

VC ECHOES

An AFTCA and New York Teacher Award Winning Publication

SPECIAL EDITION

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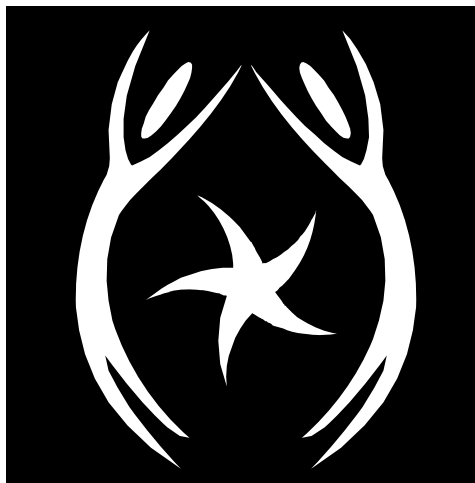
Putting Children Center

Schools are extraordinary places. Each day Valley Central's children are invited by incredible people to open their minds to the wonder of the world around them; and to grow into a productive part of that world. And these incredible people do this as part of their ordinary day.

James Tate, Arline Friedman, Derek Taylor, Marc Newman, Ernie Pettine, Carol Hockreiter, Barbara Winchell, Brenda Oretsky, Karin Warnke Lyons and Genevieve Fox have spent many ordinary days at Valley Central and now they are ending their careers in well-deserved retirement. In their time, countless children have been inspired to reach their highest potential guided by them. And this they did as part of their ordinary day.

So many VCTA members do the same each day. But some are set apart by their achievements. Kathy Sahl has been recognized for excellence and was this

year's recipient of the (*SUNY New Paltz*) Dean's Award for Excellence in Education and Valley Central's nominee for NYS Teacher of the Year. Barbara Wutch and Connie DeSantis organized fundraisers to benefit the Walden community. Maureen Radl organized a Literacy Pro-



ject that connected Valley Central's children with African children. Mike Presutti and John Van-Fradenburg organized a lesson in bike reconditioning that has provided bicycles for children who may otherwise never own a bike. Bikes that were reconditioned for them by students who learned so much more than just how to recondition a bicycle through Mike and John's

efforts. John Bonagura was selected to as the recipient of the Richard Aderson Making a Difference Award for his efforts in the classroom and in the community. (*John is the third recipient of the award from the Valley Central Community. It is a blind selection process—the judges did not know which school district the applicants were from.*) Erin Davis has been fundraising and running races to make a difference in the life of a child who has leukemia.

It is a good thing to set a side one day each year to celebrate the achievements of people who choose to spend and have spent their careers putting children center; who understand that in education, children need more than to be put first, they need to be put in the center of every decision that is made. The people celebrated this year have done just that and the VCTA proudly salutes them.

~ Patti Lunden

A successful teacher needs: the education of a college president, the executive ability of a financier, the humility of a deacon, the adaptability of a chameleon, the hope of an optimist, the courage of a hero, the wisdom of an owl, the gentleness of a dove, the patience of Job, the grace of God, and the persistence of the Devil.

~ Anonymous

Barbara Winchell retires from Walden Elementary School

Does anybody really know exactly who Barbara Winchell is? We, the humble ones at WES, will boldly attempt to answer that question! We can tell you that at the age of twelve, Mary Barbara Kerry and her family left Northern Ireland for new adventures in America. Barbara began her American education in Newburgh, and then transferred to Valley Central where she was a member of one of the first graduating classes of the new unified district.

Barbara married Alastair Winchell while he was serving in the army in Georgia. After his service, they returned to this area and settled down in the Town of Newburgh, and raised their two boys, Keith and Rod. While the boys were young, Barbara took a secretarial job at IBM and attended college at SUNY New Paltz to pursue a degree in elementary education.

Barbara started subbing in the district and shortly thereafter was hired in the middle of the year to replace a third grade teacher who

“just couldn’t take it anymore.” The following year she was hired full time and taught second grade for the next eight years.

