

# The Lamplighter

January, February, March, 2005

*A quarterly newsletter of the  
Literacy Council of Bonita*

## **Marilyn Ball Fund for Moms/Tots Program**

The Literacy Council of Bonita Springs, FL, has launched a memorial fund in memory of Marilyn Ball, an ardent Council advocate and supporter who was killed recently, along with her husband, in an auto accident in Atlanta, GA. All donations made to the fund will be matched by a close friend and fellow volunteer tutor in the Council.

To perpetuate her memory, a significant portion of contributions made to the fund will be designated to underwrite the cost of a Council activity that was near and dear to Marilyn: the Moms and Tots Program. Most significantly, the program will forever bear her name—the Marilyn Ball Moms and Tots Program, the first-ever such tribute by the Council.

“We could not honor Marilyn’s service to the Council in a more fitting manner than by naming this program after her,” comments Katie Verna, Program Director of the Council. “Her passion, her energy, her devotion to the cause embodied in the Moms and Tots Program will imbue the program with her living spirit forever.”

The Moms and Tots Program, now in its third year, has been growing significantly and is often cited as providing an important service to the Bonita Springs school system. It is designed to teach mothers and their three- and four-year old tots English at the same time, but in separate classrooms, with trained instructors leading the two classes.

After separate instruction, the two groups are brought together for a reading program. All moms accepted into the program agree to read to their tots several times during the week.

Because the program gives tots a basic English understanding, proponents of Moms and Tots feel that over time it will help relieve a serious burden on the local school system, since so many students now enter kindergarten and first grade in the two Bonita Springs elementary schools with no English knowledge.

Marilyn and her husband, Bob, both started volunteering their services to the Literacy Council some five years ago. Besides tutoring, Marilyn was a Board member and a trainer of other tutors.

“She was an amazing person,” Verna says. “Despite the many demands we made on her time, she managed to be active in many other charitable, civic and religious activities.”

Marilyn was very active in such organizations as the American Association of University Women, Florida Gulf Coast University, Weight Watchers and their church, First Baptist in North Naples. At FGCU Marilyn was a supervisor of teachers in training. Bob sang in the choir at First Baptist and Marilyn was a greeter.

Both Marilyn and her husband of 20 years, Bob Ball, held Doctors of Education Degrees and taught in American schools in at least five other countries. Together they raised nine children – Marilyn’s four and Bob’s five.

Bert Bonner, a good friend of Marilyn’s and her training partner in the Council’s tutor program, called her “amazingly innovative.” Bonner says that despite the many demands on her time, she loved spending a lot of effort in putting together creative lesson plans for her Hispanic students, whom she taught in the cafeteria of a local hospital.

“She reached out to so many groups of people and contributed her time to so many worthwhile efforts that the impact of her loss is huge in our community,” Verna says. “It is, of course, a devastating loss to the Council,” she adds. “But at least we will retain her inspiration through the Marilyn Ball Moms and Tots Program.”

## Students, New Film at March Breakfast

The second annual Literacy Council Fundraising Breakfast will be held Tuesday, March 8 from 8-9 a.m. at the Imperial Country Club, North Naples. Tutors and friends of the Council are expected to attend. A literacy presentation by students will be conducted, plus the showing of a new promotional film produced by the local Council with student-actors, "My Name Is Maria".

To help insure the future financial stability and growth of the Council's mission, attendees will be asked to consider participating in a five-year donation program. Tutors are welcome, but, since space is limited, it's necessary to make a reservation.

## Congratulations, Successful Students!

Christian Castro, Level 1; Richard Schlader, tutor Maria Franco, Level 1; Maureen Lorenz, tutor Jose A. Garcia, Level 1; William J. Smart, tutor Susana Garcia, Level 1; Mariana Kaegebein, tutor Valentina Grisales, Level 2; Jim McHugh, tutor Ramon Ivan Lezcano, Level 1; Gar Evers, tutor Guillermo Moreno, Level 3; Katherine Ferrari, tutor D. Ochoa, Level 2; Don Miller, tutor Luis Ortiz, Level 3; Raphael Katzen, tutor Ricardo Zavala, Level 1; William J. Smart, tutor

Special congratulations to student Liliana Ohoa who passed the citizenship test last month. Liliana is Judy Walker's student. Liliana's sister Doris also passed.

