

The Rochester Retired Teacher

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Retired Rochester Teachers Association is a Department of the Rochester Teachers Association NYSUT, AFT, NEA, AFL-CIO - 30 North Union St., Rochester, NY 14607
Representing RCSD teachers • retired teachers • substitute teachers • school instructors • home/hospital teachers • rochester preschool parent program

Vol. 02 No. 4 November 2012

A Retired Rochester Teachers Publication

THE SLIDE RULE PACKING MAMAS

Now we are called "Slide Rule Packing Mamas," but in February, 1943 we were the new Curtiss Wright Cadettes.

In the fall of 1942, World War II was draining engineers and engineering aides from Curtiss Wright Defense plants. Curtiss Wright devised a program to educate women to fill the vacancies and the Cadettes program was born.

Seven universities were to take part educating women in the basics of aeronautical engineering. The location of the Curtiss Wright plant in which the cadettes wanted to work determined which school they would attend. I wanted to work in the propeller division plant located in Caldwell, NJ; so I would be attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. This turned out to be an experience!

My trusty K and E slide rule and I arrived in Troy, NY one day in early February, 1943. As notified, I registered at Ricketts House and received a room assignment in that building. My room was on the second floor and I was to be one of the six occupants. As I came to the room, my first impression was THERE IS NO FLOOR. 3 bunk beds lined one wall.



Arlene, 1943

still living-all in the east- Maine, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and New York. It's wonderful.

Our meals were provided by the YWCA, which

was only a few blocks away.

We also had access to the Y's gym. We were requested by the administrators to keep track of the physical exercise we participated in each week. But I think RPI decided after awhile that we were getting our exercise daily by walking up the hill of the campus, and they dropped the requirement for recording our gym work.

We climbed the hill to the RPI campus six days a week to attend classes. The half-day Saturdays were dropped the second half of the 10 month term. Some of the subjects we studied were engineering math, elements of aerodynamics, stress analysis, vibration testing and shop practice. The professors were eager to share their knowledge with the cadettes. The second half of the term was to prepare us for specific jobs such as mechanical design and production engineering. At the end of the 10 months we were assigned positions at the Curtiss Wright plant in Caldwell, NJ. If needed, car pools and housing were arranged. Thus started our 52 hour work weeks.

My first assignment was to calculate vibrations of propellers on various military planes, some of which were Navy fliers. SLIDE RULES NEEDED. I am still amazed that we kept the planes flying with just slide rule calculations. For a short time I was assigned to assist an engineer who was designing a thrust meter. During that period I actually got to work in the wind tunnel. Lots of noise in there but exciting and it was a thrill to find my name on the charts in the final report. The last project on which I worked was calculating the air flow around the engine nacelles of the B-36 bombers. That was the only time I got to use calculus.

VJ Day was a day off of work and a fellow cadette and I went into New York City to celebrate in Times Square. It was great to be a part of the celebration.

In August 1946, the war had been over for a year. My husband was back at RPI finishing his degree and I joined him there. Thus ended my Curtiss Wright career. I had received a terrific education, had done my bit for the war effort and gained some fabulous friends. Then I had time to be a homemaker.

My trusty slide rule was retired for almost 20 years but was taken out of retirement to go to college with my older son. It is an antique now, like me, but fondly remembered.

By Arlene Hanley

Editor's note: Arlene's cadettes were the first women students allowed on the Rensselaer campus. Of her class of 97, 84 completed the course. Arlene retired in 1992 from School 58. She was the president of TAAR, now Rochester Association of Paraprofessionals. Presently Arlene is an NYS Employees Retirement System consultant for NYSUT.

RRTA 2012-13 CALENDAR

An * indicates date not yet firm. More items will be added as the year goes on. Only dues paying members receive timely notification of newly scheduled events.

All RRTA activities are without profit, so be nice to the people who take the time and trouble to plan them. Please check the membership status of your guest(s) before making payment. Payment for events is accepted only with a completed registration form. Please write a separate check for each event or payment.

RRTA meetings are always 10 a.m. in the RTA office, 30 North Union Street and are open to all dues payers.

If you want to be part of an RRTA work crew(stuffing envelopes, collating, etc.), please call Mary Barnum to be put on the to-call list when RTA needs people power. Come help your union, enjoy a free lunch, and hear the latest buzz.

November	1 RRTA meeting 16 Books for Kids #17 20 Rep Assembly
December	4 RRTA Holiday Party 6 RRTA meeting 11 Deadline for Rochester Teacher 14 RTA Holiday party at TRATA 18 Rep Assembly * Books for Kids #57
January	3 RRTA meeting 28 Dress A Girl 29 Rep Assembly * Books for Kids #35
February	7 RRTA meeting 25 Dress A Girl 26 Rep Assembly * Books for Kids #7
March	7 RRTA meeting 19 Rep Assembly 25 Dress A Girl * Books for Kids #1
April	4 RRTA meeting 23 Rep Assembly 22 Dress A Girl * Books for Kids #44 * Mt. Hope Cemetery Tour * Shaw Festival Niagara on the Lake
May	2 RRTA meeting 21 Rep Assembly 28 Dress A Girl * Books for Kids #45 * Hurd Orchards
June	6 RRTA meeting 14 Red Wing Game 18 Rep Assembly

HOLIDAY LUNCH DECEMBER 4

CALL SOME FORMER COLLEAGUES TO
HAVE A REUNION

SEE FORM ON PAGE 7

THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING; THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING; THE RUSSIANS ARE HERE

Three years ago last summer I got a call from the Jewish Federation of Rochester.

