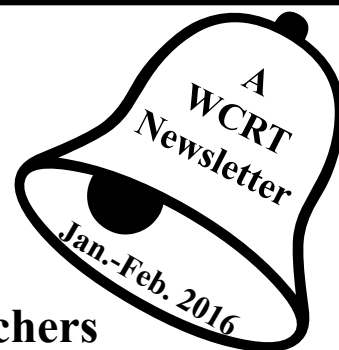


# Post Script



Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers

280 New Hackensack Rd. Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Vol. 22 No. 3

## Devine Intervention

A lofty look at retirement  
by Jack Devine

### What I Learned in School

On my first day of teaching (September, 1959, Evans School, 4th grade) I entered my classroom well before the buses were scheduled to arrive and was surprised to see a student sitting at a desk. Her name

was Nina Young. After chatting with Nina for five minutes, I realized I wasn't going to be the most intelligent person in my room that year. Over the next 39 years, I was to come across dozens (many dozens!) of "Ninas."

The Wappingers Faculty Association was the forerunner of the Wappingers Congress of Teachers. The dues for 1959-60 were \$5.00. The "negotiators" were 5th grade teacher John Glennon and Superintendent of Schools, E. Joseph Kegan. Although there were actually some negotiations, it was pretty much determined by Mr. Kegan's "my way, or the highway" philosophy of collective bargaining. The bargaining agreement that year was two pages long. My salary for 1959-60 was \$4,600 and – to be honest – I didn't feel down-trodden. It was three times as much as I made in the Army.

During what I call the "Early Years," the faculty room resembled a pool hall... or a saloon... or a West Virginia coal mine. If there were some non-smokers at Evans School, I am sure they never ventured into this particular opium den. I developed a skill set that made it possible for me to put my class through the lunch line, eat lunch myself, trade the latest gossip, and smoke two cigarettes. All in 23 minutes.

In 39 years of teaching, I never had a student who needed a gluten free diet. I had two or three kids who had to seriously eschew eating anything related to a peanut, and a few who had to avoid bees at all costs. But gluten free. None. (I retired in 1998) I'm just sayin'...

Aren't you glad we didn't have to deal with the APPR (Annual Professional Performance Review)?

By the end of my second year at Evans School, I knew who the good teachers were. I also knew who the very good teachers were. My theory (unsupported by any statistical data) was this:

- a) 10% - Very Good to Great
- b) 10% - Not So Good to Terrible
- c) 80% - The Rest of Us

In Evans School (as in any good school) the majority of the 80% did a more-than-decent job. They were committed to their students and devoted the necessary time and effort in preparing themselves for success in their classrooms. Where was I in this scheme of things? Hum-m-m? Maybe the top of the 80% (on good days). By the way, my percentages work for dentists, plumbers, cops, and cosmeticians.

I've heard it said that today's classroom teachers work under much more stressful conditions than did their counterparts of yesteryear, i.e., us. Today's pupil and teacher evaluating systems (currently evolving) are scary, but they're already being dialed back. And it's not like we didn't have observations, announced and unannounced, we did. And we were evaluated (partially and unofficially) on student test scores.

Furthermore, I would suggest that the events leading up to The Strike, and The Strike itself, were stressful. And do the names Komyathy and Chechek still stir up the bile? Oh, oh, I'm starting to sound like an old fogey ("Listen here, sonny, in our day...")

So, let me end by saying there has always been plenty of stress to spread around, then and now. It will always be here. I guess we have to deal with it.

#### In This Issue:

Feb. 2016 Vol. 22 No. 3

PRESIDENT'S LETTER 2  
Officers and Directors 2  
Distribution, publish dates, misc. 2  
SAVE THESE DATES 2

POLITICAL ACTION COLUMN 3  
New directions to WCT/WCRT 3  
Address/status changes 3

WCRT continues scholarships 4  
Van Wyck Jr High 50th on 4/15/16 4  
In Memoriam 4-5

#### REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

Peyton Meyer: Transplant Superhero 6  
THE MORNING LINE 6  
How to register for email on website 6

Spring Luncheon registration flyer 7

AAUW thanks WCRT 8

Poor Elijah: Long&short goodbyes 9

NEWS SINCE LAST ISSUE 10-11

NYSUT Member Benefits ad 12

Volunteer Substitute forms insert

POLITICAL ACTION COLUMN  
**THE MORNING LINE...**

Spring Luncheon registration flyer

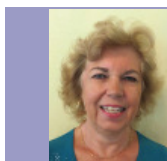
page 3

pages 6

page 7

[www.wcteachers.org](http://www.wcteachers.org)

# From The President



**SUSAN  
ROGER  
WCRT  
President**

*Dear WCRT Member,*

We dodged a snow bullet in January. Hopefully, as you read this, we will be looking forward to an early spring.

Thank you so much to the retirees who volunteered to sub in an emergency. However, if you have not volunteered, please consider doing it as we need more. Also make sure to include the WCSD volunteer form which the district requires.

You may have noticed that we did not offer any trips this year. There are two main reasons for

this: Many trips require a minimum number of participants.

Quite often we cannot field the numbers needed. This requires cancellation and return of the money or paying for the people who did not sign up. Each is time consuming or costly. If you have any ideas of trips that our retirees would like, please e-mail me at [johnrogerjr@yahoo.com](mailto:johnrogerjr@yahoo.com) and put WCRT trip as the subject.

Have a Happy Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day!

*Susan Roger*



send your comments to  
[johnrogerjr@yahoo.com](mailto:johnrogerjr@yahoo.com)  
or call (845) 227-5065



## Protect your WCRT, NYSUT membership

Members with email addresses registered on the website [wcteachers.org](http://wcteachers.org) will receive publications and notices by email. Please keep email information up to date on that site.

Our files are not linked to that site, so please notify the WCT office of any changes in address, phone, or email, etc.

Prohibitive U.S. Mail costs may soon force us to cancel postal mailings, so please consider going green to save money.

The *Commentator* and *PostScript* may be viewed at [www.wcteachers.org](http://www.wcteachers.org) once a member registers.

