



The Literacy Works *Lantern*

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E-mail: reading@bcpl.net • Web site: www.literacyworksinc.com

Fall 2006

Save the Date for BOOK BASH 2006 Sunday, November 12, 6 to 9 p.m.

Mission:
*To Improve Adult
& Family Literacy*



*Teach the Parent,
Reach the Child!*

Greetings & Readings will be the place to meet 50 authors, sample cuisine from 20 to 30 restaurants and caterers, sip martinis, bid on fabulous auction packages, and shop for a great cause.

The celebration will mark the 13th annual **BOOK BASH®** fundraiser for Literacy Works, Inc., and the second year in a row that Greetings & Readings will be our gracious host.

To date, participating authors include: **Allegra Bennett, Momyka Berrococa-Marbach, Jennifer Bodine, Walter Collins, Mary Beth Creighton, Bill Cronin, Katherine Davis, Alan Dobzinski with Margaret Wilson, Keith Donahue, Dan Fesperman, John Fontanella, Jonathon Scott Fuqua, Michael Glaser** – Poet Laureate of Maryland, **Neil Grauer, Eve Herold, John Irwin, Molly Bruce Jacobs, Kim Jenson, John Jiloty, Marty Katz, Kimberly Landon, Robert and Alice Lippson, Dr. Gordon Livingston, Arthur Magida, Sandra Magsanen, Mary Ann Masur, Christianna McCausland, Jonathan and David Murray, Stephen Parlato, Lia Purpura, Mary Jo Putney, Paul Rieckoff, Jeffrey Ian Ross, Mike Sakkett, Laura Amy Schlitz, Marcia Talley, David Taylor, Mame Warren, John Sayle Watterson and Kimberly Weaver.**

Participating restaurants/caterers to date include: **Classic Catering, Chef's Expressions, G&G Creative Catering, Legal Seafood, Naron Candy, Inc., Panera**

Bread, Paolo's, Regi's and Sylvan Beach Café. Additionally, cookbook authors **Kerry Dunnington** and **Bonny Wolf** will serve selections from their books. **Damon's Grill** will provide martinis and **Greetings & Readings** will serve hot and cold non-alcoholic beverages.

Co-chaired by Bradford Bank Vice President **Mary Lynn Willard** and **Janet Albright**, the event will include live musical performances. Guests also can get a jump on holiday gift shopping by browsing through Greetings & Readings' extensive inventory.

As Baltimore's largest independent bookstore, Greetings & Readings carries books as well as gifts and collectibles, greeting cards and novelty and trend items. It also features custom printing and calligraphy, stationery, party goods, fine writing instruments, a café and gourmet candies.

Tickets are \$60 per person in advance and \$70 at the door. Eighty percent of proceeds from ticket sales and the auction, along with at least 10 percent of merchandise sales during the event will go directly to the programs and services of Literacy Works.

More than 600 guests attended BOOK BASH 2005, which raised over \$100,000. To make BOOK BASH 2006 bigger and better, we need your support!

Please call at 410-887-2001 or go online at www.literacyworksinc.com to purchase tickets, volunteer at the event, donate auction items or become event sponsors.

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Family Finances

Through generous grants from **American Express** and **Bank of America**, Literacy Works Inc., has developed a six-session *Family Finances* course. Over the last 18 months, we have implemented the series at 12 locations in Metropolitan Head Start centers, recreation centers and family centers.

Aimed at low-income heads of households and their preschool and elementary-age children, the workshops provide information on goal setting, savings, credit, budgeting and home ownership.



Participants have been enthusiastic about how the program has enlightened them about financial matters – from having family meetings, to reading the fine print, to asking the question, “Is this purchase a need or a want?”

Children say they have learned many things, including that “Money does not grow on trees.”

Recently we spoke to Michelle Schleicher, a parent who completed the course in April 2005. At that time she was renting a small apartment. She says that because of the

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Greeting & Readings Coupon Inside

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President's Letter

In 2005, the U.S. Department of Education issued its report on the state of literacy in the United States. The findings were appalling:

- **43 percent** of adults cannot participate fully in family, work and their communities.
- **38 percent** of adults in Baltimore City and **20 percent** in Baltimore County are at the lowest literacy level.
- **\$60 billion** in productivity is lost annually due to employees' deficiencies in basic skills.
- **\$13 billion** in unnecessary health costs is attributed each year to poor literacy.

