

ABL's special deliveries

Awareness campaign to drop thousands of postcards in the mail

By Carrie Dampier
EDITOR

A relationship that was about three years in the making was cemented last week when the R.A. Stevens Family Foundation made a \$1,225 donation to the Friends of the Alice Baker Library.

The money will be used by Library Director Ali Chase to launch a library awareness campaign that features over 3,000 postcards, soon to be arriving in mailboxes in the town and village of Eagle as well as North Prairie.

Paul Fleckenstein, the foundation's executive director, praised Chase for her tenacity in securing this, her first grant, while at the helm of Alice Baker. He said Chase first contacted him nearly three years ago to begin the courtship process many organizations and nonprofits go through with charitable foundations such as his.

But back then, Alice Baker's fund-raising board, FABLE, did not have 501 (c)(3) status, a provision in the U.S. Internal Revenue Code that exempts nonprofit organizations from certain federal income taxes,

and the R.A. Stevens Family Foundation can only give to those exempted organizations.

That status changed about six months ago, said Chase, and the wheels were set in motion for the current library awareness campaign.

"I give you a lot of credit for sticking to it," Fleckenstein told Chase April 11, as he pre-

sented her with the check. The money will be used to purchase the postage for delivery of the postcards.

Chase's goal with the campaign is to reach more house

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CARRIE DAMPIER Palmyra-Eagle Enterprise

Ali Chase, director of Alice Baker Library, thanks Paul Fleckenstein, executive director of the R.A. Stevens Family Foundation, for the gift of \$1,225 last Friday.

• Library (Continued from front page)

holds who may not know the different services and programs Alice Baker provides to the community – or, even, that the library is there at all.

"Come in, check us out," Chase said of the postcards' message. "We have something to offer everybody."

The brightly colored postcard front highlights some of the main themes of Alice Baker, including "connection," "resources" and "technology." The flip side of the postcard goes into a little more depth about the services offered there, such as "affordable printing services" and "networking opportunities."

"Even people who have been here, when we show them the

postcard, they say, 'I didn't know you had that,'" said Chase.

She added, "We have a very wide variety of programs."

There are programs for the very young – like the Storytime reading events for preschoolers – to the very young at heart – such as the upcoming Wii gaming program, which will teach seniors how to take advantage of the physical benefits of the newest gaming craze.

"We're very happy with our director's creativity," said Alice Baker Library Board Member Frank Nardine. "Her approach is intergenerational. It breaks the stereotypes of what libraries were when we were young."

If all goes according to plan, the campaign will build on the growth experienced in the almost-three years Chase has been

Baymont Inn
& Suites

Alice Baker Library news

Book donations

In anticipation of FABLE's (Friends of Alice Baker Library's) book sale, the Alice Baker Library is currently accepting donations of clean, lightly used books.

The library is not able to accept Reader's Digest Condensed Books, Textbooks, older romance novels, outdated almanac-type books or magazines.

Spring Family Scavenger Hunt

Celebrate National Library Week with a springy family activity. Pick up Scavenger Hunt forms at the library and then return completed forms and receive a surprise.

All completed forms will be entered in a drawing for larger prizes.

Grandparent Storytime

Join us at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 25, for a fun storytime with genuine grandparents reading the stories. Wear pajamas and bring a pillow and your favorite older adult. Cookies will be served following the stories.

No registration is needed for this program.

Poem in Your Pocket

April is National Poetry Month. Join Alice Baker Library's Teen Library Council and the Academy of American Poets and carry a poem in your pocket to share with friends, family and co-workers. We have a basket of poems at the library to choose from. Poems will be

pulled out of pockets nationwide and shared throughout April.

Audio download class

The library offers a wealth of downloadable audio and video. It's simple to use and it's free.

Do you want to dive into this brave new world? We'll hold a class at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 24. Class size is extremely limited, so call the library to register.

Culver's Coloring Contest

Children 11 years of age and under are eligible to participate in the annual Culver's Coloring Contest.

Forms for the artwork entries are available at the library or may be printed out from the library Web site. Draw a favorite character from a book and bring it to the library by April 30.

Each participant will receive a coupon for a Culver's custard cone and will be entered in a drawing for other prizes. Completed entries will be displayed at the library.

Location, hours and contact information

Alice Baker Library is located at 820 E. Main St. in Eagle. The library is open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The library phone number is 594-2800. The Web site is <http://www.wcfls.lib.wi.us/eagle>. For interlibrary loan, call the library or e-mail kboucher@eagle.lib.wi.us.

