



**ROSALIE RENDU  
C E N T E R**

Rosalie Rendu Center ... where seeds are planted  
1760 Bay Road, #24, East Palo Alto, CA 94303  
(650) 473-9522 • [www.rosalie-rendu-center.org](http://www.rosalie-rendu-center.org)

**Spring 2011**

## **Rosalie Rendu Center Advisory Board**

Sr. Trinitas Hernandez, D.C.  
Executive Director

Sally Falkenhagen  
Advisory Board Chair

Sr. Fran Ciluaga, D.C.

Debbie Denton

Carrie Du Bois

Sr. Betty Marie Dunkel, D.C.

Sr. Paule Freeberg, D.C.

Julie Mahowald

Dan Marshall

Sr. Mary Loretta Pitino, D.C.

Marianne Stoner

Melanie Yunk



## **IN THIS ISSUE**

- *Lourdes Muguerza  
Joins the RRC Staff*
- *Longtime Supporter  
Bill Somerville*
- *Volunteer Luncheon*
- *College Update*
- *Thanks to Our Donors*
- *RRC Needs*

## **A Message From Sister T**



Dear Friends,

Spring is upon us. Graduations are just around the corner, bringing new beginnings and warm summer weather. Winter seems to have been long and cold this year. However, you, our wonderful supporters and friends, brightened the long dreary days. There were so many Christmas Angels this year sharing their generous spirits with gifts for each child living at the Carriage Manor Apartments, as well as each child among our Rosalie Rendu students. The Menlo Park Play School families and teachers were fantastic again this year, as were the staff at the Daughters of Charity Health System offices at Redwood Shores. Thank you for thinking of our families again!

Our classes are full, with a waiting list for August. Hiring an Educational Coordinator will be a big help to us because we will be able to measure educational progress in a more organized manner. It will also help volunteers be more comfortable teaching a class once or twice a month. (Please read more about our new consultant in this newsletter.) We are always looking for volunteers for our Conversation Classes, Homework Club and ESL classes. Call me any time if you are interested, or have questions about joining our team. Recently David, a retired Stanford Professor, joined our team. We welcome him as he joins our weekly discussion group with high-intermediate English learners.

Our students come to class trying hard to learn a new language in order to make a little more money so they can move up the economic ladder and someday buy a house, as Cleto and Hilda have done, with the help of Habitat, or send their children to college, or go to college themselves like Nancy, a single mother. These are real dreams by real people; people who struggle, despite setbacks, to keep moving forward and encouraging their children to do well in school.

You, dear friends of the Rosalie Rendu Center, light up my life and give me the courage to continue, despite the gaps, hardships and struggles I meet with daily. On Good Friday in our Parish Church, a large Cross was passed over the heads in the whole congregation so that each person could touch it. Father reminded us that we each must help others carry their Cross. Thank you for making mine so light and never letting me carry it alone; we truly are in this work together, for which I am ever grateful.

Thank you and God bless each of you,

Devotedly Yours,

Sister Trinitas Hernandez, D.C., Executive Director



Sponsored by the  
Daughters of Charity Ministry Services Corporation

# Longtime Rosalie Rendu Center Supporter Bill Somerville

By Carrie Du Bois

My first meeting with Bill Somerville, about 13 years ago, is clearly embedded in my memory. That day, I arrived for my weekly Tot Spot volunteer shift at the Rosalie Rendu Center in East Palo Alto, and Bill was sitting in Sister Trinitas Hernandez's classroom. He was dressed in a tailored suit and had the air of someone important. I sat down and listened as he interviewed Sister T. He wanted to know how she had the idea to open a free English class for immigrant women, how she involved the Junior League of Palo Alto+Mid-Peninsula and how she planned to keep her work sustainable. As Sister T answered his many questions, Bill moved forward on his seat and listened intently. The conversation was clear and powerful, and from that day forward Bill Somerville became a champion of the Rosalie Rendu Center.

Bill's interest in serving families who were living in poverty and in social justice began when he attended college. After college, he decided to leave his family printing business and was hired to work on race relations at UC Berkeley. For the next 10 years, he looked for funding and helped recruit minority students to the campus and created programs involving race relations. As he looked for funding, he was often frustrated by the requirements that were imposed.

In 1974, Bill was the first CEO of the San Mateo Foundation (later becoming the Peninsula Community Foundation) and found himself in the position of giving grants. He made a promise to himself that he would never treat people the way he was treated. He would look for exceptional people doing good work and fund them quickly. He would not force them to fill out countless forms and require them to wait for funding.

Now Bill has been giving grants, and lots of them, for over 40 years, and this amounts to



millions per year. He is most interested in finding outstanding people who are doing great things in the community. When he finds outstanding people, he funds them quickly and usually has a check in the mail in 24-48 hours. He says there is nothing as magical as the philanthropic dollar. With philanthropy, he can fund great people and great ideas. Most of his money supports programs that serve the poor. Bill never micromanages the spending because he trusts the people he funds and knows they are the experts.

