



FLORIDA LITERACY COALITION, INC.

# The Literacy News

Florida's Newsletter for Literacy Tutors, Teachers, Learners, and Supporters

Number 104

April - June 2003

**State Literacy Resource Center to Launch New Web Site**

**Mark Your Calendars for July 18th to see the new look and new features**

*See page 5*

**Celebration of Reading Gala Raises \$1.4 Million for Family Literacy**

*See page 4*

## 2003 Florida Literacy Conference

The 19th Annual Florida Literacy Conference was a huge success! With over 500 people in attendance, participants were given the opportunity to attend over 90 workshops in ten different learning tracks.

This year's keynote speakers included Walter Anderson, CEO and publisher of Parade Magazine. Raised in New York, Mr. Anderson faced many challenges as a child. "My father couldn't read, and he became infuriated and would beat me when he saw me reading," he recalls. "But my mother encouraged me to read.

When I grew older I asked her why she encouraged me when she knew what the consequences would be. She told me: "I thought if you read you would find your way out."

Mr. Anderson shared his philosophy of success and his long journey from dropping out of high school to becoming a leading journalist, publisher and business executive.

Other speakers included Dr. Sandra Baxter, Director of the National Institute for Literacy, Dr. Pe-

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*Lt. Governor Tony Jennings with Flight for Freedom*

## Governor Bush Speaks at ProLiteracy Launch Event

This year's conference was held in conjunction with the ProLiteracy Worldwide launch event celebrating the merger of Laubach Literacy International and Literacy Volunteers of America.

Governor Bush was the keynote speaker at the celebration luncheon sponsored by Verizon. The Governor took this opportunity to speak to how literacy is a priority for his administration.

The launch event also included a day-long training symposia for

adult education and literacy practitioners featuring workshops on Community Mobilization and Advocacy, The Reading Process for At-risk Students and Program Development and Evaluation.

State co-sponsors for the event included, the Florida Literacy Coalition, Association for Florida Laubach Organizations, The state Library, and The Volunteers and Literacy Taskforce Committee of the Florida Department of Education.

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## 2003 Florida Literacy Conference— continued from page 1

ter Waite, Executive Director of ProLiteracy America and Lt. Governor Toni Jennings, Florida's first woman Lt. Governor.

Mr. Robert Wofford, Director of Adult Education



Florida Literacy Coalition Executive Committee Members— Renee Hotes and Jay Roesch chat with Mr. Bob Wofford, State Adult Education Director, after the awards banquet.

at the Florida Department of Education, delivered the keynote address at the Florida State Literacy Awards Banquet which honored the following individuals and organizations for their outstanding contributions to literacy.

★ **Mary J. Brogan Leadership Award—**  
Mr. Jack Newell, Lifetime Literacy Advocate and Director of the Region 1 Literacy Center

★ **Outstanding Business Partner Award—**  
Wachovia Bank



Joyce Whidden, Executive Director of the Adult Literacy League— winner of the Excellence in Education Award Winner with Greg Smith.

Mark Brewer, Community Foundation of Central Florida,  
on fund raising

★ **Outstanding Media Partner Award—**  
Naples Daily News

★ **Outstanding Literacy Volunteer Award—**  
Joyce Moloney, Miami-Dade Public Library  
System Project L.E.A.D. Program

★ **Flight for Freedom Award—**  
Brian E. Jeffries, Learner with the St. Petersburg  
Literacy Council.

★ **Excellence In Education Award—**  
Adult Literacy League, Orlando.



Mark Cass, ProLiteracy, takes time to talk about accreditation

The success of this year's conference was made possible through the outstanding efforts of the Conference planning committee, volunteers and presenters. All of these individuals gave generously of their time and talents to make this conference possible. Special thanks also goes to the conference sponsors which included The Orlando Sentinel, Verizon, Governor's Family Literacy Initiative, Steck-Vaughn, Anheuser Busch, New Horizons Computer Learning Center, Walt Disney World Co. and TechNet.



