



WALC Talk Fall, 2011

Inside This Issue:

- [Page 1](#)
-President's Message
- [Page 2](#)
-Family Literacy
-Meet Julie!
- [Page 3](#)
-2011 Scrabble Challenge
- [Page 4](#)
-Help Us Reach Our Goal
-From Our Trainers
-Upcoming Events

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*President's Message: Celebrating Our
Past and Working Towards Our Future
By Patricia Almada*



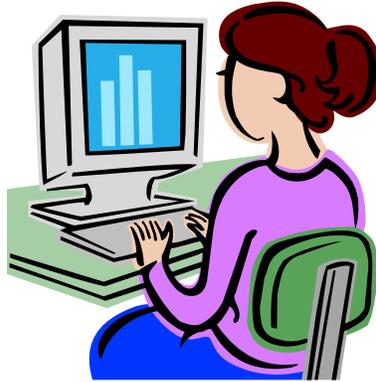
This year WALC celebrates its golden anniversary. It is amazing to think that literacy volunteers have provided free services for fifty years! We have a long and proud history. Our organization was founded on November 17th, 1961 by two local women, Evelyn Bisbee and Paula Derbyshire. They were inspired by a talk for the Whittier Area Council of Churches given by Dr. Frank Laubach at Whittier High School. Dr. Laubach was a missionary among the Maranao people of the Philippines. His concern about their poor living conditions led him to conclude that the ability to read and write was essential for them to begin to solve their problems. As the Maranaos learned to read, they would, in turn, teach other adults on a one-to-one basis that became known as "Each One Teach One." From 1935 to his death in 1970, Dr. Laubach visited 105 countries answering calls for literacy help and creating reading lessons in 315 languages. Mrs. Rosie McCabe became the first tutor trainer and she remained a trainer for over 20 years.

(continued on page 2)

President's Message

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Through the years, the council has evolved to meet the needs that arose. In the past, we offered training centers in La Habra, Fullerton, Santa Fe Springs, Los Nietos and Pico Rivera. Classes were held at local churches, the YMCA's, factories, neighborhood centers, public schools and private homes. Our trainers were called upon to train staff at the Metropolitan Hospital, marines at Camp Pendleton, parolees at CA Youth Authority camps, and foster grandparents at the Nelles School for Boys. Our program and materials may have changed along the way but our commitment to improving people's lives through literacy has remained as strong as ever. As we look into the future during these difficult economic times, we continue to look for sustainable sources of funding and renew our efforts to recruit, train and support our tutors, who are and always have been, our most valuable resource!



Family Literacy Night

On October 11th, 2011, WALC held its first of three Family Literacy Nights. Lisa Dabbs, M. Ed, Educational Consultant and WALC board member was our speaker for the evening. The topic was "Taste of Technology, Part-2." This was a follow up to our April Family Literacy Night regarding the same topic. Mrs. Dabbs talked about free web 2.0 tools that are available online for parent and student use. The information she shared was very useful to all.

WALC's next scheduled Family Literacy Night will take place Tuesday, February 7th, 2012 at 6:00pm. Cindy Trejo a nutritionist from Whittier Presbyterian Hospital will be our speaker. She will present valuable information regarding nutrition and fitness. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending.

Meet Julie...

I've been the Administrative Assistant for the Whittier Area Literacy Council for almost 6 months, I have enjoyed all aspects of this new position. I have many years of experience in the non-profit field. I have two grown children and one Granddaughter. I enjoy exercising, going to the beach and most of all spending time with my family and friends. I enjoy helping others and making a difference in someone's life. I truly believe that one must give back to their community to really make a difference.

Any questions you have about becoming a tutor, I'm the person to ask!



WALC is collecting non-perishable food and toys for needy families in our community, Monday-Thursday, until Dec. 16. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

2011 Scrabble Challenge

The 5th Annual W.A.L.C. Scrabble Challenge was a great success, thanks to all the participants and volunteers who joined together on November 5th for a night of friendship, delicious food, and fun! This year there were seventy-seven participants, making the 2011 Scrabble Challenge the most successful yet.

Congratulations to team “Scrabbulous” for being the first-place winner in the team division. Members of “Scrabbulous” include Laura Diethrich, Terry Shapiro, Thom Neinast, and Nicole Schulert.



The event was catered by Franco Trattoria, located at 6717 Greenleaf Avenue, in Uptown Whittier. The menu included pasta with pesto, salad, and bread, and all were pleased with the delicious dinner. Compliments to the chef!



A sincere thanks to Pastor Layne and the board of First Christian Church, for the use of beautiful Newman Hall for the Scrabble Challenge. We are grateful!

A heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers, including judges, who helped make the evening a success. Also, thanks to all the participants—your presence made the night memorable and helped support WALC’s positive influence in our community.

Mrs. Ida Sacco was honored for her dedication as a past president for WALC and a tutor for over 40 years.



A note to all those interested in participating in next year’s Scrabble Challenge: Please register your name with Julie so that you can be notified well in advance for the 2012 tournament. You have a year to practice, practice, practice your Scrabble skills!

Help Us Reach Our Goal

Early this summer, WALC received a challenge grant from one of our generous donors. This local businessman and WALC supporter promised to match up to \$5,000 if we are able to raise the same amount through private donations. So far we have received two \$1,000 donations and many smaller donations amounting to \$ 430. Donations will be used for general operating expenses such as rent, utility bills, books and materials. This is an excellent opportunity to double the impact of any and all donations and remember that we are a charitable organization so all contributions are tax deductible.



Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.

~William James

Upcoming Events:

December 5th—8th
Tutor Appreciation Week

January 7, 14, & 28, 9 a.m.
Tutor Training @Center

February 7, 4:00 p.m.
Tutor Support Workshop

February 7, 6:00 p.m.
Family Literacy

Whittier Area Literacy Council – Celebrating 50 Years of Service



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From Our Trainers

Our September training sessions for new tutors were a great success and we welcome all our new tutors to our WALC Family. We appreciate the time and expertise provided by our trainers Lyn Hoffmaster, Raul and Natalia Martinez and Patricia Almada. This large group of new tutors was recruited through the efforts of board members and tutors. We also advertised through the Farmer's Market, Whittier Daily News, Rio Hondo and Whittier colleges and Facebook. Please continue to tell all your friends about this great volunteering opportunity.

Natalia Martinez, our ESL trainer, has graciously donated a file cabinet full of ESL and holiday instructional materials. The file cabinet is in our library next to the laptops. Please help yourself if you see multiple copies or ask Julie to make copies of single sheets. Thank you, Natalia!

