

*Guest Editor: Kris Magaurn, Tutor Coordinator, PCC Tigard Senior Center*

## Chalk It Up for Literacy *A Summer Celebration in Pioneer Square*

The Fourth Annual Chalk It Up for Literacy Festival was held on Saturday, August 12, in downtown Portland. Organized by Oregon Literacy with assistance from the Portland Literacy Council and other community members, the festival attracted many visitors to a bustling Pioneer Courthouse Square and generated much-needed awareness for literacy issues. The main feature was artists creating literacy-themed chalk art in a family friendly atmosphere.

With a small band playing in the background, festival attendees strolled among 25 artists spread across the square and watched as the literacy images came to life. Using only chalk, the artists created intricate and diverse pieces on large blackboards, from the very real likeness of Albert Einstein by Cole McKenzie Hicker to the surreal Dali-like images of Chuck Bloom. There were whimsical pieces and thought-provoking works, providing something for every interest and taste. By the end of the day, seven of the art pieces had been sold. Others are still available for purchase. They can be seen on the Chalk It Up website (listed at the end of this article).



*Onlookers watch as artists create literacy-themed chalk art drawings*

The festival featured a book fair by Title Wave Bookstore.

They brought bins and bins of books for sale. This is the Multnomah County Library used book store, so there was a wide range of choices at very reasonable prices. There was also a book drive so people could donate books to be distributed to agencies in the area.



*Local artist Lee Moyer, left, participated in his 4<sup>th</sup> Chalk It Up event*

Children of all ages enjoyed many activities, too. The children were treated to picture book reading in a cozy corner, face painting, balloons, and an art studio where they could create their own chalk art. Surrounding all this were advocacy tables set up around the square where attendees could learn more about literacy issues and what they could do to get involved.

Jon Toorock, OLI's Director of Community Development, declared the festival a huge success. With enthusiastic feedback from participants, artists and the public, he tells us that Chalk It Up will be back next summer and everyone is already looking forward to another great event.

For more information about Chalk It Up and to view the artwork, go to <http://www.oregonliteracy.org/chalkitup>. The site will be updated in November.

# Literacy Links

## Tutor Resources: New "Reading Toolkit"

If you are looking for ways to teach a beginning reader to recognize sight words, or for activities to improve fluency for your more advanced reader, this book will give you many concrete ideas and strategies for teaching any and all parts of the Reading Process.

The Adult Reading Toolkit (ART) was developed by the Learning Disabilities Association of Minnesota to bring current reading research to all adult literacy providers and offer a clear concise approach to using these "tools" in conjunction with what is already being used to teach reading. This program is designed to be used with English speakers and those with learning disabilities, but throughout the book there are modifications and notes for ESL application.

The ART presents the reading process in six chapters covering the 6 main components of reading: phoneme awareness, beginning phonics skills, intermediate decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Following these chapters is a corresponding "Toolkit" of reproducible assessment and instructional activities. Also included are four Appendices of sounds, decodable words, sight words, and controlled phrases and sentences for fluency and dictation. Each chapter includes a case history, key vocabulary, and instructional activities as well as assessment ideas and further references. The ART guides the tutor through such questions as "How do I determine what my adult learner(s) know and don't know?" and "What kind of materials are appropriate?"

With specific and clear directions, the tutor is quickly and easily able to begin applying these new skills to the teaching of the reading process. This "Toolkit" would work well for any student who struggles with reading. It can be checked out at any PCC coordinator's office, or call Kay Talbot at 503-977-4903 or Kathleen Holloway at 503-788-6280 for more information.

## Award-Winning Documentary Coming Soon

### *Promoting literacy in our community.*

Portland Literacy Council  
P.O. Box 2872  
Portland, OR 97208-2872

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The *Lost Boys of Sudan*, a documentary by Megan Mylan and Jon Shenk, follows two Sudanese refugees on an extraordinary journey from Africa to America.

