

# *Together*

## *Union of Caring Professionals*

### **End of Year District Retirement & Awards Celebration**

The District Retirement and Awards Dinner was on June 9, 2016 at Pearl Street Grill and Brewery. All who went can agree that it was an absolutely enjoyable evening. Michelle Berne did a wonderful job organizing this event. Both CSEA and ETA members were recognized.

ETA President's Awards went to Brenda Burgstahler, Nancy Bryant and Patty Steinmetz who are support staff who go above and beyond the basic requirements of their job description.

ETA Appreciation Awards were awarded to Dana Fazzolari, Mark Vona, Kelly Grimaldi, Chris Polek, and Ann Preischel. These people exhibit great enthusiasm and exceptional dedication to students, staff and community.

ETA Leadership Awards were given to members who act professionally and are dedicated to the principles of total quality and commitment to the core values of the ETA. These well-deserved recipients were Eric Cooper, Ellen Kindley, Carol King and Lorry Malkowski.

ETA Years of Service Awards went to Phillip Archabald and Darlene Noecker for ten years of Service; Barbara Cook, Keith Kwas, Lorry Malkowski, and Sue-Lynn Weiberg for twenty years of service; Catherine Chatwood, Susan Engle, Jill Keller, Kathryn Klopp and Edward Meyers for 25 years of service; Colleen Griffin for 35 years of service; and last but not least is Ellen Kindley for 40 years of service. WOW!

Kelly Grimaldi, Ashley Mason, Katie Mathis, Mathew Saramak, and Morgan Theophilus were recognized for their tenure appointments.

The evening ended with honoring our retirees, Mary Ann Mandiak, Mark Vona, Sue Engle, and Ellen Kindley. We wish them all the best!

## Mark Vona

Mark's teaching career in Eden started in the fall of 1992 after having previously taught half a year in the Buffalo Public Schools and 6 years in the Dunkirk City Schools. This June he will retire after 31 years of teaching.

First and foremost, Mark wants to be remembered as a general music teacher. He taught over 500 students weekly. His greatest legacy and what he will be remembered for most though, will be the elementary musicals. He and his "team" would stage 17 consecutive years of show stopping musicals, seemingly outdoing themselves each successive year.



As if this were not enough, within a few years of teaching, Mark got involved in the Eden Teachers Association. He has served in many leadership capacities including ETA building rep, Vice President, President and received the distinguished NYSUT Local Leadership award in 2009. He was a proud ETA member as evidenced by the 1999 ETA mug that he still uses for his morning tea. For many years, he ran the Vote Cope drive and has continued to keep abreast of both local and national politics surrounding the teaching profession.

Outside of the school setting, Mark was actively involved in local professional theatre. MusicalFare and the Kavinoky Theatre at D'Youville College were his mainstays along with being the organist and choir director for Churchill Memorial United Methodist Church.

Mark's future plans include travel with his wife Marcia to the Northeast states, Colorado, Rome, Italy and Southern France, along with frequent visits to see his children both of whom live out West. He plans to continue to play piano for local theatre and Churchill Memorial United Methodist Church, while continuing to try to outgrow Zittel Farms with his vegetable garden. His other pursuits will be taking him to greater heights as he hikes his way into the ADK 46er club. Best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement.

Submitted by Annette Bahun



## Susan Engle

Susan Spring (Engle) was born on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1950 in Buffalo, New York (you do the math, she's up there). She lived in Buffalo until ironically, it was time to attend 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, at which point her family moved to Eden. Sue remained in the Eden School District for the remainder of her schooling, excelling academically, earning State Honor's on French horn and capturing the distinguished title of Prom Queen before graduating in 1968.

Susan's insatiable thirst for knowledge led her to SUNY Fredonia where she would attend from 1968-1972 for Elementary Education. During the midst of her higher education in 1969 she crossed paths with her future husband Dave Engle. They met at a baseball game while on separate dates. Sue's date's faulty vehicle led to a ride home in Dave's car where a chance meeting would turn into something more. Shortly thereafter Sue and Dave began dating and would subsequently marry in 1973.