Would I be interested in (volunteer) teaching English to a class of “Bubbies” and “Zaydes” (Jewish grandmothers and grandfathers) who were from Russia? Having recently given up on another volunteer situation in a City School, I was ready to tackle something else.

But first I had to fill out forms and schedule an interview. I met with a panel of three who were very concerned about how I could manage this without my own working knowledge of Russian. I assured them that I had taught ESOL for decades; my students had been Africans, Southeast Asians and others from numerous parts of the world, whose languages I did not know, but everyone helped one another. After convincing the people at The Federation that I was confident I could handle this, I was “hired.”

My class is one of two others that meet Tuesday mornings at the JCC. The venue is part of the reason I keep doing this. Having to go there gets me to exercise one more day a week. I try to go early enough to go around the track and do some weights before the class begins at 10:00am. I call my class “Advanced Beginners.” They range in age from mid-60’s to early 90’s. They are bright and all had some sort of profession or occupation in Russia. All are quite excited about becoming or having become U.S. citizens. Last year I started using a text about American History that I had used in ESOL II classes at Franklin. It is challenging enough and there is room for discussion. They wanted to know why Ben Franklin was never a president. At first, I satisfied them by saying Franklin was a scientist; he invented things. They accepted that, since some of them are scientists. However, when I started looking at dates I could tell them that Franklin had been much too old to be president at that time.

Earlier in the book, when it dealt with Columbus, I told them that 1492 was also the date that “Isabella, la Catolica” had kicked the Jews and the Muslims out of Spain. Maria, the eldest student, commented: “They don’t say that in the book!”

My biggest problem with the class is they get very animated in Russian and I have little idea of what they are talking about. Sometimes they are translating for one another, and I have figured that out when I hear them repeat the same word or phrase from one person to the other. When they get really rowdy, the 91 year old raps her hand on the desk and repeats something like “Tsey-Ha.” This is only slightly effective! Another student gets loud and starts changing the subject about halfway through the 90 minute class. It can be hard to get her to stay “on task.”

One student arrives in a wheelchair. The Federation hires out buses to transport the students, and the bus driver is skilled in dealing with wheelchairs. The students pay a nominal fee for the bus rides, and I have to sell them bus tickets and then return the money to the Federation.

This year is turning out to be bittersweet for me. Maria, the nearly 92 year old, my best attendee whose homework was always beautifully done, has not come yet. Apparently, she is not feeling well. “I old, I old” she always told me, but somehow her demeanor never reflected her age. Mentally alert at all times, Maria arrived at class before anyone else. She always had a smile on her face; in fact, her entire being was glowing. I cannot think of her not being in class anymore. It is just not the same without Maria.

By Carolyne Garman

RRTA MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 4, 2012

Attendance: R. Allen, D. Altobelli, K. Barkley, M. Barnum, L. Bonanni, C. Bonsignore-Kitchen, P. Bradbury, P. Brody, C. Dean, K. Evans, M. Gentry, C. Giunta, A. Hanley, K. Huey, W. Humphrey, J. Ivanick, M. Jenkins-Cox, F. Macek, M. McCarron, L. Rapkin, S. Silvio, F. Valente, M. Zimmer

Reps Excused: B. Buckingham, K. Fager, M. Ferenchak, M. Overcash,

Reps Absent: M. Keating, A. Smith, B. Swan, G. Sweeney,

Also attending: S. Raymond, J. Wells

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 by Charlie Dean.
2. The June meetings’ minutes were approved as written.
3. Books for Kids -- Polly Bradbury reported that the Books for Kids had their September organizational meeting and that 8 schools were chosen for first grades to receive books. There were many donations received in September.
4. **Breast Cancer Walk** -- Mary Barnum reported that the walk took place September 30. It had rained prior to the walk, but was rain free during the walk, however, the turn out was very low; less active teachers than last year but about the same number of retired teachers walked this year. Charlie Dean donated pink wristbands for those who marched. M. Barnum said that there was a break down in communications and that many reps do not have a list of home emails for teachers in each building. They cannot use the district emails to pass out information.
5. There is a mailing today for a long term insurance informational meeting.
6. **COLA** -- Teachers who have been retired for 5 years or more and 62 years old or older should have received a COLA raise for the first \$18,000 with a max of \$21 per month. Thanks to Vote-Cope who lobbies for these changes. Please give to the cause to continue protecting our benefits.
7. **Volunteer Requests** -- a) the first request came from the Wegmans group working at NE College Prep in their extended day program. They are asking for 1 - 2 hours per week as a tutor in all subject areas. After a lengthy discussion about needing more information, Ty Kelly from Wegmans will be asked to come to the Nov. meeting to explain their program. b) Another program asking for retired teachers to volunteer is the AARP/Catholic Family Services who need people to work a phone bank to answer questions about NYS Kinship Navigator Program. The request was made in June and the contact person will be called and asked if she wants to come in November and explain the need or if it even still exists.
8. **Genesee Center** for the Art and Education (the community darkroom, pottery, printing and bookmaking) are offering a tour of the facilities on Wed., Oct. 17 at 6:30. If you would like to become a member it costs \$100 and attend a monthly 2 hour meeting. If you would like to take the tour, contact Mary Barnum at RTA.
9. **Dress a Girl** -- The last meeting was successful with 12 to 15 people attended. They made 30 dresses on Sept. 24. The next meeting will be October 22 and at that meeting they will determine future dates. All are welcome to attend and help in different areas. You do not have to be a sewer.
10. **Vote Cope** -- 50 retirees have submitted checks or pension deduction with the last newspaper forms. Remember that COLA and other services are protected by Vote Cope. Please consider donating or increasing your donation.
11. Sharon Silvio said that Ted O’Brian is the democratic candidate for the Alessi district. This Saturday (Oct. 6) from 3 to 5 at King’s Park in Pittsford is a fundraiser/rally for Louise Slaughter. (\$50 or whatever you can give) RTA nights at NYSUT phones are October 26 and 30 from 5:30 to 8:30 with food. But you can come any night because there will be other groups there calling every night. Labor Council (AFL-CIO) **are phoning for Kathy Hercul and Louise Slaughter**. They are calling Monday through Friday from 12 to 8 pm (Friday they stop at 4). Come any time to help out, but call first to make sure there is a phone available. (Freddie Macek - 244-9611; AFL-CIO office - 263-2650) They will be calling only union members.
12. **Mary Barnum has Louise Slaughter signs and pins**. They are waiting for Obama signs and she will email RRTA reps when they arrive. **RRTA phone banks** are open Oct. 23, 24, 25, 30, 31 and Nov 1 from 1 to 4. They will be calling from a NYSUT member list in Slaughter’s district. They are only recommending Obama and Slaughter.
13. **Calendar** - The Christmas Party is Dec. 4. The Striking Strings are playing at the holiday party. Linda Rapkin is looking into a spring Hurd Orchard luncheon.
14. **Newspaper** - The deadline for the Jan. newspaper is Dec. 11. Presently there are 300 RRTA dues payers. There will be a Books for Kids article and pictures. Dave Altobelli will write something about Vote Cope. Shaw Festival Plays - 2 of the 4 plays were canceled last year. The 2 people organizing are thinking of offering 1 or 2 plays this year and will be in the January newspaper. There will be a separate mailing just prior to the play deadline so that more retirees will be reminded.
15. Sharon Silvio said that there is a group collecting **10 inch knitted squares** to make blankets at another location for Syrian refugees in Jordan where it is very cold. If you can make any, contact Sharon or drop them off for her at RTA by Nov. 2. She also reported that the Somali community involved in the WEP program (Work Experience Program) had a **loom** donated and are looking for someone who could show them how to use it. Again contact Sharon if you can help her with this. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30.
Respectfully submitted, Mary Zimmer

