

The Lamplighter

January, February, March, 2006

A quarterly newsletter of the
Literacy Council of Bonita Springs

Impressive Results

Spring Run Golf Tournament and Charity Event raised \$16,000 for the Council on February 6 and 7. Event Chair, Nancy Lacey, and her team, including Nancy Camodeca, Carole Festa, NJ Powars, Joanne Low, Joan Gross, and Jacquie Honek, collected hole sponsorships from many Spring Run residents plus businesses such as Cummings & Lockwood, the College of Education, Florida Gulf Coast University, Rice Insulation and Glass; they collected prizes for the Silent Auction. Coconut Point Ford offered the prize of a Ford Mustang to the winner of a hole-in-one. In the three-year period that Nancy Lacey has been chairing this event, the tournaments have raised over \$32,000 for Council programs.

Spanish Wells CC Plans Literacy Program

A literacy program for Hispanic employees of the Spanish Wells CC in Bonita Springs is scheduled to start in October led by Sharon Nelkamp, following a recent vote of approval by the board of directors. Training sessions for tutors coordinated by Andrea Smith will be held Monday April 3 and April 10 from 1-4 pm in the new clubhouse. Talks are also underway to launch a similar literacy program in the fall at The Club at Mediterra, Livingston Rd.

Spanish Wells will become the Council's ninth worksite literacy program in the local area.

Rey Simon Wins Bike

Rey Simon was the winner of the bicycle in the Council's holiday raffle. Donated by Engle's Bicycles, the \$339 bike has a seven-speed gear system, whitewall high-pressure tires, alloy hubs and rims. Rey is active in helping students in the Council language laboratory.

200-plus Literacy Supporters Pledge

\$140,000 at Annual Fund-Raising Breakfast

More than 200 enthusiastic supporters of the Literacy Council turned out for its Annual Fundraising Breakfast at the Bonita Bay Club on March 16 and responded warmly and generously to its messages of hope.

The biggest audience of the event's three-year history listened to testaments of Council students and tutors and viewed a video made for the occasion entitled "My Name Is Maria."

In addition, a last-minute surprise speaker on the program, John Elliff, president of the Bonita Springs Lions Club, got everyone's attention with his wake-up call regarding the area's elementary school challenge. Elliff called attention to the fact that a significant percentage of students entering the area's school system arrive with no English training. He added that the Moms and Tots Program is one of the few effective remedies available for this critical need.

The Lions Club President closed his comments by presenting a \$1,000 check to the Council, which is in addition to a recent \$4,000 contribution the Club made in behalf of the Moms and Tots Program.

"We were surprised and delighted to receive the Lions Club gift," said Crista Short, President of the Council. "It reinforces our strong belief that we can make a huge difference in this community by reaching the tots, along with their moms, when they are most attuned to learning English."

Among the many moving moments in an emotional program occurred when student Damian Cruz finished his remarks with: "My dream is to one day sit out there where you are sitting and be able to make a contribution to the Literacy Council."

The video, "My Name Is Maria", told the story of a typical Latino immigrant who was terrified, over an extended period, to approach the Literacy Council for English instruction. At the same time, she struggled with the countless handicaps and problems that beset all non-English speaking residents.

When she conquered her fear and began the process of learning English, Maria set into motion a process that would change her and her family's life forever.

"Maria's story is a common one," said Katie Verna, Program Director, "and more and more the Marias of our community are conquering their fear and seeking to build better lives by learning English."

Board Member Nigel Fullick, Vice President of HomeBanc, closed the program with a plea for "investments in the future of the community" via contributions to the Council's mission. The audience responded with donations and five-year pledges totaling more than \$140,000, with the possibility of additional amounts to come via the mail.

Short praised the efforts of table captains and other volunteers who helped make the event such a success. *(You can read students' testimonials on page 4.)*

Congratulations, Successful Students!

