



**140 BEE GIRL**  
Stephanie Petit recalls  
her 1987 championship.

**112** HGTV *Design Star*  
**Vern Yip** decorates a nursery  
for his newborn son Gavin

**120** Only 14-in. tall,  
**Einstein** is a tiny horse with  
a very large fan base

**122** Relying on a minia-  
turized, battery-powered  
heart pump, **Ally Smith** gets  
ready to walk down the aisle

**135** In her new memoir,  
*Lips Unsealed*, Go-Go's  
lead singer **Belinda Carlisle**  
writes about her eating dis-  
order and her decades-long  
drug addiction

**140** As word-loving whiz  
kids gear up for the 2010  
Scripps National Spelling  
Bee, five past victors recall  
their winning moment

**NAME:** Wendy Guey Lai, 26,  
Cambridge, Mass.

**JOB:** Math teacher

**WINNING YEAR:** 1996

**WORD:** Viviseulture (*n.* The act  
or process of burying alive)

**A FAMILY'S DREAM:** My parents  
were Chinese immigrants who  
came here speaking broken  
English. For their daughter to  
win this was noteworthy. The  
day after I won, I remember we  
went to a Chinese restaurant  
in Washington, D.C.; the owner  
gave us 10 percent off!



Viviseulture

**BEE** WI

FORMER SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING BEE CHAMPS

**NAME:** Kavya Shivashankar, 14,  
Olathe, Kans.

**JOB:** High school freshman

**WINNING YEAR:** 2009

**WORD:** Laodicean (*adj.* Lukewarm  
or indifferent in religion or politics)

**SPELLING GENES:** The moment  
I heard the word, I recognized  
it, and I knew this was it. When  
I lifted that trophy, it was surreal.  
This year my 8-year-old sister  
Vanya is representing Kansas  
and is the youngest one in the  
bee. I'm so proud.

LAODICEAN

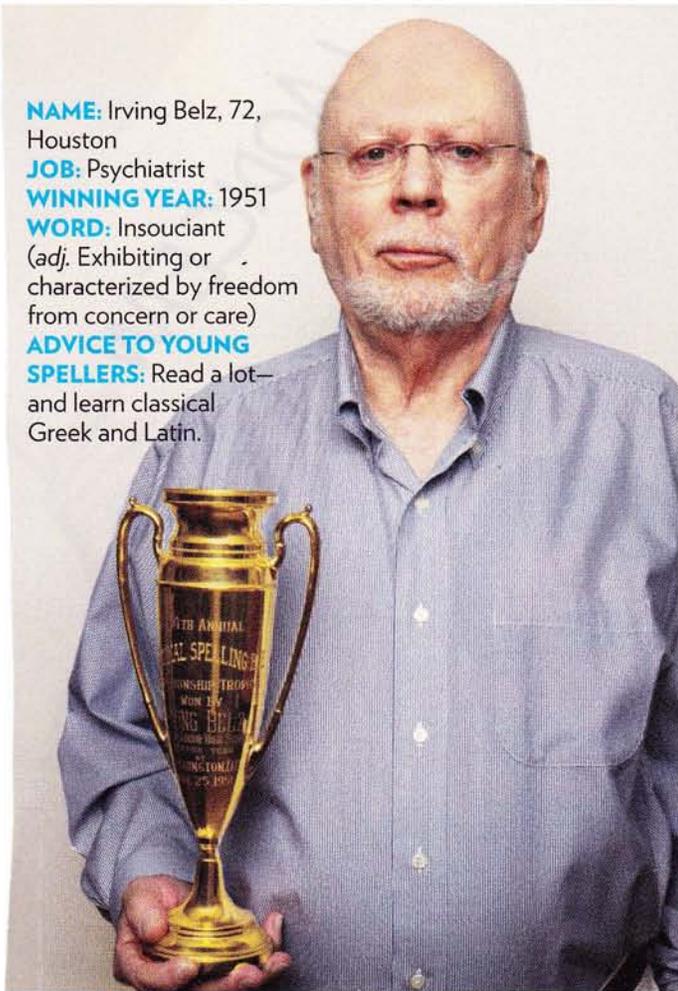


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RAY LEGO

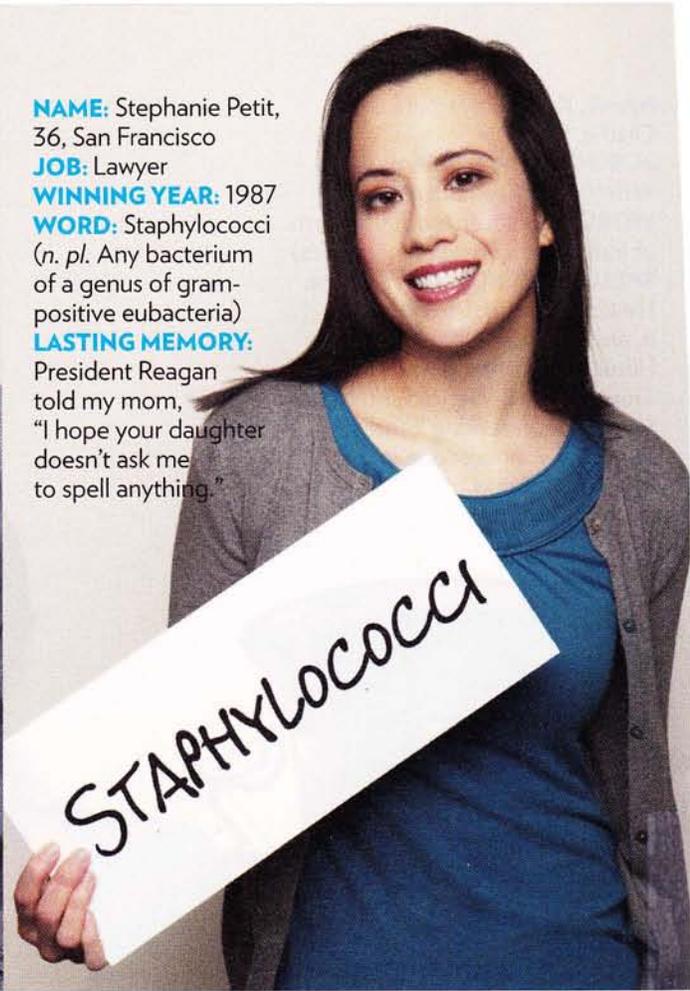
# TCHED!

RECALL THE WORDS THAT CHANGED THEIR LIVES BY ANNE LANG

**NAME:** Irving Belz, 72,  
Houston  
**JOB:** Psychiatrist  
**WINNING YEAR:** 1951  
**WORD:** Insouciant  
(adj. Exhibiting or characterized by freedom from concern or care)  
**ADVICE TO YOUNG SPELLERS:** Read a lot—and learn classical Greek and Latin.



**NAME:** Stephanie Petit, 36, San Francisco  
**JOB:** Lawyer  
**WINNING YEAR:** 1987  
**WORD:** Staphylococci  
(n. pl. Any bacterium of a genus of gram-positive eubacteria)  
**LASTING MEMORY:** President Reagan told my mom, "I hope your daughter doesn't ask me to spell anything."



Frank Neuhauser (left) with John Paola (far right) at the '77 bee.

## THE BEE, THEN AND NOW

In 1925 11-year-old Frank Neuhauser beat eight opponents to win the first national spelling bee's \$500 award. "I'd never have thought," says Neuhauser, now 96 and a retired attorney, "it would be this huge." Now nationally televised (finals air 8 p.m. ET June 4 on ABC), this year's bee will host 273 kids vying for \$40,000 in prizes. Says 1977 victor John Paola: "I was a geek. Winning boosted my self-esteem—and shaped my life."

**NAME:** John Paola, 47, Annapolis, Md.  
**JOB:** Veterinarian  
**WINNING YEAR:** 1977  
**WORD:** Cambist  
(n. One who deals in bills of exchange)  
**HELP FROM ABOVE?:** I went to Catholic school, so I had a little card with a prayer on it. I held it the whole time.

