Congratulations to the 2008 Retirees

Hannah Abrahamson
Margaret Capell
Sandra Corwin
Thomas DeRito
Anne DiAntonio
Jeanne Ditton
R. Russell Martin
Theresa Martinko
Franca Petrillo
Elaine Rippa

Marla Rohwer
Veronica Russo
Donna Seidat
Mary Sherman
Linda Stow
Susan Tompkins
Roberta Viniello
Sandra Walker
Nancy Wright
Robert Young

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Retiree: Sandy Corwin
Special Education Teacher

I started teaching part time in Wappingers in 1982 and switched to full time in 1991 when my youngest son was in school all day. I taught in many of the District schools, especially during my part time days. As anyone in Special Education, students and sometimes teachers as well, I have moved around a lot. I’ve been at Gayhead, RCK, Brinckerhoff, Vassar, Fishkill Plains, and Evans. I feel that Evans is really my home school. I’ve taught resource room, inclusion at a number of grade levels, and self contained with primary age children.

When I think about what I will miss the most, a few things come to mind. I treasure those moments when it is clear that a student who has struggled finally understands a concept. The child’s joy and pride in himself or herself is very exciting. I will miss the rapt attention of the kids when they get totally involved in a story I am reading or telling them. Over the years I’ve developed some techniques and lessons for the children that I enjoy using. I will miss the ones that gave me an opportunity to be corny or very dramatic (I must bid farewell to my cameo performances as Magnifica the Magnificent, as well as the amazing Magician of Matter to name a few). I’ve enjoyed the teaching assistants I’ve worked with and the interactions with my colleagues.

I almost don’t want to get started on what I will miss least because those things have been a source of frustration to me over the years. I am glad to say goodbye to the murkiness of the directions that I’ve needed to follow when filling out paper work. Also since I’ve been back in a self contained class these last few years, I am glad to leave behind the difficulties inherent in that position - that is meeting the needs of students with greatly disparate learning styles and abilities who have a wide variety of behavior and attention problems and who often cannot work independently for more than a few moments.

As for what’s ahead, I want to be open to a variety of opportunities including travel, spending more time with family and friends, and engaging in some creative activities such as learning to paint, story telling and whatever else feels right.

Retiree: Russ Martin - update

An article about Russ Martin initially appeared in the April 11th issue of the WCT COMMENTATOR. Here is some additional information pertaining to Russ as an internationally recognized photographer.

Russ has been or will be featured in the following shows and publications:
• November 2007 - Black and White Magazine - Single Image Competition Issue. 8,000 images submitted, 200 chosen.
• February 2008 - The Fraser Gallery, Bethesda, Md., International Photography Exhibition - 500 images from 20 countries submitted, 50 chosen.
• March 2008 - Finalist, Altered Images. Smithsonian Magazine Photography Contest 7,000 pictures submitted from 56 countries, 50 chosen.
• April 2008 - Included in The Art of Photography Show, San Diego. 12,200 images submitted from 46 countries, 102 chosen.
• May 2008 - Smithsonian Magazine Photography Competition Finalist’s Exhibition. This will be hung in the “Castle” building on the nation’s mall in Washington, DC. It will be on display from July 2008 to January 2009. 25 images from the 50 finalists will be exhibited.
Don’t wait until it’s your year to retire to attend the Wappingers Congress of Teachers Recognition Dinner put on to honor the year’s retirees, those obtaining twenty-five years of service in the district, as well as members receiving tenure. You’ll be missing out if you do!

With some encouragement from colleagues, I attended this past one and found it to be most delightful. It would be hard for anyone to find it otherwise. There was an abundance of food for the cocktail hour, plenty of drink throughout the entire evening and a most delicious meal. To top it off, a table of desserts offered a variety of treats to capture anyone’s interest. In addition, live music to dance to or to just enjoy was heard throughout most of the night. Another highlight was chatting with some WCT retirees I haven’t seen for awhile. Thank you goes to all those WCT members who made it a memorable evening for all of us. And, of course, a big thank you too for my “timely” gift. In retirement I certainly won’t have any excuse for being late for tennis dates, luncheon gatherings, or travel destinations by plane, rail, boat...!