What does this mean for Literacy Works?

It means the need has never been greater and our job—to provide adult and family literacy services—has never been harder.

It means these undereducated adults have trouble completing an application, reading instructions on a frozen dinner or a prescription and calculating the costs on monthly bills.

It means that these adults earn 40 percent less than those with a high school diploma,

and their children are less likely to succeed. **When we teach the parent, we reach the child!**

Literacy Works needs your support to provide the funds to stem the epidemic illiteracy rate and stop this intergenerational cycle of illiteracy in our community.

Specifically, funds are needed to continue as well as expand our individualized, computer-assisted instruction, job readiness services and volunteer programs.

I am sure that you believe, as we do, that having good reading, writing and math skills improves the quality of our community and of our learners and their families. Please consider Literacy Works in your charitable giving.

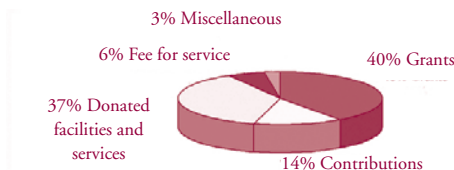
If your employer offers matching contributions, please send the paperwork with your donation.

Thank you for giving the gift of Literacy!

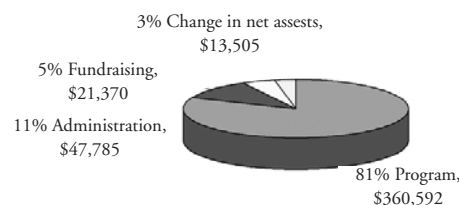
With much appreciation,

Revenue & Expenses

Revenue	FY2005	\$443,252
<i>(from independent auditor's report)</i>		
Grants	177,250	40%
Contributions	63,015	14%
Donated services	166,161	37%
Fee for service	25,520	6%
Miscellaneous	11,306	3%



Expenses	FY2005	\$429,747
Program	360,592	84%
Administration	47,785	11%
Fundraising	21,370	5%



Campaign Contributions

Help an adult learn to read by supporting Literacy Works.

United Way Campaign: Designation Code # 26526

**Baltimore Combined Community Campaign:
Designation Code # 4209**

Thank you for giving the gift of literacy!

Monyka Berrocosa-Marbach Helping Literacy Works One Sip at a Time

Monyka Berrocosa-Marbach, renowned food and wine educator, journalist, consultant, founder of The Women's Wine & Dine® and an all-around "grape lady," is now a book author.

One Sip at a Time: Musings on Wine, Women and Wisdom is the story of Monyka's journey trying to see life through a rosé colored glass. This unique blend of anecdotes, observations, humor and common sense is perfectly paired with straightforward, almost cheeky wine knowledge.



In addition, the book's inspirational message dares everyone to think outside of the bottle and see what a difference only one person can make.

Her love for all things grape is as avid as her commitment to philanthropy. Combining both passions, Monyka donated a portion of proceeds from book, wine and T-shirt sales at her launch party to Literacy Works.

What's more, she also gave us some of the proceeds from her June book sales.

Cheers to Monyka for her generosity! Let's all raise a glass to her at BOOK BASH 2006, where she will be a featured author and presenter.

For more information about Monyka Berrocosa-Marbach or her book, visit www.monykaberrocosa.com or www.womenandwineevents.com.

New Learning Center

The Baltimore County Office of Conservation has issued a Community Development Block Grant for Literacy Works to operate a learning center with the **Community Assistance Network (CAN)** in the Hillendale Gate Apartment Complex in east Towson.

Starting this fall, the Hillendale learning center will offer reading, writing, math and computer classes, two mornings and two evenings a week. What's more, a full-time employment counselor will work with the students on job readiness and placement.

"Literacy Works is pleased to partner with CAN to assist adults in the Hillendale community in improving their skills and employability," said Literacy Works Executive Director Helene Waranch. "We look forward to a wonderful collaboration."

Councilwoman Rikki Spector Gives Literacy Works a Civics Lesson

Baltimore City Councilwoman Rochelle "Rikki" Spector recently visited the Eastern Family Resource Center (EFRC). She spoke to Literacy Works students from EFRC and the Randallstown Learning Center, who took a field trip for this special presentation.

