The WCT hired a new administrative assistant recently, replacing long-time employee Ronnie Dwyer.

Shari Ciorciari started her new job at the WCT office on Monday, April 2. Shari will staff the WCT office Monday thru Friday, 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. during the school year. Summer hours will be determined.

Shari was chosen from a pool of candidates interviewed by a committee appointed by President Delli Carpini, WCT President. The WCRT representative on the selection committee was VP Roger Higgins.

Shari has a varied background with lots of experience, and she’s a graduate of the Katherine Gibbs School and Dutchess Community College.

In her spare time, she teaches an adult education course, Walking for Natural Fitness. The WCRT’s own Barbara Stuck, WCRT Membership Secretary, is one of Shari’s “students” and was also one of Shari’s references. Shari is married with two children.

The WCRT welcomes Shari Ciorciari, and we thank Ronnie Dwyer for her eight years of service to the WCT & WCRT. We wish her well.

WCRT must be on track with Express Scripts by July 1

Beginning July 1, 2018, WCT/WCRT members will be required to obtain their maintenance medication through Express Scripts, Inc. (ESI), which will save members time and money.

In early February, Pasquale Delli Carpini, WCT President and DEHIC Trustee, sent a letter to all WCSD DEHIC participants regarding the Mandatory Mail Order Coverage for prescription drug maintenance medications along with a Maintenance Drug List.

DEHIC, the Dutchess Educational Health Insurance Consortium, covers 26,046 members in 25 organizations in Dutchess, Sullivan, and Ulster Counties and has saved members over $2.2M in premium costs during the 2017-2018 school year with no change in the level of benefits to participants. DEHIC estimates that the renewal rate for 2018-2019 may be almost half the current rate.

The mail order process allows participants to order a 90-day supply of maintenance medications for the cost of a 60-day supply. That’s a $40 savings per year for each prescription, delivered directly to their home address, and saving gas expense and time, thus ensuring supplies arriving before the medication runs out.

Registration process is simple:
- Go to the Wappingers Congress of Teachers website. www.wcteachers.org
- Go to Benefits
- Click on Health Care
- Click on Getting Started with Home Delivery.

This step-by-step procedure will get you started, including the ESI home delivery pharmacy order form.
From The President

Dear WCRT Members,

When will it be spring? My daughter texted me a picture of my crocus. They looked really pretty in the sun. I’m waiting for my daffodils and forsythia now.

The U.S. Supreme Court has heard the Janus v. AFSCME Council 31 case that could strike down mandatory collective bargaining dues. Their decision is due in June. If the court rules in favor, employees would not have to join (pay dues) but would still receive all the benefits like raises and legal representation.

The other day I read an article about Gov. Cuomo signing a bill favorable to the right to work stance, please let them know that NYSUT members’ dues do not go to political endeavors. This seems to be one of their main concerns. We have a volunteer unit called VOTE COPE for political action.

I wish you a happy spring. I hope to see many of you at the spring luncheon on Thursday, May 17 at Christos Restaurant.

Susan Roger

Protect your WCRT, NYSUT membership

Members with email addresses registered on the website wcte_achers.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.wcte_achers.org once a member registers.

The new legislation signed by Gov. Cuomo will make it easier for unions to register employees and impose rules for opting out. It also allows unions to deny benefits such as free legal representation for job-related issues.

If you have any acquaintances who are in favor of the “right to work” stance, please let them know that NYSUT members’ dues do not go to political endeavors. This seems to be one of their main concerns. We have a volunteer unit called VOTE COPE for political action.

I wish you a happy spring. I hope to see many of you at the spring luncheon on Thursday, May 17 at Christos Restaurant.

