

Common Place...where love works!

GOODNEWS

August 2010

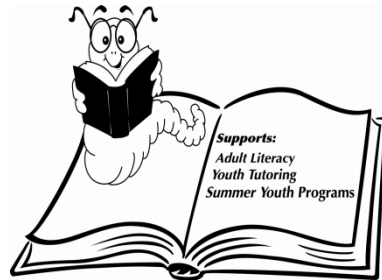
Connie Voss
Managing Editor

Stephanie Marchand
Editor

Our Mission is to strive to eliminate the root causes of poverty, racism, and other social injustices by recognizing the dignity and self-worth inherent in each person.

Common Place Board Chair
Roberta Koscielski

Board Officers
Jim Bremner
Karen Scott
Johanne Grewell



Give the Gift of Literacy!

Common Place Walk for Reading

Saturday, September 11

There are many ways we use our reading and writing skills each and every day. What about reading the newspaper? Writing a grocery list? Reading your prescription bottle label to know exactly how much medication you need to take and how often? Writing a letter or filling out forms, such as employment applications and school registration cards? But what if you couldn't read? Imagine how it must feel to look at a paper with handwriting on it and not know what is written.

You can help give the gift of literacy by supporting the Common Place 24th annual Walk for Reading on Saturday, September 11. Our goal is to raise \$35,000 to support our after school tutoring and enrichment programs for more than 100 children grades K – 12, many of whom are educationally and economically at-risk; and, our Adult Literacy Program, which provides one-on-one tutoring and group classes to more than 200 participants yearly.



Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., with the walk starting at 8:30 a.m. Two routes are available: the "Novel" 5K walk and the "Short Story" 1 mile walk. Both routes are residential and shady.

Individuals, families, and groups are encouraged to walk at Common Place on September 11th, however individuals and groups may walk at another location and day of choice. Churches, businesses, civic organizations and others who are not able to participate on the day of the Walk, are encouraged to organize a team of walkers and gather sponsors. Walk before or after work, during lunch time, or other designated time in honor of International Literacy Week (September 6 – 10).



Sponsorships are the key to reaching our goal.

With your sponsorships, you are helping Common Place provide educational programs to many families in the Peoria community. Registration for individual is \$25 or \$35 for family. Sponsor sheets and registration forms are available on our website: www.commonplacepeoria.org, or by calling Stephanie at 674-3315.

Dear Friends,

Our hearts are filled with many stories of individuals of all ages whose lives have changed through discovering the gift of reading. From the great grandmother who can now read to her great grandchildren, to the teen who now has the confidence gained from finally getting the reading help he has needed. Your help and support make it possible.

We are preparing for our 24th annual Walk for Reading, to provide financial support for our literacy programs for adults, children and families; and to bring awareness to literacy needs in our community. After 24 years, there are still many adults who are challenged in their daily living by low-level reading skills, and children who enter school without the vocabulary and knowledge base they need to succeed. Please take a minute to read about why supporting literacy is still vital today. Then join with us by walking, gathering sponsorships, or donating to help give the gift of literacy to adults and children.

*Warm regards,
Connie*

Why Literacy Still Today??

It seems fitting that both Common Place and International Literacy Day were founded about the same time in the 1960's. The two had no direct connection at that time. But as Common Place grew to fill the needs of the neighborhood, our adult literacy program developed when neighbors asked for help with their reading. Later, as the needs of whole families with intergenerational illiteracy became evident, programs for children and families were added.

International Literacy Day was created by UNESCO, and is celebrated each year on September 8. To coincide with International Literacy Day, our Walk for Reading is held every year on the Saturday following the 8th. After 24 years, has the need subsided? Not at all. There continues to be a sizeable portion of our population that has significant literacy challenges. National research shows a slight improvement over the past 10-15 years, but minimal. Research also shows that literacy challenges tend to follow through generations of families, and that illiteracy and poverty frequently go hand-in-hand. Literacy challenges, however, do cross all socio-economic levels. Although we might not be aware of it, we interact with adults and children with literacy challenges throughout our daily activities.

Here are some facts about literacy today, according to the international literacy organization, ProLiteracy.

