

# The Lamplighter

A quarterly newsletter of the  
Literacy Council of Bonita Springs

January , February, March

## Tutors, Friends Invited to Pre-screen “New Americans” TV Series, March 24

Tutors, their families, and friends who may want to become tutors, are invited to a special pre-screening of a new PBS miniseries—“The New Americans”—from 7-8:30 p.m. on March 24 at the AmericInn on Route 41 just south of Bonita Beach Road.

Tutors and students will also make presentations during the evening. The 30-minute pre-screening video will highlight significant sections of the seven-hour series which will air on WGPU-TV Channel 3 on March 29-31.

The series portrays the search for the American Dream through the eyes of immigrant families from Nigeria, India, The Dominican Republic, Mexico and the West Bank of Israel. Produced by the creators of the celebrated “Hoop Dreams” documentary, the series records the newcomers before they leave their homelands and then after they settle in the United States, where they hope to escape poverty, gain athletic glory, marry, or achieve success in high-tech business.

## Bonita Springs Library Night, April 15

Students and their tutors are invited to attend a special welcome to the Bonita Springs Library Thursday, April 15 from 6-8 p.m. Students can receive a library card by showing an ID card, such as a driver’s license, a receipt from a utility, or a paycheck stub which shows their address. The Library is located on Pine St., off West Terry Street and adjacent to the Bonita Springs Middle School.

## Come to The Fundraising Breakfast March 19 at the Shadow Wood CC!!

Anyone who is interested in the Literacy Council—becoming a Council tutor or in providing financial support for Council programs—is invited to attend a free breakfast Friday, March 19, from 8-9 a.m. at the Shadow Wood Country Club in The Brooks.

The event is being held to fund the surging demand for language services in Bonita. “Expanded staffing is urgently needed for new students and their programs. Replacement funds are essential to offset the \$37,500 awarded last June as Sustainability Funds from the Governor’s Family Literacy Initiative for family literacy programs,” declares Director Katie Verna. The program will present an intense look at the Council’s students, tutors, and programs.

Sponsors of the breakfast are The Bonita Bay Group (\$1500), John Warfield Family Foundation through the Bonita Springs Community Foundation (\$500), Tutor Bert Bonner (\$500), and Tutor Helen Shulman (\$200).

Reservations are required. Call soon as space is limited for this interesting event.

## Bush Family, Friends Celebrate Reading

Several Literacy Council members were among the 800 guests who attended the Fourth Celebration of Reading fundraising meeting held February 27 at the Naples Regency Resort, including Judy and Cal Walker, Judy’s student, Liliana Velez, Alicia Reyes, lead reading teacher in the family literacy program at Bonita Springs Elementary School, and Sonia Muniz, parent coordinator at the Spring Creek Elementary School family literacy program. The Walkers’ tickets were donated.

The Celebration benefits Governor Bush’s Family Literacy Initiative, which has served nearly 7,000 adults and children through awards of \$3.8 million for 106 programs in the state. This year’s event raised \$1.3 million. In the last two years, the Literacy Council has been awarded \$87,500 for its family literacy programs.

Spearheading the evening were former president George H. W. Bush, his wife Barbara, and their son, Florida Governor Jeb Bush, and authors Fannie Flagg, Antwone Fisher and Paulette Bourgeois.

Bourgeois is the author of the children’s “Franklin” series, which chronicle the adventures of a frightened turtle. Flagg is the author of several novels, including the Pulitzer Prize-nominated “Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café”. Fisher is an acclaimed author, screenwriter and producer and dyslexic, who spoke about his book of poetry, “Who Will Cry For The Little Boy?” The poems deal with love, “a fascinating emotion” that was missing from his upbringing.

## Congratulations, Successful Students!

Laurentino Aparicio, Level 1, Diane Foster, tutor  
Antonia Avila, Level 2, Barry McCall, tutor  
Maria Ayala, Level 1, Marilyn Qunell, tutor  
Gabriel Contreras, Level 1, Mary Small, tutor  
Ana Diaz, Level 1, Laura Lee Diehl & Pat Geiser, tutors  
Luis Escobar, Level 1, Marilyn Qunell, tutor  
Rong Gui Huang, Level 1, Pat Di Giorno, tutor  
Denia Matamoros, Level 1, Herman Nelson, tutor  
Marina Mendez, Level 1, Jane Elder, tutor  
Velino Morales, Level 4, G.J. Papariello, tutor  
Guillermo Moreno, Level 2, Katherine Ferrari, tutor  
Esmeralda Parra, Level 4, G.J. Papariello, tutor  
Luz Perdon, Level 1, Paul Keyes, tutor  
Jesus Rodriquez, Level 2, Robert Gaudette, tutor  
Maria Fernanda Ruiz, Level 1, Lora Lee Diehl  
and Pat Geiser, tutors

## Help! Tutors Needed For Sunday Farm Workers Classes

The Literacy Council is seeking tutors to teach English to workers at the Six L Farms located on Corkscrew Road eight miles east of US Route 75. The 90-minute classes will be held in the worker dormitories starting at 10:30 a.m each Sunday for about two months before the workers will be moving on to another camp. Fifteen workers have already signed up for the class, but many more are interested in learning English, reports Director Katie Verna. Lead tutor Joseph Beausoleil and tutors Pat Di Giorno and Joan Wright will begin classes on March 13. Materials for independent study by the farmworkers, including videos and computer software for a donated computer, were made available thanks to a grant from the Country Creek Community Charities. For more information about joining this new program for a very needy group, call the Council, 495-0999.

