Fall Luncheon offers new cards, numbers, newbies

POUGHKEEPSIE—WCRT’s Fall Luncheon on September 19 at Christos Restaurant brought out lots of new ideas, new need for new officers and committee members, and new insurance cards with a new customer service phone number.

Susan Roger, WCRT President, led the short business meeting before lunch as officers reported on their various functions and activities.

Leslie Leventhal, 2nd VP announced the Spring Luncheon date is May 14, 2020. She added that the Scholarship Committee needs a new member or two. She also noted that she has served the WCRT for 12 years and Susan has served for 14 years and they will serve out this last term as officers.

Ellen Korz, WCRT Rep. to the WCT RA, spoke at Rookie School earlier this month. She reported lots of Special Ed people. Ellen also asked for donations for the Heartship Fund.

Ellen is also the district’s liaison to CAPE, the Council on Addiction Prevention and Education, a county organization whose mission is to educate the community and prevent substance abuse. They run programs and help the community with resources to combat substance abuse.

Pasquale Delli Carpini, WCT President, focused his remarks about enhancements to the services Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield provides to DEHIC (Dutchess Educational Health Insurance Consortium.) A new DEHIC customer service phone number is set up solely for DEHIC members. New ID cards will activate a new phone number on November 1, 2019.

Empire is expanding the number of Albany-based customer service associates assigned to the DEHIC account.

Data and statistics measure client satisfaction. Empire will improve reporting in the following areas: average speed of answer, first-call resolution, claims accuracy, and account management.

Pasquale added that the transition from Express Scripts to IngenioRX was better. Now CVS pharmacies are on board for those preferring a brick-and-mortar way of getting prescription drugs. Note: The current IngenioRX customer service number will not change for calls related to prescription drugs.
From The President

Dear WCRT Members,

We had several new retirees at our Fall Luncheon in September. It was good to see new faces, and we had a delicious lunch. (See pages 1 & 11.)

Whether you believe in Climate Change or not, there have been weather extremes this year. Terrible flooding in Texas, destructive hurricanes and tropical storms, unusual warm days in September, and early blizzards in Montana to name a few. This will definitely affect states with a coastline. Retirees who wish to relocate or vacation should be mindful of these locations.

I would like to remind all retirees that anyone is welcome to visit our Board of Directors meetings. Our next meeting will be on November 12 at 10am at the WCT office. Come and learn about your WCRT organization.

Susan Roger

Protect your WCRT, NYSUT membership

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

SAVE THESE DATES
(future details coming soon)

Oct.  3  RC13 Regional Conference, Wiltwyck, Kingston, 9-2,
Oct.  4  Print October 2019 PostScript
Nov. 12  WCRT exec board mtg. 10:00-12:00,
Dec. 10  Print December 2019 PostScript
Jan.  7, 2020 WCRT exec board mtg. 10:00-12:00,
Feb. 10  Print February 2020 PostScript
Apr.  28 WCRT exec board mtg. 10:00-12:00,
May 14  WCRT Spring Luncheon, Christos Restaurant, 11am

WCRT Officers and Board of Directors

July 1, 2019-June 30, 2021

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. Christine Romano 896-8371
Treasurer............ Tom DeRito 440-3476
Past Pres.............. Alice Baker 452-5793
WCRT Rep. to WCT Representative Assembly.... Alice Baker 452-5793

Directors

Ruth Ehlers 831-6390
Jane Stockslager 297-3766
Jack Devine 297-5032
Barbara Stuck 896-9572
Mary Ann Moran 297-4785

Committee Chairpersons

Political Action: ........... Cliff Foley
Constitution/Bylaws: ... Jane 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.wcteachers.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, The WCRT PostScript to Bill Dourdis, editor.

