



# THE EDUCATOR

Newsletter of the Arlington Teachers' Association

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## Your Voice Needs to Be Heard

For many teachers the first month of this school year has brought higher levels of frustration than in the past. Of course being in the classroom with students is still a rewarding experience, but outside exacerbations have been creeping in. There are the small annoyances like only being allowed to use a doorstop if it does not look like a doorstop, and the mid-level annoyances like only being permitted to enter your school building through certain doors and at certain times. At the next level is the battle to find a copy machine that works so that you can be adequately prepared for your

students. And, finally, there is the struggle that many teachers are facing to implement the myriad modules and methods thrust upon them in the name of the Common Core.

**Ask questions; voice your opinion; be heard. Only good can come of it if it is done in a polite and respectful way.**

Keeping your head down and grumbling in the faculty room will not remedy any of these things or even get you an explanation as to the reasons behind them. You are a professional and your expert opinion should matter. You need to speak up, and not just at ATA meetings, but to adminis-

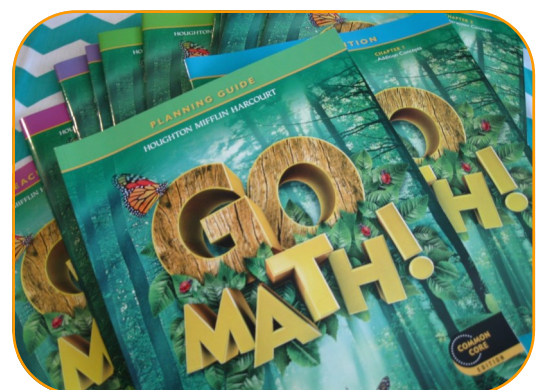
trators, and even to state education officials. Many voices independently expressing the same feeling has much more of an impact than just one envoy, like a union president, always being the one to

speak. If you feel that something at school is not what is best for Arlington and its students, respectfully voice your opinion.

Don't wait for someone else to do it for you.

A recent example of the voices of educators making a difference is in the saga of the forum with State Education Commissioner John King that took place at Spackenkill High School on October 10.

See Voice on Page 3



**ARLINGTON TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION**

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# Political Action Update: Elections

## Trivia Challenge

Answer the question below correctly and you could be the proud winner of ATA gear!

**What is the cost of the safety and security referendum up for a vote on December 10?**

Last month's winners, selected at random from among the correct responses received, were **Liz Brzozowski** from AHS and **Cassie Leonard** from LMS. They correctly identified **Jim Shuttleworth** as Arlington's newest school board member. They are now the proud owners of ATA fleece. Answer this month's question and you could win ATA gear too!

Submit your answer to the above trivia question to [rmchugh@acsdny.org](mailto:rmchugh@acsdny.org) by November 15th. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.

Although there are no candidates for statewide elections this November for NYSUT to endorse, the Dutchess County Central Labor Council, an affiliate of the AFL-CIO, has endorsed candidates for local elections. The endorsements, which are non-partisan, are based on the candidates' positions on labor issues. Please remember to vote on November 5th!

### Dutchess County Central Labor Council 2013 Endorsed Candidates

City of Beacon-Ward 1	Peggy Ross
City of Beacon-Ward 2	Charlie Kelly
City of Poughkeepsie-Ward 2	Joseph Rich
City of Poughkeepsie-Ward 8	Tracy Hermann
County Leg-District 1	James Doxsey
County Leg-District 6	Seth Warner
County Leg-District 10	Barbara Jeter-Jackson
County Leg-District 11	Joel Tyner
County Leg-District 14	Francena Amparo
County Leg-District 15	Charles Davenport
County Leg-District 16	Alison MacAvery
County Leg-District 17	Alicia Alfred
County Leg-District 20	Micki Strawinski
County Leg-District 22	Ron Mangeri
Dutchess County Family Court Judge	Lisa Rubinstein
Rhinebeck Town Board	Elaine Fernandez
Wappingers Town Board	Gregorio Quinn

## ATA Excels at Community Outreach

As we approach the two year anniversary of when the ATA started helping out Dutchess Outreach with the Lunch Box, I would like to start by thanking all of the amazing volunteers that we have here in this district. Since the time that we started this, we have now added food drives on our conference days, the Cram the Classroom project, and donations of cups, plates, bowls, silverware and other necessary items.

