



Rosalie Rendu Center ... where seeds are planted

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Spring 2023

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

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Founder

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Executive Director

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Maria Lozano and Sister T, who told the Fiesta 25 guests that she never intended to be a teacher until a persistent woman insisted on English lessons. So began the Rosalie Rendu Center!



Teacher Jim Hawley serenaded Sister T (see page 2). Norma gave a rousing speech, encouraging fellow students they're capable of great things.

Faithful Friends and Donors,

Signs of change and growth are all around us: tree blossoms bursting, green grass sprouting, and flowers blooming everywhere.

In January, the Center also had some changes. "A happy handoff" has taken place. Maria Lozano, my right hand since 2014, is now Executive Director. I will remain as Founder and Volunteer Coordinator — just enough to keep me busy and out of trouble.

During her nine years of planting seeds and assisting our learners to blossom into English speakers, Maria has developed the heart and skills of Rosalie Rendu.

A quarter of a century has gone by since we started the Center with the mission to elevate the wellbeing of women and their families through English language and life skills learning. The Junior League of Palo Alto•Mid Peninsula helped us establish a firm foundation to build the Center where people of diverse backgrounds are welcomed and valued.

Our location has changed, and the faces of the students have changed, but the need for quality English instruction in a nurturing environment has not changed. We've added another evening class and opened a weekly introductory level English class. Even after a long and hard day at work, women and an increasing number of men are eager to absorb and practice their new language. It's a privilege for us to witness their inspiring courage and celebrate their accomplishments.

You have shared your time, talents, and resources with us to form a loving community of learning and support. We're grateful for your continued partnership with our teachers and volunteers to help our students achieve their goals. It takes many hands, good soil, healthy seeds, and lots of effort and support.

We were delighted to see many of you at our Fiesta 25!

Abrazos y sonrisas, hugs and smiles,

Sister Trinitas Hernandez
Founder

Maria Lozano
Executive Director



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Rosalie Rendu 25th Anniversary – Hallelujah!

Lyrics by Jim Hawley

To the tune of Leonard
Cohen's *Hallelujah*

So....here it is, a song for you
To honor Rosalie Rendu
A place where seeds of hope
and dreams are planted
Espero que canten conmigo
Conocen this melody, no?
Your voices we will never
take for granted
[Ayudame, por favor!]

Hallelujah, hallelujah
Hallelujah, hallelujah

But first a little history
Sobre la mujer, Rosalie
Rich or poor, she knew how
to rescue ya
En Francia, fue a Paris
To join Daughters of Charity
Dieciséis años, ella influya

Hallelujah, hallelujah
Hallelujah, hallelujah

As strong and righteous as
was she
Hay otra que está aquí
Who's spent her life learning
how to see thru ya
Quien es ella/Who is she
The one and only Sister T
Sin ella, nuestra school no se
construya

Hallelujah, hallelujah
Hallelujah, hallelujah

Just one last verse, *despues,*
no more
Para mostrar nuestro amor
For our Sister, whose humor
will undo ya
Ella ayuda a romper
Those obstacles that we all
bear
Pero es su risa que nos
destruya.

Hallelujah, hallelujah
Hallelujah, hallelujah



(Left) Jim Hawley (teacher), Craig and Sally Falkenhagen (Advisory Board Chair), and Paul Denton. (Right) Nancy Alvarez, one of our first students, and Debbie Denton, advisory board member and volunteer grants manager.

iFeliz 25 Aniversario!

Celebrating a Quarter of a Century of Thriving Life for Generations of Students and Their Families

by Karen Engelbart

Celebrating our 25th anniversary, we recently hosted "Fiesta 25," a social, musical, playful and some even say "magical" party.

Held at Bloomhouse at the EPA Waterfront – an expansive community space founded by Laurene Powell Jobs – our fiesta featured folkloric dancing, the "best ever" mariachis, delectable drinks, Salvadoran food, desserts, and a surprise serenade.

What's the big deal about an ESL program still going strong?

We're celebrating because, for 25 years, the Center has helped generations of English language learners thrive.

Investing their energy, time, talent and intelligence to learn English, often while working full time, our students have benefited from the multifaceted education the Center offers.

Beyond becoming fluent in English, our students learn life-enhancing mindsets, critical thinking, communication, and parenting skills. They also learn what it takes for them and their families to pursue college degrees and advance their careers.