**WCRT  
publication dates  
for academic year  
2015-2016:**  
***PostScript* mailing  
dates:**  
**Oct. 16 Apr. 15**  
**Dec. 18 June 17**  
**Feb. 12**  
**and one sometime  
in mid August.**

**You MUST belong to the WCT to be eligible for NYSUT benefits. Make checks payable to WCT and mail to WCRT.**

Renewal notices have been sent out. Dues for 2015-2016 are:

\$ 20.00 Yearly;  
\$200.00 Individual Lifetime;  
\$325.00 Couples Lifetime.  
Pay Lifetime and alleviate the yearly task of renewing.

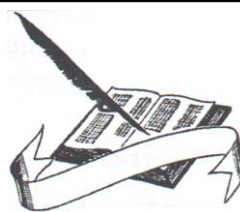


[wct@frontiernet.net](mailto:wct@frontiernet.net) or  
[www.wcteachers.org](http://www.wcteachers.org)



## SAVE THESE DATES (future details coming soon)

**Apr. 26** WCRT exec board mtg. 10:00-12:00  
**May 3** Spring Luncheon, Christos, 12:00noon, \$23  
**May 24** Deadline for mid-June *PostScript*  
**May 26** Capasso Scholarship Reception, 7p.m., RCKHS library  
**June 2** NYSUT Retiree Council 13 Luncheon, Christos, 11:00  
**June 14** WCRT exec board mtg. 10:00-12:00



## WCRT Officers and Board of Directors

**July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015**

**President.....** Susan Roger 226-8285  
**1st. Vice-Pres.** Roger Higgins 297-8757  
**2nd. V.P.....** Leslie Leventhal 297-4430  
**Rec Secy.....** Flo Mondanaro 454-0352  
**Corr Secy.....** Barbara Stuck 896-9572  
**Treasurer.....** Tom DeRito 440-3476  
**Past Pres.....** Alice Baker 452-5793  
**WCRT Rep. to WCT Representative Assembly....** Ellen Korz 297-9713

### Directors

**Ruth Ehlers** 831-6390  
**Jane Stockslager** 297-3766  
**Jack Devine** 297-5032  
**Margaret Nikola** 221-3824

### Committee Chairpersons

**Political Action: .....** Cliff Foley  
**Constitution/Bylaws: ..** Jane Stockslager  
**Gifts and Contributions...** Mary Coiteux  
**Retiree Council 13 Liaison....** Cliff Foley

## *PostScript*

**WCRT Mission Statement:**  
*To bring WCSD retirees together for mutual assistance and socialization, and to promote the best interests of retired educators.*

**Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers Newsletter**  
280 New Hackensack Rd.  
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590  
(845) 227-5065  
[www.wcteachers.org](http://www.wcteachers.org).

The WCRT *PostScript* is published in Oct., Dec., Feb., Apr., June, and Aug. during the school year.  
**Editor: Bill Dourdis**  
[williamdourdis@gmail.com](mailto:williamdourdis@gmail.com)  
(845) 266-0430

The WCRT *PostScript* is a 2015 NYSUT United Communications Competition Winner with 7 awards: (\*AD =Award of Distinction; & 1st=1st Place). AD, General Excellence, April 2014; AD, Social Justice Issue, 320 7th Graders "Thrown to the Wolves"; AD, Overall Graphic Design, *Batter Up! We're Panik-Stricken!*; 1st, Best Photo, *St. Patty's Day Parade*; 1st, Best Column/Blog, by Cliff Foley; AD, Creative Writing, by Saranne Ratner; AD, Local or Chapter Issues, *WCT Prez: I Have a Dream Too!*



## POLITICAL ACTION

Editorial views expressed are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the *WCRT PostScript* staff and management.

# THE WIND BEGINS TO CHANGE DIRECTION



**CLIFF FOLEY**

**Political Action  
Chairperson**

**E**ducation is blowing in the wind. In the recent past, that wind shift has moved us to implement the much-maligned Common Core. This damaging change in the way classrooms were to be run put teachers under tremendous pressure to follow a strict curriculum without regard for children's individual differences. Students were then bombarded with standardized tests on which they were pressured to do well so their teacher would not be fired. Add to this threats from the federal government to cut aid if too many children opted out of the tests.

The opt-outs are an inevitable outcome of this pressure with many children going home in tears and parents reacting. Another negative result is the beginning of what could become a teacher shortage as educators, who had not planned it, took earlier retirements and students who were going into education changed their majors.

As the pressure from parents grew, Governor Cuomo reacted. NYSUT President Karen Magee, in the February 2016 issue of *NYSUT United*, observed, "As I listened to Gov. Cuomo's State of the State address, I was struck by his more positive tone toward public education. His words of respect for the great work New York's dedicated teachers do in their classrooms are appreciated."

We wonder if there is more to the Governor's motivation for this change. An editorial in the January 4, 2016 newspaper *The Oneonta Star* may help explain why he is suddenly backing positive moves to correct some of these issues of concern. It stated, "Give Cuomo credit for recognizing that anything that ticks off so many voters as Common Core can form an impression that could easily last. Voters, especially parents, can have long memories."

The December 15, 2015, *Poughkeepsie Journal* headline, "Common Core tests will not count yet," announced the news. The article began, "Students and teachers will be held harmless from the results of the controversial Common Core tests until the 2019-2020 school year, the state Board of Regents said Monday."

In the same article Robert Lowry, deputy director of the Council of School Superintendents added, "Superintendents feel these controversies were not going to diminish without some action on teacher evaluations." This five-year delay gives everyone time to work on coming up with something educationally sound and not so threatening to parents, students, and teachers.

The debate over the negative impacts of Common Core is not limited to New York State. Back on October 24, 2015, NPR reported that, "The White House and the Department of Education are calling on states to cut the 'burden' of unnecessary testing." President Obama is also quoted as saying, "I hear from parents who rightly worry about too much testing, and teachers who feel so much pressure to teach to the test that it takes the joy out of teaching and learning both for them and for their students. I want to fix that."