I know that anyone who

has helped out at the soup kitchen will say that it is life changing. This past

**Volunteers are needed to serve dinner at Dutchess Outreach's soup kitchen on Nov. 8 and 11. Please email Colleen Napora at AHS to sign up.**

**Collection boxes will be at all schools on Nov. 5 for donations of shampoo, soap, and cereal.**

spring AMS teachers Kat Spinelli, Jessica Streck and I had the honor of receiving

an award on behalf of the District and the ATA at Dutchess Outreach's annual awards ceremony. It made me so proud to work in a district with such amazing people. We all have busy lives and are struggling to get through these new changes in education, yet so many people have given their time, their money and their food in an effort to make things better for people who have fallen on hard times. Thank you.

-Colleen Napora, AHS

# Your Voice Needs to Be Heard

*Continued from Front*

(See [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P\\_Eiz406VAs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_Eiz406VAs) for highlights.) Arlington teachers and parents were among those that packed the school auditorium that night. Arthur S. May third grade teacher Melissa Maggiamo was one of them. "There was an introduction by the PTA and two guest speakers," she said, "and then Commissioner King came on stage and spoke for about half an hour. There was then supposed to be an hour for questions and a half hour for comments. King did not answer any questions directly. He went off on tangents and his answers were long and drawn out. So of course the time allotted for questions went over and then there were only 15 minutes left for statements. Many people in the audience were angered by this and were shouting. Police were there and had to warn a few people to stay civil. Due to the constant interruptions only six people were able to speak. All of their

statements were articulate, passionate, and well thought out. The meeting ended with King leaving out of the back entrance."

The next day King cancelled the remaining four forums that he had scheduled for across the state. He

continue with the scheduled forums. In the end, the outcry this created online and in newspapers led to new forums being offered. King would not have been forced to do this if everyone had kept their heads down and only complained to their colleagues in the lunch room.

It remains to be seen what impact public comment at future Common Core forums will have, but it can only help the cause of working together to do what is best for our students. This message translates to the local level too. Ask questions;

voice your opinion; be heard. Only good can come of it if it is done in a polite and respectful way. You are the administration's direct connection to the students and they need to know if something is preventing you from doing your job to the best of your ability, whether it is something as simple as a chronically malfunctioning copy machine or as complex as a broken state curriculum.

-Sam Falk, Communications Chair

## For More Information About SED Forums:

- See [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P\\_Eiz406VAs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_Eiz406VAs) for highlights of the Poughkeepsie meeting on Oct. 10
- Visit <http://www.oms.nysed.gov/press/commissioner-king-announces-community-forum-schedule.html> for a schedule of new forums

had finally been able to hear the voices of individuals and he was not prepared for what he encountered. NYSUT officials had been trying since its onset to make the case against the poor implementation of the Common Core, but it was not until people like you got to speak did anyone really take notice. Media coverage of the forum was not kind to King for his high-handed behavior at the meeting and his refusal to

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## Spotlight on the Contract: Outside the Classroom

*Each issue of The Educator spotlights a particular part of our contract in an effort to make our members more familiar with their rights and the terms and conditions of their employment. If you have a section you would like to see featured, email [sfalk@acsdny.org](mailto:sfalk@acsdny.org).*

"The private and personal life of a teacher is not within the appropriate concern or attention of the Board or Administration except as it may interfere with the teacher's responsibilities to and relationships with students or the school system or impair his/her ability to fulfill his/her teaching duties."

"Teacher participation or non-participation in voluntary extra-curricular, community, church, club or social activities shall not be considered in evaluating teacher performance."

Explanation: These provisions (Article VI, page 8, and Article XIV, page 19, respectively) together say that what teachers do outside of the classroom is not to be considered during any evaluation process, as long as their activities do not interfere with teaching duties. Teachers should not be discriminated against due to life-style choices. In addition, their participation in any community or extra-curricular activities at school cannot be taken in to account by administrators when evaluating a teacher, such as for tenure, or within the new APPR process. A provision of the ATA's APPR agreement dictates that "Teachers will not be penalized for expectations beyond the contractual day, which includes all required after-school meetings. They may, however, be commended for attendance at sporting events, concerts, extra-curricular activities, etc." Domain 4 of the Danielson Framework deals with what teachers do outside of the classroom.

# Welcome, New Members!

Although this new school year came with the movement of teachers to different buildings, the loss of some positions, and the change of full-time positions to part-time or leave replacement it also brought many new faces to the Arlington family. The Arlington Teachers' Association hopes that all members are settling in to their classrooms this year and would like to welcome the following brand new people to the Arlington School District and the ATA.

