

# LITERACY LIGHTS



*"To learn to read is to light a fire!"* VICTOR HUGO

255 Clifton Boulevard, Suite 314, Westminster, Maryland 21157 • 410-857-0766 • e-mail: [lcouncil@carr.org](mailto:lcouncil@carr.org) • [www.literacy.carr.org](http://www.literacy.carr.org)

## From the Director's Desk

What a great month February turned out to be for the Literacy Council. We received a very large grant from the Kahlert Foundation, several members of the Board of Directors have made large individual contributions to our programs and we have finally been able to have nearly 100% of our waiting list of students in training with the new volunteer tutors who have come on board. We added two new members to the Board of Directors – Bernard Jones and Jillian Dittrich.

However, we cannot let our wins keep us from continuing to move forward. To that end we have two major fundraisers under way. The first is the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Spelling Bee which has been given a major overhaul in an effort to make it attractive to a larger audience. We certainly would like to see a large turnout of our tutors and supporters for this event. The second project is the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Golf Tournament to benefit the Literacy Council. This will be held at Quail Valley Golf Course in Littlestown, Pa. on June 10<sup>th</sup> with a shotgun start at 8:00 AM. Lunch will be provided. Teams are \$400 and individual golfers are welcome. Please call the office for more details or to register a team.

Richard has scheduled another class for new tutors in April. He has information elsewhere in the newsletter.

We have successfully begun a new class for You Can't – We Can in Eldersburg training Pre-GED classes for drug and alcohol rehab students under court ordered status. Paula and Allan are doing this training. We will hopefully extend our programs to other facilities in Carroll County in the near future. We continue to seek additional funding through the grant process. Our student intern Stephan is working on a grant request at this time. We are also investigating potential partnerships with McDaniel College and the various fraternities and sororities on campus. Many of the brochures and handouts we have used over the past several years are redesigned and we continue to work on our marketing image under the leadership of Mary Ann Davis. We are beginning our quest to replace our computers in the office with the intent of being able to offer computerized training in the near future.

If you or someone you know would like to get involved in our programs, tutoring, assisting in the office or working on a specific program, please have them call the office (410 857-0766) and let us know.

## Ron Tait 1939-2016



Ron Tait was one of the truly gifted members of our community. He had been a tutor for many years and will be missed by all of us. One of his fondest memories was when a student who told him "This is the first time I have been able to select a Valentine card with wording appropriate for my wife". Another fond memory was when a former student became a straight A student in college and earned two scholarships.

**Save the Date**  
**Annual Spelling Bee April 21, 2016**  
**Golf Tournament June 10, 2016**

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## We're really looking forward to April

What? No, it's not because of April Fools' Day or April flowers.

We're excited because on April 21<sup>st</sup> the Literacy Council of Carroll County will hold its

### 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Spelling Bee.

For years now this event has been a fun community activity and an important fundraiser for the Literacy Council, and in 2016 it'll be bigger than ever. How does it work? Well, it's pretty simple. Businesses and organizations sponsor teams in the competition, with each team consisting of 3 spellers and 1 alternate. We're looking to host ten teams who will compete for the title of Spelling Champion. Spell the word correctly, and your team scores points. The team with the most points wins. The event will be preceded by a time for drinks and a delicious dinner catered by the culinary department of the Carroll County Career and Tech Center. This entertaining event will be held in the portico at St. John's Church in Westminster.

If you want to form a team and participate, use the form that follows. If you want to order individual tickets, you may use the following form also. Individual tickets will be available for sale at the event on April 21, 2016. Individuals can test their spelling skill amongst themselves as they watch the teams compete. It is a fun time for friends to laugh and find the smartest of the group even if you are not on a team.

So mark your calendars for the evening of April 21<sup>st</sup>. Come out for drinks, dinner, and the chance to watch Carroll County's finest spellers take on words like "pulley," "pomegranate" and "pusillanimous."

puscil??????

pusilland????????



**We look forward to seeing you there!!!!**



The Board of Directors expresses their sincere sympathy to Board member Glenn Bair and his family on the passing of his brother, Harvey B. Bair.

## Read Across America

February 27, 2016

Every year we gather with all of the Carroll County organizations who are concerned about literacy in our community to celebrate Dr. Suess' birthday. Although this event is aimed at children, it gives us a chance to promote the awareness of adult literacy issues and recruit volunteers. Besides we like making bookmarks with the children who stop.

Thank you to our volunteers who made our table one of the most popular: Richard Keen, Brenda Lewis, Cathy Radcliff, Dana Hotra, Selonie Cortada, Judy Goodyear and Donna Crafton.



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## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Spelling Bee

benefiting the  
LITERACY COUNCIL OF CARROLL COUNTY, INC.

Thursday, April 21, 2016

St. John's Portico, 43 Monroe St., Westminster, MD

**Please return form and fees by April 8, 2016**

**Business/organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact person:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TEAM NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

***Have fun with this!***

### **TEAM MEMBERS**

**Captain:** \_\_\_\_\_

**#2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**#3:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Alternate:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *Team Table - \$500- Table for 10 from your organization or business. Include your spellers and supporters or cheerleaders. We'll reserve your table!*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Team only - \$275 Includes 3 spellers and 1 alternate speller*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Table only - Room for 10 at \$375*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Individual Tickets-\$37.50*

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ *Total Enclosed*

*All tickets include buffet dinner - cash bar will be available until after dinner*

*Teams should arrive 5:00-5:30 p.m.*

*Dinner will be available at 6:00 p.m.*

*Introductions, rules and start of Spelling Bee at 7:15 p.m.*

*Entertainment will be provided at intermission.*

*Return form to Literacy Council of Carroll County, 255 Clifton Blvd., Suite 314, Westminster, MD 21157*

*For additional information, please email [lcouncil@carr.org](mailto:lcouncil@carr.org) or call 410 857 0766.*

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**Thank you to all of our generous friends who make our work possible.**

## **Platinum Level**

Kahlert Foundation

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Penquin Random House

Carol Poole

## **Golden Level**

Brenda Lewis

## **Silver Level**

Charles & Yukari Simpson

Mary Ann Ensminger

UMW of Wesley Freedom

UMW of Shiloh UM Church

Paul & Mary Bendel-Simso

Davis Library

Carroll Co Retired School

Edie Haschert

McCormick & Company

Personnel Assoc.

## **Bronze Level**

Margaret Gross

Dan Feustel

Robert & JoAnn Hunter

Audrey & Joe Cimino

United Methodist Women of

South Carroll Lioness /Lions

Wesley Freedom

Club

## **From our Student/Tutor Coordinator**

### **We have a new Program in Eldersburg**

The Literacy Council recently started a pre-GED tutoring program in Eldersburg designed to help individuals who have been given the option of education instead of incarceration. As is often the case, some individuals make wrong decisions due to the lack of employment or other life circumstances that can be directly correlated to not having gained a high school diploma. The Literacy Council works in cooperation with the counseling services of "I Can't, We Can", which has a facility in Eldersburg, MD.

Each Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to noon, students are tutored in four subject areas needed to be mastered in order to enter into a GED class at Carroll Community College. At the end of the pre-GED lessons students can pass the GED admission test and be on track to gain a high school equivalency diploma. Tutors for this program are Paula Monroe-Davidson and Alan Skierski. Both are former teachers who have developed a pre-GED program using material acquired by the Literacy Council. Paula and Alan have many years of experience with pre-GED tutoring. The Council is fortunate to have two talented and dedicated persons to help make this new program successful.