

The JCEA-R Connection

The Official Publication of the Jefferson County Education Association—Retired

Published Quarterly: September, December, March, June

 ★ Read Across America 2007 ★



Snow Lopez and Mike Cathra

Once again, **Read Across America** was a fun and successful NEA/JCEA/JCEA-R event. Friday, March 2, more than 50 readers visited 18 Jefferson County elementary schools, armed with every wonderful book imaginable. Visiting the schools was a timely reminder of the positive attitudes in our schools. In the midst of the more serious CSAP preparations, we were warmly welcomed into the classrooms by the teachers and students. It was exciting to walk the halls and see art work and students' writing proudly displayed.

While this project is primarily supported by JCEA-Retired volunteers, we were fortunate to have the help of other volunteers from our educational community: other retired Jeffco teachers and administrators, Spellbinders, and friends and neighbors who have connected with our effort as we continue to support this worthwhile project each year. We also welcomed members of the government communities as they took time off from busy schedules to celebrate our love of reading. We give a special thanks to these volunteers including Congressman **Ed Perlmutter** and Westminster Mayor **Nancy McNally**.

Read Across America 2007 was co-chaired by **Carolyn Campbell** and **Snow Lopez**, who were assisted by three area coordinators: **Gail Knowles**, **Margaret Kaschak**, and **Susan Niles**. Special thanks goes to **Shirley Sternola**, retired Jeffco educator and owner of *Bo Peep Bookstore* in Lakewood, for her help and generosity to purchase books that were donated to each school, and to *Creighton Middle School* for the use of facilities for our meetings.

As Read Across America continues to grow, we continue to seek more volunteers to insure its success. This is a one-day only event, so please consider donating your time next year so we can visit as many schools as possible. Because the traditional date of March 2 will fall on a Sunday, NEA has declared **Monday, March 3, the date for 2008**. We'll be sure to remind you of this date when the new calendars come out in the fall.



Mike Cathra and Carolyn Campbell

NEW
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

Marge Bozarth - Treasurer
 303-985-0210



President's Message

As I write this, it doesn't seem possible that four years have gone by since I became President of JCEA-R. I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to all of you for giving me the opportunity to represent you in this capacity. It has been a privilege and an honor.

During my tenure as President, it has been my pleasure to have as fellow members of the Executive Committee three very dedicated and committed individuals. Thank you **Lou Ann, Marion and Marge** for so diligently carrying out the duties for which you were elected. I have truly enjoyed working with you. One of my goals was to increase membership in JCEA-R and that certainly has happened with Lou Ann as membership chairperson and vice-president. Marion's secretarial notes and minutes have always been timely and accurate. Marge's experience as treasurer is always invaluable.

I also want to express my gratefulness to **Charlotte Green**, Communications Chair and editor of *The Connection*; **Adrean Pepper** and the Social Committee; **Snow Lopez**, Education Committee Chair, and those who have helped her with the Read Across America program; **Gail Knowles** and **Betty Flaten** and members who planned and carried out the Pre-Retirement Seminars; and **Gail Knowles** for being the JCEA-R representative on JCEA PAC. Each of you has contributed so much to this organization in time and effort. **THANK YOU ALL!!!**

Gail Knowles will become JCEA-R President and **Margene Stroup** will take on the duties of Secretary on June 1. Congratulations, ladies, and best wishes. As you join Lou Ann and Marge, who were re-elected, I know JCEA-R will be in good hands. I also want to recognize **Janet Weisheit**, who was elected the JCEA-R representative on JCEA PAC.

Have a wonderful and safe summer season, **Donna Johnson**, *Retiring JCEA-R President*



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As the school year comes to an end, and summer vacation approaches, it becomes all too evident to me that after so many years of teaching, the cycle of "school year" still dominates my way of life even in retirement. Our "membership year" is winding down, and we are actively recruiting new members out of this spring's retirement "class". What fun! There are 219 new retirees on this year's list! Wow, what that can do for our membership! We have already received 3 newly retired members, and several more have promised to join when they get their first "double payment checks". Our membership now stands at 393. I was hoping to be able to report 400 or more with this issue of *The Connection*, but we didn't quite make it! Hopefully we will by the August publication. We have made presentations at the pre-retirement seminar and the retirement reception, as well as pushed membership at Delegate Assembly. Hopefully we will see a nice increase in membership because of those efforts.

