New Board President Gives Back to Our Community

Lisa Koza, longtime Literacy Coalition board member and supporter, was appointed President of the Board of Directors for 2014-2016. Ms. Koza is a Senior Vice President and Senior Commercial Lending Relationship Manager at Northern Trust in their North Palm Beach office. A Jupiter resident, Ms. Koza serves on the Coalition’s Finance and Executive committees, in addition to supporting the organization’s fundraising efforts and literacy initiatives. She recently helped organize a team of Northern Trust executives to participate in Read for the Record in celebration of Northern Trust’s 125th Anniversary.

Lisa Koza (third from right) celebrated Read for the Record at Thelma B. Pittman Preschool in Jupiter.

COVER PHOTO: Building Better Readers volunteer Diane Raymond tutors a student.
Leveraging the power of trained community volunteers to help our county’s highest need children read at grade level

The Literacy Coalition has been recruiting and training adult volunteers for our newest program, Building Better Readers, to tutor children who are reading below grade level. Nearly 75 volunteers have enlisted so far to help our most at-risk children improve their reading skills and enhance their chances for long-term academic success. Last fall our trained volunteers began tutoring children in first and second grades at elementary schools throughout Palm Beach County and already, these students are becoming better, more confident readers.

Until the end of third grade, children are “learning to read.” Beginning in fourth grade, they “read to learn” as students use their reading skills to master other subject areas. Children who fail to develop good reading skills at a young age rarely “catch up” as they get older. According to many studies, including the national Campaign for Grade Level Reading, 74% of students who fail to read proficiently by the end of third grade falter in the later grades and often drop out before earning a high school diploma. In Palm Beach County, 45% of third grade students read below grade level.

The Building Better Readers program, in partnership with the School District of Palm Beach County and made possible by support from community donors, complements the Literacy Coalition’s Mayors’ Literacy Initiative and involvement in the national Campaign for Grade Level Reading to get all children ready to read on grade level by the end of third grade.

Would you like to volunteer as a tutor? Contact the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County to learn more.

LiteracyPBC.org
The Literacy Coalition celebrated the 2014 Read for the Record on October 21 by coordinating hundreds of local volunteers to read to 12,000 children at childcare centers and schools throughout Palm Beach County. The campaign was funded locally by PNC Bank and featured the book, *Bunny Cakes*, by Rosemary Wells.

The main event was held at the Lincoln Culinary Institute with children from the Literacy Coalition’s early literacy and family literacy programs. Chef David Pantone, Dean of Culinary Education, and his students provided a cake baking demonstration followed by story time with celebrity readers Tania Rogers from WPTV NewsChannel 5, Bill Adams of Sunny 107.9, Cressman D. Bronson and Kim Reckley of PNC Bank and Chef Pantone.

Mayors and public officials participated in our annual competition to see which municipality would have the greatest number of community leaders reading. The results were 19 municipalities participated, represented by 173 officials and staff members, reading at 95 childcare centers, to 5,775 children. The City of Boynton Beach won for larger cities, having read to more than 2,000 students and the Village of Palm Springs was the winner for smaller municipalities, having read to 500 students. Honorable mentions went to Lake Worth, Lantana, West Palm Beach and Jupiter.

We thank everyone who participated in Read for the Record and give a special thanks to the 78 members of the Palm Beach County Fire Rescue from 26 stations who read in 34 locations.

Read for the Record

Thanks to our Read for the Record partners:
Mayors’ Literacy Initiative Luncheon highlights Campaign for Grade Level Reading

The Literacy Coalition hosted its 7th annual Mayors’ Literacy Initiative Luncheon to provide updates for Mayors and City Commissioners about literacy and education issues. Held in partnership with the Palm Beach County League of Cities and sponsored by Comcast, the Literacy Coalition involves the officials in the Campaign for Grade Level Reading and encourages participation in our literacy efforts including with Read for the Record.

Twenty-five Mayors, along with Vice Mayors and representatives from all 38 municipalities gathered to learn about current strategies and initiatives to encourage literacy as a priority in every city. The featured speaker, Dr. Dione Christy, President, Council of Great Public Service Leaders and Deputy Director, Boston Public Schools, spoke about “Leveraging Community Engagement for Literacy Success” as part of our efforts with the nationwide Campaign for Grade Level Reading.