We teach English as a second language in traditional classroom settings, but students also advance their ability to speak English through one-on-one Language Partners, reading biographies of historical figures like Rosa Parks and Helen Keller, and attending summer workshops and family enrichment activities such as outings to the Tech Museum of Innovation, the Cantor Museum at Stanford, the Maker Faire, and Hiller Aviation Museum.

Stanford students, retired Stanford professors, teachers, artists, engineers, and other professionals have volunteered countless hours as Language Partners to boost our students'

confidence and help them refine their English language skills.

Collaboration with professional organizations such as StreetCode Academy, the Junior League of Palo Alto•Mid Peninsula, and Stanford's Haas Center for Public Service strengthens our slate of learning opportunities.

Also fueling the dreams, education, and community-building of our students are our faithful donors over the years, big and small. Organizations in Silicon Valley such as Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Philanthropic Ventures Foundation, the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, the Palo Alto Community Fund, and the Daughters of Charity Foundation have been among our supportive donors of grants and funding. Individual donors have everything to do with our success, too.

Thanks to our small-in-stature, big-on-vision founder, Sister T, we're celebrating the thriving lives of our students and their families as they advance their careers, pursue college and graduate degrees, buy their own homes and give back to their community.



Angelica and Rudy Alatorre, a new volunteer, with Dick Hutsell, advisory board member and volunteer CFO. Rudy is a student mentor and also manages data tracking. Dick manages the Center's finances and also created a slide show from the archives with more than 400 photos to reflect our history in pictures.

Celebrating Sister Trinitas

Students and families, staff and advisory board members revere our visionary founder.



A quarter century of "seeds planted" have come to fruition for Sister T's beloved students and their families.

Here are a few words on what our visionary founder has meant to them.



Sister Trinitas believed in me when I didn't. She taught me that one way to break up generational poverty is education. Thanks to her, my daughters and I are having an exceptional education and high quality of life. I love Sister Trinitas.

— Nancy Alvarez

I was a single mother, shy and scared. Sister said, "You need to be a strong woman for your child!" Before I met her, I felt like nothing. Like garbage. She said, "You are a beautiful and strong woman and you can do it." I wouldn't be the woman I am today if it weren't for her. She's a lovely lady.

— Marisela



I met Sister T as a little boy at St. Vincent de Paul delivering food to families in need. Through her actions, she showed me the importance of not just service for those in need, but to do it with kindness and love. It's a lesson I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

— Ivan Barragan



I lived at the complex for my whole childhood. Sister was always an extra support to me and my family. She got us the help we needed. She said, "You've got to know yourself, what you want to do, what will make you happy." I was a hands-on kid. I went for the trades. It was a great route for me.

— Dani

Sister T has been the greatest mentor of my life. Initially she taught me about poverty but ultimately she made me understand how to build a powerful community of women.



— Carrie Du Bois

I've learned from Sister T that miracles happen regularly in a life full of good works. She models how to live and thrive in our world. She respects everyone and, in return, those around her respect each other. She's compassionate. Love, patience and gratitude enrich my life because of my connection to Sister T.

— Sally Falkenhagen

Shortly after I began working at the Center, when we were still at Carriage Manor, I accompanied Sister T to distribute flyers to invite the residents to an event we were hosting. As we S-L-O-W-L-Y made our way from apartment to apartment, visiting as we went along, my task-oriented mentality was transformed into a people-centered mindset. I could not have asked for a better "new employee orientation!"

— Maria Lozano



"Just do it and trust the Lord will provide" describes Sister's philosophy. Just open a center for the students in the community and they will come; funding will follow. She has a warmth and a wonderful spirit that brings everyone into her circle. I'm so glad to be a part of that circle.

— Martha Edwards

Sister T is a joy! She's taught me so much over the years, and it's been an honor to volunteer at the Rosalie Rendu Center. I always say once you meet Sister T, you won't be able to say no to her for the rest of your life!

— Melanie Yunk



I love that this unassuming, down to earth sister is actually such a powerhouse. She's been smart about all the dimensions of an education that are needed to help students flourish. Her love pervades the Center and everyone in it.

— Karen Engelbart

Thank You!

