



Welcome to the 2011-2012 School Year!



2011 West Hartford Teacher of the Year

At the Convocation on Tuesday, August 30 the 2011 West Hartford Teacher of the Year, Joyce St. Germaine, addressed the audience. The Bristow Middle School art teacher said that in early third grade her teacher told her that she had a special talent in art. She said, "It was at that moment I realized what enormous power a teacher holds: the power to influence a child. I was determined that I would awaken in children what my teacher had awakened in me." This began her goal to become an art teacher and her 37 years in the profession. She has taught at the elementary and middle school levels and her inspiring words of wisdom were to "Be Yourself. Bring your unique life experience, personality, and cultural background into the classroom." She continued to share some of her background and concluded with her belief "that every child has the desire to learn and the capacity to succeed. Then believe that you hold within you the power to make that happen." She concluded by wishing all a wonderful year and being yourself.

Joyce St. Germaine is at the Convocation.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

YOUR 2011-2012 OFFICERS:

President

David Dippolino

Executive V.P.

Thomas Devine

Administrative V.P.

Lillian Rausch

Treasurer

Allayne Sundt

Editor

Joyce Bogdan

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WHEA News

Workshops

The West Hartford Education Association (WHEA) is planning for this year's workshops and social events. The first social event will be on Friday, October 14, 2011 at Murphy & Scarlett's, Farmington, CT from 3:00 P.M. until 6:30 P.M. Upcoming workshops will be announced soon.



'WHEA World' Purpose

The WHEA has been working for the advancement of West Hartford's public school teachers, children and schools since 1928.

The purpose of our 'WHEA World' newsletter is to keep members informed about the latest news and achievements of our colleagues.

Please pass along news, awards and achievements about you and your colleagues so that we can publish the information in upcoming newsletters. Please send the 'News Form' to the PR chair at wheaworld@whea.org. The form can be found on the last page of this edition.

Let's share our wonderful accomplishments with our colleagues!

Today

By Joyce Bogdan

Got up, a regular day with colleagues,
To do list, chores,
Family and friends,
A busy day.
But. . .
One moment in the day,
I found something strange,
In the middle of the rush I saw it,
A flower so different and unique.
Ah! A Great Day!

WHEA News cont.

WHEA Officers and Your Representatives

Rep. Council Officers: **President** David Dippolino, Conard math teacher; **Executive Vice President** Thomas Devine, Hall social studies teacher; **Administrative Vice President** Lillian Rausch, Charter Oak ESOL teacher; and **Treasurer** Allayne Sundt, Conard and Sedgwick math teacher. The new officers assumed their office on July 1, 2011. Congratulations!

Building Representatives, Alternates and Committee Chairs for 2011-2012

Rep. Council Chair: David Simon, Hall **Vice Chair:** Chris Islaub, Conard

CEA UniServ Representative: Sara Pomponi

Building Reps.: **Aiken**—Lisa Horan, Pat Vaninwagen; **Braeburn**—Kim Maloney, Theresa McKeown; **Bristow**—Greg Burns, Marcelo Pelliccioni; **Bugbee**—Anthony Weber; **Charter Oak**—Jessica Kazigian, Gina Navarra; **Conard**—Steven Bassi, Carol Chase, Kim Hoffman, Chris Islaub, Adam Linker, Hannah Marks-Hamil, Lynn Racz; **Duffy**—Sheila Levanti; **Ed. Center**—Christine Newman; **Hall**—Kristin Bieniaszek, Michelle Flaucher, Kim Hart-Kindelberger, Jennifer Lanese, Michelle Nicklaus, Michael Wilkosz; **King Philip**—Jenn Ukanowicz-Parrett; **Morley**—Megan Wares, Tony Wilusz; **Norfeldt**—Wendy Baker, Mary Sheridan; **Retired**—Helen Hughlett; **Sedgwick**—Joyce Bogdan, Linda Gengel, Jen Prigodich, Jas Singh, Jennifer Tauro; **Smith**—Sharon Courneen; **Webster Hill**—Jennifer Burkey, Debbie Kotler; **Whiting Lane**—Wendy Martin, Patricia Orticari; **Wolcott**—Bonny Butkiewicz, Andrew Sparkes.