There are serious talks happening at the national and state levels about All Inclusive Membership (AIM)--the process of active members paying a little extra in dues each month so when they retire they are automatically Triple Life members. There are many things to be worked out with this idea, but I just wanted all of you to know it is in the works. Until that happens, we all need to continue to get our eligible retirees to join us. It is much easier right after they retire, rather than letting them "get lost", and become out of touch with us and all that is happening in their profession. Remember - "*Old teachers never die, we just spend more time at recess!*" I hope all of you have a nice, wonderful "recess" - summer vacation - and remember to keep pushing membership!

Hugs to all, **Lou Ann Elliott**, *Membership Chair and JCEA-R Vice President*

It Has Been a Pleasure ... by Betty Flaten

I have been **JCEA-R/Region 3 representative** on the **JCEA-R Advisory Council** for the past six years. Due to term limitation, I leave the Council in May. One of our members will be appointed by the CEA President and approved by the CEA Board to represent our 393 members, beginning in September.

During my term, I have had the privilege of working with CEA-R representatives from each of the regions, CEA-R board members and staff consultants **Joan Holden** and presently, **Dave Mussetter**.

The primary purpose of the Advisory Council is to increase retired membership throughout the state. These past six years have seen CEA-R almost doubling membership statewide. Each of the locals have made significant gains in membership. **Pikes Peak** formed a new local and **Greeley, Grand Junction, Colorado Springs**, and possibly **Montrose**, are in the process of organizing locals.

Membership increase has enabled retirees to gain another seat on the CEA Board of Directors making a total of two seats for retired representation.

Our JCEA-R members who are elected to Delegate Assembly observe the Council in action. There, we are responsible for the dinner and meeting for retired delegates on the Thursday afternoon/evening before the opening of Delegate Assembly. We also are responsible for staffing a retired membership table and holding the pre-retirement membership raffle during the three-day event.

We keep a close watch on the activities at PERA, especially those related to legislative action and change. **Carole Wright**, the retired representative on the PERA Board keep us informed of the latest legislation and policy decisions.

I have been a member, and will continue to serve on the All Inclusive Membership (AIM) Task Force for CEA. Last fall, I wrote in *The Connection* about the project and our plans for this past year. NEA then asked all AIM task forces to halt their work while NEA looked at the financial implications and other concerns regarding pre-paid memberships.

We now have the go-ahead from NEA to continue our research and presentations to uniserve units in anticipation of bringing a formal request for implementing AIM at a future Delegate Assembly. The implementation of an AIM program does not affect current retirees, only future members who would be paying for their retired membership during their active teaching years. I will continue to keep JCEA-R members informed of the work of the task force. If any of you have concerns, comments, or want more information please contact me at 303-423-9435 or bflaten@msn.com.

Again, I have enjoyed representing JCEA-R on the CEA-R Advisory Council. It has been an interesting and rewarding six years.

Betty Flaten, *CEA-R Advisory Council*

Pre-Retirement Seminar

The Spring Pre-Retirement Seminar was held April 14 with about forty-five people. The committee would like to thank **Rose Blaschke, Joyce Brown** and **Mary Forester** for helping to stuff pony envelopes to get the flyer out. We want to thank all of you who helped set up Friday, April 13. I did not get the names of all who helped, but we did appreciate it. The committee would also like to thank our JCEA and JCEA-R speakers **Lisa Elliott, Donna Johnson, Lou Ann Elliott**, and especially **Kathy Shofner**.

Gail Knowles, *Pre-Retirement Seminar Chair*

Spring Annual Meeting

Besides brunch, elections, and committee reports, we had a very interesting talk by CEA President Beverly Ingle about what CEA is doing and helping to work on. There were many topics covered but among them was the acronym TEF (Taxation, Economic Development, and Funds For Schools). Tabor has put funding for schools in a bind and CEA is working to try to help ease that problem. She reminded us that rural schools are hurting financially more than districts like ours and we need to remember them in financial discussions.