Yes, it is a pleasant breeze that is moving through education, but there is much more to work on. The January 2016 issue of *NYSUT United* pointed out some other issues that need attention. Among those mentioned were the 2% tax cap, which will be close to 0% this year; the push for vouchers, being deceptively called "Education Investment Tax Credits;" and the seemingly endless quest for enough aid to provide what our students need.

One way that we as retirees can help intensify this wind of change is to increase our support for VOTE-COPE. Watch for the WCRT's fund drive in the coming months.



send your comments to  
[cgfoley@optonline.net](mailto:cgfoley@optonline.net)

**Notify these groups of  
an address change or  
death of a member:**

■WCRT office, **new**  
280 New Hackensack Rd.  
Wappingers Falls, N.Y. 12590  
(845) 227-5065

[wct@frontiernet.net](mailto:wct@frontiernet.net)

■WCT, same as above

■NYSUT, 800-342-9810  
800 Troy-Schenectady Rd.  
Latham, NY 12110-2455

[www.nysut.org](http://www.nysut.org)

■NYSTRS, [www.nystrs.org](http://www.nystrs.org)  
800-348-7298 x 6250

10 Corporate Woods Drive  
Albany, NY 12211-2395

■WCSD, Human Resources  
25 Corporate Park Dr.  
P.O. Box 396 **new**

Hopewell Jct., NY 12533  
845-298-5000 x 115

NYSUT Retiree Council 13 website:  
<http://ny.aft.org/rc13/>

## Directions to new WCT office

**280 New Hackensack Rd.  
across from the  
Dutchess County Airport**

**From Vassar Rd:** Jackson Rd. (County Rt. 110), left onto New Hack Rd. toward Rt. 376.

**From Rt. 9 Wapp. Falls:** take County Rt. 104 at Dunkin Donuts and Perkins on New Hack Rd.

**From All Angels Hill Rd:** (CR 94) north to NHRd, west to 280 NHRd.

**From Red Oaks Mill:** Rt. 376 south past DC Airport, right onto NHRd. 280 on left.

WCSD Board of Ed. e-mail address:  
[WCSD.Board@Wappingersschools.org](mailto:WCSD.Board@Wappingersschools.org)

### NOTE:

**If you are aware of a member's illness, or the need to send a condolence card, please contact Ruth Ehlers at 831-6390.**



# WCRT CONTINUES SCHOLARSHIP IN '16

The WCRT will ONCE AGAIN offer an additional scholarship to Wappingers Central School District seniors this spring. The WCRT Executive Board has again authorized funding for two awards, one at each high school in the district. Each recipient will receive a \$500 check from the WCRT to be used for tuition, books, or other college-related expenses.

A WCRT sub-committee consisting of members Flo Mondanaro, Jack Devine, Leslie Leventhal, and Roger Higgins will work with RCK and JJ guidance counselors to determine the recipients of the awards. Criteria for the award, developed with input from the current professional staff, are listed below:

1. The award will go to one senior at RCK and one senior at JJ, with a high school average of 80 or better, and whose intention is to pursue a career in education.
- Orchard View Seniors are also encouraged to apply, and will be considered along with applicants from their home school.
2. Preference will go to students who have financial need.
3. Guidance Departments at each high school will recommend candidates.
4. Applicants will submit an essay of no more than 300 words, titled "An Educator Who Influenced My Life" or "Why Education Is My Chosen Career." Essays will be reviewed by the WCRT sub-committee, and top candidates will be referred back to the guidance counselors who will make a final choice.
5. Each award will be for \$500.
6. Information about the scholarship is available in the guidance offices, and the deadline to apply and submit an essay is May 15th.

The WCRT has a long-standing commitment of supporting the WCSD community, and this scholarship adds to numerous other scholarships that we continue to support and fund.

## VAN WYCK JR HIGH SCHOOL TURNS 50

**Celebrate 50 Years  
of Academic Excellence  
in East Fishkill  
Fri., Apr 15, 2016**

All active teachers, teaching assistants, monitors, secretaries, custodians, and kitchen workers who currently teach, did teach, or work at Van Wyck, including retired teachers, teaching assistants, monitors, secretaries, custodians, and kitchen workers who taught at or retired from Van Wyck are invited.

**4:30p.m. "Meet and Greet" in the cafeteria**

**6:15p.m. dedication ceremony in the auditorium. Ensemble music and a movie made from decades of pictures from past yearbooks. Refreshments will be served.**

**Spread the word to friends by word of mouth and social media. Send copies of pictures and artifacts of the time and written stories to share in perpetuity.**

**Please send all inquiries to Steven Shuchat at Van Wyck Junior High School.  
steven.shuchat@wcsdny.org  
Phone-845-227-1700**

## *In Memoriam* **James A. Benson**



POUGHKEEPSIE, NY - James Benson of Poughkeepsie, a lifelong local resident, entered into eternal rest, with his loving family at his side on Friday, January 29, 2016, after a brief illness. He was 72.

James was born and raised in Highland and lived in the City of Poughkeepsie. James was a longtime teacher at Vassar Road School in Poughkeepsie for 37 years, retiring in 2005. He touched the lives of many young children through his long and successful teaching career.

James was the son of the late James F. Benson and Joan Geenan Benson of Highland. He graduated from Highland High School and SUNY New Paltz.

James was a dedicated family man with a wonderful sense of humor and cherished special times with his family, especially at the holidays and during the summers at Lake Waynewood in the Poconos.

James is survived by his loving wife of 45 years, Joy, at home, and his son Devon and Chelsea of Rochester. He is also sur-

vived by his sister, Elizabeth Cusumano and her husband Dom, nephew Dominick and niece Joan, all of Floral Park, as well as niece Heidi Colaizzo of Hyde Park, and nephew Mark Bickel of Fort Myers, Florida; sister-in-law Carol Dimock and her husband Dave; brothers-in-law Frank and wife Linda and Roger Crayton and companion Barbara.

