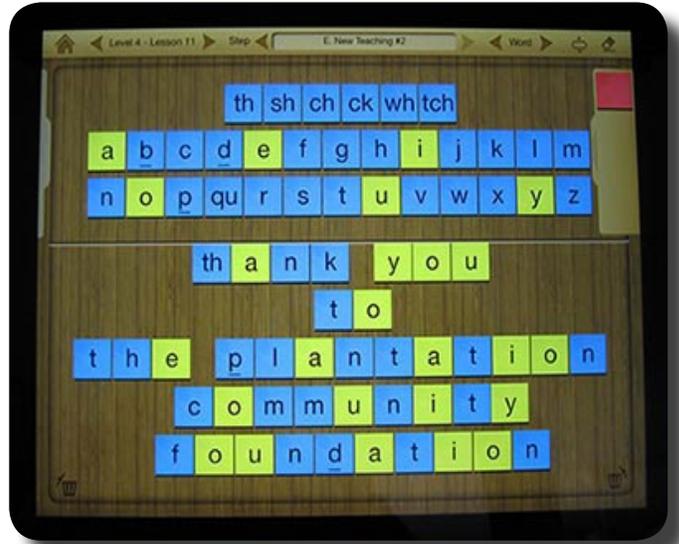
Campus Map: www.scf.edu/content/PDF/Publications/SCFVeniceMap.pdf

iPads for Adult Literacy

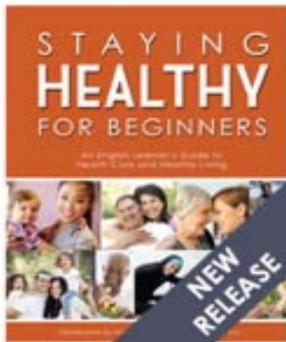
Sponsored by The Plantation Community Foundation of Venice, Florida

With a \$1,000 grant from the Plantation Community Foundation, LVSSC was able to purchase three iPads. The iPads are being used for tutoring dyslexic adults who are improving their reading skills with the Barton Reading and Spelling program.

The Barton iPad app shown in the photo replaces shuffling large numbers of wooden tiles. This technology solution is greatly appreciated by the tutors and the adult learners. Future plans include offering hands-on training to tutors on how to use iPads when tutoring ESL students.



Staying Healthy



On June 8th, at the Jacaranda Library, a seminar was conducted for Literacy Volunteers and other community volunteers with an interest in helping new English speakers navigate the Healthcare

system. *Staying Healthy for Beginners* was presented by the Florida Literacy Coalition by Claire Valier, literacy trainer/consultant and co-author of the *Staying Healthy* curriculum.

Each participant received a copy of the curriculum, *Staying Healthy for Beginners*, a comprehensive guide to instructing students on how to best communicate their needs in English with regard to health care, doctors, medicine, healthy food, and staying healthy.

One of the many valuable areas in the guide allows for role playing prior to a visit to a doctor, and practice for vocabulary a student may

encounter. In the medicine chapter, some examples include the definition of a generic with regard to prescription medication, and what is meant by side effect as written on a drug information form. A sample of a prescription bottle is presented and discussed in the book. Another useful chapter provides information regarding the difference between a primary care center and an emergency room.

The Florida Literacy Coalition supports the mission of the Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County. There are free, downloadable materials available on their website, including the *Staying Healthy for Beginners* guide for teachers and students.

Download your own guide at floridaliteracy.org/health_literacy_curriculum.html.

The guides are also available in the Literacy offices to use with students.

Please explore other resources available at floridaliteracy.org/.

Introducing North Port's New Tutor Trainer

Linda Wieman is a retired Sarasota County teacher who joined LVSSC in August. In addition to tutoring ESL students, she works at SCF teaching an English course for ESL students preparing to enter college.

Linda and her husband Bob moved to the Sarasota area from Shoreview, Minnesota. They have two sons, three grandsons and a four-year-old Shih Tzu rescue dog, Cocoa, who is a recent and welcome addition to their family. Both Linda and Bob hail from the Badger State and have remained Green Bay Packer fans despite moving to Minnesota and Florida.

One of Linda's goals after retirement was to use her teaching experience in reading and language arts to work with adults striving to learn the English language and acquire basic literacy skills.

According to Linda, there is nothing more rewarding than to experience the joy of learning and see others accomplish lifelong literacy skills.



Tutor Training Classes

On June 6 and June 13, tutor training was held at the Jacaranda Library in Venice. The students shown in the photo on the right completed the course.

Front: Harsha Acharya and Marina Lvovsky

Back: Chris Steinwachs, Greg Rien and Jan Hollister



Front: Nancy Steves, Kate Carter, Nancy Nasser, and Dody Richardson

Back: Dottie Sedlak, Linda Wieman, Zoran Popovic and Annette Laliberte

The Jacaranda Library was the site for tutor training on August 13 and 22. Shown in the photo on the left are students who completed the training.

Save the Dates!

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY FOR TUTORS

November 10, 2015, 2-3 pm: Tutors-Talking-to-Tutors (TTTT), North Port Library

TUTOR TRAINING FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS - TELL YOUR FRIENDS

November 7 & 14, 2015 Tutor Training, North Port Library, Linda Wieman, Tutor Trainer

January 23 & 30, 2016 Tutor Training, Jacaranda Library, Esther Bird, Tutor Trainer

February 20 & 27, 2016 Tutor Training, North Port Library, Linda Wieman, Tutor Trainer

EVENTS

February 20, 2016 10th Annual Venice Walk-a-Thon and Health Fair Join our team!