Thank you to our friends who supported us from March 1, 2022 through March 1, 2023.
Our apologies if we have missed anyone. Please let us know if we mistakenly missed your name.

Todd and Cris Adair	Karen O'Leary Engelbart	Sr. Eileen Kenny, D.C.	Ricardo and Guillermina Ramos
Lucie Marie and Keith Albee	Sara Englis	Chang and Myung Kim	Shirley Riggio
Adesola Amos	Robert English and Anna Zara	Daniel and Beatrice Kleppner	David and Sue Riggs
Atkinson Foundation	Alain and Rosemary Enthoven	Peter C. Kono, DDS	Bob Jones and Laura Roberts
Susan A. Barkan	John and Kristine Erving	William and Donna Krepick	Carl and Sarah Rosendahl
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Carolyn Brennan	Sr. Paule Freeburg, D.C.	Sr. Gilbert Martin, D.C.	Silicon Valley Community Foundation
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Betty Clasey	Graniterock/Woolpert Family Fund	Meta Local Community Fund	Frank and Marian Verlot
Jody Clasey	Robert Grassilli	Jon and Danielle Mewes	Jonathan Poe and Anne Vitullo
Richard Cline	Matthew Greenberg	Loretta Mingram	Randall and Alexandra Von Feldt
Father Gerald Coleman	Paul Goldstein and Diane Guinta	Mark and Elizabeth Moragne	Victoria Vozza
Robert Cook	Wendy Haesemeyer	Terri Muschott	Richard and Karen Walker
Linda Copell	Irene Haggerty	Duane Bay and Barbara Noparstak	Steven and Catherine Waters
Frederique Dame	Richard and Susan Hancey	Cecile O'Driscoll	Bob Williams and Jean Elliott
Daughters of Charity – Seton Provincialate	Melanie Hauck and Jim Hertel	Michael O'Leary and Zoe Weinberg	Catherine Wolff
Daughters of Charity Foundation	Father George Hazler	Shafic Queini and Claire Quesnel	Jan Woolsey and Lara Perkins
Marty and Judy Deggeller	Stephen Henry	Amado and Debbie Padilla	Amy Wright
Sr. Martin Dehlinger, D.C.	David Hernandez and Susan Ward	Thad and Mimi Padua	Susan Young
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Paul and Deborah Denton	Jean Collier Hurley	Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund	
Rick Rosenthal and Colleen Devlin	Richard and Barbara Hutsell	Irene Pepper	
John and Sandra Dhuey	Ann Idzik	Chris and Naomi Peters	
Michael Disabato and Nancy Ponstein	Delia Itanen	Beatrice Peterson	
Grant and Carrie Du Bois	David and Maureen Kennedy	Sr. Mary Loretta Pitino	
Sr. William Eileen Dunn, D.C.	Patty Kenney	Jonathan Poe and Anne Vitullo	
Martha Edwards and John Orcutt			

Jim Hawley teaches day and night and builds community in the process.



by Carolyn Brennan

Although Jim has a knack for many things – writing software programs for causes he cares about and learning to speak three languages, for example – our new teacher appears to us to be born to teach.

Jim teaches classes both during the day and in the evening. Helping his English language learners build community is central in his approach to teaching ESL.

Jim is a native Californian and the oldest of five siblings. He earned an electrical engineering degree at the University of Central Florida while – according to his plan – also working part time at DisneyWorld!

Jim's electrical engineering degree led to jobs designing software programs that included working with a horticultural group to design a program for harvesting in Guatemala, and developing a program for migrant workers so their medical records would be accessible.

Along the way, Jim picked up several languages: Greek, Spanish, Mandarin and a bit of ASL (American Sign Language).

When Jim decided he wanted to work more closely with people, he “stumbled into teaching.” He also developed a teaching traveling bug. For the last three years, he taught Chinese English majors at a college in the Tibetan area of China.

Besides his wonderful teaching, Jim recently wrote a song – in both English and Spanish, to the tune of Leonard Cohen's “Hallelujah” – to honor Sister T and the Center's achievements (see page 2). It was a hit at Fiesta 25.

Jim recognizes that building community is what we do here at the Center. We connect through language with classes and extend our inclusive spirit with events, trips, and extra help like citizenship classes and summer enrichment programs.

Bienvenido, Jim.

