Congratulations are in Order!

by Brenda Maiolo

Andrew Nikola, First grade teacher at Vassar Road Elementary School, has been selected to receive the Forty Under 40 "Shaker Award" courtesy of the Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce. The goal of this program is to recognize 40 people under the age of 40 who are committed to shaping our region, making it a better place for everyone, and to recognize those individuals who have taken on decision-making roles at an earlier-than-usual stage in their lives. Congratulations Andrew!!

New Babies!

Brooke Gabriels (Vassar Road) and her husband welcomed Gracie Jane to their family on November 28, 2009. Big brother Benjamin was very excited to have a new sister. Congratulations!

Karen Zmudosky (Oak Grove) and her husband Jason welcomed a baby boy, Jacob William, into the world on January 22, 2010. Congratulations!
Dear WCT Member,

Did you know...

that presently over 60% of the chocolate grown worldwide is being harvested through the use of child labor?

that similar statistics exist for the coffee industry?

When fair trade practices are introduced and worker cooperatives are formed these children have the opportunity to move from farm fields and into classrooms to receive an education.

The NYSUT Fair Trade Project "builds support for the fair trade movement among union members, their families and communities. International worker-to-worker solidarity trumps the ravages of corporate monopolies as union members 'walk the walk' with workers around the world."

In February NYSUT will be sending a small delegation of its members to Nicaragua to visit fair trade coffee cooperatives and their community schools. I am pleased to share with you that Martha Bilsback, a third grade teacher at Myers Corners, has been invited to be part of this delegation.

The WCT is asking you to consider making a donation to a Fair Trade Fund which we have established. 100% of the monies donated to this fund will be sent with the delegation to Nicaragua and given directly to the schools that they will be visiting. At rural schools where these cooperatives are located, students and teachers learn and work in very primitive schools with few books and limited school supplies. Our financial contributions will make a lasting impact on their lives.

On behalf of the Executive Board and myself, thank you for your generosity.

In Solidarity,

Pasquale Delli Carpini,
President Wappingers Congress of Teachers

Name & School: ____________________________________________________________

Please make your check payable to "WCT" with "Fair Trade" in the memo line and send it to the WCT office by Wednesday, February, 3rd. Your donation is completely tax deductible.
John Jay AP Bio Field Trip
by MaryJane McFarland

The John Jay High School Advanced Placement Biology classes were invited back for a fifth time to the East Fishkill IBM site on January 20, 2010. The purpose for the trip was to allow the students to have hands-on experience working with Scanning Electron Microscopes, Transmission Electron Microscopes, a Dual Beam Focused Ion Beam, and an Atom Probe. There was also an amazing demonstration on Liquid Nitrogen. The students learned how these machines are used in industry and in the biological field.

NYSUT details impact of budget proposal; offers solution

NYSUT Media Relations - February 2, 2010

ALBANY, N.Y. February 2, 2010 - New York State United Teachers today detailed for a joint legislative committee the devastating toll the proposed education budget would have on students and their schools, saying Gov. David Paterson's spending plan would trigger program cuts and property tax increases while erasing the progress schools have made toward ending the achievement gap.

NYSUT President Richard C. Iannuzzi called on legislators to reject the governor's $1.4 billion in education cuts. He said continuing to invest in education is the best way to transform New York's economy and stimulate job growth, particularly in upstate communities bedeviled by high unemployment. Iannuzzi said the governor's goal of a "knowledge economy" built around high-tech jobs cannot be reached if the state budget forces layoffs and eliminates the vital programs students and teachers need.

"The next generation of New York's workers must come from New York's public schools and universities, not from other states or other nations," Iannuzzi said. "The business community demands it, and our education system must have the resources to meet that demand. The promise of a knowledge economy without an investment in knowledge is a hollow promise."

For more visit http://www.nysut.org/cps/rde/xchg/nysut/hs.xsl/mediareleases_14393.htm
The Wappingers Congress of Teachers
 Presents
 NYSUT’s Defensive Driving Program
 (Recognized by the National Safety Council)
 THIS COURSE IS OFFERED TO WCT MEMBERS AND IMMEDIATE FAMILY ONLY

Monday, March 15, 2010
Monday, March 22, 2010
 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Sessions will be held at Roy C. Ketcham High School, Room 134.

Family members are welcome to participate. A fee of $30.00** per person is necessary to cover cost of materials. (Participants MUST attend both sessions).

**If you subscribe to auto insurance through NYSUT Member Benefits (METPAY), there is a $25.00 refund.

Benefit to Participants:
Upon completion of the course, members and their family members, who are principal operators of a vehicle, are entitled to a ten percent reduction in the base rate of their liability (bodily injury and property damage), no-fault (personal injury) and collision insurance premiums each year for three years.

WCT members and their family members who complete the course may receive a subtraction of up to four points on their driving records. This applies only to points for violations occurring within the 18 months immediately before course completion. It does not affect points for earlier violations and can never be used as a “credit” for future points. Points may be reduced only once in any 18-month period.

To register, send the clip-off below and your check to the WCT office ASAP. Reservations will be accepted on a “first come, first serve” basis. No cancellations after Thursday, March 11, 2010.

Defensive Driving – March 15 and March 22

Member’s Name__________________________________________________________

Family Members (Attending) ________________________________________________

School (School Mail Location) _______________________________________________

Home Phone ________________________

A check for $30.00 per person must accompany this form. Please make check payable to “WCT.” You must be a WCT member or WCT family member to enroll in this course.
Important Information about the WCT Welfare Trust Fund....

Trustees:
Christine Romano, Chairperson
Betty Seifert, Treasurer
Erin Mulligan, Secretary
Philip Gertler, Trustee
Pasquale Delli Carpini, Trustee
Ronnie Dwyer, Administrator
WCT Telephone Number: 845-227-5065
Daniel H. Cook Telephone Number: 1-800-342-6651

- You must let the WTF know of any changes in your personal information ASAP
- Student verification forms must be sent to Daniel H. Cook every semester
- Dental & prescription reimbursement forms are on-line at the WTF website
- Please direct all questions & concerns to the WCT office or directly to Daniel H. Cook

from the... WCT Welfare Trust Fund

A financial consultant from Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. will be in the WCT office on the following dates:
February 10 & 24
March 10 & 24
April 14 & 28
May 12 & 26
June 9 & 23

Appointments are (1) hour blocks available between 2pm & 6pm on a first come first served basis.
When you call the office to schedule an appointment, we will forward a questionnaire to you. Please complete it and bring it with you to the meeting.

Since these slots fill up very quickly CALL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. The WCT office number is 227-5065.
If the above dates are not convenient for you, call Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. directly at 1-888-949-1925 and other arrangements may be possible.

Welfare Trust Fund News

2009 Prescription Co Pay Reimbursement

The claim for prescription co-pay reimbursement for the 2009 calendar year must be received by March 31, 2010. Forms are available on the WCT website – wcteachers.org or you can call the WCT office (227-5065). Receipts or a computer printout from your pharmacy are accepted. However, a printout is much easier to process and will compensate for any misplaced receipts.

If you need any further information, please call the WCT office.
Membership Dues for 2009

Jan-Jun 12 paychecks x $35.52 = $426.24

Sept-Dec 8 paychecks x $38.50 = $308.00

Total for Year = $734.24

This amount is NOT on your W-2, but it is on the YTD (Year To Date) portion of your 12/30/2009 pay stub. This value may be different for anyone with extenuating circumstances.

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Ed McKenna - 845-471-7607
Get Your WCT Gear

Short sleeve tees, long sleeve tees, and lanyards are available for purchase at the WCT Office. Shirts range in size from small though 3X. Please stop by the office to make your purchases. Payment for these items must be a check made out to WCT - cash will not be accepted.

WCT Gear is available at the WCT Office:

- $9 for short sleeve tee
- $12 for long sleeve tee
- $2 for lanyards

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2010 Newsletter Schedule

January 8, 2010  April 9, 2010
January 22, 2010  April 23, 2010
February 5, 2010  May 7, 2010
February 19, 2010  May 21, 2010
March 5, 2010  June 4, 2010
March 19, 2010  June 18, 2010
FOR SALE: Trend Micro AntiVirus and AntiSpyware software. Brand new, still in the wrapped box. It is for 1 year protection for 1 PC. Asking only $20. Call Steve (845) 462-8557

FOR SALE: Solid Oak entertainment center from Martin's Country Craftsman in Pawling. VERY HIGH QUALITY, in very good condition, entire unit measures 53"W, 45"H, 24"D. The area for the television measures 22"D, 28.5"W, 26"H. Has a glass front door to the left of the tv area, TONS of storage. Great for gaming systems, etc. Make an offer! Leave a message (845) 661-2567.

FOR RENT: LBI New Jersey house with two separate levels. Each level sleeps eight, has air conditioning, sit-in kitchen, two bedrooms, deck, and living room with cable TV and DVD player. Both levels share an outdoor washer/dryer, grill, and refreshing outdoor shower. The house is located at 102 East NY, which is six houses from the beach on the ocean side. Please contact Chris at (845) 542-0412 if you would like to learn more about this ideal vacation spot.

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