

Marion County Literacy Council

2677 NW 10th St. Suite A  
Ocala, FL 34475

Phone: (352)690-READ (7323)  
Fax: 352-624-8755  
E-mail: laurie@greystoneranch.org  
marisol@marionliteracy.org  
[www.marionliteracy.org](http://www.marionliteracy.org)



*"Changing Lives One Word At A Time"*

## A Note From Marisol

The Marion County Literacy Council is continually looking for new opportunities to provide our students the confidence they need to achieve their goals and succeed. In collaboration with our AmeriCorps Vista Volunteers the **"College and Career Pathways to Success"** Program has been created. This exciting program will be offered in a group of workshops meeting once per week for an hour, it will be open to all adults interested in advance in their professional career. What an excellent opportunity to obtain the tools you need to find the right job! Tools such as: Delivering the proper resume. Is this focused on your skills? Do you have too much information.



Preparing to present a quality interview. What you should and should not say during your interview. What you should/shouldn't write on your employment application. Come and explore all the different possibilities to succeed!



**HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!**  
**FROM GLORIA, LUZ, AND LUISA**



# ESOL SMALL TALK

Marion County Literacy Council

February 4, 2012

## BECOMING A U.S. CITIZEN

Volume 1, Issue 2

By: Luz Builes

After many years in the Unites States, I finally became a permanent resident in 2006. I know the importance of becoming a United States citizen, and I am taking the necessary steps to achieve my goal.

As a citizen I will have more opportunities. For example: I will be able to vote, apply for federal jobs, and my daughter the opportunity to go to university. It will be easier for her to obtain a scholarship if I am a citizen.

I am thankful for this country because it has given my family and I a chance for a



One of many beautiful beaches

better life. I look forward to enjoying the liberties and rights that come with being a citizen. But to reach my goal I have had to accomplish a few things.

First, I have had to learn English through classes at the Marion County Literacy Council. I am also taking a Citizenship prep course, also

thru the MCLC. The next step is to send the application for citizenship to the USCIS. I am currently waiting for my interview appointment, the final step on the path to citizenship! You cannot imagine how exciting this is for me! I hope everything goes well and I will soon be able to say: I AM A UNITED STATES CciCITIZEN!



A "Coqui" sunbathing

CITIZEN!

I would like to encourage other immigrants to pursue their dreams, whether it is to become a citizen or something different. It is difficult, but not impossible.

For more information go to [www.usci.com](http://www.usci.com).



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## Letter From The Editor

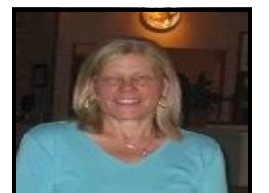
By: Laurie Kapsa, Editor

"No one in my house speaks English." "I can't practice my English!" These are just two examples of what I, as a tutor of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), hear from my students.

In the spring of 2010, I approached my class of Level 3 students with the newsletter concept. The idea was for the students to take on the role of "reporter". With the help of the Marion County Literacy Council, they would seek out a member of the community and conduct an interview with

that person. The students would be responsible for writing the articles, designing their publication and coming up with "filler". Not only would they be able to use their language skills, but they would have the added bonus of learning how to use computer software; a skill many of them do not possess. Additionally, getting out in the community would increase their self confidence. For this first issue, the students were not required to conduct interviews. To get their feet wet, they were able to choose their topic. I hope you enjoy this first issue and we look forward to the future.

*"To teach is to learn twice."*



Laurie Kapsa

**P.S.....**

If you would like to contribute to the ESOL newsletter please send your articles, teaching tips, pictures, etc. to [laurie@greystoneranch.org](mailto:laurie@greystoneranch.org). Deadline for the April issue is March 4, 2012. —Laurie

### MARISOL

By: Gloria Alfonso

Marisol Sepulveda loves working at the Marion County Literacy Council. When asked what she likes most about her job, she replied: "being able to help people".

Marisol was born on April 8 in Puerto Rico where as an adult she worked as a receptionist. She made the decision to move to the United States to give her children a better education. Marisol moved with her husband and two boys nine years ago.

Before coming to the United States Marisol did not speak English very well. She misses her family and friends, especially during the holidays. "Holidays are not the same without my friends and family", Marisol says. She also misses the Puerto Rican food. For

example: "lechón asado y arroz con gandules and flan de postre", which is roasted pig and rice with peas and vanilla custard for dessert. Marisol is a great cook, and often makes these dishes for her family.

The advantage that Puerto Ricans have are they are born citizens of the United States, however, they cannot vote for the president of the United States. Marisol believes Puerto Ricans have the same opportunities as Americans, but there is a language "barrier".

In her free time Marisol likes to go to yard sales, and spend time with her family and friends. In the future she would like to go back to Puerto Rico to visit her family.

*Marisol enjoys "being able to help people"*



### The Tingleys

By: Luisa

I met Kenny and Becky Tingley three years ago when I began assisting at the Christian Church. Kenny is a preacher who studied at the New Brunswick Bible Institute in Canada and Becky is a housewife.

