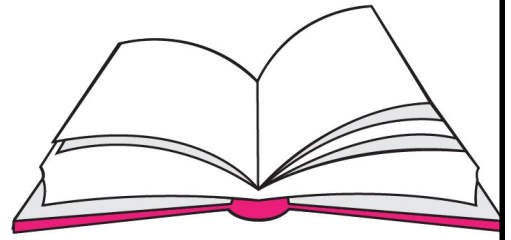


PALMETTO LITERACY COUNCIL



December 2022



From the Director

Hello Friends,

The holiday season is starting and there's a lot going on! We want to thank all of you for what you do to support Palmetto Literacy Council. We cannot express that gratitude enough.

We had two successful fundraising campaigns this fall, particularly when you consider these were our first attempts on our own since we opened in August, 2019. Covid impeded our growth in multiple ways, yet here we are and growing! This can only be because of the dedicated, passionate volunteers we have in the organization.

We've experienced some growing pains, which I prefer to call a term one of my sons introduced to me, "success mess." How cool is that term? And it is so positive! We experience occasional "messes" and yet we problem-solve to grow bigger and better—a success. Our students are our biggest achievement! They are developing new skills and a love of learning.

Once any human loves learning, there is nothing to stop them from reaching their dreams. My dream was to help everyone learn to read, write, and do math. It has been a lifelong passion. I started my career teaching children with emotional and behavioral disabilities. Most of my students were dealing with poverty, a lack of resources, and experiencing verbal and/or physical abuse.

I have a variety of experiences working with those who want to learn and those who wanted to teach, which just means I'm old (smiling). Now, I get to work with

those of you who have volunteered, donated, and supported our organization who share my passion to help others learn, no matter how old, where they live, or where they come from.

I cannot think of a more satisfying experience to share...helping others learn.

As a reminder, many of our families and volunteers will be travelling during their holiday seasons. A temporary hold on tutoring sessions during these travel times are essential. We'll just pick up where we left off. I encourage the students and volunteers to share with each other where they went, what reading they did (signs, brochures, books, etc.). Pictures are great too. Building a rapport with each other helps students learn and encourages them to read. On that note, I encourage students to read 20 minutes every night whether they are attending tutoring sessions or not. It doesn't matter what they read, it needs to be easy enough for them to read independently or out loud to someone.

I wish all of you the happiest, safest, and healthiest holiday season!

Dodi

Dodi Hodges
Executive Director

Palmetto Literacy Council

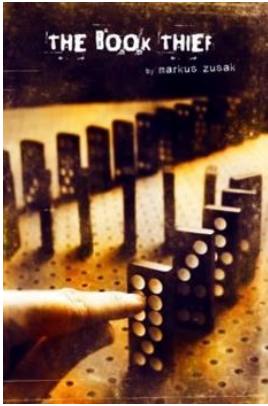
**Address: 1010 5th Avenue North, Ext.,
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**Email: office@palmettoliteracy.org
Phone: (843) 945-9278**

Website: Palmettoliteracy.org

<https://www.facebook.com/palmettoliteracy>

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and put UNSUBSCRIBE NEWSLETTER in the subject line.



Patricia D'Ascoli

The Book Thief has been on my "To Read" list for awhile. I took the 550 page historical novel out of the library in anticipation of a long plane flight (happy to report I was able to read at least half the book on my way home from London!) I finished the other half while recovering from Covid upon my return. I watched the movie as well

which, while enjoyable, wasn't nearly as good as the book. I'm planning to share my thoughts about the book during the January book club meeting (see below) but suffice it to say, it was powerful, well crafted and important to read for what it reveals about living in the darkest of time in history and what it reveals about humanity and kindness to others in the face of great personal danger. It is also a book quite appropriate to our mission at PLC as it features a young girl who experiences joy through the experience of learning how to read and write. Ultimately she discovers the power of words and how to use them effectively to express emotions.

PALMETTO LITERACY COUNCIL
BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY THROUGH LITERACY

AT PLC, WE LOVE TO READ!



& we love to LAUGH!

Come join us in January to have fun & discuss the book of YOUR choice!

Take a break over the holidays, read something you have been wanting to read & Share it with us in January!



**COME JOIN OUR
BOOK CLUB**

**Thursday 1/26/2023
at 6pm**

**1010 5TH AVE. N EXT #102
SURFSIDE BEACH 29575**

CONTACT
BOOKCLUB@PALMETTOLITERACY.ORG
TO RSVP!
We look forward to discussing
this book with you!