## Café of Life Literacy Program

Volunteers at Café of Life, which serves lunches to needy Bonitans, is developing English classes for non-English-speaking diners. Marilyn Ballas, president of the not-for-profit, says classes will be offered after lunch. The new tutors took training at the Shadow Wood workshop.

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

## Director Verna Lauds Tutors at Imperial Golf Club Dinner

Three years ago, Alan Christenson of Bonita Springs, with guidance from the Literacy Council, initiated a program at Imperial Golf to help our Spanish-speaking employees learn and improve their command of the English language. On Saturday, December 6, a dinner was held at the Imperial Golf clubhouse to honor the volunteers that make this program possible. Twenty-one people attended the affair. Several of the volunteers spoke about the joy of watching these students work hard to improve their language skills even though many of them hold down two jobs and are very busy.

Katie Verna, Director of the Literacy Council, spoke to the group. "Volunteer groups such as yours add a new dimension to our work at the Council. You are not only helping these people to speak, read and write the language; you are providing a link between your world and theirs. You are showing them that you care about them as individuals," she explained.

Tim Kragh, club manager, also commended the group for giving of their time and talent: "It improves the attitudes of employees and makes it easier for us to work together toward our common goals. We truly appreciate the work you are doing."

The following are volunteer tutors for 2003-04 at Imperial Golf: Sue Bassinger, Barbara Broadwell, Alan Christenson, Charlotte Gregory, Barbara Gross, Betty Hoye, Bonnie Rankin, Maureen Roche, Charlie Ruder, Shirley Sheffer, Sally Springer, Shirley Starr, Mary Ann Vogelsang, and Barbara Whitlam.

Employees enrolled in the program are Yolanda Molino, Laura Madrigal, Oscar Aguilers, Angelo Ciancaglini, Andre Alexandre, Laura Bermudez, Fernando Gonzales, Silvana Ojopi, Maria Pomacusi, Monica Gonzales, Luz Florez, Manuel Hernandez, Denis Pinceas, and Milhomme Surin.

## Shadow Wood Workers Tutored

Over 30 workers from food service, golf course and grounds maintenance at the Shadow Wood Community in the Brooks are currently attending twice-weekly English language classes taught by 25 resident-tutors, reports coordinator Susan Nicoletti.

Initially, residents approached Andrea Smith to express their interest in becoming involved in a literacy program. The program began after the residents attended a special ten-hour tutor workshop February 2 and 6 taught by Roberta Reiss, the literacy coordinator for the Collier County Library System. A follow-up session is scheduled on Tuesday, March 30 from 1 to 4pm, when Reiss will present new teaching strategies and the new tutors can exchange experiences and questions about their tutoring experiences.

Residents in other Brooks communities have expressed great interest in establishing similar programs at Copperleaf and Spring Run. Other successful programs are active at Bentley Village, Collier's Reserve, Imperial Golf, and Pelican's Nest.

# Welcome Aboard, New Tutors

The Council is very grateful to Pelican's Nest Golf Club, the Shadow Wood Country Club and St. Mary's Episcopal Church for hosting the workshops for our new tutors. They have all begun teaching their students.

New tutors certified in January workshop at Pelican's Nest Clubhouse. Trainers Don Miller, Lorraine O'Connell, and Bert Bonner.

Barbara Bachman  
Sue Bachman  
Terry Bishop  
Patricia Borgeson  
Jeanine Briones  
Helen Brown  
Sally Bubbs  
Gerry Decraene  
Cathy Fellabaum  
Katie Femal  
Joan L Green  
Leonard J Green  
Carla Heimerl  
Peg Hendrix  
Ruthann Huston  
Audrey Konwiser  
Marianna Kure  
Rhoda Levin  
Sue Masters  
Barbara Maugans  
Bill Maybrook  
Grace Olvera  
Paul Oppenheimer  
Karen Orman  
Jean Prokopow  
JoAnn Russell  
Jean Smith  
Jim Stone  
Phyllis Swanson  
Pat Sweeting  
Jean Wells  
Arnie Zaks

New tutors certified in February workshop at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Trainers, Lorraine O'Connell and Don Miller.

