



# At Home with Books



## FAMILY READING PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

Fall 2015

### Welcome to WIC! *by Elizabeth Stilwell*

Rah, Rah Radishes  
Red and white,  
Carrots are calling  
Take a bite!



When the staff of Family Reading Partnership discovered the board book, “Rah, Rah, Radishes”—bursting with gorgeous photos of vegetables and an engaging, raucous vegetable chant—we knew that it was destined to fulfill a long-time wish of creating a *Welcome to WIC!* book program.

WIC stands for Women, Infants and Children. It is a program administered through the Tompkins County Health Department with the goal to support and improve the health and nutrition of mothers, infants, and young children.

Our *Welcome to WIC!* vision became a reality in August. Families with infants and toddlers are now presented the book “Rah, Rah, Radishes” as a *Welcome to WIC!* gift. The book is accompanied by a card with encouragement for families to “feed your

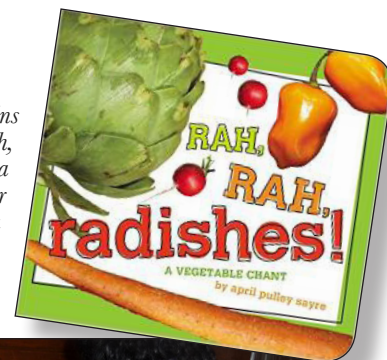
**“...just as healthy food feeds a baby’s growing body, words and books feed a baby’s hungry, growing mind.”**

wonderful way to remind families that just as healthy food feeds a baby’s growing body, words and books feed a baby’s hungry, growing mind.

Cathy Sinott, Director of WIC, was especially excited that the *Welcome to WIC!* book would be initiated at the same time as their new WIC Strong logo was being launched. WIC Strong is a rebranding

baby a rich, healthy diet of food...and words!” It is a

*Cathy Sinott, Director of Tompkins County WIC, reads “Rah, Rah, Radishes” to 1-year-old Layunna Reynolds, while she sits on the lap of her mother, Angela Centeno. The book is a gift to families with babies to welcome them to the WIC program and also to introduce healthy food choices.*



campaign for the New York State Central Region WIC, as part of an effort to make WIC more readily available and accessible to families.

“Tompkins County WIC is grateful for the support of Family Reading Partnership in our clinics,” Cathy says. “This collaboration empowers our WIC families to incorporate reading into their child’s daily routine.” Each book has a gift label that shares the WIC Strong and Family Reading Partnership logos.

Family Reading Partnership has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with WIC since 1998. WIC

*continued on page 3*



**W**ith the changing of the seasons, we're experiencing change at Family Reading Partnership, too. After 18 years, Brigid Hubberman is moving on from her position as founder and executive director, and plans to pursue opportunities to create community partnerships that celebrate and foster the joy of family reading in the national arena.

It is not possible to adequately express our gratitude to Brigid for the difference she has made in the lives of young children in our area. Family Reading Partnership was Brigid's idea, her inspiration. She brought it into being, nurtured it, and helped it grow even when resources were nearly non-existent. As a result of Brigid's leadership, Family Reading Partnership is now a Tompkins County institution that is helping to nurture a culture of literacy and instill a love of books, words, and learning in all of the children in our community.

Katrina Morse and Elizabeth Stilwell are serving as interim co-executive directors while we search for a permanent director. Elizabeth and Katrina have both been key parts of Family Reading Partnership's success and have a strong commitment to its mission and values.

All of the work of Family Reading Partnership has been made possible by the continuous generosity of individual donors, local foundations, businesses, professionals and other not-for-profit agencies, and the many, many hours of Family Reading Partnership's wonderful staff and volunteers! As you'll read in this issue, we continue to honor this generosity by deepening and strengthening the programs that have made Family Reading Partnership such a vibrant and vital community organization.

We look forward to the next chapter in Family Reading Partnership's growth and impact and all the ways you will help us connect children and families with the joy of books. Thank you for being part of the family!