Susan Roger

SAVE THESE DATES

(future details coming soon)

Apr. 13 Deadline for April 2018 PostScript
Apr. 24 WCRT exec board mtg. 10:00-12:00
May 17 WCRT Spring Luncheon, Christos, 11:30, $23
May 31 RC13 Luncheon, Christos, 11:30
June 2 RCKHS faculty & staff reunion, 1:00-4:00
June 2 Deadline for June 2018 PostScript
June 12 WCRT exec board mtg. 10:00-12:00

WCRT Officers and Board of Directors

July 1, 2017-June 30, 2019
President......... Susan Roger 226-8285
1st. Vice-Pres. Roger Higgins 577-8757
2nd. V.P....... Leslie Leventhal 577-4430
Rec Secy........ Flo Mondanaro 454-0352
Crr Secy........ Barbara Stuck 896-9572
Treasurer.......... Tom DeRito 440-3476
Past Pres........ Alice Baker 542-5793

WCRT Rep. to WCRT Representative Assembly.... Ellen Korz 297-9713

Directors
Ruth Ehlers 831-6390
Jane Stockslager 297-3766
Jack Devine 297-5032
Christine Romano 896-8371
Mary Ann Moran 297-4785

Committee Chairpersons
Political Action: .....................Cliff Foley
Constitution/Bylaws: Jan Stockslager
Gifts and Contributions...Mary Coiteux
Retiree Council 13 Liaison.... Cliff Foley

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.wcte_achers.org.

Editor: Bill Dourdis
williamdourdis@gmail.com
(845) 266-0430

The WCRT PostScript is a 2017 NYSUT United Communications Competition Winner with two awards:
1st Place,
Best Feature Writing,
I can see for miles and miles...
by Barbara Searle;
Award of Distinction,
General Excellence,
by Barbara Searle;
Award of Distinction,
General Excellence,
by Barbara Searle;
Award of Distinction,
General Excellence,
by Barbara Searle;
Award of Distinction,
General Excellence,
by Barbara Searle;
Award of Distinction,
General Excellence,
by Barbara Searle;
Award of Distinction,
General Excellence,
by Barbara Searle;
Award of Distinction,
General Excellence,
by Barbara Searle;
Award of Distinction,
General Excellence,
by Barbara Searle;
Award of Distinction,
General Excellence,
by Barbara Searle;
Award of Distinction,
General Excellence,
by Barbara Searle;
Award of Distinction,
General Excellence,
POLITICAL ACTION

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

SCHOOLS SHOULD BE A SAFE PLACE

CLIFF FOLEY
Political Action
Chairperson

We can remember when school safety meant being careful on the playground and not running in the hallways. Today’s safety concerns have taken on a much more serious tone. This is not caused by testing and classroom work but by the armed attacks in schools. Our consciousness has been raised by places with names like Columbine, Newtown, Parkland, and Great Mills.

It has been almost two decades since the Columbine shooting in April 1999 and little has changed to prevent such tragic events. The murder of 17 people at the Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida seemed to have raised awareness to identify problems long before they give rise to violence.

The “March for Our Lives” saw demonstrations across America and abroad with support in such far-flung locations as London, Paris, Brisbane, Tokyo, Madrid, and Rome.

There have been numerous proposals made to deal with the problem. Probably none has gotten the mixed reviews that arming teachers has.

The Secretary of Education on the March 11, 2018, edition of 60 Minutes advocated for it saying that, “It should be an option for schools to consider. ... No one size fits all.”

A March 2, 2018, media advisory by Professor Sheldon Greenberg of John Hopkins University took a different view. He summed it up this way, “In a crisis, trained police officers shoot with less than 30 percent accuracy. What makes you think a teacher is going to do better?” NYSUT and many other organizations are opposed to this solution.

A novel idea is being used in one school in Pennsylvania where each classroom has been given a pail of rocks to defend themselves.

We doubt there will be gun-toting educators in the Wappingers Schools anytime soon nor will they be issuing igneous and metamorphic ammunition to each classroom.

