

LITERACY LEGACY

Leading Through Reading

LITERACY COALITION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY



www.literacypbcc.org • Summer 2012

Help write the next chapter of literacy history!

Children are in need of after school tutoring.

Space is needed to train tutors to work with adult learners.

Tutoring teams need a place to meet and space is urgently needed to train AmeriCorps members, home visitors and reading partners.

All of these needs will be met when the Literacy Center for Training, Education and Outreach opens and becomes the hub of literacy activity for the entire county. The Literacy Center for Training, Education and Outreach will be located in Boynton Beach in Quantum Park.

We are excited to announce that the final construction bids are in and we anticipate that the Literacy Coalition will break ground on the property before the end of this year. Stay tuned as we are planning a unique groundbreaking event for the community.

To date, more than 440 literacy supporters have donated to our capital campaign to build the Literacy Center. Our initial gift of \$1.8 million for the Literacy Center was given anonymously by an individual who is passionate about

reading and wants to ensure that every person in Palm Beach County has the opportunity to learn to read.

We now have just \$600,000 left to raise and we need your support. Every donation, no matter the amount, will bring us closer to making the Literacy Center a reality. Gifts of \$1,000 or more will be included in a donor recognition "book" wall inside the Literacy Center. This can be a very

meaningful way to honor the person who introduced you to the joy of reading or simply to honor someone very special in your life.

Significant naming opportunities are still available throughout the building in addition to naming the campus.

Bookmark your place in literacy history and help us to help those who need it most. To make a gift to the

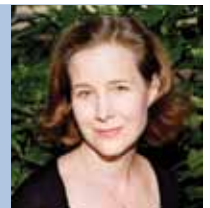
Literacy Center, see the contribution box on the back page of this newsletter. Or if you would like to discuss naming opportunities, please contact Literacy Coalition CEO Darlene Kostrub at (561) 279-9103 or DSKostrub@aol.com.

Our deepest gratitude is extended to all of you who have so generously supported this vital community project.



Save the date!

March 8th • Love of Literacy Luncheon
Ann Patchett, author of *Bel Canto*, *State of Wonder* and other best sellers, will be our guest speaker.



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Florida Literacy Coalition and ProLiteracy Member

Mark Your Calendars

September 13
Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee
Harriet Himmel Theater
6 p.m.

September 19
Mayors' Literacy Luncheon

September 22
Tutor Training
Lake Worth
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

October 4
Read for the Record

November 3
Tutor Training
Lake Worth
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

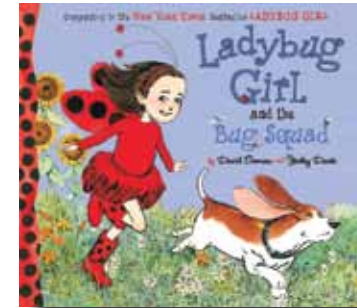
February 23, 2013
Loop the Lake for Literacy
Lake Okeechobee

March 8, 2013
Love of Literacy Luncheon
Kravis Center for the Performing Arts
11:30 a.m.

Miami Dolphins Player Speaks Out Against Bullying



As part of the Literacy Coalition's Pink Shirt Day on February 29, Jake Long, #77 of the Miami Dolphins, spoke to hundreds of children at Hughes Park in Boca Raton. He added great enthusiasm and excitement to the event and gave a clear call for kids to stand up against bullying whether they are the bullied, the bully or the bystander. Pink Shirt Day is an international anti-bullying celebration that the Literacy Coalition coordinated in Palm Beach County at Hughes Park, Downtown at the Gardens and West Palm Beach City Hall. This special day was part of the Coalition's Turning Bullies into Buddies Program sponsored by Prime Time of Palm Beach County with generous funding from the Children's Services Council. The School District and the Center for Creative Education were also partners for Pink Shirt Day. Turning Bullies into Buddies is a literature-based program that uses outstanding children's literature to teach anti-bullying strategies year-round in 11 after school programs.



