

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. 05 No. 4 November 2015

A Retired Rochester Teachers Publication



MANSIONS AND MILLIONAIRES TOUR BIG HIT

On Monday, September 28, fifty-three of our members and guests spent the morning visiting the East Avenue area of Rochester from the comforts of a tour bus. We learned historical facts. How East Avenue become "East" is in itself a fascinating story. Before it was East Avenue, East Avenue was Main Street; there were 2 Main Streets! Our tour guides, Warren and Pat Kling, provided us with a view of unique architectural styles, facts about the building of some of these mansions and insider information about some of the first owners and their families. We heard how some of these first residents came to make Rochester their home, where their money was made, what they may have invented or contributed and their many connections to modern day Rochester. For example, early residents left their names to streets we travel every day. Yes, there was a Culver family.

We heard about some current mansion owners' stories, as well. Amazing to find out how many millionaires have houses off East Avenue still and how much each pays in taxes.

The trip ended with a delicious, hot Italian buffet at Mario's Restaurant. A fun and educational morning for all of us. Thank you to Warren and Pat Kling for their great program. And thank you to Kathy Evans for taking the time and patience to plan this very different experience. Kathy had a waiting list for this tour, but, against all odds, every one who signed up, turned up at 8:30 a.m. on September 24, even though it was raining.

By Kathy Evans and Mary Barnum

RRTA PHONE BANKS AND MAILING FOR RTA ENDORSED BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

Our gratitude to all the RRTA members who helped with the mailing and phone bank in preparation for the Democratic Primary on September 10. We sent a mailing to all NYSUT members registered as Democrats living in the city and called each as a followup to remind them to vote, about 1400 people.

Willa Powell, Mary Adams and Malik Evans were all up for reelection to the Rochester Board of Education. We were mainly concerned about Powell, who had not been selected by the Democratic caucuses. In addition to these 3, RTA endorsed Liz Hallmark. All 4 of the RTA endorsed candidates were victorious and will appear on the Democratic line on November 3.

These are the people who worked to achieve their victory: Sharon Chandler, Patti Brody, Barb Buckingham, Jim Kraus, Al Silverman, Katherine Barkley, Barry Swan, Bob Allen, Wendy Wilson, Lili Bonanni, Carolyn Walker, Ed Hathaway, Ellen Robinson, David Altobelli, Ann Erwin, Mary Zimmer, Sandra Martinez, Sharon Silvio, Freddi Macek, Mary Barnum.

If you see any of these folks, thank them for giving their time to protect teacher friendly B of E candidates and, therefore, helping to protect your health insurance.

By Mary Barnum



Al Silverman spent hours calling to get out the vote.



Jim Kraus also spent hours calling to get out the vote.

2015 RRTA 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

- 3 Election day
- 5 RRTA meeting
- 6 November RRTeacher mailed
- 12 CSD Medical Insurance Open Enrollment meeting
- 17 Representative Assembly
- 23 Dress A Girl

December

- 1 Deadline for January RRTeacher
- 3 RRTA meeting
- 4 RRTA Holiday Party
- 15 Representative Assembly

January

- 7 RRTA meeting
- 19 Representative Assembly
- 25 Dress A Girl
- 26 January RRTeacher mailed

February

- 4 RRTA meeting
- 23 Representative Assembly
- 29 Dress A Girl

March

- 3 RRTA meeting
- 15 Representative Assembly
- 28 Dress A Girl

April

- 7 RRTA meeting
- 19 Representative Assembly
- 25 Dress A Girl
- * Mt. Hope Cemetery tour

May

- 5 RRTA meeting
- 17 Representative Assembly
- 23 Dress A Girl

June

- 2 RRTA meeting
- 21 Representative Assembly
- 27 Dress A Girl
- * Hurd Orchard lunch
- * RRTA at the Redwings

RRTA MEETING JUNE 4, 2015

Attendance: D. Altobelli, M. Barnum, L. Bonanni, P. Brody, C. Dean, K. Evans, K. Fager, M. Ferenchak, K. Huey, W. Humphrey, M. Jenkins-Cox, B. Jones, M. McCarron, F. Macek, L. Rapkin, K. Schultz, A. Smith, B. Swan, F. Valente, Y. Wooten, M. Zimmer

Absent: R. Allen, Z. Artson-Crichlow, K. Barkley, C. Bonsignore-Kitchen, B. Buckingham, J. Ivanick, M. Keating, M. Overcash, S. Silvio, G. Shakes, G. Sweeney,
Also in attendance: L. DeBellis, L. Kotwas, S. Raymond, J. Wells