Our heartfelt thanks goes to Councilwoman Spector for teaching our students about government and the importance of voting.



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Literacy Works Holds



Awards Celebration



Audience at Awards Celebration

To honor to our students, instructors and volunteers, Literacy Works hosted its first-ever awards ceremony. Held at the Randallstown Library, the event featured special guest **Kenneth Oliver**, the Baltimore County Councilman from the Randallstown area. **Scott Davies**, a radio personality from 101.9 Lite FM and Mix 106.5 FM, served as emcee. Below are some of the highlights.

Excellent Attendance

These students were recognized for their consistent attendance, despite such obstacles as lack of transportation, child care, employment hours, illness and other family issues.

Eastern Family Resource Center

Dolores Schwartz
Francisco Cunha
George Brown
Josephine Ellis
Justin Tillery
Kezziah Wanene
Tina Kpanah

Tyrone Carter
Wilbert Mitchell

Essex Senior Center

Catherine Veit
Christina Tomlin
Ernest Ashe
Tarra Mays
Violet Tyson

Randallstown

Ellen Poter
Eunice Anthony
Hasan Mahammad
Hattie Wheeler
Hewett Lieu
Rhonda O'Bryant
Seth Burdine
Thalia Powell

Outstanding Achievement

These students were recommended by their instructors because they have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement in class work and participation this year.

Eastern Family Resource Center

Francisco Cunha
Joseph La Paglia
Kezziah Wanene

Essex Senior Center

Christina Tomlin
D.J. Fitzgerald
Jessica Rossi
Latisha Ayres
Mary Kincaid
Tania Baker

Randallstown

Anthony Jacob
Bobby Yerby
Brittany Ballard
Budie Andreu
Courtney Francis
Damian Johnson
Donald Lloyd
Doris Love
Dorshia Carter
Errol Richards
Hasan Mahammad
Hattie Wheeler
James Mochaa
Jeannette Gonzalez

Kehinde Olufemi

Makiyda Wilson
Maria Seals
Mitchell Miles
Peter Gonzalez
Siddra Anjam
Stefan Curry
Thalia Powell
Billy Harris

Dedication and Commitment

Literacy Works bid a fond farewell to **June McCauley**, who has served as volunteer coordinator for The Community College of Baltimore County/Literacy Works since 1998. She has recruited, trained, placed and supervised approximately 200+ volunteer tutors per year in the *Volunteers in Partnership* program.

Prior to that, June has served as an instructor for The Community College of Baltimore County, Baltimore County Public Schools Office of Adult Education, Baltimore City Community College, Catonsville Community College, and Essex Community College. She began her career as a geography teacher in Baltimore City and Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

June is leaving us to pursue other professional and personal opportunities. We thank June for all that she has done and wish her well in her new endeavors. She will be missed!



June McCauley is honored for her service as Volunteer Coordinator.





Joann Kidwell (seated) reads her speech as "Student of the Year" with her instructor, Nancy Johnson (left), and Scott Davies from Mix 106.5. County Councilman Ken Oliver listens in the background.



Joann Kidwell *Student of the Year*

Joann Kidwell, a 63-year-old wheelchair-bound Dundalk resident, recently was named *Student of the Year*. Self-described as "a woman with health issues and low self-esteem," Kidwell has dealt with academic, physical and emotional hurdles her entire life.

As a child attending a special needs school, Kidwell had no choice but to focus on physical therapy over academics. That decision was "one of the many instances that lowered my self-esteem," she said.

Another disappointment was when her family tried to talk her out of marriage. Despite the objections, she has been happily married for 36 years.

As an adult with limited academic skills, employment was not an option. Yet, despite her own challenges, Kidwell felt compelled to help others.

Almost three years ago, she contacted the Community College of Baltimore County to learn of volunteer opportunities. Nothing was available; however, a counselor referred her to Literacy Works, where she could improve her skills. She enrolled right away.

According to Nancy Johnson, Kidwell's instructor at Literacy Works, "Joann attends class regularly and works very hard. Her reading skills have greatly improved."

"Several months ago, she read an entire book and wrote a report on it," Johnson added. "She has been writing in a journal for the first time in her life."

"Joann also has been working to improve her math skills," Johnson continued. "Now she feels more confident with multiplication and division."

Perhaps even more important than the improved skills is Kidwell's added self-confidence. "At Literacy Works, I am treated as a friend and as an equal," said Kidwell.