Join us! Thursday, October 4

The Literacy Coalition will join the national Read for the Record campaign to recognize the importance of early education by reading *Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad* by David Somar and Jacky Davis to 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 *Llama, Llama Red Pajama* by Anna Dewdney

was read to more than 2 million children nationally and to more than 2,000 locally.

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. To be a volunteer reader, email mfelmet@literacyabc.org or call (561) 921-4714.



In Memoriam

The Literacy Coalition is saddened by the sudden death of Board Member and Capital Campaign Committee Member **Geoff Neuhoff**. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Beth, and his family as they go through this most difficult time. Geoff will be fondly remembered for his enthusiasm and dedication to the cause of literacy.

Charity Navigator Awards 4-Star Rating to Literacy Coalition ★★★★★

For the fourth consecutive year, the Literacy Coalition has earned a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator. Receiving four out of a possible four stars indicates that an organization adheres to good governance and other best practices and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way. Only 7% of the charities rated by Charity Navigator have received at least four consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that the Literacy Coalition outperforms most other charities in America.

West Palm Beach Employees Enhance Skills

Courtney Moore has been working for the City of West Palm Beach for seven years. Recently, a state law mandated that water distribution employees must have their high school diploma or GED and pass the License 3 state test. Without these two qualifications, employees could lose their jobs.

Courtney and his wife had their first son while they were in high school. Courtney did not graduate and instead chose to work and support his family while his wife finished high school. In 2006, Courtney took an online GED course and received what he thought was a valid diploma. In January of 2011, when Courtney turned his paperwork in to the state to receive his Water Distribution License 3, he discovered that the state would not honor the online diploma. Human Resources let Courtney know about its partnership with the Literacy Coalition's Workplace and Community Education program. Courtney took advantage of the weekly on-site GED prep and Sharpening your Workplace Skills classes taught by Literacy Coalition teacher, Sheryl Wandelt. In June of 2011, Courtney earned his GED. He



was also simultaneously attending the Water Distribution License preparation class and has passed the License 3 test. Courtney is not only a great role model for his two sons, but according to the human resources director, also an inspiration to his co-workers. He is currently researching grant and scholarship opportunities to begin attending college classes.

Since beginning classes offered through Literacy Coalition's Workplace and Community Education program, Courtney, along with six other City of West Palm Beach employees have been promoted. Two students have earned their GED, and 22 employees have passed licensing exams.

Village Readers Student Becomes Valedictorian

During the 2003-04 school year, Literacy AmeriCorps members tutored Luciana Celestin afterschool as part of the Literacy Coalition's Village Readers Family Education Program. This individual mentoring gave her a great academic start that has resulted in her being selected as Valedictorian at Village Academy from which she was recently graduated. Her favorite subject is mathematics and she plans to study pre-medicine at the University of West Florida with a goal of becoming a pediatrician. Luciana's mother, Mercilia, who is a custodian at Village Academy, is also a student at the Village Readers Program working to improve her own reading and literacy skills. Mercilia's youngest child, Wilgens, is currently being tutored at the program. He is an honor role student who passed the FCAT and will be entering the fourth grade in the coming school year. The Village Readers Program continues to transform the educational environment of many homes in the Delray Beach area.



Berenstain Bears Visit Back to School Bash

Through the generosity of Harper Collins, the family of Berenstain Bears, both parents and kids, delighted children and adults alike at the Community Back to School Bash held at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. This event was the result of partnerships among many organizations under the leadership of President Stephanie

Saraco. The Literacy Coalition was pleased to facilitate the appearance of the lovable Berenstain Bears who are on a journey to visit many of their old friends while making new friends as part of their 50 year celebration. The Berenstain Bears series of books by Stan and Jan Berenstain have brought joy to countless children!