Dr. Christy’s presentation emphasized the importance of family and community ties, as early as birth to age nine, to increase the “quality” of intentional time with children’s language and literacy (speaking, listening, writing and reading). Dr. Christy referenced the two components of the grade level reading campaign that were discussed at this luncheon the two previous years, attendance and summer learning, and provided direction for the third component, which is school readiness through family engagement.
Creating A Buzz About Literacy

The Literacy Coalition’s 23rd Annual Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee was held October 16 at the Harriet Himmel Theater at City Place with 18 teams participating in our friendly competition vying for the coveted Spelling Bee trophy.

We congratulate the Lynn University team who prevailed in the midst of some fierce competition. We also give special mention to the runner-up teams, the Friends of the Palm Beach County Library System, and the third place team NextEra Energy.

We thank Ice Legal, P.A., who generously served as the Beekeeper Sponsor, Publix Super Markets Charities who was the Bee Hive Sponsor and NextEra Energy who was the Honeycomb Sponsor.

SV Microwave was recognized as the team with the most spirit and Keiser University won a prize for creating the Most Creative Bee. The Best Spirit Award for the most active audience participation was a tie between the Friends of the Palm Beach County Library System and Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.

More than $35,000 was raised through the Spelling Bee to fund literacy programs and ensure that children and adults in our county gain the literacy skills they need to succeed in school, work and life.
Gearing up for Loop the Lake for Literacy

Plans are underway for the 5th Annual Loop the Lake for Literacy on Saturday, February 28, 2015. This fun and exciting cycling event fosters economic development in the Glades area and helps raise much needed funds for the Literacy Coalition’s efforts including our Glades Family Education program in Belle Glade serving the Tri-City Glades area.

The Literacy Coalition recently honored Loop supporters and past outstanding fundraisers at a reception to kick-off the event. Brandon Hass, an Oxbridge Academy Senior, was also on-hand to present a check of $10,001 from his six-week cross country cycling journey in which he also raised funds and awareness for literacy.

Literacy Coalition board member Tom Streit of Akerman LLP is the event chairman and Mrs. Dolly Hand is being recognized again as our Honorary Chairman. Committee members include Elizabeth Cayson, Kathy Metzger, Larry Katz, Rob Kennedy, Steve Leveen, Margaret Blume, Susan Erickson, Jordan Gerber and Kenny Lutz.

Visit LooptheLakeforLiteracy.org to register as an individual or a team and to learn more about sponsorship opportunities starting at $500. Participants who fundraise more than $200 can ride for free in the event and those that raise more than $400 can ride for free and earn a free Loop the Lake jersey.

- Unique ride around Lake Okeechobee starting at Port Mayaca
- 14-Mile “Sonnet” ride ($85)
- 34-Mile “Short Story” ride ($85)
- 68-Mile “Classic” ride ($85)
- 115-Mile “Epic” ride ($145)
- If you raise $200 or more you ride for free, and if you raise more than $400 you also get a free jersey. Register at LooptheLakeforLiteracy.org.
- Jerseys available for purchase for $69.

Cross country fundraiser Brandon Hass and his grandmother Barbara Hass celebrated Brandon’s successful journey at the Loop the Lake for Literacy kick off event.

Visit LooptheLakeforLiteracy.org to register as an individual or a team and to learn more about sponsorship opportunities starting at $500. Participants who fundraise more than $200 can ride for free in the event and those that raise more than $400 can ride for free and earn a free Loop the Lake jersey.
The Love of Literacy Luncheon

Guest Speaker: Kate DiCamillo
Noted American Author & Literacy Advocate

Thursday, March 12, 2015
11:30 a.m. • West Palm Beach
Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts Cohen Pavilion

We are proud to welcome Newbery award winner and New York Times bestselling author Kate DiCamillo as the featured speaker of the 24th Annual Love of Literacy Luncheon. DiCamillo is serving as the 2014–2015 National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature as appointed by the Library of Congress. “Stories Connect Us” is the theme of her two-year platform as she tours the nation to promote reading. Her 2003 novel The Tale of Despereaux and latest novel Flora and Ulysses each won the annual Newbery Medal recognizing the year’s “most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.” Her book, Because of Winn-Dixie, was recognized in 2000 as a Newbery Honor Book.

