



READ

503 West Franklin Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27516
2001

Winter

Council Celebrates “Planting the Seeds of Literacy”

The Literacy Council’s annual Appreciation Banquet was held on December 5 at the Big Barn in Hillsborough. More than 125 adult learners, tutors, volunteers, staff and their families attended. The banquet continued this year’s theme, “It’s Never Too Late to Plant the Seeds of Literacy.”

Board member Reverend Bob Kever opened the event with an invocation. Outgoing President Loryn Barnes then conducted the installation of new officers Polly Moreau, President; Patricia Gee, Vice President; and Allan Conley, Treasurer. Loryn then presented a certificate to outgoing Board member and OCLC co-founder Susan Attermeier, recognizing her “extraordinary commitment and dedication in founding and leading the Council for 16 years.”



**John Taylor
inspires
banquet
audience
with his
remarks**

The power of literacy was demonstrated by John Taylor, the evening’s key speaker. John inspired everyone present with his speech. “Talking about things with my tutor helps me to know that I can do the things I want to do. I feel good about myself. When I started, I didn’t think I could make it. This was my third time...I’m making it now, because

it’s something I’m doing for myself – not because someone’s making me do it. I feel like I’m an old man

doing this. I know if I can do it at 42 that lots of younger people who are embarrassed about their reading skills can do it too.” John cited George Dawson, author of Life Is So Good, as his role model because Dawson learned to read when he was 102.

John said that more than anything else he wanted to learn to read the Bible. He then read Psalm 133. Finally, John thanked many of those present for their help and support, including his wife Evelyn, his tutor Jean Stasi, and his boss at the Holiday Inn, Thomas King.

Kathy Alberter, Northern Orange Program Coordinator and Linda Browner, Southern Orange Program Coordinator, presented Student Awards to Mary Alston, James Bloodworth, Brenda Carden, Gloria DeGraffenreid,



Lessie Fowler, Deborah Harris, Larry Holt, Louise Evans Lawson, Michelle Page, and Will Hardman. All students were recognized for their hard work and accomplishments.

**Barbara Kuligowski presents Tutor Award
to Susan Dennis**

Barbara Kuligowski presented Tutor Awards to Susan Dennis, Mamie Ginsberg and Bob Magan for their special contributions. Jane Frederick received the award for most tutoring hours. All tutors were recognized for their dedication and commitment. Polly Moreau gave a salute to the Board and Staff. Director Lucy Lewis concluded the evening with a brief summation of the year's highlights and thanked everyone for their commitment to adult literacy.

READ-A-WEEK APRIL 10-17

The Orange County Literacy Council is proud to be participating in the first Orange County Read-A-Week from April 10-17. This effort is being sponsored by the Orange County READS initiative. Schools, community organizations and civic groups, faith communities, and businesses are being encouraged to join in proclaiming April 10-17 as READ-A-WEEK in Orange County. Participating groups are asked to use a portion of their regular school or business day or meeting time for reading activities, and to report their results by submitting a "Report Card" to the Literacy Council. We will compile the results and share them with the community.

Orange County READS has developed a Read-A-Week information packet, which includes a sample proclamation, Steps to Success, and a Report Card. The packet includes suggested reading activities including:

- inviting a storyteller to read to a group,
- asking older readers to read to younger members,
- asking younger members to read to older members,
- inviting local writers to read and discuss portions of their books,
- setting up a READ-A-Week Center filled with books for members to check out.

The OCLC Board adopted a proclamation supporting Read-A-Week at its March 15 meeting. The Board will participate by having each member bring a favorite book to read from at its annual retreat in April. The Board encourages all of our tutors and adult learners to ask their business, church or religious community, or civic group to participate, too. Contact the Literacy Council at 933-2151 for an information packet and Report Card.

According to Keith Cook, Vice-Chair of the Orange County Board of Education, "Our goal is to make literacy and lifelong learning a positive and ongoing part of the life of our community. We hope everyone in Orange County will participate in a READ-A-WEEK activity in some way and have a great time reading."

