

VC ECHOES



Valley Central Teachers' Association

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Special Retiree Edition

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“A good teacher is like a candle - it consumes itself to light the way for others.”

-Anonymous

Simply the Best: 2007 VC Retirees



VCTA Treasurer, John Bonagura, retiring after 37 wonderful years at East Coldenham Elementary.

East Coldenham Will Miss the Inimitable “Mr. B”

The 2006-2007 school year will be Mr. John Bonagura’s last year teaching full time. It will be a very important year in his life, and in ours here at East Coldenham, too. “Mr. B”, as he is affectionately known by all of his students, has been teaching for 37 years, a lifetime by some standards. Some of you reading this right now are not that old!

So what do you do with 37 years? How do you fill up all of that time? John Bonagura has contributed to our Valley Central “family” by doing more than just teaching in the classroom. Over the years he has been involved with the VCTA as a union representative. He has also served for many years as the treasurer for the Dental Trust Fund, and for many years he also was the treasurer for the Valley Central Scholarship Council. He has served on more committees than I can remember. Wherever there was a need for someone to step up to the plate for our school district, John Bonagura was there.

“Putting children center” is nothing new to John. He has been doing this for 37 years in his classroom. “Mr. B” teaches every subject with engaging enthusiasm and has always been there for the boys and girls who needed help. He devoted years to our fifth grade plays before there was ever such a thing as a stipend offered for doing so. It was what was expected, and what you knew was included in the job as teacher. John has been involved with the Boy Scouts, religious instruction within his parish, and the P.T.A. He has been recognized many times for his dedication to our children and his profession. John has received the Founder’s Night Award at East Coldenham, and is a permanent member of the P.T.O. He was also one of the early recipients of the Richard Aderson Award. John is the perfect example of the community person.

There is a saying, that if you enjoy what you do, you haven’t worked a day in your life. John Bonagura loves what he does, and has been totally committed to the children in his classroom, and Valley Cen-



After 37 years of dedication and service to the community, John looks forward to some home improvement projects and time with family in his retirement.

tral. His life has been dedicated to providing the best education for our children, while providing support for his peers and friends at East Coldenham. We are united through tragedy and joy, tears and laughter, bonds that cannot be broken.

So let me say “Thank you, John” from all of us here at East Coldenham and Valley Central. Thank you for giving us that “exemplar”, that “4”, that “A” that we should all strive for. We will miss you so much! We wish you all the very best as you prepare to retire and we hope you enjoy every single day!

~ Kathy Sahl, East Coldenham

VCTA Officers Bid Fond Farewell to One of their Own

John Bonagura has served the VCTA membership in the role of VCTA Treasurer, Benefit Trust Treasurer and Scholarship Council Treasurer. How is it possible for this man to escape his confinement as a VCTA teacher without acquiring the nickname “Mr. Money Pants?” John Bonagura has been a stable and die-hard union member for his entire career, serving over 20 years as a VCTA officer. John has coordinated VCTA membership with NY-SUT headquarters during each of those years, served as a member of the Professional Development Committee and attended Board of Education meetings regularly to report the latest and greatest breaking news to the VCTA Executive Council.

John was a champion of elementary level issues. Be it securing appropriate professional development or realigning the extracurricular stipend schedule to create a more equitable system, John was tenacious. His passion for the art of teaching and unionism was evident in the way he presented and defended his positions.

John’s understanding of VCTA history has been an invaluable asset to the officers that followed him, helping each of us to sound more knowledgeable than we at times felt. As John’s fellow officers become the new crop of “old-timers,” replacing the infamous ones that preceded us, our primary hope is to become as positively infamous as John. Not only that—we hope to always be smiling, just as John always is.

John—we wish you a healthy, active and exciting retirement. Travel to all of those places you have dreamed of exploring. Montana is done—what is next? To those of you who may be surprised that John is an avid traveler— I say Yes—there are vacations that exceed the excitement offered by a week-long stay at Walden Pond or the Pine Bush Alien Museum.

With warmest appreciation, your fellow officers:

~ Tim, Rich, Patti, and Laurie

Enjoy your Retirement, Mr. B!

John Bonagura has taught at East Coldenham for 37 years, 30 of these years in 5th grade. He has a large extended family, which includes three brothers, ten nieces and nephews, four great-nieces and nephews, six foster children, and five grand-foster children.