By that time she was ready for a new challenge and when a position was available in fifth grade, she jumped at the chance. She must have liked it because she has remained there for the past twenty-one years.

Has this retiree advised or coached? You bet she has. Barbara has been a very active and vocal member of the VCTA and Executive Council, serving faithfully as our Building Representative for many years. Her passion has always been social studies and she has diligently dedicated many hours of her time to curriculum development in

this area. But, we must also mention that Barbara’s expertise in advising and coaching is not limited to professional development. Barbara is also an expert

fashion coach and accessory advisor. After all, Barbara always says, “It is our ability to accessorize that separates us from the animals.” Her sense of style will truly be missed.

Barbara has made a significant impact in the lives of her students. The vast number of parents and former students who have returned to thank her for the excellent foundation she gave them for Middle School is a testimony to this. Also, Barbara has been listed in the Who’s Who for American Teachers.

Barbara and Al are in the process of building a new home on Cape Cod to celebrate the next chapter of their lives. A former student sums it up best in a composition she once wrote while in Barbara’s fifth grade class, “I will miss her colorful face as she stands by her door.”And so will we all.

~ Walden Elementary School



Barbara Winchell,
Walden Elementary School

*Barbara jumped at the chance
to teach fifth grade...*

***Thank you,
Barbara Winchell
for your faithful years of service to
the VCTA Executive Council.***

Taylor Made for Retirement

It's hard to believe that a man who loves to hike the Shawangunk Mountains, commune with the wild ponies of Assateague and explore the desolation of Death Valley was born in Sunny Side Queens. But that's how it started in 1947 for Derek Taylor. After high school, Derek attended SUNY New Paltz where he earned his degree in Chemistry and stayed on for graduate work. When I asked him why he chose Chemistry from all the liberal arts and sciences at his disposal, he said that when he went into the gym to register, he looked for the shortest line. As some would say, the road less traveled.

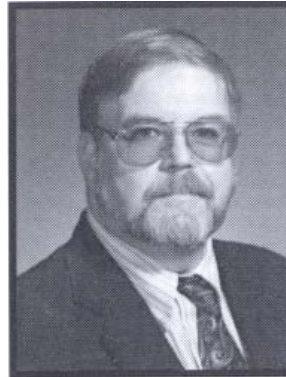
At the urging of the late Vic Haggard, Derek joined the staff at Valley Central in 1968 where he taught math. Over the years he was assigned the basic courses in earth science and chemistry. Eventually he was given the prestigious Regents Chemistry. Life in upper academic track had its price. There were long hours in the back room preparing lab that involved dangerous chemicals, glass and fire. But through it all, Mr. Taylor brought innovation and humor to his teach-

ing. In his free time he advised the chess club and a photography club.

As a 60's radical, Mr. Taylor could not help but get involved with the teachers union where he served for many years as a building rep. His well-worn copy of the contract was always within reach and he could quote chapter and verse when needed. His commitment to kids extended outside the classroom. For ten years he was involved with the Fresh Air Fund Camp in Fishkill where we spent his summers working with inner city kids. He gave to them the same outdoor experience that the Walkkill Valley gave to him.

In his free time he served as a Democratic committeeman in the Town of Shawangunk and taught BASIC programming at Orange County Community College.

But his major accomplishment was to help raise two fine and successful children, Matt and Sarah.



Derek Taylor
Valley Central High School

There are three things that impress you about Mr. Taylor. The first is his love of learning. He is an avid reader and researcher of all things scientific. He sees the beauty in nature near by and in the stars beyond our reach.

The second impression is that he cares deeply for his students and they love and respect him. Many of his students returned after graduation for a visit and they made a point of thanking him for what he taught them. He even got a few free beers for his effort.

The most lasting impression that Derek leaves you with is his sense of humor that he brought it to his classrooms, faculty rooms and the all the other rooms he frequented in his lifetime. There were many times when we would get together after a hard day with the kids, or the parents and yes, even the administration. He has the ability to see the absurdities of life and change them into joy and laughter. And this will be missed by the students and teachers of Valley Central.