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:08.
2. A moment of silence was held for Josephine Bentivegna, Gloria Loiacono, Bruce Rosen, Gerald Patti, Bob Polito, Regina Holtze and Carol Hutchins who have passed away. Twenty-five dollars is donated to Books for Kids in memory of each person who was a member of RRTA.
3. The May RRTA minutes were approved with some changes of specifics about the NYSUT community service awards.
4. Linda Rapkin reported that she has sent the money for 26 reservations to Hurds Orchards for the June 25 luncheon.
5. Books for Kids — Mary Barnum shared a list of all the schools visited per year since 1996 when the program began. Polly has not been available to report, but at the RTA retirement dinner on June 15 information will be shared so that new retirees may be recruited for the committee next year. All RRTA members are welcome to join. The organizational meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 10 at 11 am. The final school visit is on June 11 at School 25.

6. Retirement Dinner — The dinner is scheduled for June 15 at Woodcliff. There are presently 106 RTA members retiring. All reps are invited to the dinner where RRTA distributes information about joining. Charlie Dean will speak about our activities and why it is important to become an RRTA member. Many other RRTA members will be helping at the dinner.

7. Vote Cope — Dave Altobelli said that the recent campaign has yielded 45 to 50 new members or members who increased their contributions. At the RTA meeting June 16 he will be drawing for the five \$50 restaurant gift cards for contributors. He will also say a few words at the retirement dinner to explain to new retirees that it is important to continue being a contributor. Dave will be sending out the Vote Cope thank you gifts soon to RRTA contributors.

8. Dress A Girl — The next meeting will be on June 29 and they will start again Sept 28. Check the dates in the August newspaper for more dates.

9. Shaw Festival — June 26 there will be 36 people going to see Pygmalion.

10. United Way — Dial a Teacher (#1403) always welcomes donations through a special designation with United Way.

11. Mansions on East Avenue — 45 people have signed up for this activity. Because the minimum number has been exceeded, there may be a refund for part of the ticket.

12. Living Wage — Maureen McCarron is a member of Metro Justice and reported on a talk by Bruce Popper. This is in reference to the National Fight for 15 (minimum wage). Metro Justice members were asked to sign up fast food workers at national chains. This issue is supported by Governor Cuomo. Hearings by the Minimum

Wage Commission begins June 5 in Buffalo.

13. RRTA membership is at 706.

14. Newspaper — deadline for all articles and pictures is July 14. Send any activities and pictures to Mary Barnum. If you have a school group that meets regularly or an activity that you participate in, send either articles and/or pictures to share with all members.

15. RRTA Representative Election — Prior to the meeting the following were nominated: Bob Allen, Katherine Barkley, Carol Bonsignore Kitchen, Marie Jenkins Cox, Kevin Fager, Willie Humphrey, Freddi Macek, Sharon Silvio, Grace Sweeney, Marianne Overcash, Yolanda Wooten, Ken Schultz, Gaya Shakes, Mary Zimmer, and Mary Weeks. At the meeting Deborah Sullivan and Richard Wolf were nominated. There were as many candidates as positions, therefore there will be no need for an election and all nominated will serve a 2 year term.

16. Calendar — The September picnic will be in Henrietta. A motion was proposed and passed that Sue Raymond will reserve a shelter for a Friday or Thursday depending on availability. The date will be published in the August newspaper with details.

Holiday Party — A December date needs to be reserved. June Ivanick and Barb Buckingham usually plan this but they did not attend this meeting. Maureen McCarron and Yolanda Wooten volunteered to contact them to see if they want to continue organizing the holiday party or if they would like help in doing this.

Breast Cancer Walk — Mary Barnum reported the date to be October 18 and hopes many RTA and RRTA members will participate.

More activities are needed for the calendar. If you have a suggestion for an activity or would like to organize one to bring RRTA members together, contact Mary Barnum.

17. Dues Increase — RTA dues are being raised by \$40 a year if the budget passes at the RTA June meeting. If voted in, the RRTA dues, which pays 10% of the RTA dues, will increase by \$4 per year. There was a lengthy discussion about why there is a need for the dues increase. Mary Barnum made a motion that passed that the RRTA reps support the dues increase to keep the RTA funded at the June meeting.

