

LITERACY LEGACY

Leading Through Reading

LITERACY COALITION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY



Fall 2010

Literacy EXPO

Features *The Trouble with Boys*

Peg Tyre, prize-winning investigative reporter and the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *The Trouble with Boys: A Surprising Report Card on Our Sons, Their Problems at School and What Parents & Educators Must Do*, will be the featured speaker at the Literacy Expo to be held October 22 from 1-4 p.m. at the Palm Beach Airport Hilton at the intersection of Southern Blvd. and I-95.

The Trouble with Boys won the prestigious Books for A Better Life Award in 2009. Ms. Tyre interviewed hundreds of parents, children, teachers and experts in order to explain why and how the educational system is failing our sons

beginning in preschool where boys are expelled nearly five times more often than girls.

At the Expo, more than 40 literacy organizations that serve children, youth, families or adults will make information about their programs available. The Expo provides an excellent opportunity to learn about everything that is happening in the literacy field in Palm Beach County.

The public is invited to the event free of charge. To register your attendance or to secure a display table if you are a literacy provider or vendor, call (800) 273-1030 or e-mail info@literacypbc.org.



ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Ms. Tyre has spent two decades in journalism, writing for *Newsweek*, the *New York Times*, *The Oprah Magazine* (O) and the *Columbia*

Journalism Review. She spent three years as an on air correspondent for CNN and was part of a group of reporters who won a Pulitzer Prize. She was twice nominated for a National Magazine Award, received two Clarion Awards and was honored by the Education Writers Association. She has discussed her stories on *The Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, *Fox & Friends*, *Anderson Cooper* and *NPR*. She has lectured at Harvard, Yale, Columbia and Emory and is frequently asked to conduct teacher training at public and private schools around the nation. Currently, she is a Spencer Research Fellow at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and is at work on another book.

The Forecast Calls for Snow in Palm Beach County!



More than 20,000 preschool children throughout the county will hear *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats read to them on

Thursday, October 7, as part of the national Read for the Record day. This effort celebrates the importance of reading to children by engaging a record number of adults reading the same

book to preschoolers on the same day. The Coalition invites employees, civic club members and community volunteers to go into preschools on October 7 to share *The Snowy Day* with children. To participate, call Nicole Rice at (800) 273-1030.

Bring your preschool child to hear celebrity readers and join in fun activities on October 7 at 10 a.m. at Palm Beach Ice Works, 1590 North Florida Mango Road in West Palm Beach. (Take I-95 to Belvedere and turn north on Florida Mango Road. Go a mile and we will have balloons to guide you!) Children will hear great stories, see ice skaters in action, play in snow and enjoy snow cones. Register your child by calling (800) 273-1030 or e-mailing nrice@literacypbc.org.



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Mark Your Calendars

September 8

International Literacy Day

September 15

Mayors' Literacy Luncheon

Ritz-Carlton, Manalapan

September 16

Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee

The Harriet at CityPlace, West Palm Beach

6 p.m.

September 25

Tutor Training

Palm Beach State College, Lake Worth

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

October 7

Read for the Record

Palm Beach Ice Works

1590 North Florida Mango Road, West Palm Beach

10 a.m.

October 22

Literacy Expo

Palm Beach Airport Hilton

Southern & I-95

West Palm Beach

1 p.m.

November 13

Tutor Training

Palm Beach State College

Lake Worth

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

March 11

Love of Literacy Luncheon

Kravis Center for the Performing Arts

West Palm Beach

11:30 a.m.



Fabiola Brumley, President, Palm Beach County Bank of America, greets guest speaker Tony Plana.

Tony Plana Inspires 700 Literacy Luncheon Guests

On March 26, the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts was filled with more than 700 literacy supporters.

The ballroom was silent as they were moved by guest speaker, Tony Plana, as he spoke passionately about how literacy makes a difference in our communities. He shared his personal stories with the audience and

presented positive ways to encourage and foster literacy in our daily lives.

Thank you to our 2010 Love of Literacy Luncheon sponsors who helped raise more than \$100,000 for literacy!

Made possible by: **Bank of America**



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Literacy ameriCORPS MEMBERS MAKE IMPACT, CHANGE LIVES



AmeriCorps member Stacy Soderstrom works with adult literacy student, Marcelyn, at DePorres P.L.A.C.E.

Stacy Soderstrom

Marcelyn had no formal education in Haiti as a child. He traveled and worked all over the United States while learning to speak English and Spanish from friends and family. After living in the United States for thirty years, Marcelyn decided to change his life and pursue an education. We started at the basics and, over the past year, he has added and expanded his reading and writing skills. In the span of nine months, six hours a week, Marcelyn has gone from not knowing the alphabet to reading short stories. He is highly motivated to learn and it has been inspirational to me as his teacher to watch him on this journey.