Family Reading Night Promotes Summer Learning

Children from the City of Delray Beach Parks & Recreation Community Center's summer camp program and their families enjoyed Family Reading Night, a festive celebration of reading and learning, presented by the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County in late June. The families gathered at the Community Center, where they received a warm welcome from Delray Beach's Mayor McDuffie, a dedicated advocate for children's literacy and education. Gloria Allin, After School Reads Manager for the Literacy Coalition, engaged all in a wonderful reading of Dr. Seuss's *The Lorax*, followed by a fun vocabulary bingo game, prizes, a delicious dinner and free books for children to take home and enjoy! Prime Time Palm Beach County was delighted to lend its support to the evening that also marked the occasion of National Summer Learning Day. This day is designed to raise awareness about the importance of high-quality summer learning opportunities for our children and youth. Other community partners joining in the summer learning initiative include The School District of Palm Beach County/



Gloria Allin, Literacy Coalition, Mayor Woodie McDuffie and Rhonda Rogers, Prime Time, celebrate the impact of the Delray Beach Family Reading Night.

Afterschool Literacy Enrichment Initiative, the Center for Creative Education and the City of Delray Beach Public Library.

Master Storyteller Pat Conroy Captivated Literacy Luncheon Guests



Through the tremendous support of Bank of America as Presenting Sponsor, the Literacy Luncheon raised more than \$96,000 for literacy programs and \$32,000 for the Literacy Center. A literary giant, Pat Conroy captivated the crowd with his endearing personality and poignant stories. Thank you to our sponsors, donors and participants for making literacy a priority in our community.

Special Thanks

Made possible by: Bank of America

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Parents, children and staff celebrated a most successful year preparing the four old children for kindergarten at the recent graduation festivities at the Coalition's Glades Family Education Program.

AmeriCorps Tutors Produce Reading Success



Through a new partnership with the School District of Palm Beach County, 9 Literacy AmeriCorps members served as intensive reading tutors for 138 children in kindergarten through third grade at Barton, Galaxy and Rolling Green Elementary Schools. The School District provided extensive training in the Fountas & Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention and equipped them with a wealth of resources, books and reading materials. Ninety-five percent of these students increased a minimum of one reading level. Teachers reported back to the members that in addition to reading gains, the children were improving in their overall classroom performance, including academics, behavior and confidence. An example of student success reported by member Sarah Zimmerman at the end of the school year was that all the third graders she tutored passed their FCAT and will be promoted to fourth grade.

Stephanie Molnar shared a success story about one of her students. "Today one of my first graders advanced to the next reading level in the Fountas & Pinnell system. He was extremely proud of himself for being able to finish a book that was more difficult than any he had read before, so much so that he told one of the teachers walking past us on the way back to his classroom that he made it to Level C! Not only had he shown immense progress in regard to his reading, but in an effort to encourage him to keep practicing at home, I allowed him to take home a Harry the Hippo hand puppet to read to. He held Harry and his new take home book gently in his arms on the way out of the classroom and he exclaimed to one of the other Reading Tutors, 'I am going to read to Harry tonight!' Even though it was something so small as letting him borrow a stuffed hand puppet to read to, it made me so happy to see one of my students so excited about reading. It really was a rewarding day."

Mayors' Literacy Initiative Focuses on Grade-Level Reading

On Wednesday, September 19, mayors and city commission members from the 38 municipalities in Palm Beach County will gather at the Ritz-Carlton in Manalapan for the Fourth Annual Mayors' Literacy Luncheon through the generosity of Comcast and in partnership with the Literacy Coalition and the Palm Beach County League of Cities.

The focus of this year's luncheon will be on the national Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. Local leaders, nonprofits and foundations in 124 communities and 34 states are uniting around the goal of having third graders able to read on grade level. The approach specifically works on school readiness, consistent school attendance and summer learning. The campaign was launched in Denver in July. Literacy Coalition CEO, Darlene Kostrub, attended the conference and participated with representatives of the City of Delray Beach. Based on the community's plan for addressing third grade reading proficiency, Delray was honored as one of the 32



cities selected out of 124 as finalists for the All-America City Award. The Children's Services Council was also represented at the Denver meeting as it was recognized by the Campaign as a Community Solutions PaceSetter for the work that it already has underway, especially in the school readiness area.

The Literacy Coalition is also working with Boynton Reads, a collaboration of many partners within the City of Boynton Beach, that is also addressing reading proficiency in Boynton's schools and community.

