



WALC TALK

NOVEMBER 2010

New Board Installed



Back Row (L-R): Denette Boyd, Eva Moreno, C. L. Carr, Anna Hinkle, Pat Almada,, Elizabeth Cruz, Mary Ellen De Santos, Rebecca Jimenez-Pacheco. Front Row (L-R): Susan Mitchell, Virginia Salazar.

June the 5th, 2010 brought in the installation of the new Executive Board of Directors. Before the installation commenced, lunch was enjoyed by everyone at the China Wall Restaurant with family and friends present to celebrate the incoming new board. Former Second Vice President Patricia Almada is now serving as President. C.L. Carr is First Vice President, Rebecca Jimenez-Pacheco is Recording Secretary and Gloria Boone is Corresponding Secretary. Susan Mitchell continues as Treasurer and Virginia Salazar as Publicity Chair. Lisa Dabbs was appointed Fund Raising Chair and Cristina Gardner was appointed Family Literacy Coordinator. Mary Ellen De Santos continues as Hospitality Chair along with the new position of Program Evaluator. New members to the Board include Denette Boyd as Parliamentarian, Anna Hinkle as Library/City Liason, and former Board member Eva Moreno as Inspirational Chair.

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pat Almada,
President

C.L. Carr,
1st Vice President

Open,
2nd Vice President

Rebecca Pacheco,
Recording Secretary

Gloria Boone,
Corresponding Secretary

Lisa Dabbs,
Fund Raising Chair

Eva Moreno,
Inspirational Chair

Mary Ellen De Santos,
Hospitality Chair

Denette Boyd,
Parliamentarian

Virginia Salazar,
Publicity Coordinator

Cristina Gardner,
Family Literacy

Anna Hinkle,
Library/City Liason

Open, Newsletter
Open, Historian

ADVISORY BOARD

Donna Smith
Paymaneh Maghsoudi
Bruce Lindsay

President's Message by Patricia Almada

In June of this year I became president of WALC. I took on this important task with anticipation, hope, concern and humility often thinking about the people who held this post immediately before me, Allen Rious and Cel Carr. I admire their dedication, patience and persistence and can only hope that I will be able measure up to some degree. I am

very thankful to be surrounded by an extremely hard working board of directors and Sinda Cruz as our administrative assistant. Working together, we hope to support our tutors and students and to make our program grow during these difficult times.

In order to secure funding for our council, we are focusing on gathering data

to show the effectiveness of program. One way we do this is by assessing students when they start tutoring and then 8-9 months later. This "hard data" is appreciated by donors and grantors. Sometimes students stop receiving services sooner that we had hoped but it is important that we measure their growth also.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- TUTOR APPRECIATION WEEK
DEC 6-9
- TUTOR TRAINING
JAN. 15, 22, 29
- TUTOR SUPPORT WORKSHOP
FEB. 8
- SOUP & A GOOD BOOK
MARCH 19TH

Student Recognition Awards



Theresa Barrios, tutor and student



On May 15th, 2010 the Whittier Area Literacy Council, Inc. held their Student Recognition Awards. Tutors presented students with a certificate for a variety of achievements in areas of literacy and English Language skills. Over fifty students, family members, friends, tutors, and board members were present to celebrate the students' growth and progress in language and literacy development. The afternoon event began with lunch which was enjoyed

by all and featured a variety of pizzas from Brickhouse Pizza.

All who attended were given a raffle ticket for a chance to win a door prize. Prizes consisted of certificates donated by Brickhouse Pizza, The 6740 Pub, and movie certificates. Other prizes included candy, games, and books.

This event provided an opportunity for all who attend the Learning Center to come together as one and socialize.

The Student Recognition Awards was a great success due to the attendance of many students and tutors.

STATISTICAL UPDATE:

- 75 STUDENTS
- 22 CHILDREN
- 12 ADULTS
- 41 ESL
- 44 ACTIVE TUTORS

New Tutors Recruited for Literacy Center

September was a great month for tutor recruitment. Thirteen volunteers completed the tutor training sessions. Patricia Almada, Board Member and tutor trainer conducted the first two sessions. Natalia Martinez, an educator, presented the final session on tutoring ESL students. Volunteers learned about tutoring

from various sources, such as the banner that was hung across Whittier Blvd., the Volunteer Match website, Facebook, ads run in the newspaper, and from other Board Members.