# Literacy in Florida

APRIL - JUNE 2003

## Bridges To Practice Adds Online Resource

Florida's new Bridges to Practice Web site offers a five-hour Web-based in-service training program entitled, "Bridges to Practice: Florida's Focus on Adults with Learning Disabilities." While only Florida residents may earn in-service points by accessing this training, the Online Newsletters and featured resources are available to all adult educators online or in PDF format. These resources include information about: Assistive Technology, ESOL and Learning Disabilities, Need Assessments, and Resources for Adults with LD. For more information about Bridges to Practice, log on to [www.floridatechnet.org/bridges/newsltr10.pdf](http://www.floridatechnet.org/bridges/newsltr10.pdf).

## Implementing Health Literacy

Hillsborough County Public Schools Adult Education is helping to spread the word about breast and cervical cancer to adult learners with less than a high school education. This project will focus its activities within Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes at four adult education sites in Hillsborough county. Students will learn about breast and cervical cancer, promoting awareness, attitudes, behavior change, and action for others.

For more information about the HEAL:BCC project, call Hillsborough County Public Schools, Adult Education, at (813) 276-5666. You can also contact Sabrina Kurtz-Rossi, national project Director at (617) 482-9485 or <http://hub1.worlded.or/heal/index.htm>

## Initiative Assists Schools to Develop Family Literacy Programs

In partnership with the FLARE Center, the Florida Literacy Coalition is sponsoring the Family Literacy Development Project; a special initiative to assist elementary schools in planning community-based family literacy programs.

Family literacy programs engage in an intergenerational approach to literacy education, providing a supportive environment in which families can work together to improve the skills and education level of parents and children while promoting enthusiasm for learning in the home.

Six schools have been selected to participate in this pilot initiative which was launched in conjunction with the Florida Literacy Conference this April. Representatives from the participating schools were provided with scholarships to attend the Conference and take advantage of the 12 workshops offered on family literacy.

Additionally, each school will be given individualized support in the form of: 1) On site consultation to review and discuss the benefits of family literacy and the steps involved in developing a quality family literacy program. 2) Resource information on promising practices, curriculum, program models and funding opportunities in family literacy. 3) A planning framework to assist schools in developing on-site programs with measurable outcomes. 4) Field trips and/or joint program meetings. 5) On-going consultation in the development and implementation of successful and sustainable programs.

The initiative is pleased to announce that Harline Roberts of Hillsborough County Schools and Trish Rowland of Palm Beach County Schools will be working as consultants for the project. Each of whom have extensive experience in planning, implementing and coordinating family literacy programs.

Participating schools include, Amelia-Earhart Elementary, Higleah, FL, Bentley Elementary, Sanford, FL, Southside Elementary, Miami, FL, Kinnan Elementary School, Sarasota, FL, Skeen Elementary School, Leesburg, FL and Rowlett Elementary, Bradenton, FL.

For more information please contact Greg Smith at [smithg@floridaliteracy.org](mailto:smithg@floridaliteracy.org).

## SPRING LINCS

Spring has arrived in Florida and the weather is perfect for getting out and talking about LINCS (the Literacy Information and Communication System).

Haven't checked out LINCS yet? Visit [www.floridaliteracy.org](http://www.floridaliteracy.org) and click on **Hot Sites** for an example of the many resources available through this network. Hot Sites is updated twice a year and is a sampling of the best FREE resources available on the web.

Samantha Sparks, Resource Specialist and your Florida LINCS coordinator, visited Miami Dade Public Library in beautiful Coral Gables, FL. Thanks to Richard Goins for coordinating a successful training. We had a great turnout and the group was fantastic!

April bought the Florida Literacy Conference in Orlando. Jaleh Behroozi, LINCS Project Director with the National Institute for Literacy joined in to give a session on LINCS and its resources. Everyone eagerly embarked on the hands-on tour of LINCS. Thanks Jaleh!