The goals of Orange County READS include promoting a positive climate regarding literacy and lifelong learning, increasing community awareness, support, and participation for existing literacy programs, and piloting projects that promote literacy development across generations. The committee hopes to make READ-A-WEEK an annual event as part of its efforts to eliminate adult literacy in Orange County and help all parents help their children be ready for, and succeed in, school.

volunteer tutor once or twice a week. Tutors work with students to achieve the learner's short and long-

OCLC PROGRAMS

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READ

Read-A-Week April 16-22

The Literacy Council is proud to be participating in the second annual Orange County Read-A-Week from April 16-22. Schools, community organizations and civic groups, faith communities, and businesses are once again being encouraged to join in proclaiming April 16-22 as READ-A-WEEK in Orange County. Participating groups are asked to use a portion of their regular school or business day or meeting time for reading activities, and to report their results by submitting a "Report Card".

Orange County READS has developed a Read-A-Week information packet, which includes a sample Proclamation, Steps to Success, and a Report Card. The packet includes suggested reading activities including:

- asking older readers to read to younger members,
- asking younger members to read to older members,
- inviting local writers to read and discuss portions of their books,
- setting up a READ-A-Week Center filled with books for members to check out.



This effort is being sponsored by the Orange County READS initiative as part of its efforts to eliminate adult illiteracy in Orange County and help all parents help their children be ready for, and succeed in, school. The Board encourages all of our tutors and adult learners to ask their business, church or religious community, or civic group to participate, too. Contact OCLC at 933-2151 for an information packet and Report Card.

Welcome and Thank-Yous to Board

We are fortunate to have a terrific new group of officers for our Board of Directors! Incoming President Polly Moreau is a member of our Fundraising Committee and Community Outreach Committee. Moreau, a retired teacher who taught 3rd and 4th graders at Ephesus and Glenwood Elementary Schools, has lived in Chapel Hill for 32 years and tutored an adult learner for the past six years. Vice-President Patricia Gee is also President of Gee Associates, Inc., a consulting practice specializing in program consultation, design and administration for public and private organizations. She is currently administering a welfare-to-work initiative for Orange County. Gee is a member of our Personnel Committee. Allan Conley returns for another year as OCLC Treasurer. He is a Senior Information Systems Auditor with BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina. Conley founded the Rutherford County Adult Literacy Council in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Susan Attermeier, the co-founder of the Literacy Council, is taking a break from the Board after serving since its inception 16 years ago. Susan has made it clear that this is a lifelong commitment, and we are privileged that she will continue as a key member of our Tutor Training Team and other Council activities. Tim Crowley, who has challenged the Council to set and reach new heights with our fundraising efforts, is also retiring from the Board but not from assisting the Fundraising Committee. We also want to thank retiring Board members Betsey Stikeleather and Charlotte Ruth for their commitment and hard work. According to Polly Moreau, "It has been my privilege to be associated with the Orange County Literacy Council, and is an honor to serve as President next year. Lives really are

changed by the commitment of our literacy volunteers, our board members, and our staff to our goal of achieving 100% literacy in Orange County. Our services to adult learners are growing, and our future looks very bright. It's inspiring to be a part of this organization, and I look forward to an exciting year!"

READ

Computer Literacy

This is the second part of an article by Jason Pulley and Eric Taylor, reprinted from Freedom Express, a publication of the inmates at Orange County Correctional Center. Part 1 of this article appeared in the fall edition of READ.



In 1997 the Freedom Express was created by a group of inmates. It seemed that publishing this newspaper would be a good use for some of the computers in the trailer at the time. Permission was granted for this, and several of us gathered down here every evening for about a month to work on articles and discuss ideas for layout and design. Finally, in the end of February our first issue came out – the beginning of a project that would grow beyond the Freedom Express itself and become an opportunity for others to learn basic computer literacy...

