



Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County

Literacy Offices in Venice and North Port Libraries
300 Nokomis Ave. S., Venice, FL 34285
(941) 488-8994, lvssc@verizon.net
13800 S. Tamiami Trail, North Port, FL 34287
(941) 861-1320, north.port.literacy@gmail.com

www.literacychangeslives.org



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



FEBRUARY 2015

Featured Tutor and Student

Often when adult children move to another country, there are tearful good-byes at home. But not so with “Winnie” Zhao of Guangdong province, China. In fact, it was Winnie’s parents who encouraged her to move.

That’s because they themselves came to the U.S. six years earlier. So in 2005, Winnie and her husband made the same journey. Initially, they lived in Naples, Orlando and Tampa before settling in Venice. Venetians with a taste for Chinese food may recognize Winnie. She is the manager of Panda Express in the Venice Village Shoppes on S. Tamiami Trail near Jacaranda Blvd. She has worked there since 2008 and has managed the restaurant full-time since 2010, where she hires and supervises 8-10 employees.



Winnie and her husband share a Venice home with her parents. The young couple are now parents themselves of a boy and a girl, both of elementary school age. All six people live as an extended family, retaining the Cantonese language that Winnie grew up with. Her now-retired parents help with child care responsibilities, so Winnie and her husband can both work. Winnie’s hope is that her children will become bilingual adults, but she acknowledges that it’s an uphill climb since the children’s native language is English. “They understand Cantonese a little better than they speak it,” she admits.

In China, Winnie was a pediatric nurse, a profession she liked very much. But now as a manager in a large corporation, she has gained an opportunity for public speaking, which she enjoys with a little reservation. “I want to make sure, if I am speaking publicly, that what I’m saying is right and that I’m saying it correctly. They are both important,” she says.

Lynne Simon of Venice and Cape Cod is Winnie’s tutor and calls her “a breath of fresh air.” Before retiring, Lynne was also a nurse so they both share medical backgrounds as a bond. “Winnie is always striving to do more and to be more,” says Lynne. “Her attitude is always positive. Winnie is a very hard-working person. I think she takes that approach with everything she does, not just her job.” Lynne says that she often sees immigrants like Winnie working harder than those of us born in America, “because they are striving so hard to build the lives they want in another country.” Winnie Zhao is well on her way to doing exactly that.

President's Corner

Literacy Volunteers started the new year with enthusiasm! Two tutor trainings were scheduled in North Port, one in January and another coming up in February. Many thanks to the University of South Florida, North Port Campus, for providing classroom space. Also watch for the announcement later in the spring of a health literacy workshop presented here by the statewide organization, the Florida Literacy Coalition.

As part of our support for our tutors, Board member Nancy Zarowin is enhancing our mentoring program, especially for new tutors who would like to have an experienced tutor to talk with as they begin working with their student. Check our next newsletter for more details.



We are proud to be a United Way agency. That means the United Way has examined all aspects of our program and pronounced it worthy of support. Donations given to the United Way are passed along to over 30 agencies, including Literacy Volunteers. A fun way to benefit the United Way, Literacy Volunteers, and yourself, is to come to the annual community walk. There is one in Venice and one in North Port. You make a donation and walk with the rest of the community to show your support. Half of your donation goes to United Way and half to Literacy Volunteers. I look forward to seeing you at the United Way Walk-a-Thon in Venice on February 21 and in North Port on March 21.

Nancy Pike, President

JOIN A WALK-A-THON!

You are invited to participate in the Annual United Way Walk-a-Thon on behalf of the Literacy Volunteers team. Gather your friends, family and club members together for a fun filled charity walk in Venice (February 21) or North Port (March 21).

There will be snacks, beverages, and team prizes plus music to keep your feet moving. Here's how this fundraiser works: you pledge to be on our team. (a donation of \$25 or more gets you a Walk-a-Thon tee shirt but any amount is okay.) Each walker can invite colleagues, friends, and family to also be part of the team or to be a sponsor. Sponsors participate by making a contribution of any size. You can even bring your kids, dog, cat or other pet. Every year there are lots of strollers, wagons, and wheelchairs. Everyone can be part of the Walk-a-Thon!

For more information or a registration form, contact either of our offices at 941-488-8994 (Venice) or 941-861-1320 (North Port). Or register the day of the event. Just look for the big Literacy Volunteers' banner.

TUTOR TRAINING CLASSES



On November 1 and 8, tutor training was held in Jacaranda Library. The following students completed the course and are shown in photo. Front, left to right: Winnie O'Neill, Chen Bell, and Carol Bischoff. Back: Jana Jirak, Helen Collins and Julie Peck.



January 13 and 20 tutor training was held at the USF campus in North Port. Shown in photo are students who completed the training. Front, left to right: Roni Meyer, Brenda Baker, Kathy Staes, Pat Behe and Paula McNeish. Back: Tony Malavenda, Jen Smith, Les Petry, Pam Frost, Linda Skinner, Sherol Schell, and Tom Plate. Carol Murray not shown.



Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County

Card and Game Party Tuesday, March 24, 1:00 - 4:00

at Jacaranda Trace in Venice

Invite friends for a table of 4 or more
and call Sandy 412-0107 for reservations.

\$10 per person in advance

Mail checks to: Literacy Volunteers,
300 Nokomis Ave. S., Venice, FL 34285

BRING: Your own cards or games
Cash for "Teacup Auction" & 50/50 Drawing

GREAT PRIZES AND REFRESHMENTS!

