

# LITERACY LEGACY

*Leading Through Reading*

LITERACY COALITION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY



[www.literacyabc.org](http://www.literacyabc.org) • Winter 2013

## Literacy Luncheon Features Ann Patchett



*Ann Patchett in her Parnassus Bookstore*

Ann Patchett will be the featured speaker at the Love of Literacy Luncheon to be held March 8 at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts. Named one of *Time* magazine's "100 Most Influential People in the World" in 2012, Ann Patchett is known as a woman of wisdom, determination, generosity and courage—all qualities that ooze from her beloved novels including *The Patron Saint of Liars*, *The Magician's Assistant* and her breakthrough novel, *Bel Canto*.

Published in 2001, *Bel Canto* became a National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist, won the PEN/Faulkner Award, has sold more than one million copies and has been translated into more than 30 languages. *Run*, published in 2007, became a *New York Times* Bestseller. Her most recent novel is *State of Wonder*, a gripping adventure tale with a profound look at the difficult choices we make. It will be available at the luncheon for purchase and signing.

Ann was interviewed recently on *The Colbert Report* and was featured in the December issue of *Atlantic Magazine* discussing the success of her independent bookstore, Parnassus Books. Opening a bookstore in her hometown of Nashville when the last in-town bookstore closed, Ann wondered if she were "opening an ice shop in the age of Frigidaire." One year later, Parnassus Books is thriving. Ann Patchett is a true literacy advocate.

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*To purchase table sponsorships, ad space in the program, individual tickets or patron tickets (including a reception with the author) visit [www.literacyabc.org](http://www.literacyabc.org) or call (561) 921-4663.*

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# Mark Your Calendars

## January 26

### Tutor Training

Location: Palm Beach State College

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## February 23

### Loop the Lake for Literacy

Lake Okeechobee-Torry Island

## February 27

### Pink Shirt Day

Turning Bullies into Buddies

Meyer Amphitheater

3:45 p.m.

## March 8

### Love of Literacy Luncheon

Kravis Center for the Performing Arts

11:30 a.m.

## March 16

### Tutor Training

Location: Palm Beach State College

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## From Addiction to Education...



My name is David Gregory. I'm 24 years old and I was born and raised in Ft. Lauderdale. Growing up I was always a smart kid, but I never really applied myself. I did very well in school though. I scored high on tests but I always slacked off on my homework. Math and reading were my best subjects.

I started working when I was 13 years old. Before long, because of my love of money, girls, cars and work, I started to miss a lot of school. When you add a new found drug addiction into the mix, school became the least of my priorities when it should have been the first. At the age of 16 in the beginning of 11th grade, I dropped out of school.

I realized I made a huge mistake after a month and tried to go back but my

school wouldn't accept me. During that time, I paid \$50 to take my GED test - not once but twice. Both times, I just blew my money because I did not show up to take the test.

Fast forward seven years. I'm working dead end job after dead end job and became a full blown drug addict. I decided enough is enough and decided to get help for my addictions. I came to a place called Faith Farm Ministries and God has been blessing me ever since. Within my first month here, I entered the GED class provided by the Literacy Coalition.

The teachers they have working for them are phenomenal. They are excellent at what they do. They care for every student and acknowledge their students' weaknesses so they can build up their educational skills. They are always so positive and caring. The world needs more teachers like these women.

Within a relatively short time, I was enrolled to take my GED exam. I took it and passed with flying colors. I guess the third time is a charm.

Now that I have my diploma the doors are endless to what I can do. I am looking forward to going to college and that never would have been possible without the Literacy Coalition. God bless them.

—David Gregory



# Construction Begins with Groundbreaking Celebration



More than 150 literacy supporters gathered on December 4 to celebrate the groundbreaking and commencement of construction for the Literacy Center for Education, Training and Outreach on the Brenda and C.P. Medore Campus at 3651 Quantum Boulevard off Gateway Boulevard in Boynton Beach. Bettina Young, on behalf of the Capital Campaign Committee, thanked the 470 donors who through their gifts, both large and small, have made the Literacy Center possible.