18. Other Business — Tax Credit — many are receiving phone calls from a Lisa out of Plattsburgh to contact your assemblymen, particularly Morelli and Bronson, to support the tax credit bill. She is talking about supplies and daycare, but you should actually contact them to vote no because it is supporting charter and private schools against public education.

The Labor Day Parade is Sept 7 and all are asked to participate.

Transatlantic Treaty - You are asked to contact your US legislators to vote no because it will be sending jobs overseas if passed.

The Labor Relations Board Picnic is June 25 in Genesee Valley Park. It will cost \$20 for food and to meet and talk to local politicians.

Veterans News — The Korean War Vets do the upkeep of Route 441 and are having a cleaning on June 6. Because of the aging population they are looking for other groups to help them. Contact Al Smith (544-2839 or asmith1@rochester.rr.com) if you would like to help with this or any other war veteran activities. Contact him also if you would like to be put on his list serve for this information.

19. The meeting adjourned at 11:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Zimmer

RRTA TRI-ATHLETE, AL BARASCH

Retired East High teacher Al Barasch took a first place in the Rochester Sprint Triathlon



held at Durand Eastman Park on August 22. Al won a gold medal for his age group of 75-79 and was the oldest competitor in the event. He swam 750 yards, biked 12 miles, and ran 3.1 miles. This distance is nothing for Al who did an Iron Distance race in

Montreal in 2003 at age 63. In that event he swam 2.4 miles, biked 112 miles and ran a marathon, 26 miles. It had been some time since Al had donned his wet suit, and he admitted the most daunting segment of the event for him was the Lake Ontario swim. Fellow RRTA member Annette Schaff assisted him in preparing for the event. Al and Annette used Canandaigua Lake as a training site. Jim Grattan and Aggie Perry, also former East High teachers, acted as cheerleaders at the Triathlon. Following the event, Al, Annette, Jim and Aggie joined Charlie Dean (formerly of Monroe & East) at a celebratory luncheon. Al Barasch taught social studies at East High School from 1963 until his retirement in 1995.



Congrats, Al. You're an inspiration to us all.

By Agnes Perry

Rochester Teachers Association
A Union of Professionals

LEARN THE LATEST ON YOUR RTA WEBSITE

www.rochesterteachers.com

RCS D HEALTH INSURANCE
OPEN ENROLLMENT
INFORMATION MEETING
Thursday, Nov. 12

3 to 5 p.m.
for RCS D Retirees
Wilson Foundation Academy
200 Genesee Street

TO CHANGE HEALTH INSURANCE

Important DATE!

FORMS MUST BE RETURNED DIRECTLY TO THE BENEFITS OFFICE BY
Monday, November 30
BENEFITS OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY NOVEMBER 26 AND 27

EXCELLUS INFORMATION HACKED: PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT FOR FREE



Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield reports that, since December 23, 2013, its computer servers have

been hacked. As a result, the personal information of its customers over 31 upstate New York counties may have been taken by the hackers. (This includes those who now may be with another company, but were once insured by Excellus.) Accordingly, Excellus has contracted with Kroll Information Assurance Company, a global leader in this area, to provide Excellus customers with free protection against identity theft for two years.

Identity theft can be a major problem, financial and otherwise, for anyone affected by it. Fraudulent loans and false contracts can be created, bank accounts can be accessed, credit histories can be impacted, and many other unsavory results can occur. We recommend that all RTA members who have been customers of Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield, now or in the past, should take advantage of Excellus' offer to protect them.

There are two fairly easy ways to get this protection:

1. Go to the Excellus website at: <https://www.excellusbcbs.com> There is an alert box at the top of their home page, providing information on the attack and the offered protection. Clicking on the highlighted boxes will lead you through the process in a fairly straightforward way. In five minutes, you can enroll in all of their monitoring services.

2. If you would prefer to work with a human on the phone, call the following number: 1-877-589-3331. A person will help you do all the necessary work.

If you have questions about any of this, please call Mary Barnum, RRTA Consultant, or Paul Hetland, RTA Treasurer, at the RTA office.

By Paul Hetland

RRTA HOLIDAY LUNCHEON Golden Ponds 500 Long Pond Rd. Friday, December 4, 2015

Invite a retired friend to join you for a reunion at our annual Holiday party. Traditionally this event draws the most participants. It is a joyful occasion to renew old friendships.

