

The Lamplighter

October, November, December 2004

A quarterly newsletter of the
Literacy Council of Bonita Springs

Tutor Supporters to Contact Freelance Tutors

Volunteers from the Tutor Supporter group are calling tutors to discuss their work, to assist them in any way possible and to express appreciation for their tutoring efforts, reports Coordinator Jeanne Sachs. At a recent meeting, the Supporters discussed the concept of “no-fault” tutoring, the boost provided by small peer support groups, and the availability of advanced tutors for additional support. Attending the initial meeting September 18 were tutors Judy Anderson, Paul Carr, Paula Cohen, Jan Davis, Mariana Kaegenbein, Lynn Lourie, Lynne Porter and Sue Weeks. Other members of the committee working on this project are Ann Tabrizchi, Alyse Morande, Jim Barr, Mary Johnson, Roberta Bosco. Many tutors have already received calls from the Supporters.

New Classroom Facility Acquired by Council

The former tailoring and dressmaking fulfillment house store adjacent to the Literacy Council office has been rented to provide much needed additional classroom space, reports Director Katie Verna. The new space will accommodate up to 25 students and tutors and the office of Bob Dimond, director of development. Classes have already started. The facility will serve as an interim classroom/office complex while the Council’s capital fundraising program is underway.

During Sunday, October 10, 15 volunteers and students worked to help renovate the facility, including R. Percera, L. Ortis, C. Serrano, A. Santos, N. Santos, Ronaldo Urbina, Carlos Umberto, Luis Garcia, Sebastiano Miguel, Ivenio Barragan, Jose Negrete, Isidro Avila, Giovanni Billatoro, Nicolas Gonzales and Moises Jose. On October 25 four more volunteers framed in the new office, including Jose Sarabia, Rolando Espinozo, Luis Martinez, and Juan Martinez. Painters included Oscar Meza, Edwin Gonzalez, Cesar Reyes, Inineo Barragan Reyes, Enrique Morales. Cleaners include Marisol Martinez and Brenda and Juan Arteaga. Paint was donated by ACE Hardware for the walls and by Flex Bon for the ceiling. WCI donated the office furniture, and Bonita Springs Newcomers Club donated \$2,020 for the classroom furnishings.

“Staying on Old 41 was critical for us, and for something right next door to become available was the best possible thing that could happen,” said Board Treasurer George Shaffer. Shaffer said there may come a day when the agency builds its own building or joins local non-profits to build a shared facility. “But our plan at the moment is to satisfy the need and pedal as fast as we can. People keep piling in the door and our goal is to offer services to all of them,” he said.

Worthington CC Starts Laubach Classes

Laubach English language classes for 14 golf and maintenance employees have started at Worthington CC, Bonita Springs, following a student evaluation review program. A two-day tutor training workshop was held September 28-29 by trainers Don Miller and Lorraine O’Connell under the coordination of Bob Tunstall. A special financial incentive award program for students who complete each level of Laubach training was added.

Completing the September training workshop were Pat Abel, Cliff Brainard, Ralph Countryman, Bill Egan, Gordon Gabriel, Dori Hicks, Helen Ross, Coralynn Steffen, and Larry Wagner. Joan O’Connor completed the October 25, 27, 29 training program. In the November training program were Anna Curtin, Wilson McCallister, Pat McIntyre, Paul Marianella Nina Messana and Beverly Hinsch. Also participating in the class program are tutors Linda Halloran, Tom Halloran, Joan Dixon and Sue Chelico.

Congratulations, Students!

Eliz Alonso, Level 1, Larry Lodovico, tutor.
Olga Alonso, Level 1, Gerry Papariello, tutor.
Nancy Arias, Level 1, Joyce Lamb, tutor.
Javier Garcia, Level 1, Jim Loughran, tutor.
Fabiola Misas, Level 1, Vincent Carosella, tutor.
Maria Ramirez, Level 1, Vincent Carosella, tutor.
Jose Vacatez, Level 1, Susan Rustad, tutor.
Mauricio Gomez, Level 2, Paula Cohen, tutor.
Jose Medrono, Level 2, Mary S. Johnson, tutor.
Astrid Moscoso, Level 2, Paula Cohen, tutor.
Mirsada Basraktarevic, Level 3, Vincent Carosella, tutor.
Carol Castro, Level 3, Neena Lurvey, tutor.
Abel Hernandez, Level 4, James Barr, tutor.
Clemente Hernandez, Level 4, James Barr, tutor.
Armando Morales, Level 4, Barry McCall, tutor.

The following students from the Tuesday class completed Level 1 with their tutor James McHugh October 12.

