



# LitBits



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“I feel like a flower growing and blossoming.”  
— A Literacy Council learner after raising her reading level four grades.

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## Dyslexia expert coming to Midland LCMC, Library co-host eye-opening presentation and spelling

- Methods that will not help and why.

Susan Barton, one of world’s leading experts on dyslexia, will present a free three-hour workshop on Saturday, Oct. 18 at the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library. Mark your calendars to be there from 1 to 4 p.m. for an eye-opening event about the learning disability that affects 20 percent of Americans.

Tutors, teachers, parents, librarians, administrators, and the general public are all invited to learn about the symptoms of and solutions for dyslexia.

Ms. Barton is the founder of Bright Solutions for Dyslexia and the creator of the Barton System of Reading & Spelling, that the Literacy Council uses in its Dyslexia Clinic program.

At the workshop, Ms. Barton will address:

- The warning signs of dyslexia,
- The latest brain research and the genetic link,
- Effective ways to teach reading



**Susan Barton**

The Literacy Council of Midland County and the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library are co-sponsoring this important community event. Ms. Barton resides in San Jose, California, and travels the country educating

parents and teachers about dyslexia and Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

“Susan Barton is an impressive speaker who packs a ton of information into her presentation,” Allen Richard, executive director of the Literacy Council of Midland County, said. “Parents and educators will walk away from this workshop knowing so much more about dyslexia and how it affects students.”

A reception and a chance to greet Ms. Barton will follow the presentation in the library lounge.



**A note from Executive Director Allen Richard**

## Invaluable opportunity

I can’t begin to tell you how excited and proud that our agency and the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library are bringing Susan Barton to Midland.

If you have a child who is struggling to read or are a teacher who encounters students with reading issues everyday, you owe it to yourself and them to be at the highly-engaging, informative workshop.

*Continued on next page*

## **To reserve your spot**

Sign-up online at

**Www.midland.eventbrite.com**

Or by phone at 989-839-0540.



Photo by Ralph Flatt

**(Left to right) Paul Hamer, Donna Fischer, Tina VanDam, and Onie Hamer share a laugh before play begins.**

## Scrabble® Scramble fun for all

How do you spell “good time”? Try S-C-R-A-B-B-L-E and S-C-R-A-M-B-L-E.

The Literacy Council, along with our co-sponsor Disability Network of Mid-Michigan, hosted our annual Scrabble® Scramble at the Midland Community Center’s Barstow-Shipp’s Wing on Thursday, September 11.

Congratulations to all the players for an evening of fun and friendly competition. A new feature this year allowed players to select their level of competition:

Novice or Experienced.

Diane Sorg was the winner of the Experienced division, competing with Cynthia Mialki, Barb Meikle, and Cathie Stewart in the final four. Stuart Frohm was tops in the Novice division, playing against Dan Chalk, Sandra Sutton, and Mary Leininger.

Please plan to join us again next year for an evening of word-building fun and compete for nifty stuff like Scrabble® software and books, Literacy Council shirts, and gift cards to area restaurants.

## Executive director: Oct. 18 will be highly informative

The Barton Reading & Spelling System has truly revolutionized what we do at the Literacy Council, both for our adult learners and the children we serve. It has allowed us to tackle the most common learning disability, dyslexia, with a one-on-one tutoring curriculum that is straightforward, user-friendly, and most importantly, gets people reading who have struggled for years with their learning issues.

I can’t say enough good things about the work that Susan Barton has done. She is a dynamic speaker who is very educational, accessible, and motivating.

Rarely do you find such an informative presentation that is free. (Susan’s training sessions often cost hundreds of dollars.) Don’t let the price fool you; the time you will spend on the afternoon of October 18 will be invaluable.

## Beat the holiday rush by shopping Nov. 22 at LCMC book fair

Resist your urge to buy that bestseller for Aunt Amy, the latest John Grisham thriller for Cousin John or “Angelina Ballerina” for your favorite little dancer until the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

The Literacy Council of Midland County is having a book fair at Barnes & Noble in the Midland Mall on Saturday, November 22 from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The Literacy Council will receive 15 percent of all café and store sales to use for store credit.

This is a great deal for us because we need to buy books and materials for our students.

Tell any clerk that you are shopping for the Literacy Council or bring in this newsletter, and your purchases will be credited toward our book fair.

The date is just in time to beat the Christmas rush so tell all your friends and neighbors about this easy opportunity to support literacy in Midland.

*Continued from page 1*

We are the only organization in Michigan that will be hosting Susan Barton this year. I am very proud to be part of a literacy council that has such an innovative and cutting-edge program.

This Barton workshop is indicative of the hard work and professionalism of our staff, board and volunteer tutors. We hope you will join us on Oct. 18 so we can all change lives through literacy.

# Family partnership brings literacy to both preschoolers, parents

“Literacy changes families” should be the slogan for one of the newest Literacy Council programs.

In partnership with West Midland Family Center and Floyd Elementary School, LCMC has created an innovative family literacy program that seeks to teach



**Becky Manning, our director of programs and curriculum, received the Lancer Leader Award from the Bullock Creek School District for her work to create a collaborative family-literacy partnership.**

both parents and their young children about literacy and the importance of reading. Capable Kids is an educational program for the ages – all ages.”

One of the main goals of the program is to get families reading together. Parents made memory books for the children to enjoy. They have learned about the dif-

ferent types of childrens’ books such as alphabet books, predictable books (like *Brown Bear, Brown Bear* by Eric Carle), and rhyming books. Becky Manning, the LCMC staff member who has been teaching the weekly literacy lessons, has emphasized nursery rhymes as an important way to teach toddlers about rhyming and word patterns.

Capable Kids seeks to be a comprehensive program that strengthens families. Parents are empowered to see themselves as the primary educator of their child. Because the program is designed to be encouraging and supportive, adults begin to feel comfortable in seeking help for any reading issues they may have.

“The goal of a strong family literacy program is to break the cycle of illiteracy and poverty,” Mr. Richard said. “We are so pleased that West Midland Family Center gave us the opportunity to work with this wonderful group of families. This type of intensive effort will radically change these families for the better.”

“Ms. Manning has graciously shared her reading expertise with Bullock Creek staff members and students,” Superintendent John Hill said. “The program she implemented for young readers will benefit these students for years to come.”

## Save the Date

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

A hint of chocolate is in the air... Maybe you catch a whiff of apples, cinnamon, spice and all things nice... Must mean that the **World’s Greatest Dessert Party** is just around the corner. Put it in your dayplanner now. Sweets will be coming again to the suite level of Dow Diamond, (seems appropriate since it must be the World’s Greatest Minor League Stadium) on Tuesday, February 24, 6 to 8:30 p.m. Check out our website at [www.literacymidland.org](http://www.literacymidland.org) for future details and our on-line auction from February 9 – 20.

Congratulations to Laura Huckins, our director of finance & operations, on her upcoming presentation at the ProLiteracy America conference in Little Rock, Ark. She will be discussing how to achieve accreditation.

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World-renown expert on dyslexia  
Susan Barton is presenting a  
workshop in Midland on Oct. 18  
from 1 to 4 p.m. More details inside.

## Changing Lives through Literacy

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We need more tutors for  
our growing programs.

### 2008 Board members

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Jack Telfer

"The mission  
of the Literacy Council  
of Midland County  
is to provide  
customized tutoring  
in reading  
and related skills  
to people of all ages  
so that they  
can be self-sufficient  
in the 21st century."