



Happy New Year!

Illuminations Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 1

January – March, 2012

LITE Club Holiday Party

We celebrated the holidays with our LITE Club youth group on December 3, 2011. In the picture below, all of the participants are sitting and waiting eagerly for their presents. We had a full house! Pictured to the right, one of our participants is dressed like an elf holding a giant candy cane and smiling big for the camera.



Holiday Party continued on page 2.

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LITE Club Youth Group Holiday Party Continued

**Thank you to the LITE Club holiday party sponsors.
It couldn't have happened without you!**

Thank you to Donté Mickens for being our guest speaker. As quoted from a parent, "I was inspired and uplifted by Donté's speech."

Thank you to **Enhanced Vision** for the donating water bottles, bold lined paper, bold markers and other goodies for our participants.

Find them online at: www.enhancedvision.com.

Thank you to **Florida Reading and Vision Technology, Inc.** for donating funds towards the purchase of lunch.

Find them online at: www.floridareading.com.

Thank you to the **Society of the Palm Beaches Southern Dames of America** for the generous donations, so that we could provide presents for the children!!

Are you interested in becoming a LITE Club Sponsor?
Contact us for more information.

Birthday Gift to the Lighthouse

Mr. David Schapiro celebrated his 80th birthday on January 1, 2012. David's wishes were that family members and friends consider making a contribution to support the Lighthouse's LITE Club in lieu of birthday gifts for him. Our thanks to Mr. Schapiro, his family members and friends for making a difference!



Upcoming Schedule for the LITE (Youth) Club

Romeo and Juliet Family Opera

Saturday, February 25, 2012
1:00 p.m. at the Kravis Center

Earth Day Event

Sunday, April 22, 2012
Time to be announced.

RSVP for LITE Club to:
trink@lighthousepalmbeaches.org
or call 561-586-5600.



Lighthouse for the Blind
of the Palm Beaches



Earth Day

Tree Planting

Recycling



Earth Day Event

April 22, 2012 - Save the Date
Time to be announced
Lighthouse for the Blind
of the Palm Beaches
1710 E. Tiffany Drive
West Palm Beach, FL 33407

Tree Planting Event Sponsored by:
West Palm Beach Lions Club

Please help both the Lighthouse and the Lions Club by bringing the following items to recycle. Start collecting now!

Ink Jet Printer Cartridges
Cell Phones
Digital Cameras
Soda Can Tabs

Laser Ink Printer Cartridges
MP3 Players
Used Postage Stamps
Eye Glasses

Focus Group

Focus Group provides socialization opportunities, educational speakers and other activities. Meetings are on the 1st Friday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Upcoming Focus Group Meetings:

1/6/2012 Jacqueline Nicholson, Executive Director with the American Cancer Society.

2/3/2012 Women of Note Chorus singing Valentine's Day love songs.

3/2/2012 Joe Moyel with CredAbility is back to play "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?"

4/6/2012 Scott Greenblatt, trained Martial Artist with information and a demonstration of self defense techniques.

Highlights from last quarter:

On November 4th, Focus Group participants enjoyed a special Thanksgiving celebration thanks to the culinary skills and assistance of Larry McDowell, Linda Carusso, Sally Thomas, Tyron Sanders, and Eric Evans. We couldn't have done it without you! On December 2nd, the festivities continued as participants celebrated the holidays with the help of many talented volunteers. We began with refreshments and Christmas carols.



Pictured above: Santa and Carolers visit the Focus Group in December.

There were poetry readings, Hawaiian chants and even a surprise visit from Santa! Participants were then entertained by the beautiful voices of the Bak Middle School of The Arts Choral Group. Fifty one children lead by their choral directors sang heart-warming holiday classics. The Focus Group then enjoyed a meal of lasagna, salad, garlic bread and dessert. A very special thank you to Brooke Evans and all the volunteers that helped make this day possible.



Pictured above: Bak Middle School of the Arts Choral Group.

Book Club Update



Pictured above: Book Club Members at the December 16, 2011 meeting.

The Lighthouse Book Club January meeting will be conducted on January 20, 2012 from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. We will discuss “Thunder Dog” by Michael Hingson. It is a true story of a blind man, his guide dog, and the triumph of trust at Ground Zero. Participants are welcomed to bring a brown bag lunch if they so desire. Our meetings are scheduled for the third Friday of each month. Digital books are distributed at each meeting, but feel free to attend even if you haven’t read the selection. The discussion is always lively!

Plans are in place to participate in “Read Together Palm Beach County One Book, One Community”. We discussed the nominated books and plan to “stuff” the ballot boxes with votes for the

three books that are currently available as Talking Books. The chosen book will be revealed and it is our intention to read it in April with all other PB County readers.

The Book Club meets on the third Friday of the month at 12:00 p.m. Upcoming meetings will be held on January 20, 2012, February 17, 2012, March 16, 2012, and April 20, 2012. For more information about the Book Club, please contact the Lighthouse (561-586-5600).



