

# Between Us



Learner Leader Program

Palm Beach County Library Adult Literacy Project

Winter/Spring 2010

## LITERACY AMERICORPS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

By Brandon Light

Americorps is a government organization that places volunteers all over the country. Our goal is to "get things done". I have had the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of many people.

One of my first duties in Florida was to teach a program called *English Exchange*. We do activities and have many conversations to help students become more comfortable speaking English. It is a free class. I have already seen many successes come from these lessons. If you know of anyone who wants this help, please spread the word.

Help me celebrate the New Year. Join me on Thursdays for my free computer classes. They are at the Library Annex in Lake Worth.

### OUTREACH COMPUTER LAB



Carmen Walter, Brandon Light and Jan Pilkington

I teach a few different classes throughout the day. From 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. I teach basic computer classes. These classes are for beginners. Learn how to use the many parts of the computer. We'll talk about the many functions of the computer. Come and get your questions answered.

From 1:00-2:30 p.m. I hold classes that teach more advanced computer functions and programs. This includes lessons on Internet Explorer, Microsoft Word, Drive functions, My Computer and Control Panel Settings.

The last class I teach on Thursdays is from 2:30-4:00 p.m. Get more one-on-one help with many tools and functions of the computer. Learn how to search the Internet and set up a free e-mail account. Find out about Learning Express and USA Learns. Get help with online job applications and resume building.

If you want to take any of these classes, please call me at 649-5473. I look forward to meeting you.



## **A YEAR IN PHOTOS**



**English Exchange  
Main Library**



**Student and Tutor Appreciation Program  
Mabel Alarcon & Wallace Rubin**



**Peggy Smith and Lourie Tate**



**Celebration of Literacy Program  
Belle Glade Library**



**Adult Learner Book Club  
“The Scarlet Letter”**



**“The Bridegroom of Blowing Rock”  
Florida Stage**

# MY FRIDAY THE 13<sup>TH</sup> EXPERIENCE

By Beris Brown  
Greenacres Branch

I was on my way back home from Orlando, driving on I-95. I was alone in my car enjoying the music on the radio. All of a sudden a person driving a white Cadillac moved over into my lane and cut me off. They forced me off the road. My car flipped over and I landed on the roof. I was trapped!

Some people stopped and got me out of the car. Then, the police and a firemen came. It was amazing that I was not hurt. My wife came to get me and she was happy that I was OK. Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> turned out to be my lucky day.

## A NEED TO READ

By Stan Bowers

The Library Adult Literacy Program was my first school. I grew up on a farm in Jamaica. I never went to school and never learned to read. When I came to this country as a young man under the Jamaican Farm Program, I could not even sign my name. When I first started this program, I did not even know the letters of the alphabet. But, after studying with two of the best tutors, I have completed all of the books and have graduated from the Program.

It has not been easy, but with the help and support of my tutors, I kept struggling on and never gave up. Learning to read has opened up a whole new world to me.

It has given me so much self-confidence and changed my life. When I was laid off from my job, I was able to fill out applications and go for job interviews with much more confidence than ever before. If it wasn't for this program, I'm not sure where I would be today. I owe my life to this program and I will always be involved in it in whatever way I can. I want to encourage all of our students to never give up no matter what.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### *Swing!*

Wednesday, January 20, 2010  
Lake Worth Playhouse  
8:00 p.m.

### **Adult Learner Book Club**

"Lord Jim"  
Monday, February 22, 2010  
Library Annex  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

### *Coping Skills for Today's Economy*

Tuesday, March 23, 2010  
Library Annex  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

### *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*

Wednesday, April 14, 2010  
Lake Worth Playhouse  
8:00 p.m.

### **Adult Learner Book Club**

Title to be announced.  
Tuesday, May 18, 2010  
Library Annex  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

### *Budget Your Money - Stretch Your Dollars*

Tuesday, June 22, 2010  
Library Annex  
6:30-8:30 p.m.





## Career Goal Award Program

*By earning a new license  
or certification you could receive  
up to \$100!*

It's easy to do.