RRTA BOOKS FOR KIDS

My donation is enclosed in the amount of _____ Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Do you wish to join the Books for Kids Committee? _____ If you answer yes, Polly will call you. We meet only once a year. This year's meeting was September 6 at 10 a.m. at the RTA office. If you wish more info about Books for Kids, call Polly Bradbury at 473 3722 or Mary Barnum at 546 2681(RTA office). Checks should be made out to: **RRTA Books for Kids FLACE** and returned with the above completed form to Books for Kids, RTA office, 30 North Union Street, Rochester, New York 14607.

As we begin our 17th year, Books for Kids donations are tax deductible. **FLACE** designates Finger Lakes Area Community Endowment, which is managed by Canandaigua National Bank. For all donations, RRTA B for K will send you a thank you note which includes, for your records, the amount donated. For donations of \$50 or more, the bank will send you a letter.

RRTA HOLIDAY LUNCHEON GOLDEN PONDS 500 LONG POND ROAD TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2012

11:00 - Music by The Striking Strings; **11:30** - Meet and Greet, Cash Bar; **12:30** - Lunch served; **1:00** - Music by The Striking Strings

The Striking Strings is a hammer dulcimer ensemble which includes two of our members, Karen Barber and Mary Gentry. This year, instead of a gift exchange, we ask that you bring a nonperishable food item to donate to a local food cupboard.

\$18.00 Dues payers \$20.00 Non dues payers

Price includes entree with salad, potato, vegetable, rolls and butter, dessert, beverage, tax and gratuity.

Deadline for reservation: **November 20, 2012**

Tear off and complete form below.

RRTA HOLIDAY LUNCHEON DECEMBER 4, 2012

Name _____ Former School _____

Address _____

Number of \$18 dues paying member lunches _____ total \$ _____

Number of \$20 Non dues paying lunches _____ total \$ _____

Total amount of check in payment to RRTA \$ _____

Lunch Choices: indicate number of each:

Roast Sirloin au jus _____ Stuffed Chicken Breast _____ Broiled Haddock _____ Baked Vegetarian Lasagna _____

Please print name(s) of your guests: _____

Make checks payable to RRTA. Return completed form and check to: Attention Mary Barnum, Rochester Teachers Association; 30 North Union Street; Rochester, NY 14607; Suite 301.

ROCHESTER RETIRED TEACHERS (RRTA) Application for Dues-Paying membership 2012-2013

We cordially invite you to join us as an RRTA dues-paying member. As a dues-paying member, you will receive all RRTA mailings, including prompt notification of all our activities. Because of cost and energy constraints, only 2 mailings per year go to non-dues-paying retirees.

You are entitled to run for office and vote in RTA and RRTA elections, including elections for NYSUT, AFT, and NEA delegates. Each year at the NYSUT convention, about 25% of the items voted upon deal with retiree issues. You elect 32 RRTA Reps to the RTA Representative Assembly, based upon our present membership of 632 dues-paying retirees. You elect an RRTA Department Chair who is a voting member of the RTA Executive Council. You will receive discounts on many RRTA activities, which are held, whenever possible, on school days, during school hours. And, of course, you will receive the 2012-2013 pocket calendar to keep track of all your retiree activities.

RRTA dues are set at 10% of RTA dues. Presently that is \$31.30. The membership year is September 1 to August 31. But we are happy to accept dues at any time.

