



# VISIONS

September 2014

harvesting  
YOUR  
SUCCESS



# WELCOME

## From the Library Director



So many individuals in our community struggle daily with the challenges resulting from an inability to read, speak, and write effectively in English. Something as simple as reading a bedtime story to a child is a joy many adults never experience. The ability to communicate is so essential to our daily lives and yet can be a daunting and sometimes embarrassing task for many. The Hillsborough Literacy Council offers a beacon of hope for those who seek to improve their lives through language and literacy. It is a hard fought struggle requiring tremendous perseverance. Yet the reward brings boundless joy to both students and the tutors dedicated to helping them.

I applaud the commitment of every individual participating in this program. When an individual is able to achieve his or her personal intellectual goals, the community, as a whole, benefits. I congratulate these students who have honored us by sharing their personal stories in the essays here. Let them be an inspiration to all of us and a reminder of what we the people can do when we help each other.

**Joe Stines, Director of Libraries  
Tampa-Hillsborough Public Library**



# **Welcome**

**2014 Hillsborough Literacy Council  
Tutor-Student Appreciation Assembly  
Saturday, September 20 ♦ 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

# Program



## **Hillsborough Literacy Council Board of Directors**

Lee Russell ◇ President  
Paul Suppicich ◇ Vice President  
Bill Hunter ◇ Secretary  
Bill Hill ◇ Treasurer  
Carol Bockenek ◇ LaQuinda Brewington  
Janet Daggs ◇ Kathy Mammenga ◇ Frank Shideler  
Phyllis Weston

## **Administrative Support**

Kate Kellar ◇ Literacy Coordinator  
Valicia Blydenburgh ◇ Senior Library Assistant  
Alexandra Greacen ◇ Part-Time Library Assistant

## **Library Advisors**

Joe Stines ◇ Linda Gillon ◇ Anne Ross

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Lee Russell ♦ President

## **Master of Ceremonies**

Rod Carter ♦ News Channel 8 Today Co-anchor

## **Keynote Speaker**

The Honorable E. J. Salcines ♦ Retired Appellate Judge, Florida District Court of Appeals, Second District

## **Visions Readings**

Hazel Singleton (Tutor: Sharon Cook)

Bing Zhang (Tutor: Sallie Miller-House,

Conversation Corner Organizer: Janet Daggs)

Elizabeth Motta (Conversation Corner Organizer:  
Carol Bockenek)

## **Awards and Recognitions**

Basic Literacy Student of the Year

Basic Literacy Tutor of the Year

ESOL Student of the Year

ESOL Tutor of the Year

Sylvia Miller Award

Trainers, Organizers,  
and Conversation Class Volunteers

## **2014 Graduate — ESOL Program**

Isabel Acosta (Tutor: Sister Marcella Kiesel)

## **Special Acknowledgements**

**Closing Remarks ♦ Special Thanks to Our Sponsors**

## **Special Thanks To:**

### **Tutors Who Served Over 100 Hours**

Lisa Clementi  
William DesJardins  
Stephen Drumm  
Marsha Hayne  
Sister Marcella Kiesel  
Jean Kouwe  
Catherine Luthin  
Carmen Mattei  
Marjorie Nesman  
Lesley Peters  
Norma Rodriguez  
Frank Shideler  
Lark Underwood

### **Conversation Corner Organizers—2014**

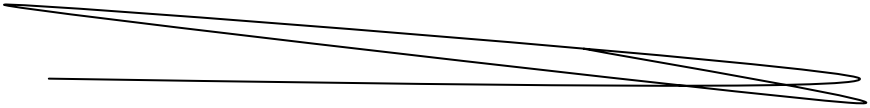
Carol Bockenek  
Belinda Bruce  
Sylvia Covington  
Janet Daggs  
Candy Knapp  
Kathy Mammenga  
Andrew Mason

### **Tutor Trainers/Mentors**

Diane Grey  
Kathy Mammenga

# Visions

*Essays by Adult New Readers and Speakers of  
English as a Second Language*



In order to celebrate our students' learning stages, English usage was intentionally retained as submitted.