The Luncheon will take place Thursday, March 12 at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach. The presenting sponsor is Bank of America and Literacy Coalition Board Member Bettina Young is serving as Chairman. Sponsorships of support, with opportunities to meet the author, are available. Visit LiteracyPBC.org to learn more.

Love of Literacy Luncheon Welcomes National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature

Sponsorship Opportunities

Platinum Sponsor $7,500
• Receive recognition in all publicity
• Name on produced media
• Full-page ad in event program with prime placement
• Recognition from podium
• Reserved table for ten with prime seating
• Name on sponsor board at luncheon
• Private reception with speaker (for 10 guests)

Gold Sponsor $4,000
• Receive recognition in all publicity
• Name on produced media
• Full-page ad in event program
• Recognition from podium
• Reserved table for ten with priority seating
• Name on sponsor board at luncheon
• Private reception with speaker (for 4 guests)

Silver Sponsor $2,500
• Recognition in event program and publicity
• Reserved table for ten with preferred seating
• Half-page ad in program book
• Name on sponsor board at luncheon
• Private reception with speaker (for 2 guests)

Table Sponsor $1,250
• Reserved table for ten
• Recognition in event program and publicity

All sponsors have the option to have two adult literacy students or AmeriCorps members at their table.

Patron Ticket $250
• Includes a personal color photograph with speaker at a private reception prior to the luncheon.
• Patron ticket(s) to private reception will be mailed.

Individual Ticket $125
• No ticket(s) will be mailed.
• Registration is complete upon payment.

Ad Sponsor
• Half Page $175 • Full Page $275
• Back inside cover $400
Full page (5" w x 8.5" h) and half page (5" w x 4" h) black and white ad sponsorships are available. Artwork may be e-mailed to kmatczak@LiteracyPBC.org. Acceptable formats: JPG, TIFF, Photoshop, Illustrator or PDF. Please embed fonts for PDF and include all images. Image resolution should be no less than 150 dpi. Ad submission deadline is Friday, February 13.

Please mail payment to:
Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County
3651 Quantum Blvd, Boynton Beach, FL 33426
www.LiteracyPBC.org

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ANY PAYMENT IN EXCESS OF $36.60 IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW.
American Girl celebrates a girl's inner star – the little whisper encouraging her to stand tall, reach high and dream big. Make plans to join the Literacy Coalition on Saturday, April 18 for the 3rd Annual American Girl Fashion show to see historical American Girls come to life as Kaya, Felicity, Elizabeth, Josefina, Rebecca, Addy, Nellie, Kit, Molly and Julie take center stage showcasing the details of their world.

The American Girl Fashion Show is a fun-filled event for girls and their families, friends and favorite dolls. Celebrate the experience of being a girl, yesterday and today, through a colorful presentation of historical and contemporary fashions. More than 75 local girls will walk the runway in genuine American Girl clothing while carrying a matching doll from the American Girl collection. During each of the three shows, attendees will enjoy elegant refreshments, enter to win door prizes and discover how clothing has changed over the years to reflect history, culture and girls' individual styles. The event, which is co-chaired by Literacy Coalition board members Maggie Dickenson and Nancy Vera, raises funds for the Literacy Coalition's children’s education programs. We are grateful to Dr. Saadia I. Mohammed, of Palm Beach Pediatric Dentistry, for being our presenting sponsor for the second year in-a-row. For more details, visit LiteracyPBC.org.

Saturday, April 18, 2015
10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.
The Boca Raton Marriott
5150 Town Center Circle
Boca Raton, FL 33486

Reservations: $40
VIP $60 Limited availability, includes seating in the first two rows ($18 is tax-deductible)
Make your reservation at www.LiteracyPBC.org
Recommended for children 6 and up
In 2014 the Literacy Coalition commemorated five years of coordinating the Parent-Child Home program in Palm Beach County. The Parent-Child Home program is one of the most intensive home visiting programs in the country.