June 12th, 2008

Library system team wins spelling bee

Fund-raiser supports literacy programs

By EMILIE RUSCH

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Waukesha — No recount is needed.

The Waukesha County Federated Library System has the best corporate spellers in Waukesha County, after successfully defending its title at the Literacy Council of Greater Waukesha's 16th annual corporate spelling bee Thursday night.

To seal the victory, team member Alli Chase correctly spelled P-E-C-T-O-R-A-L, an adjective that describes things related to the chest.

After last year's victory, in which the final round lasted nearly an hour, winning after the round's first two words felt great, Chase, Gay Alberts Ruby and team captain Sandy Jaeger agreed.

"It feels fantastic," Jaeger said, smiling. "I'm so happy."

This year's theme was "A Politically (In)correct Spelling Bee: Cast Your Vote for Literacy," and the second-place team from Clarcorp Industrial Sales, stayed true to the democratic ideal until the end, team captain Donna Clark said.

The team misspelled the final round's first word, C-H-R-Y-S-A-L-I-S, which means the protective enclosure of a pupa. But they agreed on a spelling as a team.

"We all took a look at it," Clark said. "If it was right, it was right, but it wasn't. It was a lot of fun."

Words that caused the rest of the 10-team competition to stumble included L-A-B-Y-R-I-N-T-H, an intricate maze, and N-O-T-O-C-H-O-R-D, the rod of cells that supports the bodies of the lowest chor-

dates. The Metal Tek team, which wore Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama and John McCain masks, was recalled on I-N-T-E-G-R-A-L, an adjective that means necessary for completeness.

The other teams competing were Waukesha County Technical College, New Berlin Library, Aurora Health Care, The Equitable Bank, Vrakas/Blum, Waukesha Family Practice Center and Waukesha Junior Women's Club. The winning team was sponsored by Electronic Telecommunications Inc.

The council's largest fundraiser included a ceremony establishing The Bruce Gill Publishing Fund to promote student writing.

Gill, a senior suburban editor for the Journal Sentinel who died in March, was a longtime Literacy Council supporter.

Gill's family was on hand at the bee to present a check to the council, and his daughter Jennifer Stell said he would have loved knowing he is helping to mentor writers even in death.

"Bruce cared very much about his community and this organization," Stell said.

The fund will allow the Literacy Council to periodically publish anthologies of its students' writings, Executive Director Debra Running said. Running presented the family with a plaque commemorating Gill's contributions to the bee as speller, emcee, recruiter of the Journal Sentinel's four winning teams and friend of literacy.

Money raised at the bee, which Running said is about \$13,000, supports the council's tutoring programs in reading, writing, spelling, math and English as a second language.

June 2008

Bear Tracks

Volumes of summer fun at Alice Baker Library

Alice Baker Library is the year-round Eagle community center for books, audios, videos, information, education and family fun. Summer only amps up the activity level, with more programs and activities for all ages.

The Library is planning its annual schedule of innovative Summer Library Programming. This year's theme is Catch the Reading Bug at Your Library. Children's Librarian Maria Hinnens and her staff will present a full schedule of events for children and for the whole family. Offering a range of activities from family picnics and story times to knitting classes for kids, hands-on animal events, and even a bug hike, the library will be an exciting place to hang out all summer long. As always, kids can read their way to fun prizes and gift certificates, and every child is always a winner. Sign up begins Saturday, June 7 at the library.

Last year's summer library programming entertained and enlightened over 300 children and their families. But summer fun at Alice Baker Library is not limited to children's activities alone. This summer, Metamorphosis @ Your Library will offer movie nights, book discussion groups, and gaming opportunities for teens in grades 7 through 12. Teenagers with a flair for drama will enjoy a Murder Mystery Night as well as an evening of improv in a homegrown version of Whose Line is It Anyway. Teen signup also begins Saturday, June 7.

Alice Baker Library also offers a Summer Reading program for grownups. Adults can document their reading to win coupons and prizes. Several programs – book talks, author visits, movie matinees, and nature-themed events – are planned especially for adults. Adult signup begins June 7.

As Eagle and surrounding communities have grown, more children and families have participated in library events and the demand for summer activities of all kinds

has increased. Library staffers have met the challenge with an expanded range of summer programming at the library. Make sure to be part of this summer's buzz of activity,

and Catch the Reading Bug at Alice Baker Library in Eagle.

The library is located at 820 E. Main St. in Eagle, and telephone number is (262) 594-2800.