Sherri Koski  
President, Board of Directors



Elizabeth Stilwell  
Interim Co-Executive Director



Katrina Morse  
Interim Co-Executive Director

***"It is not possible to adequately express our gratitude to Brigid for the difference she has made in the lives of young children in our area."***

## Welcome to WIC *continued from page 1*

sponsors *Bright Red Bookshelves* at their sites, and welcomes Family Reading Partnership *Baby Reading Buddies* to share books with waiting babies and children. During the months of November, December, and January, *Give the Gift of Family Reading*, an FRP program which invites families to choose a new book for each of their children as a holiday gift, is available to all WIC families.

The mission of Family Reading Partnership can only be accomplished through working within community partnerships to reach families. We know that books given as gifts, in the context of an ongoing relationship, carry

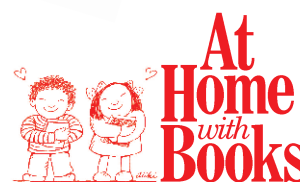
much greater impact and are more highly valued by the child and family. When an organization such as WIC, with a primary focus on nutrition and health, endorses the message of the importance of sharing words and books, that message carries even greater significance. In addition, the partnership of Family Reading Partnership with WIC provides families with a clear message that the community is coming together in support of the overall health and well-being of their child.

Family Reading Partnership is grateful to enjoy this partnership with WIC. It is estimated that through the generous donation of

the *Welcome to WIC!* book sponsors, Karen and Steve Sass, 500 families annually will receive the new *Welcome to WIC!* book. (See article page 6.)

Imagine... 500 babies on the laps of a loved one, feasting on images of beautiful veggies and learning their names through this joyful rhyming text.

Rah, Rah, Radishes and...  
Rah, Rah, Reading!



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

### Family Reading Partnership Programs

#### Every Baby! Every Day! Talk. Sing. Read. Play.

Our community-wide campaign encourages everyone to give babies an abundance of words.

#### Read-Along Love Songs for Baby

Income eligible families receive a bag of 5 board books for baby with a CD of the books being read and sung.



#### Waiting for Baby & Welcome Baby

Every expectant family receives a book at a pre-natal visit and another to welcome baby into the community.



#### Books to Grow On

Doctors give young families a new book at eight well visits with a prescription to "read to their children 20 minutes a day."



#### Love Those Letters!

Pre-K and kindergarten students receive a book, DVD, and CD set of alphabet fun to use at home that is also used in classrooms.



#### Read-Along Songs

A set of 6 books and CD of the books being both read and sung are given to young children as a path to literacy through a new door.

Read-Along  
Songs

#### Welcome to School Book

Kindergartners receive a new book at registration as a gift from their new school.



#### Kids' Book Fest

The community comes together to celebrate children's books at this fun, annual event.



#### Bright Red Bookshelf

Gently used books, collected and placed on red shelves, are free for families to select and own.



#### Traveling Books

Volunteers read to children at child care centers and homes and leave crates of books to be enjoyed.



#### Give the Gift of Family Reading



Low-income families choose new books at the holidays to give as gifts to their children.

#### "Read to Me" Banners & Calendars

Reading together images are made into large banners and calendars to spread the message Read to Me!



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Katrina Morse

**Our Mission:** To create a culture of literacy in which all children have early, frequent, and pleasurable experiences with books, as part of everyday family life, right from the start.



# Grand Opening of the Bright Red Bookshelf at The Overlook at West Hill

By Pamela Lafayette

This summer, one of Family Reading Partnership's wonderful volunteer *Traveling Books* readers,

Nancy Howland, who delivers a crate of books and reads once a month to the children at Smart Start Nursery School in Trumansburg, approached FRP with a new idea. Nancy suggested that she offer to read to children at The Overlook at West Hill, an apartment community of 128 units overlooking Cayuga Lake. Family Reading Partnership immediately embraced Nancy's idea to bring her enthusiasm and love of reading to this new community.

