

## VC ECHOES

Volume 11, Issue 6

Valley Central Teachers' Association

June, 2009

# 2008-2009: OUR YEAR IN PICTURES

Viking Induction Program



Making Strides



Fall Fest



Spring Fling



SRP Convention



Volume 11, Issue 6

June, 2009

### In this issue:

On Retirement	2
Joe Carroll	3
Carol DeMico	4
Laurie Hughes	4
Dotty Malley	6
John Walsh	7
Farewell, Gigs	8
Who Knows?	9
VCTA Blood Drive	10
Jeanne Flanagan	10
Political Action	11
Connie Griffin	14
Tier 5	15
In the News	16
Teacher's Prayer	17
MS Celebration	18
Mac's Musings	20
Blood Drive	24

VC Echoes is  
a NYSUT  
and AFT  
Award-winning  
Publication!

## Valley Central Teachers' Association 1175 State Route 17K Montgomery, NY 12549

### VCTA Officers:

President, Timothy Brown (HS) VM 7613  
Vice Pres., Richard Steger (Walden) VM 5648  
Vice Pres., Patti Lunden (HS) VM 7664  
Secretary, Laurie Councill (MS) VM 6646  
Treasurer, Erin Davis (B) VM 1636

### Executive Council Building Representatives

•Berea: Donna Clark, Lisa Daily, Robin Sinclair-Scott, Maura Crown (A)  
•East Coldenham: Sandy Carroll, Mary Devitt, Cathi Heil, Holly Bacon (A)  
•Maybrook: Linda Draughn, Donna Lloyd  
•Montgomery: Brian Ackley, Gail Nozell, Melinda Sulzbach  
•Walden: Janet Malloy, Mary Ellen Mangia-mele, Lori Myerson, Patricia Joy (A)  
•Middle School: Chris Arndt, Sonya Berger, Mary Bleau, Jo-Ann Capozella, Shawn Car-rozza, Tammy Coleman, Joe Collins

•High School: Bob Jurgens, Christine Mello, Antoinette Oakes, Meghan Rilley, Diane Ruggles, Jennie Sexton, Keith Sexton, Melissa Verlin, Carolyn Zayas, Lisa Aguilera (A)  
•Secretarial Representative: JoAnn Cassisi (HS), Philomena Davis (MS)  
•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.*

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

## On Retirement: A Reflection

I've been wondering if Robert Frost would mind me stealing some thoughts regarding crossroads, choices, decisions and all that philosophical stuff. The poet spoke (as all of us remember who long ago sat in classrooms all over creation being told how much we were going to enjoy poetry) of two roads "diverging" in a wood. My rusty and not-always-trusty memory recalls Mr. John Leonard discussing choices of careers, friends, etc. from the point of view of the young. As I reflected on Frost's words today, a minor league epiphany hit me. His words have special meaning for those about to retire. "Diverge" connotes a varying from what is normal. That is exactly what retirement is all about. We teachers have done the same thing for many years: preparing, presenting, testing, correcting, guiding. That is our norm. Now the crossroads. Now the opportunity to take the "road less traveled by." Now to vary from the norm, to break free. May it "make all the difference." Have a happy, healthy retirement ad multos annos.

We welcome you into the ranks of retirees.

—Kevin McFadden, Retiree Representative, VCTA



## Thanks, Joe!

**M**y memories of the 70s include Big Wheels, *Happy Days*, bell bottom pants, disco, The Yankees, the pet rock craze, Evil Knievel, and Joe Carroll, a name synonymous with the teacher I have always tried to emulate. His passion for his craft inspired me to enter the profession.

Looking back to Walden Elementary school in the 1970s is easy and comforting for me and I like to reflect on the time period often. One fond memory is always Mr. Carroll's room, the place all the kids went to after school because they knew there would be a healthy dose of humor and a person who talked **to** you, not **at** you. He cared so much about our personal well-being and how we mattered in the world. He never seemed too busy to learn little tidbits about us and interject them into a future conversation. Mr. Carroll reminded us constantly that we mattered greatly to the community at large. My wife and I marvel at how he can still spout off names and tell us a little about ourselves after so many years. He truly paid attention!

As I think about the future, I am somewhat saddened thinking about the elementary school students who will never have the chance to work with him and be nurtured in his classroom. Our son Jona-

than is in first grade and we desperately want Joe to put in one more year! What a unique experience for a father and son to have the same teacher! Recently, I joked with Joe about giving the district another fifteen years and he quickly quipped that he could not make it another fifteen minutes. I could always count on his wit.

As I wait for my son at East Coldenham, I often observe Mr. Carroll interacting with his students and colleagues. In a sea of children, there are always five or six kids flocking to him, holding hands, and chattering away. It is amazing how he can listen to each conversation, filter, put them on the right bus, and leave them with a kind word for the evening. It is a skill only another teacher can appreciate.

I would like to take the time to thank him for being that inspiration to us all those years ago. He placed us above the curriculum and served us well. His name comes up often when a group of us get together and talk about the old days. To us he is the face of our early school years and he will NEVER be forgotten! Happy trails old friend. Thanks!

Faithfully Submitted,  
—Bob Jurgens



*Joe demonstrates that trademark sense of humor and wit while having fun with his fellow retirees:*

*From left: Joe Carroll, Dotty Malley, Carol DeMicco, and Margaret Vass.*

## Goodbye, Mrs. DeMicco!

For thirty years, Mrs. DeMicco has been both a teacher and an essential part of life at Berea. Her many contributions to our students, faculty, staff and community have enriched all our lives. When she retires this June, we will miss her very much.

Throughout the years, we have looked forward to her wonderful panoramas of seasonal art. There have been fall scenes with vivid colors; winter scenes with snow and snowmen; and beautiful scenes with flowers, trees and grass welcoming spring. These lovely displays, carefully interweaving science and art, have always brightened the building.

A particular favorite of Mrs. DeMicco's many lessons is the Famous Artist Study. Students are encouraged to examine the life and work of famous artists and then do a painting using the ideas, subjects and colors of their chosen artist as inspiration. Each fall, our school has been brought to life by these wonderful examples of student work. Her obvious enthusiasm for the work of her students is deeply felt and fully appreciated by parents, faculty and the school community at the annual May Art Show.

## Dear Laurie,

My dear friend, Laurie Hughes, is retiring as a paraprofessional from Maybrook Elementary after 23 years of service. I will miss her greatly, as she is a very special part of our Maybrook family. She has also been a special part of my personal family for 21 years.

Laurie is the kindergarten para, library para, and actually a "jack of all trades." Need any job done? Call Laurie. Please be especially certain to have her for cafeteria duty on Waffle Day. I think that will be one of her most favorite memories, *ever*.

Laurie is a member of the building Safety Committee, is the building Union Rep for paras, and a member of the Citizens' Advisory Budget Commit-

Mrs. DeMicco has devoted much of her free time and energy to the school community. She has supported her fellow teachers at Valley Central in her role as union representative. She is proud to have started the school yearbook, which continues to this day. She has acted as student council advisor. In that capacity, she has held elections, helped students understand government and planned programs and activities for the school. She has helped to raise both awareness and money for breast cancer research by selling daffodils each spring. Mrs. DeMicco has overseen the school store, a favorite place where students always find unique pencils, erasers and other treasures.