Many students, who have been on the waiting list, were placed with tutors and are currently receiving services at the

Literacy Center. The Literacy Center provides an invaluable service to the community with the free tutoring offered. This service couldn't be offered to the community without the volunteers who help make this program successful.

Even though there was a great show of interest in tutoring, there is still a shortage of

tutors. The next training will begin in January. All those who would like to give back to the community are encouraged to become a volunteer tutor.

**UPCOMING TUTOR TRAINING:

JAN. 15th, 22nd, & 29th

President's Message (Cont'd)

Tutors are often surprised by how much growth is achieved even in a short period of time. Please make sure you alert Sinda if you suspect that your student might be leaving the program so she can re-assess them before they leave.

Another way we can collect data is by completion of SMART student goals. SMART goals are: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely.

SMART goals are set up by the student in collaboration with the tutor. They are motivating because they are short term and achievable. We all love the feeling of completing a task! Here are some examples of SMART goals: I will finish reading this novel by March 1st, 2011; I will learn English so I can have a conference with my child's teacher in February of 2011; I will get at least 90% on my next 4 spelling tests; I will complete the Challenger 4 book by April 20th, 2011; I will read 300 sight words in 5 minutes or less by January 30th, 2011. I encourage you to set up a SMART goal with your student and please share it with Sinda. She will be happy to print out a special SMART GOAL CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION for your student as soon as the goal has

been met. Thank you to tutor Jim Sass for suggesting this idea!

Finally, a plea for more tutors! Training for new tutors begins on January 15th, 2011. Please ask friends, family and neighbors to become involved in our important work!



Family Literacy Night



On October 12th, Suzanne Ausdale, a representative from Union Bank hosted the presentation 'Financial Literacy: Learning to Save and Use Money Wisely' for the families and students of the Whittier Area Literacy Council. There were thirty-

two in attendance at the presentation which included tips on saving for college and other major monetary investments. Everyone in attendance enjoyed dinner and dessert. Ms. Ausdale concluded with a question



and answer forum for the audience.

This is the second time Union Bank and Ms. Ausdale have presented at a Family Literacy Night. The first time was conducted in April, at which time Bonnie Weber from the Whittier Public Li-



brary also hosted a presentation for participants on programs available from the library, such as the Home Center, which is for students from 2nd to 12th grade, or the Adult Learning Resources, located on the upper level of the library.

Volunteer of the Year Award 2009-2010



The Whittier Area Literacy Council, Inc. recognized Mary Ellen De Santos by presenting

her with a Volunteer of the Year certificate. Mary Ellen has dedicated countless hours towards preparing and planning events at the Literacy Center. She was instrumental in organizing the Summer Reading Program at the Center for the year 2009-2010. The Christmas Holiday event

was put together with Mary Ellen's decorative touch. She also planned and set up the memorial that was held for Allen Rious, a past President and tutor for the Center. The Student Recognition Awards was also a great success with Mary Ellen planning the event, which included

families and students. She has also been very active in running errands for the Center Office, keeping the supply room stocked with needed materials.

Mary Ellen, thank you for all that you do!

Make a Splash, READ!

Once again the Whittier Area Literacy Council, Inc., paired up with the Whittier Public Library for a summer reading program. The program began on June 14th, with eleven participants completing the program on July 31st. Cristina Gardner, Mary Ellen De Santos, Gloria Boone, and Anna Hinkle volunteered their time to

listen to students give oral book reports.

This year twice as many students completed the program, receiving a colorful T-shirt and an invitation to the 'The Seaside Celebration' event, which was held at Parnell Park.

Additionally, a raffle was held at the Center for the WALC students that read

more than the four book requirement.

Four lucky winners each won a \$25.00 gift card to Borders Bookstore!

Studies show that students who read throughout summer breaks have a significantly higher level of reading achievement.



L-R: Alfredo, winner of a \$25.00 gift card, with his tutor Laura



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The following is a story written by one of our adult literacy learners who has been in our program for two years.

