

The Lamplighter too

Our Class

We are learning conversational English and we are helping our teacher learn Spanish. Together we are sharing a learning experience and becoming friends.

Tuesday and Wednesday Night Class, new classroom

Camilo Andres	Luis Jimenez
Carmen Cervera	Ines Juarez
Damian Cruz	Gaspar Lopez
Jorge Curz	Humberto Lopez
Elvin De Leon	Gustavo Maradiaga
Juan Francisco	Jesus Martinez
Beatriz Garcia	Leonor Martinez
Sandra Garcia	Luis Mejia

Ann Tabrizchi, teacher

Family

Family is so beautiful and so important that we should do everything we can to keep it happy and together.

Trying to keep your family happy could be a key to keeping your family together because if the family is happy, they want to be together.

Some very simple but very important ways to make your family feel special could be, for example, in the morning when you first see each other, saying good morning, looking at each other's eyes with a smile and, if possible, with a great hug and a kiss would be just wonderful. Saying not only "bye-bye" or "I'll see you later", but also saying "have a great day", "have a wonderful time" or something like that, depending on the situation.

These are only a few simple things that we should do in our everyday life, but unfortunately we don't always do it, or we just don't do it at all due to the stressful life that we live in today. The bad news is that we women have created this stressful world that is killing our peaceful way of living little by little. Literally speaking, we are destroying ourselves, and we are the only ones that could save ourselves and make a possible better future.

Sincerely,
Veronica Valdez



A newsletter by and for the students of the
Literacy Council of Bonita Springs

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Trip to Mexico

My son-in-law went to Mexico with me. I went to see my family in Mexico. I went to watch the baseball game on Sunday. On Monday I went to the dentist. I went to the market on Tuesday. On Tuesday night I ate tacos. My visit to Mexico was short. My family was happy to see me. My mom and dad came to Florida with me. My mom and dad had a special dinner for me.

Ramon Martinez

Tutor, Helen Shulman

New Country, New Language

My name is Daysi Jocelyn Rivera, but I prefer the people call me Jocelyn. I'm from the Dominican Republic and came here in December 2004, with my husband and our two children, because we think we have more opportunities here in the United States than in our country. Our goal is to work very hard in order to build a better future for us. I've been studying English in my country for two years, but I have to learn more. That is the reason I came to the Literacy Council, hoping to increase my vocabulary and improve my pronunciation. I have had four classes with an excellent tutor. I feel well with his method, and I'm sure I'll speak fluently in a few months.

Jocelyn Rivera

Tutor, Walter Buhrman

OFFICE SCHEDULE

Katie Verna, Program Director
Sonia Heredia, Office Assistant
Monday to Friday: 9:00 to 5:00 pm

Jeanne Sachs, Student/Tutor Coordinator
Nora Martinez, Lab Coordinator
Monday to Thursday: 6:00 to 9:00 pm

website: www.bonitaliteracy.org
email: bonitaliteracy@comcast.net

STUDENT COMPUTER LAB

Monday to Friday, 9am to 9pm
Saturday, 9am to 3pm
Monday to Friday, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: 27308 Old 41 Road
Phone: (239) 495-0999
Fax: (239) 495-0071

The Secret to Reaching the Stars

One of the famous thoughts of Walt Disney was: "Our dreams will be reality if we want them bad enough."

Have you asked yourself, "What am I doing here? What is the meaning of my life?" or, have you been so tired that you forgot to smile? Please, don't give up on dreams! Don't fall in the mysterious pool of tears because you have to climb the mountains; the way is long.

My name is María Jose Véjar. I'm twenty-four years old and I'm from Ecuador. In my country I finished college and I got my degree in journalism. I was working for a newspaper agency while still in college. After graduating from Quito University, I also worked for a radio and TV station. Now I clean houses, and I'm a hostess at two restaurants.

It's hard to think how my life has changed, but I'm not sad because I'm now ready to catch the stars.

The first step is to learn English. Everyday, little by little, I learn more and more, and I know that I will reach one of my goals.

Don't limit yourself. Nobody is better or worse than you.

What is the thing that makes you feel happy? What do you want to be? Let's follow our dreams!

I'll learn English, and I'll study journalism. Later on I'll get a new job and I hope to make a lot of money. The most important thing is that I'll have a star in my hands, like Renee Rossero wrote: "The man who seeks the truth and doesn't find it, is not the one who is mistaken, but the one who is afraid of making a mistake is wrong."

If I can, why can't you?

María Véjar

Someone Likes Ingrid Clauson

Dear Teacher:

"American's Dream" is the name that many people have used to describe the life in this country and I think it's true. But I don't want to speak about the sad situation of migrant workers because I don't have enough vocabulary yet to tell you everything about this subject.

This is a thank you letter.

Thank you for your help.

Thank you for being patient with me.

Thank you for everything.

I really appreciate all the things that you do for me. It's incredible that people exist like you. You are a very nice person and I'm so glad that you are my English teacher.

Sincerely,

María Véjar

Where Are They Now?

A letter from a former student

October 26, 2004

Dear Katie,

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I received from one of my former students, Mauricio Valenzuela. He worked on the golf course here at Imperial as a sprayer and also worked as a bus boy at a restaurant. His wife and two daughters spent a year with him in Naples but had to return to Chile when their visa expired. He was able to remain another year or two and wanted himself and his family to become citizens of the United States but that was not possible.

As you can see, his English is very good and he has great plans for the future.

Sincerely,

Shirley Starr

September 24, 2004

Dear Mrs. Starr,

How are you? Well, I'm very embarrassed because I haven't written to you for a long time. I know that that is all my fault.

I think that I'm losing my English, but this is not the reason why I'm sending you a letter. The reason is you told me once that you had a student from Brazil that you were giving English classes to for a few months, and she went somewhere else and you never had news from her again.

I feel bad because thanks to your time and dedication I can speak English. Thanks to you, I'm working in a nice hotel called Park & Suites Plaza el Bosque. I'm the Captain; it is a very good position (It's like the boss for the servers.)

It's my dream maybe next year to study at the University because I want to be an English teacher. (Nothing to compare like you, but I'll do my best.) I have to study for five years. They gave me a test and I have to pay about three hundred dollars per month.

I'm working in front of the Embassy of the United States. It's a beautiful place. My daughters send greetings to you, they have the teddy bears that you sent them.

You told me in the last letter that you were going to move to Naples. I miss the great golf course there called Imperial.

If you see Mike or Dave, my ex-bosses, tell them hi for me. The best of them is named Berry.

Please tell Mr. Starr hello, and if you go to the best restaurant in the whole world (you know the one I mean?), tell Tom hello, too.

Thank you for everything, Mrs. Starr. You'll never know how much you helped me.

Sincerely,

Mauricio E. Velenquela Contador