



English Express

Fall 2021

*Learning a new language is becoming a member of the club....
the community of speakers of that language.*

Roberto came to the United States from Guatemala in 2018 in order to escape gang violence and to find better economic opportunities.

Roberto was sponsored by his older cousin and joined two brothers settling in Venice. As his education in Guatemala was limited to four grade levels and with a goal of learning English, Roberto was introduced to Don Moore. He met Don initially while Don was an ESL tutor at Venice High School.

When Roberto went to work at Made in Italy, he wanted to continue learning English with Don, who had been a Literacy Volunteers tutor since 2009. Over the time period from 2019 to today, Roberto

has progressed in roles within the kitchen, due in part to his improvement with the English language. He now can also communicate in healthcare and retail store settings. His long-term goal is to progress to positions in the dining room.

During the COVID period last year, Don and Roberto continued to meet on the outside patio at the restaurant as well as using the online learning software. Roberto is currently using the Rosetta Stone program and is receiving in-person instruction with Don. His priority on his day off includes time to meet Don on a weekly basis.

Don Moore, like other Literacy Volunteer tutors, is a remarkable person. As a retired physical therapist, he feels the need to give back to others as his mentors helped him along his successful career path. Don is an active tutor in Big Brothers/Big Sisters at Venice High School in addition to his work with Literacy Volunteers. He is also an active member of the Venice Suncoast Rotary Club where he is president-elect in addition to his long-time position as the clubs' executive secretary.

Don Moore and his student, Roberto, are hard-working individuals who both contribute to our quality of life in Venice.



President's Corner



Judith McGinty, President

The weather is becoming lovely, and the pandemic is easing as more and more people are getting vaccinated against Covid-19. The libraries are open as well as our library-based offices. Some of our tutors are meeting once again with students face-to-face and using our study rooms. It's all good!

Here are a few of the accomplishments LVSSC made during pandemic dark period.

147 students met with 77 tutors this year, mostly online.

66 different volunteers participated in Tutor Chats

36 different students participated in 39 online Learner Chats

22 new volunteers completed our new online Tutor Training.

16 students attended the new online Citizenship Classes.

84 students participated in Learning Upgrade, the online instructional app that provides 22 different courses.

In all scenarios, both students and tutors were supplied with the instructional materials they needed.

Our staff created all the formats and technology for these new approaches to teaching Basic Reading and English as a Second Language.

Looking forward, we want to bring our organization as close to the pre-pandemic activities as possible. We also plan to get more learning materials and technology into the hands of our students. Stay tuned.

Double Your Impact! Give via the Flanzer Trust.

Literacy Volunteers has partnered with the Louis & Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust to receive matching funds. When you contribute to Literacy Volunteers via the Flanzer Trust, they will match your donation. Donations can be made online with a credit card or PayPal at: www.Flanzertrust.org Scroll down to the **big red "DONATE NOW" Heart** and click on it. Select Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County in the drop-down list. To contribute via check, make your check out to the Louis & Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust, write Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County on the memo line on the check and mail it to Louis & Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust, 1843 Floyd Street, Sarasota, FL 34239.

Gloria Milstein Flanzer, a committed philanthropist whose family was one of the most powerful in New York City development circles, was married for 66 years to her husband, Louis Flanzer. The couple had a home in Scarsdale, New York, but tended to spend more time on Longboat Key than up north and were known for their willingness to contribute to causes that were personally important to them in their adopted Sarasota community. The Flanzer Philanthropic Trust continues to support our community activities through their matching program.



Nancy Pike is the LVSSC featured board member.



Nancy Pike has had such an interesting career. She graduated from Rockford University in Illinois. She taught school, including a time as Miss Nancy on TV's Romper Room School, then earned a Masters Degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Nancy worked for five years at the University, where she was a member of the library's Preservation Committee.

Nancy made an unusual debut in Venice. Rather than arriving with a moving truck filled with furniture, she and her husband David arrived by boat. They sold their house and bought a sailboat on which they lived for a year, sailing from Wisconsin to Florida.