He is also survived by several grand nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sister Mary Ann Bickel.

Calling hours will be held on Tuesday, February 2, 2016 from 8:30am - 9:30am at the William G. Miller & Son Funeral Home, Inc., 371 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

A mass of Christian burial will be follow at 10:00am at Holy Trinity Church, 775 Main St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

Burial is at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggest donations be made to the charity of your choice in James' name.

If you wish to send an online condolence please visit our website at

**[www.wmgmillerfuneralhome.com](http://www.wmgmillerfuneralhome.com)**

## REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

### *WCRT's watchdog about "insider information" affecting WCSD retirees*

#### RA Meeting December 15, 2015

Can't believe another year has gone by. This last meeting was so uplifting. The Governor's Task Force recommended overhauling Common Core, reducing testing, and not tying test results to teachers' ratings. Is the fight to end it all over? By no means, it is not over. Schools will still be evaluated by test scores. In 4 years, NY State tests will be linked to teacher evaluations again. Under the new Every Student Succeeds Act, 95% of students in every school must participate in state tests. All the changes are the response to parents who came together with teachers to protest what

was occurring in education. Hopefully that bond will continue.

Although the WCT sent a formal request to the District to commence negotiations, the District has not responded. The negotiating team is looking to increase salaries, since the District has been saving money on our Union health insurance. The amount the District will have to contribute to the Pension and Retirement system will be a factor in negotiations.

An Educational Forum will be held at RCKHS at 4:15 on January 26, 2016. Pasquale is hoping for a good turnout. He says it will be an excellent speaker. The forum is open to anyone.

We ended the afternoon with a wonderful buffet, thankful for what we have as

**ELLEN  
KORZ**  
WCRT Rep. to  
WCT RA



a union and what we will work together to keep. Happy New Year!

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen Korz

 [jtkorz@optonline.net](mailto:jtkorz@optonline.net) or  
 [www.nysut.org](http://www.nysut.org) or  
[wct@frontiernet.net](http://wct@frontiernet.net)

### *In Memoriam*

#### Margaret "Maggie" Tashiro Caccamo

**Oct. 8, 1944 - Jan. 13, 2016**

NEW PALTZ, NY--Margaret Tashiro Caccamo of New Paltz, NY, lost her courageous fight with Leukemia on January 13, 2016. Born in 1944 at the Gila River Arizona internment camp, she was the oldest of Yukio and Masaye Tashiro's three daughters. After receiving both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from SUNY New Paltz, she began a 30-year career as an art teacher, retiring from the Wappingers Central School District in 1999.

Maggie was a creative powerhouse, not just teaching art but creating beautiful works in metal and gemstones, leather and fabric. Her extraordinary quilts reflect themes of nature and family, and evoke the elegant simplicity and composition of the Japanese watercolor paintings mastered by her father. She became a dedicated practitioner of the Japanese art of Ikebana (flower arrangement) and was past-president and past-treasurer of the New York Tachibana Chapter of the Origin of Ikebana, Ikenobo association. Maggie also created wonderful Temari (traditional Japanese embroidered thread balls) to share with family, friends, and Temari artists. She

approached all of her art with unmatched creative energy, a refined vision and imagination, as well as tasteful restraint.

But for all of her creative and professional accomplishments, Maggie's greatest moments were as a mother, grandmother, spouse, sister, and aunt. All of her family and friends will remember her as an extremely thoughtful, friendly, and kind-hearted person. Her stove was always on for one in need of a gourmet meal, her arms were always open for one in need of a hug, and her home was always open for one (often, even a new friend) in need of a place to spend a night. The world will be a less warm, bright, beautiful place without her in it.

Maggie is survived by her husband, David, her children, Marisa and Arren, grandchildren, Jacob, Jasper, Thia, and Henry, and sisters, Elizabeth and Lillian, together with many other extended family members who will miss her greatly.

A memorial service is being planned for a later date.

Arrangements are under the direction of Copeland Funeral Home, Inc., 162 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, NY 12561.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.copelandfhnp.com](http://www.copelandfhnp.com).



#### WCRT by the numbers:

WCRT membership as of Jan. 12, 2016:

- 626 WCRT members
- 178 yearly members
- 372 Lifetime members
- 50 Complimentary Lifetime members
- 16 Complimentary members
- 69 retirees don't belong to WCRT & not entitled to NYSUT benefits
- 10 names removed from our files for not paying dues this year.
- \*145 members receiving publications & notices by U.S. mail down from
- \*232 members postal subscribers
- 370 members email subscribers.

**\*Notice the reduction in printed newsletters. We encouraged members to "go green" and help us save on mailing costs. We all benefit from their cooperation.**

**If you know a retiree who is not a member, please encourage them to reconsider joining WCRT/NYSUT for their benefit and ours.**

**TOM  
DERITO**  
WCRT  
Treasurer



#### Financial Report available

As a service to any interested WCRT member, our union's financial report is always available upon request.

Address your questions or concerns to [tderito@verizon.net](mailto:tderito@verizon.net) and we'll make arrangements to satisfy your numerical curiosity.

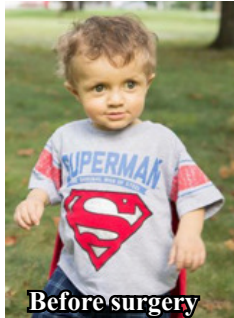
**[www.wcteachers.org](http://www.wcteachers.org)**



## Peyton Meyer: Liver Transplant Superhero

by Donna Meyer  
WCRT Class of 2015  
Peyton's grandma

Jan. 6, 2016—Peyton is doing great, which



Before surgery

is terrific! Since his operation, his Bilirubin numbers are normal. He needs more weight gain, but you can see a difference in his cheeks. His color is beautiful.

He has a big doctor's visit at the end of the month. Mom Meredith's

liver is back to 93%.

Peyton takes his medications easily, he eats well, and his other functions are good.

Meredith manages the donations and pays the bills.

Our family appreciates the wellspring of support from friends, neighbors, and colleagues. "Nothing is taken for granted. We are very close to reaching our goal."



