

WALC Talk

Spring 2013

Inside this issue:

- Page 1 -Presidents Message
- Page 2 -Family Literacy Night
-New Training Team
- Page 3 -Soup & a Good Book
- Page 4 -Upcoming Events
-Preventing Summer Slide

President's Message

By Cel Carr



With this fiscal year coming to a close on June 30th, I can report that we have been successful in advancing our mission thanks to our wonderful volunteers and donors.

Many of our adult students in literacy and ESL (English as a Second Language) have been able to attain their goals. For some that meant to earn a GED, find or perform better at their job or the ability to read to their children or grandchildren.

The children we tutor have also had success as shown by periodic testing. We have added a branch program at Hoover Elementary School here in Whittier. Parents were trained and supplied with the tools and books they need to tutor low performing students. We are also adding a new summer program to "Prevent the Summer Slide." It is documented that some children lose up to 3 months of learning over the summer. This is especially true for disadvantaged students. We received a grant from Whittier Rotary for this program. Grants both large and small have allowed us to remain in our current setting and have one paid administrator so that we can fulfill our mission. Thanks to BCM Foundation, The City of Whittier, Sunrise Rotary, East Whittier Lion's Club, Wish-you-well Foundation, First Christian Church, and private donors for your help this year.

Our wonderful volunteer tutors, Board of Directors, Advisory Board and administrator allow us to strive toward our goal of literacy for everyone.

(Continued on page 2)

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

C.L. Carr,
President

Sallee Kraics,
1st Vice President

Lisa Dabbs,
2nd Vice President

Pat Almada,
Tutor Training Chair

Gloria Boone,
Corresponding Secretary

Anna Hinkle &
Maricella Ibarra,
Fund Raising Chair

Susan Mitchell,
Treasurer

Mary Ellen De Santos,
Hospitality Chair

Lucy Alaniz,
Parliamentarian

Barbara Walters,
Asst. Publicity Chair

Cristina Gardner,
Family Literacy Chair

Anna Hinkle,
Library/City Liaison

Eva Moreno,
Historian

Rachel Quail,
Inspirational Chair

Martha Payan-Hernandez
Grant Writer

Judy Garcia
Recording Secretary

Laura Chavez Warner,
Newsletter Editor

ADVISORY BOARD

Conan Barker
Bruce Lindsay
James Sass, PhD
Donna Smith

President's Message (continued)

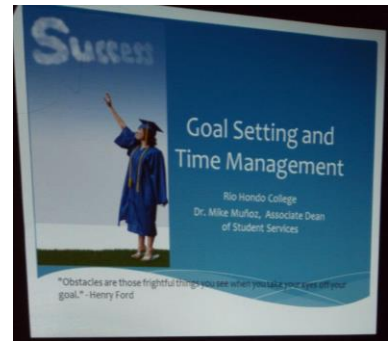
Our fundraiser, Soup and A Good Book, in March was well attended. The community came out over 100 strong to enjoy soup donated by our local restaurants and hear the student's writings. Our students enjoyed hearing their work performed by the Whittier College students. Next fall, we will present our Scrabble Fundraiser. This has grown with each passing year.

Thank you to Everyone for your support.



WALC Welcomes New Training Team

We are happy to announce that board members Lucy Alaniz and Barbara Walters have joined our tutor training team. Both Lucy and Barbara are retired teachers with lots of great experience and a sincere desire to move our organization forward. They will be joining Pat Almada, Lyn Hoffmaster, Raul and Natalia Martinez and Sallee Kraics in future training sessions. The last training sessions for this fiscal year will take place June 8th, 15th and 22nd. Please spread the word and encourage prospective tutors to register.



FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT

By Christina Gardner

This school year WALC, once again, offered three Family Literacy Night events. The first one took place in November 2012. Our speaker was Angie Howard (a marriage and family therapist). She offered parents advice on how to communicate with their children and teens. Ms. Howard discussed issues our teens are facing and our role as parents in preparing them for adulthood. She also talked about when to seek professional help when facing difficult problems and gave parents several community resources available to them.

Our second Literacy Night was held in February 2013. Gail Chabran, a former WALC board member and retired Rio Hondo College professor presented information on student preparation for a college education. The talk was very informative. Mrs. Chabran discussed college entrance exams and gave an overview on the University of California system, State Colleges, Private Colleges and Community Colleges. She reminded us that it is never too early to start thinking of college for our children and the importance of financially planning for it. For our students with special needs there is also assistance at these institutions.