Essays Describe Life Changing Experiences



Adult learner essay writers celebrate their success with Pat Conroy at the Literacy Luncheon.

In April, hundreds of adult learners gathered at the Airport Hilton to celebrate the essays that they submitted as part of the Literacy Coalition's Annual Adult Learner Essay Contest. More than 600 essays were written on the theme: "Describe the best day/time of your life." Many important life changing experiences were related including wedding days, births of

babies, the earthquake day in Haiti and graduations. Below is an essay that describes the lives of many adult learners.

Going back to school was the best time of my life. I always felt insecure and ashamed to not have finished school. Therefore, I decided to do something about it. A heavy weight was hovering over me and I felt very limited. Making this decision changed my life.

The day that I registered for school I was never more proud of myself. I had a son at eighteen and dropped out of school. So for many years, I've lived with an overwhelming insecurity and lack of confidence. I decided to go back to school to find myself. I have children, a husband, and a home, but I don't have me. My goal for going back to school is to become a registered nurse. I also need to show my children that education is a power that they can possess. My goal is to give my family stability.

In conclusion, going back to school set the way to a profession where I can help heal people. I feel confident, unlimited, and determined to achieve my goals. It opened the window of opportunity that I had kept locked away from myself. It was a memorable day and a life-changing experience.

By Linda Moise, Delray Full Service Center

Local DJ Makes Story Time Come Alive!

Through a partnership with CBS Radio-X102.3 in West Palm Beach, their DJ, Poet, entranced children at story times at libraries in West Palm Beach, Boynton Beach, Lake Worth and Riviera Beach during July and August. The Literacy Coalition facilitated the story time arrangements and selected books for the DJ readings that were of high interest to the children. Jennifer McQuown, Youth Services Manager at the Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach, related, "The DJ, Poet, was awesome with the kids. We talked with her about having her visit during our other reading programs, too. Thank you for including us. I really appreciate everything you do for us and the community."

Save the Date: Saturday, February 23, 2013



Benefiting the programs of the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County

Register today at www.LoopTheLakeForLiteracy.org.

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C: Kristin & Glen Calder
E: Gulf Stream School
G: Greenberg Traurig, P.A.
H: Christine D. Hanley & Associates, P.A.
M: Martin Luther King, Jr. Coordinating Committee
P: The Palm Beach Post
R: Ryan Paton, Capitol Lending Group
S: Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, P.A.
Y: Young Boys: Daniel, Jack & Andrew



2011 1st Place Winner: Duffy's Sports Grill fielded by Scripps Research Institute

Bee Part of the Action!

Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee
Thursday, September 13 at 6 p.m.
Harriet Himmel Theater at CityPlace
to benefit the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County

Can you spell F-U-N? Get your team of three ready to spell! Public attendance is free in the balcony and the public will have an opportunity to demonstrate their spelling skills! Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Sponsor a Bee Team: \$1,000

- Table for eight for your team of three and five additional guests, one mulligan that may be used in the first round to redeem one incorrect spelling and food and beverages. Includes recognition in event program and publicity.

Purchase an Alphabet Letter: \$350

Available letters will be displayed online.

Register online at: www.literacyabc.org/events/561/

In Palm Beach County, one in seven adults functions at the lowest level of literacy, meaning that they have difficulty filling out a job application, reading road signs and reading the dosage amount on a prescription bottle. Your support of the Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee will help provide a lifetime of literacy opportunities for thousands of adults, children and families in our community.



Bookmark your Place in Literacy History with a gift for the Literacy Center for Education, Training and Outreach

There are numerous naming opportunities available for gifts of \$15,000 or more.

Gifts of \$1,000 or more will be recognized on the donor wall.

First Edition: \$10,000 Gold Leaf: \$5,000 Collectible: \$2,000 Classic: \$1,000

Any gift will help make the building a reality and is greatly appreciated. \$ _____

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or visit www.literacyabc.org/donate

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Enclosed is my check made payable to:

Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County
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Delray Beach, FL 33483

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