11:00 Meet and Greet, Cash Bar

12:00 Lunch served

Please note the special discount for dues payers

\$14.00 Dues payers \$18.00 Non dues payers

Price includes buffet: roast sirloin with gravy, baked chicken, meatballs in sauce, ziti with sauce, hot vegetables, assorted relishes, salad with assorted dressings, Italian bread and butter, dessert, beverage, tax and gratuity. Deadline for reservation: November 20, 2015.

Again this year, we ask that you bring a nonperishable food item to donate to a local food cupboard.

RRTA Holiday Luncheon December 4, 2015 Deadline for reservation: November 20.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ Zip _____

No. of \$14 dues paying member lunches _____ total \$ _____

No. of \$18 Non dues paying lunches _____ total \$ _____

Total amount of check in payment to RRTA \$ _____

Please print the names of your guests.

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



Retiree Marie Jenkins-Cox



Retirees Valerie Huff-Jones and Marilyn Shapiro



Retiree Charlie Dean

Thanks to all who walked or/and donated on October 18 in the WALK AGAINST BREAST CANCER for the American Cancer Society. People were especially generous and it was a cold morning for walking but spirits were warm. A special thanks to retirees Dave Altobelli, Marie Jenkins Cox, Marilyn Shapiro, Val Huff and Mary Barnum who passed out RTA walk shirts.

RRTA 2015-16 RRTA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Former School _____ Year retired _____

Address _____ Phone _____

_____ Zip _____

If you wish to be added to our listserve, please print your email address:

Send this completed form with your check for \$39.30 to RTA 30 North Union Street, Rochester, NY 14607

BOOKS FOR KIDS MAKES PLANS FOR 2015 - 2016



2015-2016 Books for Kids Committee Row 1 Kathy Evans, Margaret Finch, Lillian Bonanni, Cile Nix, Liz Pollock, Florence Jones, Ann Sexton, Diane Voellinger, Marie Ferenchak, Maureen Van Buren, Rosemarie Milliman, Mary Barnum Row 2 Mary Beth Knowles, Dorothy Taylor, Mary Zimmer, Ellen Best, Karen Huey, Katherine Barkley, Sharon Chandler, Karen Melville, Chris Chaffer, Linda Rapkin

On September 10, the RTA Books for Kids Committee held its annual meeting to make plans for this school year. Polly Bradbury is taking some time for herself. Therefore, her duties, which she has been performing since B for K started in 1996, were divided among several. Kathy Evans will lead our book shopping trips to Barnes and Nobel in Pittsford. Rosemarie Milliman and Diane Voellinger will keep track of contributions, make deposits and send thank you letters. Mary Barnum will notify committee members by email of shopping and school dates.

Mary Beth Knowles, Liz Pollock, and Diane Voellinger will organize our book giving at School 25 in October. Margaret Finch, Florence Jones, and Sharon Chandler at School 57 in November. Al Silverman, Katherine Barkley, and Joe Deroller at School 12 in December. Chris Chaffer and Marie Ferenchak at School 3 in January, Karen Melville, Ann Sexton, and Rosemary Eichenlaub in February. Dot Taylor, Celeste Wilson and Mary Zimmer at School 28 in March. Randy Bradshaw, Maureen Van Buren, Ann Lane and Linda Rapkin at School 52 in April. Rosemarie Milliman, Ellen Best, Diane Voellinger and Mary Beth Knowles at School 45 in May.

We spend about \$300 for books at each school and are in good shape financially for this year. We are grateful to all of our retiree contributors for allowing Books for Kids to thrive. If you wish to contribute or join the committee, please use the form below.

Books for Kids is supported totally by contributions from RRTA retirees. Checks should be made out to "RRTA Books for Kids FLACE" and returned with the form below completed to Books for Kids, RTA office, 30 North Union Street, Rochester, NY 14607. (**FLACE designates Finger Lakes Community Endowment** which is managed by Canandaigua National Bank, which sends acknowledgement of donations of \$50 or more). For all donations, Books for Kids sends thank you notes which include the amount donated.

BOOKS FOR KIDS DONATION

My donation is enclosed in the amount of _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

**Return completed form with your check to RRTA 30 North Union Street,
Rochester, NY 14607**

Checks should be made out to **RRTA Books for Kids FLACE** and returned with this completed form to Books for Kids, RTA office, 30 North Union Street, Rochester, NY 14607.

Check here ____ if you want to join the Books for Kids Committee. If you want to hear more about Books for Kids, call Mary Barnum 546 2681 or Kathy Evans 455 6161.