Kenny was born in Dorchester, New Brunswick, Canada. He grew up on a farm, attending church, and studying the Bible. He eventually left home to study at the Bible Institute.

Becky was born and raised in East Corinth, Maine. She was one of eleven children. The winters were hard in Maine. Becky and her siblings spent

the cold winters working in the woods cutting pulp. The pulp was used to make paper and build furniture.

Kenny and Becky met at the Bible Institute, fell in love and got married. They eventually had three children and six grandchildren.

Kenny went to Maine to work in a mission. The mission was responsible for reopening closed churches.

Looking for a better opportunity they moved to Connecticut. Kenny went to work as a machinist at Emhart, a company that made glass bottles. He worked

there for thirty years, until retirement.

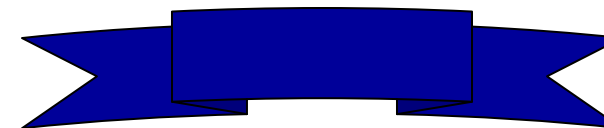
They moved to Florida 16 years ago for health reasons. Becky has asthma and she gets bronchitis frequently. Since moving to Florida her health has improved.

Kenny loves Canada and Becky misses Maine. They have made life here in Florida and are very happy. They assist at a Christian Church in Ocala, where Kenny is an assistant pastor. They love to help the non-English speaking Hispanics.

### A Puerto Rican Holiday Favorite



*Happy Holidays*



### Answers to Common Mistakes Made By English Language Learners

The teacher drives a Toyota.  
My teacher does not live in Texas.  
Why do you need more medicine?  
She can't go now because she is cooking dinner.

How long have you been living here?

My favorite city is Ocala. It is a very special place to me.  
My sister is a good swimmer.  
I like this food very much.  
\*At McDonald's, \*on Main Street, \* in her office.  
I am waiting for the bus.

Lack of verb endings ( s ) for 3rd person singular .  
Problems with auxiliary verbs ( do ) in negating.  
Problems with auxiliary verbs ( do ) in questions.  
Wrong verb tense: present tense for present progressive.  
Wrong verb tense: present tense for present perfect.

Omission of subject pronouns ( It ).  
Double subject pronoun ( she ).  
Misplacement of adverbs ( very ).  
Confusion of at/on/in.  
Lack of a preposition.



### CAN YOU FIND THE MISTAKES?

The teacher drive a Toyota.  
 My sister no lives in Texas now.  
 Why you need more medicine?  
 She can't go now because she cooks the dinner.  
 How long do you live here.  
 My favorite city is Ocala. Is very special place to me.  
 My sister she is a good swimmer.  
 I like very much this food.  
 \*In McDonald's, \*in Main Street, \*on her office.  
 I am waiting the bus.

Answers and the grammar rule can be found on pg. 8



*"I find television very educational.  
 Every time somebody turns on the set, I  
 go into the other room and read a  
 book".*  
**Groucho Marx**

### New Year's Eve Traditions in Ecuador

By: Karina Perdomo

One of the things I love about my country, Ecuador, are the New Year's Eve traditions. The Año Viejo, or "old year", celebrates the passing of the old year, bad happenings, unhappy memories, old regrets, and welcomes the New Year with hope.

On the last day of the year, everyone makes dolls out of paper, wood shavings, and old clothes. They put a mask or draw a face on the doll. Sometimes the faces are famous characters such as: politicians or cartoon characters. Others are of people they do not like, or someone in the family. The doll represents the "old year". At midnight the dolls are burned, destroying all the bad things from the past year.

Every New Year's Eve, is the burning of the puppets. The puppets trap all the bad things from that year. We burn the puppets right before midnight so the bad things do not happen again. The puppets are filled with old bills, sawdust, or newspaper, and firecrackers. They are beaten and burned before midnight. It is important that they are burned completely so the bad things do not happen in the new year.

On the streets during the day, men are dressed up as women. They dress as widows, wearing black. This is because the "old year" is the man, so as the old year passes, he leaves behind his wife, the widow. The men, disguised as widows stop people and cars to ask for money.

December 31st is a day filled with celebration and hope for all Ecuadorans. Out with the old, and in with the new!

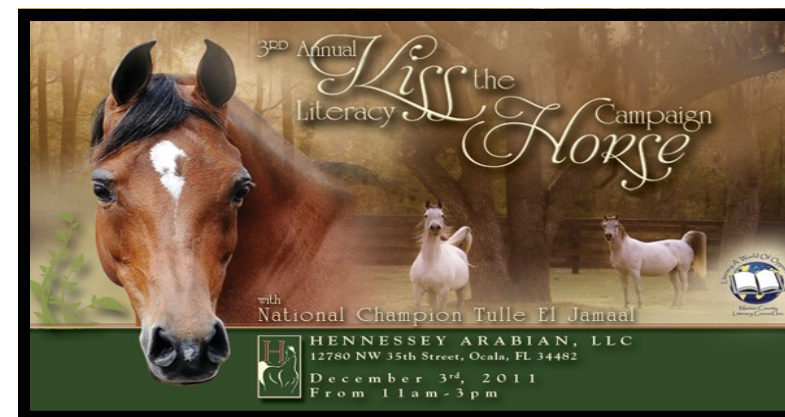


Ano Viejo puppets



A widow collecting change

*"men, disguised as widows stop people and cars to ask for money".*



The Third Annual Kiss the Horse for Literacy finale will take place on Dec. 3, 2011 at Hennessey Arabian Farms (12780 NW 35th St. Ocala) from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Advance ticket prices are as follows: Adults \$10, Students \$5, Under 10 Free. At the gate, prices are: Adults \$14, Students \$8, Under 10 Free. Catering will be provided by Mojo Grill. Horse shows will occur hourly until the Kiss Off at 2:45 p.m.

