

The Connection

The Official Publication of the Jefferson County Education Association—Retired

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JCEA-R Officers

Gail Knowles - President
303-428-0190
gknowles2@earthlink.net

Lou Ann Elliott - Vice Pres
303-423-5558
pinkroses3@comcast.net

Margene Stroup - Secretary
303-985-2016
mkstroup@mac.com

Marge Bozarth - Treasurer
303-985-0210

— Read Across America 2008 —

This year's Read Across America project, sponsored by JCEA-Retired, was quite a challenge and made previous years seem like a piece of cake. We successfully visited 15 elementary schools throughout the district and enjoyed the hospitality offered by students and staff members as we shared our love of reading. The **Cat in the Hat** always enjoys the opportunity to prowl into each school's LIC with a brand new book for their library. Thank you to **Shirley Sternola**, retired owner of Bo Peep Books, who helped us purchase these wonderful selections.

The challenge? CSAP testing dates conflicted with NEA's date of March 3 to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday. Fortunately, some schools were still able to fit RAA into their busy schedules by celebrating on Friday, Feb. 29; others scheduled us on March 3 into classes that were not affected by the testing. We appreciated the enthusiasm on the part of the school personnel, their efforts to wear their Cat hats, and the various ways in which they decorated the building with pictures and posters to encourage the students to read. We even ventured into a classroom that was preparing to sample green eggs and ham.

My fascination lies in recognizing how our volunteers so willingly gave of their time and energy for that day, many of whom have worked with RAA since its start in 1998. One person used the day to share her souvenirs and stories about travel to Madagascar while reading from a book about that distant region; another began her reading by drawing her young listeners into a poetic pledge dedicated to sharing the joys of reading; still another used the time to engage students in a guessing game that had them match her collection of stuffed animals with characters of familiar book titles. **Oh, the places we can go with our imagination!** And if these students were asked at dinner time that night, "What did you do in school today", can you imagine what their answers would be?

Thanks to everyone who helped make this another successful year for Read Across America!

Snow Lopez, and Carolyn Campbell, Susan Niles, Margaret Kaschak

Read Across America Coordinators

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Summer 2008

Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence—1958 to 2008 Glennon Heights Elementary School 11025 W. Glennon Dr. Lakewood, CO 80226

Lakewood's Glennon Heights Elementary School is celebrating 50 years of quality education on September 16th, 2008. They would like to contact as many former students, staff members, and parents as possible for the 50th birthday party. Please visit the committee's website, www.guidespot.com, or phone Marge West, 303-984-7004, or the school, 303-982-8240, with names, addresses/ phone numbers of those who would like to attend this special event or to volunteer services to the planning committee.

August 15 is the deadline for the SEPTEMBER JCEA-R Connection.

If you have suggestions or information to be included in the next issue, please contact:
Charlotte Green
720-320-1721 or 970-378-7622
char@unidial.com

Pictures from some of the JCEA-R activities are available on the website or request a PDF version to see them.
Thanks.



– President's Message –

It doesn't seem like an entire year since I became president of JCEA-R. The time has been interesting and filled with challenges.

Thank you for being flexible and understanding with the change of venue for our Spring meeting. Those of you who have done remodeling know it always takes longer than planned. JCEA is now in the new building. I hope you all get a chance to check out the new office sometime. Starting in the fall we will be having our meetings there.

Thank you to the social committee for planning a year of energizing and fun activities. I hope all members will take advantage of the many social opportunities we provide.

April 24th, 2008, Andrea Luethge, John Noriega, Shirley Sternola, JoAnn and Cal Johnston and I went to lobby day at the Capitol. It was serendipitous to go to the House Education Committee meeting and hear Governor Ritter present his education bill SB212.

The Documents Review Committee has been revising and updating the Bylaws. The membership will vote on the changes at our Fall meeting in September. Please plan to attend. The **tentative** meeting date is **September 30th**.

Have an enjoyable, happy, fun and safe summer.

"Live well. Laugh often. Love much."

