

The Lamplighter

April, May, June 2004

A quarterly newsletter of the
Literacy Council of Bonita Springs

Annual Meeting June 8 at 4pm

Tuesday, June 8, 4pm, Northern Trust Bank in the Promenade. All tutors, donors, students, and others are invited.

Join a Tour of the Council Office !

Tours of the Council are offered monthly to interested members of the community. They will meet a tutor and a student and talk to them about the Council's programs.

Tuesday, June 1, 10 to 11am.

Wednesday, June 9, 5 to 6pm.

Saturday, July 17, 11am to noon

Saturday, July 31, 11am to noon

Council Offers Spanish Classes

Spanish conversation classes will be offered this summer to Council members and their friends. Classes in beginning Spanish will be held at the Council office each Thursday from 12 to 2 pm, June 10 to July 29. Intermediate Spanish classes will be conducted each Wednesday, June 9 to July 28, from 12-2 pm. The instructor will be Amilcar Santos, a Council ESOL teacher. Cost for the eight-week course will be \$100. Proceeds benefit the Council's programs.

Fall International Fête Planned!

Tutors, students, and donors, look forward to a gala night of international dining and music on November 9, 6:30 to 8:30 pm at St. Mary's Episcopal Church Hall on Bonita Beach Road.

ProLiteracy America Reports National Affiliates Taught 227,368 Students in 2002-03

The first annual ProLiteracy America affiliate report announced that in 2002-03 123,547 volunteers taught English to 227,368 students in 1200 affiliate programs. Male students comprised 42% and female 58%.

Age

60+ years: 6%
25-44 years: 51%
16-24 years: 20%
45-59 years: 20%
10-15 years: 3%

Education

Grades 0-12: 62.5%
High school/GED: 19.5%
Some college: 9%
College degree: 6%

Ethnics

Mexico: 39.5%
Asia: 21%
Cent./S. America: 19%
Europe: 10%
Africa: 3%
Puerto Rico: 1%

In FY 2002-3, the Literacy Council of Bonita Springs, 771 adults were active ESL students including 423 male and 338 female (10 unavailable).

Age

60+ years: 11
25-44 years: 445
16-24 years: 171
45-59 years: 96
10-15 years:

Education

Grades 0-4: 64
Grades 5-8: 146
Grades 9-12: 278
College: 139

Ethnics

Mexico: 335
Asia: 13
Cent./S. America: 329
Europe: 10
Puerto Rico: 1

Active tutors totaled 337.

Age

60+ years: 204
45-59: 58
25-44: 18
16-24: 8

Education

Graduate degrees: 80
Undergraduate: 59
Some college: 72
High school/GED: 7
Attended high school: 14

Ethnics

Caucasian: 226
Hispanic/Latino: 16
Asian: 2
African-American: 1

In the group of Council tutors, 134 were retired, 34 were employed, and eight were unemployed.

Statistics for the Literacy Council's FY 2003-4 will be available at the Annual Meeting on June 8 (see sidebar).

Congratulations, Successful Students!

Amparo Arias, Level 1, L.R. Lodico, tutor
Rosali Bonilla, Level 1, Diana McCabe, tutor
Yazmin Carroll, Level 4, Jackie Pipher, tutor
Angelo Ciancaglini, Level 2, Charlotte Gregory, tutor
Sebastian Diaz, Level 2, Richard Ricketts, tutor
Erika Davila, Level 1, Dorn Van Cleave, tutor
Maria Davila, Level 1, Judith Van Cleave, tutor
Anna Durka, Level 1, H. H. Damman, tutor
Cecilia Garcia, Level 1, Paul Oppenheimer, tutor
David Gonzales, Level 1, Diana McCabe, tutor
Monica Gonzales, Level 1, Shirley Sheffer, tutor
Martin Hernandez, Level 3, Leonard O'Brien, tutor
Luz Jaimes, Level 1, Maureen Forrest, tutor
Manuel Lopez, Level 1, Diana McCabe, tutor
Ligia Martinez, Level 1, William Maybrook, tutor
Luz Maria Martinez, Level 1, Joan Vazakes, tutor
Nora Martinez, Level 2, T.A. Manual, tutor
Lucy Mejicano, Level 1, Susan Nicoletti, tutor
Mario Moreno, Level 1, Douglas Hansen, tutor
Ana Maria Okubo, Level 4, Gaylen Richardson, tutor
Jennifer Ordaz, Level 1, Alice Clearfield, tutor
Maria Pomacusi, Level 1, Shirley Sheffer, tutor
Maria Arcelia Ramirez, Level 2, Joan Looney, tutor
Maria Guadalupe Ramirez, Level 1, Marilyn Gernant, tutor
Rosa Ruiz, Level 1, Patricia Bracy, tutor
Liliana Velez, Level 4, Judy Walker, tutor