If you have not paid your dues by now, your name will be removed from our files and you will not be eligible for NY-SUT benefits until dues are paid. Make checks payable to WCRT and mail to WCRT. Renewal notices go out in the fall. Dues for 2019-2020 are:
$ 20.00 Yearly;
$200.00 Individual Lifetime;
$325.00 Couples Lifetime.
Pay Lifetime and alleviate the yearly task of renewing.

www.wcteachers.org
wct@frontiernet.net or www.wcteachers.org
POLITICAL ACTION

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

SOME GOOD NEWS FOR A CHANGE

CLIFF FOLEY
Political Action Chairperson

We often find ourselves dealing with negative news concerning education. Today we take a look at some positive changes.

One effort which will hopefully result in positive improvements is the move to change state testing for grades 3-8. According to NYSUT Vice-President Jolene DiBango in the March/April issue of NYSUT United, “The state tests are flawed and invalid. They don’t provide meaningful information to parents and educators and they continue to mislabel and harm students and their local schools.” The Board of Regents has shortened the language and math tests from three days to two but there are still too many questions. Since they also dropped the time limit, the length of time students are spending on these tests is excessive especially for elementary children. DiBango also stated, “It doesn’t make sense for third and fourth graders to spend more time taking an ELA test than older students spend on a Regents Exam or SAT for college.

Another area being challenged by NYSUT is the use of computer-based testing for grades 3-5. In spring 2019 there were numerous reports of computer failures during grade 3-8 testing. This led NYSUT to issue a statement on April 2 saying in part, “The state must immediately halt computer-based testing to ensure that our children will not be penalized because of the mistakes adults have made in rolling out this faulty system.”

Another positive event for active teachers took place in the halls of government in Albany. In the March/April issue of NYSUT United was the following, “In a big win early in the legislative session, both houses of the state legislature approved the NYSUT-backed APPR (Annual Professional Performance Review) reform bill that scraps the mandated use of grades 3-8 state tests in teacher ratings.” These tests could still be used to evaluate teachers but any effort to do so would now be a subject of local negotiations with the union.

On September 5 a new law in New York State allows cameras to be installed on the stop arms of school buses to catch motorists who pass them when they are discharging or picking up students. It creates a five-year “demonstration program” that permits any county, city, town, or village to install cameras on school buses, provided the local school district agrees. It is expected that many local governments will participate since the new law will not only protect children but will generate revenue through fines. The penalty for a first offense is $250 with higher amounts for repeat offenders.

We often see people speeding past school buses who have turned on the yellow flashers and even those who ignore the red flashing lights. The law says that those in the opposite lane, even on a divided highway, must stop. This writer was recently pleased to see three offenders in the opposite lane of Route 9 in Wappingers get a surprise when a police car went after them with lights flashing and siren blaring. Hopefully this new law will protect children from those who think that laws don’t apply to them.

The end to religious exemptions for vaccinations was passed into law. Unfortunately this exemption had resulted in outbreaks of measles. According to the September 4, 2019 Poughkeepsie Journal, “The law was passed in June amid the worst measles outbreak in decades—we’ve now seen more than 1,000 cases in New York state, including more than 300 in Rockland County.” There will still be certain medical exemptions but this will go a long way in protecting the more than 26,000 students in New York who claimed this exemption.

School security has become a big issue in recent years. A new red flag law has gone into effect in New York and allows law enforcement officials, family members, or school officials to seek a petition to seize the guns of people that courts find are dangerous to themselves or others. It is hopeful that this will help in the effort to stop gun violence which has touched schools in the past.

Let’s keep our lawmakers on their toes and hear more positive news affecting education from Albany and even Washington DC.

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@icloud.com

WCS Board of Ed. e-mail address: WCSD.Board@Wappingerschools.org

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

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
■ WCRT, 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

send your comments to cffoley@optonline.net
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. We will use the information to maintain our records and to send email 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

NANCY BEINER
WCT Webmaster
webmaster@wcteachers.org

www.wcteachers.org

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.

JANE STOCKSLAGER
WCRT Constitution, By-Laws

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

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 and we’ll make arrangements to satisfy your numerical curiosity.

