



**GOOD NEWS! FROM
READ ALOUD VIRGINIA, INC.**

January, 2007

VOLUME IV, Issue 7

***Read Aloud Virginia is dedicated to improving literacy,
developing a love of reading in children, and strengthening families
by encouraging parents to read aloud to their children every day.***

Happy New Year 2007!

A message from Joanie Bache, RAV Executive Director

Dear Teachers, Parents, Volunteers, School Leaders, Volunteers, Sponsors and Students:
Thanks to each of you for helping to make 2006 a stellar year for READ ALOUD VIRGINIA!

With your support, READ ALOUD VIRGINIA has been able to:

- greet and acquaint over 250,000 people with RAV
- form 15 partnerships with local literacy organizations
- begin RAV programs in 4 new schools and day care centers
- speak about RAV on 7 different local radio and TV programs
- show 150 children's book pictures on daily Channel 6 TV News programs
- rent & furnish office space, pay for insurance, office materials and other fees
- rent a copy machine and purchase a laminator and an Ellerson die-cut machine
- hire a full-time executive director
- participate in 17 different state and area conferences and events
- distribute 5,000 of our 11,000 donated books free to families to establish home libraries and begin reading aloud regularly to the children in their homes
- introduce RAV reading and comprehension models to 1,540 new volunteers, parents and children to strengthen literacy and reading skills
- maintain RAV participation in existing schools

Thanks to your efforts and financial and volunteer support, RAV has been able to achieve all of these goals! This is truly amazing for a small, local, non-profit organization – without national or federal affiliations or name recognition! Thank You!

Future plans for READ ALOUD VIRGINIA include continuing to expand and publicize the benefits of reading aloud and dialoging regularly in the home; continuing to build strong reading skills by teaching parents and others that children need to see, listen, and talk about books in the home – at all ages; continuing to empower parents as reading and listening models because they are the strongest, most influential and successful role models in the lives of children. With your continued support we know we will achieve our goals!

Sincerely,
Joanie

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READ TO THEM!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Get ready for a busy 2007!

Friday, Jan. 19
6:30 p.m.

Richmond Area Reading Council
Reading Teacher of the Year Celebration
6:30 p.m. Greetings and Dinner
7:30 p.m. Mary Lyons
8:00 p.m. Reading Teacher of the Year Presentation
Dinner: \$ 21.00, RARC members; \$24.00, nonmembers
Reservations are required. Please see details on page 3

Thursday, Feb. 8
7 to 9 p.m.

Mom's Night Out - Valentine's BUNCO with SteinMart fashion show, desserts and cash bar. \$100 Gift Prizes!
New and slightly-used books accepted to benefit RAV literacy programs.
Brandermill Country Club, 3700 Brandermill Parkway, Midlothian, VA 23112.
Tel: 285-0457. See page 8 for reservation form.

Mar. 31

Easter Bunny Pancake Party -- Sponsorships available

May 5

Crafters' Bazaar

Sunday, May 20
11:00 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Read & Romp 2007
Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens rain or shine
For children 2 to 8 years and their families

June 2

Car Wash

July 16
Aug. 25

Patriotic Golf Tournament - Sponsorships available
Yard Sale

Oct. 13

5K Readers Racing – Sponsorships available

Oct. 23

BUNCO (tentative) -- Sponsorships available

Nov. 10

Bazaar

Dec. 8

Santa Breakfast -- Sponsorships available

CHECK YOUR CALENDAR. CAN YOU LEND A HAND?

It's fun to get involved, up close and personal, with kids and other RAV supporters, and there are lots of opportunities that are flexible enough to fit any schedule. You might want to read to children at the YMCA, a library or an elementary school. You might like to join other adults and children at one of RAV's many fundraisers. **Please contact joaniebache@readaloudva.org or 627-2847 if you would like to help.**

READ TO THEM!

RAV REPORTS: GOOD NEWS!