The same year they were married Sue began her teaching career at Water Street Elementary in Gowanda. She continued teaching there until 1978 when she became pregnant with twins. Sue took her maternity leave before the end of the school year and would not return to teaching for 9 years. After having twins, Cori and Chris, Dave and Susan welcomed two more children, Jared in 1980 and Emily in 1984.

Once her youngest was in school Sue returned to teaching in 1987 at the Hamburg Wesleyan Church guiding the Pre-School children. She taught there until 1990 when she returned to Gowanda to teach at the Aldrich Elementary School. Sue's stay there was brief as the following year, 1991, she was offered a job at her Alma Mater as a First Grade teacher. She spent one year teaching First Grade at which point she was moved to Second Grade. Since 1992, for the past 24 years, Susan has been providing children with a lasting educational foundation, fostering learning and providing daily guidance and care to the students who have passed through the halls of her school and the threshold of her classroom. Throughout her career Sue has always been drawn back to a quote by Norman Cousins: "The best teacher is not necessarily the one who possesses the most knowledge, but the one who most effectively enables his/her students to believe in their ability to learn".

May her faith continue to guide her as we bid a fond farewell to Eden's beloved Mrs. "Angel".

## Mary Ann Mandiak

Mary Ann received her degree in elementary Education and Special Education, with a masters Degree in reading. Her first job right out of college was teaching Special Ed for BOCES. After taking time off to raise her daughter, Michelle, she was a fourth grade teacher at St. Joseph's Elementary School in Gowanda.

Seventeen years ago, Mary Ann came to Eden Central and that was fortunate for us. During her first three years, she shared her time between Eden Elementary and Immaculate Conception School where she taught remedial reading. That changed to just full time at the elementary building where her job title was also changed from remedial reading, to AIS and finally RTI.

Mary Ann has taken an active role as a teacher at Eden. She served on the Staff Development Committee, APPR Committee, wrote ELA curriculum, led the Summer Reading Challenge, was involved in PARP, headed the WEE Deliver Program and helped with the afterschool National Honor Society Tutoring Program.

Mary Ann and her husband, Roger, are planning a big trip out west this summer beginning at Yosemite and ending in Denali, Alaska. She has no other definite plans, but hopes to get the book club for retirees up and running again. She is the proud grandmother of Brooke and Drew. She is wide open to whatever comes her way. We wish her well and she will be missed.



## Ellen Kindley



Ellen is and has always been the consummate teacher. She is a true “Renaissance Woman.”

Born and raised in Eden, one of six children born to Leonard and Mary Kwilos, Ellen attended St. Mary’s East Eden until entering the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at what is now Eden Elementary. She was part of the first graduating class (’71) in the brand new Eden Jr. /Sr. High School.

Ellen pursued an “unfocused” math career (her words) at SUNY Cortland, but transferred to Buffalo State College where she trained as a special education teacher. She later earned her MSED there as well.

Ellen began her 40-year teaching career here in Eden at East Eden Elementary. After the school closed she worked as a special education teacher at the GLP. Ellen says that working under the guidance of her principal Mr. Norman Moore was inspiring for a new teacher as he encouraged professionalism and a family-like atmosphere.

Ellen then taught at Eden Elementary as a special education teacher, a third grade teacher, and finally as a sixth grade teacher specializing in ELA. She has always put her best effort in all she has done whether it was in the classroom or elsewhere. To name a few of her other accomplishments Ellen has mentored new teachers, was a cooperating teacher for numerous student teachers (even ones that wore lederhosen), participated in PARP and the PTA, encouraged reading and writing through her involvement in the WNY Writing Project, volunteered for countless committees both for her schools and the district, has been an active and supportive member of the ETA serving as secretary, rep, and election chair, donned costumes in support of the Eden Community Foundation and helped celebrate Eden’s Bicentennial. Nearest and dearest to her heart, she along with Mark Vona, and the support of others brought about the outstanding, never to be duplicated 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Musicals for the past 16 years!

