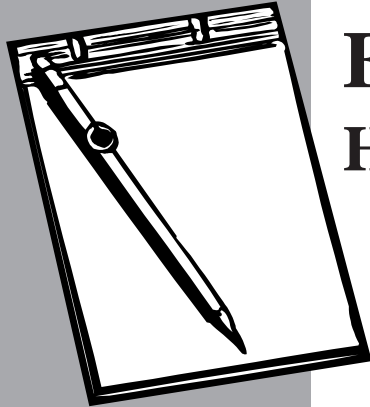


June 20, 2008

Vol. 36, No. 20

the WCT COMMENTATOR



From the President's Pad Have a Great Summer!



Dear Members,

As I look at my calendar, I am astounded to see how fast this school year is coming to an end. Time goes by so quickly and people go in and out of our lives. We must never miss the opportunity to reflect upon the things that are truly important to us, or to recognize the people who play an integral role in our day-to-day endeavors. For me, this is a time of reflection and to be thankful for all of those who continually render my job as president of the Union a very rewarding experience.

One such person is **Linda Leito**, our Administrative Assistant, who this year, on October 30th, will celebrate her 24th year of dedicated service to the Wappingers Congress of Teachers.

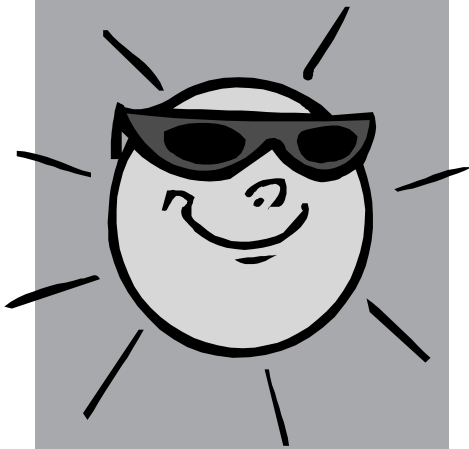
I am very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with an unremitting Executive Board. The Wappingers Congress of Teachers is fortunate to have such dedicated and hard working individuals in positions of leadership. My sincerest thanks go

to: **Donna Basile, Martha Bilsback, Caroline V. Hernandez, Meredith Inkeles, Raymond Koretsky, Michael Lyons, MaryAnn Moran, James Molloy, John Neevel, Christine Romano, Michelle Ross, Jane Stockslager, and Theresa Stowell.**

I am plaintive in announcing that **Caroline V. Hernandez, James Molloy, John Neevel, and Theresa Stowell** will not be returning to serve on the Executive Board for the 2008-2009 academic year due to professional and personal obligations. Their contributions to this organization have been invaluable and their absence will be felt. Their devotion, rectitude, wisdom and convictions, even in the most difficult of times, will be sorely missed.

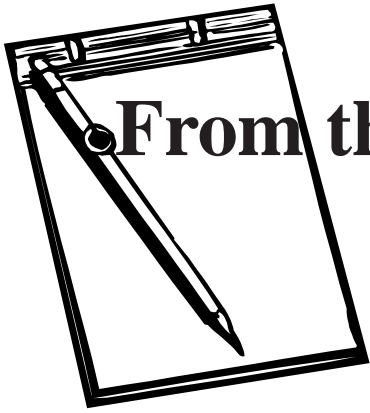
I am happy to welcome on board **Flip Gertler, VP Political Action (FS), Dawn Sala, Elementary at Large, (MC), Diane DiChiara, Secondary at**

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From the President's Pad

(continued from front page)

Large (JJ), and **Paul Nostrand, Secondary at Large (WJHS)**. Thank you for stepping up to the plate on behalf of our members, and I look forward to working with you.

This year we held the WCT elections. I am privileged and humbled that you have given me the opportunity to serve and represent you for another term.

Kudos to **Meredith Inkeles** whose dedication and sedulousness engender this publication and renders it worthy of recognition. In the role of editor of *The WCT COMMENTATOR*, she has earned a bevy of NYSUT journalism awards; furthermore, as Webmaster of the **WCTechners.org**, our website has been recognized as the best informational site by NYSUT for the past two years.