Gail Knowles
JCEA-R President

– April 17, 2008 JCEA-R Meeting Highlights –

Kathy Bridges McMahon invited retired members to the May 14th Open House/President's Retirement Reception at the new JCEA Office at 1447 Nelson in Lakewood. She reported that our members had a negative reaction to the "forget the contract" Senate Bill 130 introduced by Peter Groff. Now that this bill has been modified, CEA can "live with it." CEA has not taken a position on Senate Bill 212 which is a revision of educational standards and assessments. Judy Salano and Andy Kerr are sponsoring HB 1186 which requires that it does not count against a schools' rating if a child does not take the CSAP due to a parental request. The School Finance Act provides \$8.00 more per student for kindergarten. No Child Left Behind is stalled in Congress now. Any changes will need to wait for the new president.

CEA President, **Beverly Ingle**, reported that there will be a campaign to educate people about presidential candidate McCain's issues and what he has voted for. She says that there is a better shot to change No Child Left Behind if a Democrat is elected. Please thank **Sue Windells** for her work in the Senate. There may be a merger between PERA and DPSRS (Denver Public Schools Retirement Plan). The financial parts are being worked on.

CEA staff liaison, **Dave Mussetter**, reported that three new retired associations (Mesa Valley/Grand Junction,

Colorado Springs, and Northern Colorado) were started this year.

Membership Chair, **Lou Ann Elliot** reported we have 391 members. Insurance and our social program appear to be the main reasons teachers join.

At the CEA Delegate Assembly April 10-12, **Charlotte Green** was elected for a two-year term as a CEA Retired Director on the CEA Board of Directors .

Marge West will help coordinate New Teacher Induction to be held July 30--31, and August 1 at Lakewood High School. Call her, 303-984-7004, if you would like to help.

Margaret Kaschak reported that Serving Kids provides good clean used clothing to deserving Jeffco students. If you can occasionally launder a bag of clothing, please contact Margaret, 303-377-9377.

Jane Goff, former JCEA President, reported that she is running for the CD 7 position on the State School Board and invited retired members to her May 4 fundraiser.

Respectfully submitted,
Margene Stroup
JCEA-R Secretary

JCEA-R Membership Report

We are now **395 members** strong!!!! Only 5 more to go to meet this year's goal! Thanks to everyone who has been helping recruit members! I believe everyone talking about membership helps to bring those in who have either forgotten, or just haven't gotten around to it!

We are sending this edition of the *Connection* to all **95 new retirees**. The number of retirees is down quite a bit from the last few years. As you attend their retirement parties and receptions, talk about joining JCEA-R. I attended the great retirement reception put on by JCEA at the beautiful new office. I gave a little talk, told them about the benefits and fun we have, and encouraged everyone to join. All the new retirees attending received a membership packet. Within the next few weeks, those who didn't attend the reception will receive a membership packet. However, **nothing gets a person to sign up like a personal invitation from a friend.**

One little problem we are having is people moving and not letting us know their new addresses. If you know of someone who is moving, or has moved/changed

their email address, please remind them to let me know their new/current address, phone number and email address. Speaking of email address, please let us know if you are willing to receive your *Connection* via email. With the price of postage up again, it will save us money to not have to mail the publication. Besides, you'll receive it sooner, it's in color, and you'll be able to look at more pictures than we can print and mail. Please let me or Charlotte know if you would like to receive your *Connection* via email.

Membership renewal letters will go out in August to annual members, probably before you receive your next edition of the *Connection*. PLEASE promptly return your membership renewal so you will be listed in our new Directory. This is another good reason to be a Life member-- you don't have to worry about renewal!

Thanks again, to everyone for your help with Membership. Happy Spring and Summer to ALL.

Hugs,

Lou Ann Elliott

JCEA-R Vice President and Membership Chair

Jeffco Action Center will once again distribute school supplies to low income Jeffco students. They need school supplies and, just as important, they need **volunteers** to help distribute the school supplies. If you could help distribute school supplies contact Jeffco Action Center at 303-237-7704 for more information.

