

The Lamplighter

October, November, December 2005

A quarterly newsletter of the
Literacy Council of Bonita Springs

3rd Annual Fund-Raising Breakfast To Be Held At Bonita Bay March 16

Mark your calendar now: the Literacy Council's annual Fund-Raising Breakfast will be held at the Bonita Bay Country Club from 8 to 9 a.m. Thursday, March 16, 2006.

"This is a great opportunity for our many tutors and former tutors who live at Bonita Bay to work together to make this our most successful breakfast event yet," said Katie Verna, program director. "Resident-supporters of ours in the host community have always been key to the effectiveness of our breakfast functions," Verna said.

The event, now in its third year, is the major fund-raising activity for the Council each year. Its purpose is to raise enough funds to provide for most or all of the programming activities planned by the Council for a full year. In addition, it seeks five-year commitments of annual donations that can begin to structure a sound financial base for the future.

Christa Short, president of the Literacy Council, said that the breakfast annually draws about 200 supporters of the group's activities. "This fund-raiser has become more and more important to our survivability as the demands placed upon us have increased each year. We expect to serve more than 1,500 area residents next year who want to learn to read, understand and speak English."

Short urged all who would like to become table captains of the breakfast, or just to attend the event, to contact Verna at the Council office.

Brooks Foundation Donates \$5000 to Council

The Board of Directors of the Brooks Foundation, Bonita Springs, has given the Council \$5000 to support its Moms and Tots Family Literacy Program. "We are proud to be able to help you with this worthy project," wrote Foundation President John M. Gleeson. Moms and Tots programs are active at Manna Christian RV Park, Pueblo Bonito, YMCA, and one is forming at Leitner Creek Community Center in Rosemary Park.

Community Foundations Award Two Grants

A recent \$1500 award covers a large part of the cost of rolling partitions purchased by the Council for the community hall at Pueblo Bonito and one to be purchased for use at the Leitner Creek Community Center. The Bonita Springs Community Foundation awarded the Council a grant of \$4000 to fund a coordinator to develop and expand the Moms and Tots Programs in 2006.

Come to the Council Holidays Party on January 8

All tutors, students and staff, as well as their families, are invited to The Literacy Council's Holidays Party on Sunday, January 8 from 3-6 p.m. at the Bonita Springs Community Hall. The fete was rescheduled from December 11 when the FEMA organization took over the Hall for its Hurricane Wilma activities. Come and share seasonal songs, decorations and food from your country, urges Director Kaite Verna.

Win a New Bike in the Council's Raffle!

A brand new bicycle donated by Engel's Bicycles will be awarded to a lucky raffle ticket-holder. Valued at \$339, the 21" aluminum frame bike has a 7-speed gear system, whitewall high-pressure tires, alloy hubs and rims and chain guard. Raffle tickers are \$1 each. Raffle proceeds will fund the Holiday Party and support Council literacy programs.

Legacy Donors Honored by Board Member

On Wednesday, November 30, Board Member and Legacy Donor Pat O'Donnell and her husband Al honored members of the Council's Legacy Society at an evening of wine tasting and dinner at their home in Estero. Guests included six couples who are legacy donors and four Board members. The event celebrated the generosity and commitment of the donors to the Literacy Council and to its students.

Legacy Society donors annually give \$1000 or more for five years to the Literacy Council in support of its language-education mission.

Congratulations, Successful Students!

Jaime Jabala, Level 1, Vincent Carosella, tutor

Bob Sorenson's Group

October 05-Nov. 30 2005

Merlin Cruz

Juana Hernández

Sergio Hernández

Alberto López

Ricardo López

Jesús López-Pérez

Luz Maria Martínez

Maria Esthela Martínez

Gilberto Moctezuma

Armando Pérez

Alejandro Sánchez

Catalina Sánchez

Estela Sierra

Ricardo Urdiana

Esperanza Fierro's Group

July 05 – November 05

Jazmin Alvarado

Hilarión Camargo

David Escobar

Luis Guillen

Benjamín Marquin

Maggi Martínez

Cana Mateo

Carlos Menjivar

Juan Montenegro

Miriam Ponce

Amilcar Santos' Group

July 05 - October 05

Intermediates:

José Manuel Barco

María Luisa Domingos

Maria Franco

Nicolas González

Adela Juarez

Genoveva Licea

Josefina Mateo

Armando Montes

Amilcar Santos's Group

July 05 - October 05

Beginners:

