

LITERACY LEGACY

Leading Through Reading

LITERACY COALITION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY



Summer 2011

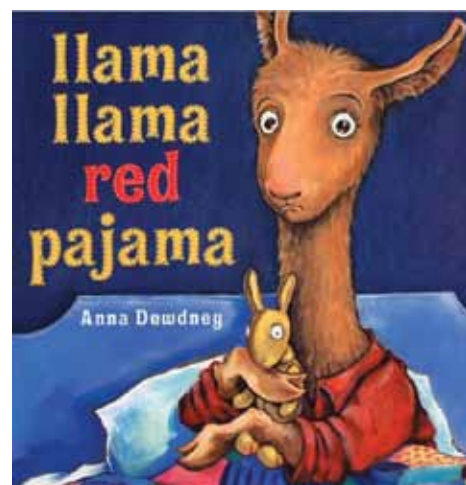
Author Pat Conroy to Speak at 2012 Love of Literacy Luncheon

The Literacy Coalition is pleased to announce that Pat Conroy, deemed by many as one of the 10 greatest living American authors, will be the featured speaker at the March 30, 2012 Love of Literacy Luncheon! A *New York Times* reviewer commented, "Conroy remains a magician of the page. As a writer, he owns the South Carolina coast...." His writing is characterized by "descriptions of the tides and the palms, the confessions of love and loss, the memories evergreen set side by side with evocations of the annoyed heart...." In Conroy's first book, *The Water is Wide*, he showed his concern for literacy and education as he recounted his experiences teaching in a one-room schoolhouse on a remote island off the South Carolina shore.



Conroy has written nine books with his most successful, *The Prince of Tides*, being made into a movie starring Barbara Streisand and Nick Nolte. His autobiographical work, *The Great Santini*, was also made into a film as were two other books, *The Lords of Discipline* and *The Water is Wide*. His most recent work, *My Reading Life*, is a book lover's delight. Conroy shows how reading may have saved his life and his sanity. In this very moving account, Conroy shares with wisdom and honesty not only the pleasure of reading, but also the power of books to shape a life.

Join with the Literacy Coalition on March 30 to hear this literary giant and literacy advocate. It will surely sell out early. For table sponsorships or individual tickets, visit www.literacypbc.org.



On **Thursday, October 6**, the Literacy Coalition will join the national Read for the Record campaign to recognize the importance of early education by reading ***Llama Llama Red Pajama*** by Anna Dewdney to preschool children throughout the county. This is part of a national effort to break a world record for the most adults reading the same book to the most children on the same day across the country. Last year ***The Snowy Day*** by Ezra Jack Keats was read to more than 2 million children nationally and to more than 2,000 in Palm Beach County.

Adults are encouraged to read the book to their children and grandchildren and also to volunteer to read the book at local child care centers. Each year public officials, members of civic organizations and many corporate partners volunteer to read. This year the Young Lawyers section of the Palm Beach County Bar Association will provide readers for the first time. To be a volunteer reader, e-mail mwilliams@literacypbc.org.

Made possible by **Bank of America**

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Mark Your Calendars

September 15

Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee

Harriet Himmel Theater

CityPlace, West Palm Beach

6 p.m.

September 24

Tutor Training

Location: TBD

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

October 6

Read for the Record

Palm Beach Zoo

West Palm Beach

10 a.m. - Noon

November 19

Tutor Training

Location: TBD

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

January 17–February 24

Read Together Palm Beach County

Voting Period

February 25

Loop the Lake for Literacy

Lake Okeechobee

March 12

Read Together Palm Beach County

Press Conference

March 30

Love of Literacy Luncheon

Kravis Center for the Performing Arts

11:30 a.m.

March 30–April 30

Read Together Palm Beach County

Reading Period

Celebrate Read for the Record at the Palm Beach Zoo

To highlight the Read for the Record campaign (*see page 1*), a public, free event is planned for **Thursday, October 6**, from **10 a.m. - noon** at the **Palm Beach Zoo**, 1301 Summit Boulevard in West Palm Beach. Local media celebrities, including Tania Rogers and John Favole from WPTV NewsChannel 5, will read books about animals and the children will be able to see real llamas!