# Hillsborough Literacy Council

The Hillsborough Literacy Council (HLC) is a nonprofit affiliate of Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Libraries teaching functionally and marginally illiterate adults to read and write through its Adult Basic Literacy program. In its English for Speakers of Other Languages program, participants learn to read, write and communicate in basic English.

HLC accepts adults 18 and over. Depending upon the student's level, learning to read can take a year or more.

HLC needs volunteer tutors and funding partners. Tutors receive training and materials and are asked to commit to one year's work with their student(s).

HLC memberships and donations directly support the program by funding student materials and supplies for tutor training.

For more information, visit [hillsboroughliteracy.org](http://hillsboroughliteracy.org) or call us at 813-273-3650.

# Table of Contents

Dogs, Best Friends	Elizabeth Motta	3
Word Search	Ernesto Milan	4
About My House	Maria Jurado	5
Colombia	Ernesto Milan	6
Marina's Story	Marina Dubanevich	7
Traveling Through Space	Marta Moreno de Ramirez	8
My Special Niece	Maria Repollet	9-10
The Magnifying Glass Woman	Marta Moreno de Ramirez	10
Greeting Life	Julia Etienne	11-12
Why would I want to be a doctor?	Pavel Dubavich	13
Leonet's Story	Leonet Heppenstall	14
Letter	Hazel J. Singleton	15-16
Strawberry Festival	Paula Cleveland	16
My Country	Elizabeth Motta	17
My First Paragraph	Abby Brown	18
My Teacher	Shahnaz Ismail	19
The Cruise	Paula Cleveland	20
Take the bus	Bing Zhang	21
Disney	Huijuan Wang	22-23
Marie's Story	Marie Sarr	23
Tutoring—The Yin and Yang	Karen Dobson	24-25

# **Dogs, Best Friends**

Submitted by Elizabeth Motta

Tutor: Carol Bockenek, Conversation Corner

I do like dogs a lot. I wish I could have one now, but I can't because I think dogs need too much love. It's not enough every day so early in the morning and in the afternoon taking them for a walk with a long leash, it's not enough.

I think dogs really like playing, running and feel free, not with a dog collar around their necks and a leash pulling to the way the owners want.

Dogs are the best of man's friends and don't deserve that human beings sometimes abuse of them as lab projects in different researches or even abandon them if we don't like to keep them anymore. They don't deserve that.

We must think that they are beings that feel pain, thirst, hunger and only want love.

# Word Search

Submitted by Ernesto Milan

Tutor: Carol Bockenek, Conversation Corner

Find the names written below in any direction.

H	I	M	E	L	B	A	C	E	L	I	A
A	A	A	L	E	D	A	I	R	E	N	E
S	C	G	C	A	R	O	L	N	L	U	Z
S	E	A	I	N	E	S	T	E	R	R	Y
A	B	L	D	O	L	E	U	S	N	O	C
N	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	C	M
B	R	Y	A	T	C	A	R	O	L	I	A
A	T	X	A	N	I	R	A	M	Z	O	R
R	H	N	A	N	C	Y	H	A	M	R	I
A	A	S	O	F	I	A	I	N	O	S	E
L	O	R	R	A	I	N	E	S	I	U	L
C	H	A	R	L	E	S	D	I	A	N	A

- |         |         |           |          |
|---------|---------|-----------|----------|
| Adela   | Charles | Diana     | Hassan   |
| Leda    | Magally | Bertha    | Clara    |
| Elcidia | Ines    | Lorraine  | Marina   |
| Blanca  | Celia   | Elizabeth | Irene    |
| Luis    | Mariela | Carol     | Consuelo |
| Ernesto | Irma    | Luz       | Melba    |
| Rebeca  | Rocio   | Sophia    | Sonia    |
| Tom     | Terry   | Nancy     | Neliza   |

# **About My House**

Submitted by Maria Jurado

Tutor: Lorraine Whyte

When my husband was sick with cancer, we had a big problem because he could not work for about eight months. I had the mortgage, the car payment and all the bills. That was impossible! I could not pay everything especially the mortgage. Some friends told me that the President made a plan for people who were going to lose their houses. We filled out the form but it took a longtime waiting to find out if we were accepted. We said "Thank you God" for the great solution and the lower house payment. We did not lose our house. We also say thanks to God that my husband's cancer was cured.