Teaching must have been in the Bonagura blood, as two of his brothers are also teachers, and one works for IBM. Retirement will allow John to read a great book, especially if someone recommends one. He enjoys both fiction and nonfiction. He also likes to hike in the mountains or along the beach in Nags Head, NC, or you may even see him on his five mile a day walks around the community.

He plans to keep busy after retirement by having some work done around the house and spending time visiting friends and family all over the country. He may do some volunteer work in various places, or even some substitute teaching. John has met many great kids, families, and colleagues during his years at Valley Central. He has especially enjoyed directing all of the plays and musicals here at EC for the past 33 years.

Over the years, John has been involved in many Valley Central organizations, some of which include: the Valley Central Scholarship Council, Valley Central Teachers’ Association, Boy Scouts, and the East Coldenham PTA.

The hallways of East Coldenham will never be the same after he leaves, as John could always be heard singing or whistling many of his favorite tunes while strolling down the hall. He says that he will miss teaching and all of the great people associated with East Coldenham and Valley Central.

~ Debbie Sinclair, Ginger Etheir, and June Guidry

Maybrook Will Miss VCTA Building Rep Sandy Tarallo

Sandy Tarallo says that Maybrook Elementary School is a unique building and that she is proud it has been her “home” for a long time. What makes Maybrook unique to all of its teachers is the warmth, friendliness, and helpfulness that exists within its walls. It’s a small building, but it has a big heart. Sandy is very much a part of that heart, and when she calls Maybrook a home, she is very much a part of the foundation of that home. For thirty-five years Sandy has been teaching at the kindergarten and first grade levels, providing the foundation in the education of hundreds of children. What a special person to work at that level for so many years and teach with such dedication!

Sandy grew up in Justice, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. She attended a Catholic school there until 8th grade, and went on to Argo High School (in the land where Argo Starch is made). After high school, she continued her education at Illinois State University, the University of Kansas, and ultimately graduated from Park College, Montana, in 1970. She taught a first grade class on a Navy base in Rhode Island for one year, did some substituting the next year, and then somehow found her way to Maybrook Elementary School in 1972 as a first grade teacher. This must have been “the place to be” for her because here she stayed, teaching Grade 1 straight through until 2002. A little change of scenery brought her to the Kindergarten level where she has been teaching until the present. What Sandy loves to see is the growth and progress students make learning letters, sounds, blends, reading and writing, adding and subtracting. What amazes her is that what she used to do at the first grade level thirty years ago, she does at the kindergarten level today.

Sandy is not one to be idle. Throughout her years at VC she has served on various committees, has been a PTO faculty representative, a yearbook coordinator, a member of the Child Study Team, a member of the Building Level Team, and a VCTA representative. She also taught parenting classes in our district for a number of years. In her retirement, Sandy won’t be idle either. She loves to garden and to have friends over. She is very active in her church, serving on various committees and in choir. Sandy also plans to do more volunteering in her



After 35 years of excellence, retirement will not slow down Sandy's dedication to children!

community, and she hopes to be at a farm in New Jersey two days a week working with handicapped children using touch therapy with animals.

Certainly not last in the order of importance is Sandy’s family. They are sure to keep her busy as well. Sandy and her husband, Phil, live in the city of Newburgh. They have four children. Cory is a musician in California, and Gina is the one who made Sandy and Phil grandparents, twice blessed. Heather goes to SUNY Purchase and will be graduating in 2008 with a degree in Anthropology. David is a senior at NFA, and Sandy never misses one of his baseball games. They also watch the Yankees together—Sandy is an avid and loyal fan.

I was at a meeting with Sandy recently, and someone asked her if she was counting the days ‘til retirement. Her answer was simply put and wonderful. She said that she wasn’t counting, she has always loved teaching, and that it’s just her time to leave. Maybe on the first day of school in September 2007 Sandy will drive up to Maybrook Elementary School and stop in the Teachers’ Room to share some stories and some laughs. Then as we all meet our new classes, Sandy can climb in her G6 convertible and drive off with a smile on her face, a cap on her head and her hair blowing in the breeze. Sandy, you’ll be free to travel (Las Vegas to celebrate Heather’s 21st birthday will be fun), visit your grandsons, enjoy nature, help your community, and hopefully miss us as much as we’ll miss you. Best wishes in your retirement and wherever the roads you drive upon take you. Enjoy it!

~ Donna Lloyd
Building Rep, Maybrook

Maybrook Says Farewell to Kay Bauer

It is with a little bit of sadness and understanding that Maybrook Elementary School will be saying good bye to Kay Bauer as she begins her retirement from teaching in New York. Sadness because we will all miss Kay very much, yet understanding because everyone at Maybrook understands that Kay wants to spend more time with her daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren in Arizona.

Kay Bauer began her teaching career in 1984 at Maybrook Elementary School. Kay taught first grade for ten years. She enjoyed teaching the “basics” to many five and six year olds. There have been quite a few times when she has been shopping in the mall or dining at a local restaurant and a former first grader approaches her and says, “Hi, Mrs. Bauer. Do you remember me?” It may take her a few moments to recognize these students, however it is always a joy for Kay to reminisce with them. As much as Kay loved the “little ones” she “graduated” to the fifth grade in 1997. It seemed like a good fit since her husband, Bob, was teaching fifth grade at Montgomery Elementary School. Kay met this new challenge with the same enthusiasm that she had while teaching first grade.

Regardless of the grade Kay had taught, she always held very high expectations for her students. Her challenging standards helped most of her students achieve excellent results. Many parents have praised Kay on her ability to prepare their children for the middle school and the responsibilities that await them. Although Kay may have seemed to possess a “tough love” attitude toward her students, this attitude helped many of her students understand that they must be disciplined in order to achieve the highest results. Many of her students appreciated the “extra mile” that Kay would go for them. Kay’s repertoire included phone calls home, early morning extra help sessions, consistent additional help throughout the day whenever possible, and tangible rewards and praise for many students who give their best efforts. Kay was not one to ever give up on any student. She would do her best to find a strategy to help the struggling student, and often times successfully.



Arizona, here she comes!

Kay Bauer plans to soak up the sunshine with her beloved family in retirement.

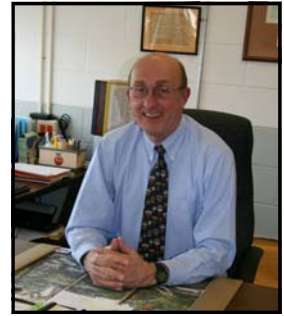
Kay also gave much of herself during her years at Maybrook Elementary School. She ran Peer Mediation and the Maybrook Book Store. She was a member of the Building Level Team and the Child Study Team. Kay was also involved on many district committees, such as the Writing Committee, the English Language Arts Committee, and the Social Studies Committee. Kay attended many writing workshops both in Albany, New York and Cambridge, Massachusetts. Kay also has taught several workshops regarding writing and math, science, and technology to fellow colleagues. These are just some of the ways that Kay has contributed to the Valley Central School District.

I, personally, have benefited from being Kay’s grade level partner for the past nine years. Kay has been an outstanding mentor, master teacher, and most of all, a wonderful friend. I have been very fortunate to have learned from the best. Although the staff of Maybrook Elementary and I will miss her very much, we are happy that she and her husband Bob will be very close to the most important people in their lives. She and Bob have been carrying on a very long-distance relationship with her daughter, son-in-law, and their three precious grandchildren for too many years. Finally, it is Arizona, here they come! Congratulations Kay. You are and always will be the very best.

~ Patricia Jordan, Maybrook

Once a Teacher, Always a Teacher: Harvey Gregory Retires

Harvey Gregory will retire from Valley Central after 36 years of service. He began teaching at Maybrook Elementary in 1971. He then became principal of Montgomery Elementary School, and from there, EC was lucky to have him become our principal for 20 great years. Mr. G met his wife, Jessica, while attending college, and she also taught at Valley Central. They have two children, Hannah and Daniel, and of course, the family dog, Albert, who has been a frequent EC visitor.



As everyone knows, Mr. G loves the outdoors! One of his favorite outdoor sports is cross-country skiing, which his entire family has been involved in at many levels. He hopes retirement allows him time to participate in more Biathlon races. He also enjoys bike riding and would like to complete a "Century" ride.

Mr. G. has many great memories of EC, including our plays, Holiday Gingerbread houses, the school's generous community services, Greenkill trips, and the infamous "Bear on Grounds" alert. His retirement plans are not yet finalized, but he and Jessica have considered moving to a new home. He hopes to find time to restore old furniture and start a daily exercise routine. Mr. G. says he would also like to travel and maybe even look for another job. He toys with working as an admission counselor where he could focus on one task, yet still interact with students and parents.