Want to learn more about LINCS? Request a "get started" packet which includes a quick start guide and training CD. Email Samantha Sparks with your name, address and phone number at [sparkss@floridaliteracy.org](mailto:sparkss@floridaliteracy.org).

## Legislative Update

Upon completing of a sixteen day special session, the Florida Legislature passed the 2003-2004 budget of \$53.5 billion which was signed into law by Governor Bush. Included in this budget was about \$1.3 billion in non-recurring funds from one-time revenue sources.

Workforce education funding, which includes adult education, suffered a \$2.6 million cut representing a sixty-eight percent reduction in the state's \$381 million allocation.

Governor Bush also signed into law a bill establishing the Enhanced New Needed Opportunity for Better Life and Education for Students with Disabilities Act (ENOBLES) to expand access to postsecondary education and meaningful careers for students with disabilities. This law provides waivers for the FCAT requirements allowing students with disabilities to receive a standard high school diploma.

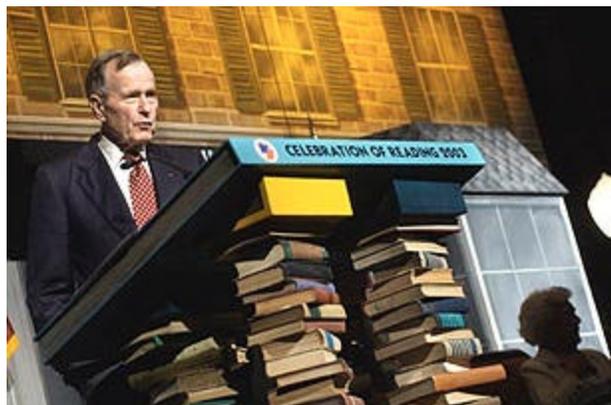
## Celebration of Reading Benefit Raises \$1.4 million to Support Family Literacy

A good time was had by all at the third annual Celebration of Reading Benefit hosted by Governor Jeb Bush on March 28 in Bonita Springs.

Governor Bush was joined by his parents former President George Bush and first lady Barbara Bush who each took turns reading selections of their choosing. Mrs. Bush read from her new book *Barbara Bush: Recollections* set to be released this November. The former president opted to read a collection of pieces penned by Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt and his son George W. Bush.

The first family were accompanied by a trio of best selling authors: Carl Hiaasen, whose books include *Hoot* and *Tourist Season*; James McBride, author of *The Color of Water* and *Miracle of St. Anna* and Marc Brown, writer of the popular series of childrens books featuring Arthur and his friends. Each author read an excerpt from their writings and went on to share their reflections on the importance of literacy.

The gala raised \$1.4 million for the Governor's Family Literacy Initiative which provides grants of up to \$50,000 for intergenerational literacy programs located in communities throughout the state. The Governor also used the occasion to announce a generous in-kind contribution by Comcast Cable Company of television public service announcements and video production services valued at approximately \$1 million.



*Former President George H.W. Bush speaks at the third annual Florida Celebration of Reading in Bonita Springs. The 41st president of the United States followed the former first lady, Barbara Bush, seen in silhouette at right, in speaking about the importance of reading. Proceeds from the event benefit the Governor's Family Literacy Initiative.*

*Photo Courtesy of Naples Daily News*

## State Literacy Resource Center to Launch New Web Site

The Florida Literacy Coalition's, State Literacy Resource Center web site will have a new look and many new features when it is launched on July 18.

With feedback from literacy practitioners around the state, this site has been designed to provide an information portal on a wide range of educational resources.

In addition to a redesigned user interface, look for new or improved features including:

-  Tutor Trainer Resource Section featuring; ProLiteracy trainer certification information, workshop outlines, guidelines for effective training, promising practices, a list of certified trainers, a calendar of training opportunities
-  Expanded list of state and national statistics
-  A Grants and Funding Resource Section featuring grant opportunities, and resources on effective grant writing
-  A searchable database of adult education and literacy providers
-  Project-based ESL lesson plans using Equipped for the Future
-  Information on becoming a literacy volunteer
-  GED Information
-  Updated calendar of literacy events
-  Tutor tips
-  Portal to the Literacy Information and Communications System (LINCS) a national data base of web based resources
-  Hundreds links to quality resource materials on the web.

