



LitBits

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Brain Game 2003 Raises \$15,000 for Literacy Volunteers

How deep is Lake Ontario? What is the best way to get catsup out of a bottle? What college did local soccer star Amy Wambach attend? These are a few of the questions that challenged Brain Game 2003 contestants from 16 local legal and accounting firms.

Held at the Clarion Riverside Hotel on October 9, this year's game raised more than \$15,000 --a record sum-- for Literacy Volunteers. Legal firm Boylan, Brown, Code, Vigdor & Wilson, LLP defeated the accounting firm of Bonadio & Co., LLP in the final round, a cliffhanger with victory hinging on the answer to the last question in the last round.

In addition to Bonadio & Co., LLP, these accounting firms competed: Deloitte & Touche LLP, Eldredge, Fox & Porretti, LLP, Insero, Kasperski, Ciaccia & Co., PC, KPMG LLP--Assets and KPMG LLP--Liabilities, Mengel, Metzger, Barr & Co. LLP, and Stoffel & Co. CPA's, PC.

This year's champions, Boylan, Brown, Code, Vigdor & Wilson, LLP, were joined by Lacy, Katzen, Ryen & Mittleman, LLP, Nixon Peabody LLP, Underberg & Kessler LLP, Intellectual Insolvants, 2002 champions Harter, Secrest & Emery LLP, Harris Beach LLP, and 2001 victors Chamberlain, D'Amanda, Oppenheimer & Greenfield.

Kristen Miranda and Darren Mark from WOKR Channel 13 hosted the event, with help from honorary judges Karen Morris and Irving Kessler, Esq.; Irving Mann of Mann's Jewelers again served as timekeeper.

This annual event owes much of its success to the volunteers who planned it, to underwriters LexisNexis and the accounting firm of Insero, Kasperski, Ciaccia & Co., PC, and to major sponsor, Messenger Post Newspapers.



Winners of the 2003 Brain Game are Robert Mechur, Patrick Malgieri, Ralph "Buz" Code and Mark Costello representing the law firm of Boylan, Brown, Code, Vigdor & Wilson, LLP. Photo courtesy of Jim Tiefenthal.

**Answers: Maximum depth 802 feet; give the inverted bottle a quick downward thrust and then stop abruptly just short of the target; University of Florida*

Brain Game Contestants

Bonadio & Company, LLP

Lisa Sierk
Paul Fries
Tracy Moran
Kelley Conley

Boylan, Brown, Code, Vigdor & Wilson, LLP

Mark Costello
Buz Code
Patrick Malgieri
Bob Mechur

Chamberlain, D'Amanda, Oppenheimer & Greenfield

Wade Eaton
Anita Miller
Henry Ippolito
Andy Butler

Deloitte & Touche, LLP

Tom Tehan
Ray D'Agostino
Bonnie Jarecke
Brian Brockmann

Eldredge, Fox & Porretti, LLP

Lou Camarella
Jennifer Gall
Andrew Ophardt
Brian Grooms1

Harris Beach LLP

Jeffrey Kuhn
Chris Jagel
Ed Fox
Joyce Parker

(For a complete list of sponsors and donors, see p.2.)

Brain Game
Contestants (cont'd)

Harter, Secrest & Emery LLP

Brad Salai
Joanne Orzech
Martin O'Toole
Tom Smith

Insero, Kasperski, Ciaccia & Company, PC

Steve Mills
Joanne Schneider
Pat Brown
Mike Marafioti

Intellectual Insolvents

Kathleen Schmitt
Kevin Bambury
Peter Scribner
Ken Gordon

KPMG LLP

(2 teams)
Scott Adair
Dan Drews
Christine Davis
Jennifer Davie
Lisa Baker
Lou Alaimo
Ronald Lewis
Cora Conklin

Lacy, Katzen, Ryan & Mittleman LLP

Michael S. Schnittmann
Lara R. Badain
Richard G. Curtis
Jennifer Chadwick

Mengel Metzger Barr & Co, LLP

Dick Mengel
Megan Broomfield
Mike Johnson
Mary Paul

Nixon Peabody, LLP

David Cutitta
Kristen Walsh
Peter Durant
James Hoare

Stoffel & Co.

