

# The Lamp Lighter

October, November, December 2003

*A quarterly newsletter of the  
Literacy Council of Bonita Springs*

## Les Gurdin to Recruit More Tutors

Les Gurdin, a retired lawyer with extensive experience in non-profit organizations, has joined the staff at the Council office, reports Director Katie Verna. In his new role as Outreach Coordinator, Les will assist Katie parttime in developing the volunteer tutor recruitment program. A \$3000 grant from the Bonita Springs Community Foundation funds this pilot position for eight months.

Among his non-profit work, Les helped to establish residential centers for the mentally retarded and disabled in Sioux City, Iowa. Today 25 centers operate throughout the state, he reports. He also worked in fundraising for an Iowa Alzheimer's foundation.

Les, a native of New Cork City, and his wife moved two years ago to Spring Run in The Brooks from Sioux City.

## "B-4, I-17, N-36, G-52, O-74. Bingo!"

If you enjoy Bingo and want to help The Literacy Council, why don't you play this traditionally popular game at Bonita Charity Bingo? The proceeds from each day's play are distributed to 23 local not-for-profit organizations, including the Literacy Council, the YMCA, and the Food Pantry.

"The Council receives \$100 monthly from the Charity Bingo games," reports Director Katie Verna. Games are conducted daily from 6:30-10 pm and Thursday-Monday from 11:30 am to 3 pm in the Flex Bon Shopping Plaza on Bonita Beach Road.

## Zonta Donates \$500

The Bonita Springs Zonta organization has donated \$500 to support Council programs, reports Director Katie Verna. Zonta is an organization of professional women who support issues for women, including education, health and parenting.

## Come to One of Our New "Look At Literacy" Open Houses

Literacy Council members, especially tutors, friends, and Bonita residents, are invited to attend one of our new "Look At Literacy" Open Houses. During a one-hour visit, guests view office, language teaching facility and computerized learning tools.

At the end of the tour, a volunteer tutor and one or two students describe the value of the Literacy Council language program to their own unique needs.

One tutor who attended a recent Open House said, "I found it very interesting and informative, especially the comments by the students. Tutors should try to come in and see the scope of the Council's program and the success we're having."

At a recent Open House, Chuck Pipher, our computer graphics consultant, videotaped the presentations by a tutor and a student. The talks will comprise the core of a new video presentation on the Literacy Council which will be shown to interested Bonita community organizations.

Upcoming "Look At Literacy" Open Houses will be held on Monday, January 12, at 5pm, Saturday, January 17, at noon, and Thursday, January 22, at 11am. Open Houses will be presented every month. For more information and to sign up for a tour, call the Literacy Council Office at 495-0999.

## Bonita Chiropractor and His Patients Donate \$560 to Council

What happens when you combine a philanthropic Bonita chiropractor with generous patients? A \$560 donation to the Literacy Council!

It started when Dr. Michael Keenan and his wife, Lynn Lourie, decided to conduct an Appreciation Day on October 21 for all the past support, encouragement and referrals made by his patients. On that day Dr. Keenan conducted all his consultations, examinations, and met with new patients, free of charge. In return, he asked all his patients to make a financial contribution to the Literacy Council.

Council Director Katie Verna said that she would recommend to the Council Board that the funds be used for a first aid and infant child CPR class in the Mom's English Class that meets twice weekly at Saint Leo's Church.

Lynn Lourie also assists as a volunteer Tuesdays evenings at the Council office. Her work there is priceless!