After surgery

<https://www.youcaring.com/peyton-meyer-413481>

## THE MORNING LINE... returns...I think!



**BILL GREEN**  
Feature Writer  
Class of '99

In 1966 I started teaching in the Wappingers School District. My starting salary was \$5800, my brand new car cost \$2800, my rent was \$85 a month and life was good.

Now it's 2016 and it's 50 years later...AND NOTHING HAS CHANGED! Well... just a few things!

So, in keeping with my ability to prognosticate, I would like to offer my

### TOP 10 PREDICTIONS for 2016

10. The newest fashion fad in 2016 and a must-wear in "assisted-living facilities" will be "BABY BLOOMERS!" (sorry, pictures not available.)

9. The newest tourist attraction in the Wappingers-Fishkill area will be a sparkling new wooden ten-foot "Bridge over the Wappingers Creek." (A Tourist Paradise!)

8. REX, the Town of Wappingers PBA Canine, will get "Lifetime Medical Benefits."

7. The IOC (International Olympic Committee) will add a new sport to the Olympics in 2018 – "PICKLEBALL" with tryouts beginning this spring in THE VILLAGES in Florida.

6. The newest I-PHONE accessory for "Seniors" will be the "Rest Room Reminder" – an audio device that sends to your phone a "tinkle" sound for Number One and two big "plop" sounds for Number Two! (THREE LONG BEEPS or a "ROAR" – disengage!)

5. There will be a major shortage of snow blowers, shovels, and rock salt in May of 2016 when the first major snowstorm of the year hits DUTCHESS COUNTY!!

4. Steve Harvey will make the presentation this year of the prestigious 50th SUPER BOWL Trophy to the NEW YORK JETS! (and the Jet player accepting the award will DROP it!)

3. Photos of a completely BALD Donald Trump will be released in Washington by his former hair stylist after his having been told "You're FIRED!" (A new look, the BALD-OVER, will become extremely popular.)

2. There will be a major re-introduction in 2016 in schools of PHONE BOOTHS, TYPEWRITERS, CHALK BOARDS & CAFETERIA PIZZA ROLLS. (The drop-out rate is expected to be greatly affected by these additions!)

1. In 2016 THE WAPPINGERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT will move its Central Administrative Offices to the GREENHAVEN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY... Rent Free!

**HAPPY 2016**

## Bits 'n' pieces



**NANCY BEINER**

WCT Webmaster

[webmaster@wcteachers.org](mailto:webmaster@wcteachers.org)

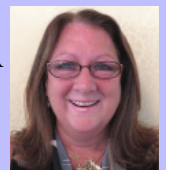
### Here's how to register your email with the website:

1. Go to [www.wcteachers.org](http://www.wcteachers.org)
2. On the right-hand side, go to the "Member Login" module
3. Click on the "Click Here to sign-up" link (It is yellow)
4. Enter all of your information on the form. This is the information that we will use to maintain our records and to send email and/or text notifications. Make sure that you choose a username and password that you will remember.
5. Click submit
6. Review all of your information
7. Click Submit again
8. Wait 24-48 hours for us to verify your membership. You will receive an email advising you that you are good to go. At this point, you can come back to the website and login.

Hope this helps. Thanks, *Nancy*

### JANE STOCKSLAGER

WCRT Constitution,  
By-Laws



### CONSTITUTION and BOARD of DIRECTORS Voted on!

At the Spring Luncheon on May 14, the WCRT voted on the WCRT Amended Constitution. All amendments from the past 10 years were added and the new Constitution was accepted.



[www.WCTeachers.org](http://www.WCTeachers.org) or  
[sundancewf@aol.com](mailto:sundancewf@aol.com)

Enjoy some of what  
NYC has to offer.  
Sign up to receive  
the monthly  
Plum Benefits Guide.  
Send an e-mail to  
[jtkorz@optonline.net](mailto:jtkorz@optonline.net)  
to be added to our list.  
Ellen Korz

**WAPPINGERS  
CONGRESS  
OF RETIRED  
TEACHERS**



**SPRING  
LUNCHEON**

**Tuesday, May 3, 2016 11:30 a.m.**

## **Christos Restaurant,**

**155 Wilbur Blvd. Poughkeepsie, NY 12603**

**Huge Hot and Cold Buffet Lunch served at 12:00noon**

**Cost per person is \$23.00.**

**Soft drinks included. Cash Bar.**

**Free parking on the premises.**

**All facilities ground floor accessible. No steps or stairs.**

***new* Valet parking for handicapped guests. *new***

**A short business meeting and a 50-50 raffle will be held.**

**Bring non-perishable food items (cans, boxes, bags) and/or shampoo, soap, and other personal care items to be donated to local food pantries.**

**Please send check payable to WCRT to  
new office address: *attn: Leslie Leventhal, WCRT,  
280 New Hackensack Rd. Wappingers Falls NY 12590*  
(and must be received no later than Apr. 26, 2016.  
Luncheon for WCRT members and their guests.)**

(return this bottom part with your check)

**WCRT SPRING LUNCHEON**

**\$23.00 Per Person**

**Tuesday, May 3, 2016**

**Guests are welcome with a member**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_





**Poughkeepsie Branch American Association of University Women Inc.**

P.O. Box 1908, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

A 501.c.3 Organization

[www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org](http://www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org)

December 12, 2015

Mary Coiteux, Chairperson Gifts and Contributions  
Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers  
280 New Hackensack Road  
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Dear Mary:

On behalf of the Poughkeepsie Branch AAUW, Inc. and our *Leading to Reading* Project, I would like to thank you and the members of the Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers for your very generous donation to our literacy program. The funds will be used to purchase additional books for distribution throughout our area. With your support, we will be able to continue our vital outreach.

*Leading to Reading* was started in 2004 and we have distributed over 21,000 books to children from low and moderate income families in the Dutchess County area. Our enthusiastic volunteers continue to make family book packets, serve as community readers, provide book giveaways, work with middle school students on their community service project, and celebrate Children's Book Week. Since January, 2015, we have also been providing a new book to every baby born at Vassar Brothers Medical Center.