Tutor Training Workshops

June 12, 19, and 26, Saturdays, 9am to 1pm. Marilyn Ball and Bert Bonner, trainers. Riverview Colonial Bank Community Room.

August 14, 21, 28, Saturdays, 9am to 1pm. Marilyn Ball and Bert Bonner, trainers.

Two October Workshops are scheduled!

October 18 and 22, Monday and Friday, 9am to 3pm at the Shadow Wood Country Club in the Brooks. Lorraine O'Connell and Don Miller, trainers.

October 25, 27, 29, MWF, 9am to 1pm at St. Monica's Episcopal Church on Immokalee Road, east of I-75. Roberta Reiss, trainer.

November 6, 13, 20, Saturdays, 9am to 1pm at Bentley Village Community Center. Marilyn Ball and Bert Bonner, trainers.

Moms-to-Moms Literacy Program To Begin in the Fall

Tutor Islay Hedger is developing a Moms-to-Moms Literacy Program, based with the Women's Group at St. Monica's in Naples. Katie Verna and student Adriana Mercado spoke to the women at an evening dinner on March 8. The women in the group are committed to helping moms improve their English skills because when "you teach the mom, you teach the child," as former tutor Dee DeCarli declared. Read Dee and Sandra's story below. The Moms-to-Moms Literacy Program will train women to teach English to stay-at-home moms. Tutors will hold classes in the moms' homes after an initial home visit by the program moderator. An important component will be encouraging the moms to read to their children (in whatever language—or even pictures only) as an essential element for developing literacy. St. Mary's plans occasional get-togethers of all the moms, children and tutors in their program—fun social events that will also encourage the moms in their studies.

The Literacy Council is committed to helping stay-at-home moms take advantage of the time at their disposal so that they and their children can achieve successes like those of Sandra and Juan Carlos. To help promote the programs, Katie and two moms presented a program for the women at the Estero United Methodist Church on April 14. Sandra Garcia and Tomasa Castañeda, both former students of Dee DeCarli, talked to the women about the importance of learning English—the sense of independence they have now, their confidence in helping their children in school and in dealing with doctors' offices.

Any tutors who want to become part of Moms-to-Moms with the St. Monica's group or in Bonita should contact the office.

Dee and Sandra's Story

Dee had been teaching student Sandra at her home for a year and a half or so when she gave 4-year-old Juan Carlos a treat and told him to save it for after breakfast. He responded, "I already ate my breakfast." She asked him in surprise, "When did you learn to say such a sentence in English?" Last September, Juan Carlos began kindergarten, fully fluent in English—a direct result of a little boy hanging around during Dee's lessons with his mother. Sandra says many of her friends have children in kindergarten, but they don't speak English. The mothers call her often because they don't understand their children's homework.

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Council Volunteers Tutor 6 L's Farm Workers

More than 30 workers at the 6 L's Farm on Corkscrew Road attended one or more weekly English classes from March 7 to April 25 taught by Literacy Council tutors Joe Beausoleil, Joan Wright, Joe McHugh and Pat Del Giorno. Becky Silva had signed up 15 workers and asked the Literacy Council to provide tutors. Classes were held on Sundays at the camp, initially in the worker dormitory and then outside on grounds. Becky Silva provided pens/pencils and notebooks while the Council provided instructional videotapes, through a grant from the Country Creek Community Foundation, and a player for student study. Many students did not attend all the classes, since Sunday was the only day available for them to take care of their personal needs, reports Joe, but all were appreciative of the tutors' efforts to help them learn English. The Council plans to renew the program next fall when the workers return to 6 L's.