## Congratulations, Successful Students!

Liliana Bonilla, Level 1, Anne Keyes, tutor  
Luis Gomez, Level 1, Bonnie Stewart, tutor  
Lucia Gongales, Level 3, Helen Walch, tutor  
Inés Guzman, Level 2, Diane Apel, tutor  
Ada Hernandez, Level 2, Dee DeCarli, tutor  
Ada Hernandez, Level 2, Dee DeCarli, tutor  
Martin Hernandez, Level 2, Leonard O'Brien, tutor  
Arben Lubonja, Level 1, William Hood, tutor  
Gloria Medina, Level 3, Veronica Vogt, tutor  
Armando Montes, Level 3, Barry McCall, tutor  
Rogelio Morales, Level 3, Barry McCall, tutor  
Moises Pina Muñoz, Level 2, Sue Ness, tutor  
Veronica Murceli, Level 3, Coyeen Lawton, tutor  
George Zorrilla, Level 3, Don Miller, tutor

## Literacy Programs Underway at 6 Local Golf Communities

English language literacy programs have begun at six golf communities in Bonita Springs. Ongoing programs have resumed at three communities: Pelican Landing, Imperial Golf Club and Colliers Reserve. New programs are being launched at three communities: Shadow Wood in The Brooks, Worthington Golf Club and Bonita Bay.

## Thanks, Newsletter Folders!

We want to say a heartfelt thanks to all of the energetic Council members who folded the last issue of the Lamplighter: Yasenia Jimenez, Luis Tzoc, Carmen Mendes, Lora Lee Diehl's class including Sergio Camacho, Ana Diaz, Marina Mendez, Maria Ruiz.

## Memorial Donations

Tutor Helen Shulman has made a donation to the Literacy Council in the name of MaryLou Shadduck in honor of her brother, Tom Lambdin, who died recently. Tom was a resident of Florida and would have appreciated the work of the Council, said Helen.

Former Board Director Carl Foreman made a \$50 donation in memory of Max Foreman (no relation). In a letter to Mr. Foreman's son John, Director Katie Verna said that the funds will be used "to help make our community a better place—by helping adults improve their English skills".

## 300 Books Distributed to Kids at Literacy in the Arts Day

A total of 300 children's books were given away to hundreds of interested guests who attended the first Literacy in the Arts Day sponsored jointly by the Literacy Council and the Art League of Bonita Springs at the Center for the Arts on Old 41 Road.

Volunteers gave children a taste of many art forms, including oil painting, face painting, Chinese calligraphy, stone carving, Hispanic and African dancing, classical music, poetry, puppet shows, and stage plays.

Among the attendees were tutor Dee Dee Carli and her student Sondra Garcia and her two children, and tutor Linda Baxter with student Griselda da Montes and her baby boy. Council volunteers included Pat O'Donnell and her family, Sylvia Rybault, Nancy Arias, and the Andersons who worked in the art rooms.

## Please Report Tutor Prep/Teaching Time Each Quarter

Tutors, don't hide your light under a bushel. Please keep track of your hours, both preparation and teaching time, and turn in the new Time Report forms quarterly, either the paper version or report it online at [www.bonitaliteracy.org/tutors](http://www.bonitaliteracy.org/tutors).

Reported hours are used as in-kind donations when the Council applies for grants. Last year tutors reported 15,800 hours of volunteer time. To a funder that represents a huge investment in our community. The Council applauds your wonderful work with your students.

Jeanne Sachs asks all tutors, "Have you talked with your student about their goals?" Suggested goals are available on the Council website and in the office. Your student's goals are a part of the quarterly report. Funders and the community better understand the effect of your tutoring when the Council reports the goals that students have completed with the help of the tutor.

## Mom's English Class Thriving at Saint Leo's Church

Mom's English Class meets at Saint. Leo's Church, Beaumont Road, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 12 noon. Through the recruiting efforts of Catholic Charities, 34 moms registered for the class, and in both October and November, 17 moms had perfect attendance. Teacher Jean Smart emphasizes reading to the children. Each class begins with reading a child's book, with the children included. As many children's books contain repeating lines, Jean teaches the moms those lines and they repeat them as the story is read. The more advanced learners go to another classroom to study with volunteers Cathy Sheridan or Kathy Reibold. Volunteer tutor Teresa Brown meets with two beginning learners. During the class, the children play in another room with volunteers. Through Daniela Puente and Christine Sayegh, Catholic Charities provides transportation for those who need it. Another volunteer is needed for the children. Classes resume January 20.

