

Literacy News

Winnebago County Literacy Council

Volume 7
Issue 1
Spring 2007

We teach ...so others may reach!

For Your Reading Enjoyment

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Director's Corner

Congratulations to the 2007 Bee Champs: Webster Stanley Middle School and Southwest Rotary! The Winnebago County Literacy Council recently completed its Sixth Annual "How Do You Spell Chocolate?" Corporate and Middle School Spelling Bee on February 24th, 2007. Many thanks go out to the event sponsor, ThedaCare Physicians of Oshkosh for helping to make this event a success. Free chocolate samplings were offered by Lara's Tortilla Flats, Starbucks, The Oshkosh Shoppe, and Fox Valley Cheesecake Co.

The day's event started out at 11:00am with the Middle School Spelling Bee. Area middle schools were asked to participate in this 3-person team event. Webster Stanley Middle School, South Park Middle School, St. John Neumann, Alps Charter School, and Merrill Middle School all participated in a fun filled, old-fashioned spelling bee. The emcee for this event was Mark Harris, County Executive, and judges were Barb Herzog Ph.D., and Deb Zarlum from the Oshkosh Area School District. The Webster Stanley Middle School Team won the event on the word "glycerol". Other words spelled correctly during this event were: impatiently, pulverize, trilobite, refectory, and stentorian. How well would you have done?

The afternoon's event began at 1:00pm with the Corporate Spelling Bee. Companies and organizations throughout Oshkosh and Winnebago County were solicited to participate by paying a \$500 sponsorship fee to sponsor a three-person team. This year we had a total of eight teams. The Appleton-Post Crescent Team was the reigning champions who had not been defeated for four straight bees, or since 2003. The Oshkosh Northwestern, Aurora Health Care, Citizens First Credit Union, Southwest Rotary, 4-Imprint, Downtown Rotary, and the Oshkosh Public Library all put their best spellers in the limelight. The emcee for this event was Jerry Burke, a retired newscaster from WBAY Channel 2, and the judges included Joan Simmons, Ph.D. and Karen Seifert. The Southwest Rotary Team won the competition on the word "cedilla" a noun meaning "a mark (,) placed under a consonant letter, as under *c* in French, in Portuguese, and formerly in Spanish, to indicate that it is pronounced (s), under *c* and *s* in Turkish to indicate that they are pronounced, respectively, (ch) and (sh), or under *t* and *s* in Romanian to indicate that they are pronounced, respectively, (ts) and (sh). Other words spelled correctly during the Corporate Bee were: frondescence, kipfel, viscera, parterre, and zazen. Come on spell check don't fail me now! Whew!

The Bee will be televised on CATV 2 and the Friends of OCAT graciously provided support for this event to produced and televised for your viewing pleasure. You can check out the OCAT website at: <http://www.ocatonline.com/> for upcoming dates and times the Bee will be replayed. I would also like to thank Anchor Bank for their donation of the decorations and the flowers. We appreciate their ongoing support of this event. Also among those to thank are the many tutors, and supporters who donated items for our silent auction. This event raised over \$11,000 and proceeds go to benefit our adult and family literacy programming. Now we can officially move on to Spring, will it ever get here?

Introducing Deb Kortbein, Adult and Family Educator

Some of you may have been wondering, “Who is that new person in Kari’s office?” For those of you I have yet to meet, my name is Deb Kortbein. I actually began with the Literacy Council as a subcontractor in May 2006. With my B.S. in Human Services from UW-Oshkosh, I have experience in working with diverse populations in varied work settings. My passion, however, is children (besides chocolate!). I expressed my desire to continue working with the Council as December neared because I believe in **empowering** people. Fortunately, I was offered the opportunity to continue working with children and their families as well as provide tutoring services to our adult clients in a permanent position. I attended the adult tutor training in December 2006. Definitely a new, yet welcoming challenge for me! The knowledge I have gained with the Council thus far has provided me with valuable insight in working with our family literacy program and especially with our refugee population. For those of you who are child tutors, I am also here to be a resource for any questions, concerns, or issues you may be facing as you tutor in a family’s home. Feel free to call anytime and leave a message if I am out of the office. I will also be facilitating the child tutor trainings. So next time you see me in the office, stop by so we can meet each other. I look forward to making new friends!

