



The Literacy Advocate

Speaking from Within

"The trip I took to Columbus was a very eye-opening experience. Getting to meet other adult learners has inspired me to always keep my door for learning open."

~Stanley Bell

Booker T. Washington Virtual Enterprise Adult Training Center



Carolyn Bass with Lesra Martin, Adult Learner whose life and crusade is the subject of the film "The Hurricane."

For the first time, District of Columbia adult learners were among the presenters at the national conference of the Commission on Adult Basic Education (COABE), held this year in Columbus, Ohio.

Alegra Anderson of **Booker T. Washington Public Charter School** and **Stanley Bell** of the **Booker T. Washington Virtual Enterprise Adult Training Program**, with SEA staffers Carolyn Bass and Stacey Downey, presented a workshop entitled "Writing from Within" on the SEA's popular Claude Brown Writers & Readers Series.

Ms. Anderson and Mr. Bell spoke eloquently about their experiences as adult learners and encouraged adult educators to recognize the importance of using creative methods to teach and motivate adult learners.

The presenters were inspiring and touched attendees with their honesty and discussion



Presenters, from left: Alegra Anderson, Stacey Downey, and Stanley Bell.

of the potential of literacy programs that do not limit their focus only to reading and writing, but include opportunities for transformation and self-understanding.

The presentation included a showing of the SEA documentary, "Writings from the Promised Land", highlighting the Writers & Readers Series and shows adult learners and writers interacting at actual sessions recorded at SisterSpace and Books. The presentation team received an excellent evaluation and the adult learners got many compliments.

Distance Education: Mathematics for Teachers

Inside this issue:

First Kisses	2
Learner Writings	2
GED News	3
Washington Project Gala	4

The Literacy Advocate Institute offered a distance education course on teaching mathematics. This pilot course is aimed at improving instruction and student outcomes in adult education programs. This professional development course is de-

signed with a face-to-face orientation and weekly online lessons.

Ellen McDevitt, consultant with the **Adult Numeracy Network**, an affiliate of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, facilitated the first session. Ms.

McDevitt demonstrated how teachers can engage students in learning through varied instructional methods and by integrating theory and practice through intensive field experiences.

Teachers, look for the next session coming Fall 2004!

First Kisses and Other Pieces of Life

First kisses can be sweet, passionate, awkward, sloppy, and even shrouded in superstition. At least according to these fresh literary voices.

Seven adult learners read movingly from their original works at the “First Kisses and Other Pieces of Life” performance on April 23rd at St. Augustine’s Gingsrus Center in Washington, DC. A slide show of vintage photos of the writers illustrated the prose.

The readers — **Anthony Bockarie, Academy of Hope; Kelvin Jeter, Ballou STAY; Loretta Johnson, Metropolitan Delta Adult Literacy Council; Veronica McCarthur, Living Wages; Dorethia Newby, Metropolitan Delta Adult Literacy Council; Cindy Reyes, Booker T. Washington PCS; and Mattie Whittaker, Metropolitan Delta Adult Literacy Council** — delighted the

audience with their poignant, inspirational, and sometimes funny sketches of their lives. Each participant spent ten weeks in an SEA-sponsored writing workshop learning the art of creative nonfiction with author **Patrice Gaines**.

The SEA thanks **Curtis White** for donating sound equipment and SisterSpace & Books for arranging the space for the event.

What an inspiring evening!



Cindy Reyes, Adult Learner, Booker T. Washington Public Charter School with her daughter.



Anthony Bockarie, Adult Learner, Academy of Hope.



Remembering First Kisses

—Veronica McCarthur

One night my parents went out. I looked out the back window and Victor was looking out his back window. We sat and talked, looking at the stars. Before my parents came back I closed the window and went to bed, but all I could think of was talking and sitting next to Victor gazing at the stars. The next time my parents went out, we met outside the window. This time he asked me for a kiss.

—Dorethia Newby

When I got my first kiss I was just a little girl. I was in elementary school and I did not know about love.

There was a ten year old boy in my class who liked me, so I became his girlfriend and he became my boyfriend. ...

Kissing is wonderful. It makes your whole body tingle.

—Anthony Bockarie

My parents used to tie a rope on my waist telling me, “the day you get close to any girl, your abdomen will be distended.”