We truly appreciate your support of our program. We will place an article in our monthly newsletter, *The Branch*, highlight your donation on our website, and list your organization in our outreach materials. Please share my thanks with the others in your group.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Harrel  
Project Director





# Poor Elijah's Almanac: Long and short goodbyes

**Source:** This article appeared in the *Eagle Times* on October 25, 2015. The *Eagle Times* is a daily newspaper based in Claremont, NH, serving the twin states of New Hampshire and Vermont.

Bob Ruopp, WCRT Class of 1998 who lives in Sunappe, NH, submitted this article from their Education columnist.

Morale among teachers fluctuates, as it does in any workplace. It appears to me, however, that owing to our metastasizing impotence in the face of disruptive, dangerous students, and even more to the pernicious edicts of arrogant, incompetent officials who visit schools and classrooms, but don't work in them, many of my colleagues, good teachers, novices and veterans, are growing more desperate by the day.

They're edging closer to becoming a statistic.

The statistic varies, but a leading authority on teacher longevity estimates that "between 40 and 50 percent" leave by their fifth year. Recent federal data reckons that nearly one in five quit after four years, a figure judged "too low" by some of the study's authors. Either way, that's a lot of teacher casualties.

The *Washington Post* recently spotlighted why teachers "leave the profession in droves." The *Post*'s guest commentator, a teacher with eight years of experience, begins by noting that daily planning and correcting chores mean our days don't

end at three o'clock just because students go home. In addition, many of us have to work through our high profile summer vacations so we can pay the bills.

This isn't a reason to feel sorry for teachers. It does mean, though, that our wage and hour situation isn't as rosy as it might seem to regular citizens. The strains of our daily regimen also surprise many beginning teachers and explain why some drop out.

Most workers, however, have occasionally felt they were working too much and getting paid too little. The *Post*'s commentator focuses on **five other reasons**

teachers leave.

The first she simply labels "reality," the collision between beginners' "mistaken sense of what is waiting for them in the classroom," and what's really there. She attributes this slap in the face in part to the "inspiring" stories fed to them by "idealistic professors."

Since most education professors either never taught, or left the classroom long ago, their inspiration and instruction are poor preparation for real life with real students. Yes, "teachers in training need more time in real classrooms" and "seasoned mentors" to help them. They also "need less theory and more hands-on experience." Unfortunately, theory is all most teacher training programs and professors have to offer. Even worse, those theories pass in and out of fashion faster than hemlines.

The commentator next addresses the "lack of respect" given teachers by the media, "parents, principals, and central office workers." She asserts that "in no other profession is a college-educated individual questioned, second-guessed, and blamed" the way teachers are.

Many people feel disrespected at work. Partly this is because we no longer expect civility from one another. Donald Trump isn't an aberration - he's an epitome. However, in education, everybody's been empowered except teachers. Parents can say what they want in the most vulgar terms. Even students can, and there's no end to the condescending pronouncements that issue from distant administrators. Everybody's an expert on teaching except teachers.

"Overwhelming paperwork" is third on the commentator's list. She details the reports, plans, and miscellaneous documentation teachers grapple with, concedes this "paperwork will never go away," and proposes we be given more planning time to deal with it.

My responsibilities rightly include correcting students' work and reporting their progress to their parents. As for the rest of my paperwork, including all the grandiose action plans, improvement plans, and curriculum plans, I don't want more school time to do it. I want the bureaucrats who hatch it to acknowledge its pervasive pointlessness, even if that means acknowledging their own pointlessness. I want them to justify what they do before they require me to justify what I do.

The *Post*'s teacher reports that some students don't care or make any effort, but there's nothing new about children and adolescents who abstain from learning. She's right, though, that it's absurd to judge her performance based on their resulting standardized test scores, an "accountability"

farce that is new.

Her **proposed solution**, however, likewise misplaces accountability. She wants "stakeholders," meaning "teachers, parents, and administrators," to find "new ways to engage" those students, to remake "the school experience" so they "respect their teachers" and have "relevant reasons to engage."

Some teachers are incompetent, and others, through their conduct, have sacrificed respect, but that's not generally the problem. Schools need to stop doing backflips to accommodate students' bad behavior and apathy.

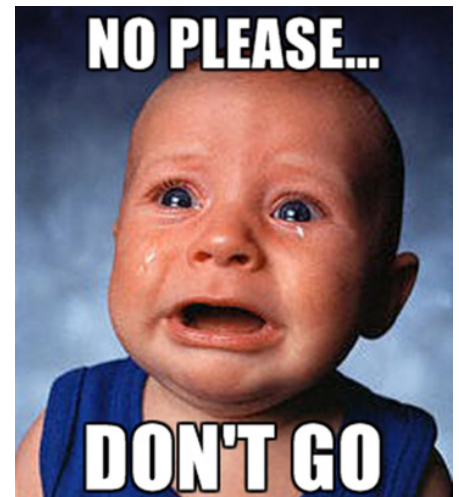
Her **final lament** is that budget cuts mean teachers never know if they'll have a job next year, but we enjoy more job security than most workers. On the other hand, it's easier to fire a teacher than most people think. It's also increasingly true that teachers who question the latest touted initiative commonly incur administrative wrath. Many teachers labor in a climate of threats and intimidation.

Some disheartened teachers leave to try teaching somewhere else. Others just give up and resolve to make their living another way. Many who remain are hampered by despair.

Their various departures from our school have left it a poorer place and cost our students dearly.

It would be normal and arguably beneficial if the least effective teachers were leaving. But if education's appointed leaders are driving out the best, the brightest, the teachers who hold their vocation most dear, then maybe those leaders are the ones who should be leaving.

Parents, citizens, and school boards - take notice.

