

LITERACY LEGACY

Leading Through Reading

Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County



LiteracyPBC.org | Winter 2020



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LITERACY COALITION RECOGNIZED IN TOP 1% OF CHARITIES NATIONWIDE

The Literacy Coalition has earned our 11th consecutive 4-star rating from Charity Navigator. Receiving four out of a possible four stars indicates that our organization adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities and consistently executes our mission in a fiscally responsible way.



ON THE COVER: Building Better Readers tutor
Susan with Agesilas

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

"Leading through Reading" has been the tagline of the Literacy Coalition for more than a decade and an important part of our mission since our founding in 1989. It represents that we are leading adults, children and families to gain literacy skills and empowering them to succeed in life as they embrace reading in their daily lives as students, employees, parents and citizens. Please join us as a sponsor, participant or volunteer to be a part of



this important chapter as we work toward improving the quality of life in our community by promoting and achieving literacy for years to come.

Kristin Calder

LITERACY AT WORK



Joey, Matt and Joe earned their GED

In the years since Joey, Matt and Joe dropped out of high school, they faced a lot of adversity and didn't think getting their GED would be possible. They had each tried, but failed. Different life circumstances brought them together at Faith Farm Ministries, where the Literacy Coalition conducts one of our Workplace & Community Education programs for adult students. Our instructors worked diligently with each of the students to help them prepare for the GED and to help them discover they were capable of much more than they originally thought possible. They took the GED test in 2019 and we are happy to report that all three passed. The Literacy Coalition has countless stories in which adults in our programs have gained the skills needed to be successful in their next step in school or life. In their own words, these three men sum it up best:

"Getting my GED is an accomplishment that I never thought was possible, but now that I have it, it opens up so many opportunities." – Joey

"Our two teachers are awesome. They love what they do and it shows. They taught me a lot." – Matt

"Once I attended the Literacy Coalition's GED class, it just clicked." – Joe

ADULT LEARNERS RECOGNIZED



Featured speaker and emcee, Carlos Mahecha, from AZTECA 48 and the Sinclair Broadcast Group, participated with the students in a group selfie.

& Community Education Department. More than 1,000 students from 27 adult literacy program sites throughout the county submitted an essay. The Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County and the School District hosted a recognition event in which 500 adult students attended and 10 students were chosen to read their essay to the audience.

"Describe your favorite day" was the theme for the Literacy Coalition's Adult Essay recognition initiative held last April in partnership with the School District of Palm Beach County's Adult

HELPING CHILDREN READ ON GRADE LEVEL, BUILDING BETTER READERS



Jane and Joshua



Allyson and Razal

In Palm Beach County, nearly half of third grade students read below grade level. Many children who can't read well by the fourth grade begin to fall behind in every subject, not just language arts, and are at a greater risk of dropping out of school.

To address this critical issue, the Literacy Coalition is leveraging the power of trained community volunteers to help our county's highest need children read at grade level.

In partnership with the School District of Palm Beach County, the Literacy Coalition created the Building Better Readers program in which we recruit, train and support community volunteers to tutor elementary students to help them improve their reading skills and enhance their chances for long-term academic success. We raise funds from the community to implement the program to provide free tutoring for the children.

Teachers, parents and tutors are seeing the results of improved reading and increased confidence in the students. The experience is equally rewarding for the tutors.

In the past year, 166 Literacy Coalition volunteer tutors helped 357 first and second grade students in 23 schools throughout the county. At our Blume Literacy Center, 21 volunteers tutored 36 children in first through fourth grade after school.

Of the students we worked with, 77 percent of the children achieved the goal we set for them, which is to be at least 50 percent closer to grade level reading at the end of the school year. Even better, 34 percent of the students achieved grade level reading.

"It was especially rewarding to watch the excitement on students' faces as they discovered the joy of reading. They were so proud of their own progress."