Seriously, the WCSD is moving to make both elementary and secondary buildings more secure. No more walking into a building like back in the “good old” days. There is someone at the one entrance that is open during the day. The District will install security vestibules with funding help from New York State. A number of districts in New York have moved ahead with this innovation. People entering a school will go through one set of doors and then sign in or show identification before being allowed through a second door into the rest of the building. The glass for these enclosures is usually some type of laminated, shatter-proof safety glass.

Another addition to school security is resource officers. The Department of Justice defines resource officers as “sworn law enforcement officers responsible for safety and crime prevention in schools.” They currently have them at the two high schools. In the WCSD, the district works with local police and the county sheriff’s office. The District is looking at additional resource officers in the junior highs.

A different approach to making schools safer is stated in a “Call for Action to Prevent Gun Violence in the United States of America,” which is endorsed by over 250 organizations including the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association. In a statement issued February 28, 2018, this group, in part, states, “We need a comprehensive public health approach to gun violence that is informed by scientific evidence and free from partisan politics.” The basic idea is to identify problems long before they give rise to violence.

School violence is not acceptable and the measures in Wappingers and across the nation need to result in an educational environment where our children feel safe and happy.

See cartoons on page 8

send your comments to cgfoley@optonline.net

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

■ WCRT office, 280 New Hackensack Rd. Wappingers Falls, N.Y. 12590 (845) 227-5065 wct@frontiernet.net
■ WCT, same as above
■ NYSUT, 800-342-9810 800 Troy-Schenectady Rd. Latham, NY 12110-2455 www.nysut.org
■ NYSTRS, 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 Hopewell Jct., NY 12533 845-298-5000 x 115

Directions to new WCT office

280 New Hackensack Rd. across from the Dutchess County Airport (Between Rental and Dental)

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.

WCT Board of Ed. e-mail address: WCSD.Board@Wappingerschools.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 or ruthellene1@gmail.com
Here’s how to register your email with the website:

1. Go to 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

**Constitution on WCT Web Site:**

The WCRT Constitution/By-Laws is now available on the WCT web site under the Retirees section.

This is the Constitution that was voted on at the May 2015 Spring Luncheon. If you have any questions, please contact me at the address below.

www.WCTeachers.org or 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 to be added to our list. Ellen Korz**

**WCRT by the numbers:**

WCRT membership as of Jan., 2018:

- 611 WCRT members
- 154 yearly members
- 389 Lifetime members
- 55 Complimentary Lifetime members
- 13 Complimentary members
- 73 retirees don’t belong to WCRT & not entitled to NYSUT benefits
- 18 about to be deleted from our files for not paying dues this year.
- *149 members receiving publications & notices by U.S. mail down from *232 members postal subscribers
- 486 members email subscribers.
- 4 2017 retirees wisely chose copay Lifetime

*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.

Register on the website wcteachers.org

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

---

**CONSTITUTION ON WCT WEB SITE:**

The WCRT Constitution/By-Laws is now available on the WCT web site under the Retirees section.

This is the Constitution that was voted on at the May 2015 Spring Luncheon. If you have any questions, please contact me at the address below.

www.WCTeachers.org or 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 to be added to our list. Ellen Korz**

**WCRT by the numbers:**

WCRT membership as of Jan., 2018:

- 611 WCRT members
- 154 yearly members
- 389 Lifetime members
- 55 Complimentary Lifetime members
- 13 Complimentary members
- 73 retirees don’t belong to WCRT & not entitled to NYSUT benefits
- 18 about to be deleted from our files for not paying dues this year.
- *149 members receiving publications & notices by U.S. mail down from *232 members postal subscribers
- 486 members email subscribers.
- 4 2017 retirees wisely chose copay Lifetime

*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.

Register on the website wcteachers.org

If you know a retiree who is not a member, please encourage them to reconsider joining WCRT/NYSUT for their benefit and ours.
The decision in the Janus v. AFSCME Council 31 case is expected between March and June. We are not looking at a good outcome. The WCT already has plans in place if there is any walkout. Teachers have signed and made their commitment to the union. The total pledges signed to stick with the union was 881 with 836 clearly pro-union.