In our pursuit to keep members informed, I strongly recommend everyone to sign up for Union News Updates via E-mail. By enrolling in this free service, you will receive information delineating the current news of AFT, NYSUT and the WCT.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize the commitment of the building representatives, who have the essential role of protecting and safeguarding the interests and rights of

our members. Also deserving acknowledgement are **Alice Baker** (Membership Chairperson) and **Susan Roger** (WCRT President) for their leadership and efficacy on behalf of the retirees, who are always ready, willing, and able to lend a helping hand whenever necessary. Joining our team is **Tad Herman**, who is Membership Co-Chairperson.

Working together we have been able to accomplish many worthwhile goals. One such goal that will make a difference in our personal and professional lives was to achieve a fair and equitable contract for our members. It was also through the hard work and perseverance of numerous volunteers that we were able to elect positive School Board Trustees on May 20th. I extend my sincerest congratulations and appreciation for the countless hours of service towards this process. A debt of gratitude goes to the interviewing committee, consisting of a coalition of other locals, who helped in this election. During this arduous task, the input of retiree **Cliff Foley** was invaluable.

For the future, it is crucial to increase member involvement within our local and the community. It is important to keep our union activities alive and strong. This level of support and dedication cannot wane in future

years. Although we are not negotiating, we must continue to be active, visible and unified in striving towards our goals.

I would like to wish you and your families a peaceful, rejuvenating, and well-deserved summer vacation. See you in September!

In solidarity,

Pasquale Delli Carpini

How to sign up for Union News Updates:

√send an email to
news@wcteachers.org

√in the message, include
your name and school

√you cannot join the
news list with a
GroupWise account!

Retiree: Margaret Cappell

It will be hard to leave all the people I work with. Working with the staff at VWJHS has been like finding a pot of gold. Everyone has been wonderful and a pleasure to work with. Math department: YOU ARE THE BEST!

Retiree: Theresa Martinko Special Education Teacher

I taught in the WCSD for twenty-nine years with two years prior service at DDSO Community Services and an extended Temp Position at BOCES. I always taught in the WCSD's Special Education Department. I went from Self-contained 1 and 2, to Inclusion 3/4, and lastly traveling Resource Room teacher.

Prior to entering public education, I was a "head teacher" in one of the first Headstart Programs, instituted by President Kennedy's administration, for eight years. In all the time I worked, I learned something new every day. I learned to respect others and treat others fairly and that I loved those preschoolers.

Now comes my advice to all you new teachers...keep all your school/hiring/ paperwork in an organized fashion. I was able to buy back time and ended with thirty-one years.

I'll not miss the practical things like worrying about the ice on the driveway or if I lose my teacher bag and not have my schedule - where will I go? Mostly I'll miss the everyday encounters from staff, children, and administrators. When all is at a loss and the computers are down it is great to hear from a small child, "Miss Martinko my butterfly hatched, come see." I will miss the dedicated staffs of all the buildings in which I've taught. Their support, guidance, and love were

an inspiration to me. To all the TC's I've worked with; thank you.

I would like to thank the army of Teacher Assistants that I've had the privilege of working with all these years. They showed great honesty, knowledge and a desire to go above and beyond. I value their dedication and wish everyone the best.

Lastly, I thank all my brother and sister WCT members. You were there for me the past 29 years, as I for you; contract negotiating is an art form. The party a few weeks ago was so wonderful. Thank you all! Enjoy your summer vacation and keep your paper work straight! Yours in solidarity...

FGO Does a School Good!

Mandy Scalzo and Cheryl Urquhart of Fishkill Elementary have headed the Fishkill Government Organization for the past four years. This past year, the FGO, (a student based organization which assists Fishkill Elementary School and its community), worked hard to raise money for many needy causes. A total of 30 students from grades 2-5, are voted by their peers as classroom representatives to participate in the FGO. FGO has supported such charities as Toys 4 Tots, Shriner's Hospital, St. Jude's Children Hospital, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Miles of Hope, Relay for Life, the American Heart Association and many more. FGO also assisted Patty Seablom, another Fishkill Teacher, in raising money as a surprise treat for one of its beloved teachers who has encountered some difficult times. Most recently FGO collected over 300 water bottles, decorated them as vases with carnations, to be sold before Mother's Day! The school and children are extremely proud of their accomplishments.



Retiree: Marla Rowher Ceramics Teacher

I was just a kid, just a couple of years older than some of my students, when at 20 years of age I began my teaching career here at Wappingers in 1974. I traveled for some time after my January graduation in Switzerland, Austria, Yugoslavia, Greece, and Israel. A kibbutz work project was cut short when war broke out in the Gaza Strip. I returned home to fill out job applications...the position was perfect for me - a strong clay program and teaching metals, jewelry, leather and stained glass.

I spent my first years at Ketcham in a temporary position. When that ended I worked as a professional potter for Seth Franklin Studios throwing 100 mugs a day. Four months and a very sore back later, a position opened at John Jay and I spent the next four years there followed by a stint traveling between the two high schools until I set up shop permanently at Ketcham.

I've seen great changes in the District over the years; some good, some bad...The one thing I can say for sure is that even with all the stress and difficulties in teaching, I am so glad to have shared my life's work with so many amazing people - young and old alike.

What I will miss most:

- The many amazingly talented kids
- The artistic stimulation that teaching ceramics offers
- The many caring individuals I have had the pleasure to have known and worked with over these many years

What I will miss the least:

- The 5:30 AM alarm
- Not going out during the week
- Duct taped chairs
- Things falling on my head

Plans for the future...

- Continue traveling the world
- Become more at home in my own clay studio, "Willowbend"
- Continue learning, teaching, finding joy and peace, and making new friends
- Get out of "teacher" mode and "re-invent" the next part of my life
- Have some fun!

Good News!

• Congratulations to **Beth Green** (WJHS librarian) and her family on the birth of Jacob David. On Friday, May 30th, Jacob decided it was time to join the Green family even though he was five weeks early and it was his older brother's birthday! Jacob weighed 6 lbs., 1 oz. and was 19 ½" long. Mom and son are doing fine.

• Congratulations to the following BOCES recipients of the WCT awards: **Valentina Gashi** (JJHS) and **Nicole Mastromarino** (RCK).



John Jay's World Cup Charity Soccer Tournament

By: Paolina Fusco

The school year ended on a bright and energetic note for an enthusiastic group of John Jay students this past Thursday, June 12th, as eight teams competed in their own "World Cup" soccer tournament on the back fields of our school. The sporting event was established as a fundraiser to benefit the American Association for Cancer Research, hosted, organized and executed by the Societa' Onoraria Italica – John Jay's Italian Honor Society.

Italy hosted teams representing various parts of the world: the USA and Canada; Ireland and Croatia; Sweden and the Netherlands; Australia and Israel. The championship game was an exciting match between team Netherlands and team Israel; with the well-deserved final victory going to Israel.

All participants, organizers and players are to be applauded for their involvement and commitment. They all contributed in a variety of ways to the success of the cause. Their enthusiasm was instrumental in soliciting the participation and contributions of several local businesses.

In fact, over twenty area enterprises sponsored our event and are being recognized in the event program.

Several John Jay parents donated their precious time and expertise – to format the graphics of our advertising program – to donate the winning trophy – to lend us the necessary equipment and locate certified referees from our community who also gave of their time freely to support our students' efforts. Thanks to everyone's hard work, the Societa' will be able to send over \$1,200.00 to the AACR organization; \$300.00 of which raised solely by the students themselves.

The many people who worked collaboratively on this project are a perfect example of how a positive idea can gather more and more positive energy as it moves forward - from the Societa' members - to the Jay student population – to our administrators and physical education teachers and coaches – to proud and active parents – to the local community that cares!

Who says that young people today don't care....

or don't have any sense of responsibility ???



(Team Israel)

Exam Funnies

Editor's Note: You may have seen the following excerpts in an e-mail but I thought it was worth publishing for a good laugh as we finish grading exams, calculating grades and filling in report card comments. Supposedly, the below are actual answers given on history tests and in Sunday school quizzes by children between 5th and 6th grade ages. They were collected over a period of three years by two teachers. Read carefully for grammar, misplaced modifiers, misinformation and, of course, spelling!

- Ancient Egypt was old. It was inhabited by gypsies and mummies who all wrote in hydraulics. They lived in the Sarah Dessert. The climate of the Sarah is such that all the inhabitants have to live elsewhere.

- The Greeks were a highly sculptured people, and without them we wouldn't have history. The Greeks also had myths. A myth is a young female moth.

- Socrates was a famous old Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him. He later died from an overdose of wedlock which is apparently poisonous. After his death, his career suffered a dramatic decline.

- In the first Olympic games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled biscuits, and threw the java. The games were messier than they show on TV now.