The Orange Literacy Council has been sending tutors to Orange County Correctional Center for the last three years. A group of at least a half dozen tutors has done individual literacy tutoring, writing classes and family literacy workshops for many of the guys here. As the computer resources improved in the trailer, it became clear that an opportunity existed to use them to aid in literacy tutoring. This inevitably led to the extension of literacy tutoring at OCC to include *computer* literacy and the arrival of two new tutors dedicated to that purpose.

Ruth Wolery and Jeff Weiss began computer tutoring sessions every Thursday from 3:30 to 5 p.m. After the first few signed up for tutoring, word spread quick. There are now over a dozen guys signed up for the Thursday sessions and interest continues to grow. Computer skills can prove invaluable in today's job market. Though it takes a fair amount of hard work and certifications to land careers in the six-digit range (increasingly common in the computer and software development industry), just the basics that can be picked up through literacy tutoring, such as what is being offered here, can be used

to get jobs with companies that will pay for your additional training – a foot in the door, as it's called. Anything that can improve job finding odds upon release from prison deserves a very close look.

In addition to Ruth and Jeff, another volunteer, Gretchen Coball, has worked one on one with Tommy Brodie. Tommy would like to thank Gretchen for working with him. "As a result of her time and efforts, I can now prepare letter, booklets and layouts on the compute, which before I couldn't work with." This wouldn't be possible without the devotion of concerned volunteers from the Orange County Literacy Council in helping inmates while incarcerated.

UPDATE from Kathy Alberter, Northern Orange Program Coordinator - The Literacy Council currently offers tutoring to many inmates at the Orange Correctional Center. Eight tutors meet 1:1 with students working on personal goals ranging from beginning reading to preparation for community college and employment. These tutors are John Wilson, Meg McGurk, Louise Long, Liza Farmer, David Rider, Susan Triplehorn, Mary DesHarnais and Elisa Slattery. Bob Magan meets with 8 math students, 1:1, in a math lab class. Mary DesHarnais and Gabriel DesHarnais offer a writing skills class each week serving 4-6 students. Jeffrey Weiss, David Rider and Americorps volunteer Annmarie McCaig offer a computer lab class each week serving 4-6 students per week.

Share Your Writings and Successes

There is a page in every issue of READ devoted to Literacy Council adult learners. Not only is this page an excellent resource for your lessons, but it is a way for students to publish their writing. Ask your student if he or she would like to see their work in print. And tutors, we welcome your stories, too. Please share your successes and stories with other tutors and adult learners.

Standardized Testing – Q&As

The OCLC began giving standardized tests to new adult learners in mid-January, and **we need your help** in developing a plan to test current students. We, along with literacy councils around the country, are going to be testing students to meet new federal requirements. We hope that this process can be a meaningful one for our students, tutors and staff. We are reprinting the following excerpts from the *Cape Fear Literacy Council Challenger*, written by Chris Turner, their learning difficulties consultant. We think it can address many of the questions that our students and their tutors may have. We appreciate our sister council's willingness to share the lessons they are learning.

Why is the Literacy Council doing testing? The U.S. Department of Education provides federal funding to adult education and literacy programs. Here in North Carolina, this money is distributed by the Community College System. Programs that receive this funding are being required to test all of their adult students using a standardized test. In order for us to continue to be eligible for this funding -- (*about \$26,000 a year for the Orange County Literacy Council*) – we must administer these tests.

What is a standardized test? Standardized tests are given and scored in an objective manner following carefully constructed procedures...The tests we use have also been normed. In other words the scoring system has been established by looking at the test results of a large group of adult education students. Your student's results will be compared to that group.

What tests are you using? We had a number of fairly similar tests to choose from. We will use the TABE, the Test of Adult Basic Education for literacy students... (*OCLC will also be using the TABE, which has been used by Durham Technical Community College for a number of years.*) It is a multiple choice test with three parts: Reading, Language (including grammar and spelling) and Math. It is a criterion referenced test, meaning that the test results tell us how well a student has mastered specific skills...