Josie Keene

Outstanding Volunteer of the Year

Josie Keene began as a volunteer with the adult education program 14 years ago. After retiring, she decided to work with adult learners lending that extra hand so invaluable to the teachers at Eastern Family Resource Center.

According to Literacy Works Instructor Stephanie Dee, "Josie's visiting the center two times a week has made a vast difference for the learners in this program. Whether it is working with students struggling with their reading or math, Josie is always ready to help academically and even listen compassionately to personal difficulties."

Josie, herself, has weathered some difficult times during the past several years with two personal losses within her immediate family. She also became the custodial parent/grandparent of two teenage young men. What's more, she has been at her daughter's side as she battles a serious illness. Despite these difficult times, Josie continued helping others to improve their academic skills.

"A tireless, caring, skilled and compassionate individual, Josie has been an invaluable member of the Literacy Works team and a friend to the students and staff," Dee added. "We truly appreciate all her time and devotion to our program."



"Time has made me emotionally complete, as a human being and a woman," she added. "I finally feel at home in an atmosphere of common goals and wonderful friendships."

In Fall 2004, she began working part-time training through the Baltimore County Department of Aging Senior AIDES Program, which provides community service employment opportunities to eligible low-income Baltimore County residents age 55 and over.

Senior AIDES earn the minimum wage while working in the community for government and non-profit agencies. Funded by Senior Service America, Inc., the program provides work experience and on-the-job training to improve skills and thus enhance the ability to obtain an unsubsidized job.

Now involved in the day-to-day operations of Literacy Works' programs at the Eastern Family Resource Center in Rosedale, Kidwell answers phones, helps with information and referrals, and even offers computer assistance while continuing her education.

"While Joann has gained experience and confidence building that can assist her in finding full-time employment, the community has gained because she provides service to other clients with Literacy Works," said Patti Madigan, project director of the Senior AIDES Program.

"She is an outstanding advocate for aging individuals with disabilities. It's a joy to work with her," said Madigan. "She is not the person she was when I met her two years ago."

Johnson concurred: "It is a pleasure to see that she has made new friends and earned the respect of her peers."

Student Achievements, FY 2005

Total Learners - 340

Personal	Number	Percent	Academic	Number	Percent
Gained computer skills	282	83	Increased test scores	172	79
Gained employment	38	28			
	<i>From those who entered unemployed (137)</i>		Attained at least one competency	299	88
Retained employment	98	70	Achieved next skill level	94	43
	<i>From those who entered employed (141)</i>				
			Passed one or more sections of practice GED test	27	8
Family (<i>out of 181 students with children 21 years or younger</i>)			Students attended class 74 percent of the time for an average of 71.6 hours.		
Assisted children with school work	52	29			
Increased parent/child interaction	47	26			

Family Finances — Continued from page 1



knowledge she attained in the course, she and her fiancé subsequently have purchased a home and are working towards purchasing a second car.

“The course helped me become more organized and also helped me set financial goals and achieve them,” said Michelle, who was the *2001 Literacy Works Student of the Year*.

For more information about Family Finances, call 410-887-2001.

A special **Thank You** to Comcast for providing free Internet access at our Randallstown Community Technology Center and Eastern Family Resource Center.



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Statistics on Illiteracy

(Based on the 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy Report)

Definition of Adult Literacy: *The ability of individuals 16 years old and above to use printed and written information to function in society to achieve goals and to develop knowledge.*

U.S. Levels of Literacy Skills

Below Basic	14 percent	30 million
Basic	29 percent	63 million
Intermediate	44 percent	96 million
Proficient	13 percent	28 million

- 43 percent of adults in the United States are considered “functionally illiterate.”
- 43 percent of U.S. adults cannot fully participate in family, work and community needs.
- Only 3 million adults in the U.S. receive federally funded basic literacy instruction.
- One-third of all teens entering ninth grade do not graduate from high school in four years.
- 66 percent of high school graduates do not have the skills necessary to attend college.
- High school drop-outs earn an average of \$18,700 per year compared to \$28,000 for high school graduates. (The low- to moderate-income level as defined by the U.S. government is \$40,500 for one person and \$57,750 for a family of four.)