Mateo Angel

Roberto Bravo

Adela Brizuela

Ruth Chaperno

Dax Corona

Lourdes María Galván

Romualdo Gomes

Feliciano Gómez

Marco Antonio González

Luis Angel Gutierrez

Elva Hernández

Nicolas Ediberto Jesús

Florencio José

Celestino José

Dana Linnhart

David López

Sandra López

Loida Lorenzana

Abelardo Manuel

Rolando Erwin May Pérez

Ismael René Muñoz

José Pineda

Máximo Pupo

Elizabeth Pupo

Alberto Reyes

Agustín Rodríguez

Ivan Sajid Islas

José Vásquez

Rogelio Morales

Gustavo Moreno

Danny Ochoa

Jorge Reyes

Daniel Rodríguez

Herminia Ulloa

Beatriz Ulloa

Guillermo Ventura

Rotary Club Honors Council Director

The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs recently presented Literacy Council Director Katie Verna with the Rotary International Paul Harris Fellowship Award for her commitment to improving the lives of non-English-speaking residents. "Although not a member of Rotary, Katie truly exemplifies the Rotary spirit of 'Service Above Self' through her dedication to improving literacy in her five years as director," said Suzanne Masters, local Rotary Club community services director. "This year she assisted the Club by providing hands-on, one-on-one information-sharing about literacy programs to families who participate in the Rotary monthly Shots for Tots immunization program." Earlier this year the club awarded \$5,500 to the Council to expand our Mom and Tots Literacy Program.

Council Joins "Celebrate The Arts" Festival at the Art League of Bonita Springs on November 5

Members of The Literacy Council participated in the Celebrate The Arts Festival sponsored by the Art League of Bonita Springs Saturday, November 5 at the League's Center for the Arts. Free English language books for children were given out to attendees by Kerty Reiterer-Crespo, Maria Lopez and Daniel O'Connell, granddaughter of supervising trainer Lorraine O'Connell. Folkloric dances from Mexico were performed by dancers trained by former student Maria Arias. Art projects were conducted for children and League members demonstrated various art skills. An exhibit, These Rare Lands, featured photographs by Stan Jorstad which appeared courtesy of Time, Inc. The display is organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibitions Service.

Computer Consultant Assists Council in Systems Maintenance

The Literacy Council deeply appreciates the recent efforts of Joe Kirkup to update its office computers and computers donated for student use. Joe first donated a computer to the Council and then volunteered to resolve some operating problems on the language lab computers and on the donated computers. "Joe performed these efforts with efficiency and outstanding expertise," stated Director Verna. Joe worked for seven years in computer maintenance in Mystic, CT, before moving to southwest Florida. Anyone with computer maintenance, upgrading, or operating problems can call Joe at 239-896-0276.

Welcome Aboard, New Tutors!

The **September Workshop** was led by Bert Bonner and Delores Brecker at the First Presbyterian Church.

Ken Geoghegan
Bruce Golubock
Rae Howard
Don Kuhlmin
Sara Loshak
Trudi Perfetto
Diane Podos
Kay Preucil
Linda Sly
Shirley Wagner
Marge Wisniewski
Arlene Wooten

The **October Workshop** was led by Lorraine O'Connell and Don Miller—interrupted by Hurricane Wilma—at the First Presbyterian Church.

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Marian Bentson | Ruth Johnson |
| Paul Bentson | Bobbie Little |
| Peggie Blanchard | John Little |
| Therese Bowker | Constance Pollitt |
| Susan Butler | Andrea Root |
| Marian Connell | Elizabeth Rudolph |
| Nancy Davis | Maureen Schmitt |
| James Hayward | Maryann Simon |
| Gary Ingersoll | Susan Sterner |

The **November Workshop** was led by Andrea Smith in the Fellowship Hall at Hope Lutheran Church.

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Maureen Barry | |
| Jim Bretz | |
| Elizabeth De Amicis | |
| Peli Demas | Bob Naples |
| Hilda Emerson | Jean Newland |
| Claire Fabrizio | Cheryl Noll |
| Linda Fahnestock | Jill Ortlip |
| Molly Gallant | Twinky Otis |
| Heather Graves | Nancy Pruento |
| Maryann Grunwald | Shannon Puopolo |
| Ruth Johnson | Milta Ramos |
| Kathy Klatt | Jeanne Riley |
| Rebecca Knowles | Patrick Riley |
| Carol Koscal | Bonnie Russ |



Tutor-Training Workshop Schedule, 2006

January 14, 21, and 28, Saturdays,
8:30am to 1pm. Bert and Delores

February 13, 15, 20, and 22, Mon-
days and Wednesdays, 9 to 1pm.
Lorraine and Don

April, 22, 29, and May 6, Saturdays,
8:30am to 1pm. Bert and Delores

June 10, 17, and 24, Saturdays, 8:30
to 1pm, Lorraine and Don

September 16, 23, and 30, Saturdays,
8:30 to 1pm. Bert and Delores

October 23, 25, 30, and November 1,
Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 to 1pm.
Lorraine and Don.