A children's activity area is being offered by the Early Learning Coalition, Marion County Children's Alliance, Marion County Public Library System and Just One Book.

Kiss the Horse is a campaign for literacy. Prominent local business and community leaders are "nominated" to campaign for the honor of Kissing the Horse. The candidate who raises the most money has the distinguished honor of smooching Tulle El-Jamaal (AHA 1997 champion) or passing the honor to another candidate.

"We are raising money to continue the mission of the MCLC," said Executive Director Karen Hill. "In this economy, everyone can afford to participate in this fundraiser by casting a vote for a minimum \$1 donation."

For more information, call the MCLC office at 352-690-7323.

**BUY A CHANCE TO WIN!**

**WIN AN ARABIAN YEARLING!**

The church is happy to as them

**\$50.00 Buys 1 Chance**

Literacy A World of Opportunity  
Marion County Library Council

very have

For tickets call 352-690-7323

2010 grey, gelding by the 2010 US National Champion Stallion \*El Nabila B(born in Hungary, imported to the USA from Brazil) out of imported from Poland (in utero) mare H Elana H. H Elana H is by Galba out of the Scottsdale Champion and US Reserve Champion mare \*Elandra (Monogram - Erlanda).

### Dancing for Young People

By: Luz Builes

Dance provides a lot of great opportunities for young people. It's a way to meet others, it's great exercise, and it can improve self-esteem and confidence. I have a good example of how dance has influenced a young person. My daughter, Jacqueline Jimenez has become a great dancer. She is involved in many dance shows and competitions, not only in her high school, but also in different events in Marion County.

When we moved to Ocala she found the great opportunity of going to school at West Port High School.

They have very good programs for their students that want to become dancers, even if they have never danced before.

Jacqueline also found a great dancing partner in her boyfriend, Louis. They both enjoy spending time together practicing dance. Dance has become such an important part of my daughter's life as I am sure it has for many other young people.

Not only does Jackie dance for enjoyment, but she also competes. She has won many competitions. Jackie has done so well that the high school has chosen her to be a choreographer. She has won several awards in Ocala.

Dance has opened up a lot of opportunities for Jackie. Because of her experiences at West Port, Jackie is going to pursue choreography as a hobby. Maybe some day we will see Jackie's choreography on Dancing With The Stars!



Jacqueline Jimenez performing at West Port High School

### Thanksgiving Potluck with ESOL Levels 1 and 3



Students from ESOL levels 1 and 3 enjoyed an early Thanksgiving potluck on November 14th. Foods, and drinks from Puerto Rico, Colombia, Mexico, and the United States were enjoyed by the students and staff.



### New Workshop at MCLC

Now at the MCLC as part of our College and Career Development Program we are providing 'Snack and Seek: Job Seeker's Workshop.' This is a month-long workshop that meets once a week for one hour. We go over proper job searching techniques, ways to prepare a resume, how to properly fill out a job application, and preparation for a job interview. At the end of each session we provide the students with refreshments, thus the name 'Snack and Seek.'

In efforts to help our students effectively search and get a job we are providing this service for only \$10, with various income-based scholarships available. For more information you can contact Mariangel Ayala (Hablo Español) or Dmitriy Usher at 690-7323.

### SNACK & SEEK JOB WORKSHOP



Left to right: Ashley Amaro, Rosario Almeida, Elena Saya. Not pictured: Amelia Telford and Limary Martinez

#### Exp. Dental Assistant Seeking

I am seeking a position of dental assistant with an established dental office in Ocala. With over **20 yrs of exp** as a practicing dentist in Cuba before moving to the United States, I obtained my US certification through the Miami Institute of Medical Technology in 2010.

- Certified Dental Radiography
- Certified Expanded Intraoral Function
- Bi-Lingual

I am currently enrolled in a level 4 English class at MCLC.  
Email [amalia\\_aquilera09@hotmail.com](mailto:amalia_aquilera09@hotmail.com) for additional information.

#### Farm Sitter Available

Professional horsewoman with 20 years exp. in all aspects of horse care: including foaling. I was a vet tech for a major equine hospital, and can handle all types of horses. Resume and references available upon request. Email [laurie@greystoneranch.org](mailto:laurie@greystoneranch.org)

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#### Alterations

Monday thru Friday  
10 am to 5 pm  
Sat. by appointment  
Rosario Almeida  
352-789-6035 or 646-764-9409