

## Diversity Today Keeps Intolerance Away

Nine students from Hoquiam High School were invited to share their heritage with students from Emerson Elementary during a motivational reading activity called "Read Around the World." To celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr, the high school students shared stories from their own cultural backgrounds, read a book to the classroom, and answered questions about their lives. Each Emerson student then received a new book from Page Ahead—the first of three books to be presented at future events.

Diversity Day was the creation of Cindi Strode, Parent-to-Parent Coordinator for Emerson and member of the Washington Reading Corps. "I asked myself, how do we teach little kids about diversity?" The enthusiastic response received by exchange student Fabio Lemes seemed to answer that question. "I almost didn't get to finish the book for them," Lemes said. "There were so many questions." The young Brazilian said he spent most of his time with first-graders comparing his native land of Brazil with America. Diversity Day is one among many activities to motivate children to read. For more ideas, contact Jacki at 206-461-0123.



Quinault Indian Derric Waugh talks to Emerson Elementary schoolchildren about his heritage at a motivational reading event to celebrate diversity. Eight other students from Hoquiam High School participated in "Read Around the World," as books from Page Ahead were distributed.



Using this card when you shop at Albertson's will prompt a donation to Page Ahead—at no cost to you. To obtain cards, call Kelly at 206-461-0123.

### Feel Like a Million Books!

Page Ahead will be giving away its millionth book in June. Since 1990, Page Ahead has given over 900,000 books to almost 350,000 kids across Washington. Read about our millionth book celebration in the next edition of *Chapters*.

## DeLong on Literacy

Governor Gary Locke presented DeLong Elementary School in Tacoma with the Washington State Reading School of the Month Award for December. Many of the teachers, parents, and 445 students attended an assembly at which the award was presented. Locke praised the students for their remarkable achievement: in four years the percentage of fourth graders reading at grade level jumped from 12 percent to 75 percent. He also congratulated the community for its support in the form of financial contributions, after-school tutoring programs, and help in the classrooms. "Reading is the foundation for all academic success," Locke commented. His sentiments were echoed by one young student, who wrote a letter of thanks to Page Ahead for books and reading activities: "I enjoy reading books because reading stays with you for the rest of your life."



*Kamden Chew (third from right, bottom row) and his club showing off the books they collected for children served by Page Ahead. Each child received a personal note of thanks from a book recipient.*

## What's Cooking for Literacy?

Food lovers and literacy supporters are invited to attend the fifth annual Cooks for Books event, a culinary benefit sponsored by Page Ahead featuring cooking demonstrations and a three-course meal prepared by premier chef Charles Ramseyer of Ray's Boathouse.

The event will take place on Saturday, April 5 from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Bellevue Art Museum and will include an auction. Tickets for the event are \$100 per person or \$800 for a table of ten. Tickets can be purchased in advance by calling 206-461-0123. Seating is limited to 200.

Swiss by birth, Charles Ramseyer apprenticed at the exclusive Hotel Vorderen Sternen in Zurich. In 1980 he emigrated to British Columbia and worked in the kitchens of the Hilton Hotels. He refined his culinary talents at the Four Seasons, then continued to develop his signature style as executive chef at the Alexis Hotel. Joining Ray's Boathouse in 1993, Ramseyer has continued his passion for deliciously simple and unusual pairings of the natural flavors and local ingredients of the Pacific Northwest. Dessert will be prepared by Patricia Byrnes, Bakery Operations Manager at Schwartz Brothers Restaurants. Her culinary creation recently won a competition for the birthday-cake bake off at the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Seattle Center.

For more information about Cooks for Books, call 206-461-0123 or visit Page Ahead's web site at [www.pageahead.org/new/neindex.htm](http://www.pageahead.org/new/neindex.htm)

## Community Partner Profiles

### Bringing Books to Life

Book-It Repertory Theatre has a well-deserved reputation for bringing books from the page to the stage in a way that pleases audiences with theatre while prompting them to read. In December, Book-It joined with University Bookstores in a book drive for Page Ahead involving theatre patrons attending performances of plays adapted from the works of John Irving, Truman Capote, and Dylan Thomas as well as book buyers shopping for children's literature. Throughout the year, the Book-It-All-Over touring ensemble will be visiting schools to bring books to life.

### Fit to Read

In January, Page Ahead book collection buses appeared in 13 Bally Total Fitness Centers as part of the "Fit to Read" campaign. According to Bally's Chris Covello, "We enjoy offering our clubs the opportunity to get involved through book drives and local events; total fitness includes fostering the health and education of children in our communities as well as developing personal strength."