## Arlington High

**Chris Crawford - Social Studies**

Favorite Book: *Angels and Demons*, by Dan Brown

Favorite Food: Chocolate chip cookies

**Kelly Donohue - Social Studies**

Favorite Book: *Animal Farm*, by George Orwell

Favorite Food: Kettle corn

**Kim Dugard - Special Education**

Favorite Book: *Little House on the Prairie series*, by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Favorite Food: Cheeseburger

**Vincent Minutolo - Special Education**

Favorite Book: *Tuesdays With Morrie*, by Mitch Albom

Favorite Food: Sushi

**June Wheeler - English**

Favorite Book: *King Leopold's Ghost*, by Adam Hochschild

Favorite Food: Guacamole

## Arlington Middle

**Caitlin O'Dowd - Special Education**

Favorite Book: *Molokai*, by Alan Brennert

Favorite Food: Ice Cream

**Dacia Pace - Special Education**

Favorite Book: *none*

Favorite Food: Sushi

**Mechele Palmer - English**

Favorite Book: *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield

Favorite Food: Italian

## Arthur S. May Elementary

**Rachel Friedman - Kindergarten**

Favorite Book: *Five Languages of Love*

Favorite Food: Sushi

## Beekman Elementary

**Michelle deJong - Physical Education**

Favorite Book: *The Hunger Games*, by Suzanne Collins

Favorite Food: Banilla yogurt

**Christina Gibson - Speech**

Favorite Book: *The Hiding Place*, by Corrie ten Boom

Favorite Food: Chocolate

**Christine LaGuardia - Special Education**

Favorite Book: *Ella Enchanted*, by Gail Carson Levine

Favorite Food: Tacos (with a margarita)

**Kim Wright - Kindergarten**

Favorite Book: *The Napping House*, by Audrey Wood

Favorite Food: Italian

## LaGrange Middle

**Christina Congi - Social Studies**

Favorite Book: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee

Favorite Food: Mexican

**Kristen Dexter - Physical Education**

Favorite Book: *Tuesdays With Morrie*, by Mitch Albom

Favorite Food: Pasta

**Andrew Hettinger - Physical Education**

Favorite Book: *none*

Favorite Food: Chicken Parmesan

**Alison Schwartz - Special Education**

Favorite Book: *Winesburg Ohio*, by Sherwood Anderson

Favorite Food: Cheese

**Joseph Sullivan - Special Education**

Favorite Book: *Unbroken*, by Laura Hildenbrand

Favorite Food: Sesame crusted tuna and Beef Wellington

**Kevin Walsh - Science**

Favorite Book: *Angels and Demons*, by Dan Brown

Favorite Food: Chicken wings

**Did we leave someone out? Please let us know so that we can include him or her next month!**

**Noxon Road Elementary**

Julie Fagan - Kindergarten

Favorite Book: Mysteries

Favorite Food: Homemade spaghetti and meatballs

Kelly Kondas - Special Education

Favorite Book: *Thank You Mr. Faulkner*, by Patricia Pollaco

Favorite Food: Homemade apple pie

**Overlook Primary**

Kristen Clerkin - Kindergarten

Favorite Book: Mysteries

Favorite Food: Pizza and chips

Paulette Glantz - Special Education

Favorite Book: *The Stand*, by Stephen King

Favorite Food: Shrimp scampi

**Traver Road Primary**

Carrie Bryant - Kindergarten

Favorite Book: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee

Favorite Food: none

Elena Fallon - Physical Education

Favorite Book: *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Favorite Food: Chocolate