**Return completed form with your check to the RTA office,
Attention Rosemarie Milliman**

RRTA Fall Picnic



It was a beautiful, sunny, almost summer-like day on Friday, September 18th when a group of

retirees met at the Henrietta Veteran's Memorial Park for our Fall picnic. The hots, hamburgs and Italian sausages were aptly grilled by chefs Willie Humphrey and Charles Boyar. Kevin Fager provided the corn-on-the-cob and our attendees provided the extra dishes to round out the meal. Conversation was lively as old and new friends socialized.

If you missed out on the fun, the next picnic will be in June. Watch the newspaper for the date.

By Sue Raymond



Enjoying our picnic: Judi Flanders, Agnes Wright, Sharon Chandler, Deborah Sullivan



Thanking Sue Raymond (2nd from left) for arranging the picnic: Polly Bradbury, Mary Barnum, Genevive McKee, Kevin Fager



Enjoying our picnic fare: Noreen Murphy, Phyllis Harris, Bruna Evangelista, Freddi Macek, Barbara Buckingham, Selma Berger, Paul Berger

What is the Difference between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage?



Original Medicare is the traditional **fee-for-service** program. Fee-for-Service is a payment model where services are paid for as itemized as one would see in a hospital invoice. This payment method gives an incentive for physicians to provide more treatments because payment is dependent on the quantity of care, rather than quality of care.

Original Medicare is administered directly by the U.S. government. Under *Original Medicare*, you can see any doctor in the country who participates in the program, and most doctors do participate.

Original Medicare includes parts A, Band D:

- Part A covers **Inpatient hospital** costs,
- Part B, covers **Outpatient medical** costs;
- Part D covers **Prescription drug plan**; in order to have prescription drug coverage under *Original Medicare*, you must actively choose and enroll in a stand alone Part D prescription drug plan.

With *Original Medicare*, after you pay your monthly premium you also pay a co-insurance (meaning you share in the costs of a covered health care service for each service that you receive). To cover coinsurance, with *Original Medicare*, you can purchase a Medigap supplemental insurance product to assist you with Parts A and B premiums and copays. Note: Medigap products do not assist with Part D prescription drug costs. Some NYSUT members also have supplemental insurance products through retiree insurance from their former locals or other union member benefits.

Medicare Advantage is a plan that contracts with the Medicare system to provide Medicare-styled benefits. Unlike *Original Medicare*, *Medicare Advantage* is administered by **private insurance companies**. Most *Medicare Advantage* payment models are different than that of *Original Medicare's* **Fee-for-service** model in that private insurance companies are paid a fixed amount by the U.S. government to provide *Medicare Advantage* services. Under *Medicare Advantage* a person must live in the plan's service area in order to enroll in the program. These providers make up the *Advantage* plan's network.

The most common types of *Medicare Advantage* plans are called Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs), Preferred Provider Organizations (PPOs), and Private Fee-for-Services (PFFS).

Even if you join a *Medicare Advantage* plan you still belong to *Original Medicare*: You must still pay your Part B monthly premium (and a Part A premium, if you have one). Each *Medicare Advantage* plan must provide all Part A and Part B services, but they can do so with different costs and restrictions than *Original Medicare*. This can affect how and when you can get care. For example, *Medicare Advantage* plans require members to use their networks of doctors and hospitals. If you use an out-of-network provider, you may have to pay more for your care.

Medicare Advantage plans must limit the amount you spend out-of-your own pocket for health care. These limits tend to be high but are helpful if you need a lot of care. *Advantage* plans can also offer additional benefits that *Original Medicare* does not cover, like routine vision or dental care. Generally, if you want to enroll in a *Medicare Advantage* plan and also need drug coverage (Part D), you must join a plan that includes drug coverage. If you have a *Medicare Advantage* plan, you cannot purchase a Medigap policy.

Even if you are satisfied with your current Medicare coverage, it is important to investigate options during the annual Fall Open Enrollment period. In reviewing your plan, you need to decide whether other Medicare options may better suit your individual needs in the next calendar year. Research shows that people with Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D) could lower their costs by shopping among plans each year. Being proactive about your coverage can help to reduce costs and make sure that your health care needs are met.

Consult the Experts! If you have questions about your Medicare coverage, NYSUT has contracted with the Medicare Counselor Hotline: 800-333-4114 (hours 9:00a.m.- 5 p.m.). This service is provided by the Medicare Rights Center.

If you have questions about this article please contact Mitchell Clark [<mailto:mclark@medicarerights.org>].

