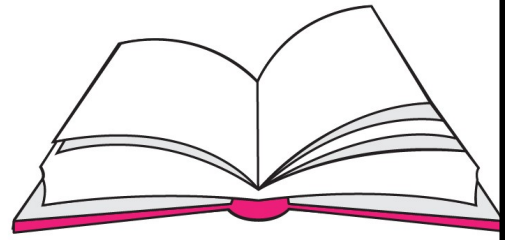


# PALMETTO LITERACY COUNCIL



**December 2021**



**From the  
Director**

Dear Friends,

I hope you had a great Thanksgiving and wish you a wonderful holiday season. We are all hoping that the new year brings positive changes in the struggle to combat Covid so we can again feel safe engaging with others in the community. I am hoping we can have a social gathering for volunteers after the holidays either in January or February.

**Some exciting news:** Palmetto Literacy Council has purchased a subscription to MobileCause which will allow us to manage all of our future events (tickets, donations, participants, etc.) through our website. So, check out the website, there is a lot going on. We are lucky to have Jan Leonhard as our MobileCause Czar and extend a big thanks to her for all her hard work and time in overseeing this service.

PLC has received a \$5,000 grant from Horry Electric Trust. We so appreciate the support of organizations and people throughout our community.

We have more than 30 students being tutored and there are still almost 20 students on the waitlist. We are expanding our reach into the community in search of tutors and hope that as the holiday seasons winds up and we learn more about the Omicron variant, we will have more volunteers.

Please consider joining our roster of tutors. Two hours a week is all it takes. In addition to tutors, we are also looking for a Volunteer Liaison for the Adult Literacy Program in the Patrick Mobile Home Park. Contact Dodi for more information.

We again reiterate our commitment to keeping our tutors and students safe as Covid continues to be an issue in our community. We hope with more people getting vaccinated that conditions will improve. Thank you for protecting one another during this difficult time.

When ordering from Amazon.com during this holiday season, please consider designating PLC as the charity of your choice. Amazon does not charge you extra and sends us a percentage of their profit on the items. Please sign up and make your Amazon purchases through **smile.amazon.com** to help us help our community.

Our volunteers are so important to the success of this organization. I get a little happy weepy when I think about all they do to represent Palmetto Literacy and generate awareness throughout the community. My sincere appreciation to all.

Stay safe and be well,  
Dodi

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**Palmetto Literacy Council**

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**(843) 945-9278**

**Palmettoliteracy.org**

If you do not wish to get this newsletter, please email [info@palmettoliteracy.org](mailto:info@palmettoliteracy.org) and put UNSUBSCRIBE NEWSLETTER in the subject line.

## Volunteering: The Effects on Volunteers' Well-being

A recent analysis examining the potential correlation between volunteering and well-being found that volunteering is associated with a higher well-being as well as a positive change in well-being. Authors of the study, which was published in the *Journal of Happiness Studies* in March of 2020, acknowledge that evidence pertaining to the correlation between volunteering and well-being has accumulated gradually in recent years, though they feel their study offers the most realistic assessment to date in regard to that link.

That's good news for volunteers, many of whom may be quick to point out that they get as much as they give when volunteering. Recent analyses support that notion and may compel millions more to make time to give back through volunteering.

Though more studies are needed, the Cleveland Clinic notes that some of the health benefits often associated with volunteering include lower blood pressure, increased self-esteem, lower levels of depression and stress, and greater satisfaction with life.

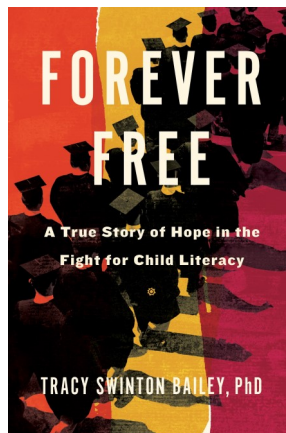
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## Student Success



Congratulations to Jasmine Dey who has graduated to the next level of reading with the help of her tutor Bonnie Kelley. Good work!



## *Forever Free* A True Story of Hope in the Fight for Child Literacy

Tracy Swinton Bailey, PhD

Tracy Swinton Bailey, local author, educator and advocate for literacy, has recently published *Forever Free: A True Story of Hope in the Fight for Child Literacy*. The title captures the essence of her journey as the founder of Freedom Readers, a nonprofit that addresses the shortcomings of our public education system. After reading this compelling book, we understand the reality: disadvantaged Black children have suffered and continue to suffer because of the inequities of literacy instruction in our schools.

