Celebrity Chef Curtis Aikens Addresses Literacy Luncheon

Celebrity chef, television personality, best-selling author and former adult literacy student Curtis Aikens will be the featured speaker at the 20th annual Love of Literacy Luncheon at the Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts-Cohen Pavilion in West Palm Beach on Friday, March 11. Aikens did not learn to read until he was 26 years old and is an avid advocate for adult learners and volunteer tutors.

He has been with the Food Network since its inception, but before his media acclaim, he succeeded as an entrepreneur who hid his lack of literacy skills. He never felt good about his business accomplishments because he never learned to read. Now he is a college graduate and an acclaimed chef. His good-natured charm and unaffected charisma helped Curtis land featured spots on Good Morning America, Oprah and Entertainment Tonight. He has also cooked for the Dalai Lama. NBC Nightly News covered his remarkable struggle with illiteracy and his devotion to helping adults with the same issue. As an author of five popular books, Aikens keeps the fire for literacy burning among delicious down-home cooking ideas.

The Love of Literacy Luncheon raises awareness of our county’s significant literacy needs and provides crucial support for literacy programs serving approximately 30,000 individuals each year. We are pleased to announce that the luncheon is made possible for the tenth year by support from Bank of America. The law firm of Haile, Shaw & Pfaffenberger, P.A. is again supporting the luncheon as our Platinum Sponsor.

To purchase luncheon tickets, sponsor a table or a program ad or to donate a door prize, call 800-273-1030, e-mail kmatczak@literacypbc.org or visit www.literacypbc.org.
It comes as no surprise to the faculty of the Coalition’s Village Readers Family Education program that one of our most diligent and personable students, Mr. Chanel Norde, has secured a food service position for himself at the prestigious Marcello’s Restaurant in Deerfield Beach, Florida.

Mr. Norde arrived in Florida a mere one year and ten months ago to reside with his relatives in Delray Beach for the purpose of mastering English and continuing his educational and career goals. In addition to pursuing his GED, Chanel would like to pursue a career as a Physician’s Assistant.

Chanel has a deep appreciation for music, in particular the mellow tones of the trombone which he hopes to study one day. He attends Bethel Evangelical Baptist Church on a regular basis and enjoys listening to and accompanying the talented choir of that house of worship.

Mr. Norde says that his tenure in the Village Readers Program has given him the skills to communicate effectively on job interviews. Chanel’s instructor, Michael J. Krantz, is very proud of this young man’s achievement.
Loop the Lake for Literacy is a cycling event benefiting the programs of the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County, which ensure that adults, children, youth and families gain the literacy skills necessary to succeed in life.

In this fun, adventurous outdoor event, cyclists will ride 25, 50 or 120 mile routes around the shores of Lake Okeechobee.

Save the date and join us for this exciting event. Let’s Loop the Lake together and promote literacy in Palm Beach County.

For literacy information, contact:

Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County
at (800) 273-1030 or visit www.literacypbc.org

Register today! www.LoopTheLakeForLiteracy.com

WHAT:
Cycling event to benefit the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County

WHEN:
Saturday, April 2

WHERE:
Lake Okeechobee, FL

EARLY REGISTRATION:
25 miles – $75
50 miles – $75
120 miles – $120

*By fundraising a minimum of $300, you will receive a custom inaugural Loop the Lake for Literacy cycling jersey.*
The 2010 Spelling Bee Winners are...

WINNING WORD: murrain
FIRST PLACE: Greenberg Traurig, P.A.
SECOND PLACE: Florida Crystals Corporation
THIRD PLACE: LaBovick & LaBovick, P.A.
SPIRIT AWARD: Northern Trust and Florida Crystals Corporation

On Thursday, September 16, Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee sponsors helped raise more than $33,000 to support literacy programs.
Dr. Robert Needlman will be the featured speaker at the annual training dinner on Tuesday, April 5, for the Coalition’s Reach Out and Read program made possible through funding from the Children’s Services Council. Pediatricians and staff members from the program’s participating medical sites will attend the training event.

Needlman was the lead pediatrician in the Reach Out and Read pilot project at Boston City Hospital in 1989 and directed the program for its first four years. He is the author of *Dr. Spock’s Baby Basics* and co-author of the eighth and ninth editions of *Baby and Child Care*, Dr. Benjamin Spock’s classic parenting manual. He has been a columnist for Scholastic’s *Parent and Child Magazine* and has written for parents on-line at www.Drspock.com and as a Yahoo health expert. His published academic work includes studies on pediatric literacy promotion, prenatal cocaine exposure, iron deficiency, maternal depression and resident training. Dr. Needlman practices and teaches Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics at MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland and is Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

The Coalition’s Reach Out and Read program provides emergent literacy guidance through the power of local pediatricians at 28 sites and provides new children’s books to more than 28,000 families each year impacting a large percentage of the families in poverty in our area.