Cristina VanderWoude - Kindergarten

Favorite Book: Anything by Mo Willems and Leo Lionni

Favorite Food: Sushi and Italian

**Titusville Intermediate**

Robin Amer - Library

Favorite Book: none

Favorite Food: Sushi

**Union Vale Middle**

Amanda Clemenza - Special Education

Favorite Book: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee

Favorite Food: Tacos

Mary Dwyer - Special Education

Favorite Book: *Where Are the Children*, by Mary Higgins Clark

Favorite Food: Pizza

Amanda Griffin - English

Favorite Book: none

Favorite Food: Italian

Meghan Hunt - Home and Careers

Favorite Book: *The Glass Castle*, by Jeannette Walls

Favorite Food: Salmon

**Vail Farm Elementary**

Kathleen Lynch - Reading

Favorite Book: *Love You Forever*, by Robert Munsch

Favorite Food: Chicken and Mashed Potatoes

Jesse Nunn - Special Education

Favorite Book: *Beloved*, by Toni Morrison

Favorite Food: Bagels



ATA New Teacher Luncheon - August 30, 2013

## 2013—2014 ATA Officers

### President

Bob Maier

### First Vice-President

Greg Nieman

### Second Vice-President

Steve Hertzog

### Treasurer

Kathleen Blank Cicala

### Chief Negotiator

Donna Doerrier

### PR Committee Chair

TBA

### Community Action Chairs

Betsy Marshall

Robert McHugh

### Welfare Trust Chair

Ron Higgins

### Media Specialist

Sam Falk

### Éminence Grise Emeritus

Robert McHugh

### Senior Building Representatives

ASM — Johanna Pungello

BES — Anne Schillinger

NES — Elise Pattison

VFES — Pam Goetz

OPS — Anne Marie Beesmer

Traver — Siouxzanne Harris

JDWR — Betsy Marshall

TIS — Sue Ramsden

AMS — Carmine Anastasio

LMS — Steve Bronzi

UVMS — Jim DeBonis

AHS — John Filor

AHS — Noreen Mills Martin

# What's Going On?

*"What's Going on" is a monthly feature of The Educator. It highlights noteworthy accomplishments by ATA members. Do you know of a colleague who deserves recognition? Let The Educator know by emailing [sfalk@acsdny.org](mailto:sfalk@acsdny.org). We can't know what's going on at all of your schools without your help!*

Congratulations to the following ATA members for their contributions to the Arlington community and beyond.

### Arlington and LaGrange Middle

Science teachers Lisa Roloson (AMS) and Donna Bolner (LMS) were recently selected as two of 19 master teachers in the Mid-Hudson region through a program established by Governor Cuomo. Master teachers will receive \$15,000 per year over four years in exchange for participating in peer mentoring and professional development activities. To be eligible for the program teachers had to be certified in a STEM discipline and be rated effective or highly effective.

### Arthur S. May

On an expedition headed by AMS library clerk Marie Taylor, ASM Reading Specialist Kathleen Tuckruskye will be going to Nicaragua this summer on a work vacation with some colleagues throughout the district for

an organization called "Bridges to Community". They will be helping the local people build homes, schools or whatever they need. Former Arlington Superintendent Frank Pepe is involved at a pretty high level with this non-profit. This sounds like an extraordinary adventure, and we look forward to the post-adventure details!

—Erica Dunn

### Beekman Elementary

BES teachers "Walk On The Wild Side" again this year raising money for breast cancer research. Pink feathers and hair extensions are being sold by first grade teacher Linda Penn and fifth grade teacher Adrienne Pisciotta. Hair pieces will be worn for the month of October.

Fourth grade teacher Julie Shook is recruiting for her alma mater St. Rose.

### Titusville Intermediate

Art teacher Amanda Buhler, New York State Art Teachers' Association Region 7 Educator of the Year, spent a week last summer learning about the Shakers. The Shakers were a very small religious sect whose influence in culture, invention, and politics is still relevant today. Through a competitive grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Buhler was awarded the opportunity to study at Siena College in Albany with some of the

country's top authors, historians, and cultural resources on the Shakers in America. Course participants travelled to the historic Shaker villages that surround the Albany region as well as the New York State Museum and library archives. Buhler will be presenting a workshop on her experience at the next annual conference of the New York State Art Teachers on November 23, 2013. You can watch a video about the program at <http://www.siena.edu/pages/179.asp?item=336137>

### Union Vale Middle

Social Worker Paula Dante recently joined the Safe Schools Round Table of the Hudson Valley. This initiative is co-chaired by the Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center and GLSEN Hudson Valley to foster and support safe school environments for all Hudson Valley Youth. The Safe Schools Round Table brings educators, youth service professionals, students, parents, and community leaders together to advocate for safe school environments by working to raise awareness about the impact of bullying and the positive steps which can be taken to eradicate it. They promote events like No Name Calling Week and are available to help schools design programs to comply with the Dignity for All Students Act.