We provide communicative services to our former colleagues, philanthropic support through student academic scholarships, and donations to community libraries and Meals on Wheels.

TOM DERITO
WCRT Treasurer

Scholarship winner thanks WCRT

Dear Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers

I would like to thank you for the WCRT Scholarship.

I am very thankful for the award and the many ways it will help me in my studies in college.

The ceremony was very beautiful and inspiring. I appreciate it very much!

Best, Karla Machado
Roy C Ketcham High School
**REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**WCRT’s watchdog about “insider information” affecting WCSD retirees**

ELLEN KORZ
WCRT Rep. to WCT RA

RA Meeting September 24, 2019

Very important for all of our members to know: starting November 1, you will have a new card that you must again present to your doctors and pharmacy. The new card has an 800 number specifically for us to use since we are DEHIC members. This means the Customer Service representative knows specifically what our plan entails.

That call will go directly to Albany to a service provider trained to know what our plan covers.

Also, if you have not given your credit card to IngenioRX/CVS, you will not get your scripts automatically mailed to you.

The third important information to know is about Live Health Online. This is a service available to us that you download on your phone so you can have access to medical health from a board-certified doctor, therapist, or psychiatrist when you need it. The cost will be $49 or less. It is faster and easier than going to urgent care. They will provide you with a PDF document for your doctor follow up.

At our luncheon I spoke about the Heartship Fund, which helps families in the Wappingers Community that have severe hardships. To find out more about how this fund has helped families in the community, please read the article in the Postscript. There is a form to fill out to make a donation and hopefully you will.

Looking forward to a new year informing you all about what’s going on with the WCT and the WCSD.

*Ellen Korz*

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**One-Time Donation Card**

Return this form to the WCT Office

I, the undersigned, donate a one-time sum of $__________ to the WCT HeartShip Fund,
280 New Hackensack Road, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590.

I understand that this designated amount is a charitable donation.

WCT HeartShip Fund will not disadvantage anyone for any reason of the amount of their contribution or decision not to contribute. Contributing to WCT HeartShip Fund is purely voluntary. The WCT HeartShip will provide all monies toward members within the WCSD community, including all district employees. (As per application process)

Union Affiliation: WCT WAA CSEA WRPN STEPS Central/Admin

(Please circle) WFW WCRT Cafeteria WTAA Confidentials WFEA

Name ___________________________________________ Building ________________

Email ____________________________________________

Address __________________________________________________________________________

Phone # __________________________________ Date _______________________

Signature __________________________________________________________________________

Questions: CONTACT: Ann Liebergot@secondary.AL@wcteachers.org

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One of the executive board members of the Wappingers Congress of Teachers (WCT) took the concept of helping the community and created something special.

The WCT HeartShip Fund not-for-profit charitable organization was founded by the Wappingers Congress of Teachers in January 2019. This fund is designed to lend a hand to people in the Wappingers Central School community. The hope of the organization is to touch many lives in the community and bring comfort and peace to those going through difficult times.

The fund provides money to local efforts within our community to relieve financial hardships for such things as: devastating illnesses, catastrophes, and emergency situations.

Since the HeartShip Fund began, several families have been helped: In one Wappingers Central School District’s family, the father passed away and the mother lost her job with in the span of a month. With four children, a funeral to pay for and outstanding medical bills piling up, the HeartShip Fund was able to provide some financial relief.

Two other families were also greatly affected by illness and mounting medical expenses. With spouses not able to work, traveling to doctors and every day family needs, the HeartShip fund stepped in to offer some help.

In another family, the HeartShip fund helped, a WCT member had to take a long term leave to care for her terminally ill husband who had been out of work for quite some time. They had fallen behind on their mortgage and also had tremendous medical costs.

**District staff as well as families in the WCSD community are eligible to fill out applications for themselves or those in need of support.**

All district employees are able to donate to this fund through payroll deduction or one time donations. At the present time we have over 300 members contributing to this fund. If you are interested in contributing to this fund, please fill out one of the forms available.

