



WALC Talk

Fall, 2012

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President's Message

By Cel Carr



First I would like to thank Pat Almada for her outstanding contributions that kept the Whittier Area Literacy Council going strong the last two years. Her dedication to the council in her Presidency, tutor training and grant work have made the first half of my year as president a walk in the park. We have a great Board of Directors again this year. Many of them are recruits from Pat's leadership.

Our first Fundraiser, the 6th Annual Scrabble Tournament, was a fun night thanks to the Board of Directors and especially the Scrabble Committee. I appreciate the efforts of all committee members. Anna was able to find so many wonderful raffle prizes. Christina, Lucy, Rachel, Maricella and Julie were so helpful with all the details as was Lisa. Mary Ellen provided the wonderful decorations.

Pat Almada held a Tutor Training Session in October. It was well attended and most of the new tutors have already been matched with students by Julie. She also had a Tutor Support Meeting on November 13th. This was a great get-together for the current and new tutors. The topic was "Connecting Reading to Writing". We all received good information on spelling and other writing suggestions.

Christina Gardner held the 1st Family Literacy Night of the fiscal year on November 13th. The speaker was Angie Howard with the Intercommunity Counseling Center. Her topic was "Communicating with Children and Teens." This was a

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President's Message

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very useful discussion. We appreciate the assistance of the board members that came and participated.

Our next big event will be the Soup and A Good Book Fundraiser. The topic will be "Reading Makes Sense." Ideas for writing about this theme will be discussed at our January board meeting, so be sure to come and offer your suggestions. This is such a great event and we hope to get the community involved as well. We can use your ideas.

We are looking forward to a very happy Holiday Season, Hanukkah for some and Christmas for others. May you enjoy your time of family and blessings. We are participating in the Interfaith Food Drive again this year, so please bring your donated food items to the Council of-fices soon.

WALC is collecting non-perishable food items for the Interfaith Food Center through Dec. 13. Please bring your donation to the WALC office Monday—Thursday, 10 a.m. — 5 p.m. Your donations are very much appreciated!



A Tribute to Mario Mora, WALC Student, Volunteer, Friend

It is with great sadness that we honor the passing of a wonderful WALC student and friend, Mario Mora.

Mario is pictured above with his tutor, Jim Sass, who presented Mario with the 2012 Adult Learner of the Year Award during WALC's annual student recognition event.

Mario was born on August 5, 1938. Mario went to be with the Lord on August 16, 2012.

Mario had resided in Whittier for the past 7 years. Mario was a big sports fan who enjoyed watching soccer, football and most of all, boxing. Mario had a love for drawing. Mario worked for a department store in New York City and that is where he developed his love for art. Mario volunteered to create beautiful posters to promote WALC events, utilizing his impressive artistic skills. His generous spirit and contribution to WALC's success is greatly appreciated.

Mario always had a smile to greet you. He will be missed by many members of our organization.

2012 Scrabble Challenge

The 6th Annual WALC Scrabble Challenge was held on Friday, October 26, 2012. It was a great success thanks to all the participants and volunteers who joined together for a night of friendship and fun.

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!

The WALC Board of Directors would like to express 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.

Throughout the evening, participants were overheard commenting that they were having fun and enjoying the event. Pictured above is a participant whose remaining letters were W-A-L-C!

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 2013 tournament. You have a year to practice your Scrabble skills!



Family Literacy Night

Family Literacy Night was held on Tuesday, Nov 13 from 6:15-7:15. Angie Howard, Marriage and Family Therapist Intern from Intercommunity Counseling Center was our speaker for the night. Her topic was **How to Communicate with Children and Teens**. We are very grateful to Ms. Howard for her informative presentation.



From Pat Almada and our Tutor Trainers

The Tutor Support Workshop on November 13th dealt with different strategies to incorporate short writing activities into our tutoring sessions. We discussed journals, great prompts, dialogue journals and responses to literature. The attendees shared their ideas and tips for effective tutoring. If you missed this session but are interested in the information please ask Julie for a packet.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our newly trained tutors who completed their training this October. They are: Nicole Amescua, Marylou Blackwell, Isabel Garcia, Evelyn Hernandez, Elizabeth Ortlip, Laurin Peters, Karen Putz, Lenore Remland, Sarah Rubin, Sarah Seman & Martin Villarreal. If you see new faces at WALC, please welcome them into our family!

The following article reminded us of YOU, our wonderfully committed tutors!

Four Characteristics Usually Found in Those Who Impact Our Lives

By Charles R. Swindoll

1. **Consistency** These folks are not restless flashes in the pan – here today, gone tomorrow. Neither are they given to fads or gimmicks. Those who impact our lives stay at the task with reliable regularity. They seem unaffected by the fickle winds of change. They are consistent.
2. **Authenticity** Probe all you wish, try all you like to find hypocritical flaws, and you search in vain. People who impact others are real to the core; no alloy covered over with a brittle layer of chrome, but solid, genuine stuff. They are authentic.
3. **Unselfishness** Those who impact us the most watch out for themselves the least. They notice our needs and reach out to help, honestly concerned about our welfare. They are unselfish.
4. **Tirelessness** With relentless determination, they refuse to quit Possessing an enormous amount of enthusiasm for their labor, they press on regardless of the odds. Actually, they are like pioneers-resilient and rugged. They are tireless.

Upcoming Events:

December 3rd—6th
Tutor Appreciation Week

December 24th—Jan 1st
WALC Center Closed

January 12, 19, & 26, 9 a.m.
Tutor Training

February 5, 6:00 p.m.
Family Literacy Night

February 12, 5:00 p.m.
Tutor Support Workshop

March 16th, 2013
Soup & A Good Book

For more information, please visit our website and Facebook page.

*Whittier Area
Literacy Council –
Celebrating 51 Years
of Service*

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