When you ask Bill Somerville about his favorite projects in the Bay Area, Sister T's Rosalie Rendu Center is at the top of his list. I recently asked Bill how he is able to find great people, and he told me that he spends little time in the office and most of his hours on the streets. He interviews people where they work and has them educate him about issues and solutions. Sister T's program gave him the idea of funding parent involvement workers at Cesar Chavez Academy in East Palo Alto. When he started this program, he asked Sister T to recommend her best student.

Thank you, Bill, for generously funding the Rosalie Rendu Center and for supporting the work of Sister T!

## Volunteer Luncheon

On April 28th, the Advisory Board hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon for all of the wonderful individuals who donate their time at the Rosalie Rendu Center, teaching English Language classes.

Prior to the luncheon, Sister T gave a blessing, thanking all of the volunteers for the time and care that they share with the students in their classes. Without these volunteers, the Rosalie Rendu Center could not be serving as many students as it does. We know that each of the volunteers has a vision and goals for the students in his class. Thank you to each volunteer for their generous support of the Center and its students.

*TOP RIGHT: Marianne Stoner, Sister T, Carolyn and Dick Brennan, Bill Somerville and Carrie Du Bois at the Volunteer Luncheon.*

*BOTTOM RIGHT: (Back table) Lourdes Mugerza (standing), Sally Falkenhagen, Melanie Yunk, Debbie Denton, Sr. Mary Loretta Pitino, D.C., Sue Riggs and Eunice Hawran. (Front table) Ivan Barragan and David Riggs.*





ABOVE: Luis (left) and Program Assistant Ivan Barragan discuss Luis' new laptop.

## College Update

By Sister Trinitas Hernandez, D.C.

We at the RRC are so proud of our young friends who have gone on to college; here are a few highlights about two of them, Luis, a Freshman at Cañada College and Sonia just finishing her Junior year at UC Berkeley.

When I spoke to Luis he told me that it had not been an easy year. However, he managed to make the Dean's list. Living at the Carriage Manor Apartments has made it difficult to find a quiet place to study, thus he does most of his work at the library. On Black Friday, last year, Luis and his brother spent hours in line at Best Buy. He needed a computer for all his college work, one that he could take with him and keep safe from his younger siblings. Alas he did not make it to the front of the line. His younger brother shared his plight with us so we told him to give us his money and we would put in the rest and help him get a good computer. Ivan Barragan, our Program Assistant, went online and got him a computer that has been most helpful to Luis in completing all his school work. He is looking forward to summer classes and returning again in the Fall.

Sonia has also worked very hard these past three years and despite the many bumps and temptations to quit along the way, is looking forward to her last year at UC Berkeley. She told me that it is her mother, a student at the RRC, who has kept her motivated, telling her "this is only for you and it will benefit your future. Your degree will be something that will never be taken away." Sonia says, "Her words of wisdom as well as those who believe in me are what motivate me to being successful at CAL and becoming someone in life."

We are proud of both these young adults and look forward to great things from both of them. They are blooming flowers in our Rosalie Rendu Garden.

## Lourdes Muguerza Joins the Rosalie Rendu Center

Lourdes Muguerza has joined the staff of the Rosalie Rendu Center as a part time consultant, supporting the English classes by advising on curriculum and instructional approaches. Lourdes earned her MA in English with a TESOL concentration from San Francisco State University, and she has extensive knowledge of curriculum development and experience teaching adult ESL learners. Her undergraduate degree is a BS in Business with an emphasis in management from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. Lourdes herself is an immigrant from Mexico and knows firsthand the challenges immigrants face in the United States.

Lourdes first volunteered at the Rosalie Rendu Center in 2002-2003 as a member of the Junior League of Palo Alto+Mid Peninsula and was inspired to earn her MA as a result of her experience at the Center. She is now the Program Director for the Community of Learners at Nuestra Casa, another English language program in East Palo Alto. She has also taught English language learners at Stanford. Lourdes brings a lifelong commitment to community improvement and social change, reflected in her work in Mexico with Centro de Orientación de la Mujer Obrera, Mujeres para el Desarrollo, and Colegio de la Frontera, and her volunteer work with Junior Leagues in Illinois and California. Lourdes has participated in community research projects on US/Mexico border issues, has developed and implemented social programs for women in the *maquila* industry, and has developed ESL courses and curriculum for immigrant populations here in the U.S.

One of the goals of the Rosalie Rendu Center is to help adult students increase their English language skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening, by providing specific instruction to meet their individual needs. Lourdes will help the Center by advising on continued development of engaging curriculum that is relevant to student needs and responsive to their suggestions. The Center plans to share our enhanced curriculum on our website. We are very pleased to welcome Lourdes to the Center.



New staff member Lourdes Muguerza



ROSALIE RENDU  
C E N T E R

# A Special Thanks to Our Generous Donors

Donations received from May 1, 2010 to April 15, 2011. We do our best to include all donors in our list and apologize if we've inadvertently missed your name. Please send omissions to [rosalierendu@yahoo.com](mailto:rosalierendu@yahoo.com).