Luis Alpiri	Ricardo Lopez	Fernando Palomino
Gonzalo Domingo	Millie Manso	Javier Perez
Jose Espinosa	Allan Matamoros	Jasmin Pinter
Ramiro Flota	Isai Medina	Eduardo Salazar
Uziel Gonzalez	Samuel Morales	Nancy Salazar
Enrique Lopez	Lorenzo Ortiz	Vicente Santiago
		Andrea Zubieta

The following students completed Level 2 in the Monday morning class with their tutor, James McHugh, November 15.

Herlinda Alvarez	Yarica Martinez
Lidia Botello	Marina Mendez
Gloria Holy	Carlos Molin
Marisol Martinez	Alejandra Perez
Manuela Martinez	Liliana Velasquez

Two Classes Pass Level One and Level Two Assessments

Two Laubach Level One language classes, tutored by Jim McHugh, took an Assessment Test October 5 and October 8, respectively. The first class test was supervised by tutor-volunteers Marilyn Fenton, Maureen Lorenz, Kathy Reibold, Cebel McCaffrey, Frank deBenedictes and Ann Tabrizchi. The second class was supervised by Tom Manuel, Bob Green, Kathy Reibold, Yolanda Heredia, Herb Gatewood, Joyce Lamb and Paul Carr.

The same classes passed the Laubach Level Two Assessments tests in November. Again, many tutor volunteers administered the test.

“I was proud of my students as well as those who gave the students the opportunity to speak with them; in many cases, it was their first “encounter” with a native speaker other than their teacher, “reports Jim.

Student Felix Roque Memorializes Late Tutor Robert Flato

During International Literacy Week last September, student Felix Roque delivered the following address in memory of his recently deceased tutor Robert Flato at the South County Regional Library on Three Oaks Parkway, Estero.

My name is Felix Roque. I am a Cuban, who came legally to this country on November 29, 1990. In my country I studied at the University to be an accountant. When I came here, I had to accept any work that I could find to support my family. I worked 90 hours a week and, at the same time, I studied English some 10 years ago.

As time went on, I was able to cut back on my work schedule in order to have more time to dedicate to my English study. It was during this time that I came to the Literacy Council of Bonita Springs. After a few classes, I was assigned to a teacher called Robert Flato, who taught me two hours a week. This is how I got to know him. May God have him in His Glory!

For two years we shared two hours per week as two friends. He was a very sincere person, who concerned himself with my problems, trying to help me in all that was possible. He arrived at class before me. I never had to wait for him. He never missed a class without letting me know ahead of time. He was patient and gracious with me. He understood the little that I know of this language. In the last classes that we shared, he could hardly stay seated due to the pain that he felt. Despite this, he continued in his noble work of teaching. He did all that was necessary without any recompense for his work.

We had our last class on July 15 due to my vacation. What a surprise I had when I returned 15 days later. I called him to resume classes. I found out that he was very sick and no longer to resume our English classes. I want to express my gratitude and my appreciation to my teacher Robert Flato and to his wife, which I deeply feel toward them.

I would like to have another teacher, who would be very much like him. I realize, though, that this would be very difficult to do. Mr. Robert, may you rest in peace!

January and February Tutor Training Workshops Planned

The first 2005 workshop meets January 11, 13, 18, 20 from 9am to 1pm. The location is still to be determined. Lorraine O'Donnell and Don Miller will teach this class.

The second 2005 workshop will meet February 5, 12, and 19, Saturdays, from 8:30am to 12:30pm at a site to be determined. Marilyn Ball and Bert Bonner are the trainers for the February workshop.

The next workshop will be held in April.

Welcome Aboard, New Tutors!

August Workshop, which endured a couple of session postponements due to the hurricanes. Trainers Bert Bonner and Marilyn Ball led this workshop at The Plaza in the Promenade.

Peg Athanas	Fran Reynolds
Norma Fagan	Jo-Ann Selka
Mary Jane Hicks	Peggy Doherty
Maureen Humin	Ann O'Brien
Irene Powers	

September Workshop, led by Lorraine O'Connell and Don Miller, met at Worthington Country Club Homeowners Building. This training marked the opening of the Worthington Literacy Program, Bob Tunstall, Coordinator.

Pat Abel	Dori Hicks
Cliff Brainard	Helen Ross
Ralph Countryman	Bob Sorenson
Cebel Cox-McCaffrey	Coralynn Steffen
Bill Egan	Larry Wagener
Gordon Gabriel	

October Workshop at Shadow Wood Country Club led by Lorraine O'Connell and Don Miller.

Karen Ashwill	Kay Philp
Ronda Bernard	Marian Plante
Judy Davidson	Susan Pollack
Nancy Delena	Allen Post
Pat Dimitroff	Tom Prevette
Jan Durst	Ann Povenz
Robert Ebben	Nancy Rapp
Midge Ebben	Elizabeth Theisen
Deirdre Griswold	Judy Winship
Sally Lipsey	Hollis Wright
Shirley Mueller	

October Training Workshop at St. Monica's Episcopal Church was led by Roberta Reiss, Literacy Coordinator for the Collier County Library System. Four new tutors were from St. Monica's and will be working with moms in our Moms and Tots programs.