JCEA-R Out and About

JCEA-R members enjoying earlier events and great company include: LaVon Angus, Sally and Ed Augden, Norma Baulch, Carolyn Campbell, Ralph Cundiff, Mae and Dave Davies, Jeanne Duffy and Phil Trettenero, Betty Flaten, Bev Green, Charlotte Green, Bonnie and Rod Hayes, Claudia Jones, Carol Kaiser, Ruth Karenko, Pamela Kniss, Gail Knowles, Lenore Krinsky, Mary Ann and Dennis Larsen, Normalee Lee, Snow and Rick Lopez, Marilyn Mallander, Carolyn Messerly, Alice Muffley, Adrean Pepper, Lindy Reed, Kent Stannard, Bob and Cathy Tatton, Jan and Allen Yerxa, John Young, and guests Eleanor Bradley and Sally Kierkaefer.

St Patrick's at Clancy's

We had a fun time celebrating St. Patrick's Day at **Clancy's** on March 15th. People enjoyed green beer and other refreshments as well as traditional corned beef sandwiches and hors d'oeuvres.

Hiking White Ranch Park

Five JCEA-R members and a guest hiked a 5-mile loop in **White Ranch Park** in the foothills west of Arvada on Friday, May 4. Skies were cloudy (which was good) and after a few shivers at the trailhead we found it a perfect temperature. Spring flowers dotted the hill-sides, some people saw deer, and we had expansive views of the plains - and lots of mega-mansions. It was a lovely day that would have been even better if more of you had joined us!

Denver Restaurant Week

Zengo is a Latin-Asian restaurant located just east of "The Highlands" in a fun, vibrant part of the city. February 27th, ten of us met at **Zengo's** for a great dinner at a great price. Such a good time was had by all that we discussed participating yearly in Denver Restaurant Week.

A Morning Along Tennyson

On April 18, members and their guests spent a leisurely morning visiting over a delectable brunch in northwest Denver at **DJ's Berkley Cafe**. We chose from a menu of many classic dishes as well as exotic taste combinations. Most topped off their meal choice with espresso or other delightful specialty drinks. After brunch, those who wished enjoyed the crisp spring day strolling one of the fastest growing neighborhoods in the Denver and checking out the many new shops along Tennyson Street.

All About LoDo

On a cool and overcast spring morning, members and their guests took the opportunity to take a walking tour of the LoDo area. Our guide was **Bill Covery**, for the Colorado Historical Society. On the tour, we learned about the rich history of LoDo as well as details on the current development of the area, including **Union Station**, **Larimer Square**, and the **Oxford Hotel**. After the tour, the JCEA-R group met additional members for brunch at the Oxford Hotel. (see picture page eight)

JCEA-R joined CARE for a fantastic presentation of **Ragtime** at the **Boulder Dinner Theater** on April 11th. Now we are anxiously awaiting their next production! Join us to see the regional premiere of —

MID-LIFE: The Crisis Musical

Reading glasses, mammograms, weekend warriors and proctology exams — all are lampooned in this hilarious show that poked fun at the curiosities of middle age. You'll laugh until you cry! If you bought some Ginkgo-Biloba, but can't remember where you put it — then you're ready for **MID-LIFE!**

Wed, Sept 26

5:30 p.m. Early Bird \$38.00

Deadline: Fri, Aug 17

Send checks **made payable to CARE** to:

CARE, Attn: **Pat Baker**, 1235 W 124th Ave, Suite #101, Westminster, CO 80234

Future shows: Nov 7—*1940's Radio Hour*; Apr 16—*Little Shop of Horrors*; and June 11—*Will Rogers Follies*





Bask in the sun and fragrance of the **Denver Botanic Gardens**, 1005 York Street, **June 6, 2007** with a tour of the Big Bug sculptures and an overview of the gardens. Free parking is across the street in the large lot, or on the surrounding streets. Cost of the tour is \$4.50. Membership cards are not acceptable as part of the tour. After the **10:00 a.m.** tour, we will adjourn to **Racines**, 650 Sherman Street, for lunch. Reservations for one/both events due by May 25, 2007. For reservations/concerns contact Betty Flatten at 303-423-9435 or bflatten@msn.com.



Is it time for you to learn the four basic elements of a backyard habitat? Come join us for a bit of education at **Wild Birds Unlimited**, 2720 S Wadsworth Blvd on **June 28th at 2:30 pm**. After you contemplate this, share a libation with the group at **Oliveto Cucina Italiana**, 3355 S Yarrow in the Mission Trace Shopping Center at 4:00 p.m. RSVP to Bonnie Hayes, 303-231-9981 by June 25.