Three Board seats will be up this spring. People will be interviewed who apply.

Lastly, don’t forget to switch to mail order for your prescriptions before July 1. (See page 1 for Express Scripts details.)

Ellen Korz

---

ELLEN KORZ
WCRT Rep. to WCT RA

RA Meeting February 27, 2018

Just letting all of you know that the fundraiser for Sparrow’s Nest, Hungry, Hungry Humans, was a great success. They raised about $3,000. I had hoped we could have a retiree team, and I still hope we could try next year.

After receiving the e-mail about Ronnie Dwyer leaving as the Administrative Assistant and the Administrator of the Welfare Trust, I’m sure everyone was anxious about how the office and the Welfare Trust would continue. Pasquale assured all that they have a plan and business will continue. There will be a seamless transition. (See page 1 for update.)

With all that is going in this country, there was a lot of discussion about the movement by our young people. A walkout was scheduled for March 24 across the country. NYSUT has not directed the locals as to the direction each District should take. Not all teachers are on board with the walkout. Pasquale will talk to Administrators about it, so it will be organized. There were some situations in some buildings that required police. There was discussion if the police should have a meeting with all of the WCT about safety concerns. It was decided that a meeting should occur in each building separately, since each building is so different.

The fundraiser for Sparrow’s Nest, Hungry, Hungry Humans, was a great success. They raised about $3,000. I had hoped we could have a retiree team, and I still hope we could try next year.

After receiving the e-mail about Ronnie Dwyer leaving as the Administrative Assistant and the Administrator of the Welfare Trust, I’m sure everyone was anxious about how the office and the Welfare Trust would continue. Pasquale assured all that they have a plan and business will continue. There will be a seamless transition. (See page 1 for update.)

With all that is going in this country, there was a lot of discussion about the movement by our young people. A walkout was scheduled for March 24 across the country. NYSUT has not directed the locals as to the direction each District should take. Not all teachers are on board with the walkout. Pasquale will talk to Administrators about it, so it will be organized. There were some situations in some buildings that required police. There was discussion if the police should have a meeting with all of the WCT about safety concerns. It was decided that a meeting should occur in each building separately, since each building is so different.

Three Board seats will be up this spring. People will be interviewed who apply.

Lastly, don’t forget to switch to mail order for your prescriptions before July 1. (See page 1 for Express Scripts details.)

---

Rosemarie Reis

WAPPINGERS FALLS - Rosemarie Reis of Wappingers Falls entered into rest Sunday, March 4, 2018 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie. She was 89.

Daughter of the late John and Angelina Papa Maffucci, she was born on June 19, 1928 in Brooklyn. She married the love of her life, Harry E. Reis, Jr. on June 20, 1953. Mr. Reis preceded her in death, passing on February 19, 2013.

Mrs. Reis was a beloved teacher for many years, retiring from Fishkill Plains [in 1990]. In her spare time, she was on the board of the Children’s Home of Poughkeepsie and a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of Vassar Brothers Medical Center. As a devout Catholic, Rosemarie was a longtime parishioner of St. Mary Mother of the Church in Fishkill, where she was a member of the Marian Guild. She enjoyed her time spent with St. Mary's Players, where she was involved in several productions. She was especially proud of her role in "Mame" where she played the lead. Rosemarie was also an avid reader.

In Memoriam

Survivors include her son, Jeffrey Reis and his companion, Christine Hamill; brother, Donald Maffucci and his wife, Carol; grandchildren, Morgan Cheryl Reis and Kendall Marie Reis; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by her daughter, Cheryl Ann Reis in June of 1986 and her brother, Richard Maffucci.

Family will receive their friends on Thursday, March 8, 2018 from 4 to 8 p.m. at Straub, Catalano & Halvey Funeral Home, 55 E. Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 9, 2018 at St. Mary Mother of the Church, Jackson Street in Fishkill. Interment will follow in Fishkill Rural Cemetery, Fishkill.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Rosemarie's name to the Cheryl Ann Reis Memorial Fund, c/o Community Foundation, 80 Washington St, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

For directions or to send a personal condoleance, please visit our website at www.StraubCatalanoHalvey.com.

