

VAVF NEWSLETTER

Visual Aid Volunteers of Florida, Inc.

BRAILLISTS

EDUCATORS

TRANSLATION TYPISTS

GRAPHIC ARTISTS

PROOFREADERS

RECORDING ARTISTS



VOLUNTEERS

Spring Edition

www.vavf.org

January-March 2015

"Dedication Makes the Difference"

MUSINGS FROM MARIANN

Greetings everyone. It is Spring and as Floridians we were quite fortunate to have had a mild winter. That is true if we think of the inhabitants of the Northeast. I have to say I was amazed that I did not receive a vast migration of my Boston area relatives to my warm abode.

Spring has a special meaning for volunteer braillists, doesn't it? Yes, our 2015 Conference is approaching. We have invited several national experts to present. There will be multiple sessions focusing on UEB. Cindi Laurent from BANA, had agreed to present a series of general sessions on UEB on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning. Unfortunately, Cindi had an unforeseen medical situation and cannot be with us. Dorothy Worthington from NBA has volunteered to cover those sessions and she will also have sessions on UEB as it relates to math.

APH is coming and bringing a graphics expert to present two sessions. We will have sessions on Braille2000, scanning, cloud storage, virus protection and Nemeth formats. We will have some community activists including a college student who was one of our teen panel members several years ago. She will share her experiences and show how she uses current technology in addition to braille to complete her college assignments.

We will again be at the Staybridge Suites. We are fortunate to be working with the same staff who have been so helpful. We will have a buffet luncheon for our general meeting. You will receive a complimentary breakfast if you are staying in the hotel. In the evenings, hotel guests will have the dining room open where various appetizers and drinks will be served. It will be so nice to relax and visit with our peers from near and far.

By now, you have received your registration packet. We hope that the conference will put your minds at ease regarding the upcoming transition to UEB. We have created sessions that present UEB from multiple angles while helping you see how it is going to work. You will find out the procedure that is to be followed for UEB certification, too.

We all have the same questions, now is the time to get some answers. The schools are already making the adjustment and hopefully the information received in this conference will make our adjustment much easier, too.

The value of a conference like this is definitely keeping up with the Joneses. But more than that, we get to network with braillists throughout the state and around the country. I have always received new information and

(Continued on page 4.)

Newsletter Information

Editor: Susie Coleman

Braille Edition: BRAILLE2000

by Lynnette Taylor

Production: Diana Moyer, FIMC-VI (Florida Instructional Materials Center), Tampa, Florida

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Memorial Scholarship Contributors:

Scholarship Donations:

Nancy Berger, St. Augustine
Sheryl Bray, St. Augustine
Suzanne Dalton, Tampa
Sue Farnsworth, Orlando
Alliance for Braille Literacy, St. Louis, MO
Delores Ryan, S. Pasadena

In Memory of:

Pat Gray, in Memory of Dick Taylor
Pat Gray, in Memory of Gene Shafer
Joyce Hull, Geneva, in Memory of Dr. Nemeth
Mariann Witengier, Orlando, in Memory of Dick Taylor, Gene Shafer, Wanda Eddleman

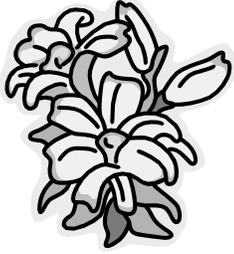
Membership Reminder

Membership dues cover the calendar year January-December. If you haven't renewed your membership for this year, please do so today by completing the form at the back of this newsletter. Mail your check and form to Arlene Jensen, Treasurer, to the address on the form.

Important Information

Charitable provisions can be made in your estate plans to endow gifts to non-profit organizations such as VAVF. This can be done without affecting the family's financial security. Charitable bequests also provide significant tax benefits as well. Advice should be sought from legal counsel if you are considering this kind of contribution or gift.





VILMA C. SPECTOR OBITUARY

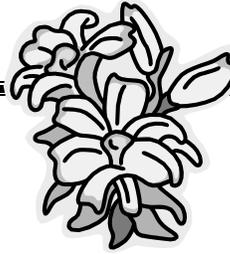
Vilma C. Spector, 87, died on February 22, 2015, with her son and daughter-in-law by her side. She was born and raised in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where she attended the Escola Americana and made lifelong friends.

She graduated from Briarcliff College in NY, and later returned to the US to marry her husband Gilbert. Together, they lived in Pittsburg, KS; Port Washington, NY; Mayfield Heights, OH; and St. Petersburg, FL, where she lived for 30 years. In 2009, she moved to Ithaca, NY, to be near family.