As a follow up to Mrs. Chabran's lecture in April, WALC held its final Literacy Night for this school year. Dr. Mike Munoz, Associate Dean of Students at Rio Hondo College, was our speaker for the evening. Dr. Munoz gave an informative presentation regarding goal setting and building good habits for our children and also for ourselves. He offered a unique approach to setting and analyzing our goals. By pointing out our strengths, weaknesses (or areas of growth), opportunities and obstacles we can better work towards goal achievement in ourselves and our children.

WALC will continue providing Family Literacy events next school year, beginning in the Fall. As you find out about these events we urge you to mark your calendars with the dates and we hope that you will make a commitment to attend.

Soup and a Good Book

By Laura Chavez Warner

The 8th annual Soup and a Good Book fundraiser was held on Saturday, March 16, 2013, in Newman Hall. Those in attendance enjoyed a variety of delicious soup donated by local restaurants including California Grill, Carino's Italian Grill, Bailey Street Restaurant, Fenix 5-4, Greenleaf Café, Sweet Dreams Dessert Lounge and Tonia's.



For this year's event, WALC students wrote paragraphs and short stories based upon the theme, "Reading Makes Sense." Whittier College Theatre Arts students did a wonderful job performing our students' work. WALC tutors in attendance no doubt were very proud of their students' achievements, which were showcased during the event.

The guest speaker was Alma award-winning actress and playwright, Margarita Medina. Ms. Medina spoke about her rise to success as a writer and actress, and performed an excerpt from her play, "*Margarita on the Rocks: One Latina's tale about being on the rim of life with no salt.*" Everyone present was enthralled with her wonderful performance. We are very grateful to Ms. Medina for donating her time and talent.



The Whittier Area Literacy Council would like to express a heartfelt "Thank You" to all those who attended the event, as well as the volunteers and restaurant owners who helped make the 2013 Soup and a Good Book fundraiser the most successful to date.

Preventing the Summer Slide With the Help of the Whittier Rotary Clubs!

By Pat Almada

Research conducted by Jennifer Sloan McCombs and Catherine Augustine for the Rand Corporation and The Wallace Foundation addresses the academic loss that students suffer during the summer months. "By the end of summer, students perform, on average, one month behind where they left off in the spring," they wrote. "Of course, not all students experience 'average' losses. Summer learning loss disproportionately affects low-income students."

But that's not the worst of it, said Catherine Augustine, "The most disturbing finding is that this learning loss is cumulative. "So each summer kids fall further and further behind."

Their report calls out the work of Johns Hopkins sociology professor Karl Alexander, who describes the summer learning loss as a problem of "monumental proportions." His research shows that while low- and middle-income kids learn at about the same pace during the school year, they go in opposite directions over the summer. He estimates that a full two-thirds of the achievement gap that appears in ninth grade can be attributed to summer learning loss.

The cultural and financial fissures that are less important during the school year become profound in the summer, when some kids go on family vacations to museums, historic sites, and parks, while others have very little educational time.

Let's encourage ALL WALC students to continue their tutoring sessions this summer. A special online academic program will be available for 20 of our students as a pilot this summer through the generous support in the form of grants from the Whittier Rotary Club and the Whittier Sunrise Rotary Club. The program entitled i-Ready shows great promise for maintaining the academic gains of our students and preventing the summer slide. For more information, see Julie.

Upcoming Events

Student Recognition Awards

June 1st, 2013, 11:30-2:00 pm

Uptown YMCA

12510 E. Hadley St., Whittier

Tutor Training

(Summer Session)

June 8, 15 & 22, 2013

WALC

WALC Mission Statement:

To provide literacy and ESL programs for adults and children who are in need of better skills and to train volunteers to perform these services.

Through your generous donation, you can help WALC achieve its mission.

See Julie for more information.

Whittier Area

Literacy Council

12911 Hadley St.

Whittier, CA 90601

Phone: 562-698-6598

(To send a fax, please call Julie)

Email:

walcread@verizon.net

Web Site: walcread.org



Find us on:

facebook®

Be sure to "Friend"
Whittier Area Literacy
Council on Facebook