# Colombia

Submitted by Ernesto Millan

Tutor: Carol Bockenek, Conversation Corner

Colombia is a great country. It is place on the north of South America.

It's limited on the north by the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, and by the west the Pacific Ocean. Limited also by the east with Venezuela and by the south with Peru and Ecuador, two neighbors countries.

Colombia has, more or less, fifty millions of inhabitants. It has a variety of climate due to its topography system. It has two seas, three mountain range and a lot of valleys with altitude since the sea level top eternal snow fall mountains.

Colombia is very rich in gastronomy due to its variety of farming or cultivations in several regions.

It's food is very delicious and diverse depending of the region.

The best of Colombia is the people.

# **Marina's Story**

Submitted by Marina Dubanevich

Tutors: Frank Shideler

We live in America since November 2012. We continue to learn English with our teacher and the best friend Frank Shideler. By now, we improved our vocabulary, grammar rules and also listening comprehension. Sometimes we speak slowly, but we try to speak correctly, that people understand us. And also we try to speak with each other on English, watch movies on original language and I have to say it is more interesting than translators. We have in plans to travelling around America and to find out culture of Americans, their lifestyle. We know our English will improve each day. In near future we want to study in a college. Now it's our important goal. We believe that our American dream will come true.

# Traveling Through Space

Submitted by Marta Moreno de Ramirez

Tutor: Angelina Mandanici

I fly away through the space. I do this now, I am up in the sky. I can see too many white and gray clouds. I see the clouds to move and make big shadows; big figures like huge birds, some like seagulls with strong winds. I see through the clouds a big hole, through the hole a huge black brightness mountain it is charcoal mountain. On the base of that is a river valley, I can see the sun shine there. Across to the river there is a green very green valley, behind of the valley there are another mountain and I see over that a big volcano on flames and there is a woman sit over the flames. She small to me and call me, I try to go, but a big soldier stops me with a rifle. I get scary but I want to go close to the woman but the soldier watch me. What happening to her? The soldier can tell you because I going down to the Earth.



# **My Special Niece**

Submitted by Maria Repollet

Tutor: Sister Marcella Kiesel

My niece, Maria Milagros Ayoala, has had many health challenges in her life. When she was born, she was baptized in the hospital because her health was delicate.

My niece has been a smart and strong person. She has always been able to overcome obstacles in her life. With courage and perseverance God has helped her to overcome the negative things about her illnesses. Her goal is to help people who suffer from Cancer.

She was only five years old when she was diagnosed with a cancerous tumor on her right leg. The leg was amputated below the knee because the tumor was close to the ankle. She had a three month delay in recovering. So, she couldn't use a prosthesis for the missing foot. She wanted her toy dog to have the operation and have its leg cut off too. She graduated from Kindergarten on crutches.

Twenty five years later she had a different kind of Cancer. They operated on her left Thyroid. Eight years after this, she had the right side of the Thyroid removed. Currently the results of tests are negative and she remains in treatment.

(continued)

## **My Special Niece** (continued)

My niece gives thanks to God for having been able to overcome her challenges. What my niece teaches us is to always have a positive attitude and trust in God. With these we can overcome all obstacles.

## **The Magnifying Glass Woman**

Submitted by Marta Moreno de Ramirez

Tutor: Angelina Mandanici

I was ran in the park, and I saw a woman with a magnify glass. She was laying down watching in the grawn through the magnify glass. I get curiosity and I start to watch her very carefuley with cureossity because I want to know what were in thear across. I was a little far frome her and I do not see what she looking fore. Then she start to scream. I hear "oh my god I never saw this before, no bathy go to believe this, an ant with seven heads!"

# Greeting Life

Submitted by Julia Etienne

Tutor: Sarrah Conn

Where will I be in five years?  
Will I be better?  
What is better?

Better is reading freely. Newspapers open doors that I walk through. Guilt remains behind. Google can teach me everything. But the Bible is what I hope to read next. Better is reading Thought of Yesteryear to my husband instead of the other way around (or by myself in peace and quiet for once).

Better is finding my old mistakes and correcting them myself. No one helping me. Better is independence. Better is the world opening to me, greeting me, and me not being afraid to greet it back.