So, I was 18 when I had my first kiss after loving a girl for eight months. I kissed her gently, but to be honest, it was the worst kiss I have ever had. I was afraid my abdomen would be distended, like my parents told me.



Mattie Whitaker, Adult Learner, MDALC.



Loretta Johnson, Adult Learner, MDALC.

GED News — Meeting Your Needs

Pre-Printed Applications Available

DC organizations with GED preparatory programs may request a customized application for testing from the GED Testing Center. This form is pre-printed with the organization's name.

The UDC-GED Testing Center will, upon request,

provide these testing applications to GED programs to clearly identify GED testers and the programs where they study. The form is available in paper and electronic formats.

Note that at no time will the UDC-GED Testing

Center disclose score results to a third party, unless requested in writing by the candidate.

Local GED programs may request this application from the GED Administrator. Contact information provided on this page.

GED TESTING CENTER

202-274-7173

ged@dcadulteracy.org

James Williams

GED Administrator

202-274-7174

jwilliams@dcadulteracy.org

Revised Testing Schedule

Good news for re-testers of the GED test in DC — a third partial test has been added to the testing calendar.

Beginning May 2004, GED candidates will have three partial test dates to choose from when determining dates to re-take specific tests.

Remember that those candidates eligible (passed two or more of the five tests) for partial testing must wait thirty days from

the date of the last test before re-testing.

Those candidates who are not eligible (did not pass two of the five tests) for partials must wait three months from the date of the last test before re-testing.

Contact the GED Testing Center with any questions.



GED Monitors Needed

The UDC-GED Testing Center is recruiting examiners and proctors to administer the official GED test. Interested candidates should contact the GED Administrator at 202- 274-7173 or at jwilliams@dcadulteracy.org by July 21, 2004.

March Madness

The month of March brought record-breaking totals for the GED Test in the District of Columbia. The GED Testing Center logged more than 160 registrations in March. This amount is much higher than the 110-120 registrations that they receive each month!

March marked the beginning of a consistent increase in test registrations, administrations, and the total number of credentials awarded in the District of Columbia. GED Test registrations since March 2004 are up 17% from 2003, and 62% from 2002. And **177 credentials have been awarded since March 2004**, with many still pending. Great job to the GED recipients and all those involved in the educational process of adult learners in the District of Columbia!



University of the District of Columbia
State Education Agency, Adult Education
4200 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Phone: 202-274-7181
Fax: 202-274-7188
Email: info@dcaduliteracy.org

GED Testing Center
4340 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20008
Phone: 202-274-7173
Email: ged@dcaduliteracy.org

Monica Banton, Editor



www.DCAAdultLiteracy.org

The Washington Project Gala

By Shirlynn Hallum

In celebration of Black History Month, the Washington Project hosted "An Evening of Rhythm and Blues" on February 23, 2004 in the historic Corcoran Branch of Riggs Bank. The event raised funds for the Washington Project, a nonprofit organization that promotes entrepreneurship by helping low income DC residents attain the business and educational skills needed for small business ownership.

Executive Director **Ken White** awarded Certificates of Completion in NxLevel Business Development to adult learners **Everlyn Bandoh, Jeff Cooper, Belinda Gorham, Shirlynn Hallum, Steven Holliday, Jimmy Lance, Marlin Parker, Jacqueline Plummer, MaShonda Smith**, each of whom completed a business plan and started a business.

The Washington Project graduates displayed their entrepreneurship by helping plan and cater the event — Photographer **Roey Yohai**; Caterers **Jeff Cooper, Kevin Smith, Padua Player, Rene' Rivers-Smith, Erma White-**

DC Stands for Literacy...



From left, Ken White, Exec. Director; Adult Learners, Erma White-Mitchell, Jeffrey Cooper.

Mitchell, and **Sandra Maye-Kaye**, resource partner of Women's Business Center. Washington Project graduate **Timothy Crawford** shared his entrepreneurial success since completing the program and launching his business. Mr. Crawford recently purchased his own cement truck with Individual Development Account funds.

The Gala was a huge success for the Washington Project which means more economic literacy programming for DC residents!



Cake made by entrepreneur **Sandra Maye-Kaye**, Women's Business Center.