Scholarship Award Winners

- Recipient of the WCT Award - Marisa Martino, John Jay H.S.

- Recipient of the Bernard & Leslie Leventhal Award, Derek Sutcliffe, John Jay H.S.

- Recipients of the Janet and Ralph Capasso Scholarship, Amy DeNitto, RCK; Madelyn May, and Mitri Najjar

Editor’s Note: Extra special congratulations to retiree Suzanne Jutton who was inadvertently left off of the list of retirees in the May 23rd issue of the COMMENTATOR. We wish her all the best.
Capasso Scholarship Award Winners Attend Reception

The winners of the Ralph and Janet Capasso Scholarship were honored at a small reception in the Van Wyck Library on May 27, 2008. The WCT, in conjunction with the Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers, offers three $1500 scholarships to seniors presently enrolled in any public or private high school planning to attend college in the fall of 2008. Students are eligible candidates as long as a parent or legal guardian is a WCT member.

The committee consists of WCT members whose children won the scholarship in the previous school year. This year’s hard working committee members were Catherine Kim, science teacher at RCK, Meri Piliouras, ESL teacher at Sheafe, and Anchala Sobrin, Math teacher at JJHS.

After some refreshments, Meri introduced Amy DeNitto who will be attending Muhlenberg College in the fall. Next, Anchala spoke of Mitri Najjar’s accomplishments and his plans to attend Roger Williams University. Finally, Catherine detailed all that Madelyn May has achieved and that she will attend RPI in September.
Retiree: Bob Young
Math Teacher

Bob Young has spent 25 1/2 years in the WCSD even though his whole teaching career spans 31 1/2 years. His career in Wappingers began in January of 1977 when he taught ninth and tenth grade math at John Jay. During the 1977/1978 school year, Bob was at Van Wyck teaching seventh and eight grade math. The 1978/1979 school year found Bob teaching seventh, eight, and ninth grade math in the Arlington school district and then he taught eight and ninth grade math in the Pawling school district from September 1979 through June 1984. September of 1984 found Bob back in the WCSD teaching seventh and eight grade math at Wappingers Junior High. Beginning in September 1996 Bob moved to RCK and has taught ninth and tenth grade math there until his retirement.

Bob says he will most miss the “satisfaction of seeing students learn something new, as well as all the friendly people in the schools.” When asked what he will miss the least, Bob says, “students that don’t care to learn, grading papers, and BELLS!”

In retirement, Bob will split his time in Florida and New York with his retired wife, Cindy. Bob plans to live by the motto of “Do what I want, when I want!” He also plans “to keep living the weekend everyday!”

Retiree: Anne DiAntonio
Elementary Teacher

On June 30, 2008 I will have completed my 15th year at Gayhead Elementary teaching 5th grade. Prior to that, I had taught 3 years of per diem subbing throughout the district.

My teaching career began in the New York City school system at P.S. 6 in the South Bronx in 1969. As a regular sub I taught grades K-6. In March 1970 I got a first grade position at P.S. 16 in the North Bronx. I stayed in that school and grade level until April 1981, just before my daughter was born. I was a stay at home mom for several years until both of my children were in school full day.

I will miss working with the children most of all. As the Math teacher on our team, I have found great satisfaction in helping those children who struggle with mathematical concepts, and also trying to enrich the knowledge and provide challenges to those for whom math comes easy. I will also truly miss all my wonderful friends and colleagues at Gayhead. What I will miss least is all the time I spent planning lessons and the endless hours correcting homework, quizzes, and tests.

I plan to spend more time enjoying my home and visiting my children in New York City and Atlanta. My plans also include visiting family in Rhode Island, as well as a trip to California in the fall and hopefully Italy next year.
Four Wappingers secondary science teachers were recognized on May 21 for their dedication to teaching science and were awarded the Science Teacher’s Association of New York State, South Eastern Section, Outstanding Science Teacher Awards in a ceremony at Diana’s Restaurant in New Windsor.

The honorees were John Lane, Outstanding Physics Teacher, Mary Jane McFarland, Outstanding Biology Teacher, Catherine Kim, Outstanding Chemistry Teacher, and Charles Ropes, Outstanding New Teacher.

The winners were selected from numerous candidates in the South Eastern section of STANYS based upon their involvement in community and professional activities, memberships in professional organizations, philosophy of education and most importantly, dedication to promoting interest and appreciation for science in the classroom.

Four WCSD Science Teachers Receive Awards from STANYS

(Rictured left to right: Catherine Kim, John Lane, Charles Ropes, adn Mary Jane McFarland)

RCK Classes Spend Day in Court

On April 24, 2008, Mrs. Conroy’s Business Law and Entertainment Law classes from RCK spent the day with Supreme Court Judge Dolan to observe his calendar for the day. Students got a chance to speak with attorneys, court officers, court stenographers, court administrators, and watch a movie on the jury selection process. It was a wonderful experience for the students as they had the opportunity to experience a real courtroom and be exposed to the many careers in the field of Law.
Preretirement Planning Seminars

These daylong meetings are designed to help active NYSTRS members age 45 and older prepare for retirement. During the course of the day, discussions are devoted to: System benefits; financial planning; legal affairs; adjusting to retirement; Social Security; and, other pertinent topics. Please note these seminars are not designed for one-on-one retirement counseling. Spouses/companions are eligible to attend. Seminars are held 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., with registration from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. There is no fee to attend, but you must register in advance.

Summer 2008 Schedule

**Albany**
July 21 (Monday)
August 11 (Monday)
NYSTRS Headquarters
10 Corporate Woods Drive

**Fishkill**
August 7 (Thursday)
Holiday Inn
Route 9
Exit 13, I-84

**Middletown**
August 6 (Wednesday)
Holiday Inn
68 Crystal Run Road

**Tarrytown**
July 24 (Thursday)
Westchester Marriot
670 White Plains Road

Seminars are also available at the following locations:
- Lake Placid (August 4)
- Hauppauge (July 23)
- Ronkonkoma (July 9)
- Uniondale (July 10)
- Alexandira Bay (July 29)
- Buffalo (July 31, August 19)
- Dunkirk (August 26)
- Ithaca (August 28)
- Owego (August 21)
- Rochester (July 15)
- Syracuse (July 30)
- Utica (July 16)

To make a reservation: register online at www.nystrs.org or call the Retirement System in Albany at (800) 356-3128, Ext. 6180 and specify the seminar you wish to attend. Telephone reservations can only be made weekdays during normal business hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. When calling, please provide your EmplID (preferred) or Social Security number, date of birth, home address, and home phone number. Also indicate if your spouse/companion is attending. If your spouse/companion is also a member, please have the above information for him/her, too. After your call you will be sent a letter confirming your reservation, along with directions to the meeting and the seminar agenda. Please bring this material with you to the seminar, along with photo ID and your most-recent Benefit Profile. If you make a reservation and subsequently cannot attend, please call the number above to cancel so that this reservation can be offered to another member.
Van Wyck Donates to March of Dimes

By Ellen Korz and Colette Plassmann

Once again the Van Wyck community came through for the March for Babies. Each year the staff and students show their support to help prevent birth defects. Staff bought tees which were worn for Blue Jeans for Babies Day and the walk in Hyde Park on April 27, 2008. Students sold pledge cards in the cafeteria lobby on their lunch periods.

Walkers brought their personal pledges with donations from friends and family. About an additional $300 was added to the Van Wyck donation. In total, $822.60 was contributed to the March of Dimes. Thanks go to all who helped and to all those who participated in the walk.

On April 27th, in spite of the bleak weather, a group showed up with their babies and grandbabies to march for a cause that touches so many. Several of the group got to meet some of the “miracle babies” and their families who have benefited from the work and the research the organization performs on an ongoing basis. No matter what the weather, when you’re involved, it’s a sunny day.

Wappingers Falls Student Appointed as U.S. Congressional Page

May 9, 2008 - Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. John Hall (D-NY19) today announced that Anam Zahra, a Roy C. Ketcham High School student in Wappingers Falls, has been selected to serve as a Congressional Page in the United States House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. Zahra was nominated by Congressman Hall and will serve for one month during the upcoming summer page term. “I’m excited to be able to give Zahra the opportunity to serve as a page during this historic time in the United States House of Representatives,” said Congressman Hall. Zahra, the daughter of Abdul Sajid and Surriya Begum of Wappingers Falls, will soon complete her sophomore year at Roy C. Ketcham High School. Zahra is a member of the varsity track team and junior varsity field hockey team. She excels in the classroom, taking several honors-track classes, and regularly volunteers at Vassar Brothers Medical Center and Masjid al Noor Sunday School. She has also volunteered with Amnesty International. As a Congressional page, Zahra will live in the official Page Residence Hall near the Capitol Building and Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. and work on the floor of the House of Representatives while Congress is in session. Throughout her day, Zahra, an aspiring politician, will have a first-hand view of the legislative process and an inside look at current political debate. Pages have served the United States Congress for over 150 years. The page program consists of young men and women who are nominated by Members of Congress to fulfill various roles in the House of Representatives. Members nominate and sponsor pages only upon invitation of their party’s Leadership. Page duties consist primarily of delivering correspondence and legislative materials within the Congressional complex. Other duties include taking messages for Members of Congress, calling them to the phone, preparing the Chamber for House sessions, and carrying bills and amendments to the desk.

Dates to Know

JUNE:
- pay day - June 6, 2008
- BOE meeting - June 9, 2008 (MC, EV, KR, & OG)
- pay day - June 20, 2008
- pay day - June 26, 2008
- JJ Graduation - June 27, 2008
- RCK Graduation - June 28, 2008

Good News!

- Congratulations to Kylene Paul, 1st grade teacher at Myers. She gave birth to a baby boy, Brennan Matthew, on January 6, 2008. Brennan weighed 7lbs, 15oz and was 21 inches long. Mom and baby are doing well!

http://johnhall.house.gov/newsroom.asp?ARTICLE3615=12124
Come & experience a day that caters to your mind & body by reducing stress & anxiety with a full day of personalized activities. Spend the full day or mix and match any combination of classes.

