

The Literacy Line



The **Literacy Line** is a newsletter for the tutors and students of the Palm Beach County Library System's **Adult Literacy Project** and **Library Literacy Friends**



APRIL 2026



THE FACES OF LIBRARY LITERACY FRIENDS & ADULT LITERACY PROJECT

JESSE WALTERS
LIBRARY FRIENDS BOARD
TREASURER

Jesse began his career in the hospitality industry as a room service waiter. From there he would work at eleven hotels, in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Florida, retiring from the Chesterfield Hotel Palm Beach.

He rose from a Manager Trainee working in twelve different departments at the historic Hotel Bethlehem in Pennsylvania to Banquet Manager, Catering Sales Manager, and Director of Sales and Marketing at his various stops. He worked in Hilton, Holiday Inn, Marriott, Best Western, and Howard Johnson properties, and four independent hotels culminating at the four-star Chesterfield.

Between stints at hotels that bookended his career, he was Director of Membership for eight years at the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau, served for nine years as President and CEO of the Chester County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and six as CEO of the Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce.

A graduate of Barry University in Miami, he lives in West Palm Beach with his husband of 38 years, and their sixteen-year-old daughter. When he is not reading, he is attending basketball games at Barry U.

Jesse has been a tutor and also teaches the annual series of classes on Financial Literacy. He has been a board member for the Library Literacy Friends for three years and currently serves as Treasurer.

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Do you want to know more about our Library Literacy Friends?

Join us at our next Board Meeting:

Saturday, June 27, 2026

Meetings are held at 11am at the Hagen Ranch Road Branch Library.

CONGRATULATIONS!

To the following students who became citizens since our last newsletter:

Sandra (pictured below), **Lina Maria, Heba**

Thank you to their tutors for all the work and support they provided!!!



CITIZENSHIP STUDY GROUPS

Whether you are new to the country or looking to naturalize, please register online for one of our upcoming ten-week citizenship study groups:

Thursdays April 2nd – June 4th
6 pm to 7:30pm
Jupiter Branch
705 Military Trail
Jupiter

Thursdays April 9th – June 11th
6 pm to 7:30pm
Main Library
3650 Summit Blvd
West Palm Beach

A big **thank you** to our facilitators for the hard work and dedication in presenting these classes!

LIBRARY LITERACY FRIENDS CAREER GOAL AWARDS

Students who meet certain criteria and complete goals such as US. Citizenship, Occupational Licenses, Professional Certifications and GED diplomas may apply for this award. Please ask your tutor for details.

Since our last newsletter, we are proud to acknowledge the following achievements from our students:

Gained employment or achieved work related successes:

Melek, Nubia, Nadine, Maria, Odair

Obtained a Driver's License:

Katia, Myriam



Attention All Students and Tutors!

Recognize outstanding achievement or effort in literacy.

Email us at literacy@pbclibrary.org.

TUTOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT



Tutor Training

This workshop reviews the use of materials and lesson planning.
Offered quarterly to new and current tutors.

Hagen Ranch Road Branch Library
Saturday, June 6th 9:30am to 2:30pm.
Watch your email for further details.

Tutor Roundtable

Share your tutor experiences and strategies.
Kim Doyle will lead our next **Tutor Roundtable** to be held on
Saturday, June 15th 10am to 12pm
Hagen Ranch Road Branch Library
Watch your email for further details.

A meeting for English Exchange staff and volunteer facilitators:
Wednesday, June 17th
Main Library
2pm-4pm

FINANCIAL LITERACY for English Language Learners

Learn the words and skills to take control of your money with confidence.
Preregister online.

Call the Adult Literacy Project for more information 561.894.7510



Wednesdays 2 pm – 4 pm

Week 1: April 1st Managing Your Money
Week 2: April 8th Banking and Credit
Week 3: April 15th Consumer Protection
Hagen Ranch Rd. Branch, 561.894.7500
14350 Hagen Ranch Rd., Delray Beach

Wednesdays 10am – 12 pm

Week 1: May 13th Managing Your Money
Week 2: May 20th Banking and Credit
Week 3: May 27th Consumer Protection
Gardens Branch, 561.626.6133
11303 Campus Dr, Palm Beach Gardens

Wednesdays 6 pm – 7 pm

Week 1: May 13th Managing Your Money
Week 2: May 20th Smart Money Decisions
Week 3: May 27th Banking and Credit
Week 4: June 3rd Consumer Protection
Main Library, 561.233.2600
3650 Summit Blvd. West Palm Beach



SPRING WORD SCRAMBLE:

I B R N A O W _____
N C I S I C P _____
C A V I O A T N _____
S O L O B S M S _____

A STUDENT'S STORY...



Speaking English is easy, right?

By Sak-Nikte Garcia

I have been studying English for years. In Mexico, English class is obligatory and you start classes in middle school until university. In fact, you can't have your diploma until you have a good grade in English. But when you grow up and you come out into real life, you realize that you don't know anything. You can have work in your country, read manuals, write emails, but, if you have the opportunity to live in an English-speaking country, then you hit a wall.