Upcoming Info Sessions & Trainings

Info Sessions

(held at 11am and 5:30pm)

March 15th May 24th
April 2nd June 4th
April 19th June 21st
May 7th July 9th

Adult Tutor Trainings

April

April 16, 17, 18, 19 (M, T, W, R)
9:30 – 12:30

May

May 9, 10, 16, 17 (W, R, W, R)
5:30 – 8:30

Child Tutor Trainings

March

March 27, 29 (T, R)
9:30 – 11:30

April

April 24, 26 (T, R)
6:00 – 8:00

Please contact Raissa at 236-5219 extension 4802 if you’d like to sign up for an Info Session or a training.

Teaching...Teaching....Taught!!

Please welcome our newest tutors:

Michael Kuany
Eleanor Udulutch
Valerie Meidinger
Michael Apreste
Dave Wasinger
Mary Moore
Kristi Boushele
Madonna Wolff
Cara Close
Angela Buchholz
Renee Booms
Diane Grunloh
Paul F Janty
Joe Cismoski
Tina Krueger
Reva Barrett
Joseph Briggs
Barb Knaus
Jeanine Anderson
Michelle Dier
Jane Delso
Judy Neiland
Joy Thorn
John Worley
Heather Lee Muehlius
Theresa Tellock

Michael Greene
Sharon Schraufnagel
Carol Doubek
Susan Sonnenberg
Julianne Barroso
Beverly Albrecht
Tim McKeon
Amelia Wolff
Michael Gray
Todd A. Fonstad
Nhaisher Xiong
Hope Schuhart
Gayle Demler
Sherry Seubert
Danielle Schewe
Darlene Harrison
Stephanie Masaros
Christine Stern
Jean Collins
Marge Tuxen
Kathy Peterson
Mary Bornsnick
Pat Riehl
Ginger Selle
Lauren Stenson

Vision Statement: To increase the number of individuals served annually by 500% to 500 individuals throughout Winnebago County within 5 years.

Our Mission: To increase literacy skills of adults and families so they can make informed decisions in order to function effectively in society.

\$\$\$ Every Little Bit Counts! \$\$\$

Thanks to the following people & businesses for making a donation:

Individuals

Dorothy Frohn
Kristi Bouchele
Marlo Osmond
Mary Flanagan
Donald Wolter
Helen Mueller
Dr. Michael Ford
Milda Steinbrecher
Sandra Stratz
Keith Voelker
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Phillip & Brandi Meyer
Richard & Marillyn Campbell

Grants

ADVOCAP

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UW Oshkosh Credit Union
Wal-Mart
Oshkosh Area Community Foundation
Roundy's Supermarkets
Morton Drug Company
GAP Foundation Money For Time
Program
Mercury Marine
Menasha Corporation Foundation
Associated Bank

In Memoriam & Honor Of

Tom and Marcia Galica, in honor of Hank and Barb Knause & Kurt and Judie Koeppler
Diana Stritzel, in memory of Loretta Motheson
Bonnie Jean Wolfgram, in memory of John Zentner
Don Vajgrt, in memory of Sue Vajgrt
Bernie Olejniczak, in memory of Rosalie Olejniczak
Mary Sagen, in memory of John Sagen
Ulla Linenthal, in memory of her father
Joan Mueller, in honor of the Management Staff at The Oshkosh Public Library
Joe Cismoski, in memory of Arnold & Dorothy Cismoski & Edward Wilke, Sr.
Rachel Benton, in memory of Robert D. Benton
Jeff & Kathy Lammers, in memory of John E. Sagen
Cathy Puhl, in memory of Phillip Shea

Tidbits

- This link is to a list of monthly tutor tips that are part of the newsletter put out by Project Read in Provo, UT: <http://www.provo.lib.ut.us/projread/tips.html>. The tips range from the teaching of specific skills to establishing the framework of the tutor/learner experience (establishing goals, etc.).
- The Center for Applied Linguistics recently created a Cultural Orientation Handbook for U.S. Trainers, which is available for states and agencies working with refugees. This how-to manual provides practical advice on training methodologies, cultural orientation topics, lesson plans, and resources, and can be obtained on their website, www.culturalorientation.net.
- Children's booster seats are available at a reduced cost through the WIC program. Anyone eligible for MA is also eligible for WIC. People can obtain the booster seat vouchers by contacting the WIC office, located at 220 Washington Avenue. For more information, please contact them at 920.236.4991.

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
LITERACY COUNCIL**

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