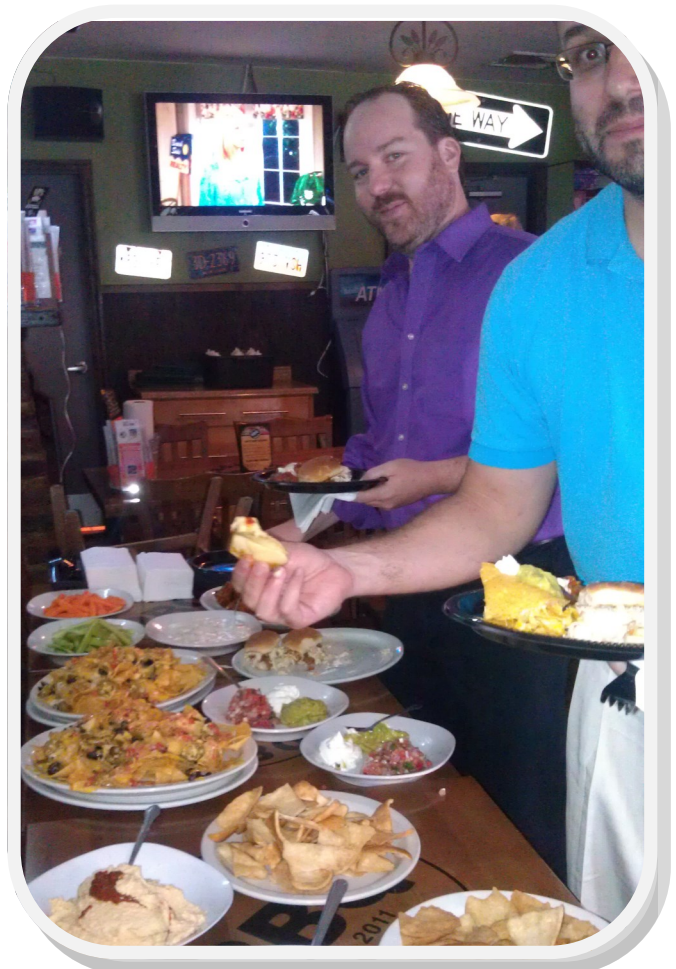
# Unity Pub Brings Members Together

The ATA held its first Unity Pub event of the year on Friday, October 11 at Billy Bob's BBQ in Poughkeepsie. About 50 members made their way to the restaurant after school to enjoy the camaraderie of their colleagues and some great food.

*Photos by Sam Falk*



ATA 1st Vice President Greg Nieman (left) and LMS Senior Building Rep Steve Bronzi displayed their handsomeness



AHS teachers Mike Reiter (left) Dan Pitt and enjoyed the sumptuous buffet of free appetizers



Unionvale Middle teachers attended the Unity Pub after observing a "Pink Out" day in memory of their former colleague Linda Tyler



# Dates to Remember



## NOVEMBER

4th—Informational Meeting on Safety and Security Referendum, 7 p.m., AHS

5th—**Election Day**

Superintendent's Conference Day

7th—Informational Meeting on Safety and Security Referendum, 7 p.m., AHS

11th—No School—Veterans' Day

12th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., LMS

19th—ATA Executive Council Meeting, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432

26th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO

27-29th—No School—Thanksgiving



## DECEMBER

4th—Informational Meeting on Safety and Security Referendum, 7 p.m., CAO

5th—Children's Holiday Party, 5 p.m.— 7 p.m., UVMS

10th—**Capitol Safety and Security Referendum Vote**

Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO



# Announcements

## From Dutchess Outreach:

This letter is to acknowledge the Arlington Teachers' district-wide food drive with a generous donation of 421 food and 5 non-food items received on September 2, 2013. We rely on donors such as you to help keep our programs running. Many people in Dutchess County; the under-employed, the sick, the homeless, and those with sudden unexpected hard times rely on us. You are part of a chain of help that we strive to keep alive.

You are all doing so much to help - I am grateful and amazed! Thank you.

Yours Truly,  
Brian Riddell, Executive Director

**Stay informed! Like us on Facebook or check out [www.arlingtonteachers.com](http://www.arlingtonteachers.com) for forms, photos, calendars, and more.**

## **PR Chair Needed!**

*Would you like the opportunity to make a difference in our community? The ATA is in immediate need of a chairperson for our PR committee. Contact the ATA office at [ata4547002@aol.com](mailto:ata4547002@aol.com) or (845)454-7002 for more information.*

**Volunteers are needed to serve dinner at the Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie from 4 - 6 p.m. on November 8 and 11. Contact Colleen Napora at AHS to sign up.**