Alternate Reps.: **Braeburn**—Allison Raggie; **Bristow**—Sandi Harss; **Bugbee**—Maria Bateas; **Charter Oak**—MaryAnn Muccino; **Conard**—Sam Rader; **Duffy**—Brenda Key, Clare Taylor; **King Philip**—Katherine Kiesewetter; **Norfeldt**—Trudy Davis; **Retired**—Anna Mae Maglaty; **Sedgwick**—Sara Tamborello; **Smith**—Jane Macca; **Webster Hill**—Kerri-Lynn O'Neill.

Committee Chairs: **Membership**—Chris Islaub, Conard; **PR**—Joyce Bogdan, Sedgwick; **Social**—Theresa McKeown, Braeburn and Bugbee.

WHEA Rep. Council Meetings

The WHEA Representative Council meets monthly to discuss issues of importance for our teachers and schools. The meetings are attended by the elected Representative Council members and alternates from each school and are open to our membership. Most meetings are held at Conard High in room 169 from 4 P.M. until 5 P.M. The following are the dates for the 2011-2012 school year: September 12, October 17, November 14, December 5, January 9, February 6, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4.

WHEA News cont.

A Celebration of a New Year 2011-2012

The Convocation for West Hartford Public Schools was held at Conard High School on August 30, 2011. The theme was “*Realize Student Potential*” with ‘Rigorous & Relevant Curriculum, High Expectations For All Learners, and Dynamic Teaching.’ Ms. Mary Thompson, Principal of Charter Oak International Academy welcomed everyone. Mr. Thomas Moore, Assistant Superintendent for Administration introduced the guests and Ms. Clare Kindall, Chairperson Board of Education gave a greeting and introduced town and state officials in the audience. A recent graduate from Charter Oak addressed the audience. This was followed by last year’s Teacher of the Year, Scott Ferguson, Hall English teacher, who introduced Joyce St. Germaine, Bristow’s art teacher, this year’s Teacher of the Year. Dr. Karen List, Superintendent of Schools, gave her message for the 2011-2012 school year. The Keynote Speaker was Garrison Wynn, author and speaker, who gave an inspirational address. You can see the convocation on the local channel, Channel 5.

You can read about the many changes in West Hartford Public Schools at

<http://westhartford.patch.com/articles/whats-new-this-fall-in-the-west-hartford-public-schools>



WHEA News cont.

Celebrate West Hartford!

WHEA members manned a booth at *Celebrate West Hartford!* on Saturday, June 11 and Sunday, June 12. The booth was a combination “meet and greet your teachers,” a student art show, and a student drawing for gift certificates to Barnes and Noble. Several West Hartford music groups performed including the Sedgwick Jazz Band directed by Dr. Bob Hopko, Hall Jazz Band under the direction of John Mastroianni and King Philip Jazz Band directed by Joe Ganci. Everyone enjoyed the event.



This is the student art show at the WHEA booth.



From left to right are Loretta Whiting, Aiken ESOL teacher; world language teachers Linda Powers, Aiken and Whiting Lane and Marcelo Pelliccioni, Bristow; Carol Chase, Conard math teacher.



Tom Hine, former Sedgwick English teacher, now retired, holding the WHEA bookmark. It says, “Unlocking the potential in every child.”

WHEA News cont.

The Henry Barnard Memorial Fund

“The purpose of The Henry Barnard Memorial Fund (HBMF) is to help needy teachers who have served but are no longer active in the teaching profession.” The fund was established in 1953 and named after Henry Barnard who served as the third president of CEA. It has been helping teachers stay independent with financial and other assistance as needed. The WHEA helps this fund by contributing. One of the ways that WHEA helps is with the posting of the *Trading Post*. You can help by starting to look in your closets, attics and garages for anything you would like to put in the first *Trading Post* of the year. Dates and further information will follow. To learn more about The Henry Barnard Memorial Fund go to www.henrybarnardfund.org

Summer Options

Many teachers and staff worked to have a very successful Summer Options program. Classes were held at Webster Hill, Whiting Lane, Sedgwick and Hall. Most courses ran for four weeks and there were a wide range of subjects that students could take including language arts, math, computers, dance and drama. The collaborative summer school services many towns in Connecticut. Some students are from other countries and attend to learn English. For more information see <http://summer.whlifelearn.org/CourseCatalog/catalogView.asp?id=1>.



CEA News

CEA Hartford County Council

The Hartford County Council will meet on Wednesday, October 19, 2011. The meeting will be held at the Chowder Pot in Hartford from 4 P.M. until 8 P.M. If you are interested in attending please call or e-mail David Dippolino.

CEA Summer Leadership Conference

The 2011 Summer Leadership Conference was held Monday, August 1 through Wednesday, August 3 at Mohegan Sun Conference Center, Uncasville, CT. David Dippolino, Conard math teacher, Tom Devine, Hall social studies teacher, Migdalia Colon, Sedgwick speech and language consultant, and Kerri Glogowski, Conard special education teacher attended. There are many interesting tracks offered. Some of the tracks include Grievance Procedures II, Teachers and the Law, Negotiations and computer skills. Tom Devine said that the tracks he took, “very directly related to my responsibilities, and were very well organized and presented. Overall a fun and inspiring way to spend 2 1/2 days.” Phil Apruzzese, CEA President, welcomed members. Governor Dannel Malloy was the keynote speaker. This is an opportunity to network with other teachers from across our state.

2011 Holiday Bear Project

This year WHEA will again participate in the Holiday Bear Project sponsored by CEA. “The Connecticut Education Foundation’s (CEF) Holiday Bear Project is the holiday gift-giving project that links CEA members, the public, and businesses with needy public school students.” Sheila Cohen, CEA Vice President and CEF President, leads the Holiday Bear Project. The brochure states, “It can be difficult to bear the holiday season if you are a disadvantaged child. Bear down for a worthy cause by sponsoring a needy Connecticut child. Your efforts will help brighten a child’s holiday.” You can also participate by nominating a child, sponsoring a child by purchasing gifts for an assigned child or contributing by purchasing food gift certificates or donating money towards gifts for a child. The deadlines are Friday, October 14 for nominating a child, September through December for sponsoring a child and Friday, December 2 for contributing. If you would like to participate please e-mail David Dippolino at wheaooffice@gmail.com.



NEA News

NEA

The 149th Annual Meeting of the NEA/RA (Representative Assembly) was held from Thursday, June 30 through Tuesday, July 5 in Chicago, IL. The 2011 Theme was ***“NEA Standing Strong for our Students, our Schools and America.”*** The RA is the main meeting of officers and delegates from across the U. S. Many of the important issues that impact American public education were discussed and debated during the RA. The delegates elect top officers and set policy for the 3.2 million member Association. The delegates representing WHEA were Conard math teachers Carol Chase and David Dippolino, and ESOL teachers Joyce Bogdan, Sedgwick; and Lillian Rausch, Charter Oak. Representing CEA was Brenda Key, Duffy third grade teacher.

The Friend of Education Award went to “Wisconsin 14,” the 14 Wisconsin Democratic State Senators. One of the high points of the RA was the address given by the Vice President of the United States Joe Biden. He gave a positive speech about the importance of educators. This includes everyone who works with students in schools from administrators, teachers, TAs, paraprofessionals, secretaries, custodians, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, to all other faculty and staff members. The 2011 National Teacher of the Year was Michelle Shearer, chemistry teacher in Frederick, Maryland. Next year the RA will be held in Washington D. C.



This is the Connecticut delegation on the RA Floor.



On the left is Carol Chase, with Brenda Key on the Fourth of July.



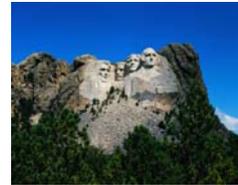
The WHEA delegates from left to right are Carol Chase, Lillian Rausch, David Dippolino and Joyce Bogdan.

Stay informed with National issues that are affecting teachers throughout the country. Check out *NEA advocacy: Your Values and Activism in Action!* at www.educationvotes.nea.org. Log on and join today. Your voice is needed for action!

Leading Students

National History Day

Jennifer Hunt, Sedgwick's Quest teacher, led students to the Old State House for a History Day celebration on Saturday, June 11 until mid August. Students who won in their categories at the Connecticut state level were able to compete at the University of Maryland on June 12-15. The students that went to the national level attend Hall High, King Philip Middle and Sedgwick Middle. They met over 2000 other students from across the country. Jen said, "This annual competition engages students in grades 6-12 in the process of researching and interpreting a historical topic of their choice related to an annual theme. Working individually or in small groups, students are encouraged to find primary and secondary sources on their subject through research in libraries and museums, interviews, and visits to historic sites." Mrs. Hunt was named Connecticut History Day Teacher of the Year and the History Channel Teacher of the Year.



School Store

Charter Oak's School Store is open every Thursday morning. It is run by fifth grade students who are in the English for Speaker's of Other Languages Program (ESOL). Their job is to sell school supplies to children and practice their English and math skills at the same time.

Children at Charter Oak get to visit the store at least once during the year. Because of the generosity of the PTO, each child gets a certificate to purchase something at the store in the month of their birthday. All children may bring money to buy things at the store as well. Everything in the store is one dollar or less.

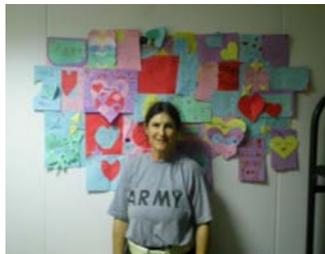
Each year the students along with ESOL teacher, Lillian Rausch, chose a charity they would like to support. This year the Cambodian Children's Fund was chosen. For six years the Cambodian Children's Fund has provided life-changing education, nourishment and healing to vulnerable children from some of Cambodia's most destitute communities. The store raised an amazing \$1000 this school year to support this wonderful and important charity.

Lillian follows the quote by Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

Leading Students cont.

Soldier's Visit

On Friday, September 23, 2011 Staff Sergeant Anna Anelli visited students at Sedgwick Middle School. She visited students in Trish Hartunian's 7th grade social studies classes and English for Speakers of Other Language (ESOL) students in Joyce Bogdan's classes. SSG Anelli is in the U. S. Army National Guard and has served in Iraq, Kuwait and in several locations in the U. S. While she was stationed in Kuwait the ESOL students wrote letters and made Valentine cards for her. SSG Anelli personally answered each of the students' letters. Now that she has returned to her home in New Hampshire she wanted to visit the students to share her photos of Kuwait. As Food Service Operation Sergeant she was in charge of the food and water for the base. Her base is a stopping point for troops on their way to and from Iraq and Afghanistan. "The students enjoyed the presentation, participated in the demonstration with some of her equipment and asked excellent questions," Joyce Bogdan said.



SSG Anna Anelli in Kuwait with the Valentine cards from the ESOL students.



SSG Anelli at Sedgwick sharing her experience in the U. S. Army National Guard.

Kudos go to:**Team Training Program**

This summer Mimi Villanova, District Facilitator for Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM), and Therese Horn from Webster Hill, led the TEAM Training Program. There were 25 teachers who updated their training and 13 teachers who took the initial TEAM training. West Hartford Public Schools has over 350 teachers who are trained to be mentors to new teachers and/or cooperating teachers to student teachers from various universities.

