



# ORANGE COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL

# READ

503 West Franklin Street  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
www.orangeliteracy.org

S U M M E R 2 0 0 2

## BUDGET CRISIS HITS OCLC

*By Patricia Gee, Board President and Lucy Lewis, Executive Director*

This year the Orange County Literacy Council is facing unprecedented cuts in our funding. Like all Triangle United Way member agencies, the OCLC will experience dramatic cuts in our United Way funding. We have been alerted to possible cuts in our funding from many other sources, including our Community College funding for adult learners and Smart Start funding for our Family Reading Workshops.



These cuts are coming at a time when local and state nonprofits, as well as public human service agencies, are facing hard financial times. Literally billions of dollars in human services to the most impoverished and disadvantaged citizens of our state are threatened as of this writing. Nonprofit and public agencies face layoffs and program cuts at a time when the need for services, always greater than the available resources, is especially strong.

It is likely that we will have to reduce staff hours from our already stretched-thin, all part-time staff. Until we know the full extent of budget cuts, the Literacy Council won't be able to determine all the changes that must be made.

Though we reside in one of the most affluent and well-educated communities in North Carolina, unmet literacy needs in Orange County exact a huge price in lost productivity, youth school failure, family instability, and chronic underemployment. We need your help now more than ever to continue providing an effective adult and family literacy program despite these cuts. The Orange County Literacy Council has always depended on the financial support of the Friends of the Literacy Council and the generosity of volunteer tutors to provide thousands of hours of individual and small group tutoring in reading, writing, and basic math each year.

You can help support adult literacy in our community in these difficult times. Please contact us if you have additional ways that you would like to help.

**Consider increasing your annual contribution.** We work

very hard to be good stewards of your money. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers, we are able to stretch every dollar that we receive. A donation envelope is enclosed with this newsletter for your convenience.

**Join our fundraising committee.** This year our *Celebrate Literacy Author Reading/Silent Auction* will be on Sunday, October 13 (see back page for details).

**Donate an item or secure a donation of goods or service for our Silent Auction** (by September 16). Auction item ideas include: New or old books...especially first editions \* NC pottery \* Tickets...theatre, sporting events, museum, dance events \* Gift certificates from gift shops, bakeries, restaurants, car maintenance, landscaping or nursery businesses \* Personal services - massage, hair cut/style, manicure or pedicure, gym work out \* Weekend getaways \* A parking space in your driveway for UNC sports events\*

**Develop a fundraiser of your own.** Ask friends to a House Party for Literacy. Our staff can help!

**Walk or run and gather pledges for Team Literacy in the Great Human Race.** *This next race will be held on March 22, 2003* (see page 5 to read about this year's race).

**Invite a member of our Speaker's Bureau to speak** to your community group or faith community. Help us increase awareness about adult literacy and increase financial support for the work of the Literacy Council.

**Donate tax-deductible office or educational supplies** such as spiral-bound notebooks, 3-ring binders, pencils, pens, calculators, and paperback dictionaries. Also reams of white or colored paper, envelopes, flip charts, markers.

**Honor a friend or special event with a donation** to the Literacy Council. This is a wonderful way to celebrate a birthday, holiday, or anniversary or remember a friend.

**Ask your church or synagogue's Social Concerns or Outreach Committee** to consider making a donation.

**Volunteer your time.** We need tutors for 1:1 tutoring as well as small-group classes. We also need volunteers to provide assistance at the OCLC Hillsborough and Chapel Hill offices, assist with newsletter mailings, and staff OCLC tables at community events.

## Lee Smith Kicks Off Community Readalong

What would it be like if the entire community were part of the same book club, reading and discussing articles by local authors with their children and friends, at the grocery store, at work or on the phone while cooking dinner? This was the idea behind Orange County READS efforts to encourage community residents, young and old, to read together in celebration of Read Across America Day on March 1. Orange County READS kicked off this idea with the help of noted local author Lee Smith.

Smith gave permission for OC READS to use her delightful story, "My Mother's Recipe Box", to encourage a shared Orange County reading experience. Several local newspapers printed Smith's story in English and Spanish, and bi-lingual copies of the story, accompanied by suggested discussion ideas, were distributed throughout the community.

