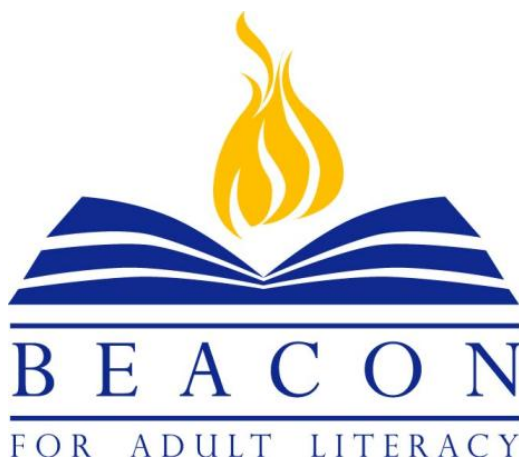


Meet Trang, Vietnamese native and a BEACON student success story!



Play Scrabble® to help others learn to read!

Saturday, March 2, 2019 • 6-9pm

Linton Hall School 9535 Linton Hall Road, Bristow, VA 20136

SCRABBLE® SCRAMBLE

2 games of team competitive Scrabble®!



Scrabble® Scramble is a family-friendly event featuring two thrilling rounds of team competitive play, fun prizes, food, and an incredible raffle! Click [here](#) to register your 4 player team today!



Visit a BEACON classroom

Growing up in the Ozark Mountains with barely literate parents, Mamie Thompson knew from an early age that education would be very important in her life. Following college, she served in the Peace Corps, teaching English as a second language in the Philippines. Now, even after 45 years teaching high school American history, Mamie continues to share her passion by volunteering to help others improve their lives through education. As an instructor for BEACON, Mamie brings her love and

expertise to a group of adult students anxious for the opportunity to learn.

Two times a week, in a classroom provided by a local Manassas church, Mamie offers lessons at the pre-literacy level to three Afghan women who have had no previous education of any kind. The pleasure she takes in helping her students is evident in everything she does. Visitors to her classroom are rewarded with a first-hand view of the patience, humor, and positive support she weaves into the lessons she offers.

She shares: "It's a privilege and an honor to teach them. I've learned so much. I think I've learned as much as they have."

At the pre-literacy level, students have some listening skills. Where they really have to work is with writing and speaking English. As a result, lessons are very basic: learning the ABC's, differentiating

sounds and letters, understanding U.S. currency. Mamie uses a variety of materials, including workbooks, audiotapes, flashcards and other visual aids, and lots and lots of repetition to introduce every concept.

It's hard to imagine the unique challenges these students face. BEACON created this pre-literacy class specifically to answer a demonstrated need in the student population.

Despite the daunting task in front of them, the pre-literacy students know learning English will help in many ways, not just with transactions, but to communicate with neighbors, with their children's teachers and with doctors.

"They have such a unique desire," says Mamie. "They want to learn English. They really are motivated. It's so refreshing."

With her husband as translator, one of the students shared a bit about her story. She and her husband came to the U.S. about five years ago with their three children to find safety, freedom, education, and jobs. The student's husband said he was happy to have his wife learn English. He spoke of the dangers they left behind in Afghanistan and how happy they were to be living in the United States. They both expressed their gratitude for the education and support that BEACON provides to help them realize the dreams they have for their family.

Meet a veteran **Scrabbler**®

"I do love to read and it would be sad if people couldn't read," says Gillian. "So I like to support something that helps people learn to read."

Gillian Quintana has been playing Scrabble® for about 70 years, so saying she's good at the game may be a bit of an understatement. She and her husband play once a week. But despite how frequently she plays, she claims that she and her husband aren't great players, they just like to play. Her team has competed in three of BEACON's six Scrabble® Scramble events and come in second more than once.

"My daughter, Michelle, loves to play Scrabble®, Gillian says. "She's very serious. She usually comes up with a big score."

Gillian's team consists of her husband, her daughter, and her son-in-law. Gillian attributes her team's success to the pressure her son-in-law puts on all of them to play the game quickly.

"Mike, my son-in-law, he rushes us along so we don't dither about and waste time, because the games are timed," says Gillian.

For those thinking of attending this year's event, Gillian provides this advice:

"Don't worry if you win, just have fun. Some of the two letter things you put down can add up pretty quickly. The more you play the more the words pop into your head. Practice!"



Every year, Scrabble® Scramble attracts competitive as well as average players, and even some who have little to no experience. While it's always fun to get first place in the game, there are many other benefits.

- There's the possibility of winning one of these great raffle prizes: QMT Wind chimes, board game basket, Chick-Fil-A basket, Signed basketball and 4 tickets for Mystics Women's team, and many more!
- There's the fun of a game night out with three of your friends or family members.
- There's the good feeling of supporting a great cause: adult literacy

Not only is Gillian good at Scrabble®, she is also a long-time friend of BEACON.

"I do love to read and it would be sad if people couldn't read," says Gillian. "So I like to support something that helps people learn to read."

We hope YOU will join us this year! Register or sponsor the event [here](#).

Student spotlight, from True Beginner to Citizenship

Trang came to the United States five years ago with the hope of one day becoming a U.S. citizen. As a Vietnamese business owner, she had often traveled to different parts of China to sell clothing. Her experiences showed her that in order to succeed and make a living in another country, knowing the language was crucial. Naturally, learning English was the first thing she wanted to do when she moved to the United States. But at first, she found it difficult to find an affordable program. When her friend recommended BEACON Trang was ecstatic and immediately enrolled in the True Beginner class.



Through perseverance and dedication, Trang has worked her way up through three levels to reach the Low Intermediate level. In September 2018, she passed her Citizenship test. When asked how BEACON has helped her in the past five years and what her future looks like, she replied, "Thank you BEACON. Now I can communicate better at work and now I feel more comfortable using the computer at home because of the technology class. The teachers are very nice. They are always willing to help if you don't understand something. **I am proud to start from the lowest**

level and I will continue with BEACON until I finish with the highest level. BEACON helped me with my English and now I passed my citizenship test and can vote! It is not easy to learn English. It takes time. I recommend BEACON to anyone."

Know someone who would like to learn? Share [information on spring class registration](#).

Meet a BEACON volunteer instructor

"I have been working with a particular student for 4 years and she has inspired me so much. She was pre-literate when she started the BEACON program, she could only write her first name. Now she can write a check, she knows how to keep a checking account, she participates in her children's education and has a job."

Watch Fran's video on our Facebook [page](#) or [here](#).



learn more about how you can support our learners, visit our [website](#) or email jmorazuniga@osbva.org today!

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