

Books For Kids, Erie Chapter

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An affiliate of The Books For Kids Foundation, New York, NY

Spelling Bee a Huge Success

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Corporate Spelling Bee at Junior's Last Laugh

It was 6:30 at Junior's Last Laugh on March 20, and already the joint was jumpin', as they say. The Frank Singer Trio was on the stage playing jazz, the spellers were finding their tables and donning their costumes, the judges were getting last minute instructions from **Mary Jane Koenig, M.C. Scott Wludyga** was testing the mike, and spectators were filling empty seats and piling their plates from the buffet table.

By the time the evening was over, 15 teams representing 14 sponsors had spelled their way through five rounds, and now only two teams were left - one representing the Northwestern PA Council of Teachers of English, the other representing Barbara Welton and John Mir, Attorneys. Judges **Mary Jo Koenig, Sean Lafferty, and Judge Michael Dunlavey** had to dig deeply into their lists for difficult words to challenge the two finalists.

In the end the English teachers took home first prize, the lawyers were second, but everyone who participated was a winner, for the evening had proven to be fun for everyone.

With crazy costumes from

Little Caesar's, National Fuel, and CASA, and lots of spirit from all the teams, the evening sped by. Throughout, spectators were bidding on 30 goody baskets in silent and "Chinese" auctions, while others purchased 50-50 tickets.

"We want to do it again next year," was heard ringing around the room, for everyone had thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

And, indeed, we will be back next year, with another chance for teams of three adults to spell their way through the evening.

Special Thanks

Many people contributed to the success of this our first spelling bee, but among those who must be mentioned particularly are members of the planning committee: **Dean Baldwin, Sheila Baldwin, Rev. Charles Brock, Donna Gloekler, Mary Jane Koenig, Jackie Jennings, Jane Levin, and Ron Simoenetti.**

We owe an especially big thank you to **Catherine Carlson**, whodid all the lay-out work for the evening's program.

And we must tip our hats to **Debbie and Doug Richardson** and the whole staff of Junior's Last Laugh for their generous support of the event!

Books for Kids, Erie Chapter

P.O. Box 3059
 Erie, PA 16508
 (814) 898-6214

Verizon Grants \$5,000

With a \$5,000 grant from Verizon, Inc., Books for Kids will be able to purchase hundreds of multi-cultural books for Erie's minority populations.

As the grant application noted, purchasing books for Erie's African American, Asian, Hispanic, Middle Eastern, and Eastern European children is very expensive. While we can purchase most of the books we give away at a cost of between 25 cents to \$3, multi-cultural books are often \$10 to \$20 each because of limited audiences and high production costs.

With the \$5,000 grant from Verizon, supplemented by \$2,000 of our normal budget, Books for Kids will be able to purchase a significant supply of multi-cultural books.

Another consideration is to provide books in languages other than English. Many immigrant parents have not yet mastered English, and thus they need books in Spanish, Serbo-Croatian, Russian or Arabic if they are to participate in in-home

reading

With money from the Verizon grant, Books for Kids will, especially with the help of board member **Kathleen Cantrell**, owner of the Erie Book Store, be able to purchase books to meet these special needs. Kathleen has access to a wide variety of publishers, and she keeps a keen eye peeled for sales and remainders, so that we can stretch our limited resources as far as possible.

Agencies that particularly want multi-cultural books include the International Institute, the Hispanic Council, the Martin Luther King Center, the Neighborhood Art House, and the Booker T. Washington Center. Other agencies serving minority populations are of course eligible to apply for these books.

We are in our new Headquarters

It took three successive Saturdays and the help of the boys from the Harborcreek Youth Services, but Books for Kids is now moved into its new facility - Bethany Outreach Center at 254 East 10th St.

As much as we enjoyed our relationship with Gifts for Kids and our facility on Holland St., we are happy to be in our new location. Bethany has provided us with a 936 square foot room where we can both store and display our books.

Agencies and schools who come to pick out books will have the advantage of convenient parking, an elevator that will take them directly from the parking lot to the lower level, and trolleys that can help

them move the books from our store room to their vehicles.

We are very grateful to the good people of Bethany Outreach for providing this space at a very reasonable cost and for being so generous and cooperative as we moved.

Special thanks for their help in moving to to **Dean Baldwin, Juan Fernandez, Jane Levin, Traci Teudhope**, and **Florence Smith** of the BFK Board, plus the staff at Harborcreek Youth Services, **Ron Barthelmes, David Cadena, Bren Lindell**, and **Jesse Tuedhope** for their hard work - and their trucks!

Check the Date on Your Label

When is it time to renew your membership in Books for Kids, Erie Chapter?

Check the mailing label on this newsletter. The date just above your name provides the date your membership expires.