The Parent-Child Home program, an evidence-based early literacy, parenting, and school readiness model, is committed to closing the achievement gap by providing low-income families the skills and materials they need to prepare their children for school and life success.

Our Parent-Child Home program provides two years of twice-weekly 30 minute visits to families with two and three-year-olds who are challenged by poverty, isolation, limited educational opportunities, language and literacy barriers, and other obstacles to healthy development and educational success.

In 2013-2014:
- More than 16,560 home visits were conducted with 455 families.
- More than 8,100 books and toys were distributed.
- 100 percent of families increased positive verbal interactions.
- 100 percent of children increased positive behaviors.

The Literacy Coalition is proud to coordinate the Reach Out and Read program with 68 practitioners in 33 sites in Palm Beach County. This program achieved national attention recently as two major medical societies formally recognized its importance in the last year. The American Academy of Pediatrics now recommends that all pediatric providers give developmentally appropriate early literacy advice in well-child visits at least through kindergarten to advise parents to read aloud with children. The American Academy of Family Physicians also became a literacy partner of Reach Out and Read, announcing that it would support Reach out and Read’s message.

As part of a new initiative in our Pediatric Literacy program, the Literacy Coalition began an Early Literacy Distribution program working with the Children’s Services Council to distribute books to healthcare programs and to hospital maternity wards, where moms and dads were given a new infant book, perhaps a first book, to take home for their baby.

In the last year, we distributed 34,661 new books through Reach Out and Read and 10,338 through the Early Literacy Book Distribution program.
“Family Healthy Living” Nights Begin In 2015

There is a strong connection between literacy and health. To lead a healthy, productive life, it is critical that both children and parents understand how health can be impacted by the choices they make regarding nutrition, exercise and lifestyle.

The Literacy Coalition’s new Family Healthy Living program addresses this need by bringing children and parents together for dedicated family time through interactive sessions with story time and discussion featuring well-written children’s books, expert speakers, engaging hands-on activities and healthy refreshments.

The programs will be held once a month on Fridays from January – June from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and are appropriate for K-5th grade. The program will focus on health topics like germs, dental health, nutrition, physical fitness, brain health and sun safety.

The remaining sessions will be held February 6, March 6, April 24, May 15 and June 5 at the Blume Literacy Center. Space is limited and registration opens the first Monday of the month prior. Should a session reach capacity, children and families will be given the opportunity to register first for the next session.

We are proud to partner with Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) for this Family Healthy Living program. We thank RMHC and the local McDonald’s operators, especially Brent Bohn of WBF Management, for their support of the program.

To register for a session call the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County at 561-279-9103.
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 9
Family Healthy Living Series
Blume Literacy Center
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

January 26-30
Florida Literacy Week

February 6
Family Healthy Living Series
Blume Literacy Center
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

February 25
Pink Shirt Day

February 28
Loop the Lake for Literacy
Lake Okeechobee, 6:00 a.m.

March 6
Family Healthy Living Series
Blume Literacy Center
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

March 12
Love of Literacy Luncheon
Kravis Center for the Performing Arts
West Palm Beach
11:30 a.m.

April 18
American Girl Fashion Show
Boca Raton Marriott
10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m.,
4:00 p.m.

April 24
Family Healthy Living Series
Blume Literacy Center
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

May 15
Family Healthy Living Series
Blume Literacy Center
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

June 5
Family Healthy Living Series
Blume Literacy Center
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

LITERACY BY THE NUMBERS

40% of our public FOURTH GRADE STUDENTS
and 45% of our public tenth grade students
READ BELOW GRADE LEVEL.

34,661 NEW BOOKS and
3,840 donated books
were distributed to 33 sites in the
Read Out and Read Program.

$10,001
was raised by
Brandon Hass
in honor of his cross country cycling
journey to raise
AWARENESS and
FUNDS FOR LITERACY.

17% of the births in
2013 were to
mothers who had LESS THAN A
HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.

12.3% of adults age 25 and
older DO NOT have a
high school diploma
in Palm Beach County.

100% of the preschool children
in our Glades Family Education Program
demonstrated improvement in their language,
cognitive and early reading skills including print
and phonological awareness.