**Saturday, June 7 at the Holiday Inn, Fishkill NY.**

**Meditation** 9:30-10 am  
**Yoga & Dance** 10-11 am  
**Pilates Mat Class** 11:30-12:30 pm  
**Hip Hop Dance Class** 12:30-1:30 pm  
**Card Making** 2-5 pm  
**Yoga** 6:15-7:15 pm  
**Hip Hop Dance Party** 7:30-8:30 pm


Reserve your space today! Call **845.454.1732** or e-mail **sandee@yogahiphopdance.com**.

---


---

ROOMMATE NEEDED: Room available at Fox Hill Condo’s in Pok. $700/month all included. Fully furnished. No smoking, no pets. Contact Kristie at 416-4072 with questions.

---

FOR SALE: Dinette; dining room table & 6 chairs; twin bed frames; TV’s; newly upholstered winged chair; antique coat rack; music chest; chest of drawers; bistro tables; patio furniture. Call 845-462-5526 after 5 p.m.

---

FOR RENT: Vacation in Ocean City, Maryland. 2 bedroom/2 bath CONDO, on the water (bayside). 1st floor unit, next to pool, beautiful sunsets, just cross the street to the beach - centrally located, close to everything. Contact Sandy for information at 896-4072 with questions.

---

FOR RENT: The Villages Florida. 2 bedroom 2 bath ranch home w/golf course view. Check out the best place for retirement living, and only 1 hour to Orlando and the attractions. Golf cart included in rental. Come see what former retirees, the Schinella’s, Frappier’s, Ridolph’s, Pauldine’s, Meier’s and Knickerbocker’s have come to know and love. Contact Mike for information at 352-217-7738.

---

**Free Estimates**  
**Chris Capasso**  
Interior & Exterior Painting

**Gutter Cleaning, Roofing, Siding, Windows**

**Power Washing & Staining**

Phone **845-242-8228**

---

**McGuiney Fencing**  
Mark D’Onofrio  
Sean Keenan

Free Estimates - **914.490.5854**

Over 20 Years Experience specializing in pools & residential fencing: wood, vinyl, aluminum, & chain link

Very Reasonable Prices

---

**O’Dell Painting**  
Interior/ Exterior Painting  
Pressure Washing/ Water Proofing  
Fire & Water Damage/ Wallpaper Removal  
Free Power Washing with every Exterior Paint Job

Over 20 Years of Experience!

Call for a FREE ESTIMATE  
Ray O’Dell

(845) 297-2341 or (914) 245-0001

---

**NEW YEAR NEW BODY NEW YOU**  
**Personal Training by Yvonne**  
(845) 489-4805

---

**Spook Hill Frames**  
We will frame almost anything!  
10 % WCT discount at all times!  
Call **297-1956**

---

(Continued on page 8)
Members’ Classified Ads

(Continued from page 7)

**Stacy McCusker**
Licensed Sales Agent

**Currier & Lazier Realtors®**
4 Commerce Street
Suite B-2
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
www.coldwellbanker
hudsonvalley.com

845.452.1156 business
845.453.9113 cell
845.452.1631 fax
stacy.mccusker@coldwellbanker.com

**KEEL SYSTEMS, LLC**
Computer Setup/Repair/ Improvements Software Setup and Instruction
Virus/Spyware Protection, Detection & Removal
Data Backup & Recovery Networks: Wired/Wireless
Mobile Computing (Laptops/ PDAs)
Digital Photography/VHS to DVD

Ed McKenna
845-471-7607

**Shirley Rosicke**
PHOTOGRAPHY
PORTRAITS
Seniors, Families, Children
Created in the studio or on location

Specializing in WEDDING Photography.

Shirley Rosicke
845-226-5019
www.ROSICKE.com

**FOR SALE:** oak dining room set, two piece lighted hutch/buffet. Dining table with two leaves and six bow back chairs. Asking $450.00 for all. Call Linda at 724-5661.

**FOR SALE:** Air conditioning, refrigeration tools & parts. Owner retired. Too much to list. $4,500.00. For more info & complete list call: (845) 453-3441.

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

**LITTLE DEPOT**
Lionel, Williams, K-Line Trains
6000 part inventory
REPAIR SERVICE
by appointment only
OLD TRAINS BOUGHT
thelittledepot@earthlink.net
845-226-5019

**WEEKLY SUMMER RENTAL:** 2 bedroom duplex steps to the ocean and bay beaches of Surf City, Long Beach Island, New Jersey. Reasonable rates. Take the Garden State Parkway to exit 63. Less than 3 hours from southern Dutchess County. Call Olga 845 226-8030.

**Thinking of Buying or Selling a Home?**
Call for a market analysis of your home!

**Contact**
Chuck Deppe,
a Century 21 Agent with 25 years experience in residential sales & a WCT member for over 35 years)

845-227-3859

CTDEP1@optonline.net

**WAPPINGERS CONGRESS OF TEACHERS**
2537 Route 52, Suite 15
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

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

**We’re on the Web!**
see us at: WCTeachers.org