Together, Suzie Brache, Family Reading Partnership program coordinator at the time, Overlook Property Manager Angie Helms, and Nancy assessed the need and opportunities at The Overlook, and agreed that *Traveling Books* and the *Bright Red Bookshelf* would provide two valuable resources to families in The Overlook community: an abundance of quality children's books for families to bring back to their homes to keep and read to their children, and a monthly or bi-monthly volunteer to read to a group of children with their parents.

By modeling reading techniques and providing tips to parents, Nancy will have a great impact helping families enjoy books and reading with their babies and children. And, as families become acquainted with the bookshelf, books will fly off the shelves and into the homes and hearts of dozens of children.

"Being a former teacher, I know how important it is to read to children," Nancy says. "Reading should start at a very early age—in fact, the younger the better. I have been a reader at a local day care center this past school year and really liked sharing the joy of reading with all of the young people. I am looking forward to doing the same at The Overlook Apartments in September."

The *Bright Red Bookshelf* at The Overlook at West Hill was installed on September 16, with a celebration in the community's clubhouse, where the bookshelf will be available every day for families and children to enjoy books together. The Clubhouse's several comfy chairs, couches, and soft carpeting invite children to sprawl out and read for hours at a time!

## Readers needed!

If you'd like to be a volunteer reader at a child care center or home in Tompkins County, NY, contact [elizabeth@familyreading.org](mailto:elizabeth@familyreading.org) or call 607-277-8602.



Angie Helms (l), property manager, and Nancy Howland, volunteer reader, stand with the new Bright Red Bookshelf at The Overlook at West Hill, Ithaca.

Installing the bookshelf in the community-shared Clubhouse provides an opportunity to bring The Overlook community together, where they can share the experience of being read to in a warm, welcoming environment, an experience that reinforces the

importance of reading aloud to children.

"We at The Overlook at West Hill are very excited to bring such a wonderful reading program to our residents," Angie says. "We are pleased to offer free books to children and families so they may spend quality time reading together."

## News from our Neighbors



Over the summer 4 other communities hung Read to Me! banners: Chandler Elementary School in Arizona, Morristown Elementary School in Vermont and our neighbors, Family Reading Partnership of Cortland County and FRP of Owego Apalachin.

Tad Hill's artwork is used on this banner in Chandler, AZ.

For more information about our banners, visit [www.familyreading.org](http://www.familyreading.org)

# Kids' Book Fest 2015: Celebrating the World of Eric Carle

By Melissa Perry

**K**ids' Book Fest 2015 is sure to be one of our best community events yet, as we celebrate the "The World of Eric Carle." On November 14, Boynton Middle School, Ithaca, will be transformed into a children's literacy paradise with books galore and activities for all ages, all based on the captivating world of children's book author and illustrator, Eric Carle.

Our intent this year is to focus more closely on books and stories and fully develop the chosen theme to create a special and memorable event for families as they explore the art and literary works of one of the greatest children's book authors of our time. Children and families can enjoy old favorites

such as book-making, reading with pets and costumed storybook characters, and special art and story-related activities from Family Reading Partnership and community organizations. New highlights include performances of favorite children's books (including many of Eric Carle's) by students in the Voice

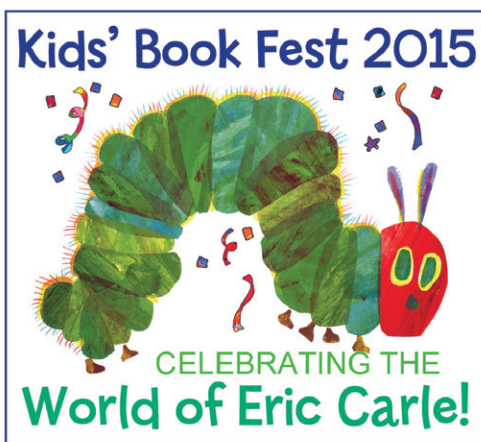
and Movement class in the theater department at Ithaca College, and the Tompkins County Public Library's *Kids' Book Fest Library*, where families can read together, play librarian, and even check out books to take home! Families also won't want to miss the featured book room, where children can experience this year's book, "The Mixed-Up Chameleon," through dramatic play and activities that stimulate the senses.

