



// DoubleSlash

A newsletter for our volunteers

Holidays 2003

A festive fall for RFB&D

September was a busy month for the Boston Unit, with the Volunteer Appreciation Party on September 9, followed by the 2003 Team With A Vision 5K race the following Saturday, September 13.

For the fourth year in a row, the annual tribute to volunteers was held at the nearby Royal Sonesta, but this year's setting in the hotel's Skyline Suites was especially attractive, with a wonderful view of the river and, as luck would have it, a rising full moon. Attendance at the party was the best in recent memory, with 125 volunteers, guests, board members, staff and speakers present.

Boston Unit Executive Director Tina Raimo, together with Board Chair Jamie Logan paid tribute to the 29 volunteers who contributed 100 hours or more during fiscal year 2003, as well as those volunteers whose lifetime hours total from 100 to more than 3,500. Please see the 2003 Honor Roll on page 2 for a complete listing of volunteers who qualified for recognition in these categories.

Then four days later, Boston Unit staff, volunteers, board members and others gathered on the banks of the Charles River in Brighton to take part in the annual Team With A Vision 5K road race, which benefited RFB&D, as well as seven other sight-related nonprofit organizations.

Studio Director Ted Washburn was the only Boston Unit staff member who ran the course, but Tina Raimo, Judy Vollmer, Preston Grandin, Amy DeAngelis, Kelly Hill and Claire Peront all walked, as did board member Nick Racheotes, while Bill Watterson and Peggy Loeb greeted visitors at the RFB&D table.

Development Director Pres Grandin reports that the Boston Unit received nearly \$7,000 after expenses, thanks to the generosity of donors and friends. "It was a beautiful day, and great fun was had by all," Pres adds. "Sincerest thanks to the volunteers who participated, and those who supported the Boston Unit team of walkers and runners."



Boston Unit volunteers Heather Hetherington (center), Isomi Miake-Lye (left) and her mother, Ryn, participated in the Team With A Vision 5K on September 13.

**2003
HOLIDAY
SCHEDULE
PLEASE NOTE :
THE BOSTON STUDIO
WILL BE CLOSED
FROM
WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 24 AT
1:30 P.M 'TIL
MONDAY, JANUARY 5
AT 9 A.M.**

2003 HONOR ROLL

100 HOURS IN 2003

PRODUCTION YEAR

(7/1/02 – 6/30/03)

Gene Almeida
Edwin Beschler
Jack Bloom
David Boodman
Sharon Chown
Laura Cranshaw
Robert Ellsworth
Myron Feld
Mary Fitch
Edward Fitzgibbons
Judith Genzale
James Harper
Heather Hetherington
Robin Hillyard
Will Hillyard
David Jackson
Richard Jewett
Barbara Main
Kathryn McCarthy
John Mekota
Barbara Neale
Carole Robinson
Ann Robuccio
Eugene Saletan
Michelle Shuster
Alan Strauss
Anthony Tuft
Allen West
Elaine Woodward

100-199 TOTAL HOURS

Dorothy Aronson
June Baser
Ron Baser
Beatrice Bazoll
Richard Bolt
Karen Bossi
Ralph Catalano
Thomas Collins
David Cook
Jacqueline Cressey
Tina Crugnale
Susan Curran
April Dawley
Jeffrey DeVoyd
Dennis Donahue
Alvin Essig
Jim Gibney
Steve Gisselbrecht

Jane Givens
Barbara Green
Therese Hobbs
Bernard Hutchens
Sally Jenks
Kathryn Kaminski
Susan Kendall
Mary Kugler
Janet Lieberman
Jonathan May
Sean McBride
Dorothy Messenger
John Miller
Stephanie Mohr
Linda Nelson
Miriam Newman
Nancy Powell
Richard Robinson
Kelsey Ruppel
Dwight Schenk
Alison Scott
Cynthia Shapiro
Mimi Shirasu-Hiza
Sharon Smith
Mary Spiers
Mark Stein
Olivia Tappan
Michael Tomasulo
Janet Veasey
Douglas Weinstock
Joan McNealy White