— JCEA-R Pre-Retirement Seminars 2007-2008 —

Two pre-retirement seminars were held this past year—in November and in April. Over 1500 invitations were sent to teachers 52 and older. Of that group, we had 100 attend (51 in the fall and 49 in the spring.)

Each seminar started with a continental breakfast and time to socialize. After the initial greeting from our president, **Gail Knowles**, we heard from several speakers about different phases of retirement. **Nancy Henderson**, JCEA president, spoke about our Jeffco benefits, including the supplemental retirement plan and pay for sick and personal leave days. **Richard Bowers**, an attorney, presented ideas for estate planning and wills. Financial planner, **Bob Holland**, spoke about Long Term Care Insurance. JCEA-R members, **Kathy Danhour** and **Lou Ann Elliott** lead the group in deciding whether they were "Ready for Retirement". Lou Ann also plugged our JCEA-R membership and handed out forms to prospective members. The last speaker at each seminar was from PERA and spoke about PERA benefits and timelines and provided participants with many PERA brochures to help them with the retirement process.

We would like to thank everyone who helped with these seminars, both in the fall and spring. Next school year we will host the seminars at the new office in November and April. If you would like to help, please contact us.

Rose Blaschke and Marie Lindvall
JCEA-R Pre-Retirement Seminar Co-Chairmen

What were you doing??

What were you doing since the March issue of the *Connection*? LaVonne Angus, Sally Augden, Jan Bale, Marsha Barber, Eleanor Bradley, Joyce Brown, Cheryl Bush, Carolyn Campbell, Joan Campbell, Carmen Cohn, Ralph Cundiff, Mae and Dave Davies, Jeanne Duffy and husband Phil Trettenero, Lou Ann Elliott, Betty Flaten, Mary Forrester, Debbie Gorden, Bev Green, Charlotte Green, Bonnie Hayes, Donna Johnson, JoAnn and Cal Johnston, Ruth Karenko, Sally Kiekhaefer, Gail Knowles, Mary Ann and Dennis Larsen, Normalee Lee, Snow and Rick Lopez, Marilyn Mallander, Mary Alice McManus, Carolyn Messerly, Diane Mulvaney, Corinne and Chuck Murphy, Adrean Pepper, Lindy Reed, Mary Sanchez and her husband, Jeanne Simmons, Shirley Sternola, Marge West and her friend Sue, John Young, and Jackie Yutzy were all out enjoying these JCEA-R activities. **Why don't you come join us and share the fun!!**

— Denver Restaurant Week —

Kevin Taylor's at the Opera

Searched Atlantic salmon, pumpkin gnocchi, charbroiled Black Angus and apricot crème brulee were just some of the delicacies enjoyed by JCEA-R members on February 26th, when they dined in the 'sexiest basement in Denver' aka Kevin Taylor's at the Opera.

This gem of a restaurant is tucked away in the lower level of the stunning Ellie Caulkins Opera House and features opulent costumes in shadow boxes and the larger-than-life art of Colorado artist Vance Kirkland. Round tables, soft music, excellent food and service all contributed to an enjoyable dining experience.

John Elway's in Cherry Creek

On February 28th, John Elway's in Cherry Creek was the setting for our second Restaurant Week dinner. Entrees, including beef short ribs, chicken, salmon, and a New York strip that Ralph Cundiff commented—was the best he'd ever eaten—were offered along with a spicy pepper soup, and garden or Caesar salad. These were topped off with delicious chocolate dipped cheesecakes or brownies on a stick. All agreed that this restaurant was a perfect 10 in ambiance and taste!

— St Patrick's Day —

Thursday, March 13th, JCEA-R members enjoyed celebrating the St. Patrick's Day holiday with good conversation and lots of green refreshment! We enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and meals including corn beef and cabbage, and fish and chips. All agreed that this activity should continue as an annual event. Thanks to Clancy's for their service and ambiance!!!

— Little Shop of Horrors —

JCEA-R joined CARE at the Boulder Dinner Theater April 16 to see the colorful, delightful, energetic and entertaining production of *The Little Shop of Horrors*. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal and left singing a tune or two.