Council Gives Away Books at Community Pride Rally

Council Director Katie Verna and student Edna Garay gave away 80 books to children who played the bean bag toss at the fourth annual Rosemary Park/Leitner Creek rally May 8 at Leitner Creek Community Hall.

Edna spoke in Spanish, and Katie in English, to the group and encouraged them to learn English as the key to the future. The rally featured free food, music, t-shirts and snow cones for children. Local organizations presented exhibits on public safety, code enforcement, affordable housing, health care, and child care.

Special Insert to April, May, June 2004 issue

English Class in Estero

Country Creek Community Foundation awarded the Literacy Council \$1,600 to offer English classes this summer in Estero. Many tutors have gone north. Their students and many students are requesting classes. Estero United Methodist Church has volunteered use of one of their rooms to hold the classes. The Council is accepting registrations for this class.

Council and Students Hold Picnic for Tutors

More than 100 tutors and students enjoyed a Council picnic on Sunday afternoon, May 2, at Delnor Wiggins Park in Naples. Many students prepared empanadas, bunuelos and tamales and other delicacies for the dining pleasure of their tutor guests. Tutor Diana McCabe declared such talented cooks deserved to have their recipes recorded in a new Literacy Council cookbook and she was prepared to take the lead!

Crisper's Restaurant donated 150 sandwiches plus iced tea and lemonade. To celebrate the work of the tutors, the tutors received gifts donated by local merchants under the direction of Sherry Bradford. Donations included a gift basket from Bayside, a booklover's basket from Borders Books, a Duval Street dinner-for-two gift certificate, framed lithographs by Key West artist Pam Hobbs, a personal care basket from Sherry Bradford, a print by Debbie Hummel-Marconi, a salsa basket from Harry&David, a spa gift certificate from Kay's Face to Face, a sunset cruise for two from the Cocohatchee Nature Center, and a wine basket from O'Donnell Landscapes.

Tutor Tip:

Conversation Strategy

I have started to randomly pick three different items from my home, my garage, our toy bin, our yard—wherever. Most recently, I brought to class a soccer ball, a silk flower and a golf club cover which is a dog. I asked my student to tell me what he could about each item. Of course, I had to cue him and give him encouragement. For example, the silk flower, I asked him if he could name the leaf, the stem, the flower, the color of the flower, did the flower have a scent, etc. Regarding the soccer ball, I knew that he played soccer in Guatemala and so he enthusiastically told me about the colors, the shape, the size, etc. The dog head cover had many areas of interest: the eyes that were hidden by the long hair, the long pink tongue, the small ears, the two different colors, etc. I find that my student looks forward to this part of our session each day and I feel it will enhance his conversation skills.

Carol deJoy, Pelican Nest Literacy Program

Family Literacy Programs

The Governor's Family Literacy programs at Bonita Springs Elementary and Spring Creek Elementary schools completed their sessions for this academic year with a pot luck dinner featuring great tamales, tostados, and Mexican pastries. At Spring Creek, the younger children sang two farewell songs: *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes* and *Where is Thumpkin*. Prizes (a choice of dictionaries and gift certificates) were awarded for excellent attendance, Josefina Gonzalez and Margarita Martinez at Spring Creek and Juan Curz and Margarita Alonzo at Bonita Springs and the children were invited to select a book to enjoy over the summer.

Introductory Computer Class for Students

Susana Garcia, a Council student, will present a six-week Introductory Computer Class in Spanish, beginning on May 29, on Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon. Susana has taught computer classes in Spanish with the Lee County Library System. Students need to register with the Council. Limit: 12 students.

Expanded Lab Hours

The Council Resource Center is open on Friday evenings from 5pm to 8:30pm and on Saturdays and Sundays from 9am to 3pm. Tutors, invite your students to take advantage of the resources available—books and tapes, videos, and workbooks. Nora Martinez will be in charge of the lab on Fridays and Saturdays.

