

Time Travelers

Our Story

When we started the Time Travelers program back in 2003, it wasn't a program at all, at least not in its infancy. It was more like a happy accident – and we couldn't be more thrilled with the outcome. But we're getting ahead of ourselves...

Setting aside careers as sculptor (Shiela Cavalluzzi) and writer (Joyce Costanza) while we raised our families, we both joyfully immersed ourselves in the glory that is motherhood: from diapers to bedtime books, nursery school to elementary. Ah, elementary school...the big time.

Being the über moms that we are (can you say 'multi-tasking' while folding laundry, helping with homework, tossing your 7 ingredients from your '7-Ingredients or Less' cookbook into your crock pot, stepping over the sleeping dog to put away the dishes...) we of course signed on for a varietal blend of PTA positions, and participated in community read-alongs at our children's schools.

While satisfying a request from a 6 yr. old to 'meet the pilgrim from the book' (by dressing up a friend and providing her with a script), we unknowingly took our first step in developing our living history program. Our Pilgrim was an instant hit.

Positive word of mouth blew through the teachers' lunchroom like a nor'wester, spreading into the halls, beating us back to the front desk. There was tremendous buzz about our Time Travelers program. (Suddenly it was a program...) Other teachers and kids wanted to know when they could expect visits from people like Abraham Lincoln, Paul Revere, Betsy Ross, Madame Curie,* Frederick Douglass.*

Now...we're sure most of you are familiar with the 'Mommy Network,' right? Where word travels faster than projectile vomiting? So, when other schools began clamoring for Time Travelers, an unmistakable need arose for us to get the program to them. We decided the best way was to put our knowledge and expertise in the format of a book – a Do-It-Yourself book, giving any school, anywhere, the means to develop their own Time Travelers program. If they wanted to bring history to life for scores of kids, more power to them.

The truth is, everyone volunteers at school, doing mostly thankless or behind-the-scenes jobs (fundraiser and Parliamentarian come to mind...). But between all the bake sales and talent shows, from being classroom rep to Queen of the copier, we found we were spending *less* time with our kids. However, *Time Travelers* is a program where the parent is *in* the classroom, can actually see their kid's face light up when the Traveler arrives...and more importantly, see the light bulb go on when they get it. This was a big impetus to get our program out to the masses (aside from our newfound adoration).

Remember that Time Travelers was created by two moms with one goal – to get kids charged up about History. Thank you for supporting our efforts and we hope you'll join us on this learning adventure!

**These are characters from our 2nd Time Travelers book, that we plan to release in the Fall of 2008. Watch for it at and other exciting news and updates on our website - www.TimeTravelersToday.com.*