Congratulations to Debbie Teodora Vazques who was named "Employee of The Quarter" in the Bentley Village Housekeeping department. Debbie's tutor is Marynel Robinson.

## A Tip for Tutors

Tutors can turn multi-level dictation into erase-a-text sentences. Write one or two sentences from the text on the board and then erase a few words. Students should then read the text aloud, while supplying the missing words. When the students finish, they can write the entire passage as a dictation on paper.

## Moms/Tots Classes Flourishing

Three groups of mothers and their children are learning English in two-hour classes twice weekly in the Moms and Tots program, which has been funded by St. Mary's Episcopal Church, the Bonita Springs Lions Club and the Bonita Springs Community Foundation. Under coordinators Jean Smart and Islay Hedger, tutors teach the groups of 10-20 women and their children at the Victorious Life Ministries, Saint Leo's Church Diego Center, and Manna Christian Trailer Park.

The best benefit is that the children will learn English before they begin attending school, reports Director Katie Verna. In addition, the mothers will be able to teach the children English at home and also help themselves on the job. Additional classes are being planned at Leitner Creek on Rosemary Street and at Pueblo Bonita, she added.

## Janet Hitler Memorial Fund Established

A memorial fund in honor of Janet Hitler has been established by her sons and daughter. Janet was the founder of the literacy program at Bentley Village. The donations have been made by friends and relatives in the amount to date of \$4,230. The Janet Hitler Memorial Fund will benefit the literacy services at Bentley Village and the programs conducted by the Council.

## Spring Run Golfers Raise \$10,030

A golf tournament held February 1 at the Spring Run Golf Club in the Brooks raised \$10,030 for the Literacy Council. The 18-hole stand-aside scramble was played by 124 women golfers. Fifty-four local organizations provided hole sponsorship.

After tournament play, a luncheon, a silent auction and raffle were conducted in the Spring Run clubhouse. Nancy Lacey was chairperson of the event. The Spring Run Men's golf association, and women's 9-holers and 18-holers were also active in support of the event.

# Welcome Aboard!

The Literacy Council welcomes the new tutors who have been certified this year. The January workshop was held at St. Mary's Episcopal Church on Bonita Beach Road. It was led by Lorraine O'Connell and Don Miller. The February workshop was hosted by the Shadow Wood Country Club. Bert Bonner and the late Marilyn Ball led that training with Lorraine O'Connell substituting on the last day of the session.

## January 2005

Gene Anspach  
John Bill  
Sue Ellen Chelico  
Karen Crowell  
Clare DeAngelis  
Jeanne Denike  
Eleanor Dixon  
Lloyd Dixon  
Catherine Donovan  
Bill Evans  
Nancy Evans  
Diane Fall  
Dennis Gilbertson  
Caroline Hosler  
Robert D. Homer  
Dawn Kerth  
Bernadette Marks  
Judy Masters  
Robert McCall  
Rae Ann McCall  
Dick McDowall  
Mary McWood  
Barbara C. O Hara  
Stephanie Paul  
Dorothy Reaume  
Loraine Rickman  
Lois Rogatz  
Joan Schaeffer  
Kate Spinner

## February 2005

Judy Alcorn  
Allan Allenspach  
Mary Anderson  
June Arterberry  
Sally Berk  
Michael Berk  
Marla Booth  
Dean Brainerd  
Bev Braun  
Tina Clark  
Rafael Coconubo  
Bill Darland  
Anne Marie Dasher  
Larry Donlin  
Mary Gotsch  
Diane Haedley  
Ada Haskell  
Jean Hewitt  
Nancy Huck  
Ann Hutchins  
Kathy Keck  
Sue Kittlaus  
Wilson McCallister  
Valerie Milliken  
Cheryl Mills

## Thanks!!

The Council thanks Trineo Borragan who, at his own expense, redecorated the entrance flower display.