World wide:

- It is estimated that 860 million of the world's adults do not know how to read or write.
- Nearly 2/3 of those are women.
- More than 100 million children lack access to education.

In the United States:

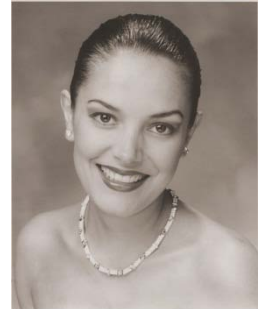
- American business currently spends more than \$60 billion each year on employee training, much of that for remedial reading, writing, and mathematics.
- Annual health care costs in the U.S. are four times higher for individuals with low literacy skills than for those with high level literacy skills.
- Women in the U. S. who have little formal education are more likely than educated women to be in abusive relationships.
- ½ of the adults in federal and state correctional institutions cannot read or write at all; 85% of juvenile offenders have reading problems.
- More than 8 million students in grades 4-12 read below grade level and have significant reading comprehension challenges.
- Among low-income 8th graders, just 15% read at a proficient level.
- About 40% of high school graduates lack the literacy skills employers seek. Male and female students with low academic achievement are twice as likely to become parents by their senior year of high school compared to students with high academic achievement.
- High school dropouts are 3.5 times more likely than high school graduates to be arrested in their lifetime.

(Continued on page 3)

Songs From The Heart Concert

To Benefit Common Place

The Heartland Festival Orchestra has partnered with Common Place—“*where love works*”—for the August 27th “Songs from the Heart” concert! A portion of the proceeds will benefit Common Place’s literacy programs for adults, children and families. Featured guest is soprano Barbara Padilla, who will include a special tribute to Dan Fogelberg. The concert is at 7:30 at Five Points Washington. Tickets can be purchased at Five Points Washington, Kidder Music, or online at www.heartlandfestivalorchestra.org. Call 309-339-3943 for more information.



Barbara Padilla

(Continued from page 2)

These challenges still exist in central Illinois as well, where 28,230 adults, or 20% of the adult population, have not completed high school (Dept. of Economics, SIU Edwardsville). In the south side immediate area of Common Place, the number reaches nearly 50% (US Census 2000). Some adults who enter our Common Place Adult Literacy Program test at *below* a first grade reading level. Imagine going through your day not being able to read signs, words on the television screen, or other things pertaining to normal daily functioning. Or imagine being a child who comes from a home where reading is not part of everyday life and the fear that hits the first day—or maybe every day—of school. These are some of the people who walk through our doors every day. At Common Place, they find a friendly face, a helping hand, and respect that they might not have felt elsewhere—and if they stay with us, the world can open up to them through reading.

ProLiteracy Statement of Rights

The following Adult Learner Statement of Rights by the international literacy organization, ProLiteracy, is in line with our Common Place mission and belief that every individual deserves a quality education and the right to read.

We Believe

- That the ability to read, write, perform math, and use technology is a basic human right
- That everyone, from children to adults in every part of the world, has the right to learn these skills and to have access to programs that make it possible for them to acquire those skills
- That education is a lifelong pursuit
- That literacy skills are key to reducing poverty, crime, poor health, high health care costs, human rights abuse, and increasing the literacy of children

We Envision

- A world where all adults have the skills they need to communicate in their native language

A United States where all adults can read, write, speak, and understand English and use these skills for critical thinking, to perform math, and use technology at a level that makes it possible for them to achieve their greatest potential as parents, employees, and members of their communities.

Calendar of Events

Fri., August 27 7:30 p.m. Five Points Washington	Heartland Festival Orchestra Concert Benefiting Common Place (see p. 3)
Mon., September 6	Labor Day: Common Place Closed
Wed., September 8	International Literacy Day
Sat., September 11 8:00 a.m. – Registration	<i>Walk for Reading</i> 8:30 a.m. – Walk
September 13 – 17	National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week
Wed., September 29 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Tutor Training Workshop, Session 1 at Common Place
Sat., October 2 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Tutor Training Workshop, Session 2 at Common Place
Sat., October 9 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Tutor Training Workshop, Session 3 at Common Place
Thurs., November 25	Common Place Closed for Thanksgiving
Fri., November 26	Common Place Closed

Teach an Adult to Read

The Adult Literacy staff at Common Place is offering a **Tutor Orientation and Training Workshop** series at Common Place on

- **Wed., September 29, 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday, October 2, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday, October 9, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Cost is \$20 for materials. Registration is required.
Call Kathryn, 674-3315, to register.

