

# The Lamplighter

July, August, September, 2007

*A quarterly newsletter of the  
Literacy Council of Bonita Springs*

## **Congratulations Raffle Winners!**

Five students were the lucky winners of the raffle held during the Annual Summer Party July 29 at the Bonita Springs Community Hall. Winner of the bicycle was Pedro Albino. The two radio alarm clocks were won by Mario Arellano and Tutor Anne Key. Winners of the two gift baskets were Benjamin Simon and Ana Morales. Congratulations to all our winners. We hope they enjoy their gifts.

## **Mark Your Calendars For Breakfast!**

The 5th Annual Fundraising Breakfast will be held on Wednesday, March 12, from 8-9 am at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort. We will look forward to seeing all of you there at the beautiful Hyatt resort complex. Remember, there are NO invitations. If you would like to attend, please call Susan at the Council (495-0999) and she will put you on the guest list. It is always an uplifting and exciting event and we hope you can attend.

## **19 Children Graduate From First Annual Moms and Tots Family Literacy Program**

The Literacy Council held its first annual Marilyn Ball Moms and Tots Family Literacy Program graduation on Friday, August 17, at the Council offices. Nineteen children marched into a packed meeting room to the strains of the same entrance music played in universities and high schools nationwide. Wide-eyed, curious and a little self-conscious, the young mini-students were decked out in adorable blue caps and gowns generously provided by Tutor Trainer Bert Bonner and his wife, Patty, a former Board member. After a brief ceremony, some singing and comments by staff, each of the graduate tots were presented their diplomas, sending them on their way to pre-kindergarten, kindergarten or first grade.

Looking on proudly were parents, siblings, town officials, board members and other supporters of the program. Newspaper reporters and photographers were also on hand from several local publications and the ceremony was covered in the local press. All the graduates, moms, and guests stayed awhile afterwards and enjoyed refreshments. As the children head off to "higher education", they will each be wearing a pair of new shoes, courtesy of Board Member Pat O'Donnell of O'Donnell Landscapes and Snyderman's Shoes. And, thanks to Office Depot, they will be toting backpacks filled with school supplies.

## **United Way Resource House Stages Grand Opening**

On August 30, we celebrated the grand opening of the Literacy Council/United Way partnership in the new Bonita Springs United Way Resource House. By offering the use of one of our buildings for agency meetings and presentations, we are assured of bringing needed services to the local area and help our students with any additional needs they might have. The Literacy Council has been fortunate to have representatives from Family Health Centers discussing nutrition and other women's health issues with our moms in the Moms and Tots program and in daytime classes.

## Muchas Gracias Por El Dinero!

The Literacy Council wants to express its deep appreciation for generous donations from the following organizations during the third quarter of this year.

- Target Stores: \$2,000
- St. Monica's Episcopal Church: \$500
- City of Bonita Springs Partnering for Results Grant: \$23,000
- Conditioned Air: \$500
- Wachovia Corporation: \$5,000

The Council enthusiastically encourages community, business, foundation organizations and civic-minded individuals to seriously consider donations to help expand the development of English language programs sponsored by the Literacy Council. To obtain further information and arrange for a donation, please contact Executive Director Susan Acuña at 495-0999 or by e-mail, at [bonitaliteracy@comcast.net](mailto:bonitaliteracy@comcast.net).

## United Way Campaign Starts Oct. 31

The annual United Way Campaign's Pacesetter Program is in full swing, and the Literacy Council is again participating. The official public Kick-off for the United Way campaign will be on October 31. We are busy speaking to area businesses on behalf of the United Way and its importance to the Literacy Council. It is a great opportunity for us to share information about our programs and express our appreciation for the generosity of all who give to the United Way. When the United Way reaches or exceeds its fundraising goals, all the partner agencies, including the Literacy Council, benefit with additional support. If your community does not have a United Way campaign and you would like to begin one, please call Jodi Phillips of the United Way, at (239) 433-2000 to help you set one up in your neighborhood.

## Moms and Tots Program Expands

Our Moms and Tots program is expanding! We will be starting a new program in San Carlos Park at New Day Christian Church in November to reach the many families in that area. Our Naples Park program has moved its classes to the Unity Church on Imperial/Livingston Blvd. We are also working on adding new sites in Estero and other neighborhoods in Bonita Springs and Naples. If you would like to join us as a teacher at this super-rewarding program, please call us at 495-0999.

## Attend a Spanish Class!

Like to learn Spanish? Sign up at the Council Office for a six-week program that will give you a speaking knowledge of this wonderful language.

Beginners classes will meet every Tuesday from 12-2 pm at the Council offices. Call the office for dates and to register. The fee is \$150 plus books.