Joseph Beausoleil  
Alice Clearfield  
Ardis DeHoff  
Martin Dehler  
Edna Garay  
Arvena Guynn  
Vernon Guynn  
Paula Haarer  
Gwen Havekost  
Ann Huber  
Bob Huber  
Mary Johnson  
Jill Kusba  
Jill Lohmann  
Janet Maney  
Wendi Mowrey  
Sonia Muñiz  
Phyllis Robbins  
Melvin B. Robbins  
Susan Rustad  
Mary P. Sweet  
Jan Thomas  
Dorn Van Cleave  
Judith Van Cleave  
Edith Young

Tutors certified in the Shadow Wood Workshop, February 2 and 6. Trainer, Roberta Reiss from Collier County Library system.

E. Jane Alter  
Bob Andreasen  
Marilyn Brockish  
Kathy Bull  
Joy Corbo  
Susan Davis  
Cathy Fellabaum  
Maureen Forrest  
John Freeman  
Elaine Harbold  
Margie Henneberry  
Rod Hermes  
Jimmie L. Jacobs  
Marianne Kure  
Lee Lawson  
Mark Lewis  
Becky Lundy  
Paul Maloney  
Marilyn Matte  
Shirley Michael  
Alice Miller  
Joanne Millerick  
Karen Morris  
Mary Jo Morrow  
James Mulroy  
Mary Ann Mulroy  
Dorothy Murphy  
Karen Murphy  
Ann Page  
Charles Pearce  
Janet Porter  
Kenneth Schwinn  
Keith Sheldon  
Bill Smith  
Marsha Souders  
Betty Stastny  
Joe Thomas  
Lynn Thomas  
Sue Tracy  
Mary Valpey  
Christine Welsh  
Sunny Whitmore  
Margery Winsett  
Joan Wright

## Sign Up for A Tutor Training Workshop!

Two tutor training workshops will be held for interested volunteers, the first in April, the second in June.

Instructors Marilyn Ball and Bert Bonner will hold classes from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Bentley Village Community Center on US Route 41 on Saturday April 10, 17 and 24.

The second class will be conducted on Saturday June 12, 19 and 26 at the same time, location still to be determined. For more information, call the Council office at 495-0999.

## Tutors, Submit Your Time Sheets!

Literacy Council tutors are asked to submit their time sheets after each quarter of teaching. Please do not "stretch" timesheets to cover the months of May and June, because June is the start of the new fiscal year for the Council. Your time is valuable: to yourself, to your student--and to the Council as your time represents in-kind donations when the Council applies for grants.

## Want to Learn Spanish?

The Literacy Council will sponsor a 12-week course in the Spanish language for English-speaking residents starting the week of April 12. Classes will meet weekly for two hours at the Council office to study beginner, intermediate or advanced Spanish. A minimum of six students will be required for each class level and the cost will be \$180. For more information, call the Literacy Council office at 495-0999.

## English Conversation Partners Needed

The Lee County Library System is seeking volunteers to serve as conversation partners for new English-speaking adults to help them practice listening and speaking skills in an informal setting. The program is designed to improve speaking and understanding of the English language to enhance adult life skills. Sessions will be held in library and community sites throughout the county. In Bonita Springs, the session will be held in the morning. Each volunteer will be asked to donate two hours weekly to the project. Training, resources and staff support will be provided. Volunteers are not required to speak another language. Call Barbara Coons at 461-5885 to sign up.

## Verizon Literacy University Offers Three New Online Courses for Tutors

ProLiteracy Worldwide and the National Center for Family Literacy have added three new tutor-oriented courses to Verizon Literacy University (VLU), the first-ever online resource dedicated to connecting literacy organizations, volunteers, corporations and those interested in adult literacy.

The new courses cover volunteering, cultural issues and citizenship preparation as elements of literacy programs serving English Language Learners (ELL). In the volunteering course, participants will meet literacy students and find out how adult and family literacy programs are meeting their needs. Three special roles for volunteers are presented. The culture course examines issues relevant to the learning context. The citizenship course helps program staff to develop courses to complement an ELL curriculum.

VLU is free and available to computer users with an Internet connection. It offers a variety of courses which, depending on subject matter, can be completed in 30-45 minutes. VLU was created and funded by Verizon Communications. For more information,

## Donations, Memorials

Recent donations to the Literacy Council have been made by the Bonita Springs Lions Club for \$1500 and by the A.M. Rotary Club for \$150.

The John W. Starr Memorial Fund now contains \$1250, funds donated by friends in memory of the late husband of tutor Christy Starr. The funds will be used to purchase new materials for the Council's Resource Center. A donation was also made in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Kermit and Vanna Cook. A \$50 donation was made in memory of Michael Flynn, by Judy and Cal Walker for Mrs. Cathy Flynn.

### 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  
Saturday, 10 to noon  
Monday to Thurs., 6:00 to 8:30 pm

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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