~Thomas Knieser

Derek has the ability to see the absurdities of life and change them into joy and laughter.

***The VCTA Officers and Executive Council
would like to thank Derek Taylor
for his many years of
faithful service to the Union.***

Arline Friedman Looks Forward to Retiring

In 1972, when I came to Valley Central I was put to the test. I floated between classrooms. Only two classrooms, but mind you, one was “loaned” by Marion Underhill (*who was on sabbatical**) and the other was “owned” by John Calvey. Somehow I managed to survive the tests and I was sent to my final challenge—down to Room 112B (*now the Professional Library, which itself has been redivided*). It was called “B” because it was one half of the old Room 112 which had been divided into two by a temporary sheetrock wall. In my “B” half was most of the heating register and the thermostat which controlled the heat for both the A and the B rooms. On the A side was Arline Schnee-Friedman.

I liked my room cool. Ms. Schnee’s room did not receive the morning sun until later in day, and so she needed her heat right away. It took a lot of talking to get things agreeable for both of us. But out of that dilemma came a warm, and enduring relationship that has lasted for more than 30 years.

Arline came to Valley Central from Brooklyn via Ohio State and New Paltz College. She replaced a teacher who was, according to Arline, “led out in handcuffs.” Among her other memories of the ‘70’s Arline cites the lingering rivalry between Walden, Maybrook and Montgomery students left over from pre-centralization days. “It was the time of walk-outs and demonstrations. Our kids were involved and active. Like the rest of their generation they were searching and questioning, but they were respectful. They were decent and had a sense of humor. And I have to admit, some of them were smarter than me.”

Arline has a way of remembering all sorts of colorful Valley Central history. She remembers the personable welcome of older teachers like Stan Davie, Ed Hart, and Al Paulles, along with young John Cosco and

Bob Swanwick. She fondly recalls that for a long period in the 1980’s, as the only woman in the HS Social Studies Department, she felt like “the queen of the hop”.

Arline didn’t remain on the pedestal forever, but by that time, she had found her place in the “high school family.” She had taken on a vital role in the Valley Central Teachers’ Association, as its secretary and newsletter editor. Whether as an officer or a building rep., Arline faithfully attended monthly meetings, marched on picket lines, served on action committees, and “kept after” presidents Bob Mooney and Bob Bauer. As she puts it, her union duties helped her “build strong, equal relationships with strong men.”

About her union activities, Arline says, “I became involved after the controversy over sending officers to Hawaii.” Some of the other active members who welcomed her were John Olsen and Ralph Ruby, Derek Taylor and Sam Tucker, Linda Cosgrove, John Cosco and Al Paulles. “And always there was Orin Segall!” While there were times of conflict “like when we voted down a contract in the ‘80’s and had a superconciliator appointed,” there were also fun times like “legislative receptions at Bear Mountain and ‘retreats’ at the Playboy Club.” Arline notes that “In those days, the union didn’t really reach out to individual teachers to guide you through the important stages of your career. We are stronger now because we help new teacher in these ways.” Arline goes on to say that the VCTA is “more student-oriented.” She also recognizes how the duties of the leadership have become “much more complex and time-consuming.” She encourages young teachers to get involved in

the VCTA. “You get so much information. You learn and broaden your horizon beyond your own building, discipline and grade level. And you gain a sense of control and accomplishment.”

It was in the union that I came to rely on Arline. If she promised you help, you got it. Our friendship grew. It may have helped that we taught in different departments or that we both came from Brooklyn. (*Although, come to think of it, there were a lot of faculty members who came from Brooklyn.*) In any event,

Arline and I really got to know one another when I became involved in the VCTA. At the time, Arline was the “little sister” of the organization. You know, the person who reminds you of the important dates, deadlines, and duties you might have forgotten or procrastinated about. The same person who you can count on for a needed kick in the rear when you didn’t know you needed one; or for a needed ear when you needed to vent, complain or just plain whine. I called her little sister because she was, like a sister—always there, always ready with a strong shoulder to rely on when VCTA activities needed real courage or simple, ordinary dedication to detail...Eventually, there were sad times where she and I shared shoulders to cry upon.