(From the Poughkeepsie Journal from Mar. 6 to Mar. 8, 2018.)

---
Poor Elijah’s Almanack: It’s time

Source: This article appeared in the Eagle Times on February 27, 2018.

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.

By PETER BERGER
FacebookTwitterGoogle+Share

Five years ago in the wake of Sandy Hook, a plaintive headline begged, “Can we now talk about guns?” It was a response to the perennial admonishment that the grief-stricken, furious aftermath of tragedy isn’t the best time to craft firearms regulations.

That advice sounds sensible. However, nobody recommended we postpone dealing with Japan for a few months because we were grieving and angry after Pearl Harbor. Zeal and rational thought aren’t mutually exclusive.

The president, our prince of empty superlatives, ducks any meaningful questions while he tosses us a few totally’s and incredible’s. Paul Ryan urges that we “pray,” “take a breath and collect the facts.” He and other partisans warn against politicizing the issue.

I pray, and I try to heed facts. But how many more facts about mass shootings do we need. How many more prayers in the absence of action will we have the gall to offer grieving parents.

Politics is more than an exercise in self-exculpatory rhetoric. It’s more than jockeying for ideological advantage. It’s the application of government power to problems we share.

In short, it’s time we do politicize this issue.

I’m a Constitutionalist. By that I mean I have more confidence in the government created by Madison and Washington than in any regime Trump and Ryan could hatch.

The Second Amendment wasn’t adopted to benefit hunters and gun collectors. It was intended to enable citizens to protect themselves and their republic. I believe it establishes an individual right to keep and bear arms. But I also believe its neglected first half, the part that talks about a “well-regulated” militia, allows the government we appoint to make rules about gun ownership and use.

For Heaven’s sake, “well-regulated” is part of the amendment.

Opponents of gun restrictions worry about a “slippery slope” where one rule leads to another until their right disappears. I’m sympathetic. The First Amendment is especially dear to me, and I’ve got slippery-slope fears and arguments, too.

Except the government can and has made laws that restrain speech. I can’t slander you, for example. Speech that poses a “clear and present danger” can also be restricted.

In the same way, we already have restrictions on gun ownership. FDR and Ronald Reagan both signed laws limiting automatic weapons. Eleven states ban armor-piercing bullets. Nobody tows a howitzer down the supermarket aisle. You can’t buy a shoulder-launched nuclear weapon at Dick’s.

The Constitution isn’t meant to be interpreted in the absence of reason and common sense. No one would argue that the First Amendment’s protection of the “free exercise” of religion guarantees an American Aztec’s right to offer human sacrifice. That’s because his right to practice his religion is outweighed by his victim’s unalienable right to life.

No right is absolute. The Second Amendment exists in a context, not a vacuum. It isn’t above all other rights.

Yes, our government was instituted to protect our rights. But those rights extend beyond the right to bear arms.

The question isn’t whether we can regulate gun ownership and use. Reason and the language in the Second Amendment itself tell us we can. In fact, that language imposes a responsibility to well-regulate ourselves.

The only question before us is what additional regulations are advisable.

To determine that, we need to identify costs and benefits. What’s the benefit in allowing bullets that can pierce a police officer’s vest? What’s the benefit in permitting private ownership of assault weapons? Who do outsized magazines help?

I appreciate the argument that lawbreakers won’t respect gun laws, and that law-abiding citizens should be able to protect themselves. It’s true that no course of action will eliminate every bad act. But we can’t shrink from making laws just because some people won’t obey them, especially when we repeatedly witness the devastating result of broadly unrestricted gun ownership.

We have problems. Many American homes are dysfunctional. Many American children suffer as a result.