200-299 TOTAL HOURS

Geoffrey Austrian
Peggy Carr
Adele Daley
Alfred Dello Russo
Barbara Eaton
Judith Elstein
Christine Evans
Jo Gent
Jeannette Iles
Eleanor Jensen
Susan Keane
David Knudsen
Dee Meaney
Marion Metcalf
Patricia Minuchin
Barbara Neale
Charles Norton
Squizzle Plekovich
Jane Richardson

Arthur Schatz
Joan Schoellner
Ron Stone
Susan Urbanetti

300-399 TOTAL HOURS

Acacia Aguirre
Gene Almeida
Marjorie Bruell
Theresa Ciras
Mary DiClemente
Linda Galvin
Margaret Gardner
John Greenler
James Harper
Robin Hillyard
Margaret Leyne
Greg Palmer
John Petraglia
Carole Vellenga

400-499 TOTAL HOURS

Pauline Barmby
Arthur Cadel
Donald Cochran
Edward Fitzgibbon
David Levy
Kristina Nilsson
David O'Brien
Ken Woodward

500-599 TOTAL HOURS

James Burns
Sharon Chown
Ralph Fabiano
Laurie Goodman
Donald Harriss
Elena O'Malley
Robin Sitten
Elaine Woodward

600-699 TOTAL HOURS

Margaret Cain
Vincent DeBaun
Richard Jewett
Kathryn McCarthy
Joan Moor

700-799 TOTAL HOURS

Jane DesForges
Laura Marshall
Jack Miller

Carole Robinson
Emily Sutliff

800-899 TOTAL HOURS

Saul Axelrod
Jane Baker
Edwin Beschler
Myron Feld
Peter Gianino
Valerie Gigliotti
Barbara Main

900-999 TOTAL HOURS

Laura Cranshaw
Herbert Epstein
Judith Genzale
Mary McLaughlin
Ann Robuccio

1000-1199 TOTAL HOURS

Heather Hetherington
Jack Israelsohn
Camilla Titcomb

1100-1199 TOTAL HOURS

Claire Peront

1200-1999 TOTAL HOURS

Jack Bloom
Ronald Goodman
Larry LaBonte
Susan Loring
Philip Milmoie
Mark Mills
Barbara Thorburn
Merylyn Russell
Allen West

2000-2499 TOTAL HOURS

Alan Strauss

2500-2999 TOTAL HOURS

Mary Fitch
David Jackson
Charles Seaman

3000-4000 TOTAL HOURS

David Boodman
John Mekota
Edward Samp

Western MA outreach coordinator

Lisa Lausier of Pittsfield was recently named RFB&D/Boston's new Western Massachusetts Outreach Coordinator. Her territory encompasses from Springfield west to all of Berkshire County, which includes 61 member schools serving approximately 915 students. Lisa will be visiting teachers, students and administrators at member schools as well as signing up new schools with RFB&D.

Currently pursuing a master's degree in education at Cambridge College in Springfield, Lisa holds a B.S. in communication studies from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She is also certified as an advanced provisional teacher, grades 1 to 6, from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in North Adams. In the past few years, she has worked with special education students and as a tutor in English as a second language at several schools in the Berkshire area.

Lisa is enthusiastic about spreading the word about RFB&D: "I'm really looking forward to helping more students with dyslexia and vision problems, to meeting more teachers and administrators in the area, and to working with this organization."



RFB&D national board member Joe Danowsky traveled to Boston to run in the Team With A Vision 5K race in September. He is shown here with event co-chair Lisa Hughes, anchor of WBZ-TV news after being presented with his winner's medal.

The digital reading list

Some of the books shipped in the last few months:

Boating Skills and Seamanship
The Realities of Aging
Learning Disabilities
Chinese Cinderella
Spellbinder
Love That Dog
A Boy At War
Run Away Home
Saving Shiloh
Food Service Organizations
Terrorism
We the People
Voices of Ireland
Women in Early Medieval Europe
Advocacy and Opposition
A+ Guide to Hardware
Yang the Eldest and His Odd Jobs
Knots in My Yo-Yo String
Salsa Stories
A Drop of Water
Orphan Train
Psychology
Juvenile Justice
The Americans
Boat Crew Seamanship Manual
Auxiliary Boat Crew Training
The Hidden-Hand Presidency
The Life of Insects
Physics for Scientists

SCIENTISTS! DOCTORS! LAWYERS!