Here's a special Sunday treat for students: movies with Jim from 12:30 to 2:30pm. Thanks to videos loaned by Sharon Zanko, Jim McHugh, the Sunday Lab Coordinator, can choose from a selection of classics. First movie was "Last of the Mohicans."

New in Resource Center

Clear Speech From the Start, Teacher's Resource book and Student Book by Judy Gilbert. Cambridge University Press.

Discovering Fiction: A Reader of American Short Stories. Student Books 1 and 2. edited by Judith Kay and Rosemary Gelshenen. Cambridge University Press.

English for the Green Industry. Jennifer Thomas. Prentice Hall (a bilingual workbook).

Tutors, please distribute *Lamplighter Too* to your students. Invite them to write a story for it.

Welcome Aboard!

We at the Council are pleased to welcome 20 new tutors who were certified at the April Tutor Training Workshop at Bentley Village Community Center led by trainers Marilyn Ball and Bert Bonner.

Particia Beausoleil – I am a California native. I have a BSN in nursing and a Masters in Public Health. Lived 30 years in Annandale, VA. Have a son and daughter. Worked as an occupational Health Nurse for US Gov. Health Units. Happily retired in Estero last September.

Christa Brown – mother and reader for blind students; involved in Christian women's ministry.

Adeline Contrada (Della) – Having some time on my hands, tutoring might be a good idea to fill my time. I like to feel useful and needed. I'm a high school graduate and later studied a very extensive business correspondence course at a vocational school in Georgia. I consider myself a "jack of all trades" and "master of none". I also enjoy the culinary arts. Cooking is my passion.

Mabel Covey

Barbara Ebrahim – I'm an RN from Scotland. I came to the United States seven years ago with my husband who is Egyptian. Although I understand some Arabic, I can only speak "shwaya" (a little). I enjoy walking, gardening and meeting new people.

Joan Frank – as a Bentley resident for the past 8 ½ years, I have volunteered in several different departments: Care Center, Assisted Living, Residence and Library. I came to Bentley from Princeton, NJ and have always tried to give back something to the community in which I lived—so volunteering is a way of life.

Donna Garrison – I am a retired high school English and reading teacher with 40 years experience. I taught 20 years in Illinois and 20 years in the Florida Keys.

Les Gurdin

Sonia Heredia – I was born in Miami and I moved to Ecuador when I was five years old. Ecuador is a very beautiful place and I studied a career to be a secretary. I had the chance to work as a secretary for a long time. I moved here three years ago with my family, and I have had the opportunity to meet really nice people and work with them at the Literacy Council and also I speak Spanish which is useful for the job of helping people there.

Jean Hite – I'm a musician—a clarinetist and a pianist. Have spent the major part of my life to this point making custom clarinet and saxophone mouthpieces for professional players. After the recent death of my husband (and business partner), I'm excited about reaching out to the community and to those in the community who might be able to benefit from any help I can offer.

Joyce Lamb – From CT. Been living here for 20 years. Formerly in RE.

Patti Leichtfuss – from Hartland, WI. Majored in Home Economics at Univ of WI. I spend 5 months in Spanish Wells in Bonita Springs where we golf. We also travel extensively.

Susan Lovejoy – Masters in Speech and Language from Northwestern Univ. Spent 35 years in Ann Arbor MI teaching, raising a family. Love to play golf and travel.

James McHugh – A college graduate, bilingual! I am pursuing certification in TESOL. I'm enjoying giving back what was freely given to me: education.

Susan Mittelstadt

Greta Smith – I'm from Louisville KY, retired, worked in Human Resources for a manufacturing company. For a college graduate—I'm nervous about tutoring and would like to observe first. I love horses, all animals and wildlife and growing orchids. I'm full time in Florida and want to give in this community.

Bob Tunstall – Wife Janet, have three adult children, four grandchildren; retired; live in Bonita Springs; Virginian by birth. BS in Business, some graduate work. Sales/Marketing Executive. Lived and worked in Europe and South Africa. Play golf and tennis.