Spotlight Award Recipients

Congratulations to Alma Kidd on receiving the Secretary of State Spotlight on Achievement Award, and to Nita Volz for her Spotlight on Service Award.



Spotlight Award winners Nita Volz and Alma Kidd

Alma came to Common Place's Adult Literacy Program after being referred because she wanted to learn to read books and keep track of her checkbook, but her reading and math skills were not up to those tasks. She signed up at Common Place and has been a faithful member ever since. Now she can check out books from Common Place's library. Despite dealing with life-threatening health conditions, her attendance has always been very good. She inspires everyone at Common Place.

Five years ago Nita was asked to tutor a special class for adults with behavioral or developmental disabilities and she agreed to do so. Nita has earned the friendship and trust of her students by encouraging them to try their hardest to learn new skills. She is very dedicated to and expects a lot from her students and they want to rise to her high standards. She is always looking for new activities to introduce to her class and never fails to inform her students of any activities in town that relate to literacy. Alma is one of Nita's students.

Leave a Legacy

Do you want to give continuing support to causes in which you believe? Leave your legacy by remembering Common Place in your will or estate.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS from April 1, 2010 through July 31, 2010

Dr. & Mrs. Dick Albers	Jon & Shirley Dresden	Karin Johnson	Donald & Meredith Seaton
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Altman	Lou Anne Dulaney	Dawn Kelly	Stephanie Sierra
Anshai Emeth Congregation	Helen Dunn	Kings Daughters Circle	Mr. & Mrs. Sloneger
Thelma Arnett	Robert Durham	Millie Koscielski	Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Snyder
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Bailey	Dan & Betty Ekstrand	Kathleen Krippel	Shirley Mae Snyder
Nina Lou Baird	Mr. & Mrs. Keith Erickson	Ralph & Marjorie Kroehler	Paul Sommer
Bolanle Bamgbopa	Mary Evens	Rich & Sharon Lansdowne	South Side Trust & Savings
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Barclay	David & Karen Ewert	Kenneth Legg	Chris Spears
Barnes & Noble Inc.	James & Irma Fawley	Kathleen Leonard	St. Mark's Lutheran, Wash.
Janice Bartoszewicz	Sybil Feldman	Mackinaw Christian Church	Mary Jane Sterling
& Dru Maki	John & Lu Anne Fendrich	David Manuel, Sr.	Mr. & Mrs. Fred Stuber
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Baumgartner	Bonnie J. Fenton	Marian Marshall	Sunnyland Christian Church
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Beckler	Ida Ferree	Helen Martin	Mary Sutton
J.N. Betourney	Mr. & Mrs. Jordan Fifield	Dr. Frances Matthews	Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Swager
& Carol Betourney	First Baptist Church	M. Kay Maynard	Mr. & Mrs. Brent Teubel
Mrs. Dean Blomeyer	First Christian, Creve Coeur	Matthew McCauley	Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Thomas
Mrs. Hank Bordeaux	First Christian Church, Henry	Marge McGaughey	Mr. & Mrs. Guy Treadway
Esther Bork	First Christian, Walnut	Dr. & Mrs. John McLean	Mr. & Mrs. Field Triebel
Diane Brecher	CWF, Walnut	Steven & Norma McNulty	Trinity Presbyterian Church
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Bremner	First Federated, Peoria	Bob & Mary Ann Middleton	Ms. Norma Turner
Barbara Brown	First Un. Methodist, E.P.	John & Betty Minor	Mrs. Richard Ullman