I have been living in the USA for four years; I came here because of my husband's work. At that time, my daughter was 7 years old, and my son was 5 years old. The first months I didn't want to go out of my house, I think I was afraid to be ridiculed in front of my children when I am speaking English, and that people would not understand me. But I couldn't show that fear.

I remember the first time I went to school with my children to ask for information for their enrollment, it was hard for me to go. All the way to school I was memorizing what I had to ask at the front desk, but still, I was "happy" and singing with my children all the way to the school.

Fortunately, the teacher that received us was so kind, she was a ESOL teacher (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and there was another teacher who spoke in Spanish. I thought, this was not so hard, I can do more things from now on. The first day of school was more stressful for me than for my children, they just went inside with an attitude so calm that it was surprising to me. They were fine.

Little by little I had to do more things, go to the pediatrician, meet with the teachers, try to have a normal life in this new place. My children, now 11 and 9, speak English with no problem, but for me it has been much harder. Sometimes I feel like I'm doing well and I am improving, but then I must go to the doctor, and I do not know how to explain myself. It makes me wonder if maybe English is not for me.

I don't know if this is part of the learning process, but there is something I always remember, something once mentioned by a person I hold in high esteem: "Do you know what a foreign accent is? It's a sign of bravery" and that makes me want to try again.

Did you know?



- ❖ English is spoken in over 100 countries.
- ❖ English is the third most spoken native language in the world. Standard Chinese and Spanish are first and second, respectively.
- ❖ English is the official language for maritime and aeronautical communications.

WORD SCRAMBLE ANSWERS: RAINBOW, PICNICS, VACATION, BLOSSOMS



Lake Worth Playhouse

Welcome all tutors and students!!



Reserve your seat:
Call the ALP Office at 561-894-7510
*** all shows begin at 7:30pm this season ***

Matilda on April 9th

Roald Dahl's **Matilda** is about a brilliant, book-loving girl neglected by her self-centered parents who discovers she has telekinetic powers, which she uses with mischievous fun and cleverness to stand up to her cruel parents and the tyrannical headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, ultimately finding a loving home with her kind teacher, Miss Honey

Lake Worth Playhouse 713 Lake Ave, Lake Worth



MAHJONG & TEA
Wednesday, April 22, 2026
3:30pm to 5pm
Main Library
3650 Summit Blvd., West Palm Beach

Students, Save the Date

LIBRARY LITERACY FRIENDS PICNIC

Sunday, May 31st
2pm-4pm
John Prince Park
2700 6th Ave S,
Lake Worth Beach



Are you looking for a friendly place to practice English?
A place that feels natural, welcoming, and fun?

Find Your Voice. Find Your Community.

Join us for an informal on-site **English Exchange** group or meet us online.

Come for conversation and friendship!

Intermediate knowledge of English is recommended but not required

<https://shorturl.at/V1SDM>



Literacy staff and LLF board members are planning new events and need your ideas! We will be emailing a survey to all tutors and students asking for suggestions about possible social activities, best locations and convenient days and times. Tutors, please assist your students in completing and returning the survey. Thank you!

CHANGE A LIFE: BECOME AN ADULT LITERACY TUTOR

Adult Literacy Project

This project provides one-on-one tutoring to adults who need help with reading, writing or speaking English. With just a few hours a week, you can help someone **gain confidence and open new doors for their future.**

Training, materials and assistance are provided...just bring your patience and encouragement. You can transform a life.

JOIN US TODAY!

Please email the Adult Literacy Project at literacy@pbclibrary.org
Or call the Adult Literacy Office for more information...561.894.7510

ADULT LITERACY PROJECT STATS

Student/Tutor teams: Adult Basic Education (ABE): 22 teams
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) : 147 teams

Students Awaiting Tutors

Adult Basic Education (ABE): 6
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) : 31

Our amazing students represent:

37 countries

18 languages: 50% Spanish; 11% Russian; 8% Native English; 7% Haitian Creole;
7% Arabic; 4% Portuguese; 3% Patois ; 3% Turkish; 7% other



ATTENTION ADULT LITERACY PROJECT TUTORS

Please watch for the end of the month email from Marianne which contains the link to the Google Form for submitting your hours. Fill in the required information and click SUBMIT. You will receive a message that your response has been recorded. Please read the entire email as there is often additional information about upcoming events, closings and general reminders.

We do not want to fill up your inbox, but you are welcome to fill up ours.

WE LOVE HEARING FROM YOU!

WE APPRECIATE YOUR TIME!



Library Literacy Friends, Inc. is an organization comprised of volunteers, students, and other concerned community members who recognize the basic literacy needs of adults in our community. We are committed to support, promote, and expand the presence and effectiveness of the Palm Beach County Library's Adult Literacy Project in providing one-on-one tutoring for adult learners.

We are supported entirely by our friends and members. Please print and complete this coupon to make a tax-deductible donation. Donations should be made out to Library Literacy Friends, Inc.

Date: _____ Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

(Circle One): Check or Cash

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail or drop off donations to: Library Literacy Friends, Inc. Hagen Ranch Road Library
14350 Hagen Ranch Road Delray Beach, FL 33446

Thank you!