**AmeriCorps Builds Confidence in Palm Beach County Students**

Young adults from 22 states and from as far away as Oregon, California and Idaho travelled to Palm Beach County in August to serve their country by tutoring and teaching with the Coalition in Literacy AmeriCorps for a year. These members receive a small stipend and are serving at 27 different service sites as graduation coaches with high school students, teachers for family literacy programs, reading instructors with children and adults and educational mentors for youth.

One member, Tiffany Hendrix, shared her experience serving at Gulfstream Goodwill: Transition to Life Academy. “I work with one student two days a week who has a much harder time reading out loud than his classmates. I selected him as a student to work with one-to-one because his peers always would feed him words and interrupt his reading, and I wanted him to gain skills and confidence. During our third meeting together, he asked me, ‘Ms. Tiffany, did you ask me to work with you because I’m not as smart as the other students?’ I asked him how he felt about reading out loud, and he explained his embarrassment and struggles to me. I told him my goal is to help him with that, and it had nothing to do with his intelligence, because I know he’s a very smart young man who will work hard and has tons of confidence to build and things to learn. He looked very embarrassed, but had a huge grin on his face and said, ‘When my mom comes for the open house in a couple weeks, can you tell her that, Miss? I don’t think anyone’s said that about me before.’”
The Literacy Coalition Announces the
Adult Literacy Student Essay Contest 2011

Adult learners throughout Palm Beach County are invited to submit essays on the topic,
"The most important thing I’ve learned about life is..."

Essays are to be written in INK and must be between 150-200 words.

Essays need to be mailed by Friday, February 11 to:
The Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County
551 SE 8th Street, Suite 505
Delray Beach, FL 33483

For more information, contact:
Dianne Maddox
Outreach Coordinator
(800) 273-1030 or dmaddox@literacypbc.org

Luncheon Guests Receive We Are Not Afraid

HCI, The Life Issues Publisher, has delighted guests at the Literacy Luncheon for many years with a personal copy of a current book. This year’s selection that will be given to each guest is a special favorite. In We Are Not Afraid, Homer Hickam writes about the town that inspired his #1 bestseller Rocket Boys and the award-winning film October Sky. In this inspirational guide to overcoming fear, written shortly after the September 11 attacks, Hickam shares anecdotes from his life, particularly the values he learned in the small, humble town of Coalwood, West Virginia. His words of courage help lead the reader beyond fear to find the strength to live more happily and look toward the future with optimism.
Thousands of parents, caregivers and other adults across the nation joined together in October to read *The Snowy Day* by author Ezra Jack Keats. This was part of the national effort led by Jumpstart’s Read for the Record campaign to ensure that all children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed.

This year’s campaign was the most successful to date, with more than 2 million children being read to worldwide. In Palm Beach County, 2,200 adults read to 28,000 children!

The local campaign was coordinated by the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County in partnership with the Children’s Services Council, PNC, Family Central, WXEL, *The Palm Beach Post* and WXEL Television and Radio. The PNC Foundation awarded the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County a grant to assist the Coalition’s early literacy program in Palm Beach County.

Adults from local businesses, municipalities and services organizations such as Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, Family Central, Florida Power & Light, Lynn University, Jarden Consumer Solutions, Kiwanis Club of Jupiter-Tequesta, Office Depot Foundation, Palm Beach Atlantic University, Palm Beach Flagler Rotary Club and Velocity Community Credit Union participated in the event.

The Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County also held a focal event at Palm Beach Ice Works on October 7. Children from Academy of Little Learners, All About Kids, Glades Family Education Program and Hispanic Human Resources listened to *The Snowy Day* read by Tania Rogers from WPTV NewsChannel 5. The children heard other winter stories read by Craig Grant, PNC Regional President; Leslie Streeter, *The Palm Beach Post*; Stefan Holt, WPBF 25 News and John Favole, WPTV NewsChannel 5. The children were also treated to an ice skating show as well as snow cones.
Your gift provides...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>brighter futures</th>
<th>magical adventures</th>
<th>expanded opportunities</th>
<th>employment possibilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$70</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Name | Donation Amount
--- | -----------------

Address

City | State | Zip
--- | --- | ---

Phone | E-mail
--- | ---

To make a tax-deductible donation, please visit [www.literacypbc.org/donate](http://www.literacypbc.org/donate) or send a check payable to: Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County • 551 SE 8th Street, Suite 505 • Delray Beach, FL 33483

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-435-7352 AND REFERRING TO SC-03135. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. THE COALITION’S FEDERAL I.D. IS 65-0169781 AND 100% OF THIS CONTRIBUTION GOES TO THE LITERACY COALITION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY.