

Congratulations to the Dewey Decimators, representing and sponsored by the Friends of the Heights Libraries who did it again winning the Reaching Heights Adult Community Spelling Bee for the third year in a row. This year Chris Mentrek and Victor Rosenberg, missing strong teammate, Susan Marshall, battled through 5 rounds to win on the word mnemonically, the adverbial form of mnemonic which means assisting or intended to assist memory.

Steve Presser, co-owner of Sweeties Big Fun, returned for the 24th year as the Master of Ceremonies. He wore his black jacket covered with letters and joked with the spellers that it had "all the answers" on it. He commented that this year's Bee was the ". . . hardest Bee ever! It was shorter than most with more difficult words." Sally Wile, Spiritual Care Coordinator at University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center, was the pronouncer and the Bee Judges were Alicia Zeigler-Costello, social media director and buyer for a local boutique; J.J. Costello, Municipal Judge of Cleveland Heights; and Danielle Foran, Early Childhood Specialist for CH-UH school district.

This event is more than a spelling competition or fundraiser: it is a community building event in support of high quality public education. A total of 22 teams competed representing local governments, community groups, businesses, schools, churches, libraries, scouting and the teachers union. Many dressed up in colorful and interesting costumes and were encouraged to bring their fans - their Spelling Bee Groupies! The Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN) team had the largest number of groupies who each won a gift certificate to Tommy's Restaurant on Coventry. Once again, Upper Case, representing Case Western Reserve University raised more funds than any other team collecting more than \$1300, so far.

Midway through the competition, everyone was wowed by a performance from the award-winning Heights Lady Barbershoppers. Many enjoyed goodies from the bake sale - especially bee themed treats from For Goodness Cakes, and took their chances on 10 amazing raffle baskets with gift certificates from Melt, Cleveland Cinemas, The Fairmount, Aladdins, Nighttown, BW3's, Appletree Books, Blossom Music Festival, Ensemble Theatre and more.

Unlike the traditional spelling bees, this bee is a team competition. The teams of at least 2 and at most 3 adults put their heads together to determine their best guess of a word's spelling, write down the spelling on a piece of paper, and then send one teammate to the microphone to read the spelling to the judges. In this bee, Round 3 is the Musical Round when teams can sing the spelling of their word to be forgiven one spelling error. Some teams' participation fees are covered by sponsors and others are donated by the spellers. All funds raised at this event go to support Reaching Heights' in-school programs which currently include Many Villages Tutoring, Reaching Heights Role Models, and Community Care Teams. To see photos of the spelling bee and learn more about Reaching Heights, visit [www.reachingheights.org](http://www.reachingheights.org) or call 216-932-5110.