— Ellen, Building Better Readers volunteer tutor



Mimi and Yahir



Sharon and Milo



Noah and Larry

With the help of community support, the Literacy Coalition provides important programs, which are integral to helping children and adults learn to read and develop into lifelong readers. Help build better readers in our community. Volunteer, make a donation at LiteracyPBC.org or call 561-279-9103 to help make a difference.

CHEERS TO 30 YEARS!



A celebration was held last fall to honor the 30 years that the Literacy Coalition has been helping residents of Palm Beach County. In addition to celebrating our past, present and future at the event, James. O. Born shared his insights as an award winning novelist and bestselling co-author of five novels with James Patterson. As a former U.S. Drug Enforcement agent and Florida Law Enforcement agent, Born incorporates some aspects of his career into his work. Mr. Born's third novel, *Escape Clause*, won the inaugural "Florida Book Award" for Best Novel. His next book, co-authored with James Patterson, will be published in 2020.



Literacy Coalition current and past presidents: Tom Streit, Susan Rabinowitz, Bernadette O'Grady, Laurie Gildan and Gale Howden



Author James O. Born and his wife Donna, Lynn Kalber and Scott Eyman



Judith Giuffrida, Lance Howden, Tom Giuffrida and Gale Howden, founding president



Dr. Robert and Margaret Blume, Kristin Calder and Tom and Jeanne Siccone

In the last year, we served 29,000 adults, teens, children and families through 11 programs in 187 sites from Jupiter to Boca Raton to Belle Glade. We distributed 112,011 books to children, families and organizations.

MAYORS' LITERACY INITIATIVE LUNCHEON



Richard Radcliffe and Jeff Hmara, Palm Beach County League of Cities, with Kristin Calder, Literacy Coalition, Carla Roderick, Comcast, and Tom Streit, Literacy Coalition



Cake by The Diva-Licious Cake House



City of Lake Worth Beach Vice Mayor Andy Amoroso and City of Lake Worth Beach Mayor Pam Triolo

In order to provide updates for mayors and city officials about literacy and education issues, the Literacy Coalition hosted the 11th annual Mayors' Literacy Initiative Luncheon at the Flagler Steakhouse at The Breakers, Palm Beach, in September in partnership with The Palm Beach County League of Cities and sponsored by Comcast.

The Literacy Coalition encouraged the mayors and guests to help develop a community of readers in

each of their municipalities in various ways, including participation in literacy efforts like "Read for the Record" and "Read Together Palm Beach County."

Our 2019-2020 Literacy AmeriCorps members interacted with the mayors, took their oath of service administered by Volunteer Florida Commission Chair Autumn Karlinsky and helped announce *The One-in-a-Million Boy* as this year's book for Read Together Palm Beach County.



Palm Beach County Mayor Mack Bernard and City of Westlake Mayor Roger Manning participated in an activity related to the Read for the Record book, "Thank You, OmU!"



The 2019-2020 AmeriCorps members were sworn into service at the luncheon.



Town of Lake Clarke Shores Mayor Valentin Rodriguez, Jr. and Village of Wellington Vice Mayor Michael Napoleone near a display of each municipality's unique qualities



AmeriCorps members helped the Read Together Palm Beach County Committee announce the 2019 book.

WALK, RUN OR BIKE IN SUPPORT OF LITERACY



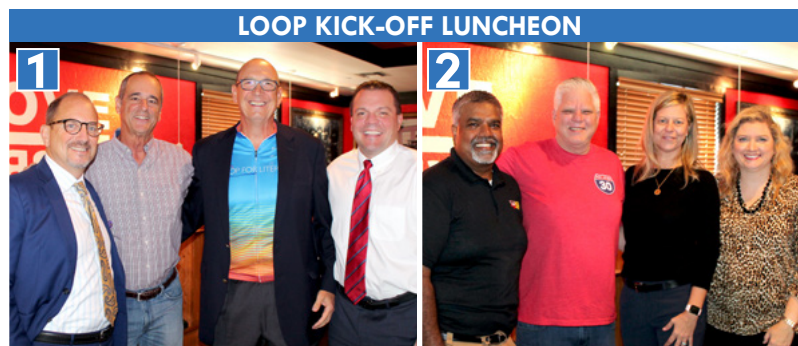
Saturday, February 29, 2020 | Bryant Park, Lake Worth Beach



Certified Course | AccuChip Timing | Finisher Medals | Race Tech Shirt | Awards | Food

Join us to **LOOP** ^{and leap} **for Literacy** for our 10th year!

Sign-up to walk, run, cycle and enjoy a morning of family fun activities on Leap Day 2020. Consider a sponsorship and incorporate this family-friendly, healthy event into your company wellness program. Register as an individual or create a team. Every child registered receives a book.



1 Co-Chairman Larry Katz, Literacy Coalition Board President Tom Streit, Len Gray and Co-Chairman Joe Grant celebrate the LOOP for Literacy kick-off luncheon at Park Avenue BBQ Grille, **2** along with Jerome Veerapen, Dean Lavallee, Nicole Rocco and Kristin Calder.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS



29TH ANNUAL LOVE OF LITERACY LUNCHEON

FEATURING
JEAN KWOK

New York Times and International bestselling author of *Searching for Sylvie Lee*

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020

KRAVIS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS | WEST PALM BEACH



The Literacy Coalition is proud to announce that Jean Kwok, the award-winning author of *Searching for Sylvie Lee*, *Girl in Translation* and *Mambo in Chinatown*, will be the speaker at the Love of Literacy Luncheon. Her work has been published in 20 countries and taught in universities, colleges

and high schools across the world.

An instant *New York Times* bestseller, *Searching for Sylvie Lee* was selected for the TODAY Show Book Club and featured in *The New York Times*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *CNN*, *The New York Post*, *The Washington Post*, *O Magazine*, *People*, *Entertainment Weekly* and more.

Jean has been chosen for numerous honors including the American Library Association Alex Award, the Chinese American Librarians Association Best Book Award and the Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award international shortlist. She has appeared on The TODAY Show and spoken at many schools and venues including Harvard University, Columbia University and the Tucson Festival of Books. A television documentary was filmed about Jean and her work. She is trilingual, fluent in Dutch, Chinese and English, and lives in the Netherlands with her husband and two sons.



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DIAMOND SPONSOR — \$10,000

GOLD SPONSOR — \$4,500

SILVER SPONSOR — \$3,000

TABLE SPONSOR — \$1,500

To see sponsorship benefits, visit LiteracyPBC.org

PATRON TICKET — \$300

- Includes a personal color photograph with speaker at a private reception prior to the luncheon.
- Patron ticket(s) to private reception will be mailed.

INDIVIDUAL TICKET — \$150

- No ticket(s) will be mailed
- Registration is complete upon payment.

AD SPONSOR

- Half Page \$175 • Full Page \$275
- Back Outside Cover \$1,000

PLEASE MAIL PAYMENT TO:
Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County
3651 Quantum Blvd, Boynton Beach, FL 33426



Luncheon Committee Members (back row, left to right): Kristin Calder, Sabine Dantus, Chiara Clark, Grace Halabi, Kenneth Spillias, Bettina Young, Carol Rose and Laura Silver. (front row): Co-Chairmen Debra Ghostine and Bernadette O'Grady. Not Pictured: Dr. Regine Bataille, Maggie Dickenson, Seran Glanfield, Mim Harrison, Stephanie Kahlert, Andrew Loewenstein and Karen Rogers.

VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT READ FOR THE RECORD

The Literacy Coalition celebrated Jumpstart's Read for the Record on November 7 by coordinating 580 local volunteers to read *Thank You, Omu!* by Oge Mora to 18,851 children at 220 sites throughout Palm Beach County. The campaign helps to highlight the importance of early literacy and celebrate the power of volunteers' reading to children. We are grateful to PNC Bank for supporting the local campaign.