More than 3,500 children in our community in grades Pre-K through third grade will receive their very own copy of "The Mixed-Up Chameleon," thanks to Wegmans and local schools, as an invitation to come to *Kids' Book Fest* for children's book magic and free family fun. This colorful story encourages children to recognize what makes them special and unique and will set the stage for a *Kids' Book Fest* full of artistic exploration and interaction with some of Carle's most beloved works.

*Kids' Book Fest* 2015 continues a year-long celebration of 20 years of welcoming babies to the community with the gift of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" through Family Reading Partnership's *Welcome Baby!* program.

This gift to the community, from the community, takes the work and collaboration of many partners and remains free to all, thanks to an anonymous sponsor. Please join us at Boynton Middle School on November 14<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 4 pm—you won't want to miss it!

For more information about *Kids' Book Fest* or to volunteer at the Fest, please contact Pamela Lafayette, *Kids' Book Fest* Coordinator, [pamela@familyreading.org](mailto:pamela@familyreading.org) or (607) 277- 8602.



*Find the foods from "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" book by Eric Carle in the interactive Fruit Market provided by Cornell Plantations.*

*Listen to books read aloud and sit in the Big Red Reading Chair!*





## Bonding Over Books *by Steve and Karen Sass*

*Steve and Karen Sass are the sponsors of our new Welcome to WIC! book, “Rah, Rah, Radishes!” This book is given as a gift to families with infants and toddlers when they enroll in Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), a supplementary nutrition program administered by the Tompkins County Health Department. Here, Karen and Steve share more about their commitment to read-aloud and Family Reading Partnership.*

**H**ow does a kid from New York City (Steve) meet a gal from Idaho (Karen)? In a bookstore in Evanston, Illinois, where we both were students at Northwestern University. You might say we bonded over books. Since then we have continually bought books, read them, and discussed them, first between ourselves, and then with our two boys, Adam and Erik.

Our parents didn't read to us as children—it just didn't come up. But we made up for it ourselves when we were kids and then when our children were small. We had great fun reading children's books with them, taking a fresh view of bugs, butterflies, fireflies, and fairies—eventually moving up to “All Things Great and Small” and “Watership Down.” As they got older we still read together, four readers flopped on a twin bed. So, in a way, we also bonded with them over books. And, it was fun.

Our son Erik, who is an online journalist and a writer of two history books, likes to tease us by shaking his finger at us and saying, “It's your fault I like to read and write so much!” But, we won—now we get to read what he writes.

Every child needs a bond with parents, of course, but also needs a bond with books. When we heard about Family Reading Partnership, we thought, “What a brilliant idea and here's a group to do it.” We saw FRP everywhere,

in articles, red bookshelves, banners. Driving to Wegmans, we passed three colorful banners insisting, “read to me, Read to Me, READ TO ME!! So we became supporters.

A year ago, we were lucky enough to become grandparents—so that demanded more books. At an FRP get-together the demand was met with bags of books ready to send. In a bag, we picked up a children's book that had a little label that said, “With sponsorship



*The Sass's granddaughter enjoying a book.*

from the Dunlop Book Fund,” and asked about it. It had been a family favorite, and Dave and Peggy Dunlop's donation made it available to many others. We thought that was a great thing to do, so we chose our own book for Family Reading Partnership to pass on.

We haven't stressed how important reading is, how essential and imperative, because it seems



*Karen and Steve Sass*

so self-evident. Now, when we visit our grandchildren, we snuggle up with books and read, and sometimes they chew on the book. It's a great way to bond and mainly have fun.

Books have high visibility in Ithaca and Tompkins County thanks to Family Reading Partnership, and with our collective help, they will keep going around and around.

**Thank you**  
**to our newest sponsors!**

**CircleLink**

*Read-Along Songs*

**Tompkins Charitable Gift Fund**

*Read-Along Songs*

**Seven & Karen Sass**

*Welcome to WIC*

**Anonymous**

*Welcome Baby Sibling Book*

**Tompkins County Farm Bureau**

*Food and farm books for the  
Bright Red Bookshelf*

## Family Reading Partnership Donation Form

Your contribution to gives books and read-aloud support to families in our community. **Thank you!**



(Optional) My gift is in honor or in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a recognition card to: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make any corrections to your name/ address on the other side of this page.