Orphaned as young boys in one of Africa's cruelest civil wars, Peter Dut and Santino Chuor survived lion attacks and militia gunfire to reach a refugee camp in Kenya along with thousands of other children. From there, remarkably, they were chosen to come to America. Safe at last from physical danger and hunger, a world away from home, they find themselves confronted with the abundance and alienation of contemporary American suburbia.

The film powerfully portrays the culture shock and cultural adjustment experienced by immigrants and refugees as they learn to live in the United States.

Showing on November 11 at PCC WTC (see back of this newsletter for the specifics), with reviews such as "An extraordinarily rich documentary, one of the best I've seen" by Henry Sheehan of *NPR* and "Remarkable! This film should be required viewing for all Americans" from Allison Benedik of the *Chicago Tribune*, this film is a must-see for all those interested in the welfare of immigrants coming into our country. For more information, go to the website [www.LostBoysFilm.com](http://www.LostBoysFilm.com).

# Literacy Links

## My Guatemala Experience by Chely Castillo

Chely Castillo, PCC Volunteer Tutor Coordinator in West Washington County, spent three weeks in Guatemala as part of her course work for Portland State University. She went with a group from *Connecting Educational Communities*, a credit program of the Foreign Languages and Literatures department at PSU. This project takes students and bilingual educators from Oregon to the beautiful mountainous state of Sololá, Guatemala. Here is an account of her trip:



*Chely Castillo, VLT Coordinator and Danielle Jensen, PSU student, in Guatemala*

Prior to leaving, the group raises funds for development programs in the schools we work in. We also collect educational supplies to take with us. Thanks to the generous support of teachers in Portland, Springfield and Eugene, our educational supply drives have been very successful. To date we have brought over two tons of much needed supplies to our partner schools.

For the three weeks we are in residence, we spend mornings assisting in a variety of projects and activities in three rural Mayan schools, while afternoons are spent studying Spanish and taking classes in Guatemalan history and culture, in small groups, with local teachers and experts. On weekends we take excursions; this year our big excursion was to the Mayan ruins of Tikal.

Since *Connecting Educational Communities'* first trip in 2003, we have worked in the same three schools: Secun, Caliaj and Maria del Carmen. All three schools serve multiple purposes in the life of their communities. Guatemalan

teachers, though poorly paid and inadequately supported by the federal government, are gifted and committed teachers and respected members of the communities they serve. The schools themselves are minimally equipped, although our yearly infusion of school supplies and development money is beginning to show results; every classroom is now equipped with the educational materials needed to provide the children with a basic education.

Again and again our Guatemalan colleagues have asked for teacher development opportunities, and now teacher trainings have become the focus of our work in the schools. Each year, we invite bilingual teachers from around Oregon to join *Connecting Educational Communities*. We began doing this in 2003 at the request of our Guatemalan partners. To date, the students, teachers and faculty of *Connecting Educational Communities* have raised over \$8,000 for development projects in the communities. We raise money in a variety of ways. This year we will be selling coffee and cookbooks.

Planning and fundraising have begun for next year's trip, and we are looking for bilingual teachers with a spirit of adventure to join us. You can learn more about this program at [www.guatemala.pdx.edu](http://www.guatemala.pdx.edu). You can support the project by purchasing coffee and cookbooks at: [www.coffee.pdx.edu](http://www.coffee.pdx.edu). You may contact Chely Castillo at [araceli.castillo@pcc.edu](mailto:araceli.castillo@pcc.edu).

**THANK YOU to the following for their generous donations to the VLT Fall Retreat:**

*Blue Olive Restaurant  
Perry's on Fremont  
Roux Restaurant  
Starbucks  
Peter Talbot*

# Lost Boys of Sudan

*A documentary by Megan Mylan and Jon Shenk*

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2006, 3PM-5PM**

**Free Admission**

**Portland Community College, PCC WTC (near OMSI)**

**1626 SE Water Ave., Rm. 302/303**

**Portland, OR**

For more Information, call the Volunteer Literacy Tutoring Program: 503-788-6280



**SAVE THE DATE: Spring Tutor Conference is SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2007**

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