Prior to her marriage, she had worked for the Indian Embassy in Rio de Janeiro, and after raising her family, she worked as a translator. She served as president of the Pinellas Braille Group; her specialty was transcribing foreign language textbooks. Vilma was also VAVF's long-time Foreign Language Skills Chairman and wrote many articles for this *VAVF Newsletter*.

In Ithaca, she was a dedicated member of the Tai Chi class at Lifelong. Vilma was a down-to-earth person with a wry sense of humor, and she had an avid interest in the news and all things Brazilian. She swam regularly into her 80s, made beautiful tapestries, loved dogs and gardening, and enjoyed using the latest technological gadgets, especially to keep in touch with family and friends around the world. Vilma was a role model for how to live life well and age gracefully.

She was predeceased by her husband Gilbert, and is survived by her son Donald and his wife Stacia Zabusky, of Ithaca; her son Mitchell and his wife Jeananda Col, of Mercer Island, WA; and her grandchildren Antal, Audrey, Robert, Elias, and Danny.



OUR CONDOLENCES

Gene Shafer, VAVF member, husband of Audrey Schafer, St. Petersburg, FL

Dick Taylor, husband of Lynnette Taylor, Switzerland, FL

IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE'S LOSS, PLEASE LET US KNOW

Our new newsletter section, "Our Condolences" will let others know of our members' losses. We'll include deceased spouses and children of VAVF members, past and present VAVF Skills Consultants and VAVF members, local groups' board members, State and National people important to braille, and past and current presenters of our conferences.

Please send the name, VAVF connections, and location of the deceased to Susie Coleman, susierc1950@att.net or 1826 Bartram Circle, West, Jacksonville, FL 32207.

(Continued from page 1.)

ideas from the sessions, but meeting with the other braillists has provided me with new solutions and techniques. This has made such a difference in my ability to provide quality braille. Getting to know other braillists has allowed me to gain valuable resources so I have contacts all over to help me solve a problem.

I hope you are able to join us May 18-20. As I close this, my last musing, I am opening a new chapter as O. Ninjata, agent for TMNT. Confused? Then keep on reading our newsletter and the mystery will be solved.

GREETINGS! MY NAME IS ANDREA WALLACE (FIMC-VI)

Greetings Visual Aid Volunteers of Florida, my name is Andrea Wallace and I joined the Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired (FIMC-VI) team in January. A new district resource teacher position was created to help fulfill the training needs of teachers around the state, which means I will be working closely with Kay Ratzlaff. Although it was a difficult decision to leave my students and incredible team of teachers in Pinellas County, I am excited to be here at FIMC-VI!

In August 2008 I graduated from Florida State University (FSU) with my Bachelor's Degree in Visual Disabilities. The first three years of my career were spent at the Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Pasco County as an Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Specialist. I was able to grow there not only as an O&M specialist through working with adults, babies and children, but had the pleasure of having a hand in starting the transition program for Pasco, Hernando and Citrus counties. During my time at the Lighthouse I went back to FSU for my Master's Degree in Visual Disabilities, which I obtained in December 2012.

In January 2011, I decided to expand my horizons and apply for a position as a Teacher of the Visually Impaired for Pinellas County Schools. I worked as an itinerant teacher for three and a half years and taught a

wide variety of students in Kindergarten-12th grades. This position also provided me with many opportunities to work closely with braille transcribers, a wide variety of assistive technologies, and braille. Here I learned that assistive technology was my niche.

I also work part-time for Lighthouse of Pinellas as a transition instructor and as an adjunct Professor for Florida State University's satellite program. I have been teaching the Assistive Technology class for 3 semesters and recently began teaching the Introduction to Visual Disabilities class.

Part of why I love this field so much is because it keeps me on my toes, but I also love working with such dedicated and creative professionals. I look forward to this new adventure at FIMC-VI and working with Teachers of the Visually Impaired, Braille Transcribers, Orientation and Mobility Specialists and the families they serve around the state.

SCANNING WORKSHOP By LINDA BERO

The VAVF Conference will be here before you know it! I'm making plans for those of you who will sign up for the "Scanning" workshop on Wednesday morning. It's time for you "Scanners" to start planning for the time you'll spend with me.

The "Scanning" workshop will have two parts. You may choose either one or both. The first workshop will cover scanning, going from print to digital text (specifically with OmniPage) and the second will talk about ways to edit the digital text in preparation for Braille2000.