Thank you, Mrs. DeMicco!

—Jean Cook, Retiree, Berea



tee for years. She has made a difference to Valley Central. She has given 23 years of faithful service, friendship to all, and unconditional love and respect to the students.

Raised in New Jersey, Laurie came to Maybrook after she was married. Laurie's children, Adam and Colleen, were Maybrook Elementary students. During her time as a Maybrook mom, Laurie was an active, dedicated parent, giving time to PTO and Boy Scouts. She is a member of the Catholic Daughters at the Church of the Assumption. Laurie has also worked part time at the Maybrook Public Library for many years, and may continue to work there after retirement. Laurie is also planning to pursue other options. Then in a few years, (*cont'd on pg 5*)

## Dear Laurie, (cont'd from pg 4)

she is considering a move to Virginia to be near her sister.

Whatever the future may bring, we all pray for good fortune, peace, and happiness for Laurie. No one deserves it more!!! We love you, Laurie!

—Linda Draughn

May you always have these blessings-  
A soft breeze when sun comes-  
A warm fireside in the winter-  
And always-  
the warm, soft smile of a friend.

—Irish blessing, author unknown

Laurie wears many hats. One is that she is my kindergarten para. Laurie is with me when I take the kindergarteners outside for their exercise lab. Laurie is in charge of the swings...without Laurie, no swings today!

With the addition of Literacy Collaborative to the Kindergarten program, I asked Laurie to be in charge of "checking" the work of several centers and she willingly jumped right in!

Laurie is a kind, caring person. Children need grown-ups that they can go to when their day is not going right-for whatever reason-and the children know they can go to Mrs. Hughes.

—Mrs. Flo Spies

I came to Maybrook in the summer of 1998, with very little time to get ready for the first day of classes; Laurie was there to greet me. She knew the library collection and where everything was located. She made it an easy transition for me.

I was told in library school every library should have a person to act as an authority control, one person that can maintain the consistency of a library collection. I had told Laurie that she was the consistency within Maybrook's library, because she had seen so many librarians come and go.

She has always been there to offer a helping hand no matter how large or small the task. Since I have been at Maybrook, we have re-shelved the entire

collection many times. Never once has she avoided the job, often giving of her own time in order to get the books back on the shelf in a timely manner.

She is always there to listen and offer advice when needed. She has touched the lives of many, both young and old, throughout her years at Maybrook. She will surely be missed. I sincerely wish her a wonderful retirement, as she continues her journey in a new and exciting phase of her life!

—Candi Baxter

Dear Laurie,

I didn't know how to start this,  
"I" actually didn't know what to say...

I remember that you were with me  
On my very first day.

You were the first friend I made,  
You probably didn't know.  
You guided me through that kindergarten class,  
You helped me to learn and to grow.

I couldn't have done it without you.  
In fact, I'm sure I never would.  
Perhaps that is why you understand me,  
And why I'm just "misunderstood" !!

Good Luck and Best Wishes Always!  
You will truly be missed! With love,  
—Jackie Scarano





## Dotty Malley, You Are Missed!

**B**et you can't think of any one person who has pretty much worked with every type of Administrator in the district. Well, I can....Dotty Malley. Dotty began working for VC in 1976 in the cafeteria under Clair Ciarullo. She then moved over to the guidance office of the high school in 1986 until 1993 when she became a receptionist at the VC board office. In 1994 she returned to the high school and was a secretary for Don Crispell working on CAS, Evening high school, the Trinity program, and guidance. In September of 1997, Dotty became the account clerk replacing Norma Manning until her retirement in January of 2009.

Dotty was the Valley Central High School money lady. If you needed money, had to pay a bill, straighten out a mess you made with a company you ordered from, needed checks for scholarships, working papers, driving certificates or job postings, look no further than Dotty. Dotty was also the first person to go to if you needed help with a project (you know like on the days when you all see the secretaries "stuffing envelopes"); she helped out in the main office when needed, assisted with grades, and at graduation time. You could always count of her to help out in a pinch.

Dotty is a lifelong resident of the Montgomery area. Her entire family consists of VC graduates beginning with her mom who graduated from the Amy Bull Crist school (a 1 room school house) which incorporated grades K-12. Dotty and her husband, Bill, graduated from VC as did her 2 children, Wendy and Danny. Her 3 grandchildren are also VC students!

Dotty and her husband own their own water trucking company which has been in business for the past 20 years. Dotty would come to work at VC at 6:30 every morning to help out in the main office until 3:00 pm. She would then go home and work at their business until she would set the alarm to wake up to start all over again. A harder working woman



you will never meet.

Dotty is a true friend and a warm and loving daughter, mother, grandmother and wife. She was definitely one of VC's true assets.

She does now have 2 new additions to her family which put a smile on her face: Chica and Mia, her 1 pound Chihuahuas.

Enjoy life, Dotty, you are surely missed!

—Jo Ann Cassisi & Pat Zillig

## Big John Has Left the Building

**A**fter 31 years in the education business "Big John" Walsh is calling it a career! That's right folks, you will no longer spot John arriving for his early morning swim or "pumping iron" between classes!

John graduated from SUNY Oneonta and took a Social Studies position at a nearby high school. He would eventually marry, land a Social Studies job at Chester High School and make Orange County his home. In 1984 John jumped at the opportunity to coach (basketball) and teach at VCHS, where he would spend the next 25 years teaching U.S. History, and Global Studies I & II, where he earned the title "The Global Guru." This past year, John eagerly accepted a new challenge by agreeing to teach in the "Trinity" program.

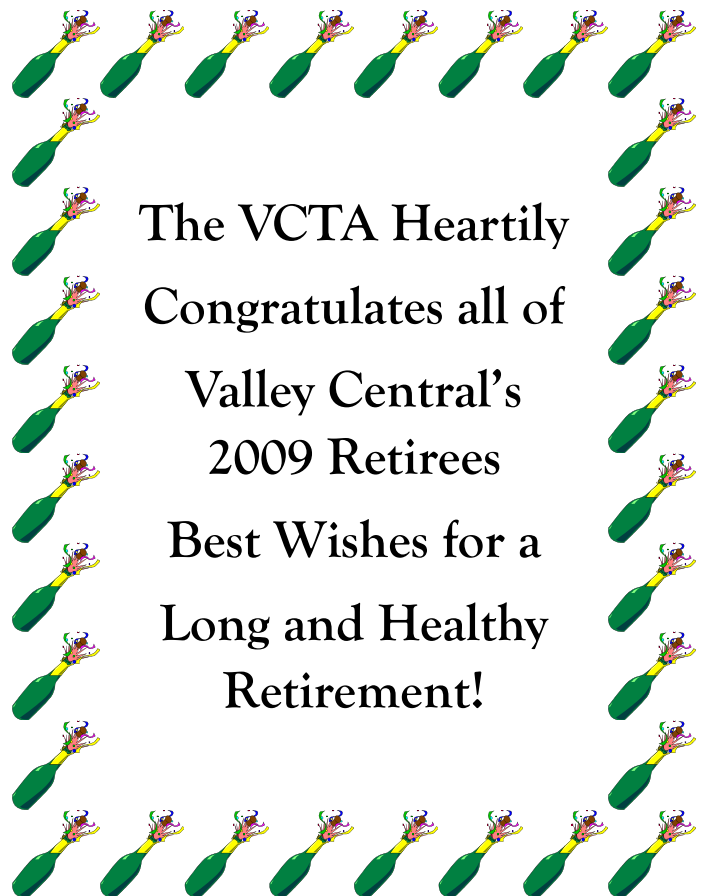
Through the years John could always be counted on to pitch in and help the Social Studies Department and in fact, any of his colleagues in general. A great party-goer and avid sports fan ( hoops-hoops-hoops), John knows how to have a good time and keep things light-hearted!