2012-2013 RRTA DUES PAYMENT

Name _____

Former School _____ Year retired _____

Phone _____ Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail * _____

*If you include your e-mail address, you will be placed on a list serve and receive updates on RTA and RRTA news.

Please print or write clearly. Send completed form and check for \$31.30 made out to RRTA and note that the check is for 2012-2013 dues to RTA, 30 North Union Street, Rochester, NY14607.

2012-2013 LIST OF DUES PAYING RETIRED ROCHESTER TEACHERS

Is your name on the list of 2012-2013 dues payers? If it is, we say, "Thank You!!!" But, if your name is not on this list, (list as of dues received October 22, 2012) it means we have not yet received your membership dues. A dues payment form can be found on page 7. Keep RRTA strong!

Joseph Abernethy	Patricia Elliott	Linda Kotwas	Susan Salzman
Jean Acquilano	Marcia Elwitt	Linda Kraft	Victor Sampson
Debra Adams Hawes	Elaine Erbland	Elaine Kraus	Donna Sanders
Patricia Albring	Nellie Evans	James Kraus	Carol Santangelo
Elizabeth Alexander	Kathleen Evans	Leo Krzanowicz	Michael Saporito
Anne Allen	Bedriye Evyapan	Rebecca Lachapelle	Claudia Savino
Helen Allen	Catherine Fager	Diane Lamberton Purwin	Karen-Ann Savino
Robert Allen	Kevin Fager	Thomas Lamme	Annette Schaff
Elaine Alma	Catherine Feinen	Linda Latiuk	Michael Schaffer
David Altobelli	Mabel Felder	Richard Lavalley	Chojaste Schroeder
Luanna Andrews	Marie Ferenchak	Ivan Lennon	Ira Schulman
Simone Araya	Karolina Fero	Shirley Long	Paul Schutt
Beverly Arcarese	Phyllis Ferrara Shroul	Suzanne Lorz	Mary Sculley
Frank Arena	Margaret Finch	Nancy Lowthian	Kenneth Scullin
Zelda Artson Crichlow	Mary Fiorica	Joyce Luce	David Shakes
Katherine Barkley	Mary Foster	Madge Ludwig	Gaya Shakes
Mary Barnum	Louise Frederes	Dawn Lunt	Lorraine Sheck
Carole Bartlett	Christine Fritsch	Maureen Lynch Bennett	Paul Sheck
Marvin Bayles	Sharon Fronheiser	Freddi Macek	Bonnie Shirley
Jane Beaver	Carolyne Garman	Marlene Maher	Allan Silverman
Richard Bialczak	Susan Gaskill	John Mahoney	Kenneth Silvio
Cynthia Bianchi	Lynn Gatto	James Mangin	Sharon Silvio
Paul Bodekor	Richard Gatto	Patricia Mangin	Barbara Simon
Lillian Bonanni	Sharon Gendron	Robert Marks	Harriett Slawetsky
Carol Bonsignore Kitchen	Mary Gentry	Karen Martin	Shirley Smeal
Pidge Bower	William Gerber	Suzanne Martin	Alfred Smith
Charles Boyar	Dorothy Giangreco	Sandra Martinez	Carol Smith
Dorothy Boyle	Andrea Giuffre	Joan Matzner	Ruth Smith
Pauline Bradbury	Carol Giunta	Joyce McAmmond Coleman	David Smizzi
Randy Bradshaw	Judith Gohringer	Maureen McCarron	Ellen Sorensen Serafine
Bob Brody	Jennifer Gourdine	Barbara McDaniel	Lynn Steltmann
Patricia Brody	Judith Graham	Genevieve McKee	Barbara Stevens
Barbara Buckingham	James Grattan	Sandra Meleca	Kenneth Stevens
Cynthia Burch	Cecilia Guerand	Martha Menzel	Todd Storm
Nancy Burns	Rose Gulley	Michael Michalek	David Swanson
Jeanne Carlivati	Carol Guttman	Janet Miles	Lorraine Swanton
Philip Carlivati	Maureen Guyett	Veronica Miller	Linda Szeffc
John Casella	Nancy Hagenbach	Lynn Milliman	Mary Tachco
Mary Casey	James Haldeman	Rosemarie Milliman	Maryanne Talia
Christine Chaffer	Margaret Haldeman	Ralph Moorhouse	Dorothy Taylor
Barbara Chambers Ekpo	Frances Hall	Barbara Moynihan	Carol Testa
Doris Chance	Arlene Hanley	Jane Mullen	Sue Thielking
Sharon Chandler	Carol Hanley	Norene Murphy	Patricia Thompson
Ann Chazan	Thomas Hanley	Elizabeth Naramore	Linda Thrippleton
Carroll Chiarelli	Janice Hanson	Emmett Neary	Raymond Tiede
Julia Clayton	Daria Hanushevsky	Susan Nielsen	Kathleen Toole
Annette Coffey	Paula Harris	Dawna Nixon-Garcia	Geraldine Tortora
Karen Cofield	Phyllis Harris	Cheryl Nolan	Adam Urbanski
Amelita Colangelo	Patricia Hatch	Richard O'toole	Frank Valente
Chris Connell	Edward Hathaway	Barbara Ordway	Jean Van Allen
Cathleen Corbet	Phyllis Haviland	Dorelis Osborne	Gale Van Niel
Maureen Corral	Susan Heiligman	Marianne Overcash	Andrew Van Ostrand
Constance Corsica	Kathy Heirigs	Alice Palokoff	George Vasho
Beatrice Crysel	Nancy Herrera	Gloria Parker-Pies	Linda Ann Ventura
Johanna Cummings	Michael Herrman	Lloyd Peasley	Diana Voellinger
Kathryn Curran	Donald Higgins	Caroline Pepper	Jennie Wagner Wolf
Maureen Currie	Keith Holderness	Linda Pero	Janet Waldarek
Christine Curtis	Ellen Horn	Agnes Perry	Carolyn Walker
Martha Cuthbert	William Howard	Phyllis Perry	Judy Wallman
Martha Daniels	Gloria Huddleston	Sebastian Petix	Gail Warner
Kenneth Dardenne	Karen Huey	Nancy Pilaroscia Sigmund	Clara Webb
Ann Davis	Linda Humphrey	Patricia Pittman	Robert Webb
Charlie Dean	Willie Humphrey	Donna Pogue	Elizabeth Weber-Worden
David Defendis	Nancy Humphreys	Elizabeth Pollock	Kathleen Weed
Louise Delaus	Kristin Hunt	Linda Pulhamus	Jeanne Wells
John Dengler	Nobuko Ichishita	William Quinlisk	Julie Welton
Peggy Derleth	June Ivanick	Francella Quinn	Mary Jo Whalen
Joseph DeRoller	Nina Jackson	Heather Quinn	Janis Wheaton
Elizabeth Derry	Lesley Jarbe	Richard Quivey	Diane Whitcomb
Carol Despos	Marie Jenkins Cox	Linda Rapkin	Reveira Wilcove
Josephine Dewey	Carol Johnson	Milton Rapkin	Stella Wiley
Myrna DiBiase	Juanita Jolley	Thelma Raschiatore	Ann Wood
Grace Dillon	W. Brenda Jones	Robert Reardon	Yolanda Wooten
Nancy DiMarco	Janet Juneau	John Reighn	Agnes Wright
Peg Donaghy	Carol Kaza	Betty Rich	Carol Yacono-Harrison
Shirley Dorsey	Martha Keating	Virdell Robbins	George Yanson
J. Ernest Du Bois	Maurice Keating	Dorothy Rossi	Dorothy Yvanoff
Carol Dundas	Patricia Kehoe	Eric Rounds	Mary Zadorozny
Mary Lisa Dwyer	Mary Kelly Oakes	Marilyn Roy	Mary Zimmer
Rosemary Eichenlaub	Bonnie Kiedrowski	Marsha Rust	Marilyn Zingaro