GED GOLD TROPHY

By Mario, July 15, 2010

Better than the Super Bowl touchdown winner, better than the last two seconds basket in the NBA finals, better than the "GOOOOOOL" winner of the soccer World Cup in South Africa, and many other trophies of victory, including the 660 pound gold trophy that Attila the Barbarian, king of the Huns captured from the Italians. So, better than all these trophies together, it is going to be my gold, diamonds and emeralds GED trophy when I will get it into my hands.

But with the cheers of inspiration of "SI SE PUEDE" (Yes, we can) from the Three Caballeros, who are the Brazilian cigar smoking Jose Carioca, the one and only Donald Duck and the Mexican pistol packing rooster, Pancho Pistolas with his modern defense system of high beam energy laser of chemical bullets on his pistol, I am confident

that with this special one-of-a-kind back-up and the help of my tutor, I will survive and triumph at the end of this adventure.

Mainly with the help of my coach and tutor, who is training me to get the knightly virtue of courage in how to master better writing skills and verbal communication in English as my second language and also, how to solve scary and ugly mathematics word problems.

I am confident that with their encouragement and the Weapons of Mass Instruction in which I am training on how to write complete sentences and correct punctuation, I will be ready to enter the arena when the time is ripe.

I know this is going for all the marbles, and the whole enchilada is at stake, taking no prisoners. Jupiter, Mars and Venus will witness a rumble in the galaxies like never before in the history of the universe.

I also will be armed with commas, periods and quotation marks. I will have a Mickey Mouse pen, a sharp Speedy Gonzalez pencil and a neat Dora notebook. My coat of arms, of course will be Donald Duck's picture with the insurance of "SI SE PUEDE" and this motto will give me good feelings, strong emo-

tions and great power to ward off blows from the bombing of run-on sentences, monomials, binomials and trinomials.

I hope that I will beat the Grim Reaper, his wife Mrs. Catrina and their bunch of chupacabras, and to become victorious after this incredible match. I will be singing, strutting and dancing better than Shakira, so the people of Whittier, California, will pave the Uptown Whittier's Greenleaf Avenue with carpets of flowers and a parade ten times more than the Lakers' fans, and all this will happen, when I will cross the Arch of Triumph between the Rocky Cola Café and Starbuck's.

But for now, I keep busy ducking the attacks of "La Parka" and friends, that they are trying to get my GED first, but I will tell them "No way, Jose!" I am sharpening my pencils and learning how to use the computer to counter attack, and get my "GED GOLD TROPHY" at the end of my training.

So, the moral of this story is that if you are not yet seventy-years old, you better get your "GED GOLD TROPHY" as soon as possible, before La Calaca (death) gets your bones.

Scrabble® Tournament a Rousing Success

By Brandi Tolleson

The Literacy Council would like to thank the individuals and local businesses who supported our 2010 4th Annual Scrabble® Challenge. Our sponsors included the following businesses and individuals: Amachi Restaurant, Dr. Almada, Bart McNeil, C.L. Carr, City of Whittier, Crepes & Grapes Café, Gail Chabran, Isabelle Marie Salon, Lilly's Cottage, Lucy Sacco, Mary Ellen De Santos, Mimo's Café, Mimi's Café, No Fun Left Behind, Parnell Park, Patricia Almada, Pour le Bain, Rebecca Jimenez-Pacheco, Rocky Cola Café, Margie Rodriguez, Salon Cheval, Shelly



L-R: Rosa Stark, Ida Sacco, Jane Rucker, Linnea Bryant

Spiegel Coleman, Starbucks Coffee, Teri Medina's Really Great Stuff, and Whittier Village Cinemas. We particularly wish to thank our event Emcees, Lisa Dabbs and Anna Hinkle, and our judges Raul Almada,

Cristina Gardner, Maricella Ibarra and Marisa Oste for making this event a success!

This year's Challenge, which received a larger turnout than the previous year, encompassed players of all ages and skill levels who enjoyed good food and raffle prizes sponsored by businesses in the Whittier area. The team "Four Peas in a Pod", formed by the Ponce family, not only took home the prize for the highest scoring table, but also had the member with

the highest individual score.

Our Scrabble® Challenge is held every year in October, so those of you who could not participate this year will have another chance to hone your skills for next year!