As our principal, Mr. G has been unique. Who else would take our students cross-country skiing and ice skating, be seen mopping floors and planting bushes, supply gumdrops to his staff, plan and help serve our family style holiday lunches, and head for the rooftop to take pictures. He is leaving very big shoes for a new principal to fill. We will miss you, Mr. G!

—Debbie Sinclair, Ginger Etheir, and June Guidry

Thank You, Mr. Gregory

This year, our concert was dedicated to Mr. Gregory. After 20 years, this was his last concert as the principal of East Coldenham - and I just wanted to say THANKS...

Mr. Gregory believes that all of the subject areas are important- not just Math, Reading and Science, but also the Arts. He proved this many years ago when he single-handedly brought the Mid-Hudson Valley Orchestra to Valley Central. He made all of the arrangements so each child in the 5 Elementary schools could hear such an outstanding orchestra. For some children, that would be the only string ensemble they would ever hear during their childhood.

He also urged me to start the first Elementary Select Chorus in the District to enrich the musically talented students at E.C. He not only gave me the idea, but supplied me with the time and money for all of the extra music that such a group entails.

Each year, when we took the Select group on the road to sing for the people who work at Central Office, Mr. G. arranged everything. He set up transportation, coordinated times with the secretaries, and

before we arrived he had my piano and sound system set up with the Board office already rearranged. When our audience asked if I would come back next year, my answer was that they had to find me a principal who arranged everything just like Mr. Gregory did.

The most stressful time of my year is preparing for the concerts. Mr. Gregory was always there by my side, every time, to help me get through them. He has been known to put on his jeans and to clean off the stage, set up risers and the sound system, buy extra speaker wire, hang scenery, put up Christmas lights, and move any equipment that I needed. He was always behind the scenes on concert night watching the children in the music room while I was with another group. He always had the next group lined up and waiting in the hall ready to come on.

Mr. Gregory has been so supportive of all of the music programs here at E.C., including the instrumental program, musical shows, musical assemblies, and especially my vocal program. For that I will miss him a lot next year. Mr. Gregory deserves a round of applause.

—Carolyn Lahue, East Coldenham

June Guidry, East Coldenham Everywoman, Retiring in September

East Coldenham's secretary is retiring. June Guidry has been a big part of the East Coldenham Family for many, many years. While secretary, June has been confidant to the staff and kids, comforter, and therapist, banker/treasurer, principal fill-in, nurse, counselor, and other roles too numerous to list—always serving with a smile, and a tear from time to time, too.

I have known June Guidry since I taught her oldest child Kristine, way back when. I have also taught her two younger sons, Jeff and Jason. It was quite evident that June and husband Murph were good parents because their children were the kind of students every teacher dreams of teaching. They are all married and enjoying success in their chosen careers. "Do your best!" is what they were taught, and that is what they are doing.

While her children were still in elementary school, June unselfishly volunteered with the PTO/PTA at East Coldenham on all of the fun and educational projects—book fairs, class mother, chap-erone, carnival. She also participated in Scouting as a den leader and committee person for her boys and also in Girl Scouting with Kris. Teaching Sunday School was an important yearly part of family life.

As the kids grew older, June worked for many years on the Valley Central Scholarship Council, serving as Co-President, spending many a cold night selling refreshments at VC football games, and working on the Antique and Art Show each spring. She also found time to be an actress on the East Coldenham stage, acting, singing, and dancing in our plays—Ghost Towns Never Die, The Nifty Fifties, and Duck-tails and Bobby-Sox. June felt right at home with the music and the beat of the latter two shows. She also worked for several years as Co-Editor of the East Coldenham yearbook. The enormous efforts put into publishing such outstanding books is very evident. They are the best I have seen in the elementary schools. This year's tops them all.

After a while, June was hired as a Kindergarten and Library Paraprofessional. She enjoyed working with all of those little guys in kindergarten and their teacher, Kathleen Takvam. She also worked with Dr. Chris Mello in the East Coldenham Special



The VC Family will be lucky enough to see June in September! After she retires, it's on to spending quality time with her family and traveling.