The following teachers updated their training this summer: Lauren Bilello, Kathy Bolt, Chris Bombara, Carol Chase, Dahlia Cherny, Sharon Courneen, Nicola Culma, Lisa Garand, Ann Gargula, Maria Genca, Maggie Kaiser, Brenda Key, Colleen Maher, Traci McGowan, Michelle Nicklas, Montserrat Rich, Kirsten Sanderson, Tracy Scutari, Sharon Shiraiwa, Kathy Shoemaker, Kathy Sweetland, Clare Taylor, Lyndsey Teixeira, Monica Walker, and Priya White.

The following teachers completed their Initial Support Training for TEAM: Anna Capobianco, Jackie Corricelli, Meghan Gaignard, Leslie Hadra, Patricia Hartunian, Darcie Hudson, Amanda Leon-Guerrero, Kevin Lillie, Eric Martin, Lisa Roland, Jonathan Schwartz, Chelsea Smith, and Christina Tysh.

EMT Certification

Hall English teachers Katy Yates and Kristin Bieniaszek completed an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Certification Program offered at Trinity College hosted by New Britain EMS. They began the course in January and received their certifications in late June. Congratulations!



Kudos go to cont.:

TV Music

Javier Colón, the brother of Migdalia Colón, a speech and language consultant at Sedgwick, won the new NBC program *The Voice*. This summer Javier Colón visited his alma mater Bunnell High School, Stratford, CT on July 10 for a *Welcome Home Tribute*. He was surrounded by his family, friends, fans, state and local officials. The officials included Mayor John Harkins, U. S. Representative Rosa DeLauro, U. S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, State Representative Laura Hoydick and State Senator Kevin Kelly.

He addressed the crowd of well wishers and sang a couple of songs including his single “Stitch by Stitch.” a top-selling song on iTunes. Javier will be performing at the University of Hartford on Saturday, October 22 at 7 P.M. at the Lincoln Theatre.



Javier Colón performing at Bunnell High School in Stratford, CT for a *Welcome Home Tribute*.

Kudos go to cont.:

Director

Lauren Pouliot is a music teacher at Duffy and Wolcott grades K-3 and at Sedgwick for seventh grade. Lauren is also the Director for Windsor Youth Theatre in Windsor, CT. The program was started 25 years ago by Mrs. Fran Elligers of Windsor. After a long battle with cancer Mrs. Elligers passed away in December 2010. Lauren explained her involvement with the group, "Growing up in Windsor, I was a student of the Windsor Youth Theatre. When I got too old to perform, I moved on to being the stage manager. When I got old enough, I began helping out with music and dance. When Mrs. Elligers needed help, there was no question that I would be there to help out."

There are two shows per year. The fall session is "*PeeWee Theatre*" for grades K-8. The students rehearse one day a week from September through November. This November they will perform "*Wild and Wacky Winter*" by Michael and Jill Gallina. The past shows that Lauren has directed are "*Honk! Jr.*" and "*It's Saturday!*"

The Junior Division runs from January through May and they rehearse twice a week. They will perform "*Once on This Island*" by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty in May 2012. The past shows that Lauren has directed include "*Back to the 80s*," "*Anything Goes*" and "*Seussical*." The rehearsals focus on basic theatre techniques, singing, and dancing.

Lauren said, "It is so rewarding to watch the students' progress from auditions to opening night. The dedication of those involved in the program is incredible, and the joy you find in every rehearsal is something I could never give up."

Lauren Pouliot is the Director for Windsor Youth Theatre.



WHREA Corner

What is the WHREA?

By Ken Sopelak
President WHREA

The West Hartford Retired Educators Association is your retirement organization of retired and active educators, 55 years and older, who have one goal in common . . . to get the most out of retirement by protecting and improving retiree benefits, assisting each other, supporting education, and maintaining and building new friendships.

Our Executive Board and membership are currently hard at work lobbying our State Legislators to protect your pension and medical insurance subsidy during the States financial crisis! We are also working on a National level to eliminate the Social Security Offset Law.

