

— SPECIAL REPORT —

Fifth Annual Babylon Rotary Dictionary Project



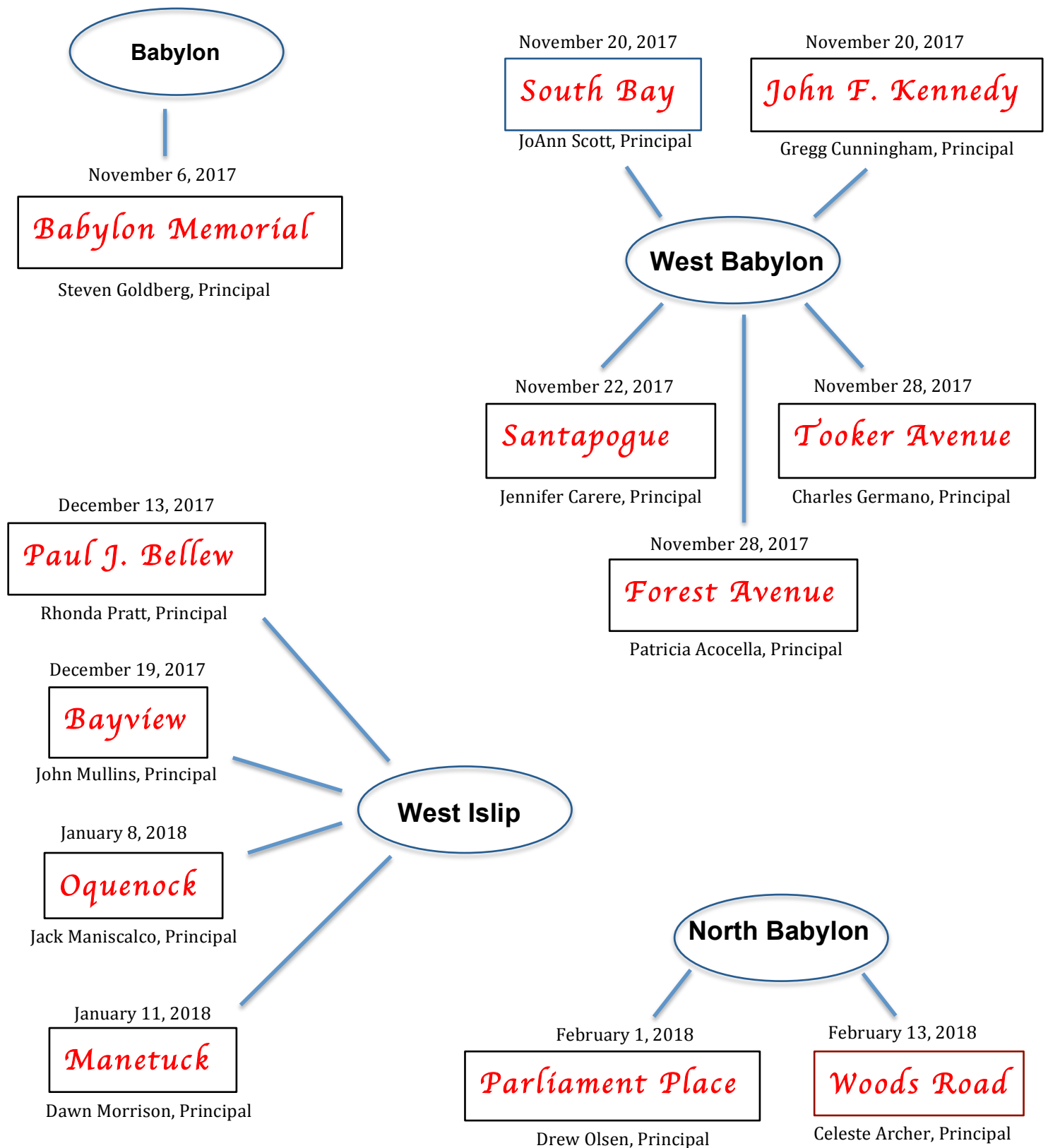
The Babylon Rotary Club conducted a highly successful Dictionary Project, from November 2017 through February 2018, donating dictionaries to over 1200 third grade students in twelve elementary schools within our service area.