We are a small group and would love to have more book lovers join us in our book club discussions. It's a great chance to read a good book, share your thoughts, have some snacks and enjoy a great time with fellow bibliophiles. Our first meeting of the new year is "Reader's Choice" and we'd enjoy hearing about what you're reading and recommending. So please sign up at bookclub@palmettoliteracy.org. Hope to see you on January 26 when we will plan next year's line up of books.

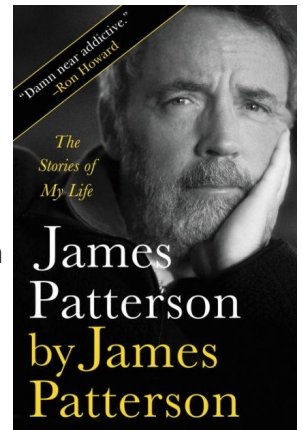
What We Are Reading

Catheryn J. Weitman

I discovered a book at the library entitled *James Patterson by James Patterson: The stories of my life*. I have never read any of his books or seen any of his movies because I thought they all were thrillers/mysteries--which I don't read or watch; yet, I see his books everywhere. So I was curious about who this James Patterson is! I am almost finished with the book and have come to love him and his vignettes on his life (or small stories as he calls them).

He is humorous, honest, easy to read and has also written non-fiction and children's books. I was very surprised to learn that he tried 30 times to have his first book published. He worked for an advertising firm (from humble beginnings to a VP position while writing his first novels!) and came up with some familiar jingles. You'll have to read the book to find out which ones!

Like Michael Jordan and Winston Churchill, Patterson never gave up. He has written two books with Bill Clinton; again a surprise to me! He speaks about his take on critics and his movies, loves of his life, and people who impacted him. He played golf with three presidents. Patterson writes using a 30-70 page outline for each book; stressing "Outline, outline, outline" to children when he speaks to them from his story entitled, "what I blabber about to the kids at elementary schools across the country" (pp. 242-243).



There is a thread, a value, on pushing people to read throughout his biography, especially children. Patterson started a children's publishing company with his publicist, Little, Brown, called **JIMMY Books**. Some of the books are: *I Funny* (surprise twist!), *Middle school: The worst years of my life*, and *Pottymouth and Stoopid*. He leaves parents with this thought: if we have rules such as no cell phones at the table (my example), why can't you make this rule: "We read in our house (p.241)".

Very cool author! Not convinced to read his mysteries or thrillers yet, but maybe the children's books and nonfiction! A great book about a very popular and valued author. Get to know the REAL James Patterson. I did and love him!

Thank You!

A big thank you to Polly Putorti who chaired the Fundraising Committee. She was courageous and persistent in her organization and management of our two fall fundraisers.

Best Book Bazaar - We had over 6,000 books donated for this event. Dan Albergotti was a wonderful, passionate speaker. Although emergency weather alerts were coming out regularly all day, diminishing the attendance numbers, we still made money to purchase math manipulatives to help our math learners. We want to thank Kim Zeiss, Linda Murphy, Catheryn Weitman, Mike Hodges, and Donna Gaynor as well as their friends who helped. Thanks to the Newcomers Club and the Blackmoor HOA for donating so-o-o many books! Thanks to Etta Carter and the Horry County Adult Education Center for providing the venue and help for the Best Book Bazaar. Thanks to the Blood Connection who partnered with us by hosting a blood donation.

Golf Scramble - Our first solo golf tournament was a great success! We made over \$3,100 with 70 very generous and fun golfers. As a result of much hard work by the members of the committee, we received multiple donations to give out as prizes, raffles, silent auctions, 50/50, Beat the Pro, competitions, and so much fun! The funds generated by the golf scramble will help us purchase program needs like the binders for the tutors to use (approximately \$250 per binder in reading, \$80 for math binder, and other materials). We want to thank Donna Gaynor, Linda Murphy, Erica Weitman, Robert Weitman and Catheryn Weitman for all the work they did for the golf tournament, from getting donations, putting up flyers to letting golfers know about our event as well as putting on a well-organized event. If you didn't get to see the BEAUTIFUL baskets that Linda Murphy did for us, you missed several works of art! Thank you to WBTW for the marketing campaign they put together for us and to the Lovely Law Firm for helping us out during the event as well as the coffee and camaraderie they provided. We look forward to the videos! We also want to thank all our friends who were recruited to help us at the event.



Golf Scramble SPONSORS