Now Arline is ready to retire. She says she is ready. There is much she says she will miss, but with her usual candor admits that there are things about the job that “make it easy for her to leave.” For example, she is glad to put the aggravation of the phone chain behind her. It was one of those jobs that someone had to do, Arline took the risk to do so well. About academics, she won’t miss trying to deal with the contradiction between increasing the standards and

(continued on page five)



Arline Friedman
Valley Central High School

Top Ten Reasons Why VCHS Will Miss Arline Friedman

10. **UNION ISSUES** – Her uncanny ability to cite passages from the union contract (no matter how many years have passed)
9. **CAT STORIES** – How Ruby (meow....) and Pumpkin were wrestling on the kitchen counter.
8. **POINTS, POINTS, AND MORE POINTS** – Weight Watchers does not have to distribute calorie counters any more; Arline knows all the point values!
7. **HOLDING COURT IN THE FACULTY ROOM** – Every day, same time, same chair, same room, same group.....
6. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AT FACULTY MEETINGS** – Administrator after administrator can thank Arline for correcting them on dates, places, names of students, etc.
5. **WHAT'S FOR DINNER?** – We all know what Arline will be serving for that special holiday meal

(and the points for each entrée, of course!)

4. **HER FAMOUS QUOTES:**
I'm not a happy camper!
I have something you need.
Oh, well....
Thaaaaaat's righttttt
3. **HER LATEST ANNOUNCEMENT:**
Guess what? I'm retiring and frankly, Scarlett....
2. **HER SMILE AND LAUGHTER** – even after a very long day at VCHS.
1. **THE SNOW CHAIN** – “Roll over, we're closed!”

~ Rob Sassi and Diane Ruggles
Valley Central High School

Arline Friedman Looks Forward to Retiring *(continued from page four)*

the growing attitude on the part of students who play the system to find the easy way out. Her advice to the colleagues she leaves behind is “keep a sense of humor and a thick skin”. If there is one thing she would will to her successors it would be “the courage to keep your own standards and not be intimidated by administrators and parents.”

Arline was always fond of saying about herself, “What you see is what you get.” But I will remember, and many students and colleagues will remember Arline for the qualities she didn't make show of. She was a

person you could trust with confidence. She listened deeply and spoke frankly in order to make things better for everyone. She was not always easy to get along with, but if you earned her friendship you could count on her quiet help forever. Goodbye, my friend,

~ Jim Lignori
High School

***Sabbatical:** Where a teacher was given half pay for one year, or full pay for a half year to do research, study and writing in one's academic discipline.

Sabbaticals were once considered vital for scholarly growth of the individual and the institution. The purpose of the sabbatical was to help renew the spirit and energy of seasoned educators and to bring honor and renown to a district. Sabbaticals were considered a sign of commitment on the part of both teacher and district to deepening professional growth and the prestige of a district. In recent years they have become increasingly rare, and in the future, discouraged by contractual red tape, will become all but extinct.

Editor's Note: Sabbaticals are covered on pages 14-15 of the contract.

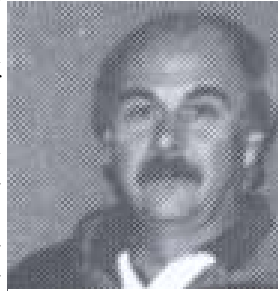
Arline Friedman has been a dedicated member of VCTA Executive Council serving as officer, editor, committee chair and *unofficial* authority on Roberts Rules of Order. She has already agreed to chair the Retiree Vote-COPE Drive.
Thank you for your many years of faithful and dedicated service.

Ernie Pettine Has Been a Dedicated Teacher

Ernie Pettine has been a loyal and dedicated math teacher for 33 years at Valley Central Middle School teaching all levels of Math 7. Ernie also was a loyal and dedicated coach. He coached both boys and girls soccer in our high school for 24 years. Outside of school Ernie runs a small tax business which he plans to increase after he retires. Ernie is a member of the Board of Directors at the Valley Central Federal Credit Union where he serves as a Loan Officer.