### Heartfelt

Thanks to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class of Bryant Elementary School for collecting books for Page Ahead. Beginning February 3<sup>rd</sup> and culminating on Valentine's Day, "The Heartiest Drive" was coordinated from start to finish by children and resulted in 900 books. In the course of the drive, Bryant students also developed a simple guide for other classrooms to use in organizing similar drives. The kids who led the drive observed that "Even if kids have books at school, they need to practice reading at home."

### From the Biggest to the Smallest

When kindergartener Kamden Chew started his kids' club, set a monthly meeting, and issued hand-made identification badges, his intent was to have fun—and to "do good things." In December, Kamden and his club collected new books for Page Ahead. The children participated in the book drive because, "If you don't learn to read, you will be a baby all your life and nobody wants that."



**Lattes for literacy** is a concept that flies here in the capitol of coffee. From March 19 through April 22, **Starbucks** will be hosting its annual "All Books for Children" book drive to benefit Page Ahead. Joined by **Scholastic Books** and the **Seattle SuperSonics**, it is hoped that the drive will generate 20,000 new books.

Page Ahead is delighted that three of its long-standing community partners have joined forces to make the ABC book drive the best ever. Scholastic Books will be bringing its portable book fair to the corporate office of Starbucks as well as to retail stores, which are frequently used as meeting sites by book clubs. In addition, the book fair will appear at the March 18 Sonic's game, along with order forms provided to sports fans to donate books for kids (including the opportunity to pre-order the fifth installment of one of Scholastic's most popular series, not due to be released in stores until late June.)

Help kids learn their ABC's by contributing to the All Books for Children book drive beginning March 19<sup>th</sup>. Kids who read, succeed—helped by the three S's, that is.

Go Starbucks, Scholastic, and Sonics!



## Volunteers Make the World Go Round

*Bryn Mawr Elementary School teacher Irene Olson (right) enlisted volunteers for a shift at the Westlake Carousel in December. The five-day fundraising event was sponsored by the Downtown Seattle Association and generated over \$8,600 for Page Ahead.*

## Chapters Winter 2003

*Chapters* is a publication of Page Ahead, a nonprofit organization that advances literacy and strengthens communities by promoting reading activities and providing new books to at-risk children and their families.

1334 First Avenue, Suite 130  
Seattle, Washington 98101  
(206) 461-0123

[www.pageahead.org](http://www.pageahead.org)

**Managing Editor, Writer:** Dianna MacLeod

**Executive Director:** Sam Whiting

**Layout:** Katrina McNaughton

**Design:** Jacqueline Beach

**Printing:** Z-Lane Graphics

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## Recent Contributors

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Beryl Simpson  
Debra Bergthold  
Grays Harbor Community Foundation  
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## Awards



*Executive Director Sam Whiting honors Meena Cheng with the volunteer of the year award for her innovative fund-raising efforts on behalf of Page Ahead. For the past five years, Cheng and her committee of dedicated volunteers have hosted "Cooks for Books," a dinner, cooking demonstration, and auction that features prominent local chefs preparing their specialties using local ingredients. The next "Cooks for Books" is scheduled for Saturday, April 5 at Bellevue Art Museum.*



*Alan Smith receives thanks from Page Ahead's executive director for six years of service on the board of directors. Smith is a partner at Perkins Coie, a law firm that has donated legal advice, books, reading services, and has established a mentoring relationship of ten years' duration with Leschi Elementary School.*

**"Thank you for the book. It's about a spider, but not Itsy Bitsy. I like it."**

*Crystal, Satus Elementary Preschool, Wapato*

## All in the Family

Can television supplement rather than usurp reading? Literacy Americorps member Tara Belgacem answers affirmatively in her workshop "Read to Me," a collaborative effort between Page Ahead and KCTS Channel 9. "The Corporation for Public Broadcasting encourages childhood reading," Tara observed. "Programs such as *Reading Rainbow* and *Between the Lions* motivate children and make them curious about books." In addition to collaborating on workshops, KCTS donated 1,500 books to Page Ahead last year.

"Read to Me" and a second workshop called "Families Read" are available to parents and caregivers at Page Ahead partner sites in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. Call Tara at 206-461-0123 for more information.

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Phone: 206/461-0123 Fax: 206/461-7370  
www.pageahead.org

1334 First Avenue, Suite 130  
Seattle, Washington 98101

