



SAEYC NEWSLETTER

A Quarterly Newsletter published by SAEYC

Summer 2009 Edition

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Phyllis Reicher

Retired Teacher

President's Message

It looks like summer is finally here - the temperature is rising, flowers are blooming, and children are playing outside. As we move towards the end of school, I have to wonder what families are planning for summer fun.

Although our two children are grown, my husband and I are fortunate to be Godparents to a few nephews and a niece - two are in their 20's, but one is five and another seven, just the right ages to do "fun" things!

Each year we try to do something "special" with our niece, Claire, who lives only a few miles away. Over the years we have done many fun things including picnics at the zoo, a visit to the M.O.S.T. followed by lunch in Armory Square, a day at the Skaneateles Fire Department Field Days, a day at the New York State Fair, and, of course, a Skychiefs Baseball Game.

As I began planning this years summer outing, I found some fantastic ideas for "day-trips" that don't require traveling too far from the greater Syracuse area. Refer to the article on page 3 for details. I'm not sure yet where we'll end up taking Claire, but maybe we'll see you there!!!



Patricia Gridley

Members

Please remember that in order to receive important e-mails and mailings from us, we need your correct information!!! If you have moved or changed your e-mail address you need to update your information or renew by logging onto www.naeyc.org/members/member.asp.

Enter your membership ID number which you can find on your address label from mailings you receive. Enter your password; if you have not made an account, use your first name just as you registered.

Once in, look on the right side screen and click on either **Change Information** or **Renew Membership**. Once you have chosen one of these links scan the information and change as needed. Then click on the update member info button and your updates should be complete.

We will then be able to update our database with your accurate information and be able to get important and timely information to you without any delays.

Remember to keep an eye out for information about a link to the Constant Contact e-mail service that we will be using to direct members to our *2009 Membership Survey* for you to complete.



Event Highlights

To mark the “**Week of the Young Child**”, SAEYC sponsored a performance by stunt comedian *Wacky Chad* at the Carousel Mall. Chad is a very energetic, funny young man who entertained crowds of onlookers that filled the seats in the atrium as well as watched from railings on all floors!

His most entertaining feats included artfully juggling clubs and knives, unicycle stunts and bouncing on a pogo stick over a shopping cart! He entertained with funny jokes and invited audience members to participate in many of his stunts. His entertaining performance reminded us of the lighthearted, playfulness of childhood!

Our last event before our summer break was the **SAEYC Annual Membership Dinner** which we held at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo. Our featured presenter was Regi Carpenter who entertained us with interactive stories.

The highlight of the evening was when Ann Rooney on behalf of County Executive, Joanne Mahoney presented recognition plaques to 10 Directors of accredited centers and an Associate Degree Program Director. This is a great achievement and we would like to list these NAEYC Accredited Centers and the Two-Year Degree Program:

- Agri-Business Child Development Center
Leonardsville, NY Director, Erica Gavett
- Bernice M. Wright Child Development Laboratory School
Syracuse, NY Director, Daria Webber
- Cayuga Community College AAS Degree
Auburn, NY Director, Patricia Gridley
- Cayuga Community College Pre-School Child Care Center
Auburn, NY Director, Elizabeth DeFurio
- Children’s Beginings
Syracuse, NY Director, Tricia Barbaglia
- Children’s Center of Oswego
Oswego, NY Director, Kathleen Lea
- Children’s Learning Center
Syracuse, NY Director, Michele Ferguson
- County North Children’s Center, Inc
Liverpool, NY Director, Beth Pastel
- Oneida Indian Nation Early Learning Center
Oneida, NY Director, Tricia Narolis
- The Children’s Center at Morrisville State College
Morrisville, NY Director, Jennifer Britton
- Upstate Day Care Center
Syracuse, NY Director, Clare White

We recognize your achievement and honor your hard work to accomplish this goal.

Announcing New Board for 2009 - 2010

Each year at our *SAEYC Annual Dinner* we introduce new board members joining us. This year we welcome:

- Darcy Barber, Assistant Teacher at Cayuga Community College Child Care Center
- Arlene Brouillette, Infant/Toddler Specialist at Mid York Child Care Coordinating Council
- Kim Cuipyo, Director of Erie Canal Kids
- Kristin Hogan, Teacher at Bernice M. Wright Nursery School
- Mona Ivy-Sota, Assistant Professor at Cazenovia College
- Peggy Liuzzi, Executive Director of Child Care Solutions
- Scott Vinciguerra, Ed.D. Assistant Professor at Cazenovia College
- Clare White, Director of Upstate Child Care Center

Each year we also lose board members who move on to work on other projects. This year we say good-bye to:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Susan DeCarlo | Heather Poplawski |
| Gail Gzik | Nicole Smith |
| Amy Philips | Marina Vasquez |

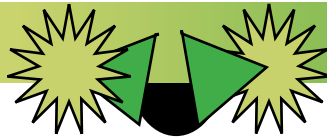
We know Nicole Smith will be leaving us to go to Armenia with her husband to teach in the Peace Corps and Gail Gzik leaves us to commit more time to finalizing her education at SU. Whatever the reason we would like to thank these board members for their hard work and dedication to SAEYC.

On a happy note two board members that would be leaving us have agreed to remain on the board as Honorary Board Members. Pam Borreggine and Phyllis Reicher. Phyllis has been on the Board of the SAEYC since 1974 which is only as far back as our records go. In addition to providing historical information about the Board, Phyllis was instrumental in developing our “Spring Institute” and has been doing our bulk mailings for years. Phyllis has been an invaluable member of the Board and we are fortunate that she will remain active as an Honorary Board member, between her world-travels and gardening!