— Apex Park Hike —

On April 18th, members hiked almost 5 miles on various trails in Apex Park out of Heritage Square. By sticking to the east-facing hillsides, we soaked up lots of spring sunshine and managed to avoid most of the snow that had fallen 2 days earlier. We hope to see more of you on the trails in the future!

Lakewood Heritage Center

Tuesday, April 22nd, JCEA-R members enjoyed a wonderful tour of the Lakewood Heritage Center with our docent, Snow Lopez. Those participating enjoyed viewing the Strear House—a home from the 30's—and the wonderful Gil and Ethel's Beauty Salon and Variety store, and learned some of the special details and history of the center and its buildings from Snow. A delicious lunch at The Elephant Bar followed the tour.

Gee's Bend Quilts/Dozens

JCEA-R members and friends enjoyed the fascinating exhibit, "*Gee's Bend Quilts*" on May 7th at the Denver Art Museum. Mary Alice McManus, a JCEA-R member and docent of the museum, shared pertinent information about the quilts and the remarkable women who made them. A delicious brunch at nearby Dozen's preceded the tour.



MUSEUM OF
CONTEMPORARY
ART | DENVER

Join us **Thursday, June 26th**, at 11:30 a.m. for lunch at **Dixon's Downtown Grill** (16th and Wazee St.). We'll then walk to the **Museum of Contemporary Art** (15th and Delgany) for a 1:30 p.m. tour (about 45 minutes) and browsing. Even if you're not a big fan of contemporary art, the museum itself is stunning! (see pictures at www.mcadenver.org) The combined cost for museum entrance and tour is \$16 for those under 65 and \$8 for 65 and over, payable at the museum.

Come join us for both lunch and the museum or either one alone. Let Lindy Reed know by **TUESDAY, JUNE 17th** at 303-421-9414 or mkhreed@comcast.net.

There are parking lots at Union Station and other places nearby (parking lot map on the museum website), but your best bet might be public transportation. Most buses connect to the 16th St. Mall Shuttle and Dixon's is right on the mall.

Dixon's is in the same block as the **LoDo Tattered Cover** (16th and Wynkoop), so you might consider stopping for coffee there about 10:30 a.m. and browsing or putting it on your agenda for after the museum. No reservations needed!



Glad You Don't Have to Go to Work??

JCEA-R will welcome our new retirees at our annual, "*Aren't You Glad You Don't Have To Go To Work?*" get-together on **Monday, August 11th** from 4:00 p.m. on at **Chad's Grill**, 275 Union Blvd just off 6th Avenue. Veteran retirees, as well as those who've just joined the ranks, are invited to socialize and hear all about the upcoming events we'll be enjoying as retired Jeffco employees. Please pass the word to members and non-members you know and come relax as others have to report back to work! To help plan for seating, please RSVP by **SUNDAY, AUGUST 10th** to Adrean at 303-779-1027 or apecpper@wans.net.

Royal Gorge Train



CARE has invited JCEA-R members to join them on a **Royal Gorge Route Railroad** trip including Dome seating with awesome views and a Gourmet lunch—all for \$99.95. Dates being considered are July 14, 28 or 29. If you are interested or have more questions, please call Pat Baker, 303-322-2176, by June 6 to be added to the list.



— Upscale Woodsie —

Do you remember the last time you went to a real woodsie? Was it in high school? Or college? Members and their guests are invited to recapture your youth and join us on the patio at **Mt Vernon Country Club** for our very own 'upscale woodsie' on **Thursday, July 17th** from 1-- 3 p.m. or later. This is an opportunity to invite a new retiree whom you may know, as well as to bring a spouse or friend. After lunch, you can spend the afternoon visiting with friends and enjoying the view.

The \$15.50 per person buffet will include a cold salad bar, marinated barbequed chicken, grilled sausages, barbequed beef brisket, apple pie, vanilla cake, coffee and tea, as well as tax and tip. Brews and other libations are optional.

Send your check made payable to Jeanne Duffy, 10160 W 33rd Ave, Wheat Ridge, Colorado 80033 no later than **WEDNESDAY, JULY 2nd**, 303-231-9598. Your payment is your reservation and is NOT refundable. Dress for the event is business casual which means no jeans and shirts should have a collar.