Nora Alvarez, Level 1, C.J. Fess, tutor
 Claudia Alonso, Level 3, Larry Lodico, tutor
 Elizabeth Alonso, Level 3, Larry Lodico, tutor
 Silvia Cordova, Level 2, Harry Paul, tutor
 Maria Luisa Domingos, Level 1, Diane, Podos, tutor
 Martin Dominguez, Level 3, Leo MacDonald, tutor
 Maria Fuentes, Level 1, Marge Wisniewski, tutor
 Maria Franco, Level 3, Maureen Lorenz, tutor
 Jose Garcia, Level 2, W. J. Smart, tutor
 Esvin Guzman, Level 2, Tom Manuel, tutor
 Fransisco Murillo, Level 1, Helen Ross, tutor
 Carlos Molina, Level 3, Kate Spinner, tutor
 Angelica Ortiz, Level 1, Heather Graves, tutor
 Carlos Ortiz, Level 1, Marge Wisniewski, tutor
 Alejandra Perez, Level 1, Ruth Johnson, tutor
 Duvan Pineda, Level 1, Jan Sukay, tutor
 Maria F. Ruiz, Level 2, Tom Manuel, tutor
 Vicente Santiago, Level 2, Tom Manuel, tutor
 Violeta Schoof, Level 1, Therese Bowker, tutor
 Ines Tapia, Level 1, Lane Grabow, tutor
 Rodrigo Trujillo, Level 1, D. Hicks, tutor
 Hernando Valencia, Level 1, Ed Zerrer, tutor
 Ana Vasquez, Level 2, Tom Manuel, tutor
 Sary Vivas, Level 1, Steve Fleischer, tutor
 Jaime Zabala, Level 2, Vincent Carosella, tutor
 Ricardo Zavala, Level 2, W. J. Smart, tutor

The following students of Amilcar Santos successfully completed four-month courses of English and earned their diplomas.

Level 1 (Mon/ /Tues)	Level 1 (Wed/Thurs/)
Dax Corona	Esbín Guzman
Manuel Abelardo	Ivan Islas
Esteban Mateo	Jesús Nicolas
Erwin May Pérez	José Celestino
José Pineda	David López
Alberto Reyes	Sandra López
Elizabeth Santiago	Abelardo Manuel
Eloy Santiago	René Muñoz
Sebastian Sarmiento	Agustín Rodríguez
Herminia Ulloa	José Vásquez

Level 2 (Friday)

Damian Cruz, María Franco, Armando Montes, Rey Simon, José Manuel Barco

Join the Team

Needed: two or three volunteers who care deeply about the future of the Literacy Council and want to become part of the Raising More Money team. Its year-long activities culminate in the Annual Fundraising Breakfast. Will need to attend training in Atlanta, June 28 and 29. Interested? Call Katie.

New Leaders of Moms & Tots Program Named

Kathy Anderson has been appointed resource coordinator and Lula Holy outreach coordinator for the popular Moms & Tots program, announced Director Katie Verna. Moms & Tots programs are held weekly at four local sites. In Pueblo Bonito Barb Goff and Doris Buttleman are moms tutors and Joan Moran teaches tots. At Manna Christian moms tutors are Islay Hedger, Bob Sorenson, Susan Cohen, Pat Cavallaro and Bonnie Russ; Dennis Gilbertson, Annette Fierra and Jerry Sather tutor tots. At Leitner Creek moms tutors are Jean Smart, Sally Stapel, Sue Betres, Mary Johnson, Mary Moylan, Carol Blalock and Lula Holy. Teaching tots are Kathy Anderson and Barbara Hokanson. At the Bonita Springs YMCA Channon Champ, Judy Walker and Kathy Schwehr tutors moms and Rosalyn Cohen the tots.

Student Party to Raise Funds for Lab Project

A student party will be held Sunday, April 23, from 4 to 7 pm in the Community Hall to help raise funds to network the lab's EASY (English Academic Success for You) program. A raffle will offer a TV/VCR/DVD with 5 DVD set, two computers and a bicycle donated by a tutor. Raffle tickets are \$2. The goal will be to raise \$1,000 of the \$2200 required for the project, with the Council providing the balance. All students and tutors are invited. RSVP to Kerty or Nora.

Class Stages "Little Red Riding Hood"

In February, Level I English Students, taught by Pat DelGiorno, decided to spice up their English learning experience.

