



# The Reader's Guide

Volume 19, Issue 3

Literacy Volunteers of Lee County  
An Accredited Affiliate of ProLiteracy America

Summer 2006

## United Way Support For LVLC Starts in 2007

Literacy Volunteers of Lee County has been accepted as a United Way agency and will benefit from the upcoming fall campaign.

“We are very pleased with this achievement,” said Tess Murphy LVLC Executive Director. “Being a United Way agency is like having the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval — it means that they have examined your program and results and found you worthy of support.”

LVLC will begin to receive United Way funding in the 2007 calendar year. “As much as we appreciate United Way’s support,” Murphy added, “it will be necessary to continue to raise operating funds on an ongoing basis for Literacy Volunteers of Lee County through grants, special events, and individual and corporate donations.”

LVLC looks forward to United Way’s continued support.



*Jackie Cadkin, LVLC Board member, works with Israel Suarez of The Nations Association to offer adult literacy classes at The Nations headquarters in south Fort Myers.*

### 3 New Directors Join LVLC Board

Literacy Volunteers of Lee County is happy to welcome three new members to the Board of Directors:

Ernesto Aleman, Career Development Director, CENTURY 21 Birchwood International.

Sri Kaparathi, Engineer, TKW Engineering. Mr. Kaparathi is a former adult student of Literacy Volunteer’s adult literacy program.

Edith K. Pendleton, Ph.D., District Vice President, Student Services, Edison College.

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF LEE COUNTY PRESENTS



## ‘Food for Thought’ Set for October 19

LVLC’s major fundraiser, “Food for Thought — Dine Out for Literacy” is scheduled for Thursday, October 19, 2006.

This is the second year of the day-long event, in which the public is invited to “dine out for literacy.” Eight restaurants took part in Food for Thought’s successful debut in 2005. Hundreds of Lee County residents and visitors brought friends and family to take part in raising funds for and awareness of literacy.

Again this year, each participating restaurant will donate a percentage of its sales that day to support adult literacy programs in Lee County.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for this event. Restaurants and

potential sponsors should contact Tess Murphy, LVLC Executive Director, at 278-4400, for further information.

### Workplace Literacy Graduates Celebrate!



*Nine members of the landscape crew at Pelican Sound Golf and River Club, a residential community in Estero, graduated from LVLC’s workplace literacy program in May.*

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## Officers

*President* Susan H. Steacy  
*Vice President* Julie A. Lewis  
*Secretary* Rebecca Totaro,  
Ph.D.  
*Treasurer* Lyle Smith

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Srikara R. Kaparathi  
Walter Mangold  
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Dr. Elsa P. Rogers, Ph.D.  
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Marian Pyles  
Pat Zelkowitz

## Secretary

Pat Manhardt

## Resource Librarian

Maureen Krajcovic

## Newsletter Editor

Maxine Golding

# 40 Students Find Summer Perfect Time for Classes

This summer, LVLC is offering 10 English as a Second Language (ESL) classes throughout Lee County. The classes began in May and will run through August.

"Because so many of our volunteer tutors head north during the summer, we started the classes so that their adult students could continue their studies," said Tess Murphy, LVLC Executive Director. The classes were also offered to students on the waiting list.

Four of the classes are in Cape Coral and serve students at beginning, intermediate and advanced levels of English literacy. They meet at Epiphany Episcopal Church and First Christian Church of Cape Coral.

The remainder of the classes are in downtown and south Fort Myers and in Estero. They are also for beginning, intermediate and advanced speakers and meet at the Park Alliance Church, the Wa-Ke Hatchee Recreational Center, the LVLC office and the Downtown Fort Myers Library.

"Adult students in these classes are from all over the world, and they are united in their goal to learn English," Murphy said. "We so admire their dedication and discipline to fit these classes into their already busy schedules."

Murphy also thanked the instructors, who are all volunteers: George Gatewood, Jeanette Gesek, Bob Wimbush, Jackie Cadkin, Joel Katz, Pat Hunter, Susan Steacy, Debbie Gwaltney, and Skipper and Ed Fossett.

## Tutor Training Set for July, August

Don't miss out on the opportunity to take part in tutor training sessions this summer. All sessions are held from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Call 278-4400 for a registration packet.

**July 22, 2006**

**ESL**

Second Church  
Assembly of God  
3615 Central Ave.  
Fort Myers

**August 12, 2006**

**ESL Group**

Epiphany  
Episcopal Church  
2507 Del Prado Blvd.  
Cape Coral

## 29 New Tutors Complete Their Studies

Between April and June, LVLC trained 29 volunteer tutors for its adult literacy program. We appreciate the time and talent they are providing!

Shirley Borregaard  
Carol Berry  
Kenneth Birdsong  
Margaret Birdsong  
Pamela Bourgeois  
Barbara Brennan  
Fay Carney  
Paul Dean  
Heather Dohme  
Daniel Dix

Ed Fossett  
Skipper Fossett  
Krystina Gehring  
Jeanette Gesek  
Deborah  
Gwaltney  
Kathleen Hayes  
Jerry Hrinik  
Pat Hunter  
Philip Nilsen

Christine Rachwal  
Patricia Reith  
Debbie Richmond  
Alden "AJ" Richter  
Peggy Salvesen  
Susan Steacy  
Gary Swanson  
Mary Beth Unger  
Marianne Wilson  
Bob Wimbush

Literacy Volunteers of Lee County is a non-profit organization that provides free and confidential adult literacy programs in Lee County (Fort Myers, Estero, Sanibel/Captiva, Cape Coral, Pine Island, North, South and East Fort Myers). The service is provided through trained volunteer tutors via one-to-one matches or in small groups. Students are assessed for their English literacy skills prior to being matched with a volunteer, and again every six months or 15 hours of tutoring.