In retirement, John plans to spend time with his 2 daughters and his new wife, Maureen, and her children and grandchildren. He will be splitting his time between his new home in Johnson City (N.Y.), Cleveland Ohio, and Scottsdale Arizona. John is also giving serious consideration to doing some interim administrative work upstate as he is a certified administrator!

Speaking for myself and I am sure many others, next year the halls of VCHS just won't be the same without the presence of "Big John"

Best wishes and Good Luck John--we will miss you!

—Rob Sassi, Soc. St., HS



## Farewell, Gigs!

It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to our own Jo Ann “Gigs” Giglio, who is retiring. Jo Ann is a graduate of Valley Central who, for years, served as the “unofficial” sports photographer before becoming the high school’s first security monitor in 1986. Gigs has also worked in the library, guidance office, and most recently, as lobby security/greeter.

Jo Ann has always been outgoing and friendly to students and staff alike—in fact, it is hard to get by her without one of her famous “How we doin’?” This avid New York Yankee and Denver Broncos fan also loves the horses!!! She has been regularly spotted at Monticello Raceway as well as Saratoga. (That’s why every time I pass by Jo Ann, you will hear me sing the “Marshall Calls the Pacers” tune).

In retirement, Jo Ann plans on spending time relaxing, gardening, attending horse races, and the casinos. She will be greatly missed by the faculty, staff, and students at the high school.



Good luck, Gigs! We all hope that you have many “lucky” days ahead and “hit” the jackpot in Atlantic City!

Faithfully Submitted,  
—Rob Sassi, High School

*Gigs never fails to brighten many a day with her sweet smile, kind words, and wonderful, welcoming spirit! You will be dearly missed in the halls of Valley Central High School. We love you, Gigs! —Meghan Riley*

*Gigs, you have been a consistent source of sunshine in the high school, even when the days have been cloudy with rain. Your warm and caring personality affects everyone around you in a positive way. The gift of your photos from all of the events that you have attended were awesome. You will be missed. Enjoy the races and keep taking those pictures. —Tim Brown*

*Gigs, you have been there for so many people and touched so many lives. You were the best softball coach anyone could ask for. Your support and energy is such an inspiration. —JoAnn Cassisi*

*Gigs, every morning as we walked into the main office, you were there to welcome us. It will be hard to imagine a day without you. We will miss your dedication, professionalism and more importantly your kind and caring personality. Enjoy all that life has to offer. You deserve it. —The Administrative Team: Dr. Lynker, Mr. Balducci, Mr. DiMaio, and Mrs. Lee*

**Attention New Retirees: STAY CONNECTED TO THE VCTA!!** Go to [www.vcta.net](http://www.vcta.net), select ECHOES page, select the link to the new retiree preference form to continue to receive the VC ECHOES next year. Or just send your future address to: Meghan Riley, HS



## Who Knows What Tomorrow Brings?

I would like to wish each of you a restful and enjoyable break. Each school year brings with it the normal trials and tribulations inherent in a profession for which the demands are high and the only solutions are hard work, commitment, creativity, perseverance and the seemingly contradictory need to have both a thick skin and a compassionate heart to be successful and remain sane.

This year has certainly reminded each of us just how fragile the economy can be and, consequently, how fragile public education's financial support really is. We have weathered the storm, but not without damage to programs and loss of staff that will ultimately make our ability to service students more difficult. I am proud of the professionalism and integrity demonstrated by VC staff during these uncertain times. This professionalism is our trademark both within and outside the VC community.

No one really knows what tomorrow brings, but we can hope that the promises made for next school year will be honored by state and federal officials. Some economists predict more doom and gloom for our future while others predict a gradual improvement in the overall national and global economies. The reality is that economic forecasting is

not an exact "science;" if it was, we would not have been caught unaware this year.

I would like to thank Patti Lunden and Rich Steger for their efforts throughout the year in monitoring the school budget and its impact on staffing and programs. This task alone has been a full-time job for which there was not a "perfect" solution. Monitoring the impact of the federal stimulus package and ensuring tenure and certification compliance while understanding and watch-dogging seniority rights was their top priority this year. Kathy Lennon and Wenda Heaney performed a similar role for the paraprofessional unit, working diligently to preserve support staff and/or working hours within a job title for which NYS does not provide seniority rights or any other forms of protection offered to many other public workers.

As new information becomes available, we will share it as soon as possible via our website ([www.vcta.net](http://www.vcta.net)) or email during the summer. In the meantime, enjoy your two month reprieve so that you can return to work with the same commitment, creativity and perseverance that have enabled each of us to put children center each year.

*—Tim Brown, HS, VCTA Pres.*

We at NYSUT know your lives are complicated, busy, and full. Unexpected complications arise. NYSUT Social Services can help by suggesting a positive course of action, providing pertinent information, and/or help from a caring professional.

**Let NYSUT Social Services assist you.**

Please call 1-800-342-9810, ext. 6206 or e-mail us at: [socsvcs@nysutmail.org](mailto:socsvcs@nysutmail.org)

Confidential – No Cost— Available to In-service and Retirees, and their families

**Scott Hicks, LCSW— Laurie Kupperstein, MS—Ani Shahinian, LCSW-R**

## VCTA Blood Drive Report

Sixty Seven donors turned out for the 11th annual VCTA Blood Drive. We had a very busy night and Kathy wants to thank everyone who waited patiently for their turn. "Not only do I want to say thank you to all the donors but to all the people who helped to make the blood drive happen." Donna Sudam designs the fliers and Lori Councill prints the fliers on hard-to-find red paper. The building reps in each building: Cathie Heil, Connie Griffin, Patty Joy, Ms. Zayas, Melinda Sulzbach, Ms Clark. The building reps hang all the posters in their buildings. Barb Introcaso for letting us use her Library. Linda Tucker, thanks for getting all the raffle gifts for me. Jackie and Linda for helping make the appointments and getting the big red balloon. All the Middle School custodians who work very hard moving all the library furniture. Last but not least thanks to Roger Flaum for being a co-chair, helping me on the night of the drive handing out Lorna Doones, making announcements and writing letters to the newspaper. I am looking forward to working with you all next year!! Remember! "Saving Lives Takes All Types"

–Kathy Manning, RN, MS

## Jeanne Marie Flanagan Wins 2008 NYS PTA Leadership Award!

The NYS PTA chooses one recipient each year for the PTA Leadership Award in Honor of Jane Skrzypek, which recognizes outstanding PTA volunteerism. Jeanne Marie was nominated due to her many accomplishments on behalf of the PTAs at Valley Central including:

- Serving as chair of PARP (Parents as Reading Partners) programs, book fairs and reflections;
- Helping found the Valley Central PTA council;
- Beginning a Student Achievement Recognition Night;
- Receiving the NYS PTA Richard Gazzola Teacher Fellowship in 2005;
- Being active on Central Hudson Region PTA's Board

This prestigious award was created to "honor a member of a PTA unit, council, or region whose efforts go above and beyond the scope of their PTA position and who inspires others to volunteer and assume leadership positions." Congratulations, Jeanne Marie! You are one of VC's Shining Stars!