So mark your calendar and come visit the site. As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions on literacy resources to share.

Special thanks to the Florida Department of Education, Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education for helping to make this website possible.

### Check This Out!

New games for your ESL student are just a click away. Log on to [a4esl.org](http://a4esl.org) for over 1,000 quizzes, exercises, and puzzles to help you along the way.

This fun, interactive website helps students at every level, from a beginner to a more advanced student. To learn more about activities for ESL log on to [a4esl.org](http://a4esl.org)

## Florida Literacy Coalition Elects New Board

The Florida Literacy Coalition would like to welcome the following individuals who were elected to our Board of Directors the April.

**Darlene Kostrub**, Palm Beach Literacy Coalition

**Irene Guy**, Verizon

**Joe Pankowiecki**, Siemens Westinghouse

**Renee Hotes**, Bank of America

**Harriet Little**, Seminole Community College

**Linda D'Olympio**, PRIME

**Sandy Newell**, State Library of Florida

**Jay Roesch**, Walt Disney Corp.

### Tutor Tip!

- ◆ Give Positive Feedback. Use specific praise-words like "great" and "excellent".
- ◆ Remind of Past Successes. Use past assignments as a starting point to inspire future work.
- ◆ Create Anticipation. Preview a topic and encourage students to ask what they think will happen next.
- ◆ Use Games and Activities to help develop different ways of learning. Use materials such as index cards, markers, etc.

## Upcoming Literacy Events

- **July 31, 2003**

### **Continuing Tutor Education**

Call the Adult Literacy League at 407-422-1540 for more information.

- **September 8, 2003**

### **International Literacy Day**

- **September 6, 2003**

### **5th Annual Tutor Support Seminar**

Call the Adult Literacy League at 407-422-1540 for more information.

- **September 22-25, 2003**

### **13th Annual ACE Conference**

ACE of Florida will be holding their annual conference in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. For more information contact ACE office at 850-222-2233.

- **November 1, 2003**

### **National Family Literacy Day**

- **November 12-16, 2003**

### **International Dyslexia Association 54th Annual Conference**

To be held in San Diego, CA. For more information call 410-296-0232.

- **November 13-17, 2003**

### **ProLiteracy Worldwide Conference**

To be held in Washington, DC. For more information, call Marty Kuppinger at (315) 422-9121.

- **March 1-3, 2004**

### **National Conference on Family Literacy**

For more information call 502-584-1133

## **Congratulations!**

The Association of Florida Laubach Organizations (AFLO) recently conducted its annual meeting at the Adult Literacy League in Orlando. This meeting marked the beginning of a transition period for the organization which has decided to change its name to Literacy Volunteers of Florida. New officers and board members were also elected including Kevin Freer, President; Jim Wilder, Vice President; Sharon Wedal, Secretary and Elsie Swafford, Treasurer.

## **UCF Students Volunteer for Literacy**

Two students from the University of Central Florida's Lending a Helping Hand for Literacy Program will be assisting the Adult Literacy League this summer. Henry Gonzalez and Kristin Huff are both psychology majors at the University of Central Florida. This semester they are taking Dr. Jennie Loudermilk's Service Learning class and offering 37.5 hours of volunteer time to the Adult Literacy League.

The goal of the Service Learning program is to provide students with knowledge concerning community, health, and human service agencies that assist those in need. The class teaches the importance of volunteerism in Central Florida, while also providing students with professional experience. To find out more on the Service Learning program contact the adult Literacy League, Inc. 407-422-1540.

*The Literacy News* is a publication of the State Literacy Resource Center, a program of the Florida Literacy Coalition. It is made possible through a grant from the Florida Department of Education, Division of Workforce Development.