Reading means freedom. And improving literacy is paramount to success. For more than ten years, Bailey has sought to counter low literacy through her program Freedom Readers. Her book chronicles this journey, and it packs a punch. Some disturbing statistics related to low literacy (from the Freedom Readers website):

- 2/3 of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of 4th grade will end up in jail or on welfare;
- If a child is not reading proficiently in the 4th grade, he or she will have approximately a 78% chance of not catching up;
- 85% of all juveniles who interface with the juvenile court system are functionally illiterate;
- Low literacy costs \$73 million per year in terms of direct health care costs.

Confronting these statistics and working tirelessly to improve literacy in the local community, in her book, Bailey shows how the Freedom Readers model has successfully met the challenges. Tutors work with children (grades K-5) not only to improve their literacy skills, but to promote a love of reading. To do this, students are offered books that meet their interests. Students are encouraged every step of the way and the program works—test scores verify that.

*Forever Free* is an eye opening and inspirational book. It's well worth the read.

## AREA BOOK HAPPENINGS

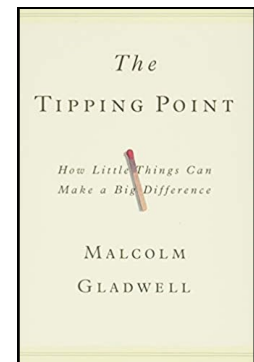
Book Bingo at North Myrtle Beach Library  
**Wednesday December 8 11:00am - 12:00pm**  
 Have fun and meet new people playing Bingo with book titles instead of numbers - prizes are popular books to choose from.

Far, Far Away Book Club at Socastee Library  
**Wednesday December 8 3:30pm - 4:30pm**  
 A new Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club. Join the discussion virtually or in-person to discuss *The Magicians* by Lev Grossman. Contact Socastee Library at 843-915-5283 for more information and to obtain a copy of the book. Zoom meeting information:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85281354810?pwd=cmFtL0ZlXk3dwM2RPNnVPWUpHdFUzZz09>  
 Meeting ID: 852 8135 4810  
**Passcode: read**

Book Sale at Surfside Library  
**Thursday December 9 9:00am - 11:00am**  
 Browse gently used books donated by our patrons and available at a low cost. This book sale is hosted by the Friends of the Surfside Beach Library and all proceeds will benefit the Surfside Beach Library.

Book Sale at Little River Library  
**Friday December 10 9:00am - 12:00pm**  
 Browse gently used books donated by our patrons and available at a low cost. This book sale is hosted by the Friends of the Little River Library and all proceeds will benefit the Little River Library.

Talking About Books at Surfside Library  
**Friday December 10 3:00pm - 4:00pm**  
 Get a chance to experience popular titles along with a group discussion. Books are reserved for participants. Please contact Surfside Beach Library for further details and registration: 843-915-5280. This month's book discussion will focus on: *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro.



Dr. McKeever-Floyd recommends:

Malcolm Gladwell's *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*

Amazon: The tipping point is that magic moment when an idea, trend, or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire. Just as a single sick person can start

an epidemic of the flu, so too can a small but precisely targeted push cause a fashion trend, the popularity of a new product, or a drop in the crime rate. This widely acclaimed bestseller, in which Malcolm Gladwell explores and brilliantly illuminates the tipping point phenomenon, is already changing the way people throughout the world think about selling products and disseminating ideas.

## The Logophile Preston McKeever-Floyd



The *poinsettia* is a widely cultivated plant and especially popular during Christmas time in America. This cultivar's most salient feature is its large crimson foliage. Its beauty is beguiling because its sap or milk is poisonous. The plant is native to Southern Mexico and was used in religious ritual for hundreds of years. This cultivar has many monikers: Christmas star, Christmas flower, lobster plant, Mexican flameleaf, painted leaf, and *Euphoria pulcherrima*.

Doctor Joel Poinsett (1779-1851), U. S. Ambassador and a native of Greenville, South Carolina is credited with bringing the plant into the purview of botanists in 1828, becoming the eponym for the plant, hence its botanical genus being assigned in 1836 in Modern Latin, *poinsettia*.

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Samih Baalbaki tutoring students in the Adult Literacy Program at Patrick's Mobile Home Park

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*Some books leave us free and  
 some books make us free*

Ralph Waldo Emerson



## PLC Business Members



**nami** South Carolina  
National Alliance on Mental Illness

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Regional Program Coordinator Pee Dee South

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Carla Taylor - Training Coordinator  
Thomas McKeon - Membership

**TRUST. EXCELLENCE. ACCOUNTABILITY.  
COLLABORATION. HONESTY & INTEGRITY.**

Palmetto Literacy Council is a nonprofit, tax-exempt, 501(3)c, volunteer organization.  
We provide 2 hours each week, free tutoring for school-age children to adults  
who struggle with basic reading, writing, and math.