



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

May, 2007

VOLUME IV, Issue 8

***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.***

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- May 15** **Annual Meeting** - School Coordinators Welcome!
5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Nick's Roman Terrace, 8051A West Broad Street, 23294
This is a change.
- Sunday, May 20** **Read & Romp 2007**
11:00 a.m. – 3 p.m. Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, rain or shine
For children 2 to 8 years and their families
- July 23** **Patriotic Golf Tournament** - *Sponsorships available*
11:00 a.m. Brandermill Country Club - *GOLFERS needed!*
Registration: www.readaloudva.org
- Aug. 25** **Yard Sale**
- Oct. 14 – Oct. 21** **READ ALOUD TO A CHILD WEEK**
- Oct. 18** **Meet Jim Trelease, international author & speaker, read-aloud expert**
Registration: www.readaloudva.org or in newsletter
- Oct. 23** **BUNCO** -- *Sponsorships available*
7:00 p.m. Richmond Country Club - *PLAYERS needed!*
- Nov. 10** **Bazaar**
- Dec. 8** **Santa Breakfast** - *Sponsorships available*
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RAV WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Shelley H. Allen, Elementary Reading Consultant and Children's Literature Specialist, has joined the other talented and generous members of RAV Board. You'll see Shelley's first contribution to RAV in her list of recommended read-aloud titles included in this newsletter. Thank you, Shelley, and welcome!

READ TO THEM!

WHAT DIFFERENCE CAN A FEW BOOKS MAKE?

By Joanie Bache from an article for *All About Kids* magazine

What difference do a few books make? *Plenty!* according to Jim Trelease in his sixth and newest edition of the *Read Aloud Handbook*. Just as the highest numbers of rodeo riders come from the states with the most horses, most readers come from homes that have the most books. Make sense?

Access to books improves education. Consider this study from California cited in the *Read Aloud Handbook*:

District	Books in Home	Books in Class	Books in School Library	Books in Public Library	Kids to College
Beverly Hills	199.0	392	60,000	200,000	93%
Watts	4.5	54	23,000	110,000	2%
Compton	2.7	47	16,000	90,000	1%

Reading to them helps improve literacy rates. Armed with Jim Trelease's common sense handbook and collection of successful stories and studies, Read Aloud Virginia is proving that parents can *improve literacy rates* in Richmond – just by getting, reading, and talking about good books in their homes and schools.

In October 2006, the North Richmond YMCA began a home library program sending home 2,000 new and slightly used RAV books with children from pre-school through second grade. Teachers and parents met for training in the read-aloud method, and now continue training through RAV mentoring/ tutoring.

Home libraries are a good beginning. Community cooperation sent RAV books home for students and their families. In December 2006, RAV and the Comfort Inn at 3200 West Broad Street hosted a Santa Breakfast for 200 inner-city elementary school students and their 72 families. The Book Bank donated one new Christmas book to each family to listen to and keep. In addition, each family was given boxes and bags full of books . . . at least 50 books to every family . . . books for babies, books for young children, books for teenagers, and books for adults.

These 3,600 new and slightly used books had been collected from all of the public schools in Hanover County, then labeled and boxed by Eagle Scout Brian Dickerson and members of his Boy Scout Troop 521. The families were shocked and appreciative. The children were delighted!

“Here’s How” from RAV: Directions to parents for successful read-aloud programs.

Read aloud or listen to books on tape with your children *every day* for 20 minutes and discuss the selection during and after the story. Remember to read books two-to-three years above your child's reading level. Here are some questions to ask your child:

- What will you always remember about this chapter or book or magazine or newspaper story?
- Which new word did you hear? Or really like? What did it mean?
- Was there a problem in this chapter or book or magazine or newspaper story?
- How was the problem solved?

Read Aloud Virginia helps parents help their children become happy, successful adults. RAV provides books to establish home libraries in all Richmond homes. In addition, RAV provides speakers, mentors, trainers, coordinators and programs for parents, teachers, volunteers, and students in pre-schools, elementary schools, middle and high schools. Visit: www.readaloudva.org to help eliminate illiteracy in our schools and community by informing and motivating parents to start a home library today. To start book collections for home libraries contact: joaniebache@readaloudva.org.

READ TO THEM!

JIM TRELEASE IN RICHMOND: The Master Speaks!

Don't miss this chance to attend a workshop with Jim Trelease in Richmond.

