



The
JCEA-R

Connection

The Official Publication of the Jefferson County Education Association—Retired

Published Quarterly: September, December, March, June

New dates for your Calendar !

December 7 (deadline Nov 23)

Holiday Luncheon
Mount Vernon Country Club

January 10, Feb. 7 and Feb 22

Read Across America Meetings
Creighton Middle School

January 19

Discover Downunder + ThAC
Sydney Station

February 8

Critter Watching 101 + WAC
Wild Bird Center/Abrusci's

February 28 (deadline Feb 21)

Hammond's Candy Factory

March 2

Read Across America 2006

March 8 (deadline Jan 27)

"The King and I"
Boulder Dinner Theater

March 16

St Patrick's Day at Clancy's

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I am sending a GREAT BIG 'THANK YOU' to those of you who walked precincts, helped with mailings, waved signs, phone banked and participated in other activities on behalf of Referenda C and D. The passage of Ref C was huge but the state is not out of the woods yet. Stay tuned!

November 12, JCEA-R held its fall **Pre-retirement Seminar** with about 120 participants. As usual, it covered pertinent and important information for those JCEA members who are planning on retiring in the next year or so. I want to personally express my appreciation to **GAIL KNOWLES, DIANE HAMMOND-BLESSING** and **BETTY FLATEN** for all the time and effort they put into making this event a success. The committee that stages this seminar could use some additional members before the next one is held in the spring. If you would be willing to be a part of this important JCEA-R activity, please contact Gail Knowles at 303-428-0190, or gknowles2@earthlink.net.

As some of you may be aware, the school district is evaluating the early **retirement annuities** which those of us who retired in 1998 and later are receiving. Apparently, the district is finding itself in much the same situation as PERA did when the stock market went 'south' a few years ago. It has become a hardship to meet the district's commitment regarding payment of the annuities as they are now scheduled. JCEA is meeting with the district administration in an attempt to negotiate this issue. At this time nothing has been settled. We will keep you posted; and, of course, you will will receive a formal notification from the school district. If you have questions, please contact me at 303-985-3142 or drjohnson34@earthlink.net.

CEA Delegate Assembly is scheduled for April 27-29, 2006. Please consider being a delegate. By now all of you should be received a letter from CEA outlining the delegate nomination process. If you do plan to be a delegate, be sure to meet the deadlines. Nominations are due by 5:00 P.M. on December 9, 2005.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at Mount Vernon Country Club for the Holiday Luncheon on December 7th.

On behalf of your JCEA-R Executive Committee and Committee Chairs, here's wishing you and your families a very HAPPY AND BLESSED HOLIDAY SEASON!

Donna Johnson
JCEA-R President



— **Notes from your Membership Chairman** —

Membership renewals have been coming in steadily and to date our membership stands at an all-time high of 350!!! Isn't that wonderful????!! However, I do know that we have quite a few people who have not yet renewed. If you know of any of these people, please encourage them to get their membership renewal in - or new member form - whichever is their situation. None of the "non-renewal" people will receive this publication!! New members and renewals are accepted all year long, even though we try and get everyone signed up during the August-September membership drive period. Anyone who has credit cards or insurance or other accounts through Member Benefits, must be a member to keep that benefit. And, the companies are checking -- I've had several calls in the last few days. So remind people to be sure they are members!

My biggest reminder to any of you who are annual members (or not NEA Life members) is that the NEA portion of our dues **will double in 2006**. So, if you want to save some money, now would be a good time to upgrade to NEA Life. You can do that by sending a check made out to JCEA-R for \$85.00 — or if you want to upgrade to Triple Life,

and never owe anything again, you can send a check made out to JCEA-R for \$335 and be a Triple Life member. Note, these amounts are only for those who have already paid their annual dues for this year — these are upgrade amounts only. Renewing and New Members have many other options:
Annual member - \$40, (\$80 next year),
Triple Life Member - \$375, (\$475 in '06),
3-year plan Triple Life member- \$125.
If anyone has questions, or isn't sure of what they are, please have them call me at 303-423-5558.

I am now in the process of working on our **membership directory**. I hope to have it printed soon. If any of you who are members do not want to be included in the directory, you must let me know ASAP, otherwise, I will include everyone.

My email is pinkroses3@comcast.net and again, my phone number is 303-423-5558.