Annmarie Thomas
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From the Executive Director - Bob Mahar

New programs meet the changing needs of students and volunteers

Forty years—that's a long history of dedicated service. Since 1964 Literacy Volunteers has worked with thousands of students to improve reading and English skills, primarily through one-on-one tutoring. Our services have had an impact on students' lives and their achievements. But as times change so too do the needs of our organization and its students and volunteers. So we're adding several new initiatives to meet those needs better. This fall we began a partnership with "Step by Step," a local group that has been working with great success for the past 10 years to assist women who are incarcerated to improve their self-esteem. LVR volunteers will help low-literacy Step by Step participants in the Monroe County Correctional Facility and Albion State Prison to get the most out of the program.

And we have added to our ESOL program: A new condensed version of the ESOL workshop has been developed specifically for certified teachers. We have also partnered with local teachers' unions to enlist more current and retired teachers in this program.

Another ESOL plan is underway: to offer a "drop-in" program for high-level ESOL students who are seeking help with their English conversation skills. One night a

week and on Saturdays, students currently on our waiting list will come into the office to meet with ESOL tutors. We are also developing a Basic Literacy drop-in center to help us serve students on our growing waiting list (over 100 as I write to you today).

And finally, we are working with several local agencies, including the Boys & Girls Club of Rochester, to expand our Readiness for Learning curriculum, an orientation program for Basic students that explores learning styles and strengths. Participating youth and parents will be learning about their own styles and strengths.

Do all these initiatives mean that one-on-one tutoring for adults is no longer our primary mission? Not at all. It means that today's adult learners and volunteers have changing needs, needs that LVR is evolving to meet.



*Bob Mahar
Executive Director*

Message from the President - Peter Giopulos

Stewardship with Perseverance

Unquestionably, the past 40 years for Literacy Volunteers have been defined through outstanding stewardship. Thousands of students have been helped because donors, volunteers, staff and boards cared and focused their talents and financial resources on helping adults learn to read and speak better English. Our mission has been clear and our responsibilities taken seriously.



*Peter Giopulos, Ph.D.,
President, Board of Directors*

To think that last year 27,000 volunteer hours were gifted to LVR. We have accomplished this through an applied accountability and by looking after the programs, facilities, library, equipment and especially the students and volunteers. National accreditation, state funding, grants from foundations and a steady stream of

students and donors are proof that others believe we are an effective resource for the community. Congratulate yourself!

With our 40th birthday coming up, now is the time to ensure the future through your charitable giving. The gift of reading keeps on growing with every dollar in the budget. To strengthen our contribution to the quality of life in the community, we need your continued stewardship.

To celebrate the 40th anniversary, we are asking you to consider an additional \$40 to last year's contribution. A dollar a year is a respectful tribute to those who built the organization; you will be investing in the life-fulfilling goals of a student. In March we will celebrate our history by showing a full-feature movie. We hope that you can see the movie while munching on popcorn.

It's a time to rally for reading. Please affirm that what we do is important to you, too.

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Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday 9 am – Noon
(office is closed Saturdays during
July and August)

*Thank you to Jessica Mikolay who created
our new logo and masthead.*

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Paul Crough - 271-3787
Pamela Langdon - 546-7254

ESL - Daytime

Cynthia Goldstein - 334-4557
Rose Mathews - 248-9141

ESL - Evenings

Malla Barker - 473-5327
Peg Warrick - 461-0939
Pamela Langdon - 546-7254

Graduating Tutors - Congratulations!

The following graduates were inadvertently left out of the last issue. They graduated in Spring 2003. Mark Stock, Sheri MacFarlane, Ruth Van Cranenburgh, Michelle Newkirk, Lauren Landsburg, Patrick Timothy McAvoy, and Margaret Lamberts.

Fall 2003 Graduates

Marie Barker, William Beenhouser, Mary Fornataro, Maria Theresa Gavin, Nancy Jaime, Kim Jones, Janet King, Charlotte Klose, Loretta LeGree, Donna Manicone, Diane Perry, Shana Pies, Edith Prest, Susan Pulver, Vincent Reeder, Susan Schueckler, Mark Sidey, Diane Stack, and Kathy Symula.

SAVE THE DATE

**LVR 40th Anniversary Celebration
Monday, March 22, 2004**

Thank you to Marie Jolkovski for editing this issue of LitBits.