RAV invites staff members and parents to attend one of the entertaining and enlightening workshops that Jim Trelease, author of the READ ALOUD HANDBOOK will present in Richmond on Thursday, October 18, 2007. Jim has been researching and promoting reading aloud for over 25 years. He explains how reading aloud awakens children's imaginations and improves their language skills, assuring success in school and life.

Please reserve your place as soon as possible. This is one of Jim's last scheduled workshops and you don't want to miss it.

Make check payable to: Read Aloud Virginia
Mail to: RAV, 8545 Patterson Ave., Suite 201, Richmond, VA 23229

Name of Group _____

Address & Zip _____

E-Mail Contact person _____

E-Mail Address _____

12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m. session

Number attending: _____

@ \$40 per person (includes sandwich/lunch)

Total enclosed: \$ _____

4:30 p.m. -- 7:30 p.m. session

Number attending: _____

@ \$40 per person (includes sandwich/dinner)

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Contact joaniebache@readaloudva.org for more information.
Richmond location to be announced Fall, 2007.

READ TO THEM!

BOOKS FOR READING ALOUD

Summer's almost here again, with lazy days (make sure you have some!) and lots of time to share books. These are the moments the kids will never forget.

Remember to read books that are 2 -to-3 years above what children can easily read to themselves.

This list of recommended books comes from Dr. Shelley H. Allen.

Grades K-4

Cleary, B. (1965). The Mouse and the Motorcycle. Scholastic.

Ralph the mouse and his family live in a hole in the wall of a hotel room. When a young boy brings a toy motorcycle just Ralph's size into the room, the adventures begin. First of three books. 158 pp.

Grades 2-5

Rodda, E. (1993). Rowan of Rin. Greenwillow.

Young Rowan, a timid, unlikely hero living in the mythical village of Rin, is the key member of a group embarking on a dangerous, riddle-filled quest to restore Rin's water supply. First in series. 151 pp.

Grades 4 and up

Haddix, M. P. (1998). Among the Hidden. Aladdin.

Enter a chilling, futuristic world where third children's parents must hide them from the Population Police because they are illegal. The story centers on twelve-year-old Luke, a third child, who encounters a fellow "shadow child" and begins to question the government's policies and his own limited way of life. First in the "Shadow Children" series. 153 pp.

Grades 5 and up

Anderson, L. H. (2000). Fever: 1793. Aladdin.

Sixteen-year-old Mattie Cook narrates the harrowing, fascinating story of her experiences during the 1793 yellow fever epidemic. Set in Philadelphia and chock full of well-researched historical detail. 251 pp.

Grades 6 and up

Yolen, J. (1988). The Devil's Arithmetic. Puffin.

Twelve-year-old Hannah steps through a door during her family's observance of a Passover Seder and travels back in time to a World War II German concentration camp. This gripping tale unflinchingly conveys the experiences of Hannah and the other prisoners, each of whom is tattooed with a number – the arithmetic of the devil. 170 pp.

For parents, Shelley recommends the website of author and librarian Esme Codell called Planet Esme: <http://www.planetesme.com/> and Codell's book for adults called How to Get Your Child to Love Reading (2003), published by Algonquin Books.

READ TO THEM!

LOOKING AHEAD

Joanie reports that there is much to do to expand RAV programs to more pre-schools and K - 2 parents. RAV's current grant requests are asking for four part-time reading teachers or specialists to be hired for RAV training at 10 new locations next year. That would enable 2,000 more students to be involved. To this end, Joanie and her team are writing grants, accepting gifts, and scheduling fundraising events.

PLAY GOLF. RAISE MONEY. GET GOOD STUFF. HELP KIDS!

Sign up for a special golf event to be held at the Brandermill Country Club on Monday, July 23, 2007.

We are fortunate to have professional golf tournament planner Rob Henshaw to run our first annual RAV Golf Championship. You'll have a chance to win a set of golf clubs, different irons and woods, coolers, rounds of golf, and more. We hope will raise about \$6,000 for RAV.

Here's how you can help: First: donate a special item for a silent auction. Second: sign up to play. We need at least 20 teams to play for a fee of only \$100/person. Third: play, chat, eat and have fun!

Visit www.readaloudva.org for registration forms and information.

CELEBRATING THE CHILDREN, THEIR WORK and a NEW SPONSOR

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 Arby's Kid Meal coupons from Channel 6. Thank you, **Channel 6** and **Arby'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.

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 2006-2007 RAV year:

CBS Channel 6, WTVR
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AMF Sunset Bowl
Waldenbooks
Domino Pizza
Imagine the Possibilities, Video
Comcast Reading Network
New Beginnings Child Development Center

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

READ TO THEM!