Education office in the capacity of paraprofessional and secretary. Then, one day, Central Office called and June moved to "higher" places, working as secretary in the district Special Education Office. However, the strong connection to East Coldenham pulled June back to her roots. Nancy Conroy, our secretary, was leaving and EC needed someone to come to take the job. Of course, June jumped at the chance, and has been enjoying that decision every day.

Now that June is retiring, she is looking forward to spending quality time with her husband Murph, her kids, and her grandchildren, as well as traveling from time to time. Having no time constraints is a luxury to look forward to. Books will be read, *Sudoku* puzzles solved, and even a little gardening will be accomplished.

June has truly enjoyed her career at Valley Central and eagerly awaits the start of the next phase of her life. She will wait until September, though, so that she can help with the transition of East Coldenham's new principal, Mark Ray. East Coldenham and Valley Central will truly miss this dedicated lady. We wish you all the best life has to offer.

~ John Bonagura, VCTA Treasurer,
East Coldenham

After 16 years, Rosemary Rothwell says goodbye to EC

Rosemary Rothwell has worked at East Coldenham for 16 years. Over the years, she has worked in many different jobs. She worked in a 1:1 special education classroom, and as a Kindergarten and library paraprofessional. At present, she is EC's copy, breakfast, and greeter para. Of all the positions that Mrs. Rothwell has held, her very favorite was being a 1:1 paraprofessional.

Rosemary has many fond memories of her time at East Coldenham. The smiling faces and positive attitudes of the children made it very easy for her to come to work each day. Rosemary's favorite memories of East Coldenham are her students, going on the Greenkill Environmental Center trip and seeing the children enjoy all of the wonderful activities, and even taking a student sledding on the school playground!

Mrs. Rothwell has been married to Ron for 38 years. They have four children: Randi, their daughter, and three sons: Ron, Ryan, and Ray. They also have a new daughter-in-law, Sami, Ray's wife.

In her spare time, Rosemary loves doing crossword puzzles, crocheting, and doing any type of home improvement projects. There is no project she won't



Rosemary and her husband, Ron, may relocate to Washington DC after her retirement to be near their children.

attempt to do—from kitchen remodeling to hanging ceiling fans.

Rosemary is also an animal lover, and she is a frequent pet-sitter for her children's pets. One of her very favorite pastimes is planning her many trips to Atlantic City. Eventually, Rosemary and her husband plan to move closer to their children in the Washington DC area. Around EC, she can often be seen making coffee for the staff, setting up breakfasts, watering the many plants that beautify the lobby, and "lending" lunch or breakfast money to students.

Best of luck, Rosemary!

~ Debbie Sinclair, Ginger Etheir, and June Guidry

My How Far We've Come!

According to the 1972 Collective Bargaining Agreement of Valley Central Teachers' Association, Step 1 salaries were as follows:

<u>BA</u>	<u>BA+30</u>	<u>BA+60</u>	<u>MA</u>	<u>MA+30</u>	<u>MA+60</u>
8,200	8,850	9,500	9,200	9,850	10,500

A union's work is never done.



Beverly Slomka Retires after 39 Years at VC!

Beverly has been a dedicated teacher at Valley Central for an unbelievable 39 years! She has been married to her husband Joe for 37 years. She has one son, Stefan, and a beautiful four-year-old granddaughter, Madison.

Not only has Beverly been at Valley Central for many years, she has taught many different subjects. Her career began as a part-time teacher between the high school and middle school. She began as a French teacher, so if you can “parlez vous francais,” you may be one of her former students. She also taught sixth grade Reading, English, Social Studies and even Math! Currently, she teaches seventh grade American History. Many students have fond memories of being in her class.

Beverly is really looking forward to retirement!! She plans to sleep in very late. Her plans are to do lots of gardening, work around the house and spend time with her granddaughter. She plans to learn how to stencil. Beverly is eagerly anticipating

If you're looking for Beverly this time next year, you'll probably find her in the garden or with her beautiful granddaughter!



the first retirement breakfast that will be held as she watches the yellow school buses go by her.

May she fondly remember her friends and experiences that she has experienced over the years. Valley Central Middle School wishes Beverly a happy, well-deserved, relaxing, and healthy retirement.

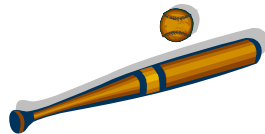
~ Patricia Weigel, MS

Remember When Our Retirees Were New Teachers... ?