Barbara Donovan	Irene Knudson
B.J. Ferriel	Chris Misener
Stephen Fleischer	Joan O'Connor
Carolyn Herbold	Linda Robertson
Jean Hite	Ray Rolf
Alexandra Knox	Norma Sims

November Training Workshop was hosted by Bentley Village and was led by Bert Bonner and Marilyn Ball. Special guests at the final session were tutor Mariana Kaegebein and her student Susana Garcia. They each spoke about the importance of their classes together and then demonstrated a Laubach exercise.

Phyllis Cavallaro	Paul Marianella
Brooke Curran	Pat McIntyre
Anna Curtin	Polly Nesi
Norma Fagan	Tom Ouellette
Jane Fitzpatrick	Russell Peterson
Doris Gage	Irene Powers
Jeff Gibson	Betty Schlemmer
Beverly Hinsch	Betty Stastny
Lydia Lilly	Wade Stockman
Doris Loigman	Lois Taber
Joan Lynch	Niki Warfield
Thomas Lynch	Signe Winters
	Dee Zednik

Happy Holidays!

Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union Accepts Council Tutors, Employees for Membership

Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union, a financial chartered organization serving 14 counties on the Florida Suncoast, has accepted The Literacy Council of Bonita Springs employees and volunteers for membership. (The legal bylaws of the Credit Union do not allow membership by students.)

The Suncoast Federal Credit Union is a member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperative. It provides a wide range of financial services for members of educational organizations, including home equity loans, credit cards, ATM deposit banking, auto purchase loans, direct deposit banking, payroll deduction, overdraft protection, electronic funds transfer, budget management, free bill paying services, trust and estate planning services for retirement, education and insurance coverage, certificate of deposits, tax-sheltered accounts, deferred retirement options, income tax, refund electronic transfers and college scholarship awards.

Interested tutors and employees may contact Katie Verna for an application form.

Literacy Council Given \$200 Donation by 3M

The 3M Foundation has donated \$200 to the Literacy Council of Bonita Springs for 25 hours of volunteer service provided by 3M retiree Jerry J. Gerber, a tutor at Pelican Landing. The funds will be used for general operations of the Council, reported Director Katie Verna. This is Jerry's second annual donation and the third one made by 3M.

In 2003, the 3M community donation program, which includes product donations and cash grants bolstered by employee and retirees' volunteer services, awarded over \$50.4 million to nonprofit educational and charitable organizations.

Students Attend Council Orientation Program

Eighteen students attended their first Literacy Council of Bonita Springs orientation session presented by members of the Student Council on Sunday, October 17. Karina Aguilar, Jose Sarabia and Nora Martinez welcomed the students and gave presentations on how to succeed as an English student. Literacy handbooks were distributed to the students, who then signed a personal commitment to learn the English language.

In the future, all Literacy Council of Bonita Springs students will be required to participate in an orientation session, said Director Katie Verna. The second session was held on November 14.

To enroll, the student must:

1. Complete an application for the Literacy Council of Bonita Springs.
2. Undertake testing in English either on Wednesday evening or Saturday morning.
3. Conduct independent study on a computer at the Council three days weekly.
4. Attend a monthly orientation session.
5. Attend all the English language classes.

Virtually all the students who participated in the full enrollment process have remained in their English classes.

Fiesta for Scratch and Help Volunteers

The Literacy Council of Bonita Springs held a Thank-You Fiesta Saturday, October 16 for all the students and tutors who helped to conduct the Scratch and Help fundraising program. A DJ played music and guests brought all kinds of delicious food. Helping to cook food were Adela Juarez, Juana Bonce, Antonia Mendoza, Eulalia Mateo, Karina and Jose Aguilar, Esteban Olguin, and the Grisales family.

Everyone had a good time; we are so grateful for all their help, said Dir. K. Verna.

Donations In Memory of George C. Howard

Four more donations have been made to the Literacy Council of Bonita Springs in memory of the late George C. Howard of Estero: Bob and Diane Smith of Estero donated \$10, Andy and Jessie Piatek of Estero donated \$10 and Rachel P. Howard, of Marshfield, MA, a sister-in-law, donated \$50. Clare Kastner of Estero had previously donated \$50. Members of the Men's Golf Association at The Villages of Country Creek also donated \$50 in his honor.

OFFICE SCHEDULE

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

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

STUDENT LAB OPEN

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: 27308 Old 41 Road
Phone: (239) 495-0999
Fax: (239) 495-0071
Email: bonitaliteracy@comcast.net
Website: www.bonitaliteracy.org

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Literacy Council of Bonita Springs
PO Box 2703
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