From time to time, we try to send reminders to those whose memberships have lapsed, but it saves us time and money when members renew on their own.

Help us keep our costs to a minimum by checking your expiration date and renewing your membership when it's due.

Meanwhile, thanks to all of our supporters for their loyalty and contributions over the years.



Jackie Jennings, Donna Gloekler,
Traci Teudhope, Dean Baldwin



Spirit Winners Contemporary
Ophthalmology



Traci Teudhope and the National Fuel Team



Winners NWPCTE, Mary Margosian, Ron Hayes
Henry Shader; Runners-up Welton/Mir Attorneys



Susan Kanonczyk of Verizon presents
\$5,000 check to Dean Baldwin



Runners-up Judy Newlin, Barb Welton, John Mir



CASA's Bees, Costume Award Winners



Jeanne Eckert, Meg Britton, Barb Ryan



Sheila Baldwin, Lynn McBrier, Tammy Bachelor
"Hot and Ready" from Little Caesar's



Belle Koncewicz, Amy Dougherty, Carol Gettinger
Verizon's Team One



Scott Wludyga Spells it Out



Judge Michael Dunlavey, Mary Jane Koenig
and Sean Lafferty, Judges

A Speller's Letter

The following letter expresses the sentiments of many who participated in the Spelling Bee.

Dear Books for Kids:

I want to tell you that I had a great time at the first annual spelling bee held on March 20, 2007.

I was privileged to be on the Verizon Team One with Belle Koncewicz and Carol Gettinger - two of my very good friends and fellow librarians. We had a blast!

I haven't been in a spelling bee since about sixth grade, and initially I was very nervous, but it all ended up to be so much fun.

Thank you Books for Kids, WQLN, and Jr's. Last Laugh for such a delightful time. I hope you made lost of money, too!

Sincerely yours,

Amy M. Daugherty, Erie, PA.

Thank you, Amy, both for your kind words and for being part of a great evening.

We'll see you next year!

New and Renewing Members

As always, we thank all of those who have joined Books for Kids recently, and all of our faithful supporters who have renewed their memberships.

Major Contributors \$250.00+

Attorneys Barb Welton and John Mir
Contemporary Ophthalmology
Erie County CASA
Erie Insurance Group
Eriez Manufacturing
Felix and Gloekler, CPA
G.E. Foundation
Hill, Barth, & King, LLC
Little Caesar's Pizza
Mr. R. Laurie
Monahan and Monahan, CPA

National Fuel Gas
Northwestern PA Council of
Teachers of English
Drs Ricert and Vilella, D.O.
Schaffner, Knight, Minnaugh, CPA
Verizon
Young Erie Professionals

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Cathy Schlund-Vials
St. Andrew Food Pantry
Dr. Dolores Sarafinski
South End Benefit Association

Sponsors \$25.00+

Mary and Fred Brundige
Marilyn Melhuish
Carol Pella
Glen Vest
Waterford Community Food Pantry

Friends \$10.00+

Helen Camp
Becky Carey
Mr. & Mrs. Lyman Cohen
Elbert & Helen Friend
Jan Gatti
Ivan and Nancy Thompson

We Get Letters

From time to time we like to share with you some of the thank you letters we receive from recipients of our books.

The ones from the kids, of course, are probably required by their teachers, but it's still fun to read what they say about the books they have just received.

The art work is often fun, too, but for the moment we are able to include only the words.

Dear Jane Levin:

I want to thank you for giving us books and for everything. I want to thank you again.

So far I really enjoy it!!

"Bridge to Terabithia"

Love?

Tessie

Thanks for the book. "Shiloh." I really like the book.

I love reading.

Thanks,

Heather

To Whom The May Concern:

I want to thank you for the books. You've given me a chance to read to my daughter and to myself in my spare time.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Madison and Tiffany

Dear Ms. Levin:

This thank you note is from Darlin, a 6 year old boy from Honduras, who was just learning English. He was thrilled to get the books, and he especially liked the squirrel book that was written in both English and Spanish.

Thank you for providing these books for the children. They enjoy receiving them almost as much as I enjoy giving them.

Anne D'Albora

Shriner's Hospital

**For all the kids and their teachers,
we say thanks to our supporters,
who made these gufts possible!**

The Books for Kids Foundation, Erie Chapter
P.O. Box 3059
Erie, PA 16508

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Organization
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Please use this coupon to lend us your support. The children and youth of Erie County will thank you.
[Has your membership expired? The date on the mailing label indicates your last donation.]

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____ Benefactor \$100+

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____ Friend \$10+

Mail the completed form and check payable to "Books for Kids, Erie Chapter," P.O. Box 3059 Erie, PA 16508.

Donations to Books for Kids are tax deductible for those who itemize.