The Medicare Rights Center is a national, nonprofit consumer service organization that works to ensure access to affordable health care for older adults and people with disabilities through counseling and advocacy, educational programs and public policy initiatives.

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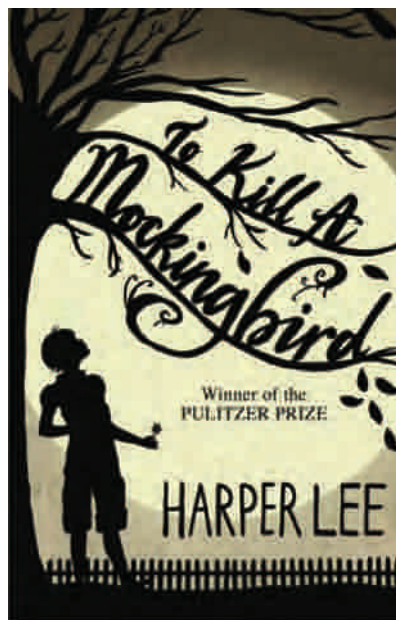
OCTOBER 23, 2015 LIST OF DUES PAYING RETIRED ROCHESTER TEACHERS

Joseph Abernethy	Christine Chaffer	Sheila Emmert	Constance Harges
Jean Acquilano	Barbara Chambers-Ekpo	Elaine Erbland	Linda Hardock
Debra Adams Hawes	Doris Chance	Anne Erwin	Gale Harris
Richard Adamus	Sharon Chandler	Bruna Evangelista	Paula Harris
Patricia Albring	Lynne Charette	Nellie Evans	Patricia Hart
Elizabeth Alexander	Carroll Chiarelli	Kathleen Evans	Susan Hartwell
Ann Allen	Marlene Christopher	Bedriye Evyapan	Judy Haskin
Bonnie Allen	Linda Cirrincione	Catherine Fager	Anne Hasler
Helen Allen	Diane Clancy-Griffo	Kevin Fager	Patricia Hatch
Robert Allen	Julia Clayton	Marcia Fallon	Edward Hathaway
Elaine Alma	Beryl Clymer	Catherine Feinen	Margaret Hauser
David Altobelli	Annette Coffey	Marie Ferenchak	Phyllis Haviland
Luanna Andrews	Amelita Colangelo	Karolina Fero	Donna Hayden
Simone Araya	James Collins	Phyllis Ferrara Shroul	Susan Heiligman
Beverly Arcarese	Barbara Compitello	Anna Ferro	Elissa Hemming
Janet Archibald	Beryl Conklin	Jean Fiano	Thomas Hendry
Frank Arena	Candee Conklin	Margaret Finch	Nancy Herrera
Zelda Artson Crichlow	Loretta(Lorie) Cook	Ruth Fine	Jeanne Herrick
Samuel Attardo	Patricia Cook	Mary Fiorica	Michael Herrman
Nancy Attardo Atherton	Cathleen Corbet	Judith Flanders	Donald Higgins
Brenda E Austin	Patricia Corcoran	Cathleen Foster	Keith Holderness
Alan Barasch	Barbara Corman	Joseph Foster	Barbara Holland
Katherine Barkley	Maureen Corral	Kathryn Franz	Ellen Horn
Mary Barnum	Constance Corsica	Louise Frederes	William Howard
Patricia Bartholomay	Jay Costanza	Barbara Frederick	Carol Hubbell
Will Batiste	Marie Costanza	Louis Friedman	Gloria Huddleston
Lawrence Baxter	Mary Jean Crawford	Christine Fritsch	Karen Huey
Marvin Bayles	Gary Cregan	Sharon Fronheiser	Valerie (Huff) Jones
Phyllis Beal	Beatrice Crysel	Susan Gailor	Ann Hughes
Jane Beaver	Johanna Cummings	Noreen Gallagher	Linda Humphrey
Sandra Bechard	Christine Curtis	Robert Galory	Willie Humphrey
Charles Berry	Harlow Cushman	Victor Garatea	Nancy Humphreys
Ellen Best	Martha Cuthbert	Dolores Gardner	Kristin Hunt
Cece Maureen Betancourt	Brian Daily	Carolyne Garman	Nobuko Ichishita
Richard Bialczak	Carolyn Daniels	Susan Gaskill	June Ivanick
Cynthia Bianchi	Martha Daniels	Lynn Gatto	Josetta Jackson
Deborah Bielecki	Kenneth Dardenne	Richard Gatto	Nina Jackson
Samuel Bishop	Hedy Dastyck	Cheryl Gavenda	Theresa Jackson
Ken Bissinger	Mary Davey	Robert Gears	Richard Jacobs
Mary Ellen Blankenburg	Willie Davis	Anita Gelabert	Amy Jacobson
Patricia Bleier	Ann Davis	Sharon Gendron	Peter James