Better is more opportunity. It's a fulfilling job. It's helping others and owning my own business at the same time. Inspiring children with disabilities and teaching them the independence that I am learning myself. Teaching them how to live their values through example. Creating a community of knowledge and self-direction.

Better is giving my kids the love and attention that they deserve. Nurturing them to reach all of their potential. Seeing my kids grow into respectful  
(continued)

## **Greeting Life** (continued)

adults. Adults who respect themselves and who respect others. Adults who finish school, go to college, become successful, and are not couch potatoes. Better is them not having to work as hard as I do, but getting to work smarter instead.

Better is cooking more deliciousness, and using beautiful cookbooks. Turkey, ham, and holidays. Makawoni au gratin is everyone's favorite. New dishes like coque au vin expand my horizons. Improving my skills in the kitchen make all of life smell better (and feel better too). Or at least my macaroni and cheese will improve.

I wonder sometimes, am I a good mother? How do I know? Ray Ray tells me that he loves me as big as his arms and wants me as his mommy more than anyone else. His soft words and little limbs help put my mind at ease and give me the strength to keep going. Everyday. There is no option to give up. With dedication and motivation—strong will power—I know I can read stories to put him to bed or help him one day with homework. I am learning more every day that I can do this. I can keep improving because I have already come so far.

So where will I be in five years?  
I will be better because I have the tools I need.  
I will be better because I know my reasons to keep going.

# **Why would I want to be a doctor?**

Submitted by Pavel Dubavich

Tutor: Frank Shideler

My story began when I was 4 years old. This day was a movie on TV, I do not remember about that was this film, but when I saw a man in a white coat, which saved the patient, I said to myself, I'LL LIKE IT SO I WILL DOCTOR. At school my favorite subjects were biology, physics and chemistry. After high school I moved to my dream, and now I go to medical college, where I have come to this craft touched called MEDICINE. It was the most wonderful time in my life. In the second year of college, I decided that I need more practice, and the money never hurts, I got a job physician assistant at an ambulance station. At this time I began to count the saved people's lives, and the lives of those whom we could not save. After college, I decided to move on to my goal, to be a doctor. I'm applying to medical school in Siberia. After the first year I start working on the ambulance station in the city is home to three million people. Working here with different specialists I got huge experience in all areas of medicine. This period of time will always be in my memory. And now here I am Tampa, Florida, and I did not turn from the path which charted himself. I will continue to go to the target. I love this profession, because you're helping people and are saving their lives! I am grateful to the program of learning English ESL program from Hillsborough Literacy Council with the help of this program, my English is moved to another more qualitative level.

# Leonet's Story

Submitted by Leonet Heppenstall

Tutor: Janet Daggs, Conversation Corner

My name is Leonet Heppenstall.

I'm from Colombia, South America.

I have been here for several years.

I came with my family, 4 children and my Husband. We had imagination about this country but our imagination vanished. I came with a large family and we never worked for others. We worked on our own business that was in my mind, but Language was my obstacle, however I still have my dreams! I started working for an American family. When they got to know me, they offerd to Helpe me start my own business. I did start and created a big business for 17 years, until my husband had the disease of cancer. I had to sell the business and became widowed. It is never too late to improve English but I notice the American people are the vest for helping others no matta how you are. They are the first to help. That is the Lord bless Americans more and more. The worderfull volanTERS and teaachers help us to improve the Lenguas.

I'm the one who prays for the leaders of this country every day. Lord BLESS American this is a beautiful place. :)

Thank you volanTERS teacher.

# Letter

Submitted by Hazel J. Singleton

Tutors: Sharon Cook

To whom this concerns.

Having being introduced to this program after sharing with A friend my inner feeling of not educated enough to pronouce words correctly or use proper grammar.

It was then my friend gave me the number to call. Where I was planning on hiring myself a turtorur. She encourages me to look into the illiteracy program

At my age. I was so ashamed, but as I was making the decision to call I remembered a teacher told me many years ago never be ashamed of not being able to do a thing. Be ashame not to try.

I am so glad I made that call because if I hadn't I never would have met this kind caring turtorur Ms. Sharon Cook. I have learned so much from her. She is concerned, She is an excellent teacher and very devoted.