Tutor Passes Away

Lynne Porter, sister of Jeanne Sachs, Council student/teacher coordinator, and a Council tutor for the past three years, passed away in October. Lynne taught Juan Carlos Seona, Jose Arias, Veronica Acevedo, Noemi Agudelo, Noemi Lonodo, Elkin Londono, and Angela Conteras. The Council offers its sincere condolences to Lynne's family and to Jeanne.

Memorial Donations to Literacy Council Honor Lynne Porter and Donna Jean Keepus

Six donations to the Literacy Council in memory of Lynne Porter were received recently. Donors included Jim and Pat Miller of Naples, Jacque Urso and Ellen Chaney of Naples, J. Howard Sachs Jr. of Dayton, OH, Judy Anderson of Catoosa, OK, Mary K. Ackerman of Dayton, OH, and Katie Verna, Council director. Tutor Susan Kadlec made a donation in memory of Donna Jean Keepus.

Immigration Laws Are Important for Council Students to Observe, Says Local Social Services Expert

At the October meeting of the Council Board of Directors, Christina Leddin, of the Amigos Center, discussed various aspects of immigration procedures for non-U.S. residents who want to apply for legal status. She told Board members that applicants should only utilize the services of an immigration attorney or a certified agency, such as Amigos Center and Catholic Charities, among others. The text of her two brochures appears in the *Lamplighter Too*. Tutors, please share this important material with your students.

A Holiday Blessing

Dear tutors,

Our students love the work you do with them.

Their hearts are filled with thanks!

Last year my student Maria wrote me this blessing:

"May God guide your path with flowers."

I extend the same wish to you.

Katie Verna

Local Media Write About Literacy Council

Several Southwest Florida publications have recently published laudatory articles on the programs of the Literacy Council. The November 2005 issue of GULFSHORE BUSINESS included an illustrated description written by Mary Lou Smart of the Council's many programs as part of a four-section article entitled "About Face—How four Gulfshore charities turned their businesses around". The BONITA DAILY NEWS published an article October 26 by Beth Francis entitled "Spreading The Word—Volunteer tutors in Bonita Springs help newcomers learn a new language". The FORT MYERS NEWS-PRESS ran a feature August 17 by Pedro Morales entitled "Program Brings Language Skills to Students". GENTE BONITA published a writeup October 5 on tutor Robert Sorenson written by Maria D. Boy. A guest column written by Council Director Katie Verna appeared in the October 29th BONITA BANNER under the headline: "Dialogue with Immigrants: Questions They'd Like to Ask."

You May Be Eligible For Significant Tax Savings On Your Year-End Gift to Council

A change in the tax law in the wake of Hurricane Wilma may offer a big tax savings for you based on your year-end gift to the Literacy Council, depending upon your tax bracket.

Congress temporarily eliminated the 50% cap on the deductibility of certain charitable contributions up until December 31, 2005. Normally, an individual may claim an income tax deduction for contributions to a charity such as the Literacy Council up to 50% of his or her adjusted gross income.

This tax incentive means that donors making contributions through the end of this year may claim an income tax deduction of up to 100% of the donor's adjusted gross income.

The exception applies to cash gifts only – gifts of stocks or real estate do not apply, nor do contributions made to remainder trusts.

Katie Verna, Literacy Council Program Director, said that this is good timing because it coincides with the Council's year-end mail campaign. If you have any questions about the new law's application to your situation you, should consult your tax advisor.



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



Happy Holidays !!

*From the staff
and Board of
Directors to all
students, tutors and
supporters*

OFFICE SCHEDULE

Katie Verna, Program Director
Kerty Reiterer-Crespo, 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, Assistant Coordinator
Monday through Friday, 5:00 to 9:00pm

STUDENT LAB OPEN

Mon. to Fri., 9am to 9pm

CONTACT INFORMATION

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