Project Co-chairs Frank Seibert, Pam Giarrusso, and Marc Horowitz organized the series of brief presentation programs in Babylon, West Babylon, North Babylon, and West Islip elementary schools. Specific locations, presentation dates, and school principal contacts are shown on the following page.



At each location the project leaders were ably assisted by several Babylon Rotary member volunteers. About a third of the Babylon Rotary active membership participated in the project.

Fifth Annual Babylon Rotary
Dictionary Project
— Participating Schools —





The presentation teams were warmly greeted by the school principal, teachers and aides at each location.

After the teachers assembled the chattering third graders in the hall and quieted them down, Frank Seibert greeted everyone, gave an overview of the planned proceedings, summarized the origin and purpose of the Dictionary Project, and acknowledged support of the project by corporate sponsor Strahl & Pitsch.



Frank explained that the Dictionary Project is a national non-profit organization with one goal: to give the gift of a dictionary to every third-grader in the United States. Third graders are selected because this is the grade where students go from "learning to read to reading to learn." The Dictionary Project accomplishes this with the help of community service organizations such as the Babylon Rotary Club.





PDG Aaron Stein presented a slide show on the mission, programs, and activities of Rotary and the Babylon Rotary Club. The slides depicted some of the many educational, social and humanitarian projects conducted by Babylon Rotary and by thousands of Rotary clubs throughout the world.

He emphasized the lifelong importance of reading and writing proficiency for everyone, including some famous Rotarians, from Walt Disney to Neil Armstrong and the Pope.

What Is Rotary?

Babylon Rotary Programs

Rotary Int'l Programs

Rotary Youth Leadership

Famous Rotarians

The Four-Way Test



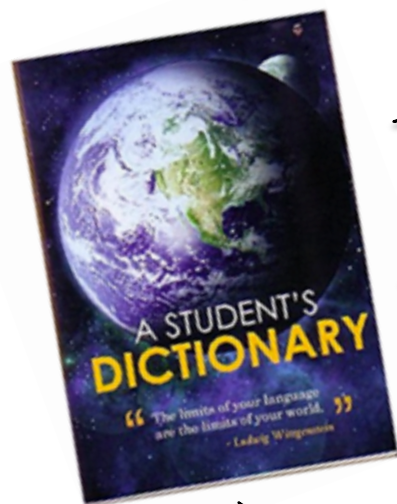


Rotarians started distributing the dictionaries amid a flurry of activity, as the noise level increased considerably, and the students eagerly reached for their new books. Most dove right in to explore the content of their new treasures.



When the students had a chance to examine their new dictionaries, and the din abated, Pam Giarrusso summarized all of the knowledge contained in their new reference books, and how to best use them.

Pam's brief tutorial covered all of the topics illustrated below, while emphasizing the lifelong benefits of a solid literary foundation. Most sat in rapt attention, and eagerly participated in her presentation



A Varied Treasure
of Information

Essential Communication
& Vocabulary Skills

The Power &
Influence of Words

Origin & Meaning
of Words

How to Use
the Dictionary

Thanks To All!



Each school visit ended with thanks all around from students, school administrators and teachers.

Kudos to Project Leaders Frank Seibert, Pam Giarrusso, Marc Horowitz, and to those dedicated and talented Babylon Rotarian volunteers who helped make this year's Dictionary Project another great success: Aaron Stein, Kelly Albanese-Scherer, Zach Giglio, Ashley Smit, Paul Cannella, Megan Noble, Neil Weingarten, Geralyn Harper, Chris Cunningham, Jim Kanzler, Gail Sullivan, and Ed Miller.



Background Summary

With the support of local sponsors and volunteers, the goal of this program is to assist all students in the United States to become good writers, active readers, creative thinkers, and resourceful learners by providing them with their own personal dictionary and other reference texts.

The program is typically implemented in the third grade each year, since this is the age at which dictionary skills are usually taught. Educators describe third grade as the time when a student transitions from learning to read to reading to learn.

Since its implementation in 1995, over 18 million children have received dictionaries because thousands of people saw the same need in communities throughout the United States.

The program has been adopted and refined by individuals, businesses, and civic organizations all over the country. Groups such as Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs, Elks Lodges, Granges, Lions Clubs, The Republican Federation of Women, Pioneer volunteers, parent organizations, and many more, have implemented The Dictionary Project in their communities.