GRAND PRIZE



**SOUTHWEST
AIRLINES**

Win 2 round-trip airline tickets to anywhere
in the continental U.S.A. "Teacup Auction"
prizes include beautiful gift baskets and
dozens of donations from local businesses.

Raffle tickets available at both Literacy offices:

Venice 488-8994 - North Port 861-1320

Free READING and ENGLISH help for ADULTS.

www.LiteracyChangesLives.org

Calendar of Events

Newsletters are published the first of November, February and May. Material for the publication should go to Editor Esther Bird by the third Friday of the preceding month.

Saturday, February 21	Dearborn Street Book Festival in Englewood. LVSSC will have a booth.
Saturday, February 21	Venice United Way Walk-a-Thon. Join our team!
Monday, February 23	Tutors Talking to Tutors—North Port Library—1:00 - 4:00 pm
Saturday, March 21	North Port United Way Walk-a-Thon. Join our team!
Tuesday, March 24	LVSSC Annual Card Party fundraiser at Jacaranda Trace.
Saturday, March 28	Venice Book Fair downtown Centennial Park. LVSSC will have a booth.
Monday, April 27	LVSSC Annual Meeting at Venice Library.

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

LVSSC UPCOMING TUTOR TRAINING

Tuesday, February 17 and 24	New Tutor Training, both days at USF Campus in North Port
Saturday, April 25 and May 2	New Tutor Training, both days at Jacaranda Library, Venice

To register for this training, call the Venice office at 941-488-8994.

Dear LitWits

Each month we will publish an answer to a question from a tutor, instructor, or member submitted to lvssc@verizon.net (Make your e-mail Subj: Dear LitWits). 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. Have a question? Send it to the LitWits.

Question: I enjoy working with my student very much, but have been troubled by the fact that several times she has arrived about 15 minutes late for our session. How should I handle this?

Answer: It is possible that this is a cultural difference and being on time might not have been important in her prior life. The best way to handle this situation is to have a chat with your student about the importance of being punctual in our society. Help her to understand how she might be perceived by others if she is not on time and also how important punctuality is, especially in the workforce. I'm confident she will better understand and do her best going forward to arrive in a more timely manner.

Readers—What are your thoughts and suggestions? Send any suggestions you have to lvssc@verizon.net In the subject field put LitWits.



United Way Walk-a-Thon

Join the Literacy Volunteers Team !

WHEN AND WHERE:

Saturday, February 21, 2015

Downtown Venice, Centennial Park Gazebo

The route: Venice Ave to Higel Park and back (approx. 2 miles).

Saturday, March 21, 2015

North Port, Dallas White Park

TIME:

Registration 8:15 a.m.

Walk-A-Thon 9:00 a.m.

Enjoy music and have a free hot dog!

**Walking is optional. The goal is raising \$\$ and having FUN.
Only walk the distance that's comfortable for you.**

Support the United Way and Literacy Volunteers.

Make checks payable to United Way of South Sarasota Co.

**50% of donations used by United Way for 27 local agencies and
50% is returned to Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County.**

Call the Literacy office for more info @ 488-8994.

SAVE THE DATE!

March 24 - Have fun and win prizes, including 2 round-trip Southwest Airline tickets at the Literacy Volunteers annual Card and Game Party on Tuesday at Jacaranda Trace.

April 27 - Literacy Volunteers annual meeting is set for the Venice Library Meeting Room on that Monday at noon. Stories from our students, election of officers, and a free lunch! Please join us.

RAFFLE FOR SOUTHWEST AIRLINE TICKETS

For a second year, Southwest Airlines has provided Literacy Volunteers with two round trip tickets to anywhere in the country that Southwest flies. Raffle tickets will be available soon in our Venice and North Port offices. The drawing will be held at our annual Card and Game Party. Your donation for a raffle ticket is only \$5!

TUTORS TALKING TO TUTORS (TTTT)—MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Come network with other tutors from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at North Port Library. Gabriela Moszczynska, a Polish immigrant, will share her story of how she learned English and established her own business in North Port. Rosemarie Sulzbach, TTTT Chairman, thinks you will enjoy hearing Gabby's story and talking with her.

BUSINESS MEMBERS SUPPORTING ADULT LITERACY

Classique Salon, Chris Beachy

Full Service Salon (seasonal), Port Charlotte

941-624-6719 lady_in_red54@hotmail.com

Golconda, LLC, Manny Joaquim ★

Management Consulting, Sarasota

941-951-1301 MJoaquim1@verizon.net

Corzetto Enterprises, Paul & LaVerne Corzetto

Lawn & garden, house check & cleaning, pool cleaning, pressure wash & windows

Paul 941-423-1272 LaVerne 941-423-4452 Sarasota Co. happyhome@comcast.net

Matthews Insurance, Allstate – Steve Matthews

Sharon Matthews, 24-hour Customer Service, North Port

941-426-9571 smatthews4@allstate.com

Gold stars indicate donating more than the \$50 Business Membership contribution.

Connie Alderfer, LVSSC tutor and instructor in North Port, recruited these four Business Members. More Business Members are needed. We need more Recruiters! Call Sandy McIntyre, sandymac@comcast.net or 941-412-0107, for instructions and materials if you are willing to recruit a few Business Members for Literacy Volunteers. Increasing adult literacy benefits the business community.

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

Literacy Changes Lives



FIRST CLASS

Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County

An Affiliate of ProLiteracy America

*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
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Database, Reports, Records
Sandy McIntyre

Tutor Trainer

Esther Bird

Newsletter Editor

Esther Bird

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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