The featured event was held at the Blume Literacy Center with children from the Literacy Coalition's Budding Readers program and local child care centers.

Mayors and public officials participated in our annual competition to see which municipality would have the greatest number of community leaders reading. Thank you to the 169 municipal officials and staff who read at 102 sites to nearly 10,000 children and to the Palm Beach County Fire Rescue who read to 1,977 children at 30 sites. The City of Boynton Beach was the winner for larger municipalities and the Town of Lantana was the winner for smaller municipalities. Honorable mentions went to City of Delray Beach, Village of Wellington, Village of Royal Palm Beach and the Town of Lake Park. Thank you to everyone who participated.



PNC executives Cressman D. Bronson and Kim Reckley with children from Tiny Tikes Academy and their teachers, Literacy Coalition CEO Kristin Calder and WPTV 5 anchor Tania Rogers.



Cressman D. Bronson read "Thank You, Omu!" to children at the Blume Literacy Center.



Kim Reckley and Cressman D. Bronson with Literacy Coalition CEO Kristin Calder



The children helped Literacy Coalition staff member Megan Bob read a special story.



Afterschool tutor, Margaret Blume, read "Thank You, Omu!" to students at the Blume Literacy Center.



Kristin Calder and Tania Rogers showcased Oge Mora's new book "Saturday."



Tania Rogers entertained the children while reading "Saturday."

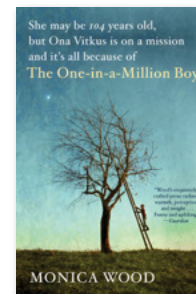


Afterschool tutors and students displayed a banner thanking the author, Oge Mora.



Town of Lantana Mayor David Stewart and City of Boynton Beach Mayor Steven B. Grant received awards from Kristin Calder.

ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY



Thousands of adults, partners and sponsors joined the Literacy Coalition in the 11th Read Together Palm Beach County Campaign, a initiative in which adults throughout the county read the same book at the same time. Events were hosted throughout the fall at libraries, coffee houses, theaters and offices

to bring the community together to discuss key themes in the book.

Our 2019 selected title was *The One-in-a-Million Boy* by novelist, memoirist and playwright Monica Wood. Described as a beguiling, heart-wrenching and funny work of art, the story revolves around a friendship between a 104-year-old Lithuanian immigrant woman and an 11-year-old Boy Scout obsessed with Guinness world records.

The finale event with Monica Wood was held on November 21 at the Harriet Himmel Theater, Rosemary Place.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CAMPAIGN:

- Book discussions were held throughout the county, including The Book Celler, Serenity Teahouse & Cafe, Palm Beach County libraries, municipal libraries and Keiser University.
- Palm Beach Dramaworks co-hosted a staged reading with a superb cast of professional actors.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & PARTNERS:

Akerman LLP, Ed Morse Automotive Group, Greenberg Traurig, LLP, The Book Celler, Serenity Teahouse & Cafe, Palm Beach Dramaworks, Park Avenue BBQ Grille, The Regional Kitchen & Public House, City of Boynton Beach, Delray Beach Public Library, Palm Beach County Library System, Riviera Beach Public Library, Village of Palm Springs Library, Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach, Village of North Palm Beach Library and *The Palm Beach Post*.

Signed copies of Ms. Wood's "The One-in-a-Million Boy" and "When We Were the Kennedys" are available for a \$10 donation to the Literacy Coalition.



Laurie Gildan, Monica Wood and Sharon Hill



Brenda Medore, Monica Wood and Bettina Young



Dr. Regine Bataille and Dr. Rob Gingras at the finale



Nancy Vera and Karen Cruz at the Palm Beach Dramaworks event.



Ann Bocock, host of Between the Covers on South Florida PBS, interviewed the author.