Cherry Creek Arts Festival

The opening day of the Cherry Creek Art Festival is Friday, **July 6, 2007**, and JCEA-R members can be among the first to see remarkable works by some of the nation's best artists. We begin with breakfast at **Zaidys**, 121 Adams Street at **8:30 a.m.** When the festival opens at 10:00 a.m., you may begin your adventure by browsing the booths, attending workshops, listening to music and enjoying the flavor of Denver's premiere art event.

Reservation deadline Tuesday, June 26. If you only want to attend the festival, meet at the corner of 2nd and Fillmore at 10:00 a.m. For reservations, contact Betty Flatten at 303-423-0435 or bflatten@msn.com.

Turn Down the Heat

Just imagine learning to prepare delicious and healthy summer meals, with little or no cooking. Choose from a menu of Rice Paper Wraps with Shrimp and Vegetables, Sonoma Chicken Salad in Pita Bread, Grilled Vegetable Pesto Pasta, and Balsamic Berry Shortcake. Do we have your attention? Good! Now here are the details.

Join us for a private **Summertime Dinners Cooking Class** just for JCEA-R members and their guests, on **Thursday, July 12 or Sunday, August 5, 3-5 p.m.** at the **Whole Food Market Cooking Studio** at Belmar. Cost is \$20/student. Class will include an afternoon of delicious dishes great for feeding the family and perfect for hot summer days. We will look at ways to make dinner with very little to no cooking. This class is hands on (designed for student involvement) and students will get a chance to try all the dishes at the end of the class.

To Register: Individuals wishing to attend need to pay \$20.00 in advance at the Customer Service, Whole Foods Market at Belmar, 444 S. Wadsworth, Lakewood, CO 80226. To register by phone, call 935-5000.

Each class will need a minimum of 6 people to be held and will be cancelled 24 hours in advance if the class does not meet the minimum number of participants. Individuals will be contacted of the cancellation and can either receive store credit or be registered in the other cooking class if room is available.

Questions: Call Jeanne Duffy @ 303-231-9598.

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

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 retirement!

Cherokee Ranch & Castle

Imagine a castle filled with an eclectic art collection, lavish furnishings and expansive views of mountains and plains where you can see original drawings by Sir Christopher Wren and 15th and 16th century European artists. Are we advertising a trip to England? No! The **Cherokee Ranch and Castle** are located just south of Denver near Sedalia. Please join JCEA-R for a tour on **Thursday, July 26.**

The Castle, built in the mid-1920s by a Denver real estate tycoon, was purchased by philanthropist Tweet Kimball in 1953. She lived in the castle until her death in 1999 and is responsible for the art collection. In 1996, Tweet established a foundation to preserve the ranch and its castle for the people of Colorado.

We'll have a guided tour of the Castle, its furnishings and art from 9:30 to 11 a.m. followed by lunch in Sedalia or Castle Rock (place to be determined; suggestions welcome). The cost is **\$15** for the tour with paid reservations required by June 15. Send your check to Lindy Reed, 3671 Ward Road, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033. This is a trip where carpooling makes sense, so include information about whether you have your own carpool set up, whether you would be willing to drive others, etc. and a phone number. Once your reservation is received you'll get driving instructions.



CEA Delegate Assembly

April 26-28, twelve JCEA-R members attended the 81st Annual CEA Delegate Assembly. Guest speakers included **Dennis Van Roekel**, NEA VP; **Governor Bill Ritter**; and **Susan Ryder**, CO teacher of the year. **Bev Ingle**, CEA President, did an outstanding job presiding over 600+ delegates conducting business. A summary of actions taken, and election results is in your *CEA Journal* or at www.coloradoea.org. Join us next year!

We recommend everyone Google "[fischbowl](#)" to watch the video and read the article "[Did You Know?](#)" about helping students prepare for the 20th century.

Sculpture IN THE PARK

Join us Saturday, **August 11**, for Sculpture in the Park in Loveland. www.sculptureinthepark.org Sculpture in the Park is sponsored by the Loveland High Plains Arts Council and is considered one of the finest outdoor juried exhibitions of three-dimensional artwork in the United States. The work of more than 200 sculptors from around the world will be featured against the backdrop of the Rocky Mountains in Loveland's Benson Garden.

For those wanting to carpool, meet at **9:00 a.m.** at 104th and Federal in the parking lot in front of Walgreen's. If you are driving on your own, we will meet at the entrance to the show at 10:30 a.m. and tour from 10:30-12:30 followed by lunch in Loveland. (any suggestions?)