To help make the most of the workshop, I am suggesting that you bring with you, your computer and scanner. It isn't required, but if you do, our time together will be a DIY format. If you don't, that's fine too, you'll still gain lots of good information, and hopefully, you can team up with someone who was able to bring their stuff. Whether or not you bring your computer, you may want to bring some samples to scan, especially the tricky ones. You can bring them

as print and we'll scan them, or as a PDF and we'll take it from there.

Registration: Due to the space requirements for multiple computer stations, we may need to limit the numbers who register. Indicate if you'll be bringing your equipment on your registration. If we do limit the workshop size, the people who register early for both workshops will get preference. We'll do our best to accommodate everyone though.

OmniPage: If you need to buy a program VAVF finds OmniPage to be the best for our purposes. The standard version has everything we need. Nuance is the company that sells OmniPage. At the time of this writing, they are having a spring sale on OmniPage18 - 67% off. You can find other suppliers as well. OmniPage14 was troublesome so avoid that one.

Technology: If you bring your computer, you will need to have your scanner programs installed, OmniPage installed and your computer/scanner and OmniPage, talking to each other. Extension cords and power strips will be helpful. Our workshop space will be open at 8:00 am for you to come and set up your equipment so we may begin at 8:30.

I look forward to seeing you at the 2015 VAVF Conference!!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH BRAILLE, INTERLINING AND AUTHORING By JENI WOOD

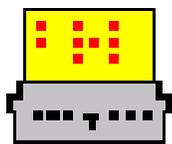
As of late, our braille has undergone somewhat of a change. Our role as brailleists is expanding as the needs for braille materials have changed somewhat. We continue to braille texts and other school books whenever requested, but in that lull between requests we are doing some new things. At the Braille Association Of Mid-Florida, Inc. we recognize there are people that could use a helping hand in so many ways. Here are some examples of what we have done and can do to help.

Our latest and most frequent request has been for interlining. The requests come from overworked teachers of young children. We interpret braille by writing in pencil above the words, often word by word. This allows the classroom teacher and parents to assist the young or struggling reader with reading. We have interlined everything from little 8 page leveled readers for use in classrooms to books anyone would like to read! We are always happy to help with interlining for teachers, parents, tutors or anyone who would find our services useful to them!

We have been using Braille2000 to flex texts and leisure books according to a child's braille skills and abilities. Our goal is to assist struggling readers in the skills they have learned with the goal of encouraging them to read.

Personalized stories can be created specifically to the interests of the child. We even have a Pen Pal service that can be used to encourage a child to read, write and get creative in responding back to us.

If you're interested in any of these services and would like more details or if you have additional ideas you think would be a helpful addition, come see us at the VAVF conference!



BRAILLE2000 V2 UPDATES

Version 2.238 released

If you are using Braille2000 V2, please get the latest update.

Release 2.238 fixes problems with braille page numbers P1, P2, ... and T1, T2, ...

To get the update, click the "File Management" button and then select "Fetch Software Update". In the "Component Name" box, select BRL2000B 2.238.

You may need to go directly to the website

<http://www.braille2000.com/brl2000/V2/index.htm>.

**GO TO WWW.VAVF.ORG
IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED YOUR CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION FORM.**



**NEW HOME
FOR
BRAILLE
ASSOCIATION
OF MID-
FLORIDA, INC.
By PEGGY
SHAW**

**NINJA BRAILLE AT
BRAILLE ASSOCIATION OF MID-
FLORIDA**

Now you have heard it all, Ninja Braille! Well, this situation came to be as a result of a parent's question. She has been so frustrated with her young son. He is a struggling reader and able to decode but his comprehension leaves much to be desired. Since he still has some vision he doesn't see a need for braille either. Let's just call him a reluctant reader.

In talking to the mother, I asked of his interests and found out that he has one consuming interest—Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (henceforth referred to as TMNT). He is practically an expert. Our group is presently brailleing him a book on Ninja Turtles and he seemed excited when he got the first two chapters. Thus, I came up with the following idea. Now, you must know, before this I knew ABSOLUTELY nothing about Ninja Turtles!

With the permission of his mother, I have written to the young ninja under the pen name of O. Ninjata, TMNT agent. I asked him if he wanted to join the Ninja Turtles and gave him the following plan. He is to perform tasks using the Ninja Turtle code, above ground it is called braille. In the depths of the underground where light is poor or nonexistent the Ninja Turtles really have to use this code. Besides the enemies of the Ninja Turtles cannot read it at all.