2006 Read Aloud to a Child Week “a huge success.”

According to Joanie Bache, RAV exceeded all expectations for participation and pledges during October's annual read-aloud week. Here's what Joanie reported as schools throughout the region tallied their successes: "RAV spread throughout Richmond, Henrico, Chesterfield, Hanover and Goochland. RAV appeared twice on Channel 12 WWBT (thanks to Beth Butner!). Thanks to the North Richmond YMCA for letting us film there." This year RAV partnered with Reach Out and Read and Go Read. Congratulations to all of you who participated. If you or your organization missed the 2006 excitement, get ready for October 2007. Mark your calendar now! READ ALOUD TO A CHILD WEEK: October 14 – 21, 2007.

Big news for awareness of RAV and our mission!

CBS News is moving RAV's "Picture of the Day" from the pre-dawn hours to the **5:00 PM** evening news in the segment "For Kids' Sake." RAV was on Channel 6 almost every day during the summer and fall, and we hope that the new time slot will deliver our message to even more people. Join the huge evening audience at **5:00 p.m.** daily to see the work of our youngest reading enthusiasts. We are grateful to Greg McQuaid, Julie Bragg and all our friends at Channel 6.

BUNCO delivered funds, fun and books. The BUNCO night/Fashion Show in October cleared \$1,000 for RAV programs after all expenses. Not only did the evening produce 10% of RAV's budget for cash events, but everyone had fun and the children loved the teaching puppies and board books they received from RAV.

RAV will distribute 10,000 books to families in the region. The books were donated by Eagle Scout Brian Dickerson of Hanover who organized a book drive at every school in the county. Brian met his goal of 10,000 new and slightly used books, which will now be used to start or expand home libraries. Congratulations and thank you, Brian!

We get around! RAV's message is getting out. RAV was a featured presenter at both the Norfolk and Newport News Reading Council Fall Conferences and visited Willard and Bethel Manor Elementary Schools in October and November.

Coventry Elementary set the pace for pigs, pages and plays! Elaine Jones reported great success in the school-wide reading of *Charlotte's Web*. About 450 students, parents and staff attended the read-aloud event where a live pig (!) attended and a Reader's Theatre from ODU performed the first chapter of the book. Elaine says they're already looking forward to next year's event. (We hope that if the book includes a lion or boa constrictor they'll forego live appearances!)

Books “come to life” at Northumberland Elementary. More live animals helped promote reading when Northumberland launched its “all school listens” p.j. party. All the students wore pajamas to an assembly where the children were given clues to the title of the selected book, *Charlotte's Web*. A tarantula, a pet rat, and a pot-bellied pig (none in pajamas) showed up to provide clues and stimulate interest (which worked!). Northumberland teachers closed the evening by putting on a skit based on the book.

Pemberton Elementary reports class participation of 100%. October saw every single class at the school participating in the read-aloud program, where enthusiasm for reading has been growing year after year. Pemberton receives support from parents, teachers and administrators, and has often demonstrated how that joint commitment leads to success. Special thanks for October go to Mrs. Vernon, Mrs. McKee and Mrs. Preskitt. Congratulations, Pemberton!

William Fox Elementary hosts Virginia's First Lady in launch of all-school reading. Ann Holton introduced *The BFG* by Roald Dahl in a school assembly to kick off a series of book-related events that included daily trivia quizzes relating to the classic story. Fox Principal Daniela Jacobs reports that the experience was wonderful for the children and a great success for the reading program!

NEWS ABOUT READING ALOUD

Hundreds of thousands joined forces to break a world reading record with *Charlotte's Web*! As of noon on Wednesday, December 13, there were 547,826 readers in 2,451 locations, 50 states and 28 countries who had signed up to read E. B. White's timeless classic. In February we'll know whether this year's reader managed to break the previous record. You'll be able to check the results in February at <http://www.charlotteswebbarr.com/create.php>.