Elizabeth Bloom-Dunn	Charlie Dean	Mary Gentry	Lesley Jarbe
Paul Bodekor	Lawrence Debellis	William Gerber	Marie Jenkins Cox
Julia Bogardus	Peter Debes	Wladimir Gerela	Helen Jennette
Lewis Jeff Boice	David Defendis	Dorothy Giangreco	Alexander Johnson
Lillian Bonanni	Louise Delaus	Thomas Gillett	B. Jean Johnson
Carol Bonsignore Kitchen	Michael DeLaus	Alphonse Giordano	James Johnson
Carolyn Bornstein	Deanne Delehanty	Andrea Giuffre	Skaidrite Johnson
Kathleen Bowersox	Gail Dentinger	Judy Glaubinger	Juanita Jolley
Ruby Bowman	Joseph Deponceau	Judith Goldstein	Florence Jones
Charles Boyar	Joseph DeRoller	Dolores Gonzalez Habes	Jacqueline Jones
Dorothy Boyle	Elizabeth Derry	Susan Goodwin	W. Brenda Jones
Jacqueline Boyle	Diane Desmarais	Ella Gourdine	Janet Juneau
Pauline Bradbury	Carol Despos	Jennifer Gourdine	Susan Kaufman Carter
Randy Bradshaw	Nancy Dewan	Judith Graham	Barbara Kay
Michael Braell	Josephine Dewey	Barbara Granite	Edith Kaye
Diane Bredes-Nies	Myrna DiBiase	Ivena Grantham	Carol Kaza
Mary Jo Brennan	Grace Dillon	Marilyn Grasso	Mary Kearney
Mary-Ann Brodt	Nancy DiMarco	Jim Grattan	Martha Keating
Bob Brody	Dolores Dinolfo	Mary Ann Green	Maurice Keating
Patricia Brody	Eileen DiPalma	Connie Grier	Patricia Kehoe
M. Karen Brokaw	Hanya Dombchewskyj	Eileen Grimaldi	Mary Kelly Oakes
Kathleen Brown	Carol Domenico	Cecilia Guerand	Kevin Kelso
Cheryl Brown	Peg Donaghy	Rose Gully	Gayle Kendig
James Brown	Jack Donovan	Carol Guttman	Charles Kennerson
Barbara Buckingham	Bonnie Dorschel	Maureen Guyett	Charlene Kern
Cynthia Burch	Shirley Dorsey	James Hagen	Bonnie Kiedrowski
Thomas Burke	Jane Drake	Nancy Hagenbach	Norma King
Nancy Burns	Sue Draves	James Haldeman	Marybeth Knowles
Elizabeth Bush	Barbara Drmacich	Margaret Haldeman	Donna Koperski
Mary Lou Cadena	J. Ernest Du Bois	Mary Halpin	Linda Kotwas
Catherine Canty	Carol Dundas	Thomas Halpin	Joyce Kowba
Lea Cappella	Mary Lisa Dwyer	Diana Hamilton	Linda Kraft
Jeanne Carlivati	Jackie Eadie	Arlene Hanley	James Kraus
Philip Carlivati	Leslie Edwards	Carol Hanley	Margaret Krizan
Grace Carswell	Rosemary Eichenlaub	Thomas Hanley	Paula Kromberg
John Casella	Beth Elkin	Paula Hansen	Gladys Kryger
Mary Casey	Patricia Elliott	Janice Hanson	William Krystan
Michael Cavallaro	Marcia Elwitt	Daria Hanushevsky	Rosemarie Kulikowski

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To those who taught To Kill a Mockingbird

To those of us who taught **To Kill A Mockingbird**, the publication of another Harper Lee novel was a bit of a jolt. I taught **Mockingbird** so often, the **Bird** was as comfortable to me as a pair of old shoes. I had vocabulary lists and chapter tests. And at the end, there was a *movie*. So, after all of



that, most of the kids knew the story, a happy culmination which was not always true after, shall we say, **Hamlet**. As one kid wrote for his final essay, "To Kill A Mockingbird is the story of a Negro boy accursed of rapping a white girl."