How often will you give the test and how long will it take? The first test establishes a starting point and is called the pre-test. The second test is usually given

after at least 50 hours of instruction and is called the post-test. The difference in results will tell us something about the progress as student has made during a year. (*The length of time necessary for the test depends on the student's literacy level and how many areas they are working on. For example, we will only give the math portion to students who are working on math.*)

How will testing help my student and me? As I have been working with tutors and students over the last month, I have noticed three ways that I believe testing will help you:

1. Tests reveal specific strengths and weaknesses

These tests give us precise information that we can use to give you better advice about what areas to concentrate on and what materials and activities to use...Last week for example, I tested a student who had been having great difficulty. Her test results showed what we call splinter skills – although she could do some things, she showed big gaps in her skills. These gaps are preventing her from building on what she knows. Now she and her tutor will be able to fill in those gaps and I think ultimately she will make better progress.

2. Tests demonstrate progress Secondly, we believe that tutors and students deserve to have an objective picture of the progress they are making. We think that most tutors and students will find this motivating. For example, last week I talked with a tutor who felt that her student had not been making much progress in the last few months. After giving him a pre-test, we looked at the areas he had done well in and she laughed and said, "that's what we are working on." ...

3. Test-taking is an important life skill Thirdly, we live in a test-taking, form-filling age. One of the things we do before we test students is to teach them *how* to take a test...

Do you foresee any problems with testing? Yes, but we are working to minimize the problems. The greatest is that testing is not fun for most people...I have been pleasantly surprised so far that most students seem to welcome the opportunity to find out what they can do and where they are...We are trying to make the testing as non-threatening and as useful as possible. The other problem is time. It may be as difficult to get students to

get in for their test as it can be for dentists to get patients to come in for their check up. We need you to encourage them.

How can I prepare my student for testing? There is absolutely no need to study for these tests or teach to the test. The main preparation students need is to understand that this is not school. We do not give grades and there is no failure. You can help your student to relax and develop a spirit of curiosity about learning. Just encourage them to do the best they can on the test...

We will be inviting tutors to receive training so that they can help us by giving the test to students. Thank you!

are asking all tutors to work

If you have a student who is interested, please ask them to call the OCLC at 933-2151 and leave their names, contact information, and a day and time preference.

GOODBYE PAULA

Who would have thought that the time would fly by so quickly? I've decided to keep this "good-bye" letter short and sweet, and not to consider it so much as "good-bye" but more so as a "till I see you again."

I wish the Orange County Literacy Council nothing less than the best of luck in the agency's future endeavors. I leave a huge thanks to all of the tutors who put so much time and dedication in making a difference in an adult learner's life. I wish you all success in your matches with your students as well as in your personal lives.

I would like to say thank you to the Literacy Council Board for working so hard and commend them for the continued success of the OCLC. Lucy, Kathy, Linda and Christine, I thank you most of all for the support that you have given me since the day that I first arrived. I wish AnnMarie, the intern who will be taking over my responsibilities, the BEST of luck!! She is eager to make a difference and will continue to be a great asset to the Council.

Most of all, I would like to commend all of the Literacy Council students for working towards their goals and their continued motivations. Remember that it is not easy to face what we sometimes see as a weakness in our lives, for anyone. So keep up the hard work! I will miss all of you and I have learned so many things from you.

So this is not good-bye. Thanks again to all of you, and I look forward to hearing great things of the Literacy Council's endeavors in the future.