Ernie has had many challenges in his long career with Valley Central that many people would find difficult, if not impossible, to face and deal with successfully. Ernie raised three lovely children; Lindsey, Allison and Vinnie, basically by himself. Ernie lost his

(and our) good friend and best buddy Ken Masson. Ernie has also faced serious medical issues, both with his family and in a personal nature. Despite all of his hardships, Ernie has remained strong and personable with never a hint of bitterness. He is always there to lend a helping hand or speak a word of encouragement.



Ernie Pettine
Valley Central Middle School

Ernie can be counted on to lend anyone his rotor tiller (free of charge) and he could always hook you with up the Walkkill Prison Recreational Facility. He plays a mean game of basketball and can dodge “orange seeds” with the best of men, just ask Bob Decker.

Ernie has been a dedicated and

loyal employee of Valley Central and has earned the respect of his colleagues and friends. He will be missed because he is an exceptional math teacher who really cares about his students. Although Ernie will be leaving the classroom at Valley Central, the memories of the good times we shared with him will always remain.

Ernie looks forward to increasing his tax business and taking time to travel the country, planning extended stays in the Las Vegas area. We thank him for his dedication to our students, for his friendship, for the laughs and the great stories. With our love, good wishes and prayers, we say farewell but never goodbye.

~ Rod Clune
Middle School

“Ernie will be missed because he is an exceptional math teacher who really cares about his students.”

*The VCTA Executive Council
congratulates Ernie Pettine on his retirement
and thanks him for his years of faithful service on our behalf.*

Ernie Pettine, VCTA Role Model and Mentor

I would like to take the time to publicly thank Ernie Pettine for his selfless contributions on behalf of his colleagues. Ernie, your counsel, wisdom and insight as a negotiator for our current contract were invaluable. Most of your colleagues are unaware of the all night negotiations sessions that took place followed by a full day of teaching and all of the extra responsibilities that had to be fulfilled as a result of these commitments. The passion

and attention to detail that you brought to the bargaining table has rendered an invaluable service to the VCTA that our younger members must now embrace and carry on if we are to continue this trend.

This passion, I was privy to, was also evidenced by the manner in which you approached your teaching responsibilities. But more than anything else, Ernie, I will always remember the passion, adoration, and dedication with which

you approached your family responsibilities. In this your were and are a true mentor. Even as you struggled with some physical health issues, and your multitude of work responsibilities, you never lost sight of your family priorities. Your children are indeed blessed, as am I and your colleagues for your selfless efforts. Thank you for being a role model and mentor. Happy retirement.

~ Tim Brown, President

Jim Tate Will Retire in November 2001

Jim Tate first came to Valley Central High School in 1968 as a student teacher working with John Gannon. Recognizing a good thing when he saw it, he stayed on and been here ever since (even in the same room!) Jim currently teaches Course II and III, but has taught Course I and General math in past years. He was a VCTA union representative in the in the 1970's for 6 years.

Jim received his bachelor's degree in secondary mathematics education in 1969 from SUNY New Paltz. Originally from New York City, he and his family moved several times before ultimately settling in New Paltz in the 1960's. Upon

graduation, he began the first of his 32.2 years as a math teacher for the VC district.

Apparently, the South continues to call him home. Several years ago Jim bought lake front property on Virginia's

Kerr Reservoir where he plans to build his retirement home and spend his time doing what he loves best—fishing, hunting and spending time



James Tate
Valley Central High School

with his lovely wife, Annette. This will take place after November 21, 2001—the date of his last official day of work.

Both staff and students alike for his quick wit and gentle humor will miss Jim. We wish him many happy and healthy years in retirement.

