



THE EDUCATOR

Newsletter of the Arlington Teachers' Association

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Not All Gifts Need Wrapping

No matter what religious beliefs you hold, important aspects of this holiday season include spending time with family, and helping those who are less fortunate.

In the Arlington school district we do a wonderful job of collecting food, gifts, and winter clothes to help the segment of our students and their families who cannot afford those material goods that add holiday cheer.

This year I was struck, however, by the number of my students who are monetarily secure, but emotionally not so. They have parents going through divorces, siblings who have been hospital-

ized, restraining orders against fathers, mothers who are in rehab. We all have students with obvious hardships at home, but these were individuals I never suspected.

The holiday season is a good time to take a step back and consider that in the bustle of this busy season often the best thing we can do is just be there for our students.

I had jumped to conclusions and assumed that the girl who was late for school just wanted to avoid taking a test and that the boy who wasn't doing homework was being lazy. These students didn't show outward signs of distress.

Teachers are by nature compassionate people, but sometimes the quotidian

details of our jobs can get the best of us. It is easy to get caught up in making sure assignments are handed in and tests are graded.

The holiday season is a good time to take a step back and consider that in the bustle of this busy season often the best thing we can do is just be there for our students. Yes, I will remind them about classroom policies when necessary, but I will also take a moment to have a conversation with a student who might just need to talk to an adult who has time for her. Sometimes the best gifts are those that can't be wrapped.

-Sam Falk, editor



ARLINGTON TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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Trivia Challenge

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

What job will John King have after leaving his post as NYS Education Commissioner?

No correct responses were received from ATA members last month. **Franklin Delano Roosevelt** was the last Democratic senator elected to the 41st district before Terry Gipson. Answer this month's question correctly and you could win ATA gear!

Submit your answer to the above trivia question to rmchugh@acsdny.org by **December 26th**. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.

SPOTLIGHT ON ARLINGTON

Knowing how busy everyone is at this time of year, I thought I'd keep it simple by sharing a few random bits of Arlington trivia for you to ponder!

- In the 1950s Arlington High School students would gather in the gym during October to listen to the World Series.
- In 1933, teachers would go to students' bus stops to hold impromptu parent conferences, and then would ride the bus to school with the students!
- Joseph D'Aquanni West Road School was the first school in the district to be named after a person, its beloved former principal.
- The first district vehicle? A station wagon! (Arlington contracted with different independent firms for busses.)
- Substitute teachers were paid \$6 a day in 1940.
- Teacher salaries in 1940? The average was \$1,441.
- P.E. teachers, this one's for you: The first female P.E. teacher was Helen Marshall, hired 1937.
- Traver Road, did you know you were visited by Eleanor Roosevelt?
- Broncos fans! Arlington graduate Larry Riley played for Denver as part of "The Orange Crush" during the 1977 Super Bowl.
- The graduating class of Arlington high school in 1957 numbered only 165 students!
- Arlington Central School District was originally named "Union Free District #7."
- In 1993, The Arlington Touring Orchestra traveled to Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Hawaii!
- Why maroon and gold, you ask? Early in the district's beginnings, The Arlington Fire District would loan uniforms, featuring these colors, to our students for various school functions.
- The first Arlington High School was located at 115 College Avenue.
- Finally, in the spirit of the season, the Board of Education planted a Christmas tree at the former Arlington Elementary School in 1957 in honor of former board president Mr. Watson Sanford.



All factoids courtesy of Andrew Arenson and Jocelynn Banfield.

-Joseph Healy, Jr., UVMS

Certification Deadlines Are Serious

Over the years there have been many changes to the teacher certification process in New York State. Recently, there have been some issues with teachers who have secured an initial certification, but have not received their professional certification by the five year deadline. Although they have in the past, school districts can no longer allow individuals to continue teaching without up-to-date certification. The state is also being more stringent in allowing extensions to certification deadlines. If their deadline is reached, the District is allowing an employee to take an unpaid leave of absence for a year with the expectation that they will become certified. As part of the agreement, the employee will sign a letter of resignation for the following June that would be executed if they do not complete their certification within the year. This is actually being generous to our members as other districts are terminating individuals that are not certified.

To help in this process there is a

Questions About Certification?

Contact Janet Quade at Dutchess BOCES at 845-486-4800 ex. 217.

woman at Dutchess BOCES named Janet Quade who is available to help people navigate the state certification system. Teachers in their first five years need to complete their requirements, file the appropriate applications, and pay their fees on time or else they are putting their employment at risk. Each spring the Arlington Office of Human Resources is sending letters out to the individuals who the computer system identifies as holding an initial certification that is going to lapse the end of the school year. This is a serious matter, and if anyone receives this letter they should take it seriously as they will not be able to start teaching the following September without completing their certification or securing an extension from the state. Mrs. Quade at Dutchess BOCES can be contacted at 845-486-4800 ex. 217 or I can be reached at the ATA office at 845-454-7002 with any questions.