Children from the Coalition's Glades Family Education Program came to the celebration donning yellow hard hats and ready with toy tools to begin the construction process. They put together a replica of the building and listened to a reading of the book, *Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site*. Literacy supporters showed tremendous enthusiasm for the project.

Through the outstanding generosity of an anonymous donor of \$2 million,

the Medore family and more than 470 other donors, the Coalition will move into the new center in early summer debt free. However, there is still fundraising left to do to cover the cost of furnishings, equipment and other building contingencies.

## **Naming opportunities still available include:**

The Training Center.....	\$200,000
Book Distribution Center.....	\$100,000
Conference Room.....	\$100,000
Early Learning Department.....	\$50,000
Children's Tutoring Office.....	\$15,000
Homework Help Office.....	\$15,000

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

In addition, the Literacy Coalition is seeking funds to begin an afterschool tutoring program in the building and to initiate a county-wide volunteer children's tutoring program. To make a contribution to the Literacy Center or for more information, contact Darlene Kostrub, CEO, at (561) 573-6384 or email [dskostrub@aol.com](mailto:dskostrub@aol.com).

## Planning Begins for County-wide Campaign for Grade Level Reading

The Literacy Coalition and the Children's Services Council have initiated a steering committee to begin planning for a county-wide marketing effort for the Campaign for Grade Level Reading that will take place over the next year or two to focus the community on the importance of school readiness, consistent school attendance and summer learning. This is part of a large national effort by foundations, nonprofit partners, states and communities. Stay tuned for exciting developments!



# Read for the Record Involves City Officials and Local Communities

*Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad* buzzed through Palm Beach County on October 4 as volunteers read to children in celebration of the national Read for the Record event promoted nationally by Jumpstart to encourage early literacy. Nationally more than 2,385,300 children participated. The Literacy Coalition celebrated its seventh year coordinating local Read for the Record involvement. At the Okeeheelee Nature Center, more than 120 preschool children enjoyed bug-themed stories read by WPTV NewsChannel 5 anchor Tania Rogers, CBS 12 News anchor Suzanne Boyd, WPBF 25 News anchor Felicia Rodriguez and **Read for the Record sponsor, PNC Bank** Regional President Craig Grant. Naturalist Mo Kiefer and School Specialist Pirjo Campitelli painted ladybugs with the children as they enjoyed ladybug cupcakes. Hundreds of community volunteers, including representatives from Office Depot Foundation, Jarden Consumer Solutions, Velocity Consumer Credit Union, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, Kiwanis Club of Jupiter and the Palm Beach Flagler Rotary Club, read to children at local child care centers. Palm Beach County Fire Rescue personnel alone read to more than 4,000 children! In total, more than 20,000 children were read the story thanks to a mass-mailing of books and extension activities to child care centers and family care homes



*Boynton Beach Mayor Woodrow Hay and wife Mildred celebrate Read for the Record with Carisse Lejeune, Interim Assistant City Manager and Nancy Byrne, Director of Development.*



*Suzanne Boyd, Felicia Rodriguez, Tania Rogers and Craig Grant served as celebrity readers.*

referred through Family Central. Local municipalities competed once again for the greatest participation in Read for the Record by city officials and employees. With 16 municipalities participating, 106 officials read to 3,175 children at 40 sites.

The Town of Haverhill won the Small City Award for greatest participation in the event while the City of Boynton Beach won the Large City Award with 44 city officials reading to children at 13 sites.



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[www.LoopTheLakeForLiteracy.org](http://www.LoopTheLakeForLiteracy.org)

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## Sweet Achievements for Glades Adult Student



Sweetness comes in many forms, Celia Calderon being one of them. An aspiring baker and mother of two, Celia's soft-spoken tones echo across the porch at Glades Family Education as she recounts her journey to learn English.

Celia first enrolled in the Glades program in 2003 with her daughter Paula, but left when Paula started

kindergarten. She intermittently attended in 2007 and 2008, and has consistently come to the school since September 2011, when she enrolled her second child, Paulo, in the early learning class.