–Barb Kaldon

Award information obtained from: <http://www.nyspta.org/awards/leadershipaward.cfm>



## **Political Action: What, Why, Who, When, Where, & How**

The 2008-2009 school year has been a fast-paced, nail-biting time of fear and uncertainty with regard to our state and national economies and, consequently, to the funding that makes the wheels of education spin. Throughout the past several months the survival of fundamental programming for our students has been in jeopardy—creating a dark cloud of uncertainty for the staff that service these programs as well. How has the VCTA addressed these uncertainties? The answer can be found within political action efforts at the local, state and national levels. The allocation of federal stimulus aid, the reinstatement of New York State's education funds originally eliminated from the governor's early budget proposals, and the reduction in the number of programming and staff cuts here at Valley Central, are all a consequence of collaborative efforts to put children center. The organizational effectiveness of NYSUT and the AFT often make monumental efforts to protect and enhance education seem simple, uneventful and certain. In economic times such as this, however, it is important that all members recognize the time, effort and dedication that must be committed to political action each year for this organizational effectiveness to exist.

### **What is political action and why is it necessary?**

Political action represents all of the VCTA's organized efforts to support the goals of education. These efforts provide our profession with the political influence necessary to protect and improve education, healthcare and workers' rights. Lobbying, a specific component of political action, is direct communication that is intended to influence the views and votes of public officials and other constituents who have the power/authority to impact our collective goals. As demonstrated by our May 3, 2003 March for Public Education Rally in Albany, political action helps to ensure that school districts and colleges receive the state aid necessary to provide quality educational services to our youth (see VC Echoes, April 2003,

March for Public Education, p. 1). More recent lobbying efforts have resulted in the 2009 Federal Stimulus Package that granted NYS a temporary reprieve by reducing the projected number of cuts to staff and programming that economists had originally forecasted (see VC Echoes, April 2009, In the News..., p. 5). Political action is completely funded through the voluntary VOTE-COPE contributions of members. Union dues are not used for these initiatives. To learn more about VOTE-COPE, visit the VCTA's website at [www.vcta.net](http://www.vcta.net).

**Who should be involved in political action?** Effective political action efforts on behalf of children and public education must involve many constituencies to be effective. Teachers cannot and do not stand alone in these efforts to put and keep children center. VCTA members, including secretaries, paraprofessionals and teachers, must work collaboratively with other district personnel such as administration, BOE members, maintenance/custodial workers and nutritional staff to be optimally effective with our mission. Concerned parents and parent organizations such as PTAs and booster clubs also have a vested interest in the quality of our children's education. A primary goal of each group and each member within these groups should be to make our elected officials our most passionate education stakeholders through our lobbying and other political action efforts.

### **When and where does political action take place?**

Political action is an ongoing activity and takes place at four interconnected levels: Local, State, National and International. At the **local level** members can involve themselves in building, district and community initiatives to represent the needs of our students, community and colleagues. This can include involvement in interviews to ensure employee quality, as well as the endorsement of school budgets, BOE candidates and even county legislators that are supportive of public education, (*cont'd on page 12*)



## **Political Action: (continued from page 11)**

labor and healthcare issues. At the **state level**, local presidents and other union delegates make endorsement recommendations to the NYSUT Board of Directors regarding NYS Senate and Assembly candidates. The NYSUT Legislative Department communicates with all elected Senate and Assembly members throughout the year regarding legislation that supports and/or opposes NYSUT's mission. NYSUT's political agenda is proposed and ratified each year by local delegates at the Annual Representative Assembly. The NYSUT Legislative Department is also in constant communication with the SED/Commissioner of Education, the Board of Regents and the Governor. Visit About NYSUT's Legislative Action at [www.nysut.org](http://www.nysut.org) to learn more about this department. At the **national level**, the same democratic process for the endorsement of members of the US Senate, the US House of Representatives and the President of the United States takes place. NYSUT, AFT and NEA leaders lobby these elected officials to promote our pro-child, pro-labor and pro-health care legislative agenda. At the **international level**, NYSUT's social justice agenda is primary. In the same manner that unions have affected positive change in the US with regard to health, safety and equality of opportunities, NYSUT believes that these basic human/civil rights should be promoted throughout the world. For example, our international support of fair trade laws and our opposition to child-labor have had a direct impact on how foreign businesses treat their most fragile and needy workers. Lee Cutler, NYSUT's Secretary-Treasurer, presented a definition of social justice for labor as agreed upon by AFT, NEA and NYSUT delegates at a recent Social Justice Summit (New York Teacher, January 20, 2009).

- *[A social justice agenda] promotes equal access to society's opportunities, thereby empowering people to have choices and control over their own destiny.*
- *This agenda stems from the belief that injustice and*

*oppression in other communities and nations does directly impact members of the labor movement.*

- *The premise behind this agenda is that a socially just world is one which affords individuals and groups fair treatment and an impartial share of the benefits of society.*
- *This agenda keeps in mind that a fundamental responsibility of labor leaders is to stand in solidarity with the oppressed and fight to ensure that every individual enjoys basic human rights.*

*A social justice agenda is more than band-aid charity; instead, it is a strategy that, properly implemented, transforms society.*

**How does political action take place?** At the local level, VCTA members and other concerned stakeholders continually lobby management and members of the BOE regarding initiatives, programs, staffing and funding that are crucial to educational success and improvement. In order to create a local base of support and promote faith in the integrity of the union, it is important that local residents hear from members throughout the entire school year. Effective outreach has included the publication and promotion of the multitude of committees, activities and fundraisers that are supported or initiated by members. Leaders do not assume that all members are on board with the union's agenda. Elections/Political Action chairs are appointed to share the union's ideals. These chairs, along with union officers, continually reach out to the general membership throughout the year. Educating our own members is the key to solidarity of purpose; solidarity is the key to success. The VCTA's Legislative Action page is a guide to "who's who" in the political arena. This page links directly to NYSUT's Contact Your Elected Officials site. The VCTA's periodic email reminders direct members to these sites for the purpose of sending online letters/faxes to elected officials that promote our education, labor, health care and social justice agendas. (*cont'd on pg 13*)

## **Political Action: (continued from page 12)**

NYSUT Action Alerts are forwarded to the entire membership. These alerts send a powerful message of solidarity to our elected officials. NYSUT members, however, are not the only stakeholders that should participate in Action Alerts. School administrators, school board members, parents and other community members, and especially our friends and relatives should be encouraged to respond to Alerts that put children center.

At the local level, it is also important to participate in regional meetings for networking purposes. Orange County Teacher Association, Central Labor Council and Election District meetings are some of the regional forums attended by the VCTA. At election time, phone-banking and labor walks for NYSUT endorsed candidates are annual activities. Letters must be written and mailed to NYSUT and other union members residing within our borders that encourage positive participation in local, state and national elections.