Some of us aren't old enough to remember the world as it was 30 years ago! These are some of the events, facts, and pop culture highlights of 1977, when most of our retirees were in the early stages of their careers and still mastering the craft. (cont'd on pg 13)

Sports

World Series:



New York Yankees beat LA Dodgers



Super Bowl XI:

Oakland Raiders beat Minnesota Vikings

US Open Golf Winner:
Hubert Green



Headlines from 1977

- ~ First Elections in Pakistan
- ~ Menachem Begin becomes Israel's PM
- ~ US Gives up Panama Canal
- ~ Carter Pardons Draft Dodgers
- ~ Anwar Sadat Visits Jerusalem
- ~ Zaire Repels Angolan Invasion



The Middle School Loses a Hero: Eileen Wojehowski Retires

I would like to start by posing the question: Are heroes real or fantasy? As much as I enjoy the Marvel comic book superheroes, I do know they are not real, but I would like to tell you that when I began working at Valley Central Middle School I met my real-life hero, Eileen Wojehowski. She is an amazing woman. As a department we were asked to write Eileen's entry for the VC Echoes and when it was presented to me I couldn't imagine writing about someone that has made me feel so welcomed, loved and respected as a teacher and a person. Coming up with words to express my feelings for Eileen seemed impossible. I can honestly say that the words on this page were the hardest assignment that I have ever written and as much as I tried to express my feelings of admiration and respect for her, I don't believe there are enough words in the English language to do so.

Anyone that knows Eileen knows of her dedication to her very large family including her grand puppy. We are fortunate that her dedication has been extended to the students and staff at VCMS. My first years in the middle school, Eileen was my mentor and my guide. As time passed, she became my inspiration and friend. I am thankful that this year, my nephew had the opportunity to learn in Eileen's classes and be inspired by her true love of the English language.

Jen Hoffman recounts, "As a new teacher, Eileen made sure that I had everything I would need. She literally spent hours over the summer with me, just to ensure that I knew everything about the department, the school, the district, and anything in be-

The Middle School will have an enormous void to fill when Eileen retires! She will be dearly missed.



tween. Since that time, Eileen has continued to share all the information she obtains. She is one of the most caring people I have ever met. I have seen her bend over backwards just to help ease another's burden."

The English department in the middle school will be left with an enormous void with Eileen's much deserved retirement. We can only hope that Eileen puts as much seemingly endless energy into enjoying her retirement, as she has put into her career.

"One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings, the curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child."

-Carl Gustav Jung

~ Carolyn Concolino and Jenn Hoffman, MS

Amazing Service and Dedication to the VC Family

When combined, this year's 9 retirees have served the Valley Central Community for over 270 years! What a staggering personal accomplishment and a testament to the great people of Valley Central!

Joyce Zawistowski, VCHS Librarian, to retire after 35 years

*There was a book lady who lived at the school,
She had so many students she didn't know what to do.
So she taught them all soundly to read and research
And she listened and comforted each one in a lurch.
"Mrs. Z" as she's called, saved many a day.
But now she's retiring- it's her time to play!*

A 1968 graduate of Valley Central, Joyce Zawistowski will retire in June after 35 years as an educator in the district. A second and fourth grade classroom teacher at East Coldenham for 13 years, her first student, Fabio Campana, was her inspiration to permanently join the teaching profession.

On a whim, Joyce began taking library science classes at SUNY Albany and found her MLS degree would later serve her well. She began her service to the district as a librarian in 1985, dividing her time between Maybrook and Walden. In 1987, she was named the librarian at Berea Elementary where she remained until the assignment to the High School. As Joyce recalls, she was on the interview committee in 1997 for the new high school librarian. After each meeting, Principal Robert Klein would urge her to apply for the position. Torn between her love of Berea and younger students, and the excitement of a new challenge, Joyce made the decision to move to the high school and tackle the world of teenagers.

This decision proved fortuitous not only for Joyce but for the many students and faculty she has supported for the last ten years. When asked what she enjoys the most about the job, Joyce said, "It is the quest— the love of learning along with seeing students develop a thirst for knowledge." She feels most gratified when she can step back and watch as students she has trained can assist other students in their research.