~ *Cecilia Cornwell &
JoAnn Ryder*
High School

***Thank you
Jim Tate
for your faithful
years of service to
the VCTA Executive Council***

**Montgomery Elementary School
and the rest of the
Valley Central Family wish
Brenda Oretsky
a long and happy retirement.**

Marc Newman: A Man in Love with History

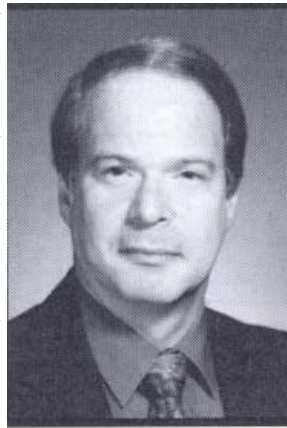
Marc Newman began his career at Valley Central High School in 1969; a young aspiring teacher with many great ideas and visions. He began his career teaching Global Studies and eventually taught American History. Throughout the years Marc introduced several electives that were popular among the students. These electives focused on certain areas of History: Civil War and Reconstruction, American Revolution, and Military History. Marc's enjoyment of history and knowledge in the subject matter allowed him to share his love of history with his students.

Throughout the years at Valley Central, Marc has dedicated his career to his love of history, and his love for his students. His love for the subject matter is demonstrated every time a lesson begins. Marc takes great joy in dressing as a famous person and explaining to his students the details of the person's life and their significance in history. In addition to the costumes, Marc brings to life the dance steps of years gone by, and is always willing to teach his students some of the steps. He expects and motivates his students to put forth their most val-

iant effort.

In the last several years, Marc has taken great pride in advising Beta Tau. This has afforded him the opportunity to inspire students who demonstrate a passion for history. As the advisor, Marc has tried to create a forum for these students by inviting guest speakers and going on field trips. Beta Tau has been fortunate to be touched by a man that has such a great love for history.

As the Social Studies Supervisor, Marc constantly fought to give the department the proper materials needed to teach and mold the future of America, and bring the department into the Twenty-First Century. The department has received new video equipment, new computer software, and new computers all of which has become a crucial factor teaching in a technological age. The department has relied on Marc to be the liaison between the teachers in the classroom and administration. As colleagues



*Marc Newman
Valley Central High School*

we are able to depend on Marc for assistance or guidance whenever needed. Everyday, Marc has come to work focused and dedicated to the department needs.

Marc has been a mentor for many former students and will always be remembered for his kindness, encouragement, and understanding. There are many times in which former students return to speak with him, whether it's for advice or just to say hello. This exemplifies Marc's dedication to teaching and to the Valley Central School District. He is a man that will be missed and always remembered.

After retirement, Marc plans to continue his love of history through writing and other methods of research. Although his teaching career is ending at Valley Central High School, Marc will continue his work as a pioneer of history. As Marc leaves Valley Central, he will leave behind fond memories for all that he touched and inspired.

~ Antonietta Iovieno

Middle School Social Studies Appreciates Marc Newman

Marc Newman has always offered support for his colleagues. He has been a mentor, master teacher, department supervisor, and a friend.

Marc has fearlessly championed the needs of the social studies department as we faced new state requirements. He led us through the maze of regulations helping us to sort through the countless changes that have been presented.

As a department, we know

we can count on a sympathetic ear for our concerns and a practical, logical approach to dealing with them. His mentoring and expertise is freely and willingly offered for any problem, any time. The depth and mastery of his subject matter is admirable, as is his ability to create a fascinating narrative on any subject.

We wish Marc a lot of luck and happiness in his future endeavors. He will not be forgotten by any

of us anytime soon.



~ The Middle School

Social Studies Department

A Retirement Tribute for Marc Newman

Marc Newman is retiring after 32 years of dedicated service as a history teacher. He has not only served as a role model for teachers and students at the high school, but also for the greater Valley Central community.

Marc came to the high school after receiving his undergraduate degree from American University. He completed his Master's degree at SUNY Albany and his Certificate of Advance Studies from SUNY New Paltz. Marc has won a number of local, state, and national teaching awards during his tenure at Valley Central. He became an accomplished writer and historical researcher. Marc served as a mentor and provided new teachers with valuable guidance. He developed many innovative educational programs and courses. His extensive historical and archival background made him one of the most respected educators to come from our region. Marc was a member and supporter of many local, state and national organizations during his years at Valley Central. He represented our community with pride at many regional, state and national events and conferences. Marc's love of history even extended to radio and television.

