



# SAEYC NEWSLETTER

A Quarterly Newsletter published by SAEYC

Summer 2008 Edition

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

### **PRESIDENT**

Liddy Hintz  
Salvation Army

### **PRESIDENT ELECT**

Patricia Gridley  
Cayuga Community College

### **TREASURER**

Penny Lupo  
Neighborhood House

### **SECRETARY**

Fran Dulcich  
Onondaga Community College

### **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

Heather Poplawski  
North Syracuse Central Schools

Kimberly Ray  
SU Student

Barbara Ridley  
Child Advocate

Phyllis Reicher  
Syracuse City School - Ret

Deborah Snyder  
Syracuse City Schools

Daria Webber  
Bernice Wright Nursery School

### **HONORARY MEMBERS**

Carmelita Lomeo-Smrtic  
Mohawk Community College

Patricia Martin  
Onondaga Community College

## **A Message From Your President**

In my farewell address I would like to briefly summarize our progress in the last two years. The Syracuse area has a large group of passionate providers in early care and education. We have strong higher education programs to educate providers in their very important role as early educators.

This association strives to improve the professional development of providers where they live. We have worked hard to provide opportunities throughout our region. As president I have been proud to lead the board as we ventured east and west, north and south to serve needs that were unmet. We work hard to reduce duplication and strive to provide quality professional development opportunities for our profession. I look back on two years of dedication in all of our board members, meeting monthly, and serving as committee chairs, sometimes as a committee of one. The work is hard, the road is sometimes lonely, and the reward is priceless.

As I step down as president and move into the role of past president I will also be leaving the field of Early Childhood Education. In my almost thirty year career in human services I have never met a group of people so dedicated to quality care, always keeping in mind the reason why, our communities children. I will always remember my years in this profession with pride and passion. I challenge you to continue to fight for quality that children deserve.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you. Thank you.

*Liddy Hintz*

## **New Or Renewing Members**

Just recently we have noticed many duplicate memberships in the NAEYC database. We reviewed these duplications with NAEYC and asked them to merge all members that showed up more than once into one membership. Then we reviewed why this could be happening.

What we found was that current or former members who are "renewing" are marking themselves as "new" members. When this happens they are set up as a "new" member and all their history of membership is lost.

We are asking members to please make sure that if they are "renewing" that they mark their application as "renewal". This includes members that have dropped out for a period of time and are coming back. Those that are brand new and have never been a member before should mark their application "new".

Help us keep your membership running smoothly.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

## Updates On Past Events

## SAEYC "Annual Membership Dinner"

**Date:** June 4, 2008 (Wednesday)**Location:** Rosamond Gifford Zoo**Time:** 6:00 - 9:00pm**Featured Speaker:** Thomas Lickona**Topic:** "Fostering the Character Development of Young Children"

*"As we begin a new century, we have a sharper sense of how much character matters. We need good character to lead purposeful, productive, and fulfilling lives. We need character to have strong and stable families. We need character to have safe, caring, and effective schools. We need character to build a civil, decent, and just society."*

Celebrate with us at our annual event when we introduce new SAEYC board members and say good-bye to outgoing board members. A night of fun, food, door prizes, silent auction and featured speaker Thomas Lickona. We will also present Susan Jones with the first Member of The Year Award. Those attending will receive a 1 hour training certificate.

For additional information or to read an excerpt from Thomas Lickona or to download a Registration form for this event go to our web site at: [www.saeyc.org](http://www.saeyc.org).

## Learn, Explore, Discover

Children aged 3-5 yrs are eager to try new things, and they learn a great deal from exposure to new thoughts and ideas. Our hope is that you enjoy your summer and help your children to explore and enjoy the world around them.

Ladybugs are "helper" insects because they feed on other insects such as aphids, which can harm plants. Invite your child to explore the world of insects through the eyes of a ladybug.

**Observation Tents:** These are easily constructed by cutting windows in opposite sides of a half-gallon milk container, then placing grass, leaves, and twigs inside the containers. Slide each container into the foot section of a cut off panty hose leg, place ladybugs in the containers, then pull the panty hose leg up over the sides of the containers and secure hose with a twist tie. Encourage your child to observe and discuss actions within the tents. Provide them with magnifying glasses and have them look for the legs and antennae of the insects or count spots?

**Books:**

The Grouchy Ladybug by Eric Carle  
The Very Lazy Ladybug by Isobel Finn  
Ladybugs by Mia Posada  
Ten Little Ladybugs by Melanie Gerth



On April 20th we hosted a very special event at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo where we invited puppeteer Tom Knight to perform in honor of the Week of the Young Child.

We had over 50 children and their parents join us for this FREE event. It received rave reviews and we would like to quote one of them from The Syracuse Moms Meetup Group who joined us on that day.

*"Our group love Tom Knight a lot. We've seen him several times already, either at libraries or at zoo events. He is very good with entertaining the children, interacting with them and makes the show very fun. You have chosen one of the best children's puppet masters. It was very worth it to have Tom Knight perform and we were lucky to find your event."*

We love this kind of feed back because it lets us know that we are sponsoring programs that support families.



Spring Institute 2008 was a success! The topic was "Conscious Discipline" presented by Cheri Sheridan, from Dr. Becky Bailey's Loving Guidance Inc.

Cheri was a phenomenal speaker! She presented brain research findings, Composure Choices, I Love You Ritual Songs, and actively engaged all participants. One attendee remarked that it was an "excellent workshop!"

We hope to see you at Spring Institute 2009!