Croatia

A LAND OF BEAUTY

One of the most beautiful countries in the world is also a nation that has had a most difficult history. Croatia, once a part of Yugoslavia, has a long and breath-taking coast on the Adriatic Sea.

During the first two weeks in June, Anne and I had the honor of leading twenty-five family, friends and colleagues on a tour of this amazing country.

Since its early history Croatia has been taken over by the Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Slavic groups, Ottoman Turks, Austro-Hungarians, Italians, Nazis and has suffered from various ethnic incursions. We can only imagine the tragedy and triumphs that are involved with a history of this nature.



We flew from New York to Munich to Zagreb, the capital, and found it to be a big delightful cosmopolitan city that provided a fine first impression of the nation.

The rugged and beautiful mountains came crashing down into the amazing blue waters of the Adriatic. Dotted along the coast are wonderful little towns and fishing villages that beckoned us to stop, take a look and have a drink.

The history is fascinating. We visited the sixth century Basilica of St. Euphrasus; the best preserved amphitheater in Europe; a ninth century example of Byzantine architecture; the enormous palace of Diocletian built in 305 A.D.; and Dubrovnik, the most beautiful of Dalmatian seaports where the streets are literally paved with marble. Its greatest period was in the fourteenth century. Now there are hundreds of shops and restaurants catering to an expanded base of visitors.

One attraction we wanted on the trip was to have a professor give us a brief overview of Croatia as it is today. This turned out to be a highlight of our tour. An arrangement was made to travel out of Dubrovnik to a farm where the owner, a professor, would lecture and we would have dinner for twenty-five at his home. As our bus arrived we were greeted by our host and his family and enjoyed appetizers and drinks in his garden. A duo playing folksongs entertained us. The lecture and the home-cooked dinner prepared by family members were wonderful. As dessert arrived the musicians played again including renditions of "Take Me Out To The Ball Game" and "New York, New York." We were delighted. An amazing fact is that the farm has been in the professor's family since 1450!!! We arrived back at our hotel well-fed, well-educated and grateful for this unique experience.

Other RRTA members on the trip were Dorothy Rossi and Phil and Jeanne Carlivati.

After two weeks we left Croatia with a new understanding of its history, an appreciation of the warmth of the people and many images of natural beauty in this land that became a nation in 1996.

By Bob Allen

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR RRTA REP

The following RRTA members were nominated in the May 2012 call; since we had 20 positions open and 18 nominations, all are declared elected. At their June 7 meeting, RRTA Reps voted to make all elected 2 year terms, expiring June 30, 2014. Elected are: David Altobelli, Mary Barnum, Lillian Bonanni, Patti Brody, Barbara Buckingham, Charlie Dean, Marie Ferenchak, Mary Gentry, Carol Giunta, Arlene Hanley, Karen Huey, June Ivanick, Martha Keating, Maureen McCarron, Linda Rapkin, Alfred E. Smith, Barry Swan, Frank Valente.

The following RRTA Reps' terms expire June 30, 2013: Bob Allen, Katherine Barkley, Polly Bradbury, Carol Bonsignor Kitchen, Marie Jenkins Cox, Kevin Fager, Willie Humphrey, Freddi Macek, Marianne Overcash, Sharon Silvio, Grace Sweeney, Mary Zimmer.

We have 2 empty Rep positions.

