



The Gift That Keeps On Giving: Honoring Your Speakers With Picture Books

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

—Margaret Mead

One to Know: Service Clubs and Speaker Appreciation

The Bring Me A Book Speaker Appreciation program was developed for service clubs as a means of recognizing guest speakers at their regular meetings. Clubs adopt a local under-resourced classroom, from preschool through third grade, to receive the books that the club orders through the Bring Me A Book Speaker Appreciation Collection available online at Bookelicious: www.Bookelicious.com . Club members deliver the books to an organization or agency that serves children in under resourced communities such as school and public libraries, medical clinics, Boys and Girls Clubs, and the like

The Palo Alto University Rotary Club has incorporated this program for 13 years with great success. Their members are proud to be honoring their speakers in this way and appreciate that the program is easy to implement and affordable. The high quality of the books that are donated to children make the program a meaningful gift to the community.

In addition to Rotary, other organizations can adopt this program, such as Elks, Kiwanis, PTA, Junior League, high school service clubs, or local corporations interested in a corporate challenge. It can be tailored to fit the needs of your organization; it is a way to play a role in enhancing opportunities for all children to have books and become proficient readers and life-long learners.

This program offers your service club the opportunity to recognize your weekly speakers or other community leaders and, at the same time, contribute to the literacy of your community. Establishing it is as easy as 1-2-3!

Each week at club meetings, the president asks the guest speaker to sign and return a single book as recognition of his/her speaking engagement. At the end of the fiscal year, the club donates the collection of books to the classroom of their choice in an under-resourced community. We offer two ways to select the books for your Speaker Appreciation program:

- **Select from the Bring Me A Book Speaker Collection** This collection comprises 45 curated, high-quality, age-appropriate books selected for an elementary school classroom in an under-resourced community. You can find the Speaker Appreciation collection at Bookelicious: www.bookelicious.com
- **Choose Your Own** You can also use Bookelicious: www.bookelicious.com to choose your own. It's easy to set up an account and browse the wide variety of high-quality picture books they offer. Consider choosing one from their diversity collections that will align with the demographics of your chosen recipient community.

What to Do


Here is how the program works for Rotary: After each presentation, the club asks the speaker to sign a bookplate that identifies the organization and explains that the book will be given to children at under-resourced sites such as classrooms, clinic waiting rooms, hospitals, or any public place that children frequent with their parents.

Here are the steps:

- Secure funding from your organization.
- Identify the school/classroom/organization that will receive the books. Below are some recommendations for accomplishing this task.
 - Ask members for suggestions.
 - Contact your regional or local Head Start Director.
 - Search online for Title I schools in your area.
 - Contact the school's principal or director to explain the program and to request names of teachers in need of classroom books.
 - Consider local homeless shelters, health clinics and under-resourced public libraries that serve families in need.
- Order your books online selecting from the Bring Me A Book Speaker Collection at Bookelicious or choosing your own title.
- At your meetings, ask your Guest Speakers to sign the bookplate and explain where the books will be donated.

Simply order a year's worth of wonderful children's books that are shipped directly to you. Each book is of the highest quality, hardbound, and age-appropriate. On the inside cover of each book will be a bookplate printed with your Club's name. At the end of the year, or at your convenience during the year, select one or more under-resourced classrooms, health clinics, homeless shelters, etc. in your community and donate your collection. This is a WIN-WIN program!

*This book is a gift from the
Palo Alto University Rotary Club*



In honor of:

NAME _____

ORGANIZATION _____

DATE _____

*In Appreciation for Being
Our Featured Speaker*

www.bringmeabook.org 650-625-5000

More to Know and Do

We can answer all your questions and help you establish an important and meaningful community service program. For more information, contact: loisbridges@bringmeabook.net