Literacy Luncheon to Feature Pat Conroy and My Reading Life

Tables and tickets for the March 30 Literacy Luncheon at the Kravis Center are selling quickly. Many people have called to comment that Pat Conroy is their absolutely favorite author and a surprisingly large number have read all his books. Known best for The Prince of Tides and his autobiographical work, The Great Santini, his latest book, My Reading Life, is an avid reader’s delight! Copies of My Reading Life will be for sale at the luncheon and Mr. Conroy will be signing purchased books after the luncheon.

Gold, Silver and Table Sponsorships are available in addition to individual and patron tickets. Gold and Silver Sponsors and patron ticket holders will be invited to a private reception with Mr. Conroy before the luncheon where photos with Mr. Conroy will be taken.

To purchase table sponsorships or individual or patron tickets, visit www.literacypbc.org. For more information, call 800-273-1030.
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Gale G. Howden, Founding President and Capital Campaign Chair Gale Howden, Board Member Bettina Young and Board Member Bryan DeFrances. Not pictured is Board Member Geoff Neuhoff.

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Florida Literacy Coalition and ProLiteracy Member
Local Leaders Visit the Glades Family Education Program

At a recent Open House, individuals from the Glades area as well as the coastal communities spent a morning touring the Glades Family Education Program, talking with adult learners and learning about this vital educational program. The Glades Programs provides literacy instruction to both children and adults who have limited literacy skills.
Congratulations to our Spelling Bee Winners!

1st Place: Duffy’s Sports Grill fielded by Scripps Research Institute

2nd Place: Palm Beach State College

3rd Place: Gunster

Special Thanks to:
- 4U 2ReUse • Blue Martini • Day & Nite Marketing • Escentials Apothecaries
- The Lake Worth Playhouse • The Monogram Closet • T.Benson Photography
- Tryst Restaurant • Bettina Young

Perseverance Pays Off!

by Literacy AmeriCorps Member
Steve Shon

Nickenson is a second-grader who comes in every day for help on his reading log. He particularly loves the “Fly Guy” books and “Dr. Seuss.” He has worked for two years with former AmeriCorps members Kristine Johnson and Lindsey Nuzzo and now with me. When he first started getting help two years ago, Lindsey reports that he could barely speak at all. He has obviously come a long way and seems to find the tutoring useful as he keeps coming back! Now Nickenson speaks fluent English, reads avidly, tells stories and begs for stickers. The extra help and attention that our 39 AmeriCorps members are able to provide at 20 diverse sites makes tremendous difference in the lives of the adults, children and teens with whom we serve.
cast your vote

FOR “THE BOOK” FOR THE 2012 READ TOGETHER PALM BEACH COUNTY CAMPAIGN

Go to your local library, bookstore, Starbucks or any Park Avenue BBQ & Grille to cast a ballot or vote online at http://readtogether.palmbeachpost.com. Votes may be cast until February 24. The winning book will be announced on March 12 at a press conference at City Hall in West Palm Beach and the whole county will read it together in April. A finale will be held on May 7.

Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter by Tom Franklin
In this mystery novel, the only way to get to the truth is by uncovering the past...

Zeitoun by Dave Eggers
A gripping and disturbing view of America’s response to natural and man-made disasters.

Picking Cotton by Ronald Cotton and Jennifer Thompson
A memoir of forgiveness and redemption.

Last Train to Paradise by Les Standiford
The true story of a man of extraordinary vision and drive who spent the last years of his life building a railroad to span the length of Florida.

Digging to America by Anne Tyler
An insightful tale of culture clash, with endearing characters working their unique ways through the bustle and flow of family life.

Many thanks to Bettina Young, Dr. Kevin Ross, Dr. Dennis Gallon, Brandy Stephenson and Manny Farach who were filmed for a Read Together television public service announcement. Books reviews of the five books were written by Tom Lynch, Kathy Adkins, Rob Gingras, John Foley and Ed Chase and are available online at the campaign web site: http://readtogetherpalmbeachpost.com.

For a list of campaign partners, go to the campaign web site. To add your organization to the Read Together Partner list, complete the partner form and return it to the Literacy Coalition.

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Coordinating Committee
The Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County Libraries of Palm Beach County
The Palm Beach Post
ImMEDIacy Public Relations
On October 6, 2011, more than 20,000 Palm Beach County children listened to Anna Dewdney’s charming tale of “llama drama.” The Literacy Coalition was proud to participate for the sixth year in Jumpstart’s annual Read for the Record in which volunteers try to reach a world record for the number of children listening to a single story on the same day.

“This year Read for the Record generated more interest and participation than before,” said Darlene Kostrub, Chief Executive Officer of the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County.

The Literacy Coalition was pleased to offer readings at the Palm Beach Zoo by Mike Trim and Tania Rogers of WPTV NewsChannel 5, Craig Grant, Regional President of PNC Bank and Leslie Streeter of The Palm Beach Post. About 450 children piled into the zoo, many dressed in pajamas, to celebrate a morning dedicated to children’s literacy. The Coalition is grateful to the Palm Beach Zoo for its partnership in offering a fun community event and even putting a llama on special exhibition for the children.