The highlights of this effort were two discussion groups led by Smith at the Orange County and Chapel Hill public libraries. Smith, a committed advocate for adult literacy, invited Literacy Council tutors to speak at each event. OCLC founder Susan

Attermeier spoke in Hillsborough and Board member Rita Weimer spoke in Chapel Hill. OC READS partners are already discussing how to make a community readalong an



annual event. Many thanks to Lee Smith, House and Garden Magazine (which gave permission to use the Smith article), the public libraries, and the Chapel Hill

News and Chapel Hill Herald.

Orange County READS is a countywide literacy initiative of the OC Board of Commissioners, the Orange County School Board, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, OC Literacy Council, OC Partnership for Young Children, Durham Technical Community College, Child Care Services Association, Reach Out and Read, and other community agencies, to help parents and children improve their literacy skills and in turn improve their lives.

## Please Welcome Our ...

### New Board Members

This spring we welcomed two new Board members. Terese Johnson has been a tutor with the OCLC for over three and a half years. She works for the IBM Corporation, focused on technical support marketing. She was raised in San Jose, California and has a BA from Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, California. Terese is married and lives with her husband in Chapel Hill.

Anne Purcell is an Associate Principal at Orange High School. She became involved with the High School Literacy Project through the Professional Development School four years ago. Her husband's name is Edmund and they have three sons, Matthew, Patrick and Andrew. Anne is a lifelong resident of Hillsborough. We are excited about the wealth of experience, skills and interests of our newest Board members and look forward to working with them.

### New GED Coordinator

Welcome to our newest staff member, Kit Stanley! Kit is coordinating our computer-based GED classes in Chapel Hill public housing and community centers. She is working with OCLC volunteers to teach pre-GED and GED classes, as well as conduct community outreach activities to reach potential new students.

The Town of Chapel Hill's Community Development Block Grant is funding this position. Kit's background is in marketing and teaching, and in her spare time she works as a Guardian ad Litem and mom.

Classes currently offered are:

- Hargraves Community Center, Mondays, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.
- Trinity Court/Pritchard Park, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30 – 12:30 p.m.
- S. Estes Community Center, Wednesdays, 10:30-12:30 p.m.

Kit would also like to encourage volunteers to assist in these classes, or learn how they can use our adult literacy software programs with their own students. Please call Kit at 933-2151 for more information.

### Board of Directors

Patricia Gee, *President*  
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### Staff

Lucy Lewis, *Executive Director*  
 Kathy Alberter,  
*Program Coordinator*  
 Linda E. Browner,  
*Program Coordinator*  
 Kit Stanley,  
*Computer-based GED* Christine  
 Hodder,  
*Office Manager*

### Chapel Hill/Carrboro Learning Center and Administrative Offices

503 W. Franklin St.  
 Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
 Phone (919) 933-2151  
[oclc@co.orange.nc.us](mailto:oclc@co.orange.nc.us)

### Northern Orange Learning Center

118 N. Churton St.  
 Hillsborough, NC 27278  
 Phone (919) 732-0868  
[oclc@mindspring.com](mailto:oclc@mindspring.com)

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

## My Experience in the U.S. as an Exchange Student

By Myra Cruz

In 1976, I came to the United States as an exchange student from Guatemala. I was only seventeen years old. It was the first time leaving my family and country. I lived with an American family for three months. While I lived with them, I had the opportunity to learn some of their traditions and culture. I also had the opportunity to go to school.

When I came to America for those three months (from October through December) it was scary. The most frightening thing was not being able to communicate well with people. I spoke very little English. The purpose of the program was to go to school. Interacting with students and teachers to learn and practice the language was exciting.

The American family I lived with had a daughter my age, seventeen years old. She was a junior in high school. I decided to take the same classes she was taking. I had Math, Social Studies, Biology and English. During Biology one day I witnessed an animal dissection the students learn the parts and the functions of the animals anatomy. I learned many interesting things in all my classes and how teachers have many different ways of teaching.

The American family had three children, two girls and one boy. The oldest girl was seventeen years old. The middle child a boy was thirteen years old, and the youngest was seven. I enjoyed living with them those three months. I learned many of their traditions they ate Thanksgiving meal at a special time and had an abundance of food. They had turkey with  
desse

In Guatemala we did not celebrate Thanksgiving. Another holiday that I liked was the Fourth of July. They would have a cook-out with hamburgers and hot dogs. Then at night there would be fireworks. Although in Guatemala the children use fireworks for every happy occasion. My country Independence day is different in the way that on September 15 they have a parade that starts in the city and ends in a soccer field. Then the governor gives a speech, welcomes everyone and the county fair begins. Everybody has a good time and many stay until the late night.