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500\* ☐ \$1,000 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

☐ Please charge my Visa/MC for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card #           Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form and donation to Family Reading Partnership, 54 Gunderman Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850

You can also give online! Visit [www.familyreading.org](http://www.familyreading.org)

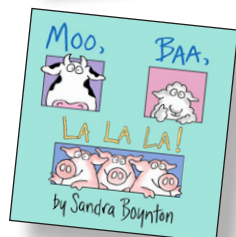
## Program Sponsorship Opportunities



### Read to Me Calendars

**\$3,000** annually

Sponsorship gives all Pre-K and Head Start students in Tompkins County a *Read to Me Calendar* to take home at the end of the year. The same calendar is given to each classroom to strengthen the school-home connection. The calendar features reading together illustrations, reading and family holidays, and read-aloud tips for families.



### Books to Grow On 4-Month Book

**\$3,500** annually

We now give 4-month-old babies a book through the *Books to Grow On* program at pediatricians' offices, to reach children earlier with more books.



### Welcome Baby! Book Bags

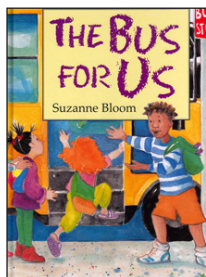
**\$5,000** annually

The family of every baby born at Cayuga Medical Center, as well as adoptive and foster families with new babies, receive their *Welcome Baby!* book in a beautiful red cotton book bag with the message "Take Me to the Library" to use again and again. 900 bags (one year supply)

### Welcome to Pre-K Book

**\$3,000** annually/partial funding welcome!

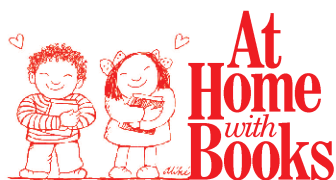
A hallmark of Family Reading Partnership programs is providing books to professionals that families already know and trust, to give to children they serve. This increases the value and meaning of the book to the family.



In this program, children enrolled in Pre-K receive the book, "The Bus for Us," by Suzanne Bloom as a gift from their classroom teacher when he or she meets the family at a summer home visit. Then when the children start school in the fall, they have the common experience of knowing the same book, easing the transition from home to school. Gifts of any amount will support this program. 200 books (one year supply)

For further information about sponsoring a program in full or contributing in part, please contact:

Liz Kinast at [liz@familyreading.org](mailto:liz@familyreading.org) or 607-277-8602



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

**STATE THEATRE OF ITHACA**  
*presents*  
**"The Very Hungry Caterpillar and  
Other Eric Carle Favourites"**  
*Saturday, February 20, 2016, 12 pm*



The Eric Carle celebration continues! In this fantastic family show, three of his beloved stories, "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," "Little Cloud," and "The Mixed-Up Chameleon," are retold on stage through the magic of black light and fanciful puppets. Come help celebrate 20 years of giving babies "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" through our *Welcome Baby!* program at this fun, family event! For more information visit [www.stateofithaca.com](http://www.stateofithaca.com).

## A Book On Every Bed: Making Books a Part of Family Holiday Traditions



Family Reading Partnership and syndicated advice columnist Amy Dickinson of "Ask Amy" invite you to take part in a holiday tradition that's spreading the love of reading across the nation!

*A Book On Every Bed* invites adults to place a gift-wrapped book at the end of each child's bed after they fall asleep on Christmas Eve or another winter holiday. When the children awaken, they will see a gift they can open right away and enjoy again and again throughout the year.



*Amy Dickinson shares a book and a laugh with her granddaughter, Sahela.*

For more information on making *A Book On Every Bed* part of your family traditions, visit [www.familyreading.org](http://www.familyreading.org) to download a colorful bookmark, then look for Amy's column dedicated to *A Book On Every Bed* in your favorite newspaper in early December.