Sixth Edition of *The READ ALOUD HANDBOOK* by Jim Trelease available from Penguin Books. This newest edition of the *READ ALOUD HANDBOOK* invites the next generation of parents to uncover the #1 way to assure the success of their children in the 21st Century. With effective reading skills, the next generation of children will be able to live full, productive and successful lives in their future world. With humor and an extensive list of 1,000 exciting books to read aloud, Trelease has the answers for busy parents who want to give their children the gift of knowledge, a love for reading and quality time together at home. www.trelease-on-reading.com

Richmond Area Reading Council to announce Teacher of the Year. On Friday, January 19, six teachers from the Richmond area will be honored at the Reading Teacher of the Year Celebration. RAV joins the Council in congratulating nominees Annie Campbell, Robin Claiborne and Sharon Collins, all of Richmond; Kendall Hunt and Katy Melgard of Hanover; and Kelly Tobe of Chesterfield.

The winning "Teacher of the Year" will be announced at the the event, to be held at 6:30 p.m. at The Holiday Inn Select Koger South Center, 1021 Koger Center Boulevard, Richmond 23235, near Johnston-Willis Hospital. Reservations are required and must be postmarked by January 14. Please contact Sandy Hebbe at 804.457.4117 or shebbe@glnd.k12.va.us if you'd like to attend. The event's keynote speaker, well-known author Mary Lyons, will present her newest book *Letters from a Slave Boy: The Story of Joseph Jacobs* along with many helpful hints for teachers, especially for the history SOL requirements.

Integrated, statewide strategic plan for early childhood is on the way. As part of the Smart Beginnings program, Virginia will soon be presented with a strategic plan that's been in development for several years. On December 5 early childhood professionals and advocates from across the Commonwealth convened to put the finishing touches on the details of the plan and its implementation. Stay tuned for more information.

Read-Aloud program included in White House Conference on Literacy. The pediatric literacy program *Reach Out and Read* was the only US literacy program discussed at the White House Conference on Literacy. To read more about literacy and the ROR program, go to <http://www.globalliteracy.gov/reachout.html>. Reach Out and Read Virginia (ROR VA) is the statewide office that provides training and support for ROR Programs across the State. For more information about Reach Out and Read Virginia, or to start a program in your community, contact Executive Director Ellie Sparks at elli@rorva.org.

More recognition for reading aloud, as president of *Reach Out and Read* is honored by the Women's National Book Association. Perri Klass, pediatrician, president of Reach Out and Read, and author of several books on parenting and medicine, is the recipient of the 2006 Women's National Book Association Award. The award is presented annually to an American woman whose work in the book world goes "beyond the duties or responsibilities of her profession or occupation." Eleanor Roosevelt, Rachel Carson and Barbara Tuchman are among previous winners. Dr. Klass was officially honored at a ceremony on December 3 in New York.

RAV PRESIDENT AND AUTHOR WILLIE TEE APPEARS AT “BOOK ‘EM” EVENT AND IS INTERVIEWED BY THE PRESS.

The motto of the *Book ‘Em Foundation*, “Buy a book and stop a crook,” reflects the organization’s belief that there is a direct link between high literacy rates and low crime rates. The group held its third annual book fair last October in Waynesboro, VA. Proceeds from the sale of books, many of them autographed by best-selling authors, are donated to organizations dedicated to increasing literacy rates, decreasing crime, and raising public awareness of the link between high illiteracy rates and high crime rates. Willie Tee was interviewed for “Author Snapshots” by Crystal Graham of the Augusta Free Press.

Breaking the Curse

Who would have thought that an accident that occurred when one was only 2 years old would have a profound impact on one's life? After all, at age 2, one would likely not remember or be affected by something that happened when he or she was a toddler. And yet Willie Tee believes with every fiber of his being that the accident that he endured as a youngster set the stage for him to fulfill his father's prophecy that he would go through life as a failure.