Jeannette Turansky – I was born in India (my father was in the British military) and reared in England. I am a retired attorney (BA from Rice Univ. and J.D. from the Univ of Houston Law Center). We have lived in a number of places, including five years in Mexico.

Carolyn Wolff – From Prairie Village, suburb of Kansas City MO. Have BS in Education and some graduate hours. Have taught fourth and fifth grades and been a grade school librarian for seven years. In Florida, at the Brooks part time. Enjoy golfing, biking, water exercise, reading, piano, and travel. Have two grown sons and husband is retired.

Mary Yowell – From Maryland, now a full-time Fort Myers resident. I own and operate my own Internet marketing business. Hobbies include swimming and reading.

Notice: Tutors, please turn in your hours worked through May 31!! Your work becomes an in-kind donation when the Council applies for grants. Last year tutors and volunteers donated almost 16,000 hours. That represents a serious workforce for our Council programs!

Four Join the Council Staff

Sonia Heredia is the new office assistant for the Literacy Council of Bonita Springs, replacing Dora Sandoval, who is moving to Mexico later this year. Sonia, a full-time employee, will be responsible for all data entry operations and assist Director Katie Verna in general administrative duties. Born in Miami, Sonia grew up in Quito, Ecuador and returned three years ago with her family to Southwest Florida. Previously she was manager of the K-Mart Café and worked in the daycare center at Grace Community Church. She lives in Naples with her husband Patricio, and children, Carolina, 15, Felipe, 12, and Martin, 10.

Meet the New Lab Coordinator. "My name is **Nora Martinez**. I was born in Guajuato, Mexico. I have nine brothers and sisters and I'm the second youngest, with three sisters and five brothers in Mexico. We were very happy. Unfortunately, we did not have enough money to realize our goals for work and study. Then I had the opportunity to come here and I started to work and study. When I came, I did not speak any English. I lived in Miami where everybody speaks Spanish. It was very hard to learn. Then I moved to Bonita Springs, and I wanted to study. I found the Literacy Council and I asked Jeanne if I could come to the English class and she said, "Of course." In three weeks she found a tutor for me. Since that day I have continued to study here. I have met very nice and kind people like Katie and Jeanne. They gave me the opportunity to work at the Literacy Council as a Lab Assistant. I enjoy it very much. I'm going to continue studying very hard until I realize my goal to be a nurse. I feel so blessed because the people I'm surrounded by are helping me a lot. Thank you." Jeanne Sachs says, "I'm very grateful to have Nora Martinez working with us. The students are very pleased, too. She is a very positive part of our evening program."

Jim McHugh has joined the Council staff as a parttime ESOL tutor. He is teaching beginning and intermediate English to 15 students Monday through Thursday mornings and evenings. He also tutors Tuesday and Friday mornings in the literacy program at Café of Life. He is also studying for his ESOL certification. A former Coca Cola executive, Jim studied Latin American affairs in college and has lived in the Dominican Republic, Panama and Colombia.

Leonard Stiller, a retired New York City social studies teacher, has begun working in the Literacy Council office. He was assigned to the office by the Dr. Piper Center for Social Services, Fort Myers. Since August of last year Leonard has tutored students at the Bonita Springs Elementary School. He is proficient in Spanish and French. Leonard and his wife Adelina moved to southwest Florida following his retirement in 1995 and now live in Bonita Springs.

Donations

Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Bikoff have made a donation of \$25 to the Literacy Council in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Drs. Mel and Phyllis Robbins. The Robbins tutored students-workers this past winter at Shadow Wood in the Brooks.

The Bonita Shores & Little Hickory Shores Improvement Association has donated \$300 "to help with the good work you do," wrote Constance Pollett, club secretary.

OFFICE SCHEDULE

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

Jeanne Sachs, Student/Tutor Coordinator
Monday to Thurs., 4:00 to 9:00 pm
Nora Martinez, Lab Coordinator

STUDENT LAB OPEN

Mon. to Fri., 9am to noon
Saturday, Sunday, 9am to 3pm
Monday to Friday, 6:30pm to 8:30 pm

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