## New Tutor Trainer

Andrea Smith is the latest talented tutor to become a trainer. The Council's volunteer trainers plan and present the curriculum, which new volunteer tutors take in a 12-hour training course to learn how to teach English to non-English speakers. Current trainers include the team of Lorraine O'Connell and Don Miller. Bert Bonner is looking for a new training partner to replace the late Marilyn Ball.

## Tutors: Let Students Play Tic Tac Toe

Here's a fun way to educate and amuse your students. First, divide your class into two teams. Then draw a grid with nine squares and write a word in each square. When a team uses a word correctly in a sentence, mark an X or an O in the square. The first team to mark three words in a row wins.

Marilyn Ball described this game in the tutor training workshops. The theme of the game can be new vocabulary, pronouns, past tense verbs, or other lessons that need review.

## Send in Quarterly Reports

Tutors! The time you use for preparation and teaching are doubly valuable--to your student as he or she learns, but also to the Council as your time is valuable as matching resources when the council applies for grants.

Please fill out the quarterly progress report contained in this issue of *The Lamplighter* and mail it to the Council.

## Spring Run, Copperleaf Start Classes

Twice-weekly English language classes are being conducted for golf course maintenance employees and kitchen staff at the Spring Run Golf Club in the Brooks. Classes at the neighboring Copperleaf GC are also being conducted. Tutoring students at Spring Run are June Arterberry, Marla Booth, Maria Ferrell, Mary Gotsch, Ann Hutchins, Marge Orten and Carol Wheeler. The tutor staff at Copperleaf includes Judy Alcorn, Sally and Michael Berk, Jean Hewitt, Nancy Huck, Kathy Keck, Sue Kittlaus and Mary Anderson.

# Council Computer Lab Systems Modernized

Local organizations generously donated personnel and services recently to update the six computers in the Council Language Lab.

The Bonita Bay Group Management Information Systems staff under Director Jeffrey M. Heverling spent the weekend of February 11-12 integrating the Lab's Ellis CDs, which provide the English language program for student education, on a new server donated by the IBM Corporation. Darrin Mitchell and Roland Doyle were the key integrators.

An IBM grant provided the Reading Recognition program and also made the computers and headsets uniform. ACME Computers of Bonita Springs, under Hank DeMent, donated the networking software for the language systems. Students using the computers will now have access only to the Ellis language learning programs, reports Council Director Katie Verna. Internet access will no longer be available.

A generous donor has also replaced Director Verna's computer system.

## Come to Lee County Reading Festival March 19

Literacy Council students and tutors, their families and friends are invited to attend the free Lee County Reading Festival, presented by the Lee County Library System, Saturday, March 19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Harborside Event Center and Centennial Park in downtown Fort Myers. Every child will receive a free book and every teenager will be given a magazine. Best-selling authors will be available for book signings at the Festival. Music and street theater will provide entertaining programs for adults, teens and children. Awards will be presented to winners of the student-writing contest sponsored by Lee County teachers of English. An e-Library with Internet computers will also be available.



**Literacy Council of Bonita Springs**  
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Bonita Springs, FL 34133



### In Memoriam

A check in memory of John "Speed" McClay was made recently by Jean Iverson. Speed was instrumental in helping the Literacy Council to join the United Way of Lee County.

Ms. Iverson also honored Flo Huey who had been active in literacy programs.

### OFFICE SCHEDULE

Katie Verna, Program Director  
Sonia Heredia, Office Assistant  
Monday through Friday  
9:00 to 5:00

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 9pm  
Saturday, 9am to 3pm

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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