

# Lee County Literacy Coalition

## Quarterly Newsletter

### Tutor Social

There will be a tutor social Tuesday, April 29, from 6:30—8:00 pm. These Socials are a chance for tutors to talk shop, meet others with the volunteer spirit, and generally have a relaxing evening. The social will be held at the Donnelly's house at 414 N. 8th St. in Opelika.

**RSVP**—Please call Debby at 705-0001 to let her know if you would like to attend.

### NEW DIRECTOR IN 2008

With the beginning of 2008, LCLC has a new director, Debby Jahera. Debby seems a natural fit for the position and we are very pleased to have her in our Coalition family. She has lived in Auburn since 1980 and worked at Auburn University in Continuing Education and the School of Engineering until starting a family, raising children and doing community volunteer work. Her husband John teaches at Auburn University in the School of Business.

Your board of directors meets once monthly. Our normal meeting is at Tom Brawner's office at Southern Union on the third

Monday of each month at 3 p.m. You are always welcome to attend. Call the office and make sure of time and place in that we occasionally have to



Debby Jahera, new LCLC director

change. Since we have a new director, the board is focusing on helping Debby understand the different

aspects of this unique position. We ask our Director to be everything from a cook to an expert in learning styles and instructional materials. That is where YOU come into play. LCLC could not exist without the SUPPORT AND FUNDING OF UNITED WAY AND OF YOU VOLUNTEER TUTORS. We want you to know we feel so fortunate to have such an active force at work in Lee County. Our Coalition is one of the factors which make our community strong.

Patsy Arant Thomas,  
President, Board of Directors for 2008

### NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As the new director I'd like to say hello, keep up the good work, and call me from time to time. I started on the job January 7 and I'm slowly getting to know our tutors and learners

and have to say, you are a really nice bunch of people! You are welcome to drop by and check in with me. I'll be the lady with the desktop full of Post-It notes. There are a lot

of details involved with this job but I keep reminding myself that Job One is getting tutors and learners together so you can do that magical thing called learning.

## 2008 ANNUAL DINNER



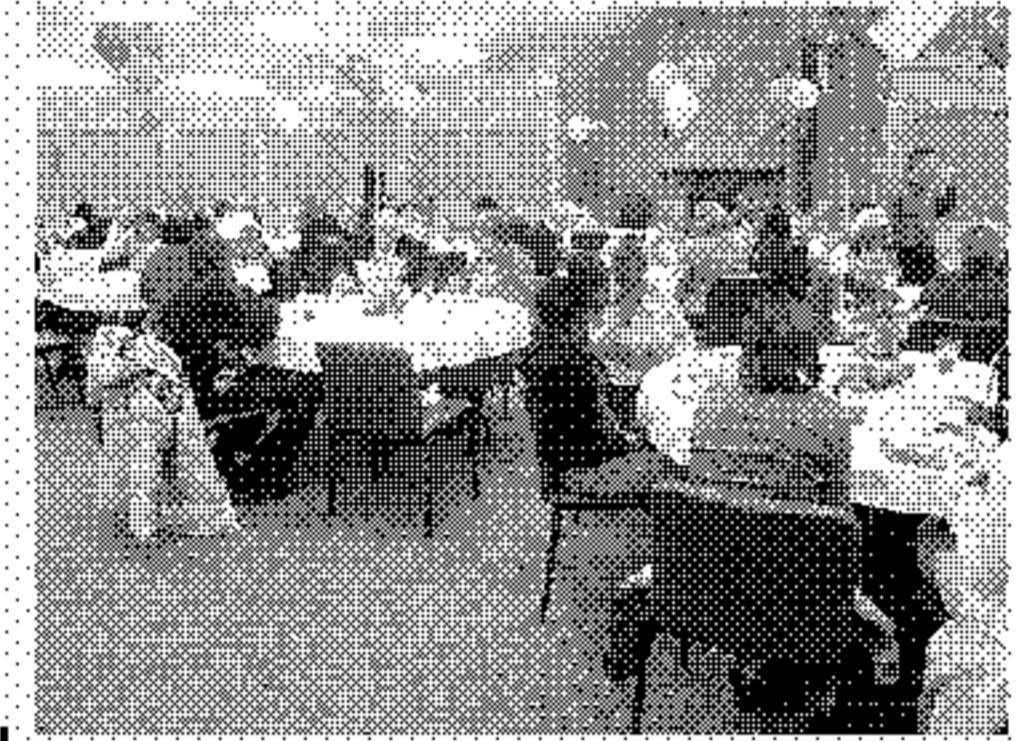
Mayor Bill Ham, Jesse Myers, Jacquice Myers, Bill Walsh, and Hugh Turner