Lindsey Nuzzo designed homework help/tutoring program at Boynton Beach City Library.

Lindsey Nuzzo

Sam, who was in second grade, had a very low reading level when he first came to me. We were reading level 1 easy reader books together and he was having trouble with simple words. I quickly noticed that he had an interest in certain subjects – sharks, dinosaurs, animals – so we started to read more related to those subjects. His reading level suddenly jumped. His mother told me that his reading level in school has improved drastically from a level 1 to a level 3. I think he had no idea that reading could actually be fun and enjoyable. Through reading with me, he gains confidence and appreciates that I take notice of his interests, which encourages him to read up to his potential.



Graduation coach Bailey Lowenthal celebrates with her Palm Beach Central High School graduates.

Notes from Bailey Lowenthal's students:

- I don't even know where to begin to thank you for everything you have done for me. You have had such an impact on me like no one has before. And I'm very thankful for your help. THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING MS. LOWENTHAL!
- Thank you so much for pushing me and keeping me in check. I think that if you didn't, I wouldn't be graduating right now.
- Thank you for being on me all this time and not giving up on me.
- I wouldn't have made it without your help!

Literacy AmeriCorps Doubles in Size!



In late August, 40 recent college graduates from all over the United States will

pack their bags and head to Palm Beach County to serve their country for a year teaching and tutoring. They possess a true service ethic because they agree to live in poverty to teach others basic literacy skills to ensure that their students will not have to live in poverty. In mid-July, 24 AmeriCorps members completed a year of service. Thanks to the generosity of a number of donors and Volunteer Florida, AmeriCorps will virtually double for the coming year.

On September 14, the 40 new AmeriCorps members will gather in the County Commission Chambers for a swearing in ceremony

conducted by Commissioner Shelley Vana. The members will serve in 33 different literacy sites all over the county teaching adults, children, youth and families. Six of the members will serve in local high schools as graduation coaches to work with seniors who are in danger of dropping out of school. It is anticipated that the members will give 68,000 hours in teaching, tutoring and outreach.

Literacy AmeriCorps, sponsored by the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County, was honored in June in New York City at the America's Service Commission's Annual Meeting. Our program, under the direction of Audrey McDonough and Brad Hertzberg, was recognized for its inclusion in the 2010 edition of *Transforming Communities Through Service: A Collection of the Most Innovative AmeriCorps State Programs in the United States*.

Families Improve Health Literacy



For the second year, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida and the Florida Literacy Coalition have given a grant to provide health literacy programming to the Literacy Coalition. The contribution will provide health literacy lessons throughout the school year in the Glades Family Education Program in Belle Glade. As part of last year's grant, the adult students learned about nutrition and put their knowledge to work in creating a healthy foods cookbook including their home recipes that they adjusted to include healthier ingredients. The adult students learned many basic health strategies including how to talk with their doctors, understand medicine labels and medical instructions.

Thanks to a grant from the Allegany Franciscan Ministries, the families who attend the Village Readers Family Education Program in Delray Beach will also have the opportunity to improve their health literacy skills. The students will use the *Staying Healthy* curriculum that has been so effective helping the students in the Glades Family Education Program learn how to better care for their health and the health of their families.

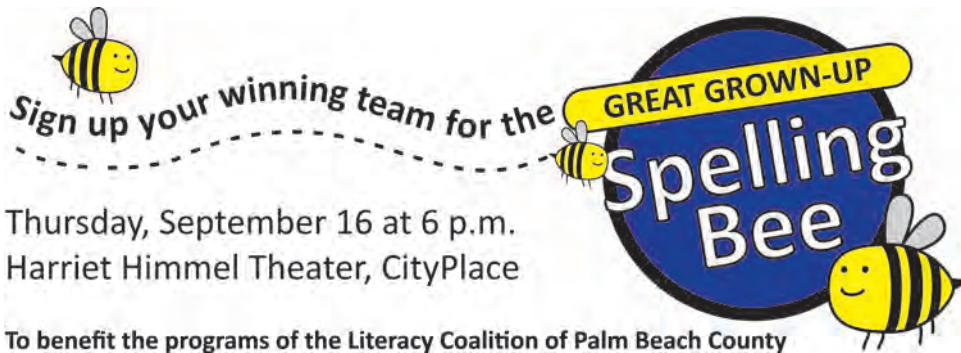
Literacy Coalition Receives Certification for Fifth Consecutive Year

Nonprofits First, the agency established by a coalition of private and public funders to promote quality and accountability in Palm Beach County's nonprofit community, has certified the Literacy Coalition for sound nonprofit management for 2010. As one of the first organizations in the county to receive certification in 2006, the Literacy Coalition has continuously met the rigid standards for certification and been

commended for its "commitment to excellence in nonprofit management." The areas reviewed during the certification process, including board governance, strategic planning, human resources and financial management, verify that the Literacy Coalition has the appropriate policies, procedures and resources to operate as a high quality organization.



