

# TERT'S UPDATE

## August 2008

### ★ TILIA ★

Our biggest/bar-none news comes in the form of **Tilia Cohen Allred, born June 22nd**, to our beloved Alex (aka Operations and Financial Manger) and her husband (also pretty beloved) Jon. Tilia is a good one – entering the world at 6lbs. 15.9oz. Everyone involved in this miracle is doing just dandy.



*Tilia, Jon, and Alex, being dandy.*

### ★ NUMBERS ★

We've finished another school year and another fiscal year. Here's a brief summary of our 2007 – 2008 year with students:

- Number of **young people we served** in our drop-in **tutoring** this year: **191** (some come every day while others come once or twice a week)
- Percentage of students who say **tutoring helped** them in school: **98%**
- Number of public school classes who came to our writing lab for free **field trips**: **57**
- Percentage of teachers who reported this as an **excellent learning opportunity**: **93%**
- Number of **young people who participated** in our **writing workshops** this year: **325**
- Percentage of students who said the **workshop helped** them with their writing skills: **72%**
- Number of **young people we worked with** in our in-schools projects **at John Marshall Alternative School and Hamilton Middle School**: **96**
- Percentage of teachers who reported our tutors **helped their students' writing**: **100%**
- Number of student **anthologies** we published: **5**
- **Total number of students** served this year ('07-'08): **1,867**

### ★ SUMMER WORKSHOPS ★

We are finishing up our month of summer workshops where students have learned things like how to write **hundred-word essays, sailor stories, 'zines, and movie scripts**. Every day this July, a little group of **English language learners** have joined Norma and her team of volunteers to write stories and paint a mural for a local bus stop. We got to know these students at Hamilton Middle School this past year as 6th graders and will work again with them as 7th graders. Imagine how wonderful it is to work with the same students for two years in a row! All this (and their bus passes and their lunches) thanks to the very generous Anne V. Farrell Leadership grant.



*Norma's ELL class proudly surveys their handiwork.*

## ★ TUTOR IDOL ★

Drop-In Tutoring wrapped up this year with our traditional Tutor Idol. Every year the competition gets stiffer. Jasper can **curl his tongue**. Brianna, Renee and Danae did a **song and improv routine**. Who knew that Suki could **sing opera while cross-eyed**? Norma got everyone out of their seats with her talent: **inspiring people to Latin dance**. I lost for the third year in a row and have decided there should be a category for most original talent, even if it isn't very good. I drew a picture. While I'm a terrible drawer, I think it is a talent that I don't mind doing things I enjoy (like drawing) in front of people, even though I'm not very good at it. (Alas, just like my Speed Typing from last year and my Duck Taking Off From a Pond impersonation from the year before, **Not Being Afraid To Do Something Terribly In Front Of People** also went underappreciated.) Justin marched up to the stage and challenged anyone in the audience to **knit faster** than him. Imagine his surprise when Haley, our intern, bravely took those extra set of knitting needles and actually cast on with confidence. Fast as lightning the two knit and perled up a dickens until Haley cast off with great aplomb – ahead of Justin – who seemed most downcast that he was out-casted off! Mostly on that day we missed Alex, who always wows us with her didgeridoo playing. However, at this time she was busy **having a baby**. Unfortunately for her, she didn't finish having the baby until after the tutor idol winners had been announced, as surely having a baby would have aced the number one spot!

The winners:

**Vanessa** for singing "Mean To Me" (from *Ain't Misbehavin'*) and solving the Rubik's Cube at the same time.

~ and ~

**Lex** on classical guitar playing Greensleeves.

## ★ BASEBALL ★

The Oscar Wildes' inaugural season was breathtaking to behold. Once a week during June and July, the Oscar Wildes took to the field and (kinda) played softball. Whether it was (Drop-in Tutor) Matt Moon's acrobatic catches in centerfield, or (Intern) Danny Shapiro's ability to turn a ground out to short into an inside-the-park home run, or simply Jen Koogler literally breaking her wrist while going in for a catch, the Oscar Wildes always amazed the few spouses or significant others that came to watch them play. While never actually winning a game, **the Oscar Wildes count a forfeit and a tie as the building blocks of the future**.

## ★ SPACE IMPROVEMENTS ★

Next time you teleport into the writing lab, I want to warn you that **you just may mistakenly think you've gone to the Caribbean** instead of the expected sedate writing lab. Norma and her Latina self has prevailed to get me (German Lutherana) to go for a wall color less studious (I think she used the word "morose") and we are moving from (what I consider) a lovely forest green to, yes, a caribbean mango (with Bill The Post going red). All of this will be thanks not only to Norma (idea) but to our buddies from DDB and Merck whose employees will be doing the painting, along with select volunteers. **A gigantic thanks goes to Dalys Paints** in Wallingford for donating ALL the paint. I want to note that Dalys also donated ALL the paint for our first painting at 826 three years ago. We are big fans of Dalys and all staff have pledged to do all their personal paint purchasing there in the future. We hope you will join along.

## ★ BREAKFAST ★

If you happen to love breakfast, have (at least) 100 dollars burning a hole in your pocket, would like to learn more about 826 Seattle and/or would enjoy listening to Tim Egan speak (New York Times reporter and author of the National Book Award-winning title *The Worst Hard Times*), not to mention enjoying Nancy Guppy as our emcee... **we'll be happy to send you an invitation to our annual Don't Forget To Write (a check) breakfast** occurring on September 12th at 7:30 AM downtown at the newly remodeled Madison Renaissance Hotel. We are famous in Seattle for our entertaining, informative breakfasts that come loaded with yummy food and are over in exactly one hour!