Ron Mohl from Lakeshore Learning Materials will be dressed in red pajamas leading the children in fun, interactive llama activities!

To register your child to attend the event at the zoo, please send an e-mail to **mwilliams@literacypbc.org**. For further event details, call (800) 273-1030 or visit **www.literacypbc.org**.



Cycle for Literacy Around Lake Okeechobee in 2012

The second annual Loop the Lake for Literacy will take place on Saturday, February 25, around Lake Okeechobee. Cyclists are encouraged to save the date in order to participate in a unique cycling event where nature, beauty and adventure abound in the absence of vehicles! The event benefits the programs of the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County.

The inaugural Loop the Lake for Literacy took place on April 2 with 238 cyclists registered for the event. Thirty-eight cyclists completed the full loop around the lake of 124 miles! More than 100 completed the Metric Century with others riding the 25 and 50 km. Many participants described the event as one of the most enjoyable cycling experiences they had ever had.

All cyclists received medals and t-shirts. Lisa Gray from Sunny Isles Beach won the trophy for the highest individual fundraising effort. The Dream, Discover, Do It Team of the Palm Beach County Library System won the trophy for the team with the highest fundraising team total. The Spinners Team won the trophy for the greatest number of team members in the event.

Families from the Coalition's Glades Family Education Program were on hand to cheer the cyclists as they finished their rides. Dolly Hand, Honorary Event Chair, presented a medal to each cyclist. Park Avenue BBQ and Grille graciously donated lunch for all the participants. Everyone had a wonderful day as they experienced the beauty of Palm Beach County's western region.



Plan to join us on February 25!
www.LoopTheLakeForLiteracy.org



The Community Supports a Permanent Home for Literacy



25 locations. Picture Learning Partners who assist 300 preschool children develop a love for books and reading having a place for regular enrichment activities to support their work.

Imagine a central location in Palm Beach County where volunteers can learn how to tutor adult students and where 40 young adult Literacy AmeriCorps members from 20 states will gather weekly for training to provide 68,000 hours of tutoring and literacy outreach in

Visualize the impact of training for 20 home visitors who weekly go into 250 homes to teach verbal interaction and engagement between parents and children. Envision a book distribution facility that processes 74,000 new books a year that go to children and families that have few, if any, books in their homes. Imagine a new afterschool tutoring program, staffed by community volunteers, for kids at-risk.

These pictures are no longer just dreams. They are becoming reality through the early support of more than 280 donors who have already pledged or given funds to establish a permanent home for literacy in Palm Beach County. After the most generous initial gift for the Literacy Center for

Education, Training and Outreach of 1.8 million dollars from an anonymous donor, many individuals, foundations and businesses have stepped forward to invest in the future of literacy in our community. The Fortin Foundation of Florida gave an early gift of \$100,000 for the Literacy Center. George and Wilma Elmore have also made a significant donation for the building. Other generous gifts and pledges have come from the Asofsky Family Foundation, the Cox Foundation, FP&L, Laurie and Phillip Gildan, Sara Jo Kobacker, Neuhooff Media, Edward and JoAnn Sears and Jamie Longhurst.

More than 2.2 million dollars has been raised. Every gift of any amount will help toward the additional \$1.2 million needed to complete the campaign. To

learn more about the Literacy Center, contact me personally or call Darlene Kostrub, Chief Executive Officer of the Literacy Coalition, at (800) 273-1030. Donations may be made online at www.literacypbc.org or mailed to the Literacy Coalition.

Literacy is blooming in thousands of lives. You are making it happen. Thank you!

