

And the Winner Izzzzz.....

By Barbara Cashman



On a balmy Friday evening in early April, 35 hopeful teams gathered at the GMHS auditorium with one common goal: to win the title of Grand Bee. True, this was a charitable event, with proceeds to benefit the Granby Education Foundation's general fund, and yes, the 105 participants and approximately 500 attendees were lighthearted as they gathered, but let's be honest. From emcee Bill Percival's Rocky inspired opening video through scores of questions, to the championship round battle, this was a competition.

The questions covered a wide variety of topics, from rap music to English literature, from historical scientific fact to American politics. The final questions separated the workers from the drones, and yes, established a new group of Queens in town. "By what name were the New York Yankees originally known?" The crowd, mostly Red Sox fans, was quiet until the surprise victory of The Bee "S's", Tony Bussman, Janis Gilmore, and Gail Altschwager. With their response of "The Highlanders", applause and cheering ensued, the Gran-Bee Grand Bee Trophy was awarded, and another Norman Rockwellian fun-filled GEF evening came to a close.

As previously mentioned, the proceeds from this modest yet very well attended evening benefit the GEF General Fund, from which twice yearly Community Mini-Grants are awarded. The Mini-Grants support innovation and excellence in the area of education, with past recipients ranging from the Early Childhood Council to the Granby Senior Center. This evening would not have been possible without the support and very generous contributions of our team sponsors, and, our major sponsors which include Arrow Concrete at the Honey Bee level; Granby Pharmacy, The Farmington Valley YMCA, Lost Acres Orchard, Meadowbrook of Granby, and Northwest Community Bank at the Swarm sponsorship level; and finally, Simsbury Bank as the Gran-Bee Queen Bee sponsor. Their commitment to education in the town of Granby benefits us all.

The GEF would also like to thank all of the those who volunteered their time to make this evening a success, including the Friends of the GEF, our illustrious judging panel of Alan Addley, Superintendent of Schools, James Bowe, Principal, GMHS, and Kimberly Calcasola, Assistant Principal, GMHS, and last but not least, Master of Ceremonies Bill Percival. The

work of GEF Gran-Bee Committee Co-Chairs Rebecca Brewer and Therese Mulvey, their volunteers, and all of the supporters of the Gran-Bee will ripple through the citizenship of Granby for months to come.

To learn more about the Granby Education Foundation, please visit us at www.granbyeducationfoundation.org.