To find out more about our Board go to www.saeyc.org.

SAEYC will be using
Constant Contact to provide
information to members via e-mail.

We will be using this service to send
our *SAEYC Membership Survey*
that we ask members to complete.



Day-Trips

If you're looking for "fun" activities for the summer the following information will give you some ideas for low-cost adventures for children and families.

If you want to travel east, Fort Rickey in Rome (www.fortrickey.com) should be on your list. Fort Rickey is known as the "Children's Discovery Zoo" with opportunities for children to see live animals up-close during special demonstrations.



If you travel farther east, you will find the Herkimer Diamond Mines (www.herkimerdiamond.com). A great place to visit if you like the outdoors. In the mines you can prospect for "Herkimer Diamonds" and keep what you find! Visit the on-site museum before you start digging.

Continuing east, near Cobleskill you can visit Howe Caverns (www.howecaverns.com) for an adventure in touring these caverns or taking a boat ride on the "Underground Lake of Venus". Located across from the caverns is a place you can participate in gemstone mining.



If you want to travel south, make sure you visit the Science Center in Ithaca (www.sciencenter.org). Advertised as being a place where children can "look, touch, listen and discover". Truly a children's museum with tons of hands-on activities.

Traveling to the west takes you to the Rochester Museum and Science Center (www.rmhc.org). Another hands-on museum for hands-on activities. The center also has films, shows, camps and family programs.

If you travel north, stop at Thunder Island in Fulton (www.thunder-island.com). This water park includes miniature golf and go-karts; children under 3 are free.

A little further north is Seaway Navigation in Brewerton (www.seawaynavigationandtours.com) which offers "Pirate Cruises" for children on select days throughout the summer; be sure to come dressed in your "pirate gear".

So what ever you plan make sure you add "fun" to the mix. Bring a camera to capture memories, then turn your photos and mementos into a scrap book. Children will remember these special trips they enjoyed when they are planning their children's special trips years later.

Preschoolers as Scientists

Children are natural investigators, filled with a curiosity about materials and changes in their world. Science is a process that starts with observing and using all the senses. Children construct physical knowledge by feeling, tasting, smelling, digging, pushing, pulling, throwing and so on. Information they gain is from observing similarities and differences and constructing logical relationships between objects they encounter. Like adults, children experiment, acting on materials in their world and drawing conclusions about them. They are "doing science" all the time as they paint, cook, build and explore.

To support children as scientists, adults need to create environments that encourage exploration and opportunities to problem-solve, with hands on concrete experiences. We must create a "culture of inquiry" that encourages children to think about their world. This is done by promoting reflection, when we ask children about their ideas and accept those ideas without judgment. This is done by promoting analysis, when we ask children details by asking "What if ...?", "How do you know?", "Why do you think so?"; we limit children's thinking when we correct them, cut them off or tell them what to do.

Summer brings wonderful opportunities to "do science" outside. We can make outdoors a classroom extension, where children can explore with their senses, investigate and solve problems, engage with and appreciate the natural world. Nature is healing, and for children, participating in outdoor activities can be a source of learning in many areas. Richard Louv eloquently argues the importance of exposure to nature in his book *The Last Child in The Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature Deficit Disorder*. He states "Time in nature is not leisure time; it's an essential investment in our children's health (and our own)."

Research shows that time outdoors alleviates symptoms of ADHD, develops motor competencies and physical fitness as well as produces richer symbolic play. We can add a variety of open-ended outside activities; engage children in in-depth explorations that tie in literacy, math and science learning. We consciously develop children who have a conservationist habit of mind, and who see themselves as lovers and preservers of our habitat.

For a list of some outdoor science ideas to try this summer along with a poem called *An Operational Definition of Science* by Evelyn Smith click on the **Services** section of our current web site at www.saeyc.org.



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Current Resident or:

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

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| From Atlanta
Dustan Sweely | From East Syracuse
Jessica Ellis
Lindsey Marie Sternberg | From New Hartford
Jenifer Bowman
Justina Calenzo | From Syracuse
Sheila Mauree Campolieta
Christina Mari Feldman
Jocelyn Teres Gushlaw
Sheneza Jonas
Karen Moore-Guillaum |
| From Auburn
Chantell Dale
Jenna Longo
Ashley Simmons
Kimberly Thompson | From Fulton
Mary Ann DeMar
Thania Reyone | From New York City
Ohilda Peromo | From Utica
Deborah Wilson-Allam |
| From Baldwinsville
Linda Carole Barnes
Becky Engles
Brian Monica | From Hamilton
Denise Dinski | From Oneida
Nicole Marie French | From Venice Center
Ann Marie Stevens |
| From Buffalo
Heather Rosa Hodson | From Little Falls
Heather Cummings | From Oswego
Eileen Ensworth | From Phoenix
Madeline Turco |
| From Camillus
Theresa Cole | From Liverpool
Kristen Merwarth
Christine Schauer | From Phoenix
Madeline Turco | From Rome
Brittany Bogaert
Krista Hartman |
| From Central Square
Kara Cangemi | From Manlius
Katie Stringer | From Rose
Samantha Converse | From Wahiawa
Nicola Rachea Prince |
| From Croghan
MaryAnn Haigh | From Marcellus
Sharon Morgan | | From Washington Mills
Amy Michelle Benoit |
| | From North Syracuse
Christine Woods | | From Waterloo
Amanda Peterson |
| | | | From Whitesboro
Danielle Elizabeth Colburn |



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.

SAEYC
will celebrate its
75th
Anniversary
in 2010