The prophecy flies in the face of the success that Willie Tee has found as an author and a productive member of society. Tee, the author of *The Winds of Destiny* and *The Winds of Destiny: The Keepers of the Secret*, will be on hand October 14 at Book 'Em at Waynesboro High School.

"I believe that people who meet me at Book 'Em will be encouraged by my life story to surpass the pitfalls of their past and soar to summits of success," Tee said. "My life story shows that young people can excel despite their troubled youths." Tee believes that the wrongdoers are often to blame for passing on their burdens to the generations that follow them. "He (my father) would press me, his oldest son, into arguments that were designed to diminish my own self-worth and desires for achievement," Tee told The Augusta Free Press.

As to what the accident was that impacted his own life so greatly, Tee said he isn't giving that away; you have to read his book. He'll only say that the incident in question happened on his family farm nearly five decades ago. "I felt all of the emotions - sadness, anger, joy and elation, while writing this memoir about my family's amazing and tragic past," he said. In the end, he believes his book can help others with the healing process of losing a loved one.

"My book has changed some people's feeling and opinions about life, death and destiny," Tee said. Tee wrote *The Keepers of the Secret* because many readers didn't feel the story was over when the first book ended. "Both man and nature are depicted as friends and foes in this sequel," he said.

In a Nutshell: author Willie Tee

Favorite Author: Alex Haley. I was pleased to meet a few years ago actress and film producer Tina Andrews, who said that she had visited with Mr. Haley at his home after he wrote the novel, *Roots*.

Something people would be surprised to know about you: I am the president of the Richmond VA-based Read Aloud Virginia, a nonprofit organization.

Your role model: Mr. Bill Cosby, who promotes tough love and the tough truth.

Your day job: A consumer-affairs investigator; 30 years in criminal justice; making arrangements to become a middle- or high-school teacher.

Coming soon: I am working on the final sequel to my trilogy, *The Winds of Destiny: The Survivors of the Secret*. I am continuing to edit a children's book that I have created, *Little Willie Tee on the Farm*.

CURL UP WITH A CHILD AND A GOOD BOOK.

One of the best things about winter is that the sun goes down early and cozy moments can stretch though a long evening. Grab your favorite child or children, and take a couple of books with you to read and remember together. Here are some suggestions. *Remember to read books that are 2 – to - 3 years above what kids can easily read to themselves.*

- Toddlers** ***The Napping House*** by Audrey Wood & Don Wood
Clever bedtime story with wonderful illustrations leading to discussions of time passing, storms ending, and daybreak arriving on a safe and cozy bed.
- Pre-School** ***Here Come the Aliens!*** by Colin McNaughton
Aliens approaching Earth have horrible faces! The Earth is warned and dreads their arrival. Why did the space ship make a quick retreat away from Earth??? The aliens had spotted a frightening class of four-year-olds!
- Kindergarten** ***Full, Full, Full of Love*** by Trish Cooke
Enjoy this family story including Grandmother, an old fashioned Sunday family dinner, and lots of love and kisses. Excellent for those who do and those who don't have this experience in their lives!
- First - Fourth** ***Mighty Jackie*** (non-fiction) by Marissa Moss
Delightful true story of Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig in 1931 when they were on a spring "barnstorming" baseball tour. Jackie Mitchell, seventeen, was pitching to the pros and struck them both out!
- Third - Eighth** ***Molly Bannaky*** (non-fiction) by Alice McGill
An inspiring true story of tragedy, courage, love and history. This white indentured servant was the grandmother of Benjamin Banneker, one of the first Black scientists in America.
- Sixth - Twelfth** ***Baseball in April*** by Gary Soto
A collection of eleven short stories dealing with adolescent years. The tears and laughter are based on true life experiences of this Latino author from Fresno, California.

SAVE MONEY, SUPPORT LITERACY. Be sure to visit the RAV on-line bookstore at <http://www.readaloud.net>. You'll find wonderful read-aloud books, most of them at discounted prices. And a portion of all proceeds goes to RAV to support our programs for literacy in central Virginia.