## November Tutor Workshop

Marilyn Ball and Bert Bonner led the workshop at Bentley Village Community Center. The Friends of Bentley Village celebrated the new tutors with a luncheon at the last session. Attendees were:

Pat Bernetich, Patricia Bracy, Sally Bubb, Doris Buttleman, Emily Costigan, John Costigan, Oscar M. Diaz, Jane Eddy, Jean Graeff, Robert Graeff, Charles Hopkins, Ralph Hunt, Betty Hurley, Blanche Ris, Claudia Wasik.

Ingrid Clauson - From St. Charles, Illinois. Educated in Germany, Tubingen Univ. Moved to USA. Taught German at Univ. of MD [overseas branch] - [USAFE]. ESL tutor in Illinois.

Ira Dash - Born in India-M.D., anesthesiologist 45 years in US. 12 years in SW. Florida. Had three students 6 years ago.

Dr. Ed Goldberg - M.D., professor, teacher. Some Spanish, horticulture, scientific writing, creative thinker, leader.

Dr. Jeanne Goldberg - M.D. Retired diagnostic radiologist, born in Mt. Vernon IL, Uof IL graduate, MD from Northwestern University, radiology residency in St. Paul, MN, University of Minnesota. My husband and I have a beginning-to-intermediate knowledge of Spanish.

Douglas Hansen - Bonita Bay resident. Retired in 1993 from Monsanto in St. Louis after 32 years of varied worldwide assignments. Grew up in Houston, Texas and graduated from Rice University in 1961.

Jane Heal - MA. in Speech and Language Development, summer home in Gloversville NY.

Iris Hutchinson - Grew up in Amherst, MA. College graduate, and have had some experience testing for reading, literacy.

Elizabeth Hyder - Grew up in Massachusetts, lived in Colorado most of my life, moved to Naples in 1988. R.N., graduate of Orange Medical Center, NJ. American Literacy 4 years, Naples.

Mary R. Johnson - Retired nurse from Michigan..

Karen Lawrence - Chicago native, attended Coe College in Cedar Rapids, IA, taught reading skills to 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grades.

Hestor Lindberg - Former English teacher from San Francisco and northern Minnesota.

Anne Mahr - B.S. in medical technology from Michigan State University; lived in Chicago for 40 years, full-time resident.

Betty Meyers - From Michigan, with a M.Ed. and taught elementary science and grade school. Been in Florida 24 years.

Helen Oppenheimer - from western Pennsylvania, went to the U of PA. I speak some French We had a wonderful boy from Grahamstown, South Africa, for a delightful year.

Virginia [Ginny] Pearce - I was a Spanish major with teacher training; have done ESL in the past. Raised in Delaware, lived

mainly in Massachusetts, am now in NH and Florida.

Joyce Ann Palmer - RI native, college biology graduate, ; taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade for 2 years.

Anna Marie Putti - retired Detroit schoolteacher, living in northern Michigan and in Bonita Springs.

Marynel Robinson - BA degree from a small college in Ohio, 30 years working with the Girl Scouts, teaching leaders; moved to Florida in 2002 after the death of my husband.

Del Rawson - attended the Michigan U. Dental School, practiced in Cass City, MI. Now at Bentley Village.

Lahni Schultz - 20-year-old Mexican-American whose first language is English. I'm just feeling comfortable to communicate in Spanish, so I understand what it's like to learn another language. I enjoy doing what I can for our community.

Vance Smith - Lawyer with math degree, M.S. in physics, enjoy studying Spanish.

Donna Sonnesyn - from Minnesota; N.K.P degree from Miss Wood, now part of Macalester College.

Joan Vazakas - B.A. in government, violinist, avid chamber music player, raised family in Pittsfield, MA.

Phyllis Younger - Born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin; BA English from Lawrence College. Moved to Bentley Village in 2002. Taught Laubach method in Milwaukee in 1960. Learned Spanish and German in college and continue with German.

## October Tutor Workshop

Lorraine O'Connell and Don Miller led the October workshop at the AmericInn. Attendees were:

Anne Christensen, JoAnne Parks, Paul Swain.

