

# OUR WORLD



Fall/Winter 2005

## Farewell to Bea and Jack

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In this season of excitement and enjoyment we are missing two of our most faithful and inspiring supporters. Bea Fletcher, one of the CILC's pioneer volunteers, slipped away at Henderson Hospital on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Bea had been spending most of the past 5 years at Central Park Lodge meditating, and she will be relieved to be rid of the intrusions of 'life' but we will miss her gentleness and wisdom. Bea served on our founding Board of Directors.

Jack Hourigan, another hard-working former Board member for the CILC, continued to take beautiful photographs of programmes and special events for us until ill-health prevented him from taking an active role. We will always appreciate their huge contributions to the CILC.

## Rice Harvests

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Our fall programme, Rice Harvests, opened on Monday September 19<sup>th</sup> along with a bake sale featuring-surprise! - rice krispie squares.

Rice is an excellent medium through which to view the world, since it grows on 6 of the 7 continents and is probably eaten by explorers in Antarctica too! This informative, interactive programme was developed under the talented hand of Programme Manager Mary Gordon, who has now completed her Educational Assistant training.

## See ya Later, Mary!

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Mary Gordon's new career in the Separate school board officially began in June 2005. She continued to work for the centre during the summer months while our Executive Director, Lana took some much needed time off. She continues to visit and we'll rely on her for future consultation as we do former Programme Managers, Audrey Beaulne, Lupita Hernandez and Rosa Rattray-Acosta.

## Welcome Pat & Lisa

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The CILC firmly believes in serendipity. For us, people and needs have always come together in the most exciting and unexpected ways. In this case, the same Pat Ruggles who enlivened our 2005 Annual General Meeting with her talk on Underground Railroad Quilts has become our new programme manager. Pat passed her 'sink or swim' Rice Harvests initiation with flying colours and continues to cast her artistic eye-not to mention her nimble & creative fingers and solid work ethic - over our programmes. So glad you joined us, Pat!

Lisa Spinelli, another talented artistic person joined us this past September and will be with us until the middle of January. Lisa is doing a high school placement at the centre as part of her co-operative education from Hill Park Secondary School. (We shall miss you!) Lisa has promised to keep volunteering at the centre when her schedule allows and will continue to sit on the programme committee.

## Volunteer Appreciation

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We chose an idyllic late-summer Saturday for our well-attended Volunteer Appreciation Lunch on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. Eating outdoors gave us the opportunity to evaluate the hard work Isabella Marchese (and her sometime sidekick Robert Yanch) has put into our very own CILC green space. The trellises, stone pathways and carefully chosen flowers and greenery also enhance our school programmes. When the weather permits, classes who stay for lunch also enjoy dining alfresco!

Thanks to **Turkstra Lumber** for their generous donation of the materials for our lattice screens.

The volunteers savoured a delicious barbecue, making good use of excess food purchased for Hamilton Mardi Gras '05.

## Mardi Gras

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Board Fundraising Chair Sharon Johnston led us in our first foray into the World of food concessions during the Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> weekend of Hamilton's Mardi Gras. We were overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of faithful volunteers who came out to cook, sterilize, package, serve etc etc etc. Many thanks to all of you! If only we had been overwhelmed with customers! The experience was educational for everyone. Next year, if Sharon is willing we'll try a scaled-down version, perhaps at several summertime festivals.

## Festivals of Light Time

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Mon. Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> marked the Open House and Bake Sale for our annual programme which is a perennial favourite with area teachers. Thus began the most hectic season of the CILC year. Between Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, CILC staff and volunteers taught about 2500 students! Once again, we were unable to accommodate everyone who wanted to attend. We hope to book the 11 teachers and 24 classes into some of our equally

valuable and enjoyable 2006 programmes.

## Happy Birthday CILC & United Nations

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The CILC was lucky to share in two birthday celebrations with the United Nations this fall. CILC founder Sheila Davies developed the idea for the Learning Centre as part of a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary tribute to the United Nations. So this year, with the U.N. a mature 60, the CILC celebrates its still –youthful 35<sup>th</sup>.

On Mon. Oct. 24, CILC representative Eleanor Chithalen provided birthday cake as part of a UN observance at the Unitarian Church.

Hamilton City Hall was the venue for the Mundialization Committee's celebration of the United Nations' 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Wed. Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>. CILC Board President Isabella Marchese offered cake and words of congratulations on that occasion.

## Children's International Peace Choir

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Director Pamela Marques and her small but vibrant choir sang and dressed internationally in salute to the UN on both occasions. The CIPC's fall schedule has been busy and varied. In addition to their 'gigs' at City Hall and the Unitarian Church, they sang at Hamilton Christian Fellowship's International Christmas, McMaster Peace Conference, Locke Street's Caroling and Westfield Pioneer Village.

Please check with us (529-8813) about future engagements and plan to attend performances by our talented musical ambassadors.

## Festival Pot Luck

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In the midst of the teaching whirlwind, staff and volunteers took an evening off on Wed. December 14<sup>th</sup> to enjoy the season with delicious food to share and all the music and fun we could muster. We have the most wonderful volunteers!

## Healthy Environmental Harvests

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Running from May to October, our Harvests programme examines "Living with Nature" from the perspective of reaping healthily from the earth. One focus will be the desertification from improper use of soils, especially in sensitive parts of the world.

## Bingo

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Thanks to Karen Jose and Lana Lowe, the CILC is now available to hear people yelling "Bingo!" three times monthly. We continue with 2 Tuesday afternoon sessions, and since summer 2005 once-monthly Monday afternoon times as well. Thanks to their perseverance and lots of volunteer time (theirs and 6 other people per session!) We have been earning up to \$3,000 monthly. It's easy to see that this is an area where the volunteer time of any of you, dear faithful readers, would be beneficially spent! Please contact the CILC office (529-8813) for schedule information.

## Mortgages, Floods, and other Natural Disasters

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During our 5 years at 189 King William St., the CILC has worked hard to upgrade the rundown building we purchased in December 2000. We have made amazing progress, but, "there's always something!"

Thanks to Isabella, our green space is flourishing. Thanks to Diane Keesmaat and City Hall, our façade is splendid. Thanks to Karen Jose and her Maintenance Committee, we keep up with everything,

and keep moving ahead. Our challenges at present are 3 fold:

- 1) Finding \$20,000 for yet another roof repair
- 2) finding funding to renovate the 2 upstairs apartments at 195 King William St.
  - Rental of these, in addition to the other 2 apartments contained in our building, will put us in a much better position financially in these days of grant cutbacks.
- 3) finding a new mortgage holder. As the dates will tell you, our 5 year mortgage, held by the former building owner, is now at an end. We must quickly find a private source of mortgage funding; some banks are very hesitant to work in the not-for-profit sector. Please let us know if you have any insight.

Be on the look-out for future CILC happenings!!