The Literacy Coalition's Annual Tutor Learner Dinner was held the evening of Tuesday, February 26 in the Azalea

Room at the Health Resource Center. We had about 50 people come to the potluck dinner, and the food was delicious.

Our Social Committee (Patsy Thomas, Carolyn Moore, Sylvia Stephens and Debby Jahera), along with help from Donna Potts of United Way, Jim Phillips, Debbie Heidepriem, Nick Conrad and other volunteers, managed to see

that things went smoothly. Everyone seemed to enjoy being together. Our Learner of the Year was Jesse Myers. His tutor Bill Walsh and Mayor Bill Ham presented the plaque and Jesse's daughter Jacquice was pleased to accompany her father.



Tutors and learners enjoy food and conversation at the Annual Dinner

## A TUTOR'S STORY

BY: JIM PHILLIPS

**Sometimes LCLC tutors can feel all alone in their endeavors.**

**Here is a description from one tutor of his journey with a learner. Please share your own stories for the encouragement of other tutors.**

My student's formal education was interrupted after the eighth grade when she got married and was unable to find time to pursue her courses. She is now 48 years old and is currently employed as a fulltime worker at the East Ala-

bama Medical Center. She entered the Literacy program in October 2007, with the intent of preparation for the GED test and subsequent entry into some field of university study.

We are able to make up for lost ground quickly because of my student's determination to do whatever it takes to attain the GED as her intermediate goal. She is diligent about her homework and typically goes beyond the lessons I have assigned her. She also reads extensively in newspapers and books and brings

these materials into class for discussion. I am impressed by her reading comprehension and desire to learn. She is also progressing well with math and works ahead of what I have assigned her in the math problem book.

I am hopeful and confident that my student will soon reach the requirements for entry into the GED preparation course at Southern Union College and will fare well in that course of instruction.

## TOMATOES AND PEPPERS CASSEROLE

Sandy Phillips prepared this delicious dish for our 2008 Tutor Learner Dinner. She made it up with what she had on hand proving that ingenuity and imagination work wonders!

### Ingredients:

- 1 package of Kroger's Recipe Beginnings 3

Pepper & Onion Blend

- ½ cup chopped frozen or fresh bell pepper
- 1 can shoe peg corn, drained
- 2 cans petite diced tomatoes, drained
- 1 package of fajita mix
- ½ to ¾ cup grated

Parmesan or Romano cheese

### Directions:

Defrost pepper & onion mix and sauté in butter or olive oil. Place combined tomatoes, corn, and fajita mix in a 2 quart casserole. Mix and add sauted peppers

and onions. Stir in cheese or layer vegetables with cheese. Add black pepper and salt to taste if desired. Heat at 350 degrees until cheese melts and mixture is hot through.

## SPELLING BEE COMING SOON!

BY: PAULA SULLENGER

If you haven't yet participated in the PRCA Spelling Bee, put it on your calendar for July 25, 2008. It's great fun for spellers and spectators alike. I have been a member of a spelling bee team for two years and I'm looking forward to this year's event. The first question for each team is tailored to that team's specialty so nobody has to worry about losing in the first round. The words get progressively harder during later rounds.

Part of the fun is hearing what words the other teams get. Some-

times the announcer calls out a word and I wish that my team had gotten that one. Other times I hear the word given to another team and I'm very grateful that we didn't have to answer that one. Then comes the uneasiness when the announcer looks at my team and we hear what monstrous word we have to spell. We're very relieved when it's one we already know, though we've also had luck with unfamiliar words that we were able to reason out, or just guess correctly. There's a brief moment of embarrassment when we miss a word completely, but it's all

in good fun. The spectators are given a voluntary written quiz for a chance at a cool prize. One year there was tie and we got to watch a spell-off between audience members.