At the state and national levels, our voluntary VOTE-COPE resources support lobbying efforts such as the Committee of 100. The Committee of 100, as it was originally called, is now a committee of hundreds of active and retired members representing teachers, secretaries, paraprofessionals and other support staff, health care workers and any other locals affiliated with NYSUT. These political action representatives attend two annual lobbying sessions in Albany, generally during the months of March and May, to carry our message of solidarity to elected officials. At these meetings it is important to encourage elected officials to feel ownership for public education services. Extensive planning and strategy are necessary for successful lobbying. It is important to select members who will support NYSUT's mission and remain focused on that message throughout each lobbying session. When elected officials are not in agreement with NYSUT's position, it is important that members ask why they do not support the issue.

By knowing our elected officials' views, we can determine what criteria they have used in adopting their opposing point of view. By learning more about these officials, our lobbying groups can develop strategies to encourage open-minded discussion regarding our message/agenda. Because officials can change their minds, even on the senate or assembly floors, it is important that our political action representatives deliver a strong message to ensure that unfavorable changes do not occur at the last minute. Regardless of whether our lobbying efforts have resulted in the success that we desire, it is important that we demonstrate an appreciation for the time these elected officials have given to public education and the children of New York State.

Political Action is a monumental and unending task. Without political action efforts, funding for public education would be in jeopardy, programs would be cut and workers' rights would turn regressive rather than progressive. Although lobbying may seem like a daunting task to the average member, basic political action is generally very easy. Individual political action can be as simple as attending a meeting or rally for a just cause, sending a fax to elected officials that encourages support of important legislation, making phone calls or stuffing envelopes at election time, educating friends and family about the realities of public education, voting and ensuring that our friends and family members vote.

**Ninety-seven percent of NYS school budgets passed and 100% of Orange County school budgets passed on May 19, 2009. This represents the results of collective political action and lobbying at its finest. Thank you for your efforts. In the end, it is always the collective efforts of the general membership that determine our success or failure with regard to political action and lobbying.**

*—Tim Brown, HS, VCTA President*

*I would like to thank Michele Bushey, North Country PAC Coordinator, for her permission to utilize her RA presentation as a template/inspiration for this article.*

## Maybrook's Connie Griffin Serving on National Board!

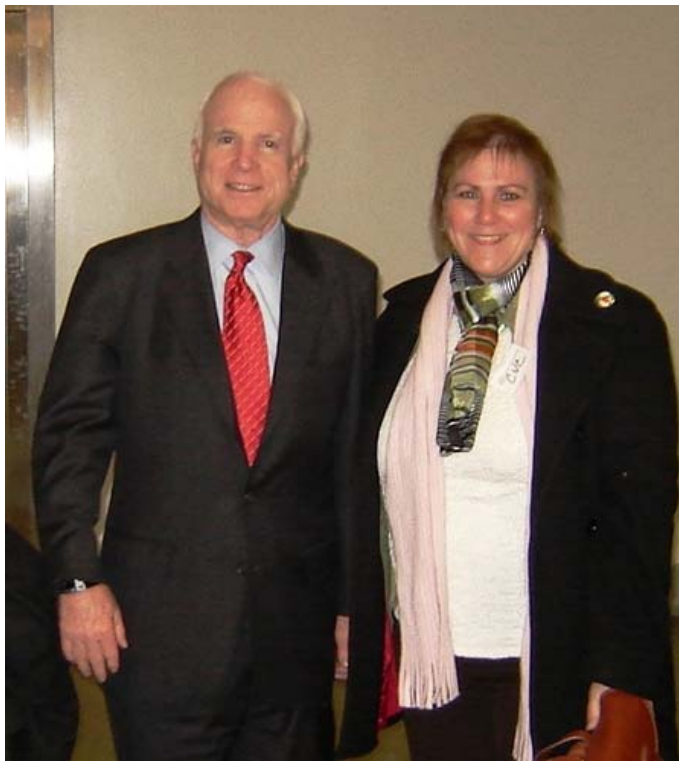
The staff of Maybrook Elementary would like to congratulate our very special school nurse, Connie Griffin. Connie was chosen by the NYS Association of School Nurses (NYSASN) to represent them as a Director on the National Association of School Nurses. She was installed on January 31, 2009, in Washington, DC, as a National Association of School Nurses Board of Directors Member.

NASN has affiliates in 49 states, the District of Columbia, and the Overseas School Health Nurses Association. Connie has been a NYSASN BOD member for twelve years, a Faculty member for eleven years, and a NASN member for nine years. She attends an annual five day SNO conference in August.

The NASN supports the health and educational success of children and youth by developing and providing leadership to advance school nursing practice by specialized registered nurses. As a member of the BOD for NASN, Connie was given leadership training and is required to speak to Congressmen on Capitol Hill about health and education, related bills, and concerns related to our state. As the NYSASN BOD Job Description states: "A director has a critical role in the success of NASN. The director's time, skills, and leadership are vital to the work and achievements of NASN."

On February 3, 2009, Connie went on her first trip to Capitol Hill to speak with NY Congressmen. She met with legislative aides from Senator Schumer, Senator Gillebrand, and Representative Hinchey's offices. She also had the pleasure of meeting and speaking with Senator John McCain. Connie addressed IDEA, Health Care Reform, Health Information Technology, Child Nutrition, and a bill entitled Student to School Nurse Ratio Improvement Act.

When I was congratulating our extraordinary "Nurse Connie", she said, "Four days of training, meetings, and Capitol Hill visits can be summed up



with WOW!! I am truly impressed and invigorated and am looking forward to representing my state organization and school on the National level!"

While reading the job description for Connie's new position, I noticed the following characteristics were some of those required: 1. Ability to listen, analyze, think clearly, and creatively, work well with people individually and in groups. 2. Willing to ask questions and take responsibility for follow through on a given assignment. 3. Contribute personal and financial resources in a generous way according to circumstances. 4. Open doors in the community. 5. Possess honesty, sensitivity to and tolerance of diverse views. Possess a friendly, responsive and patient approach, community-building skills, personal integrity, a developed sense of value, concern for NASN's development, and A SENSE OF HUMOR.

I have worked with Connie for fourteen years. I have always considered her a dear friend and hold the highest respect for her as both a personal and a professional acquaintance! (cont'd on pg 15)



## Connie Griffin (continued from page 13)

That is why I felt it necessary to include the characteristics which were required of a Director. Connie truly demonstrates each of them in her everyday life, whether she is at home or at work. Connie gives unselfishly of herself. Besides NYSASN, Connie is a part of the Orange County Medical Corps, Critical Incident Stress Management Team, District Health and Safety Committee, and Safety Advisory Committee. She is a trainer for BLS, CPR and First Aid.

Our families in need can always count on Connie for assistance. She refers them to agencies which can give them assistance. She provides families with school supplies, clothes, holiday toys, turkey meals, and even helps stock the local food pantry. She makes sure that the holiday gifts are appropriate and wrapped, and that no family is left unrecog-

nized. She is often seen packing her vehicle to make personal deliveries.

Connie serves on Maybrook Elementary's Sunshine Committee. No retirement, holiday, or special day is forgotten. As part of that team, she definitely brings sunshine into our lives. Whenever there is a District fundraiser, she makes sure that everyone is informed and encouraged to participate. Connie organizes our Building fundraisers, too.