The hope is that this fund will help many in our local community that find themselves in dire need of monetary intervention and/or situations where help is needed to alleviate everyday stresses that illness or tragedies can cause a family.
Cheryl Zmudzinski

Cheryl Lou Zmudzinski, 66, passed away peacefully on August 2, 2019 in the comfort of her home, surrounded by her loved ones. After being diagnosed with Stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer, she survived for over 2 ½ years with strength, empathy and grace.

Born on November 4, 1952 in Rochester, she grew up in Syracuse where she graduated from Westhill High School in 1970. She graduated from SUNY Geneseo in 1974 with her Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education.

Cheryl retired from the Wappingers Central School District in 2011 after 37 years of teaching elementary school. She was a member of the New York State United Teachers and the Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers. An area resident since 1974, she was a parishioner of St. Columba Church in Hopewell Junction.

In Memoriam

On July 20, 1974 in Baldwinsville, Cheryl married Stan Zmudzinski of Beacon, who survives at home. She is also survived by her sons, Adam and Casey Zmudzinski of Astoria; her brother, Timothy Webb and his wife Beverly of Baldwinsville; and her nephew, Sean Webb and his wife Sandie.

Calling hours will be held on Thursday from 5-8pm at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Jct. The Mass of Christian Burial will be offered on Friday at 10am at St. Columba Church, 835 Route 82, Hopewell Jct followed by interment in St. Joachim Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made in lieu of flowers to the Lustgarten Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research (www.lustgarten.org/donate).

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

Margaret E. (Peggy) Capell

POUGHKEEPSIE – Beloved mother, sister, partner, teacher, and friend, Margaret (Peggy) Capell, 74, of Pleasant Valley, passed away August 29, 2019, with her family by her side.

Born on September 19, 1944, Peggy spent nearly 40 years as an educator, retiring in 2008.

She devoted her life to teaching and helping others. Her spunky personality, sense of humor, and concern for others will be greatly missed. [She taught Math at Van Wyck Junior High.]

Calling hours will be held on September 19, 2019 from 4-7p.m. at Wm. G. Miller & Son Funeral Home, 371 Hooker Ave. Poughkeepsie, NY.

Those wishing to honor her life can make a donation to The Birthday Party Project at https://www.thebirthdaypartyproject.org, or to a charity of their choosing.

If you wish to send an online condolence please visit our website at www.wmgmillerfuneralhome.com

IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO DONATE TO VOTE-COPE

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5.

Attention WCRT members who receive the Post Script by postal mail.
Please use the invitation enclosed in this newsletter for all up-coming luncheons.
The WCRT is going green and saving postage costs.
By Charlie Powers  
“Ladies and Gentlemen, start your golf carts and proceed to your first hole,” shouted the Beekman starter. 

The weather for this year’s tourney was perfect, warm with sunny skies. 

Golfers were excited to play in one of the year’s best tournaments. The golf course was in excellent condition and the beer was cold! 

For 15 years the New Hamburg Yacht Club Golf Committee, comprised of many former WCSD employees and spouses and many others, has given back to the community through their donations to the Wappingers Falls Meals on Wheels program. This event has raised over $100,000 since its inception. Amazing! 

Many golfers, including several from WCSD, return each year to support this worthy cause and because the tourney is fun and enjoyable. It is also amazing the same sponsors, donors, friends, family, and colleagues, as well as new ones, support us each year. The Committee, MOW Board, and MOW recipients truly appreciate all the support given by the community we live and work in. 

This year’s tournament was a great success raising in the neighborhood of $10,500.00 for the MOW program in Wappingers Falls Meals on Wheels program. We thank all who participated, the golfers, the volunteers, the staff at Beekman Golf Course, the committee, and the Board of MOW. 

If you are interested in supporting MOW by volunteering, you can contact Chris Contelmo at 845-297-1284. MOW can always use drivers, riders, and substitutes. Please give this serious thought... someday you may need MOW!!! They also deliver to many former WCSD employees.