Marc Newman has dedicated his life to the children of Valley Central. The interests of children have always been his first priority. History came alive in the classes that Marc taught. He wore

the uniforms and costumes of notable historical figures in his classes with extreme pride. Music and dance routines became part of his plan to capture the imagination of students. The many historical artifacts that Marc used allowed his students to touch history. Marc took students on trips to museums and historical sites. He invited military veterans into his classes to speak to students about the horrors of war. Representatives from Washington's Headquarters and the Orange Blossoms showed his students that history could be more than just studying a textbook. He challenged student to be creative and to ask the important questions about history. Marc subscribed to the belief that all children could learn. He encouraged his students to become active and interested learners. His students engaged in lively debates, studied primary source documents, and analyzed documentaries. Students today know Marc Newman as a teacher who sincerely cared, not only about their learning, but about them as individuals. Students will always remember the personal guidance and advice that Mr. Newman gave them.

Marc also served the greater school community. The assembly he arranged featuring Mr. Peg Leg Bates proved that, with hard work, an individual could be successful in life. The talent/dance shows and senior-faculty athletic events that he participated in helped to raise scholarship money for stu-

dents. The middle and elementary school presentations that he was involved in made history come alive for young students. Children today know him as Andre Jackson, Zorro, or General Richard Montgomery. They remember the American Revolution, Civil War or music and dance of the 1920's as something that is exciting and worthy of further study.

Valley Central will greatly miss Marc Newman. Administrators and teachers will miss his commitment. Children will miss his wit and humor. Marc has made a difference in the lives of all of these people. He has helped them to understand that knowledge is power. An author once said, "teachers are those who use themselves as bridges, over which they invite their students to cross, then having facilitated their crossing, joyfully collapse, encouraging time to create bridges of their own." Marc helped students build their these bridges.

Marc plans on continuing his research and writing after his retirement. I would like to wish him much success, happiness and good health as he begins his new life. May you accomplish all your dreams. Les Brown once said, "shoot for the moon. If you miss it, you'll land among the stars." Good luck and best wishes always

~ Michael A. Fitts

High School

Congratulations to Carol Hochreiter, Karin Warnke Lyons, and Genevieve Fox on your Retirements.

When our Retirees were the New Teachers...

Choosing 1969 as a year when our retirees were just starting their careers, here are the new events of the year.

- Nixon inaugurated ●Boris Karloff died ● Yassar Arafat President of PLO ●Last Saturday Evening Post ● Maiden flight of 747 and Concorde ●James Earle Ray pleads guilty ● Paul McCartney married ●Golda Meir Israel's Prime Minister ● Chicago 8 indicted ● Sirhan Sirhan convicted ● Charles DeGaulle resigns ●Walt Disney World construction begins ●Judy Garland dies ●Gay Rights Movement born ●Prince Charles becomes Prince of Wales ● Chappaquiddick ● Lunar Landing July 20, 1969 ●Manson Murders ●Woodstock ●Rocky Marciano died ●Ho Chi Minh died ●Supreme Court ordered total school desegregation ●SALT talks begin with USSR ●Joseph Kennedy died Rolling Stones fans killed at a concert ●Tiny Tim married Miss Vicky ●Great Britain abolished the death penalty

Top Songs of 1969

- #1 - **Sugar Sugar** - The Archies
- #2 - **Aquarius/Let The Sun Shine In** - The Fifth Dimension
- #3 - **I Can't Get Next To You** - The Temptations
- #4 - **Honky Tonk Woman** - The Rolling Stones
- #5 - **Everyday People** - Sly and the Family Stone
- #6 - **Dizzy** - Tommy Roe
- #7 - **Hot Fun In The Summertime** - Sly And The Family Stone
- #8 - **I'll Never Fall In Love Again** - Tom Jones
- #9 - **Build Me Up Buttercup** - The Foundations
- #10 - **Crimson And Clover** - Tommy James And The Shondels



How they spent those paychecks:

Loaf of bread \$.23 gallon milk \$1.10
 Dozen eggs \$.62 pound sugar \$.12
 New car \$2000 New House \$40,000

1969 Movies

Midnight Cowboy - Oscar, Best Picture
 Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid
 The Wild Bunch
 Hello Dolly
 The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie
 The Wild Bunch
 Bob, Carol, Ted and Alice



On the Tube...