To reach Mt Vernon, take I-70 west to the Genesee Park Exit #254. Turn right at the stop sign and follow the road up the hill to Mt Vernon. We encourage carpooling!



VENICE ON THE CREEK

DENVER'S GONDOLA



For the past 10 years, **Venice on the Creek** has been bringing people from all over the world to Denver's scenic Cherry Creek to enjoy a one-of-a-kind experience. Want to learn more? Check out their website: <http://www.veniceonthecreek.com>.

Venice on the Creek is a relaxing punt ride down Cherry Creek in lower downtown Denver. A "punt" is a boat similar to an Italian gondola -- a long and narrow vessel (23' x 3') that is propelled and steered by a pole operator at the back of the punt. On your tour, your guide will relate the history of Denver to you. Boats hold up to six people and will return you to your starting point, using a series of locks to raise and lower the water level. Punts are well known in Europe and elsewhere, but these are the only known punts in the United States.

We have reserved a private 60-70 minute tour for members and their guests on **July 23rd** at 10:00 a.m. Cost is \$20 per person with a minimum of 18 people. Meet at Creekfront Plaza on Larimer, between Speer and 14th Street. Carpooling or the use of public transportation is encouraged.

If you would like to join us for your punt ride and tour, have your check payable to Jeanne Duffy, 10160 W.33rd Ave., Wheat Ridge CO 80033, by **JUNE 30th**, NO EXCEPTIONS. Don't wait to mail it that day.

When sending in reservations, please send separate checks for each event and be sure to include your phone number in case we need to contact you for any changes.

Remember to contact possible new members and/or retirees to attend our activities. They deserve to join us for all the fun! Getting together whenever we want is one of the benefits of our retirement!!

Would you like to join those receiving the color *JCEA-R Connection* and 'Shutterbug' pages via email? Please send your email address to char@unidial.com. We'll continue to mail to those who prefer the printed version. Also, if you didn't receive the *Connection* in the manner you requested, please let Charlotte know. The *Connection* and *Shutterbug* pages are also available at www.jcea-cea.org.



Politix: Showbis on the Powerbiz plus Gemelli's Ristorante

Join us **August 8** to laugh a bit about all of the political events dominating the news. We'll start with dinner at 5:00 p.m. at **Gemelli's Ristorante**, 4363 Tennyson and follow with laughs at the 7:30 p.m. show of *Politix: Showbis on the Powerbiz* at **Denver Victorian Playhouse**, 4201 Hooker. Show tickets are \$22.

"A fun and swift moving spoof on the political arena – Campaign trail to Oval Office. Politicians are easy targets and POLITIX sings about it! A tongue in cheek, non-partisan show, we tackle the political theater from the world of musical theatre. ...a swift moving spoof of what we are all about in the political arena" Uptown Citizen.

Reservations and ticket money are due **FRIDAY, JULY 18**. Send to Bonnie Hayes, 965 Field St., Lakewood, CO 80215, 303-231-9981 bkhayes@aol.com



JCEA-R and its affiliates do not assume responsibility for any liability to anyone participating in NEA-R, CEA-R, JCEA-R, or CARE activities.

JCEA-R Calendar !

June 2 REMINDER (deadline May 1)
Pepsi Center Tour

June 11 REMINDER (deadline April 25)
Will Rogers Follies - **Boulder Dinner Theater**

June 26 (deadline June 17)
**Dixon's Downtown Grill +
Museum of Contemporary Art**

July 14, 28 or 29 (Call before June 6)
Royal Gorge Train Trip

July 17 (deadline July 2)
Upscale Woodsie - **Mt Vernon Country Club**

July 23 (deadline June 30)
Venice on the Creek

Aug 8 (deadline July 18)
**Gemell's Ristorante +
Politix: Showbis on the Powerbiz**
Denver Victorian Playhouse

Aug 11 (deadline August 10)
We don't have to go to work! - **Chad's Grill**

September 5-7 (deadline June 1)
**Grand Lake FAC +
Dinner and *Why Do Fools Fall in Love?***