Teaching students how to do research is among her unique talents. According to Mr. Joseph Fracalossi, "the quality of the Scientific Research Program is a direct product of the quality of the school librarian. I knew that the program at VC would be fine with Joyce Zawistowski in the library." All the faculty members whose students do research papers can

attest to the wonderful support Joyce provides for every project.

Special activities and programs Joyce has created include the "Read Aloud" as well as the book fairs and service club, various contests, the poetry slam, student book club, author days, and RIFF. She has been the coordinator for the Read Aloud Committee and member and liaison for the school library system. Joyce was the 2007 recipient of the Valley Central Founder's Award.

Asked what she will miss the most, Joyce said "I will miss the interaction with students and staff." She has really enjoyed the "one on one" experiences. Yomailyn Cruz, a member of the service club stated, "I'll never forget how great she's been, helping me with all my problems, whether school-related or not."

Looking ahead to the wild luxury of "free" time, Joyce is eager to be there full-time for her parents. She is anticipating fun times with friends already retired and the prospect of reading the paper the same day it is published. She said, "I can't wait to read books in the morning and play in the dirt in my garden all afternoon!"

We will miss you, Joyce, but wish you all the happiness that you have brought to the Valley Central community over an extraordinary 35-year career. Bravo!

~ Anne Wilkins, HS



Though we'll miss her once retired, Joyce will have more time to spend with wonderful VC friends like Anne Wilkins and Linda Gizzarelli. You're leaving some big shoes to fill, Mrs. Z.!

Dedication Personified, Joyce Zawistowski Retires

Thirty five years of service. Think of the commitment, the ramifications, the pure insanity of it! We are continually reminded that a young adult in today's world will have several "careers" based on the vagaries of ever-changing technology, the world market and business concerns and demands. Is it any wonder that this new work force has had no choice in or chance to build relationships, loyalty or commitment—to never make real connections to other people? It certainly is hard for me and my generation to imagine this kind of transience.



After 35 years of selfless dedication, Joyce, you have more than earned your retirement. Enjoy every minute of it!

At the other end of the spectrum is an individual who symbolizes just those qualities that are missing or have been groomed out of this new generation of professionals: Joyce Zawistowski, my good friend. I have had the honor and pleasure of knowing and working with Joyce since she joined the high school faculty ten years ago. From elementary teacher to elementary librarian teacher to high school librarian teacher, Joyce has literally affected the lives of thousands of people from five to sixty five. She transformed the library into a hive of learning and positive connections. She has given her time, effort, knowledge, wisdom and heart unflinchingly to those of us who have been lucky enough to step into her realm. She is an unending source of information and assistance to her students and the staff. She provides a safe haven and is a willing confidante for those who need advice, comfort or a shoulder to cry on. She is a professional for her staff, who tirelessly and selflessly complements instruction at all levels. She is a consummate educator

who truly believes and practices "putting children (and staff) center."

On a more personal level, I consider myself lucky to be part of Joyce's life. She has been a fountain of professional information, assistance and discussion. She is a source of laughter and joy with an eternally optimistic outlook. We have shared our thoughts, beliefs and emotions to become close friends and to provide support for each other. I believe that in one's lifetime there are only a select few people we can truly call our friends. In that very short list of people in my life, I consider Joyce to be my friend. I can't imagine my life being the same without having known her for these last ten years.

Joyce has left an indelible, unforgettable and wonderful mark on the Valley Central community. She will surely be missed and never replaced. Joyce, may your retirement be all that you hope for and more. No one deserves that reward more than you.

~ Jay Sussdorff, Retiree Class of 2005

The VCTA Heartily Congratulates all of
Valley Central's 2007 Retirees
Best Wishes for a
Long and Healthy Retirement!

Remember When Our Retirees Were New Teachers... (from pg 9)

On the Radio: Boogie Down!