## Moving On: Planning for Endings and New Beginnings

The end of the school year and summer brings transitions, to new classrooms or new schools. With these changes come many emotions for children, parents and teachers. It is important to offer opportunities for children to share their feelings. It helps children to know that we are also sad and excited, that we are proud of their accomplishments, that we will miss them, and that we will work on ways to stay connected. We can help the transition by highlighting how children have grown and developed skills to aid them as they move on to new settings. Here are some ideas.

### Messages We Want to Convey to Children:

- We will remember you.
- We have had a lot of fun in our classroom.
- Everyone has grown and gained new skills.
- We have built wonderful memories and friendships.
- Even though we are not together, we have our memories.
- Even when we are not together, we can contact each other.
- We can take our skills to help us succeed in our new school.



### Activities:

- Topics for Class Meetings: favorite activities of the year, what we like about our classroom, what I learned this year, how I grew this year (compare photos from fall to now, height charts), where each student will be going next year, read books about leaving school (see our web site for the complete list)
- Acting: How to make new friends
- Repeat favorite activities of the year
- Have a "Public School Week", where lunch is served on trays, "seat work", do announcements over the loudspeakers, gym class
- Ask parents to send in an item of clothing from last summer that is too small, to show how much the child has grown
- Read Byrd Baylor's book *Everybody Needs a Rock* and have each child (if age appropriate) select one from a dish of polished rocks to take home to remind them of this day
- Send home a **summer calendar** for parents to fill in with their child
- Make a page (photo, write name, draw picture, adult write address and phone number) for **Classroom Address Book** (to be copied for each child)
- Make a **Class Cookbook** where each child dictates their favorite recipe (e.g. how you make spaghetti) and draws a picture for the book; make copy for each family
- Take a **class picture** and copy for each child; each child decorate a frame
- Make a **class collage** including all the children and adults
- Take a **Memory Photo** of each child: bring out all the favorite dress-ups and props and let the child pick what

they want to be photographed in; have children dictate a sentence and include it in the memory book

- Make a **pillow case** or **t-shirt** for each person with the room logo on it (tie-dye or stencil; check dollar store for these purchases)
- Give each child half of a **soft felt shape** (a heart, or the symbol of your room), and tell them the other half will be kept in a special place in the room; when they look at their half they can remember you and know that you will be remembering them
- Vote on favorite songs and then make a **Songbook** with words for children to take with them (include your regular hello, clean-up and good-bye songs as well as the most loved school songs); sing favorite songs at circle time
- Make a **Life-book** where pictures taken over the year are placed out and each child can pick the ones he/she wants to include in the book, with dictated sentences, drawings, and other art work; use dollar store **photo albums** or put in the form of a **portfolio** in a contact paper covered cereal box; children can dictate sentences about their friends to add to the this
- Have a farewell luncheon or potluck cookout with family members (separate from the graduation ceremony); children can make some of the food for the party
- Plant a tree/bush on the playground in memory of your class; everyone helps dig the hole and you can also do this with parents at your farewell luncheon/cookout; take a picture of everyone around the tree
- Make decorations for graduation celebration, including a goodbye banner or mural with handprints and names of everyone in the class
- Make graduation hats or necklaces
- Graduation ceremony with: **slide show with music** or **video of the class** over the year; kids sing or sign favorite songs for parents; read a meaningful story about the community; awards or diplomas can be given.. "what we will remember about.."; gift from staff...class book or collage, staff inscribed favorite paperback kids' book
- Clean the room together and collect art and writing samples for each child to take home



For complete list of books to read with children about growing up and new schools go to [www.saeyc.org](http://www.saeyc.org).



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Education of Young Children  
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**We would like to WELCOME  
the following new members who have joined since our last newsletter.**

From Auburn  
Kathy Scozzari  
From Baldwinsville  
Susan Wolken  
From Clayville  
Niklya Pompani  
From Ilion  
Michelle List  
From Liverpool  
Peggy Howard  
Chris Schauer

From Oneida  
Nancy Burleson  
Holly Panebianco  
From Utica  
Aricca Arcuri  
Kelly DeGrace  
Roxann Jennings  
Becky Krebs  
Karen Kohl  
Theresa Leonard  
Marlaina Leone  
From Waterville  
Susan Tice

**SPECIAL REQUEST  
TO OUR MEMBERS**

In mid June we will be posting a link on our web site that will take members to a survey on Survey Monkey.

We are asking members to help us by completing and submitting this survey.

We will use the information to enhance membership benefits and services.

**www.saeyc.org**

**Slate of Officers**

The Governance/Nominating Committee would like to present the following slate of officers to be elected at the Annual Meeting held prior to the Annual Dinner on June 4, 2008.

**President** - Pat Gridley  
Cayuga Community College

**Past President** - Liddy Hintz  
Salvation Army

**Secretary** - Fran Dulcich  
Onondaga Community College

**Treasurer** - Penny Lupo  
Neighborhood House

We are always looking for fresh faces and new ideas to add to our diverse governing board. If you would like to become more involved, either as a Governing Board member or as part of an active committee, please contact Nancy Gabriel at gabrieln@sunyocc.edu or through our website at www.saeyc.org.

**OCC Foundation**

We are proud to be able to offer endowment scholarships to students enrolled in college who are taking professional courses in the field of child care and education. The following is an account of distributions by academic year:

2006 - 2007 Scholarship awarded to Joelle Harrison

2007 - 2008 Scholarship recipient will receive \$250

2008 - 2009 Scholarship in the amount of \$250 is pending

If you would like to find out more about this scholarship contact the administrative office of Onondaga Community College.