In addition to the zoo event, the Literacy Coalition placed 346 volunteers around the county in schools, libraries and at other public venues. The League of Cities held a competition for the widest participation by city leaders. West Palm Beach led the pack this year with 36 city officials reading at all the city’s Parks and Recreation after school sites. The Town of Haverhill led the smaller municipalities with three city officials reading at five sites.

Loxahatchee Groves Mayor Dave Browning and his wife Sharyn Browning read at Loxahatchee Groves Elementary School and Noah’s Ark. “My wife got me dressed in red pajamas and I acted out the character. We had the children participate in the pouting and the yelling. When I yelled in character it startled them and they all laughed,” Mayor Browning said. “We had a ball.”

The Coalition is also grateful to our community partners who contribute time every year. Kids look forward to a visit from Palm Beach County Fire and Rescue for Read for the Record. This year, they increased their county wide participation and at least seven different battalions read to more than 60 preschools. The Flagler Palm Beach Rotary Club participated for the third year in a row. Its volunteers had so much fun that they are considering reading three or four times throughout the year at their preschools! Velocity Community Credit Union, Jupiter Kiwanis Club and Jarden Consumer Solutions also once again contributed readers.

Lawyers were a particularly big support group this year. The Young Lawyers for Literacy had nearly 40 volunteers and the Office Depot Foundation’s entire legal department volunteered!

Also, the Literacy Coalition was pleased that the West Palm Beach Rotary Club and the Rotary Club of Lantana/Boynton Beach participated for the first time this year.

Reach Out and Read Provides Pediatric Training

Trude Haecker, MD, will be the featured speaker at the annual training event on April 24 for the pediatricians participating in the Literacy Coalition’s Reach Out and Read Program. Dr. Haecker is a longtime Reach Out and Read (ROR) advocate and provider and currently serves as the Medical Director for Quality Improvement at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. She has experience implementing ROR at the local level and has been also involved in doing research in this area.

The Literacy Coalition implements the ROR national model at 28 local pediatric clinics that serve children and families in poverty. At each well child visit between the ages of six months and five years of age, children and parents receive literacy advice from their pediatrician as well as a new book to take home to share together. Reach Out and Read in Palm Beach County is made possible through funding from the Children’s Services Council. For further information on the ROR program, contact Molly Felmet at mfelmet@literacypbc.org or call 561-921-4714.
**National Parent-Child Home Office Certifies Local Program**

In July 2009, the Literacy Coalition began enrolling families in The Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP), made available through the Children’s Services Council’s Healthy Beginnings System of care.

The PCHP’s national model is the country’s most intensive home visiting program, providing at-risk families with two thirty-minute home sessions each week for two years. The program’s two and three year old children receive books, toys or activities each week from a home visitor who role-models for the parent how to create verbalizations and engage with their child through the program’s materials.

Currently, PCHP works in more than 150 communities in 14 states, Bermuda, Canada and Ireland. In Palm Beach County, the Literacy Coalition is the lead agency for PCHP in which direct services to families are provided through four subcontracted agencies based upon the clients’ language, ethnicity and/or geographical location.

These four agencies are ASPIRA of Florida, serving Hispanic families; The Guatemalan-Maya Center, serving Guatemalan and Maya families; Minority Development and Empowerment, Inc., serving African American and Haitian/Haitian American families; and Noah, Inc., serving The Glades.

This past October, the PCHP National Center conducted its first certification site visit at each of the Literacy Coalition’s subcontracted agencies as part of the process of becoming an official replication site. Michele Morrison, Training and Program Support Director, and Cesar Zuniga, Research Director at the National Center, interviewed PCHP staff, reviewed systems and clients’ files to measure the quality and fidelity of the program.

Following the visit, Michele Morrison wrote to the Children’s Services Council’s CEO, Tana Ebbole, “I wanted to let you know how impressed I am with the field practice I have seen and the enthusiasm and eloquence of all the PCHP (staff). As I mentioned to you, I believe that you have created a demonstration site for the state... I would like to commend the Literacy Coalition for their hard work in putting a countywide network of PCHP sites together and making the system work for so many families.”

In November, the Literacy Coalition received word that the Palm Beach County PCHP has been officially certified as a replication site!

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**Lawyers for Literacy Speak with Adult Learners**

Local attorneys spent a morning sharing their passion for reading and how it has enriched their careers as they talked with classes of adult learners at the Adult Education Center in West Palm Beach. The adult students were motivated and encouraged by the attorneys to continue their studies and to persevere through many hardships to achieve their goals and dreams.

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**Wear A Pink Shirt February 29**

Join the Literacy Coalition’s **Turning Bullies into Buddies** focus on anti-bullying as part of an international celebration. Local efforts in after school programs will include flash mobs, banners and other activities based on books with anti-bullying themes.
Any gift will help our neighbors improve their literacy skills and is greatly appreciated.

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

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