

Annual Adult Spelling Bee to raise funds for education initiative

Written by Staff report

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Educators, spectators and all-around language lovers will have something to buzz about Sunday when the Ithaca Public Education Initiative holds its annual Adult Spelling Bee.

Now in its 16th year, the event will feature 28 spelling teams of three adults each, vying for the championship Fuzzy Bee trophy. In the process they will help raise money for IPEI, which last year awarded more than \$75,000 in teacher grants to support innovative educational projects in the district.

Complimentary refreshments will be provided by a number of local businesses, including Aladdin's Natural Eatery and Collegetown Bagels, and there will also be a silent auction of 43 items from restaurants, museums, retail shops, salons and spas. Participants can also make financial contributions for teacher grants by pledging dollar amounts for each correctly spelled word in the competition.

The spelling bee will be run in the traditional style, complete with rules, a pronouncer, MCs, a timekeeper and three judges. And as always, the teams will sport creative, pun-heavy names. Among this year's contenders: Takin' Care of Buzz-ness and Don't Stop Bee-lievin'. Previous winners the Spellicans and Fine Arts "Word" Boosters will also be returning.

The spelling bee will be held Sunday at Ithaca High School's Wellness Center Gym. Doors will open at 1:30 p.m. so attendees can peruse the auction items, and the bee will begin at 2 p.m.

For more information, visit ipei.org.