The WHREA is an affiliate of the Association of Retired Teachers of Connecticut (ARTC). ARTC maintains a full time executive director, a professional lobbyist, and a public relations consultant. The WHREA also supports the work of the CEA-R.

You do not need to be retired to support our work or use our services! Membership is open to any teacher or administrator, 55 years or older. Dues are only \$25 per year (or \$80 lifetime). If you would like more information about the WHREA, please contact me at **kensopelak@comcast.net** or our membership chairperson, Anne Keegan, at **afkeegan@aol.com**.



Your Credit Union



Franklin Trust Federal Credit Union

All West Hartford Public Schools staff, employees, volunteers, and students are eligible for membership in Franklin Trust Federal Credit Union. The credit union offers a wide variety of products and services, including savings accounts, checking accounts, loans, mortgages, credit cards, debit cards, direct deposit, and on-line banking. In addition, they are part of a network of over 30,000 surcharge-free ATMs nationwide.

Franklin Trust was founded as a teachers credit union in 1934. Now the fourth oldest federal credit union in the country, they are celebrating their 77th anniversary this year.

The credit union's West Hartford office is located at 927 Farmington Avenue, near Blue Back Square. Their Main Office is at 632 Franklin Avenue in Hartford. For more information, including a form that allows you to sign up through the mail, call Franklin Trust at (860) 296-4379, ext. 203. They can be found on the web at www.franklintrust.org, as well as on Facebook and MySpace.

advertisement

Quick Tips

Quote:

"If you haven't found something strange during the day, it hasn't been much of a day."

John Archibald
Wheeler



- Check out upcoming events, e-mail addresses for officers at www.whea.org.
- Attend your Building Rep's monthly 10 minute meetings. Stay informed!
- Check out the home mailings from NEA & CEA. If you are not receiving them contact your building rep.
- Check out the websites at www.nea.org and www.cea.org.
- Stay informed with school policies and information by visiting www.whps.org.
- Read 'WHEA World' at www.whea.org. To add your news, please complete the *News Form* on the last page of this issue. Watch for your news in upcoming editions.
- Questions, concerns? talk to your building rep.
- Check the website for the Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools Grants at www.fwhps.org.

Current Issues

National, State News

In national news creating jobs has become a very important issue and the President is looking at new way to do this. He is trying to have Congress pass his 'Jobs Bill.'

Candidates are beginning their campaigns for the Presidency. There are many candidates running from the Republican Party. They will run against Democratic Barack Obama.



In state news many counties in Connecticut have been declared disaster areas due to Hurricane Irene. Residents can apply for federal funds for repairs. Also in our state Governor Dannel Malloy is trying to close the approximately \$4 billion deficit and many new tax increases will be collected.

Local News

You can access your local, state and national elected officials on the West Hartford Public Library website at www.westhartfordlibrary.org.

For Board of Education (BOE) 'Opening of School Briefings' and BOE meeting documents see <http://www.whps.org/whps/primary-offices/boe-page/documents>.

In local news Romus Properties, which owns Blue Back Square, has put the mixed-use development up for sale. The condominiums and the parking garages are not for sale.

Several events were held around West Hartford in remembrance of 9/11. At 1 P. M. churches in town rang their bells for one minute to join with the nation in a moment of remembrance on the tenth anniversary. A ceremony was held at the Veterans Memorial.

There is controversy concerning the Busway from New Britain to Hartford. A section of the busway runs through West Hartford. This project is projected to cost more than \$573 million. The federal government will fund \$460 million while the state will pay \$113 million. Many people object to the project with concerns about the cost as well as, the usage of the bus service.



News Form

Date:

Name(s):

School(s):

Subject/Area:

Grade level(s):

Name of the Award or Accomplishment:

Description:

When and where was this received?

Why and how did you receive this honor?

Awarded by whom?

A quote from you:

Attach a photo.

Congratulations on your achievement!

Please e-mail this form to WHEA at wheaworld@whea.org. If you have any questions or suggestions, please call me at 860-463-2547.

Joyce Bogdan
PR Chair