Sept 14 (deadline July 13)
Retro Loud - **Heritage Square**

Sept 30 TENTATIVE
Fall JCEA-R Meeting

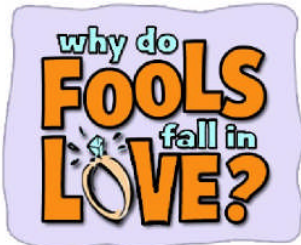
Nov 21 (see Fall Connection)
An O. Henry Christmas - **Miner's Alley**

December 10 (see Fall Connection)
Holiday Luncheon - **Mt Vernon Country Club**

We are so excited about our Grand Lake excursion and hope you're planning to join us! We'll begin the weekend with an F.A.C. at the cabin of Ralph Cundiff in **Grand Lake** on **Friday, September 5th** from 4:00 p.m. on. We'll have dinner and enjoy the show, "*Why Do Fools Fall In Love*" on **Saturday, September 6th**, and have suggestions for those who want to enjoy Grand Lake on Sunday before heading home.

By the time you receive this, the JUNE 1st deadline will be close for tickets to the play on Saturday. If you plan to attend, please send a check IMMEDIATELY to Adrean Pepper, 3722 South Rosemary Way, Denver, Colorado 80237. Cost for the show is \$25.00. We are also finalizing a place for dinner prior to the show. Saturday during the day and Sunday will be on your own and we'll have lots of suggestions for things you might want to do while visiting Grand County. You

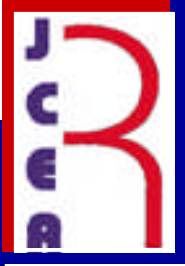
are welcome to come just for the day or spend the weekend with us! Please contact Adrean at 303-779-1027 or apepper@wans.net if you're planning to attend any or all of these events! Friends and family members are welcome to join us!



Retro Loud



Please join us on **Sunday, September 14th** for the final performance of "*Retro Loud*" at **Heritage Square**. We'll enjoy a delicious lunch at 12:00 p.m. upstairs and then meet downstairs for their 2:00 p.m. show. We'll reminisce with old songs and enjoy singing and laughing with the actors as they entertain us in typical excellent fashion. The cost for the show and lunch is \$38.50 or \$29.00 if you only want to attend the show. Your check is your reservation and must be sent to Adrean Pepper, 3722 South Rosemary Way, Denver, Colorado 80237 NO LATER THAN JULY 13th.



The JCEA-R Connection

Jefferson County Education Association
1447 Nelson
Lakewood, CO 80215

JCEA-R OFFICERS:

Gail Knowles, *President*
Lou Ann Elliott, *Vice-President*
Margene Stroup, *Secretary*
Marge Bozarth, *Treasurer*

JCEA-R CONNECTION STAFF:

Charlotte Green, *Editor*
Dexter Meyer, *Consultant*

Volume 9, Issue 4

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Summer 2008

Check us out in **COLOR**
on the Web!
www.jcea-cea.org



Reminder: As you clean your book shelves and do summer reading, save those books to bring to the 'Book Swap' at the September JCEA-R meeting.

— — Is OLLI West for you? — —

OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) West at the University of Denver provides educational opportunities for older learners who seek intellectual stimulation and enjoy gaining knowledge in the company of their peers. Three eight-week terms per year are held at the Jefferson Unitarian Church, 14350 W. 32nd Avenue in Golden with classes meeting once each week. Courses are facilitated by participants, community leaders and retired professors. There are no tests, no reports – just great discussion and interaction with like-minded peers.

Registration forms and course information for the fall quarter that begins the week of September 15 will be mailed in July. Some of the courses offered include *Fundamental Islam; Three British Novels Explored through Reading, Film & Discussion, Opera, World on Fire* (book by Amy Chau) and many others.

OLLI West finished its first year with over 200 people taking courses. If you are interested in receiving information about this great program, please call Karen Thorne at (303) 717-4299 or email her at thornetk@comcast.net.