## ☆ HUNDRED HOUR CLUB ☆

What I can't invite you to is our first annual Hundred Hour Club dinner, a small way to thank our most loyal volunteers for their extra work this past year. We have **42 people who gave over one hundred hours** to our cause this past fiscal year (July through June) and, with the generous donation of our next door neighbors, The Upper Crust Catering Company, we are celebrating the generosity of these folks. Believe it or not, we actually have three folks who fit into their own little special **Four Hundred Hour Club: Doug Woodbury, Meredith Wenger and Jen Koogler** have given us that much time! They get to wear (sort of uncomfortable) crowns the entire evening to point out their accomplishments. If you'd like to be a member of the Hundred Hour Club by next summer, now is the perfect time to sign up as a volunteer. You, too, will end up with your own tasteful set of lapel pins: "100" and "Yo Ayudo", as well as a surprise gift, a great dinner and vino.

Let's go back to the business of fundraising. Now, if breakfast doesn't suit you but you are really dying to financially help us out, we've got some other options for you:

We are the recipients this year of the DDB Advertising Agency's Indoor Charity Golf Classic (September 19th). Rumor has it that there are so many prizes in the accompanying raffle that your chances of winning something is super high. Whether you win a \$50 gift certificate to Starbucks or find yourself cruising to Mexico on a Holland America trip (wouldn't THAT be something?), you might want to stop into the Greenwood Space Travel Supply Co and **pick up a fistful of tickets - only \$3.00 each/ or 2 for \$5.00**. All proceeds from this event - brought in by the putt-putt golfers and the raffle ticket buyers and the booze drinkers - go to 826 Seattle. (Last year DDB raised \$47,000 for the recipient.) \$47,000 would pay our rent for one year....and wouldn't THAT be something?

## ☆ UPCOMING EVENTS ☆

The following was contributed by Justin, our Events Manager, Store Manager, Graphic Designer, and all-around very good guy. I'm telling you this because Justin and I write differently and I didn't want you to think I've got a dual personality. Take it away, Justin, with more 826 Seattle-related fun opportunities:



*Justin gets carried away with his job!*

**FUTURAMA TRIVIA NIGHT** - Trivia Night at Neptune Coffee returns with Futurama Trivia Night, August 15, 8PM, at Neptune Coffee 8415 Greenwood Ave. N. \$5 minimum donation. Think you know the 31st century better than your average flesh-tube? Join 826 Seattle, Greenwood Space Travel Supply Co. and Neptune Coffee and prove you can outsmart even the most barbaric Brain Spawn by answering questions about the cult cartoon series Futurama.

**GUILTY PLEASURES** - A Benefit for 826 Seattle, August 7, 8PM at the Tractor Tavern 5213 Ballard Ave NW, 8\$. Though many a talented rock star would be loath to admit it, there are many jejune pop songs impossible not to love. How often have you found yourself tapping your toes to George Michael, Toto, or ELO, only to blush with embarrassment? It's nothing to be ashamed about! Musicians of all stripes - including friends-of-826 Sean Bates and Sean Nelson - perform their guilty pop tune pleasures in what is sure to be a toe-tapping good time.

## TERI'S UPDATE - August 2008

**THE NEXUS PROJECT** - Next Stage, sponsored in part by a two-year residency grant awarded by our friends at the Hugo House, is producing a series of socially conscious short plays called The Nexus Project. Featuring a dozen ten-minute plays about local non-profits, playwright Joy McCullough-Caranza has crafted "Leap" – a short piece inspired by the mission of 826 Seattle. Opening August 16th, the festival runs through September 7th, and as part of their First Week Free Initiative, the opening week is free to all theatergoers. Check out <http://www.nextstage.org> for more information.

**MUSTACHE-A-THON III** - Plans for the Third Annual Mustache-a-thon – starting October 10th – are underway. This year's A-thon will rock harder than ever with the support of the local music community, a Mustache Battle of The Bands Musical Showcase (November 21st at the Sunset Tavern in Ballard), and the additional participation for those genetically disinclined to growing mustaches and those who already have a really stylin' 'stache.

The Mustachateers are currently looking for corporate sponsors and musicians interested in lending their talents – and upper lips – to the cause. If you are interested, contact head Mustachateer, Justin Allan, at [justinallan@826seattle.org](mailto:justinallan@826seattle.org).

**BUMBERSHOOT** – The Greenwood Space Travel Supply Co. and 826 Seattle booth will be located in the Alki Court (between Key Arena and Vera Project), right next to our friends, McSweeney's Publishing. Stop by and say "Hello!" And we would certainly greet you with cheers if you arrive bearing gifts of roasted corn and elephant ears.



We're almost at the end of the Update!

**One last thing:** there are a few spaces left for our next How To Write Like I Do...this time with our favorite comic artist, David Lasky. I would definitely consider taking this workshop, but then I would no longer have the talent of not being able to draw but still be willing to happily not draw well in front of people. (That sentence is grammatically correct. I checked it with our copyeditor.) Yes, it would get all messed up if I could draw because then I would draw well in front of people and it would seem like showing off, instead of now which seems sort of like being well-adjusted. It's a thin line sometimes between showing off and being well-adjusted, don't you think?

Happy rest of Summer to all,

*Teri*

**PS:** Does anyone out there have, by chance, a **stand-alone air conditioner** that you'd like to donate? The staff members working in the back office are melting away on these hot days and I promised I would ask for one in this update. In return, they all promised to quit complaining - that is, everyone except Justin, who said he would quit complaining only after someone donated one. **Please save us** from Justin's complaints! He graciously has enclosed this url of acceptable possibilities.