Barbara Conley - retired teacher (30 years) who has always worked with children, in school, church, or as a volunteer.

Jorgen Doose - Danish, business, speak Spanish, French.

Robert Griswald - Audiotape and CD publisher.

Irene Henry - From NY with a BS in computer science.

Kathy Reibold - went to "Larry Bird" University (Indiana State). Spent the last 31 years teaching 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades.

Kathy Rich - Florida resident for 15 years. Married to a previous non-English speaker.

Patricia Shanahan - worked in Ohio, retired in Chautauqua County, NY. and volunteered at the library. Year-rounder.

Mary W. Small - Live in Pelican Bay (20 years).

Jim Vanas - Long-term Florida resident, landscaper, likes working with Hispanics and studying tropical rainforests.

Welcome aboard to all these dedicated volunteers. We look forward to working with them as they teach their students.

## Tutors and Friends Invited to Pre-screening of "The New Americans" TV Series

Literacy Council tutors, and their families and friends who may also be interested in becoming tutors, are invited to a special pre-screening of a new PBS miniseries – "The New Americans" from 7-8:30 pm on March 24 at the AmericInn on Route 41..

The 30-minute pre-screening video will highlight the seven-hour series which portrays the search for the American Dream through the eyes of immigrant families from Nigeria, India, The Dominican Republic, Mexico and the Israeli-occupied West Bank. The program, produced by the creators of the celebrated "Hoop Dreams" documentary, explores the dreams of the newcomers before they leave their homelands and then after they settle in the United States. Each family arrives with different hopes: to escape poverty, to marry, to achieve athletic glory, or to gain high-tech business wealth. "The New Americans" will air on WGPU-TV, Channel 3, March 29, 30 and 31.

Support resources have been developed jointly by ITVS-Community Connections Project, Active Voice, The National Forums Institute and Outreach Extensions to help public television stations, educational institutions and community organizations to develop partnerships and grassroots initiatives that support newcomer integration.

Among the resources being developed to support the TV series is Outreach Extensions Resources, which will provide "America, My New Home" workshop curriculum, available in English and Spanish. It assists parents and caregivers of children, particularly new Latino immigrants, by supporting community networking and assisting children with life changes. A storybook, "A New Sun/El Nuevo Sol" accompanies the workshop.

## Council Observes National Literacy Month

Two exhibit panels presenting Literacy Council activities helped to observe National Literacy Month in November at an exhibit at the Bonita Springs Public Library. One illustrated panel described several Council programs, including Family Literacy Night in the office computer lab, volunteer tutor-student lessons, a \$50,000 donation from the Governor's Family Literacy Initiative, students studying English, an Appreciation Party for students and tutors, and English lessons for golf course maintenance staff members at the Pelican's Nest Golf Club. A second illustrated panel described the Council's family reading program with the Gonzales family, including Sergio, Claudia, Andres and Victor, and tutor Paula Cohen. Suggested reading for families included folk tales, such as the Grimm Brothers fairy tales, Aesop's Fables and Mexican Folk Tales.



**Literacy Council of Bonita Springs**  
PO Box 2703  
Bonita Springs, FL 34133



United Way of Lee County  
Partner Agency

## Happy Holidays!

Best wishes for a happy and rewarding New Year! -- Katie, Jeanne, Dora, Terry.

## Positions Open

Lovin' childcare needed for Mom's  
Classes mornings from 10 to 12.  
Tutors needed in the Family Literacy  
Program at Spring Creek Elementary  
School, Tues. - Wed., 6:30 to 8pm.  
Classes resume January 20.  
Volunteer coordinator(s) to keep the lab  
open on Saturdays, 9 to noon.

### OFFICE SCHEDULE

Katie Verna, Program Director  
Dora Sandoval, Office Assistant  
Monday through Friday  
9:00 to 12:00 noon

Jeanne Sachs  
Monday to Thurs., 4:00 to 9:00 pm

### STUDENT LAB OPEN

Mon. to Fri., 9 to noon  
Monday to Thurs., 6:30 to 8:30 pm

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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