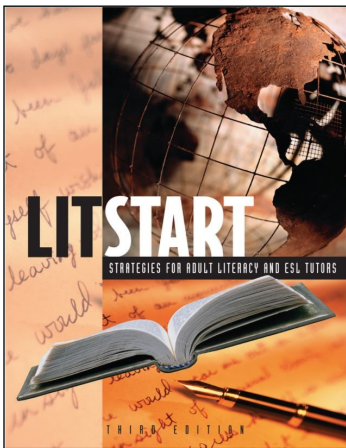
Nancy was hired at Venice Library, becoming Manager in 1988. She was named Director of the Sarasota County Library System in 2000, a job she held until her retirement.

She was honored to be elected President of the Florida Library Association. Her current volunteer interests include Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County and the annual Venice Book Fair and Writers Festival. In her spare time, she makes paper and binds books.

We are so fortunate to have Nancy on our Board. She is a former Board President, and she works on the Grants Committee obtaining grants and managing them. She is also LVSSC's Secretary and member of the Executive Committee.

We are so fortunate to have the expertise of Nancy Pike!

New *Virtual Tutor Training Program*



Literacy Volunteers is now offering our tutor training program online! Our Venice program coordinator, Peter Norrman, and tutor trainer, Denise Gastineau, teamed up to make four short videos that cover the material in the *LitStart* tutoring manual. The *LitStart* manual and training materials are given to each new volunteer who completes the training.

The online meeting format allows trainees to watch an assigned video and review the *LitStart* manual independently at a time that is convenient. We meet as a group once a week on Zoom for a 1-hour discussion of the assigned video's content and to answer questions. The 277-page *LitStart* book will provide guidance to help you find the best strategies and resources to make your student's personal goals a reality.

Virtual Tutor Training is offered monthly from January – June 2022. If you know anyone who might be interested in becoming a volunteer tutor, please ask him or her to email Literacy Volunteers at:

venice.literacy@gmail.com or north.port.literacy@gmail.com.

Another proud new American citizen



Marilyn

Marilyn, from Cuba, and Meg, a LVSSC tutor, have been working together since January 2021. Marilyn is a diligent and intelligent student who has had several misfortunes in life, but she is also blessed with a lovely 7-year-old daughter. Corina helps her Mom when she doesn't understand words, and Meg has tasked Corina with the job of putting happy stickers on her Mom when she does really well!

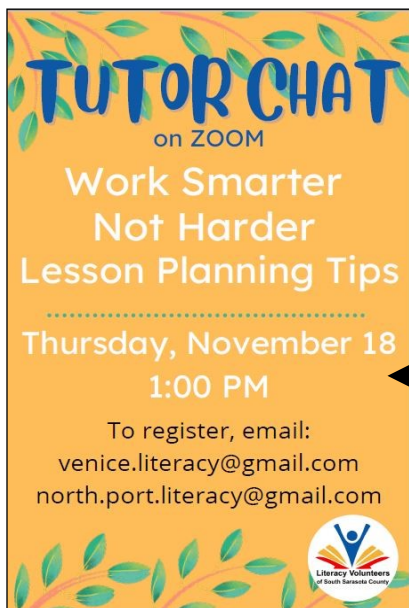
We tutors find that having children at the tutoring sessions is very helpful to the parents. Children can help by continuing the lesson at home.



Meg

Meg and Marilyn have become good friends. They text each other often, which contributes to learning the language. After much intense work on pronunciation, Marilyn has passed her citizenship test and recently became another proud new American who learned English with Literacy Volunteers.

Tutor Chats on Zoom



Tutor Chats are continuing education sessions that include a short presentation by a tutor trainer, volunteer, or staff member. The Chats are designed to help you with your tutoring. Attendees at Tutor Chats are encouraged to ask questions and share ideas and information with each other. Tutor Chats are on Zoom and last no more than one hour. The chat sessions will be held on Thursdays at 1:00 PM.

Topics planned for this year include:

- Using Barton Reading & Spelling System to Teach English
- Work Smarter, Not Harder Lesson Planning on 11/18**
- Incorporating Learning Upgrade into Your Tutoring Sessions
- The Shared Screen Tutoring Experience
- “Where to Start” (*LitStart*) Assessment:
 - Can Assessment Guide Your Lesson Planning?
- Developing a Sight Word Study for Your Student
- Zoom Scheduling and Screen Sharing

If you have a topic of interest that you would like to learn more about or would like to share your knowledge in a Tutor Chat, contact Kim at start.now.north.port@gmail.com.