All the tasks he is to perform relate to Ninja Turtles of course. They must always be done the ninja way. He will be guided in the ninja way as we proceed. He will read short stories, puzzles, activities and read books where everything relates to the TMNT. He will always have activities that require reading and writing in braille. They will be short and simple and become lengthier with time. His mother and I hope he takes the bait. If he does he will work for tokens. After a certain amount of tokens he will win Ninja masks, first a red one (adjusted for his glasses and his vision, but authentic) and then later he will get to choose his personal ninja mask color. He will continue to receive tokens and prizes until he gets the ultimate treat. O. Ninjata cannot share it with

For around twenty years our Braille association's processing center had been housed in a double wide trailer on an Orange County School site. In 2014, we were notified that we had to move our center as the school site we had been on was slated to be torn down on April 1, 2015. In discussions with Orange County Schools, we were told they had no other place for us to go. Our board of directors set out a plan to find us a new location.

We contacted Seminole County Schools to see if there was any room for us in the Longwood Elementary School, which had been shut down as a school due to lack of population. The Facilities Director gave us a tour of two rooms that were available and we agreed they were ideal for our needs. Lots of room, good electrical outlets, phone and WIFI access and big closets with lots of shelves.

On March 10th, the SCSP Board of Directors approved our lease for rent of \$1.00 per year. Our members gathered boxes and packed up all of our equipment, office supplies, art work, paper and supplies. We also had volunteers from the Retired Firefighters Union who assisted us with moving and setting up in the new site.

Our members are so thankful to have found a new site with one room for Braille processing and a second room for meetings and classes. Going forward, we plan to implement our Community Outreach Program from our new home.

you yet as she has not spoken of it with the boy and will not for some time. The focus is on braille and good quality braille, the tokens are just an accounting.

At present everything is mailed Free Matter. All delivery of tokens, etc. will be to his doorstep. They will just mysteriously appear. He knows his brailled mail goes to E. Lane, TMNT agent above ground (and my neighbor). He was told that E. Lane can be trusted. O. Ninjata will get it from him. If he asks about mail we have a spy in the mail service. Wish us luck, we hope he takes the bait.

Until then,
O. Ninjata

FORMATTING IN UEB

By LYNNETTE TAYLOR

Looking through *The Rules of Unified English Braille* I could not find any information on format. So until *Braille Formats 20??* concerning formatting with UEB is published I suggest that we continue to use *Braille Formats 2011* with some modifications for the change in symbols for emphasis, bullets, punctuation, and so forth.

Emphasis indicators are discussed in Section 9: Typeforms. The indicators all have a pattern for use and use two cells for the specifically named print emphasis. When the transcriber must define a symbol for something not listed three cells are used. For example, all of the italics indicators begin with the dots 46. All of the transcriber defined indicators begin with the dots 4, 3456. There are only four named emphasis indicators shown: italic, bold, underline, and script. Anything else uses one of the transcriber defined symbols. An italic boldface as the first defined transcriber symbol is dots 4, 3456, 23. This symbol would be listed as a special symbol and could be explained at the first use in a transcriber's note.

The opening transcriber's note indicator is dots 4, 46, 126; the closing transcriber's note indicator is dots 4, 46, 345. Transcriber's notes may be embedded within the print text. I have not been able to find guidelines for placing a transcriber's note between lines of

braille although I did find an example that places the opening indicator in cell 3. Since there are not clear guidelines for the placement, I would suggest that we continue to begin the note in cell 7 with a runover in cell 5.

Section 4.2 Modifiers is the section to look at for pronunciation. All of the pronunciation symbols are two cells which precede the letter modified. They all begin with dots 45. Do not get this confused with the IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) symbols which are included in the guideline. Those symbols are so complex that phonetics specialists have their own code.

An extensive special symbols page may be necessary for the first few years of the switch to UEB. In fact, I think that a listing of UEB symbols should be sent as a separate document with each textbook listing all the UEB symbols, not just the ones used in the volume. The special symbols document would be a resource for the reader for any unknown symbol that is not easily understood in context. Remember to subdivide by category headings in cell 5. Suggested categories would be punctuation, pronunciation, typeforms, and miscellaneous. These are just suggestions. Maybe in the next newsletter I will have a listing for the supplemental special symbols.

Keep in mind that all of the formats for things like plays, poetry, alphabetical listings, puzzles and other print formats are not affected by UEB indicators. Formatting is strictly how the text is placed on the braille page, not which indicators are used to braille the text.