Happy Holidays to Everyone,
Lou Ann Elliott

— — — — **More Fall Notes** — — — —

On November 1, four **Jefferson County school board** members were elected. Three of them were recommended by JCEA -PAC. The fourth one was Sue Marenelli. She is a retired Jefferson County School teacher. Congratulations to Sue. Thank you all for getting out the vote and voting.

The fall **Pre-Retirement Seminar** was held on November 12th. We had 120 teachers registered. Things went well. The attendees received lots of information. The committee needs help with the spring seminar and the seminar for next fall. The three of us can't do it all. This would be a nice way to get involved in a short term activity. If you would be willing to be a part of this important JCEA-R activity, please contact me at 303-428-0190, or gknowles2@earthlink.net.
Gail Knowles

Deadline for the March JCEA-R Connection is February 15.
If you have suggestions or information to be included in the next issue, please contact the editor:



JCEA-R hikers have had incredible luck with the weather this fall, probably because it has been gorgeous most of the time.

On October 7th, six of us hiked the Meadow View Trail in Elk Meadows Park near Bergen Park. There were no elk, but some changing aspen and lots of blue sky.

November 1st found eight of us on the Apex Trail in the foothills near Heritage Square. The main sighting was a weasel — and again, lots of blue sky.

Think about joining us for some hiking in the future: snowshoeing, if conditions permit or “regular” hiking, if not.



The Denver Botanic Garden’s Corn Maze Trip was a glorious ‘summer day’. Our group, headed by fearless leader ‘Alice’, made it through the five acre maze in 35 minutes—the average being 45 minutes!



The maze design is created by the gardens staff each year and then sent to a professional corn maze designer. This year’s design was of three Columbines.

Out and About with JCEA-R

JCEA-R members participating in recent events including hikes,

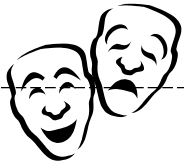
corn mazes, A Place at Forest Lawn, and being fabulously frightened during the murder mystery at the Lumber Barron Inn include new retirees and “old hands”: Carolyn Campbell, Jeanne Duffy, Cherylene Evans, Bonnie Hayes, Bill Hardt, Ron Hull, Carol Kaiser, Pamela Kniss, Dennis and Mary Ann Larsen, Rick and Snow Lopez, Marilyn Mallander, Alice Mufley, Adrean Pepper, Lindy Reed, Judy Turner, Merle Volk, Barbara Voth, John Young, and guests Beth Allen (all the way from Vermont!) and Nancy Sherman.

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

Read Across America, — — 2006 — —

Plans are underway for this year's **Read Across America**, which is scheduled for **Thursday, March 2, 2006**. On the birth date of Theodore "Dr. Seuss" Geisel, volunteers from JCEA-R and other service organizations will read to students in over 22 Jeffco elementary schools. The time commitment is minimal. In addition to March 2, we will meet in the auditorium at Creighton Middle School in Lakewood (contact Snow for directions) from 9:00-10:00 a.m. on January 10, February 7, and February 22 to organize our volunteers and provide information and materials, with a follow-up debriefing on March 7. These meetings are helpful but not mandatory, so please put March 2 on your calendar for this fun event.

We will contact last year's volunteers and members who expressed an interest in "educational activities" on the JCEA-R survey by phone or email as soon as we have scheduled our planning meetings. If you are an interested volunteer but not in either of these groups, or if you have questions, please contact Snow Lopez, snowful@netscape.com or 303-238-3434. Please include your e-mail address and phone number. Participants do not have to be members of JCEA-R, so feel free to invite a friend who may not be aware of this opportunity to share your love of reading with children.



JCEA-R/CARE Activities



Boulder Dinner Theater: *'The King and I'*
5:30 p.m.

\$37.00

Wednesday, March 8
Deadline: Fri, January 27

For CARE activities, send checks made payable to CARE to:
CARE, 1235 W 124th Ave, Suite #101, Westminster, CO 80234 Attn: Pat Baker

Discover Downunder and Thursday Afternoon Club

Have you ever dreamed of a trip to Australia, New Zealand, Fiji or any of the other Pacific Islands? If the idea has captured your attention, you have a chance to learn about trips "downunder" from a one of our JCEA-R members, Pamela Kniss. Whether you are interested in a tour or you want to pursue travel on your own, whether you want to focus on hiking or sailing or simply on lounging at the beach, whether you want to spend your days and nights at a resort or spend them camping in the Outback, this is the opportunity to hear from an expert on travel to the area.