Rep duties are to attend the monthly RTA Rep Assembly meetings and the monthly RRTA meetings.

Please have the permission of any person you nominate; any dues paying RRTA member may nominate; any dues paying RRTA member may be nominated; you may nominate yourself. A list of dues payers is included in this issue. Please do not nominate anyone who is already a RRTA Rep, as indicated above. Written nominations must be received by the RTA office no later than December 1.

The term of those nominated and elected will end June 30, 2013.

If an election is necessary, the ballots will be mailed after Christmas.

NOMINATION FOR RRTA REP

I nominate _____
(print name of nominee.)

Print your name _____

Sign your name _____

Return this form to the RTA office, 30 N. Union St., Suite 301 no later than December 1, 2012

The Rochester Retired Teacher

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Published by the Rochester Retired Teachers Association, a Department of the Rochester Teachers Association affiliated with the New York State United Teachers, the American Federation of Teachers (Local 616), AFL-CIO, and the Greater Rochester Labor Council.

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Fax: (585) 546-4123

Website: www.rochesterretiredteachers.com

RRTeacher Staff

Mary Barnum
Bill Gerber

Officers

Chair Charlie Dean
Vice-Chair June Ivanick
Secretary Mary Zimmer

RRTA Reps to RTA Assembly

Robert Allen	544-0078
David Altobelli	247-0027
Katherine Barkley	442-8865
Mary Barnum	377-0313
Lillian Bonanni	385-3289
Carol Bonsignor-Kitchen	544-3947
Polly Bradbury	473-3722
Patti Brody	451-8476
Charlie Dean	865-1735
Kathleen Evans	338-1076
Kevin Fager	442-3175
Marie Ferenchak	
Mary Gentry	334-8123
Carol Giunta	671-4183
Arlene Hanley	442-1999
Karen Huey	227-6101
Willie Humphrey	264-9645
June Ivanick	621-2557
Marie Jenkins Cox	723-8861
Martha Keating	248-5945
Freddi Macek	244-9611
Maureen McCarron	233-6094
Marianne Overcash	621-4372
Linda Rapkin	244-9489
Sharon Silvio	244-1912
Al Smith	544-2839
Barry Swan	461-5137
Grace Sweeney	388-9736
Frank Valente	271-7882
Mary Zimmer	352-4982

RTA Holiday Party

December 14

4 - 7 P.M.



Trata Restaurant

at the Culver Road Armory

complimentary refreshments and

hors d'oeuvres



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FALL PICNIC

On Friday, September 7th, about 40 retirees gathered at the pavilion at the Canandaigua Yacht Club to enjoy one another's company and to celebrate the fact that they did not have to go back to school. The Canandaigua setting is beautiful and as is true to form, the weather was perfect. Those people attending were treated to hamburgs, hots, sausage and chicken prepared by our grill masters – Charlie Dean, Willie Humphrey and Sue Raymond. Cathy Fager provided the corn-on-the-cob and many attendees provided a dish-to-pass. No one went away hungry! The best part of the day was sitting around talking to "old" friends and catching up on one another's activities. If you missed this picnic, try to attend the end of the year one in June. Get a group of your former colleagues together and plan on attending. There's nothing like good food, great company and a beautiful setting to make you enjoy retirement!

By Sue Raymond



The Books for Kids Committee held its annual meeting on September 6 at the RTA office and made plans for this year's school visitations. Books for Kids is in good financial shape due to the generosity of RRTA members. Pictured are first row: Polly Bradbury, Allan Silverman, Diana Voellinger, Lillian Bonanni, Kathy Evans, Mary Jo Whalen, Jeanne Wells, second row: Mary Barnum, Margaret Finch, Joe DeRoller, Sandy Maddicks, Linda Rapkin, Randy Bradshaw, Karen Huey, Donna Proietti, Mary Zimmer, Marie Ferenchak.

It Was A Good Day Books For Kids

As the Books for Kids Committee gather in the school office loaded with books, cookies, and juice, anyone can see the memories of days past on our faces. A deep breath tells us, even if we could not see; we are in a school building. What is it about a school that has its own distinctive personality is its feel, its smell, its own aura? The sounds and faces we observe as we move down the halls, peering into classrooms of busy little people devouring skills for their lifetime, cause many past years to come into focus. Yes, years. A quick measure of time would probably tell us that the Committee moving toward the first grade visit carries with it about 450 years of experience in education. We are teachers of many grades, librarians, art teachers, Latin teachers, English teachers, music teachers, kindergarten teachers, health teachers We are aunts, uncles, mothers, fathers, grandmothers, grandfathers, great grandmothers with ages ranging from fifties to mid eighties.

IT IS A GOOD DAY

Before our visit, a team has conferred with the teacher and made plans so that our 45 minutes will be positive and meaningful as well as fun. An interest inventory has been prepared so that books match kids' interest, and reading ability has been judged to allow for personal satisfaction. We introduce ourselves to the students, telling them our name, where we taught, and how long we taught. We explain retirement and how we enjoy being able to visit them. We talk about how lovely books are and how they should be treated. We tell them where the money comes from to buy the books

Student anxiety edges up as books are given out individually according to predetermined interest. Each book has a nameplate with the student's name. Each student is photographed with the new book. High wattage grins light up the room. We read with the students and sometime they read to us. A cuddle, a hug, and later thank you messages feel so good. We leave the class as they enjoy their snack and call one last thank you. IT WAS A GOOD DAY.