Tickets cost \$5.00 and can be purchased at the entrance to the show. RSVP to Marilyn Mallander 303-477-6327 or mmaland@comcast.net by August 4.



Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition

The Titanic is coming – the exhibit, that is. Save **Tuesday, September 25** to visit this once-in-a-lifetime exhibition which tells the tale of the lavish vessel, from its construction to its doomed maiden voyage. The stories of the passengers, immigrants and celebrities alike are told through personal artifacts salvaged from the deep.

The next *Connection* will have details, but plan now to join us for lunch at a restaurant on East Colfax at noon and proceed to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science for a 2:00 pm entry time. We'll investigate group tickets. There is also an IMAX film, "Ghosts of the Abyss," but we have found it is too much to try to do it all. You'll be welcome to make your own IMAX reservations.

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

Fair Winds

Hot Air Balloon Flights

Join us Wednesday, August 29th, for a Hot Air Balloon Flight to view our spectacular mountain ranges, plains, and wild-life. The flight package price of \$195.00 includes champagne, continental breakfast, t-shirt, pin, flight certificate and picture.

All flights take off at sunrise (approximately 6:30 a.m.) from northeast Boulder. Start to finish is four hours with actual airtime of approximately one hour and fifteen minutes. Dress is casual and in layers, usually 5-10 degrees warmer in the air than on the ground. Don't forget to bring your cameras.

Those wanting to carpool should meet at Westminster Mall (88th and Sheridan) in the parking lot in front of Olive Garden at 5:30 a.m. Those driving on their own should refer to the website (www.fairwindsinc.com) for directions and meet at the launch site by 6:30 a.m.

RSVP to Marilyn Mallander by August 8th at 303-477-6327 or mmalland@comcast.net

THEN, you must RSVP to Fair Winds Hot Air Balloon Flights at 303-939-9323 (Jeff Meeker) to secure your place by giving your name, group name (JCEA-R) and a credit card number. Your credit card is not actually run until the day of flight – BUT – you must cancel 7 days prior to flight for a refund.

Aren't You Glad You Don't
Have To Go To Work ??

We invite new retirees and "veterans" to join us on **Thursday, August 16 at Old Chicago** on the west side of Union, just south of Jose O'Shea's for our annual "**Aren't You Glad You Don't Have To Go To Work**" THAC. We want to welcome those new to retirement and to enjoy the fact that we don't have to start a new school year! Old Chicago has a variety of great food and lots of liquid refreshment. We hope you'll invite your friends and fellow retirees to come and socialize from 4:00 on! While RSVP's aren't necessary, it helps to plan seating. If you plan to attend or need more information, please contact Adrean at apepper@wans.net or 303-779-1027.

Hot dates for your Summer Calendar !

June 6 (deadline May 25)
Denver Botanic Gardens

June 28 (deadline June 25)
Wild Birds Unlimited and Oliveto

July 6 (deadline June 26)
Cherry Creek Arts Festival

July 12 OR Aug 5 (by July 10 or Aug 3)
Whole Food Market Cooking Class

July 26 (deadline June 15)
Cherokee Ranch and Castle

August 11 (deadline Aug 4)
Sculpture in the Park—Loveland

August 16
Old Chicago THAC

August 29 (deadline August 8)
Fair Winds Hot Air Balloon Flight

Sept 25
Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition

Sept 26 (deadline August 17)
"MID-LIFE! The Crisis Musical"
Boulder Dinner Theater

FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

See the next *Connection* for September date and new location. We will send an e-mail as soon as things are finalized. If you aren't on our e-mail list, send your e-mail address to Adrean at apepper@wans.net to be added.

Late September/early October

Want to join us in Grand Lake to view the Fall colors? Your social committee is working on a possible weekend in late September or early October including an F.A.C. on Friday evening and theatre tickets in Grand Lake Saturday evening. Further information will be in our next *Connection* or contact Adrean Pepper at apepper@wans.net or 303-779-1027 if you are interested in joining us!



The JCEA-R Connection

Jefferson County Education Association
1050 Wadsworth Boulevard
Lakewood, CO 80214

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 8, Issue 4

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

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Spring 2007



■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ALL ABOARD at Union Station for the LoDo Tour! ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■