



# SAEYC NEWSLETTER

A Quarterly Newsletter published by SAEYC

Fall 2008 Edition

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008 - 2009**

### **PRESIDENT**

Patricia Gridley  
Cayuga Community College

### **PAST PRESIDENT**

Liddy Hintz  
Salvation Army

### **SECRETARY**

Fran Dulcich  
Onondaga Community College

### **TREASURER**

Penny Lupo  
Neighborhood House

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Ellen Barnes  
Jowonio  
Pam Borreggine  
Child Care Solutions  
Susan DeCarlo  
Merrick Head Start  
Nancy Gabriel  
Onondaga Community College  
Gail Gzik  
Group FCC Provider  
Christina Hann  
Success By 6  
Amy Philips  
Little Lukes Child Care Center  
Heather Poplawski  
North Syracuse Central Schools  
Barbara Ridley  
Child Care Advocate  
Phyllis Reicher  
Syracuse City School - Ret  
Nicole Smith  
Child Care Advocate  
Deborah Snyder  
Syracuse City Schools  
Daria Webber  
Bernice Wright Nursery School

### **HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS**

Carmelita Lomeo-Smrtic  
Mohawk Community College  
Patricia Martin  
Onondaga Community College

## **Message From Your President**

In keeping with tradition, the newly elected Board President always writes a “welcome” letter in the newsletter. Following Past President Liddy Hintz footsteps will not be easy, she is quite an eloquent writer but I’ll give it my best shot!

I should probably start with a little background information. I am a wife, mother, animal-lover, avid reader, college professor and an advocate for early childhood education. I have been on the SAEYC Board for five years; serving on the membership committee during most of those years. I feel fortunate to serve on the Board with such a wonderful group of dedicated, hardworking individuals who are committed to early childhood education and to the professionals who work in the field.

As I began to contemplate all the work that we have to do in the months ahead, I was reminded of a speech given by Angeles Arrien in 1991. The speech, “Lessons from Geese”, related factual information about the habits of Canadian geese to people and relationships. At one point, Ms. Arrien talked about geese flying in a “V” formation and how the formation gives the geese greater flying range; just like people who work together and share a common purpose and therefore find the job much easier to accomplish. I think we are much like those geese; we gain strength from one another and do a terrific job working together.

*Pat Gridley*

## **New Board Member Joins SAEYC**

My name is Amy Philips and I am happy to be a new addition to the Board of the SAEYC! I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, reading and always find time to shop! I am fortunate to have a caring family that supports me in all that I do!

I have been in the field of Early Childhood Education for the past seven years. Beginning at OCC, then to SUNY Oswego where I received my Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education. Recently I achieved a goal of graduating from Syracuse University with my Master’s in Early Childhood Special Education.

My experience working as an Early Childhood teacher at West Side Nursery School taught me that my true passion was working with children with special needs. I have been extremely lucky to have had the opportunity to work with many inspiring children, families and professionals. Sadly I am leaving West Side but excited to begin my role as a special education teacher at Little Lukes in their Integrated Preschool Program. I am looking forward to learning a new job while continuing to touch the lives of young children!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**SAEYC "Stone Soup Supper"****Date:** September 30, 2008 (Tuesday)**Location:** Onondaga Community College  
Whitney Atrium**Registration:** 6:00pm**Dinner:** 6:30pm**Featured:** "Where Do The Children Play?"  
Documentary Film and Discussion**Cost:** SAEYC Members - Free  
Students - \$5.00  
Non-members - \$15.00

Flyer for event is enclosed. Join us for a hearty discussion good food and networking. If you are not a member you can apply for membership at the event and receive \$5.00 off membership fee.

Bring a non-perishable item for the Salvation Army Christmas Bureau. Dinner and dessert provided by OCC catering students.

**SAEYC "Growing Together Conference"****Date:** October 19, 2008 (Sunday)**Registration:** 8:30am**Cost:** SAEYC Members - Free  
Students - \$15.00 with valid ID  
Non-members - \$25.00

Pre-registration will be required. Full day conference with morning and afternoon sessions. Flyers will be mailed in September.

## OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Vote For Books!****Date:** October 25, 2008 (Saturday)**Location:** Bellevue Elementary School  
530 Stolp Avenue, Syracuse, NY**Time:** 10:00am until 3:00pm**Cost:** FREE

United Way's Success By 6 - 2008 Children's Book Fest. An afternoon of storytelling, activities, reading and fun for the whole family! The purpose of this event is to engage children and families in literacy-related activities. Targeted towards children ages 2 through 10.

**NAEYC 2008 Annual Conference & Expo****Date:** November 5 - 8, 2008 (Wednesday - Saturday)**Location:** Dallas, Texas**Register:** on or before October, 17th**For information go to:** [www.annualconference.naeyc.org](http://www.annualconference.naeyc.org)

## Scholarship Money

SAEYC is pleased to offer its members who are pursuing a degree in early care and education an opportunity to apply for a scholarship to help fund their education. Two (2) scholarships in the amount of \$250 each will be awarded for the upcoming spring semester, 2009 - 2010. Applicants must meet the following qualifications:

- You must be a member of SAEYC or become a member with application for scholarship.
- You must already be enrolled or be enrolling for the upcoming spring semester in an Early Childhood Education undergraduate program.
- You must show proof of a "C" or better in Early Childhood Education courses. A valid transcript is required.
- You must intend to work in an early care and education setting upon completion of an undergraduate program or transferring to a 4 year school to complete a teaching degree.