They performed a play, based on a children's fairytale common to both the Latino and Anglo cultures, "Little Red Riding Hood", or in Español, "La Caparucita Roja."

Although the script was written in English, the class was very involved in suggesting changes to plot and dialogue. They also created their own costumes, props and music. Instead of having the play end when the wolf is slain (as in the fairytale), the students agreed that Little Red Riding Hood should marry the Woodsman who saves her. And so the show ended happily ever after, with the marriage of Red Riding Hood to the Woodsman.

Students and teacher had a great time in staging this play. Throughout the experience, the students supported and encouraged each other, resulting in a bonding of the class, lots of laughter, cross-cultural exchanges, and much, much conversation . . . in English, of course.

Narrator - Rey Bernal and Ruben Figueroa
 Red Riding Hood - Karina Aguilar
 Wolf - Orlando Turcios and Luis Duran
 Grandma - Miguel Alonso
 Mama - Jose Garcia
 Woodsman - Jaime Lancon

Tutors: Please share the *Lamplighter Too* with your students.

Phone Cards: Yes, they're still for sale. \$10 for 4 hours domestic.

Welcome Aboard, New Tutors!

The following volunteers were certified in the workshop on January 14, 21, 28, led by Bert Bonner and Delores Brecker at First Presbyterian and St. Mary's.

Roger Albers	Eloise S. Kaplan
Sue Betres	Karen Kita
Carol Blalock	Elaine Landau
Lynn Borel	Dick McDowell
Linda Boyle	Chila Meskimen
Lance Fenstermacher	Jean Newland
Dennis Gilbertson	Cheryl Noll
Peter Gibbs	Raymond O'Neill
Annette Gleason	Alan Rosoff
Lane Grabow	Jerry Sather
Mary Lou Heberle	Alison Schmerler
Herbert Hokanson	Alexandra Smith
Barbara Hokanson	Peli Demas
Bettye Jones	Judith Weintraub

Tutor-Training Workshop Schedule

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

July 8, 15, 22, 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

Excellence in Education Award

The Florida Literacy Coalition has awarded the Literacy Council this year's Excellence in Education Award to be presented at the 2006 State Literacy Awards Banquet on May 4 in St. Petersburg. Barb Coons, the Literacy Coordinator of the Lee County Libraries, nominated the Council, based not only its growth, but also its variety of programs, including Moms and Tots, Workplace Literacy, and the Resource Center.

Perky Potted Plants

Visitors to the Council will notice the two large pots of colorful plants at our front door. Many thanks to tutor Chantal Matthews for selecting the pots and plants and donating them to the Council.

The following volunteers were certified in the workshop on January 15 and 22, led by Andrea Smith at Hope Lutheran Church

Carol Clapp	Stuart Randall
Barbara Cott	Lorraine Rickman
Jeannine Eno	Jane Riehl
Annette Fierra	Kathy Schwehr
Mary Ellen Gaffney	Hazel Schmidt
Sunny Hansen	Pat Simonson
Debbie Hartman	Wallace Stimpson
Mary Lou Heberle	Maureen Sturtz
Monica Jacobs	Charles Town
Philomena Johanssen	Amanda Vaccaro
Sandra Johnson	Jill Walker
Natalie Kuras	
Chantal Matthews	
MaryLynn Prokop	
Marja Putkonen	

The following volunteers were certified in the workshop on February 13, 15, 20 led by Lorraine O'Connell and Don Miller at St. Mary's and the office classroom.

Pam Bucknall	Mary Moylan
Loren Cabe	Yvonne Santos
Maria Cordero	Pat Suwyn
Sandra Joe	Barbara Swift
Pat Karnick	Verne Weiss

New Position

The Board of Directors has approved adding the position of Executive Director to the Council staff in order to better serve the students and tutors. The Program Director will focus on program development and maintenance and tutor training, while the Executive Director will concentrate on resource management, including fundraising and grant writing, tutor recruitment, and the physical plant. The interview process should begin in early April. Resumes are being accepted at this time.