Gale G. Howden

Literacy Center Campaign Chair



Make reading an integral part of children's lives



Connect adult learners with literacy programs



Build intergenerational literacy



Introduce books to children through pediatric care



Create a community of readers



Strengthen parent-child verbal interactions



Improve job skills and opportunities



Train literacy professionals and volunteer tutors



Develop school readiness skills



Tutor children after school

Literacy AmeriCorps Graduation Coaches Make Great Impact



Literacy AmeriCorps Graduation Coach Chris Arguedas shares a moment with his students.

As the 2011 school year came to a close, Literacy AmeriCorps members closely watched the graduation rates and FCAT scores of the many students with whom they had worked during the past year. Each of the six graduation coaches gave academic guidance and coaching to a cohort of 80-90 at-risk high school students. The students faced many barriers and hurdles but the grad coaches persevered.

THE RESULTS ARE IN! Of the 546 students served, 88 percent increased their GPA and 82 percent passed the FCAT with 428 moving up a grade or graduating and an additional 116 on track to graduate during the summer. The guidance coordinator at John I Leonard High School expressed her appreciation for the grad coach who worked with her students, "Eva Mays has been an excellent graduation coach. Students loved

her and were very motivated to work with her. The challenges that our student population created did not intimidate her; in fact, she became a leader and beacon to the students that were most at-risk."

At Olympic Heights High School, one of the students wrote her grad coach, "I am so happy that I have met you! You are my motivator and without you I don't think I could have done it.... Your kind words kept me going....I finally did it! I passed my FCATs, my exams and all! I appreciate everything you did and I want to say thank you, thanks for believing in me." The grad coach sees this student as a prime example of what a student can do when there is someone to keep saying, "You can do this. I know you can. I believe in you!" The student will be attending Palm Beach State College in the fall with a bright future ahead of her.

A Budding Reader Blossoms

Vanessa is a quiet child who entered the Literacy Coalition's Budding Readers Program last October. At the time, Vanessa did not know any letters of the alphabet or how to hold a book upright and turn pages from right to left. She could not recognize her name and only spoke a few words of English. After weekly meetings with her Reading Partner, Miss Ruby, for one-to-one interactive reading sessions, she began to develop the school readiness literacy skills she will need for future success in school. Miss Ruby's work with Vanessa over the past year has truly paid off. This once quiet child has blossomed and come out of her shell. She is confident in expressing herself in English, has learned how to spell her name, knows the alphabet and even the sounds some of the letters make. She loves to hold the book and turn the pages while Miss Ruby reads to her and she makes comments about what is happening in the story. At the end of the day, when her mother comes to pick her up, Vanessa excitedly tells her all about Miss Ruby's reading and sharing books with her and all the literacy activities they have done together.



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X: ESPN 760
Y: Young Boys: Daniel, Jack and Andrew
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Our apologies to any names that may have been omitted due to press deadline.



2002

2004

2006

2008

2010

2012

Get Ready to Vote and Read!

Read Together Palm Beach County returns in January 2012. For the sixth time, the community will gather to discuss book selections and engage in dialogue in countless settings over a period of six months. A book selection committee has been hard at work over the summer reading and discussing possible choices for the list of five finalists.

A partner meeting will be held on January 12 to distribute ballot boxes. The public voting will take place January 17–February 24 in libraries, on-line and in other key locations. On March 12, a press conference will announce "The Book" that the public has selected as the choice to be read by thousands of adults during the month of April. The official

kick-off to the campaign will be at the Literacy Luncheon to be held at the Kravis Center on March 30. A Finale Event will be held in early May to celebrate the close of the reading campaign. Read Together Ambassadors from many diverse sectors of the community will assist in promoting and implementing Read Together 2012.

Your gift for the Literacy Center will ensure adults, teens and children experience



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

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Thank you!

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We are proud to announce Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition has earned Charity Navigator's third consecutive 4-star rating for its ability to efficiently manage and grow its finances. Only 13% of the charities rated by Charity Navigator have received at least 3 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way, and outperforms most other charities in America. This "exceptional" designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust.

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