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Bryant	First Un. Methodist, Peoria	Mr. & Mrs. H. J. Mitchell	Margaret Ulrich
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Buerger, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. Ted W. Fleming	Mizpah Circle of the	Heart of Illinois United Way
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Burkey	Adele Fleming	Kings Daughters & Sons	Mary Unser
Linda Bush	Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Frederick Jr	James & Jane Marrison	Walter Urbaniak
John & Letha Byrne	Mrs. Trenchard French	Mr. & Mrs. David Mueller	Tim & Connie Voss
M. Joyce Carlisle	Randal & Leslie Gerdt	Mr. & Mrs. James Mueller	Eugene & Margaret Voss
Catholic Women's League	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gilmore	Robert & Gail Muir	Carol Walker
Christian Church in IL & WI	Glen Oak Christian Church	Elliott Murray	Ms. Freddie Walker
Children's Home	Glen Oak CWF	Stacey Noe	Washburn Christian Church
Dr. Patricia Chrosniak	Terry & Carol Glynn	Notre Dame High School	Washington Presbyterian
City of Peoria	Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Grawey	Dr. & Mrs. Bud Novotny	Paul Watson
Phil & Noel Cline	Johanne Grewell	Mrs. William O'Neill	Warren Webber
Carolyn Close	Anne Griffith	Rosemary Oldenburg	Web Tech Services, Inc.
Steve & Minta Colburn	Mr. & Mrs. Frank Grimsley	Mrs. Theodore Page	Dr. & Mrs. Herb Weinstein
Combined Federal Campaign	Donald Gronewold	Peoria Area Anti-	John & Lynn Wellinghoff
Community Foundation	Homer & Barb Gurtler	Hunger Coalition	Mrs. Ernest B. West
of Central IL	Hershel Hannah, Jr.	Peoria Hts. Congregational	Randy & Mary Jane West
Kath Conver	Dorothy Harlan	Peoria Public Library	Westminster Presbyterian
Doug & Nancy Crew	Gilbert & Lana Hasenyager	Randall & Rebeca Potter	Curtis & Jackie White
Dick & Doreve Cridlebaugh	Martha Herm	David Prindable	William & Beverly White
Cheryl Dawson	Sharon Hodel	Pat Pritchard	Martha Willi
Emil & Jan Deissler	Mr. & Mrs. Donald Hofford	Prospect United Methodist	Claude Williams
Delavan United Methodist	Ann Holmes	Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Rager	Willow Hill United
Delta Kappa Gamma,	Mrs. Philip Z. Horton, Jr.	Henry & Nancy Rakoff	Methodist Church
NU Chapter	Jerry & Mary Howard	Mrs. Rex Robinson	Thomas Wilson
Thomas Dennison	Bea Huson	Dr. William K. Rohwedder	Maurine Witte
Elaine Dentino	Illinois Reading Council	Rotary Club Peoria North	Gayle Workman
Patti Deters & Susan Catt	Illinois Press Foundation	Brian & Deborah Ruddell	Dr. & Mrs. Mike Zichterman
Mary Dietrich	Charles & Anita Jaeger	Barbara Schefelbein	Arnold & Linda Zimmer
David & Roberta Dietrich	Carolyn Jakopin	Mr. & Mrs. M. Schellenberg	
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Dintzis	Christopher James	Mrs. Lucy Schmutde	
Mrs. Mary Dossey	Ivan & Bonnie Jo Jern	Mr. & Mrs. R. Schwebel	

Thank you to all donors. We apologize for any omissions or incorrect listings in the donor list. If you feel that an error has occurred, contact Common Place at 674-3315. Please be reminded that the list reflects contributions received between April 1, 2010 to July 31, 2010.

We are grateful for the generous support to our programs recently provided by grants from the following: United Way for adult literacy and youth programs --- Illinois Secretary of State Office of Literacy for adult literacy --- Christian Churches in Illinois and Wisconsin for Promising Futures --- Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation and DKG International for youth programs -- and Youth United for Central Illinois for summer youth activities.