-Bob Maier, ATA President

CAC Update: Conversation Is Vital For ATA Unity

Teacher representatives from each educational level; elementary, middle, and high, recently met separately to share a meal and to talk about how changes in education over the past few years are impacting their teaching and the students in their classrooms. While teachers at each level voiced similar concerns, each level also expressed specific challenges that they were facing at their respective grade levels. People left the meeting with a desire to continue and broaden the conversation with colleagues in their respective buildings.

As teaching professionals, we are the ones in the classrooms working to teach and guide our students each day. It is important to find the time to talk to our colleagues about what is working and what isn't. One of the decisions made, and agreed to by those attending the meetings, was that every ATA member should have an ATA shirt to wear to show teacher spirit and solidarity. If you do not have a shirt you should let your ATA building representative know what size you need so that one can be provided.

-Betsy Marshall, CAC Co-Chair

ATA Member of the Month: Debbie Pollack

"I organize the highway clean-up as well as volunteer to serve dinner at the Lunch Box. Since 1998 I have been picking up trash along Route 55 to keep our community beautiful and for the safety of wildlife. I love nature and to be outdoors. Since I was very young I always wanted to help others. It is very satisfying knowing that my contribution can make a difference."

-LMS math teacher Debbie Pollack, on why she volunteers with the ATA



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These photos and many more can be found on the ATA's website at www.arlingtonteachers.com

2014 — 2015 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

Kristine Jackson

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 — William Mueller

NES — Nicolle McMorris

VFES — Pam Goetz

OPS — Anne Marie Beesmer

Traver — Siouxzanne Harris

JDWR — Betsy Marshall

TIS — Sue Ramsden

LMS — 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@acsdsnyc.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 High

Each year *School Band and Orchestra* (SBO) magazine's "50 Directors Who Make a Difference" feature selects the best music educator from each of the fifty states. This year AHS's *Rich Guillen* was chosen to represent New York State. The full article can be found at www.sbomagazine.com/4799-report-50-directors.html.

Technology teacher *Paul Hartmann* has a business constructing custom guitars. One of his creations, the Custom Manhattan, was reviewed in the December 2014 issue of *Vintage Guitar* magazine. More information

ARLINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ALEXANDER JURIED ART EXHIBIT 2014-2015



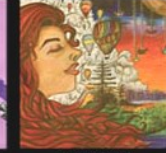
LINNEA FINKLE
CREATED IN GR 8, AMS



LUCAS BERGHAN
CREATED IN GR 7, LMS



JAHNAVI MUDRA
CREATED IN GR 2, TRPS



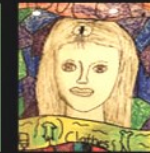
DAWN OBESO
CREATED IN GR 10, AHS



TARITHA ATKINS
CREATED IN GR 11, AHS



NARHEE KIM
CREATED IN GR 10, AHS



STEPHANIE RISUCCI
CREATED IN GR 5, JDWR



KAYA WILSE
CREATED IN GR 2, VFES

Photo courtesy of Amanda Buhler

Arlington Art Department

The Alexander Juried Art Exhibit, featuring artwork from grades K-12, opened on December 17 in the AHS auditorium lobby. This thirteenth annual exhibit provides Arlington students the opportunity to professionally showcase their artwork and highlights the value that the arts bring to our community. The artwork will hang in the lobby throughout the year. This annual juried exhibit is curated by Arlington's art department, and is a fine representation of our award-winning and renowned art program. The following art teachers have dedicated their time and expertise to keep this show alive for many years: Kate Thyberg (JDWR & TRP), Sheri Altieri (UVMS & LMS), Amanda Buhler (TIS & JDWR), Ted Braggins (AHS), Aimee Nyarady (AHS & VFES), Lorraine Almond (VFE), Ed Meyer (AHS), Linda Simoneau (BES), Carol DiPalo (OPS), Jill Freeswick (LMS), Chris Rifenburg (UVMS), Brett Booth, (UVMS), Jason Kolachik (ASM & NOX), Sean Bayliss (AHS), Heidi Every (LMS), Sali Wohlbach (AHS), Eric Cline (LMS), Sue LaRocca (UVMS), & Corissa Appler (AHS).

about PH Guitars can be found at www.phguitars.com.

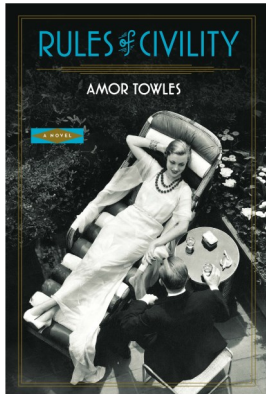
Arlington Music Department

Each year the Handman Family Ensemble performs at New Year's Eve Millbrook. This year you can join AHS music teachers *Jon and Liz*

Handman and LMS music teacher *Kimberly Handman*, along with other family members, on December 31 at Lyall Church in Millbrook at 4:45, 6:15, or 7:45 pm. The evening's full schedule can be found at www.millbrookrotary.org.

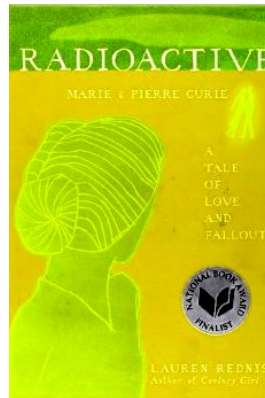
Literary Gifts Can Please Everyone On Your List

Stumped on what to get for that hard-to-buy-for person on your holiday list? Here are some book recommendations that are sure to appeal to people with varied interests. And you'll be promoting literacy!



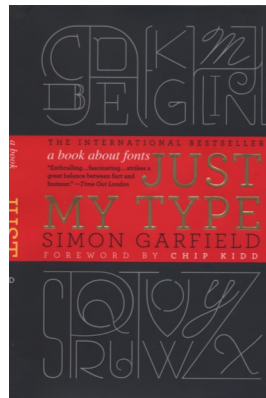
Fiction

Rules of Civility by Amor Towles is the story of Russian immigrant Katey Kontent in 1930's Manhattan. The story follows this strong, working-class woman as she reinvents herself in the upper echelons of New York society. Set on the eve of World War I, this novel's witty style is reminiscent of Fitzgerald or Capote.



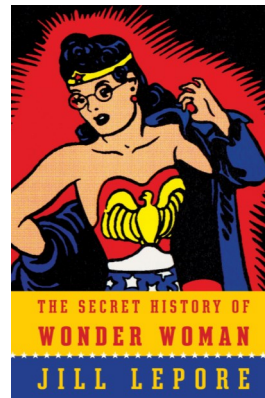
Science

Radioactive: Marie & Pierre Curie: A Tale of Love and Fallout by Laurie Redniss is a richly-illustrated graphic novel that uses primary sources to tell the story of Marie Curie, her husband, and later, her lover. This book will appeal to art, science, and history lovers alike with its astounding graphic design and insightful look into the lives of some very interesting people.



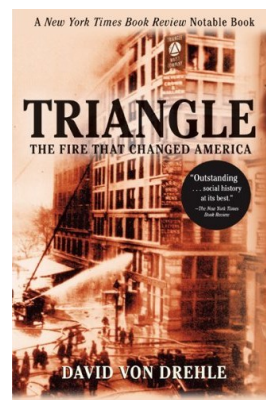
Art

Just My Type by Simon Garfield is a fascinating look into the history and power of the fonts that we are surrounded by. It will change the way you look at the printed words encountered in everyday life, from street signs to campaign posters.



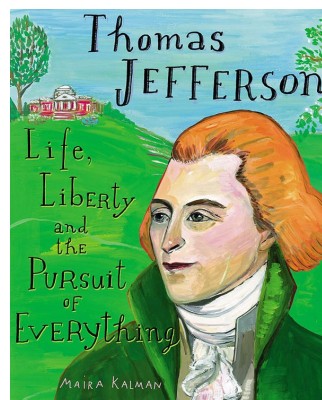
History

The Secret History of Wonder Woman by Jill Lepore chronicles the links between Wonder Woman creator William Moulton Marston and the woman's suffrage movement. You will never look at Wonder Woman the same way again after reading this.



Labor Unions

Triangle The Fire That Changed America by David von Drehle is a detailed history of the 1911 fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist factory in New York City. The deaths of 146 people that day led to changes in labor practices that we benefit from today. This is a must-read for any union member.



Children's Non-Fiction

Thomas Jefferson Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Everything by Maira Kalman is a fun and educational read for elementary-aged children. It will inspire them to be interested in the world around them, just as our third president was.

Happy Holidays! -Sam Falk, editor

Support your local independent bookstores! They can order any book you request.

Merritt Bookstore (Millbrook): www.merrittbooks.com

Inquiring Minds Bookstore (New Paltz): www.inquiringbooks.com

Oblong Books (Rhinebeck): www.oblongbooks.com

The Book Cove (Pawling): www.pawlingbookcove.com

Dates to Remember



DECEMBER

22-31st—Winter Recess - No School

JANUARY

1-2nd—Winter Recess - No School

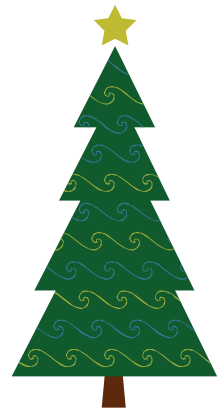
13th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO

19th—Martin Luther King Day - No School

20th—ATA Executive Council Meeting, 4 p.m., AHS Room 1432

27th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., VFE

26-29th—Regents Week



FEBRUARY

1st—Deadline for June 2015 Retirement Decisions

10th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO

16th—Presidents' Day - No School

17th—ATA Executive Council Meeting, 4 p.m., AHS Room 1432

24th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., JDWR



Announcements

Stay informed! Like us on Facebook or check out www.arlingtonteachers.com for forms, photos, calendars, and more.

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Don't have an ATA shirt? Call the ATA Office and they can send one to you. Just specify size and polo or tee.

**The staff of
The Educator would
like to wish all ATA
members a happy and
healthy
holiday season.**

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner at the Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on January 9 and 12 and February 9 and 13. Please contact Colleen Napora at cnapora@acsdny.org to sign up. Donations of cups, mugs, plates, silverware, and food are also welcome.