**DON'T FORGET TO
VOTE EARLY IF
YOUR COUNTY
ELECTIONS ARE
DURING OUR VAVF
CONFERENCE!**



WHAT HAVE WE GOTTEN OURSELVES INTO?

By **STEPHANIE BARWICK
AND CANDACE RICHARDSON**

The Temple Sisterhood Braille Group in Jacksonville will be holding UEB classes in April for our EBAE certified transcribers as well as new students in September.

Our current instructors, Thelma Lebowitz and Shirley Junk, have decided to retire after 25 dedicated years of teaching. They will truly be missed, but we wish them only the best. Candace and I will be taking over the role of instructors.

We are newly certified braillists (2014), and although we have never taught before, we are eager to try helping make the transition to UEB smoother for everyone. We will use the ABCs of UEB as well as the Rules of UEB for the basis of our instruction.

We are hoping our brains will allow us to retain all this newly learned material (*lol*) so we can in turn teach everyone else.

We hope with our encouragement that our current braillists will want to stay involved with braille and not get discouraged with the new mandatory UEB changes that will take effect in 2016. It has been very rewarding to be able to give back to the community and such an honor to be given this opportunity to teach.

Y'all Come!

to the VAVF Conference

May 18-20, 2015

at the Staybridge Suites Orlando Airport South

7450 Augusta National Drive

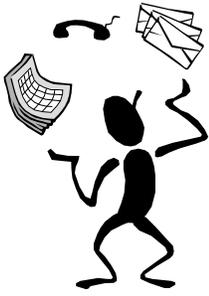
Orlando, Florida

WWW.VAVF.ORG

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VAVF SKILLS CONSULTANTS



Computer (IBM):

* **BRaille2000 (Scanning):** *Vacant so we're looking for a replacement.*

* **BRaille2000 (Direct Entry):**

Meg Wagner, 8444 35th Ave N, St. Petersburg 33710-1010, 727-347-9836, e-mail:

brlwagner@aol.com

* **COMPUTER ASSISTED TACTILES:**

Susie Coleman, 1826 Bartram Circle, W., Jacksonville 32207-2294, 904-725-2427, e-mail:

susierc1950@att.net

* **DUXBURY** *Karen Hollingsworth has resigned so we're looking for a replacement.*

* **ED-IT PC**

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lfjacobson@gmail.com

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jbaldwin.3@juno.com

Tactile Graphics: Ruth Jean Ostle, 1174 Winged Foot Cir E, Winter Springs 32708-4202,

407-365-7874, e-mail: brjo@fbs.net

Textbook: Lynnette Taylor, 1423 Marlee Rd, Switzerland 32259-8847, 904-287-1275, e-mail:

dandltaylor@att.net



CONTRIBUTION (Memorial Scholarship Fund)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Amount: \$ _____ payable to VAVF, Inc. In memory/honor of: _____

Send to: Arlene Jensen, Treasurer, 6425 Streamport Dr., Orlando, FL 32822-3066. If there is a special occasion, such as a birthday or anniversary, or if the contribution is in memory/honor of, please fill in the information below and a card will be sent to the family of/honoree, with your brief message.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Occasion/Brief Message: _____

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

Membership in VAVF is based on the calendar year—January-December. If you wish to join the statewide organization, please fill in the categories shown below on the membership application form and send it to **Arlene Jensen, Treasurer, 6425 Streamport Dr., Orlando, FL 32822-3066.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

My specialties are: (Give Certification Year or just \checkmark if working in but not certified in each. ___)

BRaille: Literary: _____ Textbook: _____ Translation Typing: _____

Nemeth: _____ Music: _____ Foreign Language: _____

Formats: _____

GRAPHICS: _____ RECORDING: _____ LARGE TYPE: _____ OTHER: _____

I need: braille _____ large print _____.

FEES: \$15.00 Regular Membership _____

\$20.00 Booster Membership _____

\$5.00 Associate Membership (spouse or other family members who accompany
braillists/tapists/other media users to conferences) _____

\$150.00 Lifetime Membership (may be paid in installments over 3 years) _____

Indicate total amount paid: \$ _____ payable to VAVF, Inc.

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS OR MOVING? If so, please notify your Membership Chairman, Nancy Meinhardt, 727-375-1368, or email: NANCYMEINHARDT@msn.com, so that you do not miss a single copy of the VAVF Newsletter. This publication can only be delivered as addressed. Bulk Mail cannot be forwarded.