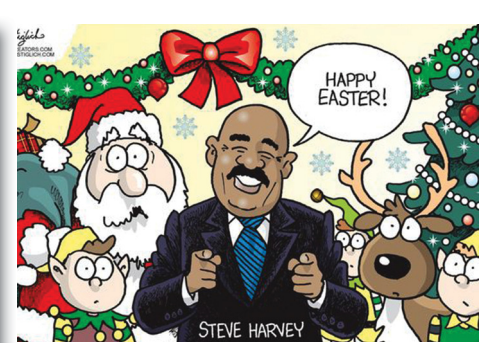
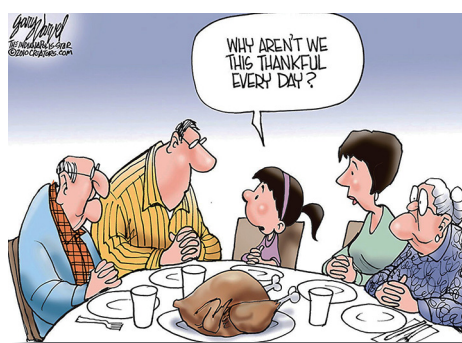
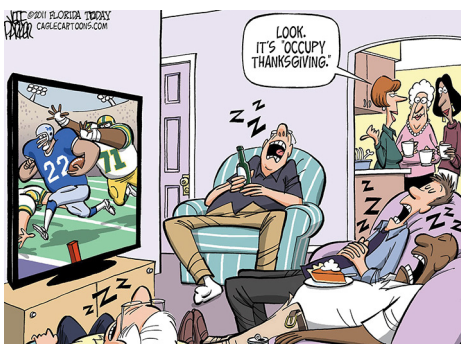
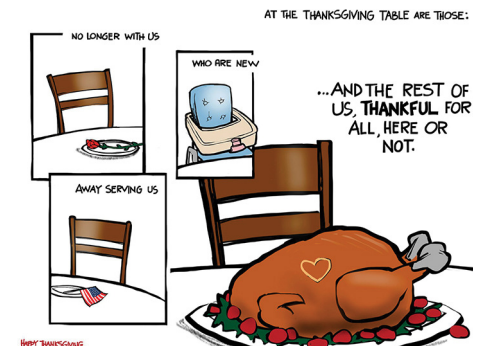
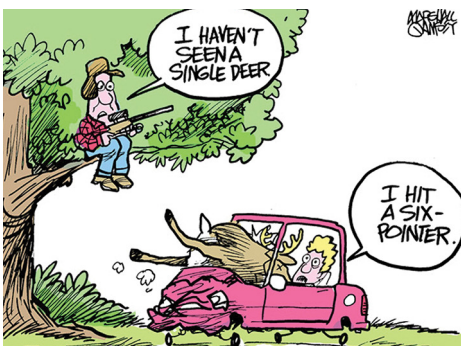
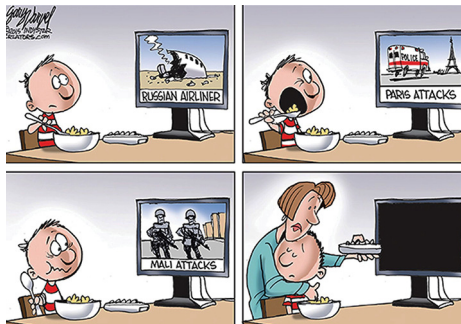
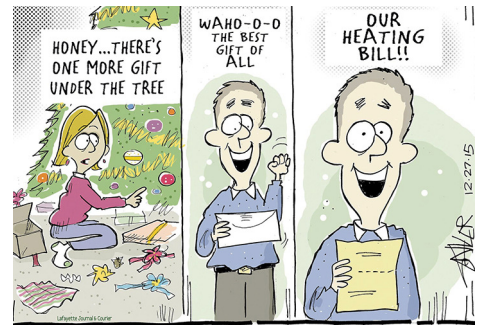
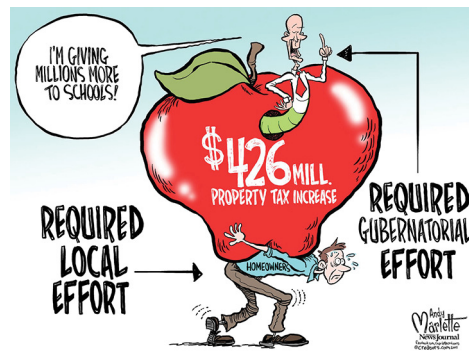
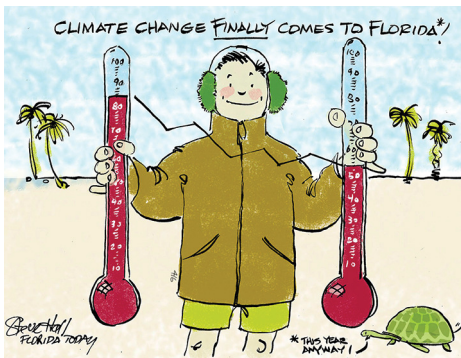


*Peter Berger teaches English at Weathersfield School. Poor Elijah would be pleased to answer letters addressed to him in care of the editor.*