Take a moment to call the  
Volunteer Desk and learn more.

We're waiting to hear from you.

**561-649-5495**

## MY LIFE IN THE USA

By Amalia Velasquez  
West Boynton Branch

My name is Amalia and I am from Medellin, Columbia. I have been living in America for six years. We left Columbia because of the violence and political unrest. It was hard to leave the country of my birth. We had to abandon family, work and friends.

I had a stable life in South America. I graduated from college with a degree in Education and Humanities. For many years I was employed as an elementary school teacher, instructing young children to read and write in Spanish.

I have three children and they were all engaged in many activities in Medellin. My son played on hockey and basketball teams. He is also an excellent student. He recently received a scholarship to study Business Administration at F.I.U.

My daughters enjoyed ballet and skating while in Medellin. Now, the eldest daughter is enrolled at the Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of Arts. She is doing great. My youngest daughter is also an excellent student. She is always on the Honor Roll.

In time I have adapted to living in the Untied States. Much of my loneliness is gone and I have held several different jobs. I have done all of this while studying English and tending to my family.

Recently a friend recommended the Adult Literacy Project. Now I am attending a computer program for English. I would like to thank the Annex staff and its volunteers. They give all of their talent and time to help others. They help enrich our lives.

On a personal note. Bravo to my tutor, Mr. Seymour Goldstein, who is an excellent person and very professional teacher. Mucho Gracias!

## ADULT LEARNER BOOK CLUB PRESENTS:

### LORD JIM



JOSEPH CONRAD

Join Renée Nadel and follow the journey of a young English sailor as he searches for a second chance in life.

**Monday, February 22, 2010**

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Library Annex

Call for a copy of the book.  
561-649-5495 or 888-780-5151

# ENGLISH EXCHANGE

Free Informal Conversation Classes

## January and February Schedule

Mondays: 1:00-3:00 p.m.  
**West Boca Branch**

Mondays: 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
**Wellington Branch**

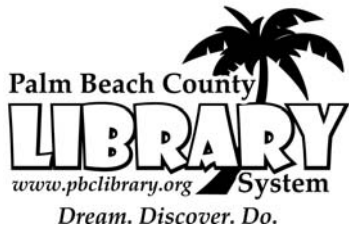
Tuesdays: 1:00-3:00 p.m.  
**Greenacres Branch**

Tuesdays: 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
**Main Library**

Wednesdays: 1:00-2:30 p.m.  
**Jupiter Branch**

Wednesdays: 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
**Lantana Branch**

Participants should have basic English skills.  
Call 649-5473 for more information.



**Palm Beach County  
Board of County Commissioners**

Burt Aaronson, Chair; Karen T. Marcus, Vice Chair;  
Jeff Koons, Shelley Vana, Steven L. Abrams,  
Jess R. Santamaria, Priscilla A. Taylor

Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach  
County  
Student Essay Contest

**"If I had one day to change the world,  
what would I do and why?"**



**Official Student Entry Form with  
instructions will be mailed.**

## THURSDAY COMPUTER CLASS

**10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**  
**Learn the basics of using a computer.**

Discover the main parts and functions of the  
computer - mouse, keyboard, speakers, tower  
and monitor.

**1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**  
**Study the more advanced computer  
programs and tasks.**

Explore Control Panel Settings, My  
Computer, Drive functions, Microsoft Word  
and Internet Explorer.

**2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**  
**Find information and get instruction on  
many online resources.**

Set up a free e-mail account. Practice  
applying for a job online. Get tips and help  
with searching the Internet. Find assistance  
using educational tools like USA Learns and  
Learning Express.

### **Learner Leader Committee:**

Rosalia Bledsoe, Stanford Bowers, Patrick Connors,  
Donet Dawes, Yves Joseph, Chad Anderson,  
Lourie Tate, Wilmot Balfour.

**Editor:** Brandon Light

**Learner Leader Advisor:** Carol Weyhe, Margaret Bookal

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