Before attending Glades, Celia could only say "Hi" to her daughter's instructors. During their parent-teacher meetings, Paula translated the conversation for her mom. "I needed somebody to come with me because I didn't speak English," Celia remembers. But in the course of the 2011-2012 school year, Celia moved from "Hi" to "Hello, my name is Celia, and I'm Paula's mom," and more. By June, she could carry on conversations with the teachers on her own.

Now Celia feels confident asking for information at stores and understands English conversations. "When I walk

in the street and listen to persons speaking English I know what they say," she relates.

Beyond her current accomplishments, Celia looks forward to future endeavors. "My goal is to speak English naturally," she says, adding, "I want to make a big bakery, too." In fact, Celia is already taking steps to actualize this dream. With the help of her teacher, she purchased a printer with edible paper for her cakes and she can now make various delectable desserts.

When asked how her time at Glades has changed her life, Celia gazes outside for a moment, searching for the right words. "Now, I feel free," she says, "because now I don't have chains." For Celia, English has helped her break through any barriers to success and there is no sweeter feeling than that.

# Congratulations to our Spelling Bee Winners!



**1st Place:** NextEra Energy



**2nd Place:** Duffy's Sports Grill fielded by Scripps Research Institute



**3rd Place:** Edwards Wildman

**Spirit Award:** Haile, Shaw & Pfaffenberger, P.A.  
**Spirit Award Runner Up:** Friends of the Palm Beach County Library System

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Kristin Calder and Bettina Young

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NEWS CHANNEL 5

## Literacy AmeriCorps and the Boynton Beach City Library Create Adult Tutoring Program

A new adult literacy initiative has begun at the Boynton Beach City Library through the services of Literacy AmeriCorps member, Teradee Hagan. For the past four years, the Coalition's Literacy AmeriCorps members have provided a homework help and tutoring program for children at the library. When the library staff realized there were adults interested in being tutored in English and GED preparation, they requested that Literacy AmeriCorps assist in initiating and promoting these services. As a second year AmeriCorps member, Teradee was the ideal candidate to take on this new program. Last year Teradee served at the Literacy Coalition's Glades Family Education

Program, where she taught English to adults. After promoting the tutoring program through the library in September, classes were soon filled to capacity. Teradee spends her day from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. individualizing instruction for 27 adults. Because of the demand for services, she has also enlisted the help of two additional AmeriCorps members who come to the library in the late afternoon and evenings to tutor more students.

In addition to tutoring adults at the Boynton Beach City Library, Teradee spends her late afternoons tutoring children at the Naoma Donnelley Haggin Boys & Girls Club in Delray Beach.



*Teradee Hagan tutors an adult student at the Boynton Beach City Library.*

# Second Annual Pink Shirt Day Celebration Comes to the Meyer Amphitheater



Children's Author Trudy Ludwig

Students from after school sites all over Palm Beach County will descend on the Meyer Amphitheater on Wednesday, February 27, in observance

of the international Pink Shirt Day to focus on anti-bullying strategies. Author Trudy Ludwig, creator of numerous delightful children's books with an anti-bullying theme, will be the special guest speaker. Trudy has been featured on *Good Morning America*, PBS's *Keeping Kids Healthy* and Sesame Street Workshop's Anti-Bullying Expert Panel Videos. Her nationally acclaimed books include *My Secret Bully*, *Just Kidding*, *Sorry, Trouble Talk*, *Too Perfect*, *Confessions of a Former Bully* and *Better Than You*.

Pink Shirt Day is an international celebration that began in Canada. It is coordinated locally by the Literacy Coalition's Turning Bullies into Buddies Program, an after school program, funded by Prime Time with generous support from the Children's Services Council, that uses engaging children's literature to teach character education.

**For more information, call (561) 921-4716.**

## Be Part of an International Celebration!

**Wednesday, February 27, 2013**

**WEAR PINK to support  
kids as they learn  
the tools to  
stop bullying!**

**Turning Bullies into Buddies Event  
3:45 p.m.  
Meyer Amphitheatre, Downtown WPB  
For more information: Call 561-921-4716**



**Official Event T-shirts available at:  
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