## Level I Students Graduate

Ines Cardenas, Donna Garrison, Tutor  
Miguel Reyes, Patricia Suwyn, Tutor  
Herminia Ulloa, Gar Evers, Tutor  
Dora Alfaro, Walter Buhrmann, Tutor  
Lisandro Ical, Ann Tabrizchi, Tutor  
Pedro Guzman, Ann Tabrizchi, Tutor  
Ubaldo Lopez, Ann Tabrizchi, Tutor  
Sary Vivas, Steve Fleisher, Tutor (Level II)  
Sandy Scoggins' Group:

Luis Angel Lara

Mauricio Barrientos

Edgar Zunun

Samuel Simón

Miguel Rodas

Nazario Anoya

German Treso

Dreda Amey's Group:

Rolando Godinez

Imer Garcia

Dario Barrios

Luis Barrios

Raymundo Paz

Carlos Pérez

Donardo Barrios

Norma Paz

Eusebio Gaspar

Marvin Velasquez

Sally Boutin's Group:

Benito Ramos

Claudia Vilchez

Nerlyn Moreno

Carlos Mendez

Fany Ortiz, Francisco Cordova

Jazmin Pinter, Juana Abonce

Alejandro De Leon, Olga Rios

Rafael Zamora, Luis Rios

Carlos Méndez

Francisco Cordova

Juana Abonce

Olga Rios

Luis Rios

## **Gated Golf Communities Expand to 17 Worksite Literacy Programs**

Our worksite literacy program is expanding to 17 area golf and gated communities from last year's 12 programs. This fall, Bonita Bay Community will be restarting their program with tutor Jim Brennan at the helm; Horizons at Bonita Bay has begun small group studies with Bonita Bay tutors Etta Smith and Gary Ingersoll leading the program; and Audubon Country Club will be starting a new program next month with Larry Baytos as coordinator. Palmira and Stonebridge are conducting tutor training workshops in preparation for the start of the literacy programs later this year. This program is so very important for employees and management at the communities by helping the students improve their English skills which bring promotions, better jobs, and higher quality of life. Management wins, because they are investing in a more educated work force who become better employees and our volunteers benefit because they can be instrumental in changing the lives of their students – all in their own neighborhoods. If you think that your community might want to start a worksite program, please give Susan Acuña a call at the Council, 495-0999. She will give you all the information you need to move forward.

## **Festive Student Summer Party Held at City Community Hall**

Over 275 students, tutors and friends of the Literacy Council enjoyed a wonderful time at the Summer Party held on July 29 at the Bonita Springs Community Hall. Guests brought delicious food to share – lots of food from students' and tutors' home countries. Dancers from Maria's Dance Group entertained the crowd with regional dances. Many thanks to Good Wheels, Inc. for transporting our Manna Christian Moms and Tots students and their families. The entire cost of the event was paid for by our dedicated students who collected money to cover the cost of the hall rental, DJ and all other miscellaneous items. Thanks, students, for putting on a glorious event! We all had a great time!

## **32 Volunteers Complete Tutor Training Workshops**

**July 7, 14, 21, 2007**

**Don Miller and Lorraine O'Connell, Trainers**

Rochi Bhardwaj  
Barbara Crowe  
James Dixon  
Donald Donaldson  
Maggie Fallon  
Andrew Lehmann  
Laura Marin  
Pat Mauriello  
Tony Mauriello  
Misha Mek  
Ronald Mokwena  
Delma Palma

**August 16, 23, 2007**

**Andrea Smith, Trainer**

Nia Airgood  
Stephanie Cabaniss  
Peggy Cunningham  
Susan Hill  
Mary Koziol  
Mercedes Logan  
Chris McCully  
Dolly Run  
Ann Smith  
Ri Tarnpoll  
Elizabeth Wright

**September 13, 20, 2007**

**Andrea Smith, Trainer**

Jennifer Arnold  
Martha Casañas  
Raúl González  
Carol Jansky  
Timothy Masters  
Carmen Mastrapa  
Henry Pfindt  
Bill Thompson  
Ronald Zerker

## From The Council Director:

All of us at the Literacy Council were saddened to hear that Chuck Pipher, a longtime volunteer and generous supporter of the Council's programs, passed away on September 18. Chuck was an amazing man, who shared his incredible knowledge and expertise with us in countless areas to help improve our programs. He personally purchased new software and computer systems, especially a color laser printer, to help the Council modernize its resources.

He edited and provided sound, music and graphics for our Breakfast videos, served as a troubleshooter when we needed software help and was a visionary on our Building Committee. He and his wife, Jackie, a longtime dedicated tutor and supporter, were founding members of the Legacy Society.

But most of all, he was our dear, dear friend. Chuck had boundless knowledge and experience and he loved to share all of it with us. I'm sorry that I knew him for just a little more than a year but he, as usual, always seemed like an old friend and mentor. Our sincere thoughts and prayers go out to Jackie, their children and their grandchildren on their immeasurable loss.

Thank you, Chuck, for your devotion to the Literacy Council and for everything you did to help us improve our programs. And thank you for being our friend. We will miss you very, very much.

We deeply appreciate the Pipher family's very generous gesture to ask everyone who wished to make a donation in Chuck's name to preserve his memory to send a gift to the Literacy Council.

Susan Acuña

## Win a Laptop!

The Student Council is sponsoring a raffle for a \$1,000 laptop computer and two gift baskets. Each ticket is \$5.00 and can be obtained by seeing Kerty or Nora at the Council office. The drawing will be held on Friday, November 30.

### OFFICE SCHEDULE

Susan Acuña, Executive Director  
Diego Grisales, Program Director  
Kerty Reiterer-Crespo, Office Manager  
Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Jeanne Sachs, Student/Tutor Coordinator  
Monday to Thurs., 4:00 to 9:00 pm  
Nora Martinez, Assistant Coordinator  
Monday to Friday, 5:00 to 9:00 pm

### STUDENT LAB OPEN

Mon. to Fri., 9:00 am to 9:00 pm

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: 27308 Old 41 Road  
Bonita Springs, FL 34135  
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