Ellen and her husband Craig raised their wonderful sons Matt and Adam here in Eden. Both sons are college graduates pursuing their careers. Ellen has no plans to “work” anytime soon. She is embracing the possibilities retirement holds after a stellar 40-year career.

“Those who attain excellence commonly spend life in one pursuit; for excellence is not often granted upon easier terms.” Samuel Johnson

## Supplemental Activities List

This article is directed to the ETA membership and speaks to the member's responsibility when signing up for a supplemental activity. It does not speak to the district's responsibility.

The ETA has collaborated and negotiated with the district for positions that have stipends on the Supplemental Activities List. Each position was created for the purpose of its own history. The supplemental activities list comes out in the spring and the members of the ETA have first access to those positions. The understanding between ETA and the district is that if a faculty member puts in for a position, they are to be considered for the position before a non-faculty member. That is not specifically stated in our contract but it is the practice.

This leaves the ETA members with the compelling obligation to be responsible when signing up for these positions. The following items are some of the responsibilities you have when signing up for a supplemental activity:

- 1) Members should not be putting their name on the list if they have the intent of handing the position, or work that goes with the position, to someone else. A member's name should not be a placeholder.
- 2) Members should be certain that the qualifications they have for filling the position are defensible.
- 3) Of course the money is important, but certainly members should not be viewing these positions as simply a paycheck.

Any member who signs up for a position on the supplemental activities list, but does not follow through with their responsibilities, undermines the integrity of ETA's understanding with the district.

Submitted by Mark Vona



## Save with **NYSUT Member Benefits**

The NYSUT membership is made up of a variety of diverse professionals within the education and health care industries -- joining together in support of those who depend on them. We salute these men and women for their dedication and the sacrifices they make on a daily basis to help improve the lives of others.

And we are proud to offer you -- the hard-working NYSUT member -- an opportunity to participate in the more than 40 endorsed programs & services offered by NYSUT Member Benefits.

Look to Member Benefits for crucial insurance programs such as auto, homeowners, life, disability, or long-term care insurance. Member Benefits also offers a variety of travel, entertainment & shopping options to help you with everything from daily purchases to those special once-in-a-lifetime excursions.

The following is just a sampling of the endorsed programs & services available to NYSUT members & their families:

- Homeowners Insurance
- Auto Insurance
- Legal Service Plan
- Financial Counseling Program
- Life Insurance
- Vision Plan
- ID Watchdog
- PayCheck Direct
- Car & Truck Rentals
- Wyndham Hotels
- Endless Vacation Rentals
- Buyer's Edge, Inc.



To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) or call **800-626-8101**.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

# President's Message

## THE IMPORTANCE OF A STRONG UNION

In 1967, the Public Employees' Fair Employment Act "Taylor Law" was passed. This law gave educators the right to organize and bargain for the teachers in their union, but prohibits them from striking. In 1982- Triborough was added to the Taylor Law, which allows the terms of an expired agreement (contract) to remain in full force. Governor Cuomo would like to see this go away. Without a union, there is no freedom of speech, no freedom of the press, and you are guilty until proven innocent. We cannot allow tenure (which guarantees us due process before being fired) to be abolished.

The strength of the ETA will be as strong as our members make it. An informed member knows the role of the union and what it can do for its members. It is never too late to get involved. Don't wait until you need the union, the union **NEEDS YOU!** You are the eyes and ears of the union. If something doesn't seem or sound right, check it out to prevent it from becoming a possible problem.

It is the duty of the union to represent its members and that means **ALL** of its members. Concerns should be brought to your building rep. If it appears that it is a contractual issue (possible grievance), please familiarize yourself with the timelines for filing. If your building rep has questions, please share your concerns with the head building rep, who will decide where it should go from there. It is **YOUR** responsibility to keep track of your appointment date and that you are teaching at least .40 in your tenure area (HS teachers only). Take the time to attend a BOE meeting or check the minutes that are posted on the district web page.

In closing, I would like to thank the faculty and staff. It was a difficult year for many reasons, but we continued to perform well and provide an excellent education to our students. Please enjoy your summer and all those things done that you have not been able to do throughout the year. Come back refreshed and recharged.



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*Colleen Kot*