Pamela's business, Discover Downunder, has been scheduling trips Downunder for 13+ years. She will meet with members and guests at **Sydney Station**, 11253 W. Colfax on **Thursday, January 19th** at 2:00 PM to give a presentation on trips to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. She can help you plan and book a trip individualized for your budget, time and interests.

To RSVP for the presentation, call Jeanne Duffy at 303-231-9598. Be sure to leave your name and your phone number and mention the activity for which you are responding.

Following the presentation, those interested may stay for a **ThAC (Thursday afternoon Club)** at 4:00 PM. Come for either or come for both. We hope to see you there.

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

Critter-Watching 101 and Wednesday Afternoon Club

Come join us in anticipation of spring. Meet other members and guests on **Wednesday, February 8th** at 2:00 PM in the **Wild Bird Center** at 3486 Youngfield for a class on attracting and feeding birds, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other critters in Colorado. We encourage city folks, as well as the folks with homes in the mountains, to attend. The session will include information on the habits of a variety of Colorado wildlife, on the use and care of feeders, on landscaping to attract birds and butterflies, and on other topics of your choice. The class structure guarantees plenty of Q&A time, so come with your questions.

Everyone attending will receive a store discount if you wish to make a purchase that day. We can also provide you with a certificate of attendance which you may wish to use for recertification. We ask that you RSVP if you wish to attend the class so we can prepare sufficient sets of materials to hand out, have enough seating available, and so we know whether you need a certificate of attendance. To RSVP for the class, call Jeanne Duffy at 303-231-9598 no later than February 1. Leave your name and phone number and mention the name of the activity for which you are responding.

Following our session, we will meet nearby at **Abrusci's Ristorante Italiano** for a **WAC (Wednesday Afternoon Club)**. Abrusci's, one of the favorite watering holes for retired teacher-type critters, is located at 3244 Youngfield. You do not need to RSVP for the WAC. We hope to see you for either or for both activities.



St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Please join us for our annual **St. Patrick's Day** celebration at **Clancy's**, 38th and Kipling, on **Thursday, March 16th** from 4:00-? We'll enjoy green beer and goodies in the company of other retirees—this is one of our most popular annual events and you'll want to be a part of it! Contact Adrean at 303-779-1027 for more information.

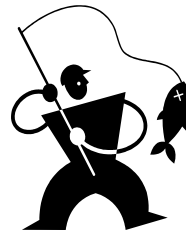
Catch An Old Fashioned Sugar High and BBQ

Join us for a **Hammond's Candy Factory** tour, 5735 N. Washington St. on **Tuesday, February 28th** at 10:00 AM followed by lunch at **Bennett's BBQ**, 52nd & Wadsworth.

Hammond's Candies of Denver, now entering its 84th year of business, offers delicious, delectable sweets that are STILL hand dipped, rolled and pulled. The candy has been featured in the Williams-Sonoma catalog, Gourmet Magazine and was voted, "One Of The Top Ten Fun Food Factories In The World" by THE TRAVEL CHANNEL. www.hammondscandies.com (for map)

RSVP to Marilyn Mallander by February 21st, 303-47-6327 or mmalland@comcast.net.

Fisherperson??



Are you a fisherperson? Do you still enjoy working with kids? There is an opportunity waiting for you at Windy Peak OELS! West Denver Trout Unlimited has been involved with the school since 1990. Sixth

grade team leaders work with the chapter's educational coordinators to schedule programs in fly tying/fishing while their students are doing their week of outdoor education. Membership in West Denver Trout Unlimited is a prerequisite for participation. A new membership costs \$17.50. We have programs starting this month. Your commitment for a program involves spending a day (7:30 AM - 4:00 PM) at the school tying flies in the studio and taking kids fishing in the pond. Breakfast and lunch is shared with the students in the dining hall. Come join us -- the pond is stocked with greenback cutthroat trout! If you would like to participate in this unique program contact Gary Blubaugh, gblubaugh@comcast.net, or 303-989-4464.



The JCEA-R Connection

Jefferson County Education Association
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Lou Ann Elliott, *Vice-President*
Marion Zietz, *Secretary*
Marge Bozarth, *Treasurer*

JCEA-R CONNECTION STAFF:

Charlotte Green, *Editor*
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We're on the Web!
www.jcea-cea.org

Next Issue —
Gather for lunch at Table Mesa Inn
in April and an activity to be decided
by luncheon attendees.



Best Wishes
for a
Merry Christmas



From the J C E A - Retired
Officers And Committee Chairs