My english speaking is getting much better, my pronounaction improving tremendously. I am proud of me.

(continued)

## **Letter** (continued)

I have not yet arrived all the way. But thanks to this program, to Sharon Cook, and God for my determination I will get to where I want and need to get.

To the entire literacy program staff Thank you all.

Much Love  
Hazel J. Singleton

## **Strawberry Festival**

Submitted by Paula Cleveland  
Tutor: Flo Stein

Carl and I went to the fair. The weather was cold and dry. I ate strawberry shortcake. It tasted good. Carl ate an apple dumpling.

We saw the Dennis Lee show. He sang love songs. Carl said, "Look at the monkey." They did some tricks for us.

We left the fair at four o'clock.



# My Country

Submitted by Elizabeth Motta

Tutor: Carol Bockenek, Conversation Corner

Peru:

Is a representative democratic republic divided into 25 regions.

Is a country in the western South America bordered by Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil, Bolivia and Chile, and in the west by the Pacific Ocean.

Peruvian territory was home to ancient cultures, as the Inca Empire. Its geography varies from the arid plains of the Pacific coast to the peaks of the Andes Mountains and the tropical forest of the Amazon Basin. It's multiethnic.

The main spoken language is Spanish although a significant number of Peruvians speak Quechua or other native languages.

Our cuisine is very diverse with many different of excellent food.

# My First Paragraph

Submitted by Caridad Perez

Tutor: Abby Brown

My name is Caridad Perez. I work at Kimbell Elementary in the kitchen. My Family is very big. I have a mother, father, five brothers, and five sisters. I grew up in Cuba. My family still lives there. I am married to Osbey Marrero and we have two sons Olansy and Olandy Marrero. My son Olansy has two children; Osbell and Osdell Marrero. I was a teacher in the Library in Cuba. I moved to the United States in 2004. I like working in the kitchen at Kimbell; cooking, cleaning, serving the children, checking the computer, and talking to teachers. I am able to practice English at work everyday. I also study at the library once a week. I want to learn English for a better future. It makes it easier to talk to people and makes life easier.

# **My Teacher**

Submitted by Shahnaz Ismail

Tutor: Sylvia Covington, Conversation Corner

The teacher's word is powerful  
Her job is very respectful

The teacher, I admire  
The teacher, I love

She spreads the light of knowledge  
She teaches me like a friend

She gives me attention  
She gives me motivation

She is my strength  
She is my success

She helps me to fulfill my dreams  
She works with me as a team

She is so faithful  
She is so graceful

# **The Cruise**

Submitted by Paula Cleveland

Tutor: Flo Stein

We left from Ft. Lauderdale, FL but to get to the ship the bus took five hours. It was a big ship.

Today we went to Aruba. I fed the ostrich and saw animals.

Three locks raise the ship 28-1/2 feet. Going through the locks takes two hours. To go through the Panama Canal took three hours. The name of the ship is the Zuiderdam. We had many adventures on the ship. They had three swimming pools, hot tubs, gym, computer classes, shows and movies. There were plenty things to keep us busy.

One day on the cruise we went to lunch to meet the captain.

In Costa Rica, the tombstones are paint the same as the homes.

I got a free gift. It was a diamond charm bracelet.

## **Take the bus**

Submitted by Bing Zhang

Tutor: Janet Daggs, Conversation Corner

My name is Bing, I am from the country that has the largest population, which is China. Because of the big population, my country doesn't have enough space for everyone to drive a car, bus and subway become the most popular public transportation, when I move to Tampa, I bring my old experience to the US.

I don't know how to drive a car, but it doesn't matter, I have excellent experience of how to take buses, nothing can stop me from going out by myself.

I still remember the first time I took a bus in Tampa, I asked which bus I could take, and then I went to the bus station with full of confidence. What? No street name post on the bus stop? The bus comes every 1 hour? I've waited for almost a century until I made sure I got on the correct direction bus. But another problem happened, the bus doesn't stop on every bus stop. I saw iron wire hanging around the window, at first I thought maybe the bus company took all curtain away and wash them. When I saw other people pull it, I realized they are stop sign for bus driver. I spend 2 hours to my destination, it's better to go there by foot.