We’ve spent two generations stoking children’s self-esteem. In the process we’ve stunted their power to deal with adversity. We talk about grit and resilience, but for many, every slight and turn that doesn’t go their way is an affront that warrants retribution. In extreme cases that retribution is extreme.

Bandwagon discipline theories, “trauma-based” classroom practices, and anti-bullying programs trade in smug nonsense. Gun violence at school should outrage us, but we should also be outraged by the expert-approved trauma students suffer every day at the hands of violent, disruptive peers.

Schools should take prudent precautions against foreseeable hazards, but school security isn’t the problem. Besides, schools should never be fortresses. It’s their nature to be soft targets because children live there.

Critics, including President Trump, pillory the FBI for its apparent failure to follow up on reports that foreshadowed the Parkland killer’s rampage.

As tragic as that lapse may be, it wasn’t a deliberate act.

The same cannot be said about the law that same president deliberately signed that repealed restrictions on a “mentally defective” applicant’s ability to purchase a gun. The same cannot be said about the Senate’s deliberate vote permitting subjects on the terrorist watch list to purchase guns. The same cannot be said about gun lobbyists’ deliberate efforts, and many legislators’ willing susceptibility to their persuasion and contributions.

Our gun violence problem has many roots. But it’s long past time when we can pretend that part of our gun problem isn’t guns.

Peter Berger teaches English at Weathersfield School. Poor Elijah would be pleased to answer letters addressed to him in care of the editor.
Retiree edits husband’s novels

Charyl Wojtaszek and Dan Bradford’s story started on New Year's Eve, 1960, in Minneapolis, where they met at Charyl’s brother Rick’s party. Rick had invited his good buddy Dan, along with Dan’s band “Thunder,” to perform at the party. Dan was something of a teenage celebrity, as his band played all around town and occasionally on a local TV station. They dated through their senior year and became high school sweethearts.

A family move back to New York state for Charyl and signing up for the Navy for Dan split them apart geographically. Though Dan asked her to marry him 18 months later, Charyl felt she was not ready. Her life took her to State University of New York schools, a 30-year teaching career in upstate Hudson Valley, a 30-year marriage to an engineer, and two daughters.

Dan’s career took him to a career in the Navy and then the Air Force, where, as a weather forecaster, he was stationed in Newfoundland, Canada, There, he met his wife to be. Their marriage lasted 41 years.

After his military career, Dan went back to school and, upon graduation, worked as a conceptual design engineer, turning ideas into products, eventually transitioning to construction management. His work included local landmarks such as The Palazzo Hotel and the doomed Fontainebleau.

During a break between jobs, Dan decided to use the Internet to try to find his old friend Rick, and then summoned up the courage to call Charyl after 44 years! She said, “My knees went weak when I heard his voice.”

Charyl and Dan are now fully retired from their careers, though Dan continues his second career as author. He has self-published three children books, won a place, three times in the published series Proud to Be: Stories of American Warriors, and has written four western-themed novels, with the first one due out this month. (www.author-danbradford.com)

“Dan has the imagination, and I have the editing skills,” says Charyl. “We’re a good team.”

Book preview: https://youtu.be/5CgNMuL-j54

Notes on Charyl

During my teaching career, mostly at Roy C. Ketcham High School in Wappingers Falls, NY, I worked extensively developing a technique for helping students write the most effective college essay possible. Through multiple sessions with each student guiding him or her through the polishing of the essay, they and I were employing various editing techniques.

However, in the last year, while working with the publisher’s editor, I have learned so much more about the process.

Also, briefly in the early 1990’s, I was the associate editor of The Electron Microscopy Bulletin which featured articles by scientists in the field.

I retired in January of 2001, two months after Mike died. I attended SUNY Oneonta and did graduate work at SUNY Albany, Cobleskill, and New Paltz.

THEN: This senior prom picture of us was taken in May of 1961 in Hopkins, Minnesota. By June of that year, my family and I were on our way back to New York and Dan was on his way to Navy basic training.