By December 1976, I was back in Guatemala. I finished high school two years later. In 1981 I decided to move to California. I wanted to practice and learn more English. I lived with one of my mother's sister for two years in Pasadena. I got married in 1983 and had two children. My daughter the oldest is nineteen years old, and the youngest is my eleven year old boy. My daughter is working at her college transfer at a local community college. My son has recently started middle school at McDougle. On July of 1996 I decided to move to North Carolina and the American family that I went to as an exchange helped me out. It was hard for my kids to adjust leaving their home in Los Angeles California but they had done good so far. Even after all those years the American family and I had stayed in contact. My experience as exchange student was great. I love this country, its been 20 years so far and hopefully many more.



**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
Sandra Clinton graduates from UNC's Clerical Skills Course.

*At That Moment*  
by Sandra Clinton

*Oh God, special  
I can't describe it  
I was just so proud  
and I started out not  
knowing  
and I had talked about  
it as  
something I wanted to  
learn*

*At that moment  
It was like I was  
looking  
in the mirror  
and seeing myself  
and saying  
See  
you could do it  
You could do it  
and you did it  
good*

Congratulations to Matti Solonen for getting his GED, and to his tutor Gordon Light!

**In our own  
words ...**

*Share Your Writings and Successes!* Each edition of READ has a page for adult learners. Thanks to these adult learners for sharing their writings and accomplishments. Ask your student if they would like to see their writing in print or have a recent achievement recognized.

## Post-Test Results – How They Help Tutors and Students

In the last year, the Orange County Literacy Council has joined literacy councils around the state and country in administering standardized pre-tests to adult learners in order to meet new Federal requirements. We have been working with tutors and students in recent months to administer post-tests. The test results have been mixed. Some students have shown significant changes in their post-test scores. Others students' scores have remained the same or shown little change. Some students' scores have also fallen.

What does this tell us?

Standardized tests are only one tool to help assess student progress. The test results tell us how well a student has mastered *specific skills*. However, even though test scores may not improve, students and tutors can measure progress in terms of increased reading fluency, improved study skills or mastering a specific task such as check writing or being able to read a certain book to their child. We also report student progress when students reach three student-identified short-term goals or one long-term goal in a calendar year.

Reviewing test scores can be very helpful to tutors and students. "Tests reveal specific strengths and weaknesses," says Chris Turner, a staff member at the Cape Fear Literacy Council. "These tests give us precise information that we (staff) can use to give you better advice about what areas to concentrate on and what materials and activities to use."

We encourage tutors not to just look at the score, but to ask Kathy Alberter or Linda Browner, our program staff, for an item analysis. The tests provide an opportunity for tutors and students together to review correct answers and discuss why the particular multiple choice was made. Incorrect answers can also provide useful information about areas for further study. Tutors - please talk to Kathy or Linda if you need additional suggestions about how to better help your student based on what you learn from this process.

The Literacy Council is committed to helping our students achieve their goals. We hope that tutors and students use the testing process as a tool to help identify areas of strength and areas needing improvement in order to reach these goals.

## ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL & ALL TUTOR MEETING

Sunday August 11, 2-4 pm  
Homestead Community Center,  
Homestead Rd., Chapel Hill

- ❖ Great opportunity to meet your fellow tutors
- ❖ Updates on what's new at the Literacy Council
- ❖ More info available soon at [www.orangeliteracy.org](http://www.orangeliteracy.org)

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Miss the excellent PBS program about learning disabilities, "**Misunderstood Minds**"?

You can now check out a copy of the 90-minute tape from the OCLC offices.

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### FALL TUTOR TRAINING

If you have been thinking about becoming a Literacy Council tutor, this fall is a great time to start! We have lots of volunteer opportunities, both 1:1 tutoring and small group classes.

The Council's next Tutor Training Workshops will be held in Chapel Hill:

Saturday, September 21,  
9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Monday, September 23,  
6:00-8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 25,  
6:00–8:30 p.m.

We ask all prospective tutors to participate in one of four orientation sessions that will be offered prior to the workshop:

Monday, August 19,  
6:00-7:30 p.m. Room 105  
Skills Dev. Center, CH

Wednesday, August 28,  
12:00-1:00 p.m.  
Orange County Public Library, HBRO

Wednesday, Sept. 11,  
12:00-1:30 p.m., Room 101,  
Skills Dev. Center, CH

Monday, September 16,  
6:00-7:00 p.m.,  
Orange County Public Library, HBRO



## Welcome New Tutors!

The following tutors completed the May Tutor Training Workshop. Welcome to our community of learners!