So, once again, congratulations to my special friend and our school nurse, Connie Griffin!!

—Linda Draughn, Maybrook, Building Rep.

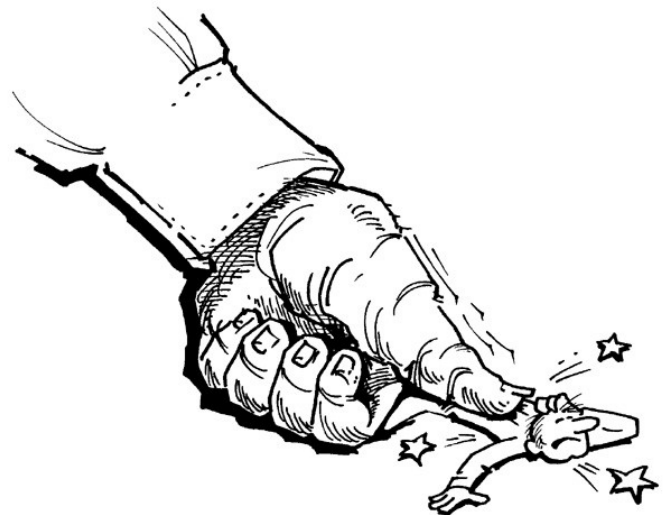
## Tier 5—Breaking News

**T**he fight to prevent the creation of a new Tier 5 is not over. CSEA and PEF have reached an agreement with the governor for a new Tier 5 category for new hires. This will require a 3% yearly lifetime contribution to the TRS, 10 years of vesting for retirement and a minimum 62 retirement age. In exchange for this new Tier, Governor Patterson agreed to no layoffs for 2 years for CSEA and PEF employees. In addition, these members are eligible for a \$20,000 buy-out if they choose to leave state employment and do not return for at least 5 years.

Although we must respect each unions right to negotiate for provisions that are in the best interests of their members, this disturbing change of events does not bode well for future TRS members. The decisions of one retirement system generally have an impact on decisions made within other retirement systems. The creation of a new Tier 5 will not provide any significant savings in the short run. Furthermore, with regard to teachers and the TRS, chaperoning and stipends would be excluded from FAS calculations.

NYSUT has fought fiercely with your VOTE-COPE contributions to prevent the formation of a new, inferior Tier. Although the recent CSEA and PEF decision does not specifically condemn new TRS members to the same fate, it is recommended that all part-time employees join the retirement system immediately to ensure a Tier 4 placement. We will update you as we learn more.

—Tim Brown, HS



# In the News...



Brown Gives  
VCTA Updates

**Fundraising Page:** The VCTA's new Fundraising page can be viewed at [www.vcta.new/fundraising.htm](http://www.vcta.new/fundraising.htm). We have backtracked and listed fundraising campaigns as far back as February 2006. This year's documented fundraisers listed below raised a total of \$21,160. Five of these fundraisers were organized and/or endorsed by the VCTA Executive Council (i.e., Making Strides Campaign, 3 Montgomery Food Pantry Initiatives and the United Way Campaign) and the other fundraisers were organized by various members throughout the district. The three Montgomery Food Pantry Fundraisers collected a combined \$4,577 and were particularly successful and tremendously relevant for our current economic climate. Each of these fundraisers is a tribute to your generosity and your concern for the community in which you work. If you are aware of other fundraising initiatives that should be added to our webpage, please forward the information to me via email.

Amount	Date	Cause
\$2,400	Jun-09	VCTA Scholarships
\$1,085	Jun-09	Relay for Life
\$1,223	May-09	Montgomery Food Pantry
\$1,433	Apr-09	Kara Lynn Caltavuturo Scholarship Fund
\$1,680	Mar-09	Montgomery Food Pantry
\$1,960	Feb-09	American Heart Association (Go Red For Women Campaign)
\$1,674	Dec-08	Montgomery Food Pantry
\$5,025	Dec-08	United Way
\$410	Nov-08	Walden Fire Department (WE)
\$100	Nov-08	V.W. Haggar Scholarship Fund (Council Donation)
\$250	Oct-08	Corrine Feller Scholarship (Council Donation)
\$1,820	Oct-08	American Cancer Society
\$2,000	Oct-08	Making Strides Campaign
\$100	Sep-08	Mike Purcell 5K Run—Pancreatic Cancer (Council Donation)
\$21,160		<b>Total Fundraising Revenues Reported for the 2008-9 School Year</b>

**Fuel Efficient Automobiles:** Congress has passed the Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save (CARS) Act. This bill, H.R. 2751, will provide \$4,500 vouchers to consumers who purchase fuel efficient vehicles. It is reported that "some startup carmakers are already producing plug-in hybrids that get up to 250 MPG today, and this is just a hint of the technological advances to come" (John Hall, *Cash for Clunker* Email, 6/17/09).

**Local Honor:** High school math teacher, Debbie Calvino, has been honored as one of the five (5) finalists in this year's New York State Teacher of the Year Program. The purpose of this program is "to recognize and celebrate outstanding teachers throughout New York State." Congratulations Debbie! You bring honor to the VCTA.

(continued on page 17)

## A Teacher's Prayer

Dear God,

I have been told that I may be assigned a class next year that I am not certified to teach. This course would be in addition to the five in my normal load. I come to you today not to ask you to take it away but to guide me through. As you already know, the recession has hit school districts pretty hard and districts are trying to save money in any way possible.

Lord please give me consciousness to recognize what I have come to understand is my level best and let me not confuse it with my absolute best. This new position will cause me great moral and inner conflict. I regard children as one of your most precious gifts and as such they are deserving of the high quality education that I endeavor to give them. Yet, I

have also come to realize recently that I am a gift worthy of being cared for. I ask that you help me discern at what point caring for my students prohibits me from taking proper care of myself. Help me accept that I cannot be the teacher that my students need by neglecting my own needs. I ask that you keep us all under your care as we wait for the necessary resources to provide our students with highly qualified teachers in every area. Amen.

Yours,

—Carolyn Zayas, For. Lan., HS, Bldg Rep.

## In the News... *Continued from page 16*

**More Local Honors:** The VC Echoes was awarded the following 2009 (AFTCA) American Federation of Teachers Communications Network Awards:

- First Place; Best Original Illustration or Photo; June 2008—"Putting Children Center," [June 2008](#)
- Second Place; Best Non-Periodical or Special Publication; [New Member Booklet 2008-2009](#)
- Second Place; Best News Story; "TRS: Is Our Future Secure?"; [December 2008](#)
- Second Place; Best Website: [www.vcta.net](http://www.vcta.net)

These four awards follow five NYSUT Journalism Awards presented to the VCTA at this year's Representative Assembly. Once again, congratulations to Meghan Riley for her hard work and successful efforts as highlighted by these nine (9) state and national awards.

**Blood Drive a Big Success:** Thank you to MS members Kathy Manning and Roger Flaum for organizing

the VCTA's 11th Annual Community Blood Drive and to everyone who participated. With 67 donors, this was the most successful drive yet. The Hudson Valley Blood Services sent the following message to Kathy: "We are grateful for the opportunity to have worked with you and your organization to produce such a successful drive. The event collected 59 pints of blood, which have since been separated into their components and distributed to patients in hospitals throughout the area. It is your effort and the commitment of our friends and neighbors that enable us to meet the daily demand for blood products. There is no substitute for caring people who take the time to donate blood so that others may live. Your organization has greatly helped us toward this goal."