By Polly Bradbury



Pictured at this year's Labor Day Parade; Pictured are : John Pavone, Willie Humphrey, Mary Zimmer

CHARLIE DEAN INDUCTED INTO SECTION V SWIMMING AND DIVING HALL OF FAME

On August 17, 2012 Charlie Dean was inducted into the Section V Swimming and Diving Hall of Fame for his contributions to Section V swimming. Some of Charlie's accomplishments that led to him being nominated for induction are: he has been the meet director of the Rochester City League Swimming Championships since 1995; he assisted the Boys and Girls Section V coordinators in running the Section V Swim Championships from 1990-2000; and he was the Section V Boys Swimming Coordinator from 2000-2009. Charlie is still the current meet director for the Boys Class C and D championships.

Charlie also has a vast career in coaching. He coached the Monroe High School varsity swim team from 1970-1976. From 1989-2001, he was the assistant girls' swim coach at East High School and from 1996-2001 he was the assistant boys' swim coach. Charlie also coached in the Greece Central School District. He was the assistant boys' swim coach there from 1990-1992 when he became the varsity head coach. He served as Greece's head coach for three seasons.

Most people may not know that Charlie was an outstanding swimmer himself in high school and college. At Marshall High School he was Rochester City League Champion in the 100 yard breast stroke in 1963 and 1964. He held the city record in that event for 6 years. He was the Sectional Champion in the 100 breast stroke in 1964 and made All-Scholastic in 1963 and 1964. At Brockport College he was undefeated in the 200 yard breast stroke all four years, including at the State Championships and the NCAA Atlantic Coastal Championships. In 1987 he was inducted into the SUNY College at Brockport Golden Eagle Hall of Fame.

If you see Charlie, congratulate him on his accomplishments.

By Sue Raymond

Rochester Teachers Association
A Union of Professionals
LEARN THE LATEST ON THE RTA WEBSITE
www.rochesterteachers.com

Happy Holidays



EVER WONDER WHAT YOU ARE MISSING IN RETIREMENT?

To give all retirees a hint about what is going on in the city schools since you left, we reprint here for your enjoyment a message that President Urbanski sent to all RTA Faculty Reps on October 14.

Dear Colleagues,

It's only six weeks into the new school year but teachers are already overwhelmed and frustrated like never before. And understandably so: APPR, Common Core State Standards, K-8 "Grow-out" schools, lesson planning dictates, attendance-taking mandates, mountains of additional paperwork, lagging information, lack of classroom supplies, and so much more. And it's rapidly undermining the conditions for effective teaching and learning in our schools.

Please know that we are so very aware of your concerns and are pressing the District for relief and remedies. Through our ongoing Living Contract negotiations, we have already made some progress and will continue our efforts until all the concerns are resolved. Here's a partial list of some of the challenges and a brief update on our efforts to address them:

Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR). This bad law, imposed on us by the State under the threat of de-funding more than 500 teaching positions, continues to frustrate teachers. In some instances, the pre-testing unfairly is planned to occur weeks after teaching. And in virtually all cases, the excessive testing requirements are costing a massive loss of precious instructional time. We are addressing both of these legitimate concerns with the District. Meanwhile, we were able to get the District to extend the Goal Setting deadline from October 15 to October 31 and to agree with us that "up to four" really does mean that teachers can decide to set as few goals as one or as many as four. Also, as you probably already know, we negotiated that the District cannot use this year's (2012-2013) APPR ratings in any statutory disciplinary procedures.

Lesson planning dictates. Some school principals are requiring that teachers' lesson plans be done according to a prescribed format. While teachers obviously plan their lessons, they should not be micromanaged in that exercise. During last week's Living Contract negotiations, the District agreed with us and instructed all principals that they cannot dictate any particular lesson-planning format.

Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Teachers have received virtually no training on CCSS and have not been provided the needed tools, supplies, time or texts. We have already registered teachers' concerns with the District and are negotiating for relief as soon as possible. So far, the District has informed us only that Common Core related classroom resources were ordered last week, that a schedule of professional development about Common Core will be finalized by the end of this week, and that every Elementary School classroom will be equipped with a Smart Board by January 1.

Extended Learning Time (ELT). Please know that the only way that any school could become an Extended Learning Time school is through the School-Level Living Contract (SLLC) process that is already part of our collective bargaining agreement. That means that any plan has to be negotiated at the school level and must be approved by at least 80% of the school's teachers through a secret ballot vote conducted by the school's RTA Faculty Representatives. Teachers would be paid for any extended time of work. And, we assume, since not all students need more time, then not all teachers need to be involved. The ELT approach is intended to be a preferred alternative to the State's models for school reconstitution.

Adam Urbanski

Adam Urbanski, RTA President

*If you have any ideas about visiting your former school, be aware of the following new locations:
Charlotte is at 690 St. Paul, which is now called 175 Martin Street
School 50 is at School 6
School 17 is at Jefferson
School 16 is at Freddie Thomas
All City High is at Marshall
#6 and Marshall no longer exist.
(Notes by Mary Barnum)*

SOME BOOK REVIEWS

Here are some reviews by Maureen McCarron. Anyone may submit reactions to these reviews or your own reviews of books, movies, plays, etc.



If anyone should ask me "What do you like best about retirement?" I would unhesitatingly proclaim "Reading, reading, reading!" Uninterrupted time to pursue unassigned, non-work-related reading is a pure joy. Perhaps I qualify as a bibliophile. I visit my public library for regular print books every week. I've learned to download e-books with a masterful "click" and listen to audio books, either on my iPad or in my

car, daily during errands. From this bounty I am happy to recommend some titles. Perhaps you will see something for your holiday gift giving list.