# News since last issue

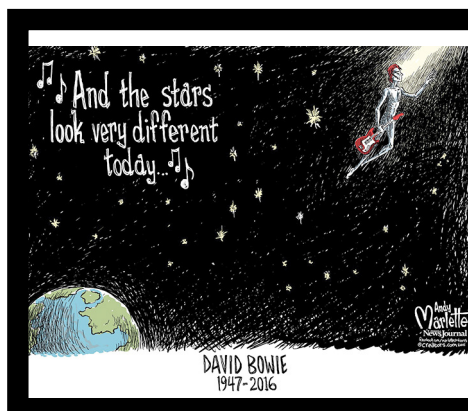
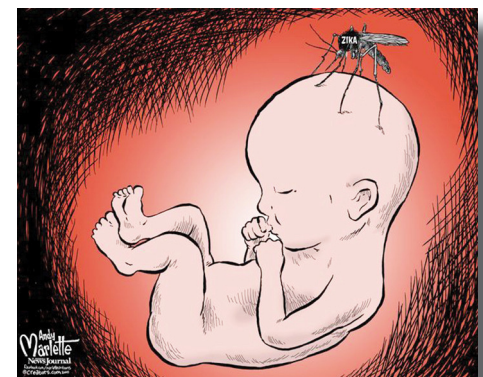
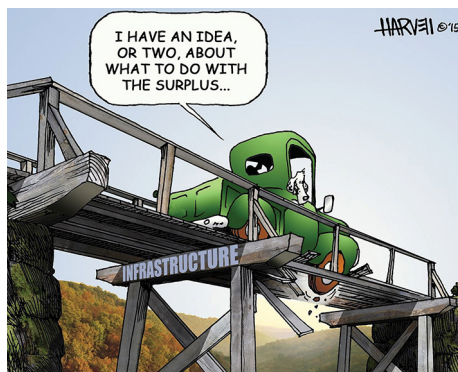
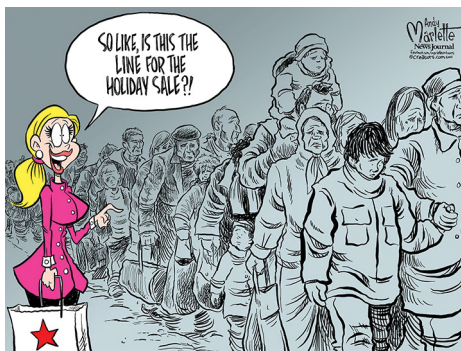
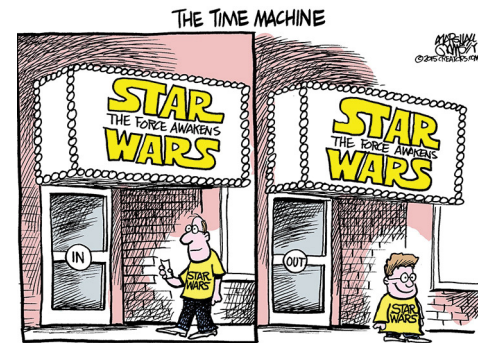
Source: *Poughkeepsie Journal*





# News since last issue

Source: *Poughkeepsie Journal*





# 5 *Benefits Of Being a NYSUT Member*



1. Higher pay & better benefits
2. A contract you can rely on
3. A strong voice at work
4. Professional learning

## 5. NYSUT Member Benefits

NYSUT members & their families can choose from a variety of insurance, financial, legal, and shopping & travel programs designed with the NYSUT member in mind -- including term life insurance, auto insurance, legal & financial services, car rentals, vacation packages, and much more!

## Member Appreciation Month is back again this February!

Since it was such a big hit last year, we're doing it again! Member Appreciation Month is coming February 2016.

This year will be even bigger because it's a leap year... that means more chances to win even more great prizes!!!

Once again, Member Appreciation Month will be filled with a series of special prize drawings for items donated by Member Benefits and our endorsed program providers. Prizes will include gift cards, Beats headphones, a Go Pro camera and more.

To be eligible for these drawings, all you need to do is participate in our voluntary MAP Alert email service.



We will announce the winners of these special prize drawings exclusively on the Member Benefits website throughout the month of February.

It's the strength of the more than 600,000 NYSUT members that makes it possible for Member Benefits to offer more than 40 endorsed programs & services designed with you in mind.

For more details about this exciting event, visit the Member Benefits website at [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) or call 800-626-8101.

## WCRT EMERGENCY SUBSTITUTING FORM

Dear WCRT members: please fill in the form with your name, address, telephone number, cell phone number (optional), and e-mail address (optional). Then, please check the box which answers the question "Will you be a substitute for the Wappingers Central School district during an emergency?"

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ CELL # \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be a substitute for the Wappingers Central School District during an emergency?

\_\_\_\_\_ yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ not at this time                      \_\_\_\_\_ no

IF YOU ANSWERED 'YES', PLEASE CHECK THE SCHOOL (S) IN WHICH YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO WORK AS WELL AS THE GRADE LEVEL(S):

_____ Brinckerhoff	_____ Myers Corners	_____ Evans
_____ Fishkill	_____ Oak Grove	_____ Sheafe
_____ Fishkill Plains	_____ Vassar	_____ Gayhead
_____ Kinry	_____ Van Wyck	_____ WJH
_____ Orchard View	_____ R. C. Ketcham	_____ John Jay
Grade level: _____ K-3	_____ 4-6	_____ 7,8
		_____ 9-12

**WAPPINGERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SCHOOL VOLUNTEER APPLICATION**

*The Wappingers Central School District deeply respects and encourages the many efforts of our exceptional volunteers who give so willingly of their time to the students and staff of our schools.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address, City, State, Zip

Telephone Numbers: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Mobile Work

Emergency Contact Name & Telephone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to volunteer at the \_\_\_\_\_ School(s)  
in the \_\_\_\_\_ Activity/Program(s)

References:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name, Address, Telephone Number(s)

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name, Address, Telephone Number(s)

Please answer the following questions. If you answer "yes" to either question, please provide an explanation on a separate page.

1. Have you ever been convicted of, admitted committing, pleaded no contest, or are you awaiting trial for any crime (excluding minor traffic violations not involving alcohol or drugs)? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

2. Are you now being investigated for any alleged misconduct or other alleged grounds for discipline by any authority regarding any claim of either substance abuse or physical/mental abuse of another person? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

I will inform the WCSD Office of Human Resources within three days if, during my tenure as a volunteer, question number 1 or 2 becomes applicable.

I have read the Wappingers Central School District Volunteer Policy #4532 and agree to comply with its requirements. I understand that the Board of Education can terminate my services as a volunteer at any time, with or without cause, including for any instance of elevating the interests of any particular student over the interests of other students.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature Date

***Please return this completed application to the Principal of the school or Coordinator of the program in which you wish to volunteer.***

----- PLEASE DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE -----

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name / Signature of Employee-Supervisor Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name / Signature of Supervising Administrator (Principal/Principal's Designee or Coordinator) Date