Celestine Croaker	Charles Irish
Gail Fairbanks	Nancy Sward



## Great Human Race Benefits OCLC

On March 23, Loryn Barnes, Polly Moreau, Ellen Lee, Nancy Morton, and Kathy Young returned for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year to represent Team OCLC in the Durham Volunteer Center’s Great Human Race. Joining the team for the first time this year were Patricia Gee, Steve Morgan, Willis Brooks, Lucy Lewis, and two Hillsborough supporters. Thanks to Loryn Barnes for coordinating this effort, and to all those who participated in walking, running, and soliciting pledges – and to everyone who pledged for a race participant, too! The Literacy Council raised twice as much money for adult literacy as the year before. If you missed out on the fun this year, think about joining us next year on March 23.

### Thank You!

The Literacy Council depends on the Friends of the OCLC for critical financial support. Many thanks to our new and continuing Friends:

Sally Almekinders  
 Linda and Barry Browner  
*in honor of Nate Gallagher*  
 Chapel Hill Rotary Club  
 Chapel Hill Wachovia’s  
 Advisory Board  
 Chapel of the Cross  
 Christine McFarlaneEdwards  
 George and Mary Esser  
 Folio Book Club  
 GlaxoSmithKline

Hillsborough United  
 Methodist Church  
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 Virginia Joines  
 Roberta Justice-Miles  
 Betty Landsberger  
 Virginia Joines  
 Bob Keever  
 Ellen Lee  
 Roni Liberman  
 Nancy Morton  
 J. Saltzman  
 Roland Schmidt  
 Louise and Chuck Stone  
 StrowdRoses Foundation  
 Stick and Theresa Williams  
 Vanguard Charitable Endowment

## LitARTcy Auction

The Raleigh chapter of the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA) sponsored LitARTcy, a wonderful art auction to help fight illiteracy in the Triangle, on February 21. The Orange, Durham, and Wake Literacy Councils were the beneficiaries of this very successful event, which featured a silent and live auction of artworks donated by Triangle artists. Many thanks to the Raleigh AIGA, Anne Winslow, Shauna Queen, and David Burney for their generous support of adult literacy and for helping to raise community awareness about the needs of adult learners in our

### Thank You to:

- Kelly Peak for designing OCLC Read’s new look and layout
- Dr. Barry Adler for providing a free eye exam and glasses to an OCLC learner
- Dr. Eric F. Rodgers for providing a free eye exam and glasses to an OCLC learner
- Dr. David Kroninger for donating a free eye exam to an OCLC learner
- Carrburitos for donating funds for a Certified Nursing Assistant Manual and Workbook for an adult learner
- Angela Liu, our APPLES volunteer, who designed a new display board
- Winnie Morgan for donating books
- Chapel Hill Bible Church for providing space for tutoring
- IFC Creative Writing Team for donating notebooks and pens
- Susan Attermeier and Doris Hayes for speaking to community groups
- Susan Attermeier, Loryn Barnes, Pat Brooks, Bill Burston, Joan Leber, Nancy Morton, Barbara Tepperman, Sue Pearce, and Rita Weimer for staffing the OCLC table at NC Literacy Festival, Apple Chill, and Weaver Street Volunteer Fair

**BECOME A FRIEND OF LITERACY**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to become a friend of the OCLC.  
Enclosed is a tax-deductible contribution of:

- ☛ \$1,000 supports additional staff hours
- ☛ 500 subsidizes an edition of the newsletter
- ☛ 100 subsidizes a tutor training workshop
- ☛ 50 purchases PhonoGraphix workbooks
- ☛ 25 provides an adult learner with workbooks for a year

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
Orange County Literacy Council  
503 W. Franklin St.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

☛ Please do not mention my name in newsletter.

**Thank you for supporting adult literacy!**


ORANGE COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL  
FALL FUNDRAISER

# Celebrate Literacy!

October 13  
2-4 pm


with  
**Authors and Booksellers** plus  
Food and Drink  
Local Music  
Silent Auction  
Book Signings

Author Readings from  
Sarah Dessen  
Daniel Wallace  
Nancy Peacock



**Carrboro Century Center**  
100 N. Greensboro Street, Carrboro

Tickets \$20 – Available by calling the OCLC at 933-2151  
or at the event



ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE ORANGE COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL.

**Orange County Literacy Council**  
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