A biography I enjoyed was **Elizabeth the Queen: Life of a Modern Monarch** by Sally Bedell Smith (Random House, 2012). This book is really long (more than 600 pages) and very detailed, filled with more than you probably ever wanted to know about the current Queen of England and her realm, the Commonwealth. Nevertheless, along with more than 20 pages of photographs, there are fascinating glimpses of Elizabeth's family and "official" life from her childhood through the preparations for her 60th Jubilee as E*R*II. I found the descriptions of Elizabeth's visits abroad very interesting, especially details about her visits to the U.S., as well as entertaining U.S. presidents in the U.K. (There have been 12 presidents since 1952, but read the book to find out which ones have been to Buckingham Palace and why.) This book will be available in paperback in October. For those obsessed with British royal celebrity, this just may be your cup of tea!

In the category of historical fiction, consider **The Headmaster's Wager** by Vincent Lam (Hogarth, 2012). Lam is a Toronto physician, and he uses stories of his Chinese grandfather as the basis for a complex study of family and war. The setting stretches from the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong to the American withdrawal from Vietnam in 1975. As a reader who remembers seeing TV news coverage of epochal Vietnam events such as the Tet Offensive, the self-immolation of Buddhist monks and the fall of Saigon, I thought the character's immediate "street-level" perception of those same events very powerful. The Headmaster's Wager is also available as an audio book.

A Beginner's Goodbye by Anne Tyler (Books on Tape, 2012). With what seems a quirky metaphor for coping with grief, a recent widower reconciles his wife's sudden death with apparitions of her -- in their house, on their street and at a local market -- and learns to live in the moment and find peace. The publisher's notes describe this as "a beautiful and subtle exploration of loss and recovery, pierced throughout with Anne Tyler's humor, wisdom and always penetrating look at human foibles." I thought so too. **A Beginner's Goodbye** is also available as an e-book.

In the really "good for gift-giving" category, I place **The Book Club Cook Book Recipes and Food for Thought from Your Book Club's Favorite Books and Authors** by Judy Gelman and Vicki Levy Krupp (Penguin, 2012). Lent to me by a book & food loving friend, I am tempted to keep her copy, it is so good! These authors have a good website: www.bookclubcookbook.com, but I encourage you to take a look at this edition (their 2nd) for the sheer fun of how book clubs all over the country pair delicious food with equally scrumptious books. They cite the books and menus of dozens of book clubs from all over the country and those club names alone are worth the purchase price (\$21.95 US). You will read of the Black Madonnas Book Club of Waco, TX; The DRUM (Diverse Readings to Understand Multiculturalism) of South Seattle Community College; The Book-A-Nons of St. Louis, MO; Read and Feed Book Club of Denver, CO; Wuthering Bites of Seattle, WA; the Four Major Food Groups and Literary Society of Anchorage, AK; Pages and Plates of Los Angeles, CA and the Chicklit Chicas of Ottawa, ON (Canada), to name just a few.



RRTA Representatives 2012 – 2013 First row: Kathy Evans, June Ivanick, Maureen McCarron, Patti Brody, Carol Bonsignore Kitchen, Freddi Macek, Carol Giunta. Second row: Mary Barnum, Marie Jenkins Cox, Sharon Silvio, Katherine Barkley, Bob Allen, Lillian Bonanni, Willie Humphrey, Karen Huey, Polly Bradbury, Mary Gentry, Mary Zimmer, David Altobelli, Frank Valenti, Charlie Dean. Missing from this picture: Barbara Buckingham, Kevin Fager, Marie Ferenchak, Arlene Hanley, Martha Keating, Marianne Overcash, Linda Rapkin, Al Smith, Barry Swan, Grace Sweeney.



Dress a Girl October 22 made 17 dresses. First row: Jeanne Wells, Maureen McCarron, Nancy Hicks, Karen Savino, Shirley Dorsey. Second row: Sandra Martinez, Linda Pero, Maggie Tonkinson, Sue Raymond, Barbara Chambers Ekpo, Karen Martin, Georganne Greenlee, Madge Ludwig, Clara Webb.

DRESS A GIRL

January 28, February 25,

March 25, April 22 and May 28

From 9:00 to 3:00
at the RTA office

Please Note: We are sewing on the fourth Monday, except for May, the fourth Tuesday.

At our sewing on September 24, we made 30 dresses! Special thanks to Randy Bradshaw, Nancy Attardo, Cathy Fager, Rosemary Eichenlaub, Karen Martin, Linda Pero, Clara Webb, Nancy Hicks, Maureen McCarron, Lillian Bonanni, Karen Savino, Jeanne Wells, Sue Raymond, Shirley Dorsey, and our leaders, Sandra Martinez and Barbara Chambers Ekpo.

BREAST CANCER WALK VOLUNTEERS 2012



RRTA at the Breast Cancer Walk on September 30. Thanks to all the retirees who walked and contributed. Pictured above is the RTA Breast Cancer Walk Committee, starting on left, Val Huff Jones(RRTA), Mary Barnum(RRTA), Dave Altobelli(RRTA), Marilyn Shapiro(school 12), Marie Jenkins Cox(RRTA).

THANK YOU! PHONE VOLUNTEERS 2012



Thanks to the following who phoned for our endorsed candidates for the primary and general election: Zelda Artson Crichlow, Katherine Barley, Lillian Bonanni, Patti Brody, Barbara Buckingham, Kathy Evans, Margaret Finch, Mary Gentry, Mary Gilbert, June Ivanick, Dolores Locklear, Maureen McCarron, Linda Rapkin, Sharon Silvio, Gaya Shakes, Barry Swan, Yolanda Wooten. Pictured; Zelda and Gaya.