Maryland Levels of Literacy

Below basic	12 percent
Basic	28 percent
Intermediate	47 percent
Proficient	13 percent

- 20 percent of adults in Maryland read at less than a fourth grade level.
- 45 percent read at or below an eighth grade level.
- 384,000 workers in Maryland hold jobs that pay less than the federal poverty wage.
- State funding for adult literacy for FY2006 is only \$2 million.

Children

- Children whose parents are unemployed and have not completed high school are five times more likely to drop out.
- Children whose parents have low literacy skills are more likely to become adults with low literacy skills.
- The higher the mother’s education level, the better her child performs on tests and in schools.
- Children of parents who are enrolled in literacy programs are much more likely to improve their achievements in school.
- Only 1/3 of teen mothers obtain a high school diploma.
- Only 13 percent of out of school youth are employed.
- Youth with low academic achievement are three times more likely to join gangs than students with good grades.



Helping the Homeless

Literacy Works, Inc. now offers individualized, computer-assisted instruction at the **Frederick Ozanam Transitional Housing Program** (FOH). Located in Baltimore’s Jonestown/Oldtown community, FOH provides shelter, meals and counseling services to 38 homeless males each year – 20 at one time. The men are experiencing addiction and are unemployed.

According to the Baltimore Neighborhoods Indicators Alliance, Jonestown/Oldtown has the **fourth highest dropout rate** among 55 Baltimore City communities. Thirty-eight percent of the population, ages 25-64, does not have at least a high school diploma.

The community’s unemployment rate of 22.46 percent is the **third highest** among those 55 communities.

Furthermore, Jonestown/Oldtown’s median household income is \$11,162, the **lowest** of all 55 communities. The community has one of the city’s five highest violent crime rates.

To increase educational and employment opportunities in Jonestown/Oldtown, and thereby lower these drastic figures, **Annie E. Casey Foundation** funded a grant worth approximately \$20,000.

Administered by **Associated Black Charities**, the grant increases the hours of the part-time counselor at FOH and Literacy Works offers classes Tuesday and Thursday evenings for 2.5 hours each. Each class accommodates approximately 15 students at a time.

“This is a great partnership; having Literacy Works onsite makes it easy and comfortable for the men to learn tasks that otherwise would scare them.”

One trained paid instructor tests, registers and teaches the adults with individualized instruction based on each student’s skill level. The curriculum emphasizes individual responsibilities to meet personal goals.

The class also utilizes the Internet and educational software involving reading, writing and math in all grades, GED preparation and Microsoft Office tutorials.

“This is a great partnership; having Literacy Works onsite makes it easy and comfortable for the men to learn tasks that otherwise would scare them,” said Kathleen Spain, director of the Frederick Ozanam Transitional Housing Program.

Overall, the program aims to increase the men’s academic skills, give them the potential to complete the GED test, become computer literate, eliminate barriers to education and employment, and ultimately become good role models for their children and to become functioning, participating citizens.

“This is a holistic approach to help undereducated adults improve the quality of life for themselves and their families, leading to increased skills, better employment opportunities and more self-confidence in helping their children,” said Literacy Works Executive Director Helene Waranch.

Cal Ripken Goes to Bat for Literacy Works



Former Oriole **Cal Ripken Jr.** recently appeared at **Greetings & Readings**, posing for pictures and signing copies of his new book, *Parenting Young Athletes The Ripken Way* (Gotham Books). A portion of proceeds from the book sales benefited Literacy Works.

This event marked the second time Literacy Works teamed with Ripken. In 2004, "The Ironman" spoke at a Literacy Works breakfast fundraiser and signed copies of *Play Baseball The Ripken Way*, *The Complete Illustrated Guide To The Fundamentals*, which he co-wrote with brother, Bill Ripken.



Cal Ripken, Jr. signs 200+ books at Greetings & Readings.

Learning Centers

BALTIMORE COUNTY

Eastern Family Resource Center

9100 Franklin Square Drive, Room 328
Rosedale/Essex, MD 21237
410-887-0440

Lansdowne Community Technology Center

2934 Lakebrook Circle, Apt T-4
Lansdowne, MD 21227
410-887-1486

Randallstown Community Technology Center

Randallstown Library
Liberty Court Shopping Center
8604 Liberty Road
Randallstown, MD 21133
410-655-6080

Hillendale Center

Hillendale Gate Apartments
6600 Wycombe Way
Baltimore, MD 21286
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