—Tim Brown, HS, VCTA President



## MS Celebration of Capabilities Kicked Off With a BANG!

**D**uring the week of May 18<sup>th</sup>, sixth graders at the Valley Central Middle School celebrated the abilities & talents of people with diverse needs! They kicked off the week with a BANG – a concert involving VC alumni and students speaking out about their own disabilities and sending an inspirational message of acceptance, understanding, and **capability**!

The assembly started off with a slide show depicting various famous people with disabilities and their amazing accomplishments. The slide show included Albert Einstein, Stevie Wonder, Dan Akroyd, Walt Disney, Chris Burke, Beethoven, and Marlee Matlin amongst many other talented and highly successful individuals. The show ended with slides of our own famous alumni: Sean and Dominic Kelly of the band, A Fragile Tomorrow, and Paul Teutul Jr. of the Orange County Choppers!

Students sat in awe and shock as Paul Teutul Jr. came out on stage in person to discuss his own learning disability and his success! An awesome message rang out; Paul explained that kids with disabilities are capable of so much and have such incredible talents. He referred to his own learning disability as a gift since he has been given the unique talent of being able to create and design so artistically. Maybe his brain would not have worked that way if he did not have a learning disability. He showed great sensitivity towards our students and encouraged them to accept the help of special education and to not be embarrassed by it. He explained his own need for modifications for tests and assistance within the classroom. He also spoke out against bullying and teasing of students with diverse needs. Having such an American icon express these thoughts combined with the students' realization that he went to school right here and was literally walking in their shoes through our hallways, ensured that this message particularly hit home!

Next up were our very own Kelly boys and their bass player, Shaun Rhoades, of the band, A Fragile Tomorrow! Sean and Dominic Kelly were the

inspiration for the Celebration of Capabilities program in the middle school and have been strong advocates throughout the district for kids with disabilities! Diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy during infancy and given an uncertain prognosis, these boys have risen above and have become successful musicians, touring the country and playing before the pope! What a sensation! Their performance was incredible! Teachers and students alike were stunned and enthralled by their music! The lyrics were inspirational and helped further deliver the message of **capability**! Kids lined up at lunch time to get their autographs on scraps of paper, shirts, & even faces!!!

The pinnacle point of the assembly occurred when the Kelly boys then introduced a very brave and admirable young lady, Lucie Wait. Lucie is a sixth grade student in our middle school. She is diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome. After experiencing teasing and seclusion from her peers, Lucie felt she needed to be an advocate for herself and other students with disabilities who were struggling in middle school to fit in. When told that the assembly would occur in front of hundreds of her peers, Lucie was even more determined to speak out and stated that her peers needed to understand her struggles and see her for the person she was rather than for the disability she presents with. Lucie read a heartfelt letter that had the whole audience captured and sitting in amazement of her strength and commitment to increasing awareness of disabilities.

To add to the excitement of the day, the producers of *American Chopper* were there to film the concert and include it in a segment of the show! Stay tuned to *American Chopper* (The Learning Channel, TLC) to catch a glimpse of the concert!

(cont'd on page 19)

## MS Celebration of Capabilities (from pg 18)

Continuing the program... on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, students came to the middle school library to learn about specific disabilities and understand the unique characteristics associated with them. Seven stations were arranged in our library. The stations centered around the following disabilities: learning disabilities, autism, physical impairments, vision impairments, food allergies, Down Syndrome, and Tourette Syndrome. Parents of students with disabilities and VC students with the specific disabilities themselves helped present the information and share their own experiences. Sixth grade students participated in a simulation of two of these disorders and then learned some important facts about them. Discussion also centered around what students can do differently in the community to help raise awareness and to assist others with disabilities. In addition, modifications within the classroom were an important topic since many students did not understand why certain students have extra time on tests or have tests read to them. After the presentations, a writing assignment based upon the writing rubric was given to help internalize and reinforce the ideas

presented. A paragraph relating to bullying was included to help increase tolerance of others. We will award three winners from each team to receive awards and gift certificates for outstanding essays.

The program was surely a collaborative effort! Much appreciation and thanks to: Lauren Abbate for creating the slide show, Mike Bartle for helping set up the cafeteria, Mike Presutti and Nick Longo for creating banners to use as backdrops on stage, Gheri Cola for donating money for the essay awards, Joe Collins for helping with the technology equipment, Robin Dambrot for assisting in providing handouts and flyers, and the committee members: Barbara Introcaso, Patty Arnott, Mary Failla, Middle School Guidance Office (especially Barbara Kaldon for her assistance in organizing students in groups and creating informational documents), and the many parents of students with disabilities that helped present information and encouraged their own children to speak out for themselves and share their knowledge and experiences with their peers! Thank you also to our administrators, Ned Hayes, Sheila Lease-Murphy, and Dr. Richard Hooley, for

supporting the program and helping sort out the legal aspects of televising the concert so these important messages can be spread even farther than our own community!

Most importantly a sincere thank you to our students and alumni with disabilities who were willing to bravely speak out and be true advocates! We are so proud of them!

—Dawn Moore,  
School Psychologist



## Mac's Musings (from the Retiree Side)...

### ⇒Tempus fugit (a little something for the few remaining Latin scholars)

The cliché is certainly true. Time Flies. Each year seems to go faster, and I have had many, many years, for which I am most grateful. I came to VC forty-five years ago, I've been teaching for 52 years, I've been retired from the high school for 16 years. Where did it go? I'm sure that you all have reflections like this as yet another school year comes to a close. My thanks to all the active VC teachers who once again gave blood, sweat, and tears in pushing back the barriers of ignorance, in instilling knowledge, in nurturing wisdom. I've said it before and I will say it again (you all know that I repeat myself regularly!!): this community is blessed with strong teaching and caring teachers, dedicated administrators and hard-working staff. Give yourself a hand. I certainly applaud you.

### ⇒Condolences

—My condolences to John Nash, Jen , young John, and their families on the death of Marie Nash, our colleague—a gracious lady and gifted teacher.

### ⇒Nobody asked me, but...

—I'm grateful to Arline Friedman and Orin Segall for their continued interest in and advocacy for retiree matters. It is important that our voices be heard in this time, especially when bureaucracies forget covenants made with those who came before.

—My thanks also to Tim, Patti, Rich, Laurie, and Erin for remembering the retirees. Your kindness is appreciated. Thanks also to the members of the Executive Council who have listened graciously to my oft-repeated caveats.

— My gratitude to Jill and Susan for bailing me out on secretarial “stuff” for the luncheon, etc.

—**Luncheon Info:** The retiree luncheon will be held on the Wednesday after Labor Day (our traditional day!!), probably at Spruce Lodge. I'll be working on the particulars and will send out a summer Musings

around the end of July. I hope for a big crowd. We had 84 retirees last year, up from 68 in '07, but not near the 102 in '06. Hope to see you there.

### ⇒ Amen #1

Special thanks to our beloved editor, Meghan Riley, who reads my chicken scratch, winks at my missing deadlines and makes sure that the mailings go out, etc., etc. (Aside: if retirees wish print copies, drop a note to Meghan at the high school. VC ECHOES is also available on the VCTA website.)