Many thanks need also to be said to those WCT members who work “above and beyond the call of duty” on a continuous basis to bring so much to our membership. It’s worth repeating thank you again, particularly this year, to our negotiating team who brought us a contract that includes some wonderful health benefits, not just for the active membership, but for the retirees as well. I am sure these benefits will be appreciated even more so as retirement years become a reality.

"Don’t wait until it’s your year to retire to attend the Wappingers Congress of Teachers Recognition Dinner..."

Sooo... . See you at next year’s enchanting WCT Recognition Dinner...unless...other retirement life-style “obligations” haven’t already called me out-of-town!!!

(Pictured on the left is Roni Maschas and on the right is 2008 retiree, Nancy Wright, at the WCT Recognition Dinner)

(Left: 2008 retiree Susan Tompkins with Kathleen Snowder)

(Center: WCRT President Sue Roger with former mentee, Angela Petrillo, who was recognized for receiving tenure)

(Right: VP Grievance Ray Koretsky on the dance floor with 2008 retiree Margaret Capell)
Retiree: Hannah Abrahamson
Special Education Teacher

I’m not really a date person, so I don’t know exactly how long I’ve been teaching, but it’s 20+ years. I’ve mostly taught at the high school level at both RCK and John Jay, with brief stints at Wappingers Junior High. I’m a special education teacher and have taught self-contained math, social studies, and English (both on Regents and IEP levels), inclusion English, math and earth science, resource room, consultant teacher, and multisensory reading.

I’m really looking forward to retiring, but of course I will miss my many fine friends and colleagues in the WCSD. We’re great at laughing, snacking and supporting each other. Keep in touch! I will also miss the high energy level of almost two thousand curious adolescents (it keeps me young).

I will definitely not miss 5:00 a.m. alarm clocks, a plethora of four letter words and rude responses, people who forgot why they were working here (it has to do with kids), administrators who are not truthful, and the high energy level of almost two thousand curious adolescents (it ages me).

Retirement plans? First off, October will bring the challenge of a two-day, 39 mile walk to raise money for breast cancer research and services (see article in the April 25, 2008 issue of the COMMENTATOR). Mike and I will also be visiting China in October, and then of course there will be trips to visit my daughters who live in the Netherlands and Montana. Lots of reading, hiking and hopefully some new endeavors. Quilting? Birding? Kayaking? Moving abroad? Who knows? The book is still open.

Retiree: Franca Petrillo
Spanish Teacher

I taught five years in other districts, but have been in Wappingers for 23 years - all at Van Wyck. While teaching in New Paltz and at Van Wyck I primarily taught 7th and 8th grade Spanish, but at the Anderson school I taught Levels 1, 2, and 3 Spanish.

I will miss the students and being in a classroom. I will also miss the friends that I have made at Van Wyck. It has been like having another family.

I will not miss the alarm clock or going out on those cold, icy days.

Past Wappingers I see myself continuing volunteering in the community. I hope to use my Spanish language to help non-English speaking individuals in hospitals, schools, and in the community. I would also like to travel, catch up on my reading, learn some new crafts and most important spend more time with my family and friends.
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WCT Election Update

The Election Committee will cast one vote for the following unopposed positions on the WCT Executive Board:

President - Pasquale Delli Carpini
V.P. Elementary - Michael Lyons
V.P. Secondary - Raymond Koretsky
V.P. Internal Communications - Meredith Inkeles
V.P. External Communication - Mary Ann Moran
V.P. Political Action - Philip “Flip” Gertler
Secretary - Christine Romano
Treasurer - Donna Basile
Elementary at Large: Martha Bilsback, Michelle Ross, and Dawn Sala
Secondary at Large: Diane DiChiara, Paul Nostrand, and Jane Stockslager

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An election will be held for NYSUT Delegates (9) and AFT Delegates (3) on May 29, 2008.

The candidates for NYSUT Delegates: Donna Basile, Martha Bilsback, Diane DiChiara, Pasquale Delli Carpini, Meredith Inkeles, Ray Koretsky, Ellen Korz, Michael Lyons, Christine Romano, and Louise Rose.

AFT candidates: Donna Basile, Pasquale Delli Carpini, Ray Koretsky and Michael Lyons.

(New Executive Board members at the May 16th Recognition Dinner. Pictured left to right: Paul Nostrand, Dawn Sala, Flip Gertler - not pictured: Diane DiChiara)
Members’ Classified Ads

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.

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