I dream of Jeannie Gunsmoke My Three Sons The Big Valley Mannix
 Hee Haw It Takes A Thief Dragnet Flip Wilson Petticoat Junction
 Hogan's Heroes The Ghost and Mrs. Muir Laugh-In Marcus Welby, MD
 The Ed Sullivan Show The Andy Williams Show Land of the Giants



And after a long first day of school sitting through Superintendent's Convocation, probably nervous about the next day—their first day with students, and just before those night-before-the-first-day-of-school nightmares would begin, they watched the news. Here's a synopsis of the national news stories on September 2, 1969:

The inquest of Mary Jo Kopechne's death was delayed by an appeal.

The UN tried to mediate the release of 2 Israeli hostages taken during a hijacking of a TWA jet.

There was fighting on the Suez Canal between Israel and Egypt.

Desegregation was the focus in LA and the South and racial unrest gripped the nation.

Peace talks were underway in the Vietnam War.

There was a POW conference.

Pres. Nixon told the nation's governors they should take more responsibility for construction projects as he cut that federal budget by 75%.

NYS Gov. Nelson Rockefeller introduced a plan for federal welfare.

Pres. Nixon called for the reform of the Post Office.

Bears were becoming a problem at Yellowstone National Park.

Howard K. Smith's Commentary on ABC News was on Education and Rules. He stated there were 58 million American children attending school \$65 million was spent on education. He reported there was no teacher shortage. And he stated, "Rules are the spinal column of society and we've let ours grow flabby."



There are no greater advocates
for children and education
than teachers and teacher unions.

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Retiring From the Classroom Does Not Mean that You're Retired From the Union

Because the VCTA maintains a retiree's membership on our rolls, the retirees are still VCTA members, classified as inactive status, but always welcome at meetings and functions. The retirees of Valley Central are kept informed and connected through the efforts of Kevin McFadden. Retiree concerns are well represented to the VCTA Executive Council through the voices of Kevin McFadden and Orin Segall, who also a valuable source of union knowledge and history.

As VCTA members, retirees retain their membership in NYSUT and the AFT. NYSUT maintains a retiree office at the NYSUT headquarters in Albany. In 1991, there were 33,000 retired members of NYSUT. By 2005, NYSUT projects that there will be 140,000+ retiree members.

NYSUT Retirees have defined the following goals for themselves: work to keep pensions secure and to improve COLA, work to enrich the lives of retiree members through educational and social activities, continue to organize, represent, advocate for and provide services for retired members, work with salaried members to promote collective bargaining, political action and better education and health care working conditions, and work for positive socioeconomic societal changes.

On Retirement: A Reflection

*"A thing of beauty is a
joy forever;
Its loveliness increases;
it will never
Pass into nothingness ..."*
John Keats

I've been thinking a lot lately, and I especially do at this rebirth, new-life time of year, about beauty and teaching and giving and learning to receive. My feelings about the beauty of the art of teaching are known to many of you. (Indeed, some of you are now thinking that Mac is about to become cornball again!) The beauty lies in the fact that each day a good teacher gives of himself/herself: the gift of knowledge, hard-earned wisdom, under-

standing, patience. This daily gift to students will never die. As they grow in wisdom and age and grace, your gift will "increase", will enhance their lives, "will never pass into nothingness."

As one leaves the active teaching life, he or she becomes the recipient of gifts: the gratitude of those taught, the good wishes of colleagues and, best of all, . . . Time. Time to reflect, time to grow, time to redefine self, time to do all the wonderful things of earlier dreams.



You, indeed, have "fought the good fight," you "have finished the course." Now the time is yours. Welcome to the retiree ranks. Enjoy!

~ Kevin McFadden