Resource Center Catalogued

All the books in the Literacy Council Resource Center have been organized by Rosa Ruiz into a catalog to simplify their use by tutors and students, reports Director Katie Verna. The materials are organized by category: Dictionary, Teaching Materials, Workbook, Grammar, Mathematics, Readers and Audiovisual. Within the categories, the materials are ordered by the first three letters of the title.

Among the new books available for tutor review for students is "How to Prepare for the U.S. Citizenship Test", "Preparation for Citizenship", "Mini-Plays for the ESL Classroom", and "Music That Teaches English." Also available are three musical books with cassette and/compact disc: "Jazz Charts", "Rockin' Rhythms and Rhymes", and "Rock Talk and the Vowel Sounds".

Students Speak at Annual Breakfast

Good morning, everybody. Thanks for coming and thanks for inviting me. My name is **Manuela Martinez**. I'm from Durango, Mexico. I came here 3 years ago. I live here in Bonita Springs FL with my husband and daughter. She is 9 years old; she is the reason I'm here. Because when we come here we found the problem of not speaking English.

My daughter began school in second grade, but she cried every day because she didn't understand anything and I couldn't help her do homework. That's why I decided to come to the Literacy Council to learn English, because I needed to help my daughter. She learned English in four months and now she speaks English 100% and I'm still learning because I wanted to find a better job. When I came I had two jobs in restaurants but it was very hard, and I had to leave my daughter alone.

Now I found a better job Monday through Friday in a daycare school. I teach the kids from 3 to 4 years old to learn the letters, numbers, coloring, drawing and songs. I'm very happy because they love me and I speak English all day.

Thanks to the Literacy Council for helping me and thanks to all my tutors, Kathy Anderson, Islay Hedger but especially Vincent Carosella because he helped me for two years. I'm very thankful to all the people that do what's possible so that we can learn English. Please we need your contribution. You can make the difference so other students can continue studying English. Thank you for helping us and for listening to me and NOW I'M "MISS MANUELA" TO MY KIDS. GOD BLESS YOU.

Good morning, everybody. My name is **Damian Cruz**. I am a student of the Literacy Council. I have been a student of English for one year, and I feel that I have improved my English. Before I came to the Literacy Council, I felt embarrassed because I couldn't speak English.

I remember one time when I was buying in a big store and when I was going to pay I didn't understand what the cashier said and she took my money out of my wallet because I didn't understand anything and I really felt embarrassed.

Now thanks to the Literacy Council I have learned a lot. Now if I go to the store I feel more confident. Also at my work I feel more confident because I can speak and read English. I have a good job and I make more money. Before, I was a trench digger. Now I am a driver for the company where I work.

My dream is one day to sit where you're sitting and to make a donation to the Literacy Council. I hope that one day or maybe next year I can take some training to teach others to speak English. All that I can say is thanks to the Literacy Council because they have good tutors to teach students because they help us to attain our goals.

Thanks for existing, Literacy Council!

Commemorative Gifts

Two donations have been made to honor two tutors, the first for Helen Shulman by Carin Doben and Art Quest Programs in Swampscott, MA; the second by Ray and Margaret Logan "in recognition of Barbara Green, whose untiring efforts have benefited many students."

Have meeting space?

The Literacy Council is seeking meeting space for language and tutor-training classes. Tutor-training classes are normally held on Saturdays or weekday mornings and language classes in the evening. If your business can make room available for either or both of these programs, contact Katie at 495-0999.

OFFICE SCHEDULE

Katie Verna, Program Director
Kerty Rieterer Crespo, Office Assistant
Monday through Friday, 9am - 5pm

Jeanne Sachs, Student/Tutor Coordinator
Monday to Thurs., 4pm - 9pm

Nora Martinez, Assistant Coordinator
Monday through Friday, 5pm - 9pm

STUDENT LAB OPEN

Mon. to Fri., 9am - 9pm

Address: 27308 Old 41 Road

Phone: (239) 495-0999

Fax: (239) 495-0071

Email: bonitaliteracy@comcast.net

Website: www.bonitaliteracy.org

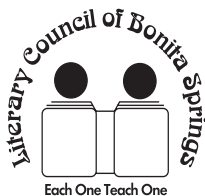
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