

# FOCUS

ON JERICHO  
TEACHERS  
AND THEIR ISSUES

October 2006

## President's Message for October

By Maryann Risi

This month, I'm asking each of you to think about what you can do for your Union. We are a very eclectic group, for sure, and we each can offer many talents. Our Association members need to offer more in the way of services to the union...we need a Vote-Cope Chairperson; we need negotiation committee members; and other committee volunteers. Our newsletter, the *Focus*, is on the thin side compared to

the copies of union papers I receive from other districts. In these newsletters, you will find columns for each building in the district. There are other essays written by teachers themselves (not only Exec. Board members!) These columns reflect individual interests or knowledge acquired at a course or conference. There are even gossip and "Dear Abby" question and answer columns! The backs of the publications are filled with classified ads and letters to the

editor. Speaking of the Editor, I'm sure that Denise Ryder would not mind in the least if you were to take some of the responsibility for the theme of an issue.

What do you say? Can we get some of you together to volunteer to make our *Focus* more representative of who we are? We are a creative force to be reckoned with...aren't we?

(If you want to "give it a go", please e-mail me or Denise with your suggestions. We look forward to your ideas!)

## Jericho Teachers Association

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Secretary/Treasurer

Denise Ryder  
Focus Editor/WebMistress

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

## Staff Recognition Honorees

Our annual Staff Recognition Reception will be held on Thursday, November 2 at 7 pm in the MS/HS auditorium. The following is an abridged list of honorees (JTA members only). Please come out and congratulate your colleagues on their accomplishment! For a full list of honorees, go to the JTA Web site and click *Events*.

### 10 Years:

Rosanna Aloe - 5th Grade - Cantiague  
Bonnie Arnesen - Special Ed. - HS  
Mary Bauer - Reading - HS  
Kevin Brodsky - Phys. Ed. - HS  
Theresa Cantwell - Social Studies - MS  
Gabrielle DeLong - Math - Seaman  
Deborah DiPietro-Larkin - 2nd Grade - Jackson  
Valerie Gladd - 5th Grade - Seaman  
Jennifer Hatz - 1st Grade - Seaman  
Lesley Kalish - Computer - Cantiague  
Sharon Kimmelman - Math - HS  
Michele Malyniak - Reading - Seaman  
Lynne Mattern - Library - Seaman  
Michael Pekar - Phys. Ed. - MS  
Catherine Rosh - 3rd Grade - Jackson

Jill Singer - Reading - Seaman  
Deana Verone - Music - Seaman  
Beth Weissman - Special Ed. Facilitator - Cantiague  
Janis Welsh - Special Ed. Facilitator - Seaman

### 20 Years:

Jeffrey Barnes - Psychologist - MS  
Martha Bertolini - Library - Jackson  
Paula Cardias - Art - HS  
Deborah Lesse - Science - HS  
William Levins - Teacher - HS  
Virginia Lindner - 1st Grade - Cantiague  
Andrea Messinger - Social Worker - Seaman  
Robin Schaffler - 5th Grade - Seaman  
Ellen Steinberger - Reading - HS (Retired)

### 25 Years:

Diane Gilbert - Sixth Grade - Middle School  
Nancy Sherman - Third Grade Teacher - Seaman

### 40 Years:

Peter Horvath - Music - MS

## 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)





## What Do Teachers *Really* Make?

Reprinted from NYSUT's *New York Teacher* (September 7, 2006, p. 9)

The dinner guests were sitting around the table discussing life. One man, a CEO, decided to explain the problem with education. He argued, "What's a kid learn from someone who decided his best option in life was to become a teacher?"

He reminded other dinner guests what they say about teachers? "Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach." To stress his point he said to another guest: "You're a teacher, Susan. Be honest. What do you make?"

Susan, who had a reputation for honesty and frankness, replied, "You want to know what I make? I make kids work harder than they ever thought they could. I make a C+ feel like the winner of the Medal of Honor. I make kids sit through 40 minutes of study hall in absolute silence."

"You want to know what I make? I make kids wonder. I

make them question. I make them criticize. I make them apologize and mean it. I make them read, read, read. I make them show all their work in math and perfect their final drafts in English.

"I make them understand that if you have the brains and follow your heart, and if someone ever tries to judge you by what you make, you must pay no attention because they just didn't learn."

Susan paused and then continued. "You want to know what I make? I make a difference. What do you make?"

(This adaptation of a poem by Taylor Mali appeared in the *Suffolk Report*, a newsletter published by NYSUT's Suffolk County Regional Office).



Congrats to  
**Denise Romano**  
High School Health  
**Cathy Ferris**  
Jackson Reading

### Don't Forget...

**District Wide JTA Meeting** Wednesday, November 1st at 4 pm in the MS/HS Auditorium

**Staff Recognition Reception** Thursday, November 2 at 7 pm in the MS/HS Auditorium

**Pay Day Pizzazz** Friday, November 3 - Wear a button that says something funny

# FOCUS CLASSIFIEDS



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