Committee members from left: Rosemarie Gardner MacEachen, retired WCSD administrator and volunteer organizer; Joe Corrigan, retired WCSD administrator; Charlie Powers, WCRT; Barbara Kimbark Boers, WCRT volunteer organizer; Jack Devine, WCRT; Scott Pawenski, Committee Chair; Tom Pedersen, husband of retired WCSD aide; Garry Bennar, Committee member; Joanie & Betsy Devine, volunteers, Jack’s daughters. Picture taken by Skip Rottkamp, Committee Co-chair and retired WCSD administrator.

Going green will bring color to your life! 

A little letter from the Editor (nothing off-color) 

Saranne’s 14-picture photo montage on pages 8 and 9 is one of the best My Summer Vacation essays I have ever read in 33 years of teaching and 14 years of editing the PostScript! 

As editor, I feel sorry for the poor retirees who get this newsletter in black and white by postal mail because they’re not signed up on the website to get the PostScript in color. 

“They can’t appreciate Saranne’s awe and God’s vivid majesty. This is a captivating piece—in color!” 

“The WCRT is trying to go green and her pictures highlight the greens, and blue sky and blue water, and the colors of the rocks. The five colors in this headline aren’t seen by the hardcopy people.” 

Nancy Beiner, WCRT webmaster, adds, “One thing that you can add to your article, Bill, is to emphasize that retirees are able to update their contact information and addresses right on the website. They do not have to call or email. It is one of the advantages of the website, that they have complete control of their personal information.”

Website background 

The new WCT/WCRT union website, www.wcteachers.org, was introduced on August 26, 2014. 

PostScript newsletters in October and December of 2014 featured, highlighted, emphasized the benefits and advantages of this new communications tool and cajoled readers to register and “get on board” with the newer, better technology. Helping the WCRT lower postal costs was what members were asked to do. Members are now put on notice that they follow the eight steps outlined by the webmaster on page 4 or their communication with the WCT/WCRT may stop. 

Liken it to, “Don’t expect an IRS refund if you don’t file a Form 1040.” However, you can guarantee a return of ongoing communication with the WCRT and NY-SUT, get copies of insurance claim forms, view videos, and much, much more.

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.
Saranne Rap
A transparent view of issues
by Saranne Ratner

Bucket List

I wanted to celebrate the 50th anniversary of my 1st year of teaching, so I decided to do a bucket list trip to the Southwestern National Parks. It was a 15-day tour of eight Parks, with amazing sights in between and ending up in Las Vegas, a favorite place for me.

In my wildest dreams, I could not have imagined what nature created here. Each place was more fascinating and wondrous than the one before. Having a rather large fear of heights, this was also a test of my mettle. I surprised myself—I only had a couple of "weak-kneed" moments. I was too busy oohing and aahing over the sights to give in to fear.

My favorite Park was Zion...incredible to behold, but I really loved all of the places we visited. Even Death Valley was beautiful in its severity and contrast to the many canyons and mountains we visited.

I am so grateful I was able to do this trip and enjoy every moment. It was a very special reminder of my 50th anniversary of beginning my career and how lucky I am to be a retired teacher!
Attached is the spreadsheet to which I added their email addresses. Here is an email address with the spreadsheet attached.

Just one of the incredible formations in Zion National Park.

The Grand Canyon on 9/11..... at its spectacular best.

Outside our hotel in Estes Park CO...seriously.

Arches National Park... incredible. (People at bottom.)

Another view at Arches.

Sunset at the Grand Canyon...neither words nor photographs can do the beauty justice...nature's wonder.

The BEST picture I ever took....
Rosemary Evaul, WCRT Class of 1997, became a 2011 Marist College Theatre Hall of Fame inductee on September 21, 2019. Rosemary was one of six inductees honored for their dedication and service to Marist Theatre.

Professor Matt Andrews, Director of the Theatre Program, hosted the induction before a near-capacity crowd of almost 300 family, friends, former students, and alumni in the Nellie Goletti Theatre.