*- Paula Borden; Paula was our AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteer for 2 years. Thanks Paula for all of your hard work and dedication. We will miss you too, and wish you the best! AnnMarie McCaig, our new Americorps* volunteer comes to us through the Chapel of the Cross; she will introduce herself in the next newsletter.*

WELCOME NEW TUTORS

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

Liza Farmer	Marion Davies	Melina Piluras
Joan George	Marina Heatzig	David Rider
Karen Isaacs	Karen Hendry	Jan Ritchea
Judy Via	Grace Ann Hovet	Elisa Slattery
Carol Wolford	Theodore Hovet	Pearson
Stewart		
Ann Bajua	Spencie Love	Elizabeth
Wheeler		
Kathy Breen	Lisa Lynch	Teshania
Wiley		
Mary Collier	AnnMarie McCaig	Brent Winter
Marion Davies	Jeff Nolan	

READ**Thank You Friends of OCLC**

The Literacy Council depends on the Friends of the OCLC for critical financial support. Many thanks to recent donors and to the new and continuing Friends who contributed to our Annual Appeal: P.B. Adams, Susan Attermeier, Ann Baker and Michael Lienesch, Gary and Barbara Barnes, Loryn Barnes, Flicka Bateman, Virginia Belasco in appreciation of Linda Browner, Stephen Bernard, Stuart Bondorant, Rita and James Borden, Donald Boulton, George Brooks and Elaine Rivron in honor of Willis Brooks, Linda Brooks, Willis Brooks, University Presbyterian Church, Rosanne Coggeshall, Keith Cook, Sarah Cooley, Anna Cotterill, Phyllis Cowell, Tim Crowley, Bonnie Davis, Cathy Derian, Rita Econopouly, Clyde Edgerton, Nina Forsyth, The Kenan Family Foundation, George Gamble, Patricia Gee, Anita and Gerald Gershten, Bill and Leesie Gutheridge, Roxanne Gwyn, Carol and Keith Haynie, Virginia Hebbert in honor of Sylvia Woodgates' birthday, Scott Herman-Giddens, Elizabeth Holder in honor of Gladys Matthewson, Barry Jacobs, Ellen Johnson, Pat Langston, Eloise Lawson, Albert and Judith Lilley, Paul and Caroline Lindsay, Beverly Long, Gladys Matthewson, Mike Myer and Lorie Zink, Ruth Mitchell, Catherine Page Moreau, Brendan Moylan, Grace Neisler Foundation, Robert and Aubrey Nutter, Wendy Olson, Mrs. John Parker, William Perrault, Jr. and Pamela Perrault, Mike and Jackie Philips, J.D. Phillips, Molly Pratt, David and Lisa Price, Sylvia Price, Jeff and Melanie Raskin, Rho, Inc., Nancy Runkle, Bob and Pearl Seymour, Naomi Slifkin, Jean Stasi, Robert and Nancy Verboon, Robert and Jean Wagner, Bob and Rita Weimer, Holly Welstein, Sheldon and Edith Wiggins, Betty Zelman, ZONTA

Thank You To:

- Kathy Breen and Jackie Ross for assisting at the Community Agencies Fair at University Mall
- Bill Burston, Nina Forsyth, Polly Moreau, Rita Weimer and Carol Wolford for helping with the Appreciation Banquet
- Goodwill #3 4H Club members Ken Florence, April Fuller, Jessica Van Hook, Johnathan Van Hook and

Joshua Van Hook for serving at the Appreciation Banquet

- C.G.S. Extension Homemaker Club members Brenda Van Hook and Hattie Van Hook for serving at the Appreciation Banquet
- Ellen Lee for donating adult learner notebooks
- Betsey Stikeleather for her donation of a computer
- Dr. Laurel Gropper, Dr. Eric Rodgers, and Dr. Richard Mackowsky for providing vision services to students
- Mindspring, for providing Internet access to our Hillsborough office and adult learners

Barnes & Noble Fundraiser

On December 16, Barnes & Noble provided the opportunity

for tutors, adult learners, and staff to giftwrap books at their store for customer donations. Thanks to Linda Browner, Allan Conley, Sarah Cooley, Ed Durand, Linda Esner, Luli Gray, Velverton Land, Anmarie McCaig, Christina Rice, Ahnie Rising, Elisa Slattery, Suzanne Unger, and Sandra Yaggy for their help in making this fundraiser a big success. And many thanks to Barnes & Noble!