The audience enjoyed listening to Ann Bocock interview Monica Wood.



Sharon Hill, Kristin Calder and Christina Wood at the Palm Beach Dramaworks event



The marquee of the theatre for the Palm Beach Dramaworks staged reading



Read Together Campaign Committee: L to R: Kristin Calder, Carol Rose, Lisa Hathaway, Sharon Hill, Lynn Kalber, Aurora Arthay and Craig Clark. (Not pictured: Christina Wood)

Thank you to the *Read Together Book Selection Committee*: Laurie Gildan, Stacy Alesi, Sharon Hill, Tina Maura, Deborah Nix, Karen Ronald, Carol Rose, Tom Streit and Christina Wood.



WHO DUNNIT?

AT THE 2019 Grand Bee



The Literacy Coalition's Grand Bee created a buzz last October at the 28th annual event at the Harriet Himmel Theater at Rosemary Square. This year's literary-themed trivia was *Who Dunnit?* — an evening of mysteries and extraordinary accomplishments. Teams came dressed as their favorite detective or in their best disguise. Points and prizes were awarded for each round with the grand prize trophy presented to *The Palm Beach Post*. The Akerman LLP was the Runner-Up and the NCCI team won third place.

Thank you to Literacy Coalition Board members Kimberly Lea and Chris Duke, who served as Co-Chairs, Telsula Morgan and Nicole Rocco who served on the committee and Bernadette O'Grady, who presided as Bee Keeper Master of Ceremonies. Thanks to our Bee team sponsors: Akerman LLP, Cozen O'Connor, Duffy's Foundation, Florida Crystals Corporation, Florida Power & Light, Keiser University, Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A., NCCI, SV Microwave and *The Palm Beach Post*.



Congratulations to the 2019 Champions, The Palm Beach Post! L to R: Front row: Nick Manzino, Carol Rose, Adriana Delgado and Howard Goodman, with Debra Ghostine, Scott Miller. Back row: Kimberly Lea, Chris Duke, Kristin Calder and Bernadette O'Grady.



Akerman LLP was the Runner-Up.



Third place went to NCCI.



Margaret and Robert Blume get framed with "BuzzBee Bookbee" Bryn Lenkaitis.



Keiser University came dressed up as characters from "Clue" and won the Spirit Award.



The Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A. Team



The SV Microwave Team



J.D. and Maggie Dickenson enjoy the competition.

CHANGING LIVES, INCLUDING THEIR OWN



Members provided 1,330 collective hours of service during Hurricane Dorian at the Special Needs Shelter and Emergency Operations Center.



Sarah Schott serves as a Reading Tutor with the School District of Palm Beach County.

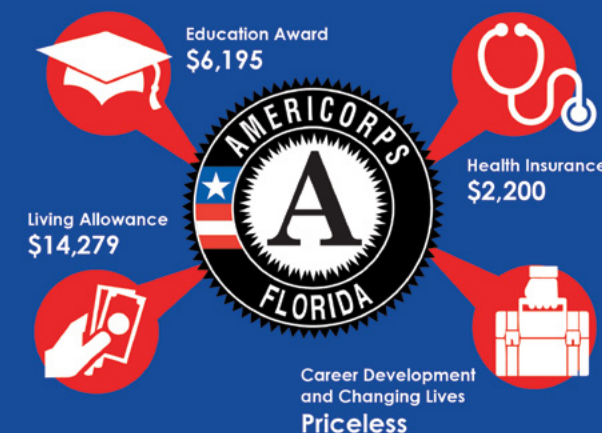


Members made literacy kits alongside the United Way of Palm Beach County.