NOW: Retirees Charyl Wojtaszek and Dan Bradford.
ATTENTION RCK RETIREES
SAVE THE DATE:
Saturday, June 2, 2018
1:00-4:00 p.m.

Join your former colleagues & friends for an informal “meet & greet” in the newly renovated RCK cafeteria.

Catch up with old friends; check out the dramatic changes in the building and your old classroom; find out what your “old” officemates have been doing in retirement; put together a group for drinks & dinner following the “open house”...

more information to follow.

Light refreshments will be served.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY LOOKING FOR LIBRARY HELP

The Fishkill Historical Society, which operates the Van Wyck Homestead Museum, has a library which could use a few hours of help from any WCRT members who have some library skills.

Contact Cliff Foley (845) 297-1875 or cgfoley@optonline.net
Jacqueline Prusak

Jacqueline Ann Prusak, 79, died suddenly on March 5, 2018 at her home.

Born in New York City on April 15, 1938, she was the daughter of Frank and Elizabeth (Brown) Robertson.

Jackie graduated from Russell Sage College with a BS in 1959 and SUNY New Paltz with an MS in Education. She was employed as a teacher with the Wappingers Central School District at Gayhead Elementary and Brinckerhoff Schools. [Jackie retired from Brinckerhoff in 1995.]

After her retirement from Wappingers after 30 years, she worked as a Real Estate Agent with Key Associates, Prudential Realtors, Century 21 and Weichert Realtors, achieving the Million Dollar Club status at each.

Jackie was very active in the community. She was a member of several groups including the Reading Department. All her students remembered her.

She also volunteered as a docent and served as Treasurer with the East Fishkill Historical Society at the Brinckerhoff-Pudney-Palen House, and with the Hopewell Depot Restoration Corp. She was also a member of the American Association of University Women and Independence Belles. She enjoyed knitting, reading and continuing her education through Marist College’s Center for Lifetime Study.

Jackie is survived by her children, Deanne Prusak of Waller, TX, and John F. Prusak of Fuquay-Varina, NC; and her brother, Russ Robertson of Morehead City, NC.

Services will be private. Memorial donations may be made in Jackie’s memory to Russell Sage College, East Fishkill Historical Society, Hopewell Depot Restoration Corp, AAUW or Independence Belles.

Please visit Jackie’s Book of Memories at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

In Memoriam

Frances A. Crispi

She also volunteered as a docent and served as Treasurer with the East Fishkill Historical Society at the Brinckerhoff-Pudney-Palen House, and with the Hopewell Depot Restoration Corp. She was also a member of the American Association of University Women and Independence Belles. She enjoyed knitting, reading and continuing her education through Marist College’s Center for Lifetime Study.

Jackie is survived by her children, Deanne Prusak of Waller, TX, and John F. Prusak of Fuquay-Varina, NC; and her brother, Russ Robertson of Morehead City, NC.

Services will be private. Memorial donations may be made in Jackie’s memory to Russell Sage College, East Fishkill Historical Society, Hopewell Depot Restoration Corp, AAUW or Independence Belles.

How does it start?

When the cop on the beat helps himself to an apple off the fruit cart? When the teacher gives an undeserving grade to a football player so he can play in Saturday’s game? When the bishop passes on the pedophile priest to a new and unsuspecting parish?

There are all kinds of corruption, petty and not so petty. It can creep in like an unseen gas leak or be as obvious as a stuffed brown envelope slammed down on the water commissioner’s desk. When you hear the word “corruption,” politics comes into mind first. Even before “The Mob”!

And like a bad head cold, corruption is an equal opportunity employer that gives everyone across the political spectrum a chance to make a bad decision. And they often do. Albany, for instance. And Illinois. Four of the last seven Illinois governors have gone to prison (3 Dems., 1 Rep., if you’re keeping score).

It’s foolish for Fox News and MSNBC to point fingers at each other because there is plenty of shame to go around. The party in office is in the best position to commit the most egregious corruption (we all know “power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely”), and they seem to be taking advantage on a little insider trading info? Who indeed?