- Julius Caesar extinguished himself on the battlefields of Gaul. The Ides of March murdered him because they thought he was going to be made king. Dying, he gasped out: "Same to you, Brutus."

- Joan of Arc was burnt to a steak and was canonised by Bernard Shaw for reasons I don't really understand. The English and French still have problems.

- It was an age of great inventions and discoveries. Gutenberg invented

removable type and the Bible. Another important invention was the circulation of blood.

- Sir Walter Raleigh is a historical figure because he invented cigarettes and started smoking.

- Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100 foot clipper which was very dangerous to all his men.

- The greatest writer of the Renaissance was William Shakespeare. He was born in the year 1564, supposedly on his birthday. He never made much money and is famous only because of his plays. He wrote tragedies, comedies, and hysterectomies.

- Romeo and Juliet are an example of a heroic couple. They lived in Italy. Romeo's last wish was to be laid by Juliet but her father was having none of that I'm sure. You know how Italian fathers are.

- Writing at the same time as Shakespeare was Miguel Ervantes. He wrote Donkey Hote. The next great author was John Milton. Milton wrote Paradise Lost. Since then no one ever found it.

- Delegates from the original 13 states formed the Contented Congress. Thomas Jefferson, a Virgin, and Benjamin Franklin were two singers of the Declaration of Independence. Franklin discovered electricity by rubbing two cats backward and also declared, "A horse divided against itself cannot stand." He was a naturalist for sure. Franklin died in 1790 and is still dead.

- Abraham Lincoln became America's greatest Precedent. Lincoln's mother died in infancy, and he was born in a log cabin which he built with his own hands. Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves by signing the Emasculation Proclamation.

- On the night of April 14, 1865, Lincoln went to the theatre and got shot

in his seat by one of the actors in a moving picture show. They believe the assassin was John Wilkes Booth, a supposedly insane actor. This ruined Booth's career.

- Johann Bach wrote a great many musical compositions and had a large number of children. In between he practised on an old spinster which he kept up in his attic. Bach died from 1750 to the present. Bach was the most famous composer in the world and so was Handel. Handel was half German, half Italian, and half English. He was very large.

- Beethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf that he wrote loud music and became the father of rock and roll. He took long walks in the forest even when everyone was calling for him. Beethoven expired in 1827 and later died for this.

- The nineteenth century was a time of a great many thoughts and inventions. People stopped reproducing by hand and started reproducing by machine. The invention of the steamboat caused a network of rivers to spring up.

- Louis Pasteur discovered a cure for rabbits but I don't know why.

- Charles Darwin was a naturalist. He wrote the Organ of the Species. It was very long people got upset about it and had trials to see if it was really true. He sort of said God's days were not just 24 hours but without watches who knew anyhow? I don't get it.

- Madman Curie discovered radio. She was the first woman to do what she did. Other women have become scientists since her but they didn't get to find radios because they were already taken.

- Karl Marx was one of the Marx Brothers. The other three were in the movies. Karl made speeches and started revolutions. Someone in the family had to have a job, I guess.

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FOR RENT: 4 bedroom cottage on Copake Lake. Great lake - great golf. Only a 1 hour drive. for the month of August - call Bill @ 914-755-6248.

NEEDED: used washing machine and freezer. Call Bill @ 914-755-6248.

HOUSE FOR SALE: Fishkill, 4 bedroom Cape with loft, kitchen, dining room, living room with fireplace, one bath, hardwood floors, garage. \$259,000. Call 471-8449.

CONDO FOR SALE: Town of Poughkeepsie, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, kitchen, dining room, living room condominium in park like setting; Spackenkill schools, HOA includes heat, hot water, management, grounds, garbage, snow removal, pool. \$128,000. Call Marion (845) 471- 8449.

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NYSUT 13-270
AFT 1989

phone:

(845) 227-5065

fax:

(845) 227-1977

email:

wct@WCTeachers.org

WCT President:

Pasquale Delli Carpini

**Editor & V.P. of Internal
Communications:**

Meredith Inkeles

Proofreader:

Brian Inkeles

Distribution:

Peg Nikola & Alice Heusinger,
WCRT



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see us at:

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*(Continued from
page 7)*

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FOR SALE: GE Chest Freezer, 48 in. long, 32 in. high, 28 in. deep - GOOD CONDITION. \$100.00 Call: (845) 226-8769.

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