Literacy Coalition Officers celebrate the Coalition's Certification Recognition given by Nonprofits First.



Thursday, September 16 at 6 p.m.
Harriet Himmel Theater, CityPlace

To benefit the programs of the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County

Bee Hive Sponsor Lowercase Alphabet Sponsor



Can you spell F-U-N?

Get your team of three ready to spell! Sponsor a Bee Team for \$1,000 and receive:

- A table for eight for your team of three and five additional guests.
- Food and beverages.
- Recognition in event program and publicity.

Alphabet letters are also available for purchase for \$300.

Registration is available online at www.literacyabc.org or payment can be mailed to:
Literacy Coalition of
Palm Beach County
551 SE 8th Street, Suite 505
Delray Beach, FL 33483

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE IS FREE in the balcony and the public will have an opportunity to demonstrate their spelling skills! Doors open at 6 p.m.

2010 BEE TEAMS:

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Q: Park Avenue BBQ & Grille
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T: AT&T
U: AT&T
W: AT&T
Z: Department of Adult & Community Education



Glades Family Education Students Enjoy New Playground

When the Glades Family Education Program moved into its new building in 2005, something was missing – a playground for the preschool children who are in class four days a week, five hours a day. The Coalition saved for five years in order to provide an age appropriate playground that will enable the children to explore, test and expand

the limits of their growing bodies and minds. A special thanks goes to the Junior League of the Palm Beaches, Dolly and Homer Hand, Ken Spillias and other members of the community who provided the funding for this wonderful project and brought smiles to the faces of our children.

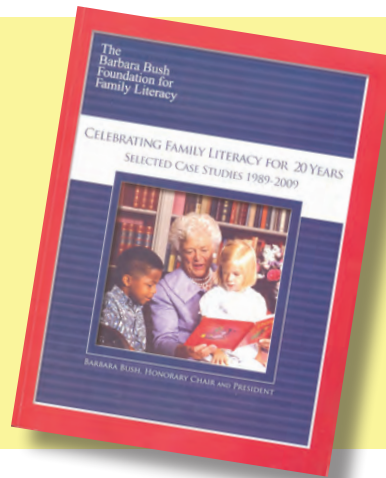
New Report Documents Importance of Early Childhood Literacy



In *Early Warning: Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters*, the Annie E. Casey Foundation presents compelling evidence that “reading proficiently by the end of third grade can be a make-or-break benchmark of a child’s educational development.” Attributing the high dropout rate to the fact that millions of children reach fourth grade without learning to read proficiently, the report highlights the causes and consequences of low reading proficiency and makes several recommendations for solving the crisis in children’s reading skills. Recommended action steps include developing a coherent system of early

care and education; encouraging and enabling parents, families and caregivers to play a significant role in producing good outcomes for their children; transforming low-performing schools into high-quality teaching and learning environments and addressing the issues of chronic absence from school and summer learning loss that contribute to the underachievement of children from low-income families. The complete report can be found at www.literacyabc.org by clicking on the **Newsroom** tab and going to **Resources**.

The Literacy Coalition’s Glades Family Education Program is one of nine programs, selected from 773 programs funded by the Barbara Bush Family Foundation, to be highlighted in *Celebrating Family Literacy for 20 Years*.



People often ask me why I am so passionate about family literacy. The answer is simple—I believe, and always have believed, that if every man, woman, and child could read, write and comprehend, overcoming many of the most important and longstanding challenges facing our nation would be within our reach.

—Barbara Bush

Coalition Participates in Transitions Project



More than 15 community partners, including the Literacy Coalition, are participating in a “Transitions from Jail to Community” project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The project has been many months in the making and will focus on helping

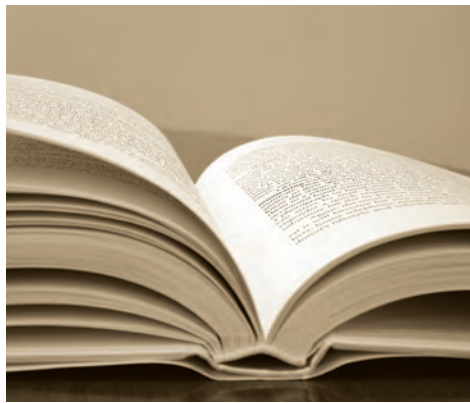
persons released from the local jail enter the community in a way that will make for productive lives. Efforts will focus on pre-release activities followed by reentry paths including employment, financial literacy, education, legal aid, health care and family unification. The ultimate goals of the

project are independent living and self-sufficiency. The Literacy Coalition will provide AmeriCorps members who will mentor program participants in literacy skills preparing them to take the GED.