Come on out on July 25. I guarantee you'll enjoy the afternoon.

**Full Disclosure: Paula Sullenger was actually on the winning team last year! Come see if she and the AU library team can repeat their victory.**

## FINANCIAL REPORT

BY: DEBBIE HEIDEPRIEM, TREASURER

LCLC is supported by organizations/foundations, individuals, and businesses. Our main source of funding comes from United Way of Lee County (UWLC), and they are generously supporting LCLC in 2008 with \$27,800 to help carry out our mission. In addition, UWLC provides LCLC with office and tutor space in the United Way building in Opelika.

We are also supported by the Public Relations Council of Alabama (PRCA). PRCA hosts and raises funds for the LCLC with the Corpo-

rate Spelling Bee. In 2007, PRCA raised \$5,100 for the LCLC to fund our two after-school programs at Greater Peace and True Deliverance. In over four years, PRCA's time and commitment to support literacy in our county has provided over \$21,100 in funds to help provide services and supplies to our programs.

In December 2007, LCLC received a grant from AT&T for \$6,819 to purchase new computers, software, and accessories for the tutoring labs. This grant will help LCLC stay

on the leading edge of technology in order to provide the best services we can to our learners in 2008 and beyond.

LCLC is very appreciative of all the support (in-kind and monetary) we receive from individuals to organizations and would like to thank everyone for your continuous support so we can be a more literate Lee County! We could not do it without you!

## TUTOR ORIENTATION HELD MARCH 25

Mike Golden led the tutor orientation session on Tuesday evening and we had six new tutors attending. Lots of good questions were asked and answered. I hope everyone left the orientation feeling confident that they could handle all sorts of teaching situations they previously thought they couldn't.

If you attended the orientation and would like further information, please feel free to call me at 705-0001. If I don't know the answer, I will find out!

The Literacy Coalition received a generous donation of Reader's Digest books and recent magazines which we would like to share with you and your learners. Please come by and help yourself. There is a lot of good reading awaiting you.

At the Literacy Coalition's United Way office we have these books available to help tutors. Feel free to come by and check one out:

- Teaching the Learning Disabled by Deborah Deutsch Smith
- Handbook for the Volunteer Tutor by Rauch and Sanacore, editors
- Tips at your fingertips: Teaching Strategies for Adult Literacy Tutors by Ola M. Brown, editor
- Reading by the Colors: Overcoming Dyslexia and other Reading Disabilities through the Irlen Method by Helen Irlen
- Books for Adult New Readers developed by Project LEARN
- Off Track: When Poor Readers become "Learning Disabled" by

LEE COUNTY  
LITERACY  
COALITION

2133 Executive Park Drive  
Opelika, AL 36801

Phone: 334-705-0001  
E-mail: litcoalition@bellsouth.net

**Options for Learning.**

WEBSITE UPDATE  
COMING SOON

Look for a wonderful, new LCLC website at [www.leecountyliteracy.org](http://www.leecountyliteracy.org) coming soon.

This past December, we had a group of energetic AU students from the English Graduate School club call to ask if they could be of any assistance to our Coalition. As a result of that relationship, a group of five young women took our website on as a class project. They met with Debby Jahera and Patsy Thomas several times to learn more about the Coalition's mission and two of them even attended our Annual Dinner in an effort to know more about us.

The results are wonderful and Debby will send out an announcement when all the "i's have been dotted" and the "t's have been crossed." Our hope is to have a volunteer who will be our webmaster and change pictures and information out on a regular basis.

We thank Jessica Smith, Emma Mulvaney, Boyu Liu, Joanna Phillips, and Ashley Pastor for their time, creativity, and for caring.

Special Thanks:

Thank you to Kelly Walker for getting our tutoring room printer up and running!

Thank you to Patsy Thomas for her many, many hours teaching, guiding, and helping the new Director settle in to her job!

Thank you to the United Way staff for making our tutors, learners, and director feel at home in their building!