Let me quote philosopher, wildlife preservationist, and dog lover Roger Caras: We are all pirates at heart. There is not one of us who hasn’t had a little larceny in his soul.

Can I be judgmental if I never had a lobbyist come knocking on my door with a bagful of goodies he/she was eager to dole out? Or if I never had a party leader twist my arm to vote for a bill I knew in my heart was totally wrong? Or never had the opportunity to get in on insider trading before the rest of the poor losers got a chance at the scraps?

But suppose I could? Would I take that first bite out of the apple and really enjoy the taste? Or would I be “Mr. Smith” in Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (1939 – Jimmy Stewart). I wish I knew. How much would my arm to vote for a bill I knew in my heart was totally wrong? Or never had the opportunity to get in on insider trading before the rest of the poor losers got a chance at the scraps?

But hey, the stock market’s up, unemployment’s down, and ISIS is on the run. What can possibly go wrong?

But more about corruption, the political kind? Take any 100 members of Congress at random. Many are millionaires, most are comfy, a few may be paying off past wives, but we’re not talking paycheck to paycheck here. The perks are great, even the legit ones.

What were their motives for running for office? (We know that sometimes you have to sell your soul to the devil just to take this first step). I would guess that a very small percentage see it as — from the very beginning — a chance to get a good seat at the public trough. They did not have to be corrupted.

What about the rest? They will be a mishmash of the country as a whole: men, women, Democrats, Republicans, rich, very rich, straights, gays, Christians, Jews, maybe a Moslem, veterans, black, white, yellow, brown, etc., etc., etc. Sad to say, some of this mishmash will become corrupted, or at least, compromised.
Your monthly bills won’t stop if you become unable to work

Insurance is the type of product that you hope you never have to utilize. In the event that you need to use it, though, it’s important to have the insurance product that best meets your individual needs.

The NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed voluntary Disability Insurance Plan -- provided by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company -- provides valuable income replacement benefits to help meet your living expenses if you become partially or totally disabled and are unable to work.

Disability insurance can be customized to fit within your budget and still provide peace of mind until you are able to get back on your feet and return to work. Applications for the new NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed Disability Insurance Plan are now available, with coverage effective dates on or after Jan. 1, 2018 from the Plan Administrator, Mercer Consumer.

For more information and/or to get an application, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call 800-626-8101 for specific information about this program.

Call to Action: Proposals requested for NYSUT Educator’s Voice

New York State’s classrooms are among the most diverse in the nation. In recognition of this, NYSUT is currently seeking article proposals on “Culturally-Responsive Teaching” for consideration in its annual edition of Educator’s Voice, a Journal of Best Practices In Education. The deadline for proposals is June 15, 2018.

Do you have a project or practice that works well in your classroom, something you are passionate about and would like to share with other educators across the state? This is a great opportunity to write about it and become published in NYSUT’s member journal, a publication created by NYSUT members for NYSUT members. No previous experience is needed nor do you need to be a professional writer to be published in Educator’s Voice.

Once accepted, authors receive a great deal of editorial support and writing guidance throughout the year-long publication cycle. The result is a professional, research-based publication that can be shared with your colleagues and used for professional development. Authors or author teams can collaborate across schools or with partners in higher education; at least one author must be a NYSUT or affiliate member.

For more information and/or to download the author submission form, visit http://www.nysut.org/educatorsvoice.

Previous editions of this publication are available at https://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources-sites/educators-voice.
Thursday, May 17, 2018  11:30 a.m.

Christos Restaurant,
155 Wilbur Blvd.  Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

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

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 May 10, 2018.
Luncheon for WCRT members and their guests.)

WCRT SPRING LUNCHEON
Thursday, May 17, 2018

$23.00 Per Person  Guests are welcome with a member

Name(s):_________________________________________  Phone Number:___________________

Address:______________________________________________________________________________

Number of Reservations: ______  Amount Enclosed: $ ________________