### ⇒ Amen #2

It is that time again, Mrs. Calabash, good night wherever you are. A pleasant, restful summer to all, a hearty welcome to new retirees, thanks for turning to the back pages. I hope to be back with you in September! 'Til then, keep pushing back the barriers of ignorance in whatever venue life finds you. Peace.

—Mac, AKA Kevin McFadden

*Retiree Representative*

*See you in  
September,  
Mac!*

*Look for your  
summer Mus-  
ings and Lunch-  
eon info!*





## Shopping for insurance? Keep NYSUT Member Benefits Trust in mind.

Insurance - it's one of those things no one likes to think about. Is it necessary to have? It depends on the type of insurance, on your personal risk tolerance and other individual circumstances.

It can provide peace of mind, and usually once you need it, it's too late to apply for it.

NYSUT Member Benefits Trust endorses a variety of voluntary insurance plans to provide extra protection for you and your family. Consider these options when you're in the purchasing process.

### **Term Life Insurance.**

Members and their spouses (or certified domestic partners) under age 85 may apply. Up to \$1 million of coverage is available for applicants up to age 65. Coverage up to \$30,000 is available for applicants between the ages of 65 and 84.

### **WrapPlan<sup>SM</sup> II Flexible Premium Adjustable Life Insurance**

is group universal life insurance. The plan allows you to purchase life insurance coverage that increases as your term life coverage decreases or terminates. You must be age 65 or under to apply.

### **Personal Property & Liability Insurance.**

Policies include automobile, boatowners, homeowners/renters, personal excess liability (umbrella), mobile home, recreational vehicle, snowmobile, motorcycle, fire and landlord's rental dwelling.

**Disability Insurance** provides tax-free benefits to help meet living expenses if a covered

sickness or injury prevents you from working. You must be under age 64 and work 20 or more hours per week to apply.

### **Accidental Death & Dismemberment**

**Insurance** covers you against any type of accident in the course of business or pleasure. Worldwide Emergency Travel Services is included, and an education benefit for qualified children is also provided.

### **Catastrophe Major Medical**

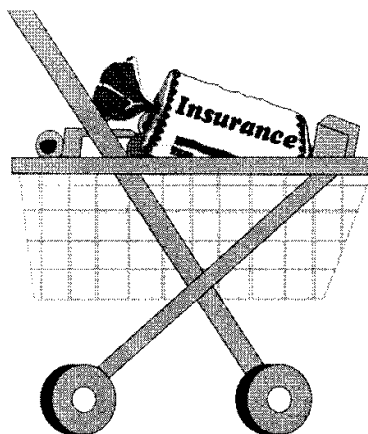
**Insurance** supplements your basic hospitalization and major medical insurance, including Medicare. You must be age 79 or younger to apply.

### **Long-Term Care Insurance**

provides choices with regard to plan design and daily benefit amounts. Services provided include care planning and coverage for home health care, adult day care, homemaker services, licensed assisted living facilities, nursing home care, hospice care and respite care.

**Vision Plan** benefits include an annual eye exam and one pair of eyeglasses. You may receive services from an out-of-network provider; however, maximum benefit is received when using an in-network provider.

**In-Service Dental Plan and Retiree Dental Plan** pay benefits for preventive, restorative and major restorative services.



NYSUT Member Benefits offers Consumer's Guides on many of these types of insurance. Call or log on today. (See below for contact information.)

**nysut** Member Benefits Trust  
A Union of Professionals

For information about these programs or about contractual expense reimbursement/endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please call NYSUT Member Benefits at 800-626-8101, visit [www.memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://www.memberbenefits.nysut.org) or refer to your NYSUT Member Benefits Trust Summary Plan Description.

Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

# Support Our Local Businesses!



## DISCOUNTED AUTO AND HOME INSURANCE

As an employee of the Valley Central School District you are eligible for a reduction off the already competitive Auto and Home insurance through Travelers Insurance Group, a top rated carrier.

Get first-rate protection from the first company to insure against accidents in 1864. In addition to the group discount additional discounts apply: multiple policies, multiple vehicles, hybrid vehicles, accident prevention, anti-theft, anti-lock brakes, passive restraint, driver training, good student, student away at school, new home, protective home device, etc..

Enjoy personal service from local licensed insurance professionals that can maximize your insurance protection while reducing your costs. JOY INSURANCE AGENCY, Inc. is the Travelers administrator for the hard working educators of the Valley Central School District. As a member of the Valley Central School District you can count on receiving the right coverage at the best price from JOY INSURANCE.

Find out why your fellow educators are already enjoying the benefits of this unique plan. Call 342-4888 or just fax your policies to 342-9117. Policies can also be e-mailed to [chris@joyinsurance.com](mailto:chris@joyinsurance.com)

# JOY

INSURANCE AGENCY

639 East Main Street, Middletown, NY 10940

845-342-4888 • Fax: 845-342-9117

[www.joyinsurance.com](http://www.joyinsurance.com)



# Support Our Local Businesses!

## HUDSON HERITAGE WANTS TO HELP YOU SAVE MONEY

### Ask About Our

- Fixed-Rate Mortgages
- Home Equity Lines Below Prime
- FREE Financial Check-up



**Hudson  
Heritage**  
Federal Credit Union

*"Personalized Banking...It's what we do!"*

Visit our Valley Central Branch at  
**17 Walnut Street, Montgomery**

**845-561-5607**  
**www.hhfcu.org**



All offers of credit are subject to credit approval.



All Type Roofing & Siding  
Decks • Windows/Doors • Additions  
Kitchens • Renovations

## John Ginda Carpentry

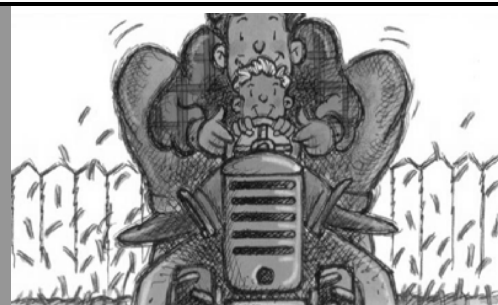
*Honest and Affordable*  
*"No Job too Big or Small"*

For Free Estimates Call (845) 564-9399

Rich Steger

845-863-5141

1187 State  
Route 52  
Walden, NY  
12586



**E & S Professional Lawn Care**



**Real Estate For Your World<sup>SM</sup>**



Rob and Pat Sassi  
Curabba Realty  
Contact Us:  
343-1464 Main Office  
361-1588 Home Office  
RobertSassi@ymail.com

**Houses are selling!**  
**Mortgages are available!**

Did you know...  
Teachers and first-time homebuyers qualify  
for lower interest rates

Call us for prompt, professional service!



**Service Center, Inc.**  
**24 Hour Towing Specialists**

**(845) 457-5520**

Bob Reynolds, Manager

**\*\*Special Discount for VC Employees\*\***

Present your VC ID badge  
at time of payment to save 10%!!!

- |           |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|
| -Tune Ups | -NYS Inspections   |
| -Brakes   | -Oil Changes-      |
| -Exhausts | -Lube, oil, filter |

Just south of I-84, 2040 Rt. 208, Montgomery



VCTA Blood Drive 2009