To Kill a Mockingbird was published in the early sixties. It was set in Alabama, the state which saw some of the big moments of the Civil Rights movement; Selma, Birmingham, et al. **Bird** was an instant hit, sold millions of copies, won the Pulitzer Prize and the Academy Award for Gregory Peck for his portrayal of Atticus Finch in the movie version.

After that stunning success, Harper Lee published no more. She talked about working on another novel, but no

novel came. She finally just stopped talking to anyone. It was a mystery. How could the author of the most popular novel in 20th century America not have another book?

Lee is now partially blind, almost completely deaf and living in an assisted living home. Her lawyer older sister, Alice, who managed all of her affairs, died last year. A new lawyer found the manuscript of **Go Set a Watchman** and, presto, Harper Lee published a new novel, 50 years after **To Kill A Mockingbird**.

Thanks to my retired school librarian friend, Katherine Barkley, for lending me her copy of **Go Set A Watchman**. I would not have bought a copy for myself because I feared the book would be a flop. **Watchman** is set in the same Alabama town as **Bird**, 30 years later. The narrator is the same, Scout 30 years later. For a week after publication, the titillating news was that Atticus, the benevolent white hero of **Bird** is revealed as a bigot in **Watchman**.

Go Set A Watchman is a flop. And not because Atticus is a racist. It fails as a novel. Most of the book is a conversation about why white Southerners feel put upon by the NAACP and other Northern liberals. The reader loses interest at about page 4.

The reviewer in **The New Yorker** fixates on the question of where **Watchman** comes from. "Not since Hemingway's estate sent down seemingly completed novels from on high... has a publisher gone about so coolly exploiting a much loved name with a product of such mysterious provenance." I think it is an important point. The voice in **Watchman** is certainly the adult Scout voice of **Bird**. However, the internal evidence does not support the theory that **Watchman** predates **To Kill A Mockingbird**. There is no attempt to introduce the characters. Scout seems to assume the reader will know all about them. And how would we know all about Atticus and Scout, et al? From reading **To Kill A Mockingbird**, of course. We will never know because Lee is not talking, but I surmise that **Watchman** was one of Lee's attempts to write a novel after **To Kill A Mockingbird**.

To those in the club "We taught **To Kill A Mockingbird**" and to anyone else interested in this literary arcana, I recommend **Mockingbird A Portrait of Harper Lee** by Charles J. Shields, a 2006 unauthorized biography. Shields received no help from Lee, her family, or her friends, but he did extensive research and does a commendable job of tracing, as far as one can go without the author's help, the creation of **To Kill A Mockingbird** and the effect of its meteoric success upon Harper Lee. In addition, Shields explores the relationship between Lee and her real life Dill, Truman Capote, to whom Lee remained loyal through the writing of **In Cold Blood** but she was upset when Capote told a reporter that Lee's mother tried to drown her twice when she was a baby. Shields also tells how in the making of the movie, Gregory Peck kept pressuring for more screen time for himself and less for the children, effectively creating a story of Atticus, rather than a story about the children.

In this year's July issue of **Smithsonian** magazine, Paul Theroux, who is an accomplished writer of novels, tells of his recent trip to Monroeville, the Alabama hometown of Harper Lee which is the model for Maycomb, the town in **To Kill A Mockingbird**. Theroux visited the black side of Monroeville and gives us a part of Alabama that Harper Lee does not. One man tells Theroux, "We took in racism with our mother's milk." When Theroux asks why black people in town are not interested in the book which made their town famous, he is told, "It's like a 400-pound comedian on stage telling fat jokes. The audience is paying more attention to the jokes than what they see."

The flurry over the "new" Harper Lee book made me rather wish for a nanosecond I had one more chance to teach **To Kill A Mockingbird**.

By Mary Barnum



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2015 Shaw Festival

PASSING THE TORCH

Never fear loyal RRTA members who attend our Shaw Festival trips!

If you have heard (correctly) that our long serving volunteer arrangers, Polly Bradbury and Karen Huey, are stepping down, we hope you will be happy to know that Maureen McCarron and Nancy Atherton are stepping up! Arrangers Atherton & McCarron are hard at work planning the 2016 season. The January issue of the RRTeacher will include details about our upcoming 2016 RRTA Shaw Festival Trips. If you are interested in joining us to Niagara-on-the-Lake, be sure to pay your dues, since only dues payers receive our January and April issues.

By Maureen McCarron

The Rochester Retired Teacher

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