Lucie Marie & Keith Albee  
Alice Brock & Robert Most  
Richard Anderson  
John & Marlene Arnold  
Terry L. Atkinson  
Sam & Trisha Battles  
Missy Bechtel  
Everett & Rowenna Behre  
Christine & Ed Brackenbury  
Chet & Marcie Brown  
The Carl Gellert and Celia Berta  
Gellert Foundation  
Harold Carlson  
Victor & Barbara Carranza  
Mike Cassidy  
Colin & Kathleen Cho  
Sister Fran Ciluaga, D.C.  
George Clark & Susan Williams-  
Clark  
Marian Daly  
Frederique Dame  
Daughters of Charity Foundation  
Gary & Barbara De Bell  
William De Mers  
Vincent DeSalvo  
Arthur & Jeanne Deex  
Paul & Deborah Denton  
Murali & Priya Dharan  
Sandra Marie Dhuey  
Ruth Donnelly  
Carrie Drake  
Grant & Carrie Du Bois

Duane Bay & Barbara Noparstak  
Alain & Rosemary Enthoven  
Craig & Sally Falkenhagen  
Jonathan & Allison Felder  
Margaret Feuer  
Bret & Caitie Field  
Veronica Fitzpatrick  
Patricia Foster  
Tom & Pat Foy  
Sister Paule Freeburg, D.C.  
Gail Gavello  
Barbara Gelpi  
Genesis Photography  
Robert & Virginia Glockner  
Barry & Claire Goss  
Lester Gray & Elizabeth Wooten  
Craig & Wendy Haesemeyer  
Rev. George Hazler  
Masami Hirata  
Bob Jones & Laura Roberts  
Julie's Gifts  
David & Maureen Kennedy  
Peter C. Kono, DDS  
Thomas & Kathleen Kraft  
Joan L'Heureux  
Kathy & Michael Ladra  
Mildred Lee  
Ron & Marilyn Long  
Robert & Darian Lopez  
Linda B. Lynch  
Neil & Alisa Macavoy  
Estefana Mares

Sister Charlotte Marie Clark, D.C.  
Perry Marlon  
Dan Marshall  
Shelly Masur  
Lucy McCrary  
Patrick & Nancy McGaraghan  
Betsy McSherry  
Annie Melikian  
Jon & Danielle Mewes  
Loretta Mingram  
Ginny & Chuck Nile  
Jo Jean Nuanes  
John & Cecilia O'Driscoll  
John Orcutt & Martha Edwards  
Henry Organ  
Palo Alto Community Fund  
Carmen & Nicholas Pekelsma  
Pam & Carter Perez  
Peter & Margaret Perrone  
Chris & Naomi Peters  
William & Beatrice Peterson  
Philanthropic Ventures  
Foundation  
Mary Pickford  
Lynn & Michael Pierce  
Dave Pine  
Ruth Pinkus-Resnik  
Claire Quesnel & Sharic Queini  
Mary Ellen Ratner  
Marillac Residence  
Garrett & Jennifer Rice  
Carl & Sarah Rosendahl



Steven & Karen Ross  
Debbie & Bob Scheidtman  
St. Pius School  
Todd Schroeder  
Silicon Valley Community  
Foundation  
Kris Spencer-Jones  
Jane & William Stocklin  
Marianne & John Stoner III  
Andrew & Aimee Swanson  
Janice Sweeney  
Lisa & Tom Tayeri  
The William and Flora Hewlett  
Foundation  
Trellis Restaurant  
Union Bank of California  
Foundation  
Sofia Vinokurov  
Anne Vitullo & Jonathan Poe  
Alexandra & Randall Von Feldt  
Charles & Sandy Welch  
Dean & Laura Winslow  
Woman's Club of Palo Alto  
Jan Woolsey  
Kent & Melanie Yunk  
Renee Zimmerman



## Help the Rosalie Rendu Center Reach Our Vision:

*Every client is educated, financially independent, integrated into the community and computer literate.*

### WISH LIST

- Funding for 48 workbooks, costing about \$25 each
- Monetary support for the Center's programming, including the summer enrichment programs for the children of the Center
- Tot Spot funding to replace worn toys and supplies

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteering at The Rosalie Rendu Center is easy and fun. We provide meaningful volunteer opportunities at a variety of times during the day and evening, and we'll train you before you begin helping out. Consider:

- **Conversation Club** – Spend ninety minutes on Monday morning talking with adult students from the Center. Individual conversation practice with our volunteers may be the most valuable tool available to our students.

Additional days will come available as more volunteers sign up.

- **Evening English** – Join a seasoned volunteer to help provide more individualized instruction.
- **Homework Club** – Come twice a month on Tuesday or Thursday to help our young students with homework and reading.
- **Financial Management** – The Center offers life skills classes when our students indicate interest. We are planning to offer a simple, practical class in financial management, and we're looking for a teacher and a curriculum.

For more information, please contact Sister Trinitas Hernandez at (650) 473-9522.