Gavel Club

Do you want to become a more effective communicator and listener? Toastmasters International is dedicated to making better communication a worldwide reality. Gavel Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 1:30 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Upcoming Meeting Dates for Gavel Club:

January 10 and 24, 2012
February 14 and 28, 2012
March 13 and 27, 2012

Southern Spring Tint & Graphics Managed by One of Our Own!

Anne Hatton, who is legally blind, is the Manager of Operations for both Southern Spring Water and Southern Spring Tint & Graphics (www.sstintandgraphics.com).

Anne states "...the reason that I have achieved my vocational goals is due to the wonderful training that I received from the Lighthouse!" Southern Spring is currently working on a T-shirt for the LITE Club and has waived the art and set up fee. We are looking forward to handing out the new shirts at our upcoming event in February. Thank you, Southern Spring.



LITE Club T-Shirt image

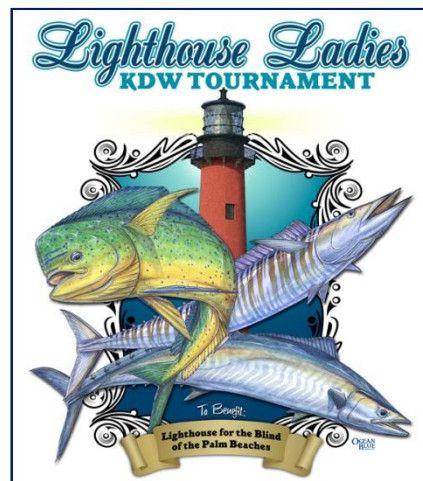
Southern Spring can be contacted at 561-261-6238 or sstintandgraphics@gmail.com.

South Florida Fair Tickets

The Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches was able to obtain 25 free tickets to the South Florida Fair that are good for the following dates only: January 17, 18, 19, 24, 25 and 26. Priority will be given to LITE Club Youth Members, but we may have additional tickets remaining for adult participants. Please call to inquire about availability (561) 586-5600.

Get ready for the 2nd Annual Lighthouse Ladies KDW Fishing Tournament

**SAVE THE DATE!!!
June 2, 2012**



Visit us on Facebook
[Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches – Group Page](#)

Visit us on Twitter
www.twitter.com/LighthousePB

Rehab 101: Tech Tip

**By Rachael Trinkowsky, CRC,
Ed.S Technology Training and
Vocational Coordinator**

Dear Rachael:

I want to pick your brain about an e-reader for the kids. We may be able to get the iPad for them and because of the expense we want to make sure of a few things. Can they bring it to school, download text books to it, and manipulate the text and background easily to read best? Also, is it the biggest screen available now. Any input would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

e-Reader Mom

Dear e-Reader Mom:

I would recommend talking to the vision teachers and/or administration in your area to make sure that they will be able to use the iPad in school. I think if you approach it as an assistive technology solution, that might help justify the need if these devices are not typically allowed in your schools. I follow numerous blogs and podcasts on accessibility and I do not know of another mainstream e-reader that is more accessible out of the box as the iOS devices (including the iPad, iPhone and iPod touch). Android devices do have the ability to add some

accessibility features and this is really the only other mainstream platform that I could recommend at this time. However, the iOS devices are more robust in terms of accessibility and magnification features. All three of the iOS devices have Voice Over (built in screen reader), as well as built in zoom magnification and contrast (ability to change from positive to negative image).

There are many different apps to access books, including iBooks, Kindle, Nook, Blio, Audiobooks, Learning Ally (Formerly RFB&D has an app for \$19.99), and Bookshare has an app called Read2Go for \$19.99. Depending on where the text books are obtained, will determine whether or not they will be accessible on the iPad. There are also apps for color ID, money identification, magnification, etc. AppleVis (www.applevis.com) has a website where you can review recommended accessible apps for these devices. If money is a consideration, you may want to consider the iPod touch. The main limitation of this would be the screen size, but all apps available on the iPad are also available on the iPod touch, including accessibility.

Happy Shopping, Rachael

The “**Florida a State of Vision**” license plate helps blind and visually impaired residents in our 5-county area. Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches will receive \$25.00 for each tag purchased in Palm Beach, Martin, Indian River, St. Lucie and Okeechobee counties. Contact the tax collectors office in your area to get your own STATE OF VISION license plate or ask about purchasing it as a gift.



Recycling Fundraiser Expands to Include Other Electronic Devices!

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Illuminations is a publication from the Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches. It is edited by Rachael Trinkowsky and Mary Allen.

Help us by donating your used ink cartridges, cell phones, MP3 Players, iPods, digital cameras and Laptop computers. This program will help us acquire FREE technology and/or money to support our programs and services! The program won't work without your support.

Let's make this recycling program a huge success by working together to collect as many empty ink cartridges, used cell phones, digital cameras, MP3 Players, iPods and Laptops. You can donate any of the recycled electronics mentioned at the Lighthouse.

Thank you!