- "You Don't Have to Be a Star"
Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr.
- "You Make Me Feel Like Dancing"
Leo Sayer
- "I Wish" Stevie Wonder
- "Car Wash" Rose Royce
- "New Kid in Town" Eagles
- "Rich Girl" Daryl Hall and John Oates
- "Dancing Queen" ABBA



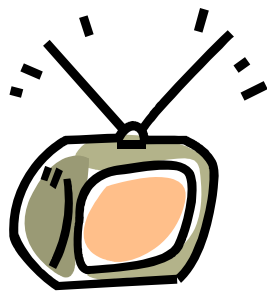
Interesting Statistics:



- US Population: 220,239,425
- Unemployment: 7.1%
- Avg. Life Expectancy: 73.3 yrs
- Avg. Cost of a New Home: \$54,200.00
- Cost of a first-class stamp: \$0.13
- Cost of a gallon of gas: \$0.62
- Cost of a dozen eggs: \$0.82
- Cost of a gallon of milk: \$1.68

Tops on TV:

- Laverne & Shirley (ABC)
- Happy Days (ABC)
- Three's Company (ABC)
- 60 Minutes (CBS)
- Charlie's Angels (ABC)
- All in the Family (CBS)
- Little House on the Prairie (NBC)
- Alice (CBS)
- M*A*S*H (CBS)
- One Day at a Time (CBS)
- Roots Miniseries draws 130 million viewers



On the Big Screen:

- ★ Star Wars,
- ★ Rocky,
- ★ Smokey and the
- ★ Bandit,
- ★ A Star Is Born,
- ★ King Kong,
- ★ The Deep,
- ★ Silver Streak,
- ★ The Enforcer,
- ★ Close Encounters of the Third Kind



All Information Taken From the Following Web Sites:

<http://www.1970sflashback.com>

<http://www.historycentral.com>

<http://www.infoplease.com>

Advertising Section

These ads will be seen by over 900 members of the VC Educational Community and their households. If you would like to advertise in the next issue of the VC ECHOES, contact Meghan Riley, 457-5899 for rates.



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F:845.454.0737

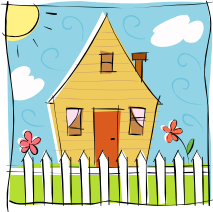
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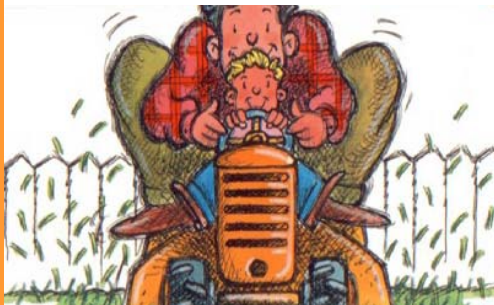
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Secretary, Laurie Hey (MS) VM 6646
Treasurer, John Bonagura (EC) VM 2604

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- **East Coldenham:** Holly Bacon, Denise Pagliocca
- **Maybrook:** Donna Lloyd, Sandy Tarallo
- **Montgomery:** Gail Nozell, Jane Dionne, Melinda Sulzbach, Mike Gonzales (A)
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- **Secretarial Representative:** Pamela Cunningham (B)
- **Paraprofessional Representative:** Kathy Lennon (W)

The VC Echoes is the official publication of the Valley Central Teachers' Association—Local 3076—and is published regularly throughout the school year.

Article contributions or Letters to the Editor for the next issue should be sent to Meghan Riley, HS, by June 9, 2007.

Any articles submitted to the VC Echoes will also be posted on the VCTA web site.

On Retirement... A Reflection

Retirement is whatever you want it to be—

- ~ Getting up early to watch a beautiful sunrise and then going back to bed.
- ~ Florida in winter and Alaska in August.
- ~ Reading a novel 'til three in the morning.
- ~ Traveling to see a grandchild's soccer game— in the middle of the week!
- ~ Rocking on the back porch or at an all night concert.
- ~ Mowing the grass or watching it grow.
- ~ Reminiscing with old friends and making new ones.
- ~ Never wearing a tie again.

Whatever you want it to be, make it happen. Serviam (I will serve) has been the teacher's lot and much of the teacher's life. Retirement is the reward for this life well-spent. Enjoy every moment of your life... and welcome to the ranks of retirees.



~ Kevin McFadden,
Retiree Class of 1991

STAY CONNECTED TO THE VCTA

Don't forget that when you retire, you are still a part of the VCTA. Retirees are blessed to have Kevin McFadden and Arline Friedman representing them on the Executive Council.

Arline is the retiree VOTE-COPE Coordinator. Mac organizes the Retiree Luncheon and he mails the ECHOES out to retirees. He is also a regular at Board of Education meetings. Retirees could not ask for better representation!

If you have not yet returned your preference forms or if you did not yet receive one, please contact me via e-mail at mrilley@vcmail.oubores.org. We want to help you stay connected!