We invite you to submit articles, announcements, or other news items for this publication. If you would like to contribute, please contact

Leah M Takacs at (800) 237-5113 or email your submission to [info@floridaliteracy.org](mailto:info@floridaliteracy.org).

*The Literacy News* is dedicated to providing relevant, timely information and resources to adult literacy practitioners and supporters throughout Florida.

The following is a schedule of dates for information to be submitted for upcoming issues.

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Information Due</u>
August-September	September 4th
October-November	October 30th
December-January	January 9th

The contents of *The Literacy News* do not necessarily represent the position or policies of the Florida Department of Education or the Florida Literacy Coalition.

# Literacy in the U.S.

APRIL - JUNE 2003

## **Proliteracy Expands it's Focus on Women**

As we all know there are literacy needs in every country worldwide. ProLiteracy Worldwide continues to reach out to the regions where the needs are greatest. ProLiteracy expects to establish partnerships with 100 grassroots literacy programs in 50 developing countries around the world by 2005.

The World Education Report 2000 released by UNESCO states that "the majority of illiterate adults in less developed regions of the world still are females." To aid this burden of low literacy much of ProLiteracy's International Program work will to be focused on women through their Women in Literacy initiative.

Research has shown benefits associated with educating women. Evidence proves that women share information largely with their families and communities. Women in literacy guide others to gain literacy-based skills, information, and the confidence to improve their lives and communities.

For continuous information on ProLiteracy Worldwide's activities visit [www.proliteracy.org](http://www.proliteracy.org).

## **NCFL Training Opportunities for 2003**

Newly designed, Foundations in Family Literacy, is NCFL's premier staff development training. This three-day, foundational training is the cornerstone for practioners and community partners who are new to comprehensive family literacy.

NCFL is hosting their annual Summer Institute in Louisville, KY July21-23, 2003. Participants may choose from a variety of topics including scientifically based reading research, English Language Learners, reading strategies for children and adults, program funding and more.

For additional information or to register for these and other trainings, please visit the NCFL's website at [www.familit.org](http://www.familit.org) or call 502-584-1133 ext 121.

## **TV411: Inspiring Adults to Learn**

TV411 is a multimedia distance learning curriculum that combines video, Internet lessons, and a magazine-style format. It aims to inspire adult learners through a collection of fast-moving segments that cover everything from suffixes to percentages, song-writing to filling out immigration forms.

The video and related materials are designed for use by individuals in their homes, adult and family literacy classes, and community settings such as libraries, health clinics, churches, and banks, in both urban and rural regions.

Foe more information on the TV411 curriculum or to receive a sample TV411 video, contact Sara Plantz at the TIU Distance Learning Project, [splantz@tui11.org](mailto:splantz@tui11.org), (717)248-4942, ext.131.

## **Free Software!**

**TechSoup.org** offers nonprofits one-stop shopping for their technology needs. Their newest service, DiscounTech, distributes donated and discounted technology products exclusively to nonprofits. For a small administrative fee, eligible organizations can request 1 software donation (up to 6 titles and 50 licenses per title) in each 2-year period.

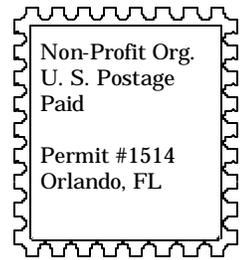
Organizations that have additional software needs can take advantage of Microsoft's Charity Open License Program. This program allows nonprofit organizations to purchase multiple software licenses at reduced prices. For more information on the Charity Open License Program, visit <http://www.microsoft.com/licensing/programs/open/opencharity.asp>.



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#### ***The Literacy News:***

**Editor** Leah M Takacs

**Contributing Editor** Samantha Sparks

## Join the Coalition and Make a Difference for Literacy in Florida!

- Individual Annual Membership \$20
- Organizational Annual Membership \$40  
(please indicate primary contact person)

- I want to increase the impact of my membership:
- Supporting Donation: \$5 - \$99
  - Sustaining Donation: \$100 - \$499
  - Patron Donation: \$500 - \$999

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