The Boston Unit urgently seeks to increase our pool of specialist readers, especially in the areas of biology, biochemistry, chemistry, computer, finance, law, mathematics, medicine, physics, physical chemistry. If you know anyone who might be interested in volunteering with us, please pass along his or her name to volunteer coordinator Peggy Loeb. Thank you very much.

A new book leads to an old friend

When volunteer Paul Rahmeier came to the studio one day in early October, his assignment was a book entitled *Education and Society*. Below Paul tells where that assignment led:

“To my considerable delight, I noticed that the book was edited and written by Steve Tozer, a student of mine at Dartmouth years ago, and now Professor of Education at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

“Working on the book was a pleasure because it seems like a good piece of work. But the real pleasure came the next morning, when I chased Steve down via telephone.

“He and I had not talked for about 30 years, so we had some serious catching-up to do. Steve told me that he is deeply involved in trying to improve public education in the Chicago schools, and that his commitment to that work stems from a program I supervised at Dartmouth back in the late 1960s. Under the auspices of Dartmouth’s Tucker Foundation, the program placed undergraduates in Senn High School and the McCormack Boys Club in uptown Chicago for one full semester of off-campus urban studies.

“Steve and I reminisced with vigor. He was especially pleased to learn that my daughter Laurie (also a Dartmouth graduate) until recently lived about two blocks away from Senn High School, and that now she is a graduate student in architecture at the very university where he is teaching.

“So we agreed to meet the next time my wife and I visit our daughter in Chicago, Thanks, RFB&D for arranging such a happy reunion!”

New readers – fall 2003

Congratulations to the following volunteers, who were certified between August 1 and October 31 as general readers for the Boston Unit:

David Bilotta, Canton

Alicia Boyle, Natick

Maya Bystrom, Belmont

Harvey Greenberg, Needham

Amanda Goyette, Arlington

Stacey Marks, Brighton

George Morton, Harvard

Steven Pensinger, Boston

Charles Petty, Lexington

Nicole Polec, Brookline

Dick Raczkowski, Lexington

Alan Rubinoff, Watertown

Sandra Spanier, Cambridge

And special congratulations to our new specialist reader:

Diane Bovenkamp, Jamaica Plain (Biology)

Consider a gift annuity for RFB&D

If you have a certificate of deposit (CD) that is reaching maturity and you’re thinking of renewing it, you’re most likely looking at rates of return between 1.30% for a one-year CD. 1.15 for six months, and 2% for two years. An attractive alternative is a Charitable Gift Annuity to RFB&D/Boston, which will significantly increase your income, as well as giving you a tax deduction. Here are some examples of current gift annuity rates:

Age 60 – 5.7%

Age 75 – 7.1%

Age 65 – 6.0%

Age 80 – 8.0%

Age 70 – 6.5%

If your gift is made in the form of low-yielding appreciated stock, a good portion of the taxes paid will be at the capital gains rate (20%), rather than at your income tax rate. If the gift is made in cash, a portion of the payment back to you could be treated as tax-free return of principal.

More good news: the Charitable Gift Annuity document is just one page, and easy to complete. This could be a very nice holiday gift both for you and our Boston Unit!

For more information, please contact Preston Grandin, Director of Development at the RFB&D Boston Unit, (617) 577-1111 ext. 22; e-mail pgrandin@rfbd.org.

Stormy weather?

To be on the safe side, please be sure to call us before you leave home at (617) 577-1111 (no extension) in case of a storm, storm warning or aftermath, to learn if the studio schedule will be affected. Our snow-closing policy is that if heavy snow falls during late afternoon or evening, we’ll leave a message by 7 a.m. the following day, indicating a delayed opening or cancellation of sessions. Should heavy snowfall begin during the day and we opt to close for later sessions, we’ll try to contact scheduled volunteers, and leave a message on the voice-mail system. If there’s a lot of snow and we close for more than a day, we’ll have an update on the message by 7 a.m. daily. So be on the safe side – be sure to call before you leave home.

❖ **Remember: 617 577-1111 no extension** ❖

Product Minutes Update

As mentioned in the last issue of Double Slash, an important measure of studio productivity is product minutes per booth hours. In September this figure slipped to **38 minutes** from August’s **40** (down from July’s **44**); in October it dropped again to **36 minutes**. The studio goal is **45** – please help us meet it by keeping an eye on your timer. Thanks.