

Notables

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GL Homes VP of Community Relations Sarah Alsofrom, Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County CEO Kristin Calder and GL Homes COO Marcie DePlaza at Valencia Grand in Boynton Beach with books GL Homes donated to the Literacy Coalition. [TRACEY BENSON]

Read and react: Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County's popular fundraiser is one to bookmark

The 33rd Annual Love of Literacy Luncheon will feature best-selling journalist-turned author Geraldine Brooks and raise money to further the organization's mission to raise literacy rates in our community.

By Steve Dorfman • Notables Staff Writer

Be it Taylor Swift (“I wouldn’t be a songwriter if it wasn’t for books that I loved as a kid”), Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis (“There are many little ways to enlarge your child’s world; love of books is the best of all”) or Dr. Seuss (“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go”), there’s no shortage of uber successful folks who long ago learned that reading truly is fundamental.

And that, of course, includes the good folks at the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County, who will be hosting their 33rd Annual Love of Literacy Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on April 11 at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in West Palm Beach.

“We are thrilled to celebrate literacy with many business and community leaders in the county at

this inspiring event,” said Kristin Calder, CEO of the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County. “There is a great literacy need in our community, and support from all who attend goes a long way to helping the Coalition provide and support life-changing literacy programs.”

See LITERACY, 2D



New York Times bestselling and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Geraldine Brooks headlines the 2024 Love of Literacy Luncheon. [RANDI BAIRD]



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LITERACY

from ID

Local statistics show the need for their work could not be starker. Among the most alarming ones:

- 52% of our third graders read below grade level.

- 22.2% of adults aged 16 or older in Palm Beach County lack basic literacy skills.

- Nearly 30% of residents aged 5 or older speak a language other than English.

Next month's event – which is being co-chaired by Telsula C. Morgan of Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A. and Lindsay Reinhart of Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, P.A. – will feature speaker and best-selling Australian-born author Geraldine Brooks, who will share her unique journey from journalist to novelist.

Brooks' latest book – "Horse" – is based on the true story of record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington, who eventually became America's most prolific stud sire. "Horse" will be available to luncheon attendees for a \$10 contribution.

Of course, the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County knows its vital work couldn't be accomplished without the support of local benefactors – including GL Homes, which recently donated 100 children's books from the organization's Amazon Wish List.

"The Literacy Coalition is grateful for the support of GL Homes, helping us in our efforts to build better



Eryn Ireland, Dyamond Ewing and Jill Schimming Taddeo of GL Homes with Ewing's 6-year-old daughter, Luna.

[TRACEY BENSON]



Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County Board President Matt Criscuolo with Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County Past Board President and current Executive Committee member Bernadette O'Grady.

[KRISTIN CALDER]

readers in Palm Beach County," said Calder. "Our community's literacy needs are many and having the support of business leaders like GL Homes allows us to make an even greater impact."

Echoing President Harry S. Truman's belief that "not all readers are leaders, but all leaders are readers" is GL Homes Chief Operating Officer Marcie DePlaza, who explained that getting youngsters to enjoy reading is vital for all of us: "One of the most important gifts we can give our children is the love of reading. Books open a child's eyes to the world. We create a strong, educated community through literacy."

GL Homes Vice President of Community Relations Sarah Alsofrom also noted that "even with all the technology and

computer screens in our lives, nothing compares to the bond we create when we read to a child. That time together is a moment of connection and allows children to form a positive attitude toward books and reading."

So, whether you're reading this article in a print or digital format, bookmark the 33rd Annual Love of Literacy Luncheon on April 11 as your next chance to further the cause of literacy in Palm Beach County.

IF YOU GO

When: Thursday, April 11; 11:30 a.m.

Where: Kravis Center for the Performing Arts Cohen Pavilion (701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach)

Tickets: \$175; table of 10 is \$1,750

Call: 561-767-3370

Email: communications@literacyabc.org