Summer Activities



Summer Family Reading parents and children engaging in an activity together



5th & 6th grade summer youth participants working on a science project



5th & 6th grade participants all smiles when they completed their science structure



Storyteller Jim May visited with summer program participants



New Challenges Class lead by Nita Volz



Learning how to garden

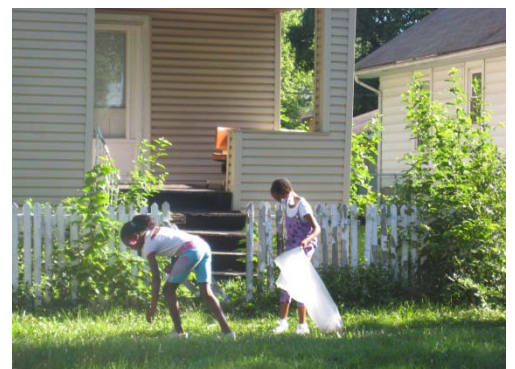


Peoria Zoo Mobile showing off Illinois prairie animals



Left: Ed & Beverly Caballero teaching summer youth participants how to dance the Salsa

Right: Children performing community service project of litter pick-up in the Common Place neighborhood



Volunteer Corner

One way to create an impact on an individual's life is through volunteering. This summer Common Place was blessed with many volunteers who shared their time and talents. Our many thanks for all the work and skills the following volunteers provided!

- *Generation United* - cleaned and organized a storage area
- *Illinois Central College students* - provided assistance with gardening with youth participants, and mentoring with 5th & 6th students
- *Northminster Presbyterian Church members*– provided tutoring to students grades K – 12, for seven weeks
- *Bradley University students* – provided specialized tutoring for two high school students for seven weeks
- *Individuals from the Peoria Community* – provided tutoring to students grades K – 12 for seven weeks; tutoring for adults; mailings; prep work for the Walk for Reading; administrative work; food pick-up; organizing food pantry; preparing sacks of groceries for food pantry; assistance on food pantry days; teaching singing, dancing, and dramatic readings to youth participants; and providing and planting of butterfly bushes
- *United Presbyterian Church* – yard clean-up, weeding, and mowing; providing paint and painting of restroom; and, doing basic carpentry repairs
- *Two teens from Workforce Network summer employment program*– assisted with cleaning and organizing classrooms, and organizing books for youth programs



Members from United Presbyterian Church trimming and weeding around Common Place's parking lot

Assistance is needed all year round with tutoring for children and adults, food pick-ups, basic carpentry and plumbing repairs, mailings, weeding and yard maintenance, cleaning and organizing of program areas, and prep work for programs. Volunteers not only help our staff members with different tasks, they also provide much needed services that Common Place would otherwise hire to do.

If you would like to volunteer, please call Common Place, 674-3315.



Deborah Gordon works on Walk for Reading yard signs while Taia Rogers works on cleaning and organizing cabinets



Staff member, Kathryn Lambert, hands painting supplies to United Presbyterian Church volunteers

**Common Place Love In Action Award Dinner
June 10, 2010**



*Chandler Kirby &
Roberta Koscielski*



*Common Place youth
demonstrating cup
stacking*



Love In Action Award recipient Shirley Dresden



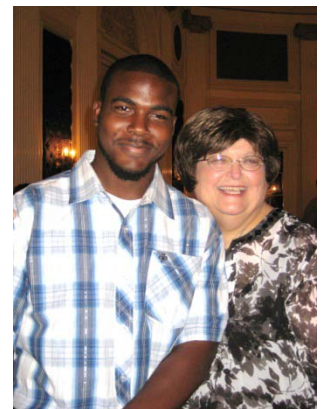
Phil & Noel Cline



Peter & Jeanne Barclay



*Adele Fleming &
Shirley Dresden*



*Common Place youth
participant, Mike, and
Shirley Dresden*



*Marty Watkins trying cup
stacking*



*Common Place youth staff member
Shundell Broomfield and youth participants*



*Fran Moss sang one of
Shirley Dresden's favorite
songs*

COMMON PLACE
514 S. Shelley Street
Peoria, IL 61605-1837
Phone: 309-674-3315
Fax: 309-674-0627
Email: commonplace@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.commonplacepeoria.org

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Peoria, Illinois
Permit No. 664

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Please call or
email us if you
would like to be
removed from
our mailing list.

Yes! I want to help with the *Walk for Reading*

_____ Please send me a registration form and sponsor sheet.

_____ Sorry I can't be there, but enclosed is my contribution to help with
Common Place's education programs.

NAME & ADDRESS _____