Marist College President Dr. Dennis J. Murray offered welcoming remarks stating that volunteer theatre is a form of service. “A live performance washes away the drudgery of the world by taking us to a different time and place.”

Her program bio is printed below:

Rosemary Leva Evaul was born and reared in Schenectady, NY. After graduating from The College of New Rochelle in 1964, she began her teaching career in the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake school district at the Middle School. Here, she directed her first play.

After receiving her MA from SUNY Albany in 1968, she moved to the Hudson Valley, where she taught a year at Haviland Middle School in Hyde Park. But in 1969 she took two big steps: she moved to Roy C. Ketcham High School to teach English and theatre, and married R. Denny Evaul, who continues to be the most supportive spouse in all her theatrical endeavors.

In the early 1980’s, Rosemary and Denny moved from Hyde Park to Wappingers Falls to be closer to RCK. With a shorter commute, she became involved with The Masque and Mime Society -- the high school’s drama club. Here for several years her fellow advisor was Jim Steinmeyer -- Marist grad, and fellow English and theatre teacher. When Jim was asked to direct a show at Marist in 1989, he took Rosemary along to help with costumes and props. That began a long association with Marist Theatre whereby people still come to her for costumes, props and other assistance. She was involved as well with River Valley Rep, a professional theatre company in residence at Marist College. (Jim, Marist Class of 1971, was inducted in 2011.)

In 1984, she and Jim were among the founding members of NYSTEA -- The New York State Theatre Education Association. NYSTEA is responsible for helping to establish certification for theatre teachers in NY State and promotes educational theatre across the state. While Rosemary did not have any formal theatre training, she absorbed all she could from workshops at NYSTEA Theatre Conferences and ITS (International Thespian Society) Conferences. Working alongside other theatre professionals helped her gain strength in dealing with so many aspects of theatre.

In 1987, since she was collecting and storing so many costumes at home, husband Denny suggested they build a pole barn, which they did. The “Evaul Emporium” became the storage place for many costumes and props that have served many high schools, colleges, and community theatre in the area. It certainly brought Rosemary in contact with theatre people all over the county. Marist Theatre is a “regular customer.”

In 1997, [the year she retired from WCSD] Rosemary was awarded the Rod Marriott Award from NYSTEA -- the highest honor given by them for someone who has promoted educational theatre throughout the state.

With and through the Masque and Mime Society, she has earned several awards. In 2012, Masque and Mime Society was awarded the Dutchess County Executive Arts in Education Award. In 2013, Rosemary was awarded an ALLY AWARD from the Hudson Valley chapter of GLSEN [Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network]. This was primarily for doing a production of THE LARAMIE PROJECT at Ketcham, directed by Jim Steinmeyer. In 2017, she was awarded the Bertha E. Brimmer Medal for Excellence in Education from SUNY Albany, again largely based on her involvement with the Masque and Mime Society.

To be inducted to Marist Theatre Hall of Fame has left her humbled, shocked, and extremely grateful to be part of this great institution. That makes this year truly a golden one.

Excerpts from Rosemary’s acceptance speech:

“...I am now in the same category as Dr. Dennis J. Murray, Marist College President, and Professor Matt Andrews. That makes me doubly proud...

...50 years ago this month, I started teaching at Roy C. Ketcham High School...

...I’ve always had students read aloud. They get it better when they hear it...

...When I retired in 1997, I told Denny that if he wanted to see me, he’d have to get involved in Masque and Mime...

...My cousins are here from California. Their daughter Jessica, M ’15, did costumes while here at Marist and had full run of the Barn...

...Jim co-advised M&M at RCK, and 30 years ago Jim asked for help at Marist. I’ve helped ever since...

...Many of my former students are on the NYSTEA board and carry on to help it grow...

...The Barn has expanded for all of Dutchess County and beyond. My relatives in North Carolina just got some costumes mailed to them the other day...