THE U.S.
CONGRESS
HAS DECLARED
SEPTEMBER
13-17 AS
NATIONAL
ADULT
EDUCATION
AND FAMILY
LITERACY
WEEK!

Mayors Gather to Elevate Literacy to a Top Community Priority

For a third year, mayors and other representatives from the 38 municipalities will attend a luncheon, on September 15, at the Ritz-Carlton in Manalapan hosted by Comcast and sponsored by the Literacy Coalition in partnership with the Palm Beach County League of Cities. Many of the mayors are part of the Coalition's Mayors' Literacy Initiative that encourages cities to make literacy and education a top community priority. Lourdes Ramos, Regional Operations Services Manager at Starbucks Latin America, will be a featured speaker sharing the strong corporate



commitment of Starbucks for literacy. The mayors will also be given updates on other local literacy activities.

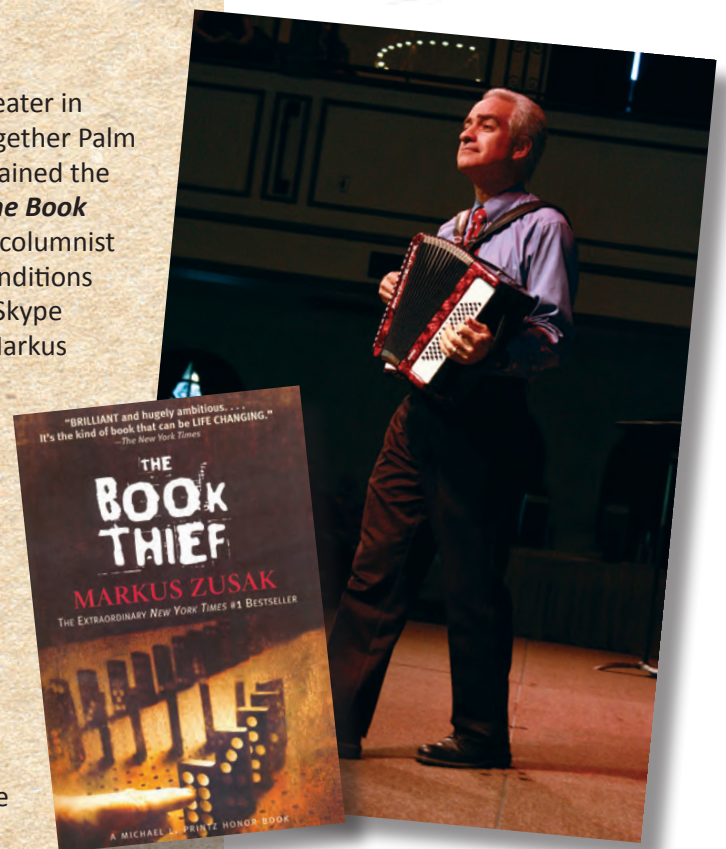
Publication Recognizes Literacy Coalition

Working Together: A Guide to Business and Adult Education Partnerships has recently been launched on the Community Partnerships for Adult Learning web site. Several Literacy Coalition board members were interviewed in depth about our local programs and our work is highlighted on this site. The guide, developed with funding by the U.S. Department of Education, can be viewed at: <http://www.c-pal.net/business/index.html>.



Read Together 2010 Concludes with a Grand Finale

More than 500 adults gathered at The Harriet Himmel Theater in early May to celebrate the conclusion of the fifth Read Together Palm Beach County Campaign. Palm Beach Dramaworks entertained the audience with a creative interpretation of a scene from *The Book Thief*, the 2010 Read Together selection. Frank Cerabino, columnist with *The Palm Beach Post*, delighted the audience with renditions on his accordion, a focal instrument in *The Book Thief*. A Skype interview, hosted by Scott Eyman, was held with author Markus Zusak and an instant fan club was created in Palm Beach County as Mr. Zusak proved to be one of the most charming authors ever interviewed. Mr. Zusak later mailed autographed bookplates that are available for anyone who contacts the Literacy Coalition. A special thanks goes out to ImMEDIaCy Public Relations for providing all the marketing for the entire five month campaign. Also, for the first time the Literacy Coalition had 30 Read Together Ambassadors who extended the campaign to many new segments of the community. Appreciation also goes to Kristin Calder, Bob Bertisch, Dorothy Jack, Elizabeth Neuhoﬀ and Steve Leveen who reviewed the original five book selections online that were voted on by the public in January.



Your gift provides...



Any gift will help our neighbors improve their literacy skills and is greatly appreciated.

Name _____ Donation Amount _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Thank you!

To make a tax-deductible donation, please visit www.literacyabc.org/donate or send a check payable to:
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