



WALC Talk Spring 2014

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President's Message By Cel Carr



The summer months are coming and the Whittier Area Literacy Council continues to provide our community with Literacy tutoring for over 52 years. Our dedicated tutors have made such a difference in their pupil's lives. Thanks to these tutors, WALC provided a venue for our students work to be performed at our Soup and a Good Book fundraiser. The soups provided by local restaurants were delicious, the performance of the students writings read by Whittier College and Rio Hondo College drama students were marvelous and the time spent with students, tutors, board members and community supporters turned this event into a great experience. This was our best-attended event yet.

My two-year term as President of the Board of Directors will end in June. I must thank every board member for their dedication and resolve to the mission of WALC: Sallee Kraics for not only serving as 1st Vice President, but also filling in for Julie Garcia when she was away from the office; Barbara Walters and Lucy Alaniz for stepping up to take Tutor Training positions as well as helping to start our tutoring at the Uptown Whittier YMCA; Pat Almada for giving of her expertise at Grant Writing and making sure our council can continue the mission; Susan Mitchell for keeping our books for all these years and for taking on many students of her own;

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President's Message

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Mary Ellen de Santos for giving us such great treats and staging our events; Maricella Ibarra and Lisa Dabbs for publicizing our events; Laura Warner for our Newsletters; Christina Gardner for staging our Family Literacy Nights so successfully; Stephan Koelle for joining our board and supporting us; Gloria Boone for providing sage advice and sending cards and plants to those in need of comfort or congratulations; Judy Garcia for supporting our events and activities and not least Julie Garcia for sustaining us with administrative excellence, not only daily with our students and tutors, but with the Board of Directors and Advisory Board requests.

Thank you all for another great term.

Sincerely,

Cel Carr

*Thank you, Cel,
for two years as
president of WALC.
Your hard work and
dedication are much
appreciated!*



Family Literacy Night

By Christina Gardner

WALC held its second of three Family Literacy Night events for this school year on February 19, 2014. Our speaker was Roxanne Torosian. Mrs. Torosian is a Speech Language Pathologist that currently works for Rowland Unified School District. Her presentation was entitled, "Thinking and Organizing for Success." She commenced by providing information on brain research and thinking, followed by many helpful tips on how to assist children in the organization and planning of school assignments. Knowing what is due and when is crucial, as well as establishing good work routines and monthly planners. Things as simple as emptying your child's backpack and packing it together will provide you, the parent, with information on important upcoming events. Parents that attended this presentation were given homework survival tips on getting assignments home, getting them done and getting them turned in. We again would like to thank Mrs. Torosian for coming out and so generously giving of her time and energy.

Our final Family Literacy Night for this school year was held on April 16th. The event featured three speakers from Activate Whittier: Leslie Martinez, Michel Hosia, and Lucy Ortiz. Activate Whittier is an organization that began in 2008 in collaboration with the City of Whittier and the YMCA of Greater Whittier and their mission is "to improve the health and wellness of those living, working, learning, and playing in our community." The speakers provided a very informative presentation on healthy eating with an emphasis on how to read and understand food labels. WALC is grateful to Activate Whittier for providing this important information to those in attendance.

WALC will as always continue providing Family Literacy events next school year. We would like to ask parents to please RSVP to all events in order to make planning for them easier on us here at WALC. It only takes one phone call from you, as opposed to us having to make more than thirty calls. Thank you so much to those of you that do call in regularly to RSVP for our events.

2014 Soup and a Good Book

by Laura C. Warner

The 9th annual Soup and A Good Book fundraiser was held in Newman Hall on March 15th, 2014. This year's theme was, "Oh, the places I have been... through literacy." All who attended had a wonderful time!

Our students worked diligently to prepare their sensory writing pieces for the event, which were performed by students from the Whittier College Theater Dept. and Rio Hondo College. It is always very inspiring to witness the progress our students have made in their literacy skills. We are all so proud of our students' accomplishments. Congratulations to our students and tutors on a job well done.

The featured speaker was Stephanie Lainez, author of the delightful children's book, *Rachel & The Lion*. Ms. Lainez gave a very heartfelt and inspiring talk and we are very grateful for her generosity in helping to make this event a success.

This year's events also featured dancers from Studio Danza. The dancers did a wonderful job; their costumes were beautiful and everyone in attendance enjoyed their performances.

We would like to thank the local restaurants who kindly donated the delicious soups for the event: Bailey Street Kitchen, California Grill, Carino's Italian Grill, Fenix 5-4, Greenleaf Café, Sweet Dreams Dessert Lounge, and Tonia's.

Thanks to all our board members, volunteers, and participants who helped make the 2014 Soup and A Good Book event a success.



From Our Tutor Trainers

5 Minutes Left... Now What?

By Lucy Alaniz and Barbara Walters

All the best planning has been done, the lesson has gone well, the student is meeting his objectives but oh my gosh, five minutes, too brief a time for a new lesson and too much time to end. Now what? Try some of these suggestions:

Ask: "Tell me about something you learned today?...What else?...What else would you like to learn?"

Brainstorm categories (can be oral or written) ex. Dogs: Bulldog, German shepherd, collie (name as many as you can).

Pictures: Using any picture (front of book, artwork, illustrations) ask: What do you see?...What else?...Who do you think this is?...etc.

Play a game of Hangman – all you need is a word, paper and a pencil.

Write a feel good poem (acrostic poem) together. ex. Using student's name – GEORGE

G is for **good** worker
E is for **enthusiastic** learner
O is for **organized** in his work
R is for **ready** to help a friend
G is for **gorgeous** to look at
E is for **eager** to do well

Write a list of things your student and you love/hate/want/need/etc.

All these activities can be partner activities where the student and the tutor share responsibility for the ideas and, if time permits, writing.

Try some of these, and please share any ideas that have worked for you.

Upcoming Events

Student Recognition Awards

Saturday, May 17,
11:30am – 2:00pm

First Christian Church,
Newman Hall

Tutor Training

June 14, 21 & 28, 2014
(Summer Session)

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.](#)

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