# Learning English Is Key, But Not Easy

*Marian Pyles wrote a guest opinion about literacy for  
The Fort Myers News-Press on June 10, 2006. Here are excerpts:*

They speak Spanish, Korean, Russian, French, Portuguese, Polish. Some come to this country to flee oppression, others to escape poverty. Yet many leave behind luxurious homes, lucrative careers, thriving businesses only to embrace what America offers: freedom, opportunity, and security.

Here, they hold down jobs, pay taxes, rent homes, often buy homes, attend college, fuel the economy, and provide necessary services. Should they learn English? Of course. Must they learn English to survive? Of course. Do they learn English? Of course they do.

As a volunteer tutor and office worker for Literacy Volunteers of Lee County...I have come to know and respect many of these students. Thus I read with dismay the letters to the editor with concerns about immigrants' lack of English skills, for these people deserve our patience, understanding, and respect.

In spite of some frustrating experiences in our reading class, English grammar is relatively easy. The students learn the three basic tenses readily. Learning an entire new vocabulary, likewise, comes fairly easily. Problems arise, however, in the area of spelling, which might seem inconsistent and illogical to the non-English speaker.

Why aren't "bird," "herd," "curd," and "word" spelled the same way? They sound the same way! Pronunciation is just as incomprehensible: "dough," "cough," and "rough." Students

learn rules only to come upon the many exceptions...

Let's suppose a young woman has studied English for 12 years in another country. She immediately finds a job here. When she walks into work one day, her boss says, "I was on pins and needles, afraid you weren't coming in. George is under the weather, so since we are flying solo, we are out on a limb here. If we are going to keep our heads above water today, we have to take the bull by the horns. So let's hop to it." The employee probably will understand every individual word, but will have no idea what her boss is saying. Over 10,000 of these pesky idioms exist.

Thus, the medical community and the justice system need translators. If a newcomer falls ill, is injured, or is the victim of a crime, he or she should not suffer or be treated unfairly simply because he or she hasn't mastered a difficult language in a short period of time...

Immigrants must not forget their roots or their native language. If they have children, it is imperative and wonderful that their children grow up bilingual. Most impressive is that for many of these people, English is not their second language but often their third or fourth. How many Americans can speak even two languages? For that matter, how many Americans speak their own language correctly? These newcomers deserve our respect for their eager commitment to learning English...

## Applause, Please!

### Students, Tutors Honored for Achievements

Adults who are learning to read, write, speak and understand English — and the volunteer tutors who help them — were honored in late April at the Literacy Volunteers of Lee County Annual Appreciation Dinner in Fort Myers. The dinner was held at First Christian Church of Fort Myers.

About 100 students, tutors and their families attended the potluck dinner, which featured cuisine from many countries. Twenty-eight students and 35 tutors received certificates of achievement.

Twelve volunteer tutors were honored for donating from 50 to more than 100 hours of tutoring in the past year. Twenty-three were honored for lifetime volunteer hours ranging from 250 to over 1,000. Louise G. Schmuhl, who has been a tutor for 15 years, has volunteered 2,319 hours!

LVLC thanks **Bell Tower Shops, Chico's, Dwyer's, Eye Centers of Florida, First Watch and Firehouse Subs** for their support.

*Maria Rivera, a  
Literacy Volunteers of  
Lee County adult  
student, attended the  
potluck dinner with Luis  
Ortiz. Both came to this  
country from Colombia.*



## LVLC Thanks Recent Donors

### Literacy Patron (\$1,000+)

Barnes & Noble Booksellers  
Alan and Jacquelin Cadkin  
Pall Aeropower Corporation  
Wal-Mart, Six-Mile Cypress

### Educator Society (\$500 - \$999)

Walter Mangold  
Sanibel Community Church  
Sanibel Congregational Church

### Student Sponsor (\$250 - \$499)

Curt B. Hamric

### Reader's Circle (\$100-\$249)

Sally Rich  
Patrick and Charlotte Scanlan  
Rebecca Totaro  
G. Napier Wilson  
Patricia Zelkowitz

### Book Club (up to \$99)

Albertson's Grocery Store  
Reagan Gandy  
Bruce Jones  
Leila Marks

(4/4/06 - 6/28/06)

# Join Literacy Volunteers of Lee County!

Did you know that with a \$200 donation, LVLC can make a match of tutor and student? We believe that the ability to read changes a person's life and has an impact on his or her family, the workplace and the entire community. Can we count on your help?

## Yes! Count Me in to Help!

- I'd like to become a tutor. Please send me your literature.
- I'll arrange to help with office work.
- I'll arrange to have you speak to our organization.
- Here's my tax-deductible contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- Other help I can give\_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to contact me \_\_\_\_\_

### Be Part of Our Success

Book Club.....Up to \$99  
Reader's Circle.....\$100-\$249  
Student Sponsor.....\$250-\$499  
Educator Society.....\$500-\$999  
Literacy Patron.....\$1,000+  
*All donations are tax-deductible*

The fundamental  
right to take part in  
a democratic  
society has always  
been one of the  
strongest arguments  
for a continuing,  
community-wide  
commitment to  
literacy. —  
Canadian  
Government, 2003

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