...Maria Licari Cohen, RCK ’89, M ’93, started me on Facebook and now I have at least 1500 former students and M&Ms...

...I was lucky to work with County Players and professional theater companies...

...Thanks to my friends who supported me and who do theater in their schools and carry on the traditions of what theater means...

...I close with a quote from a good friend Jim Hoare, VP of Theatrical Rights Worldwide. “We have the 3 A’s. Academics for the mind, Athletics for the body, and Arts for the soul.” Thank you Marist Theater--My soul is truly nourished.”
From the “newbies”.... (“out of the mouths of babes”)

Ceris Valsey, newly retired WJHS Math teacher, and her husband Lou, former Ketcham administrator, still working in Carmel.

It’s wonderful being relaxed and not having stress of all the things that had to be done. Time is your own.

Peggy Latino

I think these luncheons are awesome! Lots of people I’ve missed.

Marie Swanson

Lovely because I get to see colleagues that I taught with. The food was great, too.

Ann Mack

It’s great being able to see former mentors, cooperating teachers, and teaching assistants. I love having free time to spend with my new grandson. Also, having lunch when I want to and not having to do recess.

Eileen Dietz

It’s fun reuniting with retired teachers!

Jerilyn Gilman

Boys’ day out

Subject: Re: Gambler’s Anonymous Meeting - today’s topic - Eliminating “I’ve Got A Horse Right Here” syndrome from all these retired teachers!

from left: Steve Nash (Spackenkill), Si Kaufman, Bill Schoen, John Lewis, Ralph Capasso, Ed Zwinscher, Bill Green, Earl Sussman (Webutuck), and Jim Bogert.

The Bocuse Restaurant at the Culinary Institute of America was the setting for the retired Kindergarten teachers Fall luncheon.

Seated, from left: Vicki Kulich, Fishkill Elementary; Dot Woessner, Fishkill Elementary; and Greta Woo, Vassar Road.

Standing, from left: Ro Henebery, Fishkill Elementary; Norma DePalma, Gayhead; Debbie Plambeck, Fishkill Plains; Faye Lotze, Fishkill Elementary; Rosalia Gasperini, Vassar Road; Sarah Jo Frederickson, Kinry Road; and Peggy Latino Fishkill Elementary, (a 2019 retiree!).

Faye Lotze photo

Kindergarten teachers do lunch
Your Union-Endorsed Benefits: Debt Consolidation & Mortgage Savings

NYSUT Member Benefits understands the challenges that the hardworking women and men of this labor union face when it comes to financial issues such as student loan re-payment options, credit card consolidation or debt management, or saving on purchasing or refinancing a home.

Student Loan & Debt Counseling Program
Your union membership allows you to receive a no-obligation debt and/or student loan consultation at no cost with a certified counselor through the Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed Cambridge Credit Counseling program. Cambridge provides individualized student loan counseling along with a unique web portal available at a reduced rate to help explain the various options when paying student debt; debt relief services are also offered.

UnionDirect Mortgage Discount Program
The Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed UnionDirect Mortgage Discount Program presented by Mid-Island Mortgage Corp. offers union members and their families savings of up to $2,700 on lender fees and closing costs. Your union membership also entitles you to no application or processing fees; no commitment fees; no underwriting fees; no lender or broker fees; and reduced attorney and title fees.

The Power of the Union

Regardless of whether you are participating in either of the programs mentioned above, one of our endorsed insurance, financial or legal programs; or our many shopping, entertainment or travel offerings, NYSUT members receive a quality product and enjoy the “Power of the Union” behind them. Unlike when purchasing products available to the general public, Member Benefits is here as your advocate if you ever have any issues or concerns with our endorsed programs.

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call 800-626-8101.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.
Patriot Dinner Dance

“Nurture The Living, Care for The Wounded, Honor The Dead”

Join Us Friday, November 1, 2019
The Links at Unionvale
153 North Parliman Road, Lagrangeville NY
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Buffet Dinner, Cash Bar
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