Notifications about Tutor Chat sessions are emailed to tutors with their monthly reminder to report volunteer hours. To register for a Tutor Chat, email one of the email addresses below, and we will send you the Zoom link to join the meeting.

venice.literacy@gmail.com

north.port.literacy@gmail.com

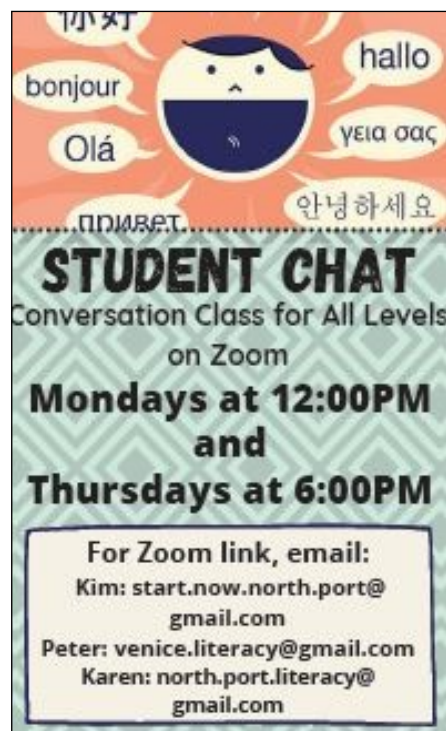
start.now.north.port@gmail.com

Student Chat Conversation Classes on Zoom

Students and tutors are enjoying our free ESL conversation classes for all levels of adult learners. The Student Chat group meets twice a week on Mondays at 12:00 noon and again on Thursday evenings at 6:00 PM on Zoom. The topic is the same for both classes, which gives students two chances each week to practice their English listening and speaking skills.

The weekly topic is chosen from a video or an online article and is assigned several days before class. Students receive an email with a link to the video or website. Students are learning how to activate a “link” and how to open an email attachment in addition to the assigned class material. The classes include small discussion groups in Zoom break-out rooms to give each student a chance to talk with just a few people.

Some topics from past Student Chats are: hurricane preparation and emergency information, the 2020 Olympics, fall foliage and climate change, and the U.S. Postal Service. Pronunciation is practiced for a short period at the beginning of each class.



If tutors or students are interested in joining the Student Chat, please email to request the Zoom link. New tutors and students are welcome any time! Email us at:

venice.literacy@gmail.com, north.port.literacy@gmail.com, or start.now.north.port@gmail.com

Thank You from a Former English-Speaking Student with Dyslexia

I have a reading disorder called DYSLEXIA.

The person that has helped me the most is my wonderful tutor. Thank You to her.

She gives hours of her life every week to make a difference in my life.

I would like to give thanks to Susan Barton for the Barton program that gave me the stepping stones to learn how to read.

I was in the Sarasota County Public School System for 14 years.

I was put in special classes for ADHD students because no classes were available to teach a Dyslexic student.

I graduated unable to read from Venice High when I was almost 21.

If I had the proper help in my school years, my life would have turned out much different.

I am hoping to make this program available to the Public School System to help all school age children that are struggling to learn how to read.

The Barton Reading and Spelling System is being used today by Literacy Volunteers tutors and students. The program was created for parents to teach their own children with dyslexia and for tutors to teach adults with reading difficulties how to read. If you are interested in learning more about the Barton program, go to www.bartonreading.com.

Thank You for Your Financial Support!

July 2020 - June 2021

\$20,000 and over

Florida DLIS CARES Act Grant *See footnote.

\$10,000 - \$19,999

Jan Gallas

Sarasota County - CARES Act Grant

\$8,000 - \$9,999

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Wish You Well Foundation

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The Foundation of Literacy Volunteers of So. Sarasota Co.

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of South Sarasota County**
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Literacy Changes Lives



FIRST CLASS

Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County

www.LiteracyChangesLives.org

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