March 19, 2016 6th Annual North Port Walk-a-Thon & Mini Health Fair Join our team!

March 19, 2016 Venice Book Fair downtown Centennial Park. LVSSC will have a booth.

March 29, 2016 LVSSC Annual Card & Game Party fundraiser at Jacaranda Trace.

April 25, 2016 LVSSC Annual Meeting and Luncheon at Venice Art Center.

If you would like to help with any of these events, please call our Venice office at 941-488-8994.

To inquire or register for North Port classes or events, call Karen at 941-861-1320; for Venice classes or events, call Sharon at 941-488-8994.



Tutors-Talking-to-Tutors

On Tuesday, November 10, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m., Ron Caruso will lead a Tutors-Talking-to-Tutors (TTTT) workshop on PRONUNCIATION. After Ron's orientation, participants will share ideas and concerns with other tutors with students who speak the same language.

The workshop will be held in the Juliana Room of the North Port Library. **Please sign up by Friday, November 6**, by contacting Karen Bridegam at north.port.literacy@gmail.com or 861-1320, giving your name and the language of the student you teach.

~ Sid Shrauger, TTTT Facilitator

**Contributors, Thank You for your Financial Support
from July 2014 - June 2015!**

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\$1,000-\$4,999

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We would also like to thank all of our Members and everyone who donated to the United Way Walk-A-Thons in Venice and North Port and the team from King's Gate Club.

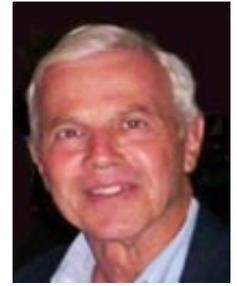
WELCOME

New Board Members!

Jan Gallas is a retired school Administrative Secretary from Albany, NY. She worked at local Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) following her retirement and also taught Adult Education classes on crafts and computers. She and her husband, John, moved to North Port in 2000 and were active volunteers for both the North Port Library and Literacy Volunteers. John passed away in November 2008, and Jan moved back to New York. Back in North Port full-time now, she's tutoring ESL students and joined the LVSSC Board in September. Jan is active in the Greek Orthodox Church in Port Charlotte, and was Chairman of their recent Craft Show. She is Past President and current Secretary of the Ladies Philoptochos Society at her church. In her spare time, Jan has been knitting and crocheting for charities for most of her life.



A native of Nebraska and Montana, **Sid Shrauger** received a B. A. from the University of Montana and a Ph.D. from Duke University. He spent 35 years in the Psychology Department at the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he was also director of doctoral clinical training and department chair. Since moving to Venice in 2000, he has, among other community activities, been a member of the City of Venice Planning Commission, an IRS-AARP volunteer tax preparer, and, since March, 2015, a tutor with LVSSC. He joined the LVSSC board this September.



Dear LitWits

In each newsletter we will publish an answer to a question from a tutor, instructor, or member submitted to lvssc@verizon.net (place "LitWits" in the subject line). LitWits will delve into local brains and widespread research to answer your questions about the Literacy Volunteers organization or questions about tutoring or instructing adult learners.

Question: My student doesn't show up for our sessions consistently. What can I do to help him remember to attend every session? Thanks, Stranded in my Study Room

Answer: If you and your student use text messaging, it is an easy way to practice written English, and confirm tutoring sessions with your student. Keep it simple. After exchanging phone numbers, send a sample text during your session, "See you Tuesday at 10?" Let your student practice with text responses to you, "Yes" or "No". As your student's written English skills improve, you can practice with longer responses.

Summary Statement of Financial Activities For the Year Ended June 30, 2015

Unrestricted Revenue & Expense

Revenue:

United Way of South Sarasota County	\$	6,917
Unrestricted Grants		1,870
Memberships		4,465
Contributions		6,057
Memorial Fund		1,050
Fundraisers (net of expenses)		4,539
Total revenue		24,898

Use of the facilities of the Sarasota County Libraries in Venice & North Port
& the skilled services provided by our wonderful volunteers

PRICELESS!

Expenses:

Salary/Payroll Taxes		13,002
Training & Training Materials		1,644
Office Supplies & Expense		3,193
Dues & Fees		369
Directors Insurance		775
Total expenses		18,983

Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$	5,915
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Donor Restricted Grants

Received in the current year		\$5,475
Use of restricted funds		(12,449)
Change in Restricted Net Assets		(6,974)
Restricted Net Assets - beginning of the year		7,460
Restricted Net Assets - end of the year	\$	486

Betty Black, 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
A member organization of ProLiteracy

Venice Public Library, 300 Nokomis Ave. S.
Venice, FL 34285 Phone: 941-488-8994
lvssc@verizon.net

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

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Vice Pres. Nancy Pike
Secretary Janita Wisch
Treasurer Betty Black

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Esther Bird
Claudia Daniels
Jan Gallas
Judith McGinty
Mary Ellen McMahon
Joe Pokorney
Sid Shrauger
Polly Skinner

Literacy Coordinators

Sharon Betterton, Venice
Karen Bridegam, North Port

Database, Reports, Records

Sandy McIntyre

Tutor Trainers

Esther Bird, Venice
Linda Wieman, North Port

Newsletter Layout

Valerie McBride

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