# Disney

Submitted by Huijuan Wang

Tutor: Janet Daggs, Conversation Corner

Sallie Miller-House, ESOL Tutor

Sylvia Covington, Conversation Corner

I am from China, and I have been in Tampa 14 months with my husband. To celebrate the anniversary, we decided to go to the biggest Disney park in Orlando called "Magic Kingdom", as I haven't been to the Disney before.

There are some amazing places, some places are exciting, others introduces some latest the cartoons that suit for kids to play, but two programs give me deep impression.

One of program is called Space Mountain and it is a typical program that brings us exciting experience.

It is a rollercoaster in a dark room without light.

Then it raise up, descend down and rotate suddenly and you don't know which direction it will go to. Due to scare to unknown, it adds more fear and exciting.

I like it since it is different from other rollercoaster.

Other programs are firework and show outside castle at night. Every night at 10 o'clock, there is firework that lasts about 20 minutes, it is colorful and beautiful.

Suddenly, the man nearby was proposing to his girlfriend, and the girlfriend said yes, it was such a romantic scene. Later, another show exhibits outside the castle, it looks like a short film in castle with music and the castle was as a big screen. It is a creative idea.

## **Disney** (continued)

Therefore, I liked this day and enjoyed it, even though I was so tired when I was back home. I think it deserves.

## **Marie's Story**

Submitted by Marie Sarr

Tutor: Marjorie Nesman

My name is Marie Sarr. I am getting much better on writing I was not driving for three years. It was not easy for me to learn English but thank God that I have a driving license for 1 year. I was study every Wednesday and I have to stop again because my driver license it was expired. And I have to stay home again but I'm still studying on the phone with my teacher. She is teaching me a lot of English I thank God for her life she's always there for me.

# Tutoring - The Yin and Yang

Submitted by Karen Dobson, Tutor

Student: Wendell Williams

It's always so stressful getting that lesson plan together. How do I make it interesting and challenging? U-oh, the teacher's workbook is covering different kinds of syllables. I need to study up on this and make sure I know the rules thoroughly so I can teach it with understanding. I need to layer the exercises between those items my student struggles with and fun games & quizzes with homonyms, synonyms, and compound words. Do I have enough material for the lesson? Last week we didn't have enough. I tell myself again - always prepare too much rather than too little.

The student arrives for his lesson. The reading out loud is even better than last week. Multisyllabic words are sounded out with the precision of an English teacher. No fear I tell him, just break it down into little words and he's done it! He tells me he is more confident in his reading and that's he's trying to read a little every day. I repeat my familiar refrain - practice, practice, practice. He writes some original sentences and they're phenomenal - compound sentences with prepositions and proper verb usage. The games and exercises are fun. We chat about what's going on in our lives. We laugh a lot together.

(continued)



# **Tutoring - The Yin and Yang**

(continued)

On the drive home I relive the tutoring in my mind – what went right (yeah!!) and what I should teach differently next time. But there is an overwhelming sense of what? It's satisfaction, accomplishment, and yes, JOY. It's more than giving back; it's actually making a positive change in someone's life in a very tangible and personal way. Could there be a better feeling? I'm riding a high all the way home.

I need to start thinking about that next lesson plan.....



# THANK YOU

## From the HLC's President

Our mission at the Hillsborough Literacy Council is to help adults learn to read and to speak English, improving literacy skills for both native and non-native English speakers.



Through our mission and efforts we hope to help others assimilate into our society by having the skills to become employed, active and engaged in their local and national communities.

To that end, the HLC Board is committed to supporting the work of more than 200 adults, tutors and students, as they meet and learn in the public libraries throughout Hillsborough County.

It is with heartfelt appreciation that we thank each tutor for the time and effort they put into teaching others. We respect the successes that many of the students achieve, and we are proud to work with people who strive to reach their goals.

We wish each tutor and student continuing success, and the satisfaction of seeing ever-expanding horizons in their ongoing journey toward improved communication.

**Lee Russell, President  
Hillsborough Literacy Council**



# HILLSBOROUGH LITERACY COUNCIL

*Teaching Adults to Read and to Speak English*



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2017

Hillsborough Literacy Council, P.O. Box 4499, Tampa, FL 33677

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