RAISE AWARENESS, RAISE FUNDS.

Remember that there are lots of ways to support the work of RAV. Here of some of the ongoing efforts, supported by the generous organizations of our community:

Discounted books and partial proceeds to RAV: <http://www.readaloud.net/>

CELEBRATING THE CHILDREN AND THEIR WORK

Tune in to Channel 6 Richmond (or channel 9 on Cable) at 5 p.m. for the RAV picture of the day during the 'For Kids Sake' segment of the news. These pictures are based on books and drawn by students who have listened to the books read aloud to them by their parents and teachers. Students who have pictures shown on TV are given FREE Little Caesar's coupons from Channel 6. Thank you, **Channel 6** and **Little Caesar's!**

THANK YOU, ALL RAV SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS

RAV appreciates the support of all our parents, teachers, administrators, librarians, volunteers and Board members. Thank you for bringing reading aloud to all the children of Virginia.

With appreciation to Crystal Graham & Chris Graham for the article on Book 'Em and Willie Tee, published 10-03-06. The Augusta Free Press is an independent publication serving Staunton, Waynesboro and Augusta County, Virginia. Content Copyright 2002 - 2006 by Augusta Free Press | All Rights Reserved

THANK YOU, SPONSORS

RAV depends on the generosity of a wide group of sponsors and supporters to keep us reading aloud to children throughout Virginia. With deep appreciation, we salute the sponsors of the 2005-2006 RAV year:

CBS Channel 6, WTVR
Northumberland Woman's Club
Barnes & Noble (Libbie Place, Short Pump)
Starbucks, Norfolk & Cary Street
United Way
Radio Disney, Richmond
Dominion Foundation
AMF Sunset Bowl
Waldenbooks
Domino Pizza
Imagine the Possibilities, Video
Comcast Reading Network

Little Caesar's Pizza
New Beginnings Child Development Center
Library of Virginia
Target
Virginia State PTA
Chick-fil-A
Max & Erma's
Tom Leonard's
Wal-Mart
COMCAST Local Edition
Lipman Foundation
GRTC

RESERVE YOUR SEAT FOR VALENTINE'S BUNCO
Thursday, February 8, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Donation: \$30

Please make your tax-deductible donation payable to RAV.

Mail the form below, or contact Joanie Bache at
joaniebache@readaloudva.org
or 804.285.0457.

Reserved seats will be assigned at the door – you may make a CASH
donation then.

Mail donations to: RAV, 2111 Cassell Court, Richmond, VA 23238

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
E-Mail _____
Phone _____

WE NEED YOUR HELP. TELL YOUR FRIENDS, TOO.

Read Aloud Virginia is a non-profit organization that is 100% dependent on volunteers and financial support from outside sources, mainly from friends like you. If you agree that promoting reading aloud in homes to develop a love of reading is important to the minds, hearts and futures of our children, please consider volunteering and/or making a donation to *Read Aloud Virginia*. With your help we will continue to bring RAV programs to more schools and reach even more children. Thank you!



**READ ALOUD VIRGINIA
MEMBERSHIP DONATIONS**

Name _____

E-mail _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

DUES (annually: June - May)

Previous RAV Members \$15 _____ amount enclosed

Previous RAV Volunteers \$15 _____ amount enclosed

New RAV Members \$20 _____ amount enclosed

New RAV Volunteers \$20 _____ amount enclosed

DONATION to RAV \$ _____ amount enclosed

Make checks to: RAV (please note: Membership/Year) and mail to:

RAV
8545 Patterson Avenue, Suite 201
Richmond, VA 23229

Thank you for supporting

**READ ALOUD VIRGINIA
READ TO THEM**

RAV is a 501 (3) (c) non-profit, located at 8545 Patterson Avenue, Suite 201, Richmond, VA 23229

READ TO THEM!