**Books for Tots**

Jeff Schmitt has successfully coordinated the Northern Orange Toys for Tots drive for the last five years. This year Jeff and his wife, Linda, a tutor and advocate for the Orange County Literacy Council, received 1,175 books through Scholastic Books for Toys for Tots. The Schmitts, in conjunction with the Literacy Council, donated these books to Orange County Schools system's elementary schools for distribution to students who might not otherwise have received a book during the holiday season. Thanks to Jeff and Linda for their efforts on behalf of children and for promoting literacy and the work of the Literacy Council !

Welcome Annmarie

I am now “on board” with the Literacy Council and it’s a pleasure, I might add. Looking ahead, I see an adventure of sailing with adult learners to lands never reached before. I hope that some of my clients will complete the GED, read a book from start to finish, or learn some marketable computer-based literacy skills. It’s exciting to be part of the journey that each student has begun.

This fall I started the unique Johnson Intern Program through the Chapel of the Cross Episcopal Church. This program enables me to have a varied lifestyle of work, study, worship and play while I live in community with two other women in the same program. I’m finding my placement to suit my interests and my need to be involved in social outreach. I am continuing the computer-based literacy program that VISTA volunteer Paula Borden began. I hope it will breed great opportunity for many adult learners. – *AnnMarie McCaig (We are delighted to have Annmarie working with us - she is doing a great job!)* See the next newsletter for more info about what she has been doing.

At first I worked with Paula Borden, the VISTA volunteer of 2 years, and found that she is a remarkable individual. She is now working elsewhere, but she has taken giant steps to birth and implement a computer-based literacy program.

EVERY CLICK COUNTS

Earn money for the Orange County Literacy Council every time you surf or shop on the Web.

Visit the WebVillage* created for the Orange County Literacy Council at www.4mycommunity.com

Here’s all you need to do:

1. Go to www.4mycommunity.com
2. Type in the OCLC zip code, 27516
3. Select the Other Community Organizations button
4. Click on Orange County Literacy Council

The Village web page includes a list of numerous vendors. Anyone can shop and purchase items from these vendors via the web (at the same price as a purchase directly through their site) and a percentage of the money will be contributed to the Literacy Council.

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

OCLC READ

BECOME A FRIEND OF LITERACY

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I would like to become a friend of the OCLC.

Enclosed is a tax-deductible contribution of:

- \$1,000 purchases GED prep software
- \$500 purchases phonics literacy software
- \$100 subsidizes a tutor training workshop
- \$ 50 purchases PhonoGraphix workbooks
- \$ 25 provides an adult learner with workbooks

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!

HOLD THIS DATE!

Sunday, October 14

Fearrington Village Barn

Authors & Booklovers Celebrate Literacy

Annual Fall Fundraiser



Tutors - Adult Learners - Literacy Supporters
Join *THE GREAT HUMAN RACE*
Sunday, March 24, 9am, Durham Bulls Athletic Park

The Orange County Literacy Council is joining other area non-profits in this major fundraiser which includes a 5K road race and a 5k fun run/walk/wheel chair roll. Prizes, T-shirts, entertainment, and refreshments are part of the festivities. So - get out your running shoes and join our team! Board President Polly Moreau will head the OCLC team, which already includes Loryn McCaig, Lindsay Wallace, and Suzanne Unger. Your Barnes, AnnMarie job will be to help us reach our goal of **\$2,000 for adult literacy workbooks and software** by asking family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to sponsor you with a tax-deductible contribution to the Great Human Race.

To receive additional information, register, or make a pledge for a member of the OCLC team, call the Literacy Council at 933-2151 today!

Orange County Literacy Council
503 W. Franklin Street

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