For a copy of the application and any questions you may have, please email Fran Dulcich, Professional Development Committee chair at [F123@aol.com](mailto:F123@aol.com). An application can also be found on our web site at: [www.saeyc.org](http://www.saeyc.org).

**The Three Be's****Be a member.****Be informed.****Be involved.**

Web sites that will keep you informed and involved:

Champions for Children - [www.naeyc.org/ece/1996/06.asp](http://www.naeyc.org/ece/1996/06.asp) (become a Champion for Children)

Winning Beginnings - [www.winningbeginningny.org/](http://www.winningbeginningny.org/) (join to take a stand and lend your voice)

National Institute of Child Health & Human Development - [www.nichd.nih.gov](http://www.nichd.nih.gov) (great resource for ordering free materials)

## Documentary Film Asks “Where do the Children Play?”

A new documentary film, “Where Do the Children Play?” will be shown at the Stone Soup Supper, held at Onondaga Community College on September 30, 2008. This event is sponsored by SAEYC, with assistance from the U.S. Alliance for Childhood, a non-profit research and advocacy group that works for the restoration of play in children’s lives.

“Where Do the Children Play?” examines an issue of growing concern among pediatricians, mental health experts, educators, and environmentalists: more and more children are growing up today with little or no opportunity for unstructured play, especially outdoors.

The film grew out of Elizabeth Goodenough’s work on “secret spaces of childhood” at the University of Michigan. “Children need free time every day to discover their own abilities, desires, and limitations.” says Goodenough. “Open-ended exploration and play in woods, fields, vacant lots, or other semi-wild spaces enhances curiosity and confidence throughout life.”

A marked decline in children’s spontaneous and creative play is a key factor in their increasing mental health problems, according to a recent statement from an international group of educators and children’s advocates. They called for “a wide-ranging and informed public dialogue about the intrinsic nature and value of play in children’s healthy development.”

Their letter echoed a recent warning from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP): children have far too little time for unstructured play, which leads to increased stress in their lives. Causes of the demise of play cited by the group include parental fears of “stranger danger” and the explosion of electronic entertainment-to the point of addiction for some-in the lives of today’s children. These and other issues are explored in the film.

The lead author of the AAP report, Dr. Kenneth Ginsburg of the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, appears in the documentary, along with Richard Louv, author of “Last Child in the Woods”, British “playworker” Penny Wilson, and other experts in child development, psychology, and urban planning.

Most striking, however, are the scenes of children themselves engaged in the rapt state of self-directed play in their increasingly hectic lives.

The Alliance for Childhood at [www.allianceforchildhood.org](http://www.allianceforchildhood.org) is helping to promote this documentary as part of its national public awareness campaign, “Restoring Children’s Play”. The Alliance is helping cities across the country to form local play coalitions to address issues of access to open ended play and playful environments for all children. SAEYC will be joining the campaign and hopes to form a local play coalition to address issues of access to open-ended play and playful environments for all children.

Please join us at the Stone Soup Supper as we launch the program year. For more information about this screening of “Where Do the Children Play?” contact Nancy Gabriel at 498-2347.



### Member Votes Needed

The By-Laws of the SAEYC were reviewed at the last annual board retreat. The board decided that there was a need to add to *Article III: Membership* and include section *E* as follows:

“An honorary board member is defined as an individual who has significantly contributed to the field of early childhood education and continues to further the mission of SAEYC. A name can be submitted to the Board for nomination as an Honorary Board Member and must be approved by a majority of the existing board. Honorary Board Members will have no voting privileges.”

As part of our By-Laws this addition has to be voted on by current members of the SAEYC. We will be asking members to cast their vote at our next event which is the “Stone Soup Supper” (see page 2 of this newsletter).

Please review the above change the board wishes to include in the By-Laws and be prepared to “approve” or “disapprove” this change on Tuesday, September 30th.

Remember, this event as well as the “Growing Together Conference” are FREE to members of SAEYC.



Syracuse Association for The  
Education of Young Children  
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Syracuse, NY 13217

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## SAEYC New Members

### **Auburn**

Bonnie Hall

### **Baldwinsville**

Stephanie Misner  
Melody Morrison  
Amy Phillips  
Susan Wolken

### **Camillus**

Denise Brennan  
Kevin LaGrow

### **Cicero**

Kathleen Morgan

### **Clay**

Pamela Ranieri

### **Earlville**

Galina Peschel

### **Fulton**

Francine Latino

### **Hubbardsville**

Tammy Cook

### **Jamesville**

Sandra Powers

### **Liverpool**

Lisa Fingerman  
Cajsa Sheen

### **Middleport**

Natalie Anne Simons

### **Newport**

Jessica Chapman

### **Sauquoit**

Christine Spano

### **Syracuse**

Lisa Daiziell Bennett  
Celena Carlo  
Carly Lynn Polifroni  
Jernois Ridley

### **Utica**

Cami Wrench

### **Mission Statement**

The New York State and Syracuse Associations for the Education of Young Children support the development of professionals to promote quality care and education for the well-being of all young children and their families.

### **Statement of Purpose**

The purpose of the SAEYC is to serve and act on the behalf of the needs and rights of young children in focusing on the provisions of educational services and resources in adults who work with and for children from birth to age 8.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

To Cayuga Community College  
for earning NAEYC accreditation for  
their AAS degree in Early Childhood.