The Literacy Coalition's AmeriCorps program has been a vital part of helping to improve literacy in Palm Beach County since 1997. The Coalition trains, supervises and places in partner agencies members who dedicate a year of service to our community. The members serve as graduation coaches, reading tutors, college readiness coaches and mentors in schools, libraries, family literacy centers and community based organizations throughout the county. Annually each member contributes 1,700 hours transforming lives through service in tutoring, mentoring and participating in meaningful community service projects. One of the greatest legacies for the Literacy Coalition and Palm Beach County is the number of members who remain in the community after their year of service. They have become leaders in our schools, community based organizations and companies, adding significant value to our workforce. To donate, support or apply for the program, visit LiteracyPBC.org.

What's in it for YOU?



Apply to be a 2020-2021 Literacy AmeriCorps member today!
LiteracyPBC.org



"I mentored a high school student who was paralyzed by the fear of college. When I asked if she had plans, she would break down crying. I kept asking her about college in our meetings and I felt I wasn't getting anywhere, but she assured me she was thinking about it. I always left her with a task like making a list of important characteristics or thinking about degrees. Then, one mentoring session she pulled a folder out of her backpack. She told me she knew I would ask, so she came prepared! She told me what she wanted to do, where she wanted to go, and how she was going to accomplish it. She even included her thought process so I could see her master plan. She has now prepared her college application and is mentally prepared for the journey ahead!"

— Bizzie Gardner, 2018-19 Literacy AmeriCorps College Readiness Coach



Blume Literacy Center

on the Brenda & C.P. Medore Campus
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REAL NEWS STARTS HERE



LOOP FOR LITERACY

WALK | RUN | BIKE
FEBRUARY 29, 2020

LOVE OF LITERACY LUNCHEON

MARCH 12, 2020



LITERACY LINKS GOLF TOURNAMENT

APRIL 17, 2020

HOW YOU CAN HELP

VOLUNTEER

You can volunteer to tutor an adult or child in need of literacy skills. There are also opportunities to help an adult learn English and/or prepare to take the GED exam. No experience is required as we will provide training.



BOOK DRIVES

Organizations and individuals can conduct book drives for the Literacy Coalition. The collected books are shared with the children's literacy programs operated by the Literacy Coalition such as *Budding Readers* or *Reach Out and Read* or distributed to partner agencies serving economically disadvantaged children. We also have shared 2,451 of these donated books in the last year to groups in need including teachers, schools and organizations. We have many more requests for gently used children's books.



ATTEND AN EVENT

There are various events to attend throughout the year that support our literacy programs and initiatives. Events include LOOP for Literacy, the Love of Literacy Luncheon, The Grand Bee Literary Fun & Games and Literacy Links Golf Tournament.



MAKE A DONATION

Your tax-deductible donation will help provide literacy services to adults, children and families who are working to achieve a better life by improving their literacy skills.

MAKE A BIGGER IMPACT

Donate long-term appreciated securities, including stock, bonds, and mutual funds, directly to the Literacy Coalition. Compared with donating cash, or selling your appreciated securities and contributing the after-tax proceeds, you may be able to automatically increase your gift to the Literacy Coalition and your tax deduction.



IMPACT FUTURE GENERATIONS

Consider an endowment gift to the Literacy Coalition that will allow us to sustain our impact in our community for future generations. Include the Literacy Coalition in your retirement plans, will, living trust, or related planned giving methods allowing you to extend your legacy of literacy to future generations. Planned gifts – large and small – are a lasting way to help us continue the success we know today in helping families be successful in school and in life.



READ TO A CHILD

Read together everyday. Point out print everywhere. Do not limit yourself to reading books with your child. Street signs and cereal boxes count too. Tell your child how much you enjoy reading with him or her. This attention lets them know they are special and loved.



PROMOTE LITERACY

You can support the mission of the Literacy Coalition and become an advocate for literacy. Share our posts and information on your social media accounts. Follow LiteracyPBC today!



OUR MISSION

The mission of the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County is to improve the quality of life in our community by promoting and achieving literacy.

OUR VISION

That every child and adult in Palm Beach County becomes a reader.