

# FOCUS

**ON JERICHO  
TEACHERS  
AND THEIR ISSUES**

**February 2006**

## President's Message for February

By MaryannRisi

February is a month where we tend to express our feelings. So I will do just that. A valentine to my secretary, Linda, for putting up with all of my questions (and answering all of them so patiently). A valentine to the High School teachers for their support...they owe me one for all the sweets I provide! A valentine to the

Middle School teachers for not laughing at me whenever I got lost roaming their halls. A valentine to "my" Elementary staffs...I miss all of you...come visit. A valentine, and welcome back, to Bill Levins, who is trying to reacquaint himself with the faculty and staff. (A friendly hello would be much appreciated.) A valentine for my hubby who patiently waits for my call each

day to find out when I may be arriving home for dinner...which he valiantly cooks!

A valentine for the members of the Delegate Assembly who work overtime to keep me informed and on my toes. An especially large valentine to all of you who are working with me to form a truly unified Association.

## Jericho Teachers Association

Maryann Risi  
President

Ted Lucher  
Middle School VP

Randi Skeats  
High School VP

Lois Burn  
Elementary VP

Fran Rivera  
Secretary/Treasurer

Denise Ryder  
Focus Editor/WebMistress

[www.jerichoteachers.org](http://www.jerichoteachers.org)

## End of The Year Party Update

The "District Retirement Dinner" is listed on the calendar for June 8 at 6 pm. This end-of-year get-together traditionally honors our retirees and is hosted by the JTA. Teachers, retirees and their families, district administration, and members of the Board of Education are all invited to attend. This dinner-dance has been held in such places as the Woodbury Country Club, the Fox Hollow, and the Crest Hollow. Over the last few years attendance has been declining. Is it the price? The time of year? The time of day? The company ???

We're going to mix things up a bit this year and see if we can increase attendance. Here's what we have so far:

The date - same as listed on the district calendar - Thursday, June 6.

The time - 4 to about 6:30.

The venue - To be determined.

The price - It will definitely be less than

usual (which is around \$50). The goal is to keep the cost down, hopefully around \$30.

The fare - to this end, we're thinking of simply having hors d'oeuvres and drinks. The early hour gives us more possibilities, so if we can find a nice place that will give us a dinner for around \$30 we might go with that.

The invitees - teachers, retirees and their families, district administration, and the Board of Education. It would be in poor taste to break tradition (especially as we go into contract negotiations) and change who we invite.

The honorees - instead of only focusing only on "happy endings" by honoring retirees, we will also celebrate "new beginnings" by recognizing our newly tenured teachers.

We are officially discouraging individual parties in the hopes that everyone will come together at our JTA hosted event.

Save the date. We'll keep you posted.

## FOCUS

is the monthly newsletter of the Jericho Teachers Association. We welcome input, articles, viewpoints, and questions from all members. If there is an issue you would like to see

addressed or if you would like to contribute please e-mail

Denise Ryder, at

[ryder@jerichoteachers.org](mailto:ryder@jerichoteachers.org)

## Wheelchair Basketball Event a Success

By Denise Ryder

Our annual wheelchair basketball game was held on Friday, February 10 at 6:30 in the Sam Springer Gymnasium. Wheelchair basketball is one of the few events that draws faculty members from all the buildings. It was great fun! Proceeds of this fundraiser go to the Nassau County Kings Wheelchair Basketball team. This event will, from now on, be dedicated to the late Jack Graff, Nassau County King and key contributor of past events. The Jack Graff Humanitarian Award was established in Jack's honor. This year's recipient, awarded posthumously, was 1st Lt. Matthew D. Lynch, USMC., war hero and Jericho graduate. Matthew's parents received the award on his behalf.

The following faculty members played in the basketball game: Larry Anderson, Meredith Hynes, Jennifer Keane, Rob Bailin, Patti Klobus, Justin Barilla, Kevin Brodsky, Lauren Browne, Denise Romano, Sean Clarkin, Brian Cummings, Denise Ryder, Tami DeRose, Rachel Green, Jim Woska, Ellen Hempel, Alice Zagelbaum, Betsy Zahn, and Jen Carbone.

A special thanks to Trish Gulitti and the Blue Key Club for all their hard work and dedication.



Photo by Mary Marks



Photo by Mary Marks

## Long Island Teachers Benevolent Fund

The JTA is a member of the Long Island Teachers Benevolent Fund (LITBF). LITBF offers a Burial Award grant in the amount of \$300. Eligibility: payable to the individual who incurs the funeral expenses of *any member* who dies while in *active service*. The grant cannot be used for other family members or retirees. LITBF also offers an Emergency Financial Grant of \$400. Eligibility: Members of JTA who are in dire need of financial assistance due to the death or serious illness in the *immediate* family requiring extraordinary expenditures **not covered by regular insurance or a** sudden personal catastrophe, such as loss of home by fire, etc., that is **not covered by regular insurance**. If you feel you qualify for any of these grants or would like some details, please contact Linda in the JTA office and she will forward the application to you.

## Focus to Include Classifieds

Starting next month, *Focus* will have a classified section. Have an item or a service to sell? Advertise for free in *Focus*. Send your business card to Denise Ryder in the high school library or to Linda in the JTA office.

(This is a sample, don't really call me)



D. Ryder, Head Stall Mucker

### Ryder Farm

Equestrian facility on Connetquot State Park

16 Roma Avenue  
North Great River, NY 11722  
<http://www.ryderfarm.net>

[ryder@ryderfarm.net](mailto:ryder@ryderfarm.net)

## Benefits Trust Reminder

Please submit any paperwork to the Benefits Trust by the 15th of each month so checks may be issued in a timely manner.

March 31 is the 2005 deadline.

