GGEA 2019 RETIREMENT TRIBUTE

The GGEA Retirement Honorees were recognized during a retirement tribute at the Garden Grove Community Center on Thursday, June 6, 2019. We honor these certificated employees and appreciate their service to our district. We wish you all much happiness in this next chapter of your life!

Retirement Tribute

President’s Message

Fountain Valley Triathlon

Jordan Intermediate Dance Team

IMAD Winners

Garden Grove Education Association

Retirement Tribute 2019

Thursday, June 6, 2019, 3:30 p.m.
Garden Grove Community Center, 1300 Stanford Avenue
Performance by the Bolsa Grande High School Jazz Ensemble
Directed by John Miller
Retiree prizes donated by: Hand & Stone Spas and Zaca Mesa Winery – Santa Ynez Valley, PJ Schoolder Sales Rep

Presentations by:
- GGEA President-Kelly Nolan
- Superintendent-Stv. Gabriela Mafi
- GUSD School Board
- CTA/OECC Retired Chair-Carole Comparsi
- Assembly Member Tyler Step
- Congressmen-Eric Correa
- Supervisor-Ashley Saad
- City of Garden Grove, Mayor-Steven E. Jones
- Garden Grove Unified School District
- Garden Grove Education Association

We honor these certificated retirees:

- Arnon Akerboom
- Julie Biedman
- Linda Brown
- Lisa Chella
- Cynthia Chorpenning
- Elaine Elads
- Lucy Farmer
- Jennifer Gise
- Linda Helgevold
- Terry Hendrix
- Julie Jarnagin
- Mark Landman
- Victoria Miller
- Jodee Presten
- Susan Reynolds
- Lori Rice
- Marta Russell
- Jennifer Sciutto
- Barbara Sheldon
- Polliann Shinnin
- Judith Smith
- William Welker
- Lori Wheaton

Congratulations on your Retirement

Retirement Committee: Deso Jepsen, chair
Linda Carrell, Nicki Cresswell, Darlene Chapman and Terry Vosper
My first year as GGEA President is coming to an end. I have many to thank for their support during this year. Thank you to:

**My Associate Staff** – Susan Kaylor and Jenny Gonzalez, for your patience, and understanding during my transition from the classroom to an office environment but most of all your knowledge of GGEA past practices and Procedures.

**Executive Director** – Armon Akerboom, for your wealth of experience as an outstanding GGUSD teacher, TOSA, bargaining chair and a past GGEA President, as well as being an honorable person. One can’t ask for a more experienced person than this. Paul Kim, for your vast union experience, humor, and being a sounding board. I enjoy sharing my knowledge and experience of being a teacher with you.

**Members & Association Reps** - for continuing to belong to GGEA Post Janus, strengthening GGEA to be a strong, unified advocating body for teachers and students, and for ensuring that the rights of our members are protected. Please continue to give me feedback and advice in the coming year.

**Board of Directors** - for your commitment to your elected position while working full time in the classroom, your candor and guidance as I learned the “how” of my position.

**Committee Chairs** – for taking on the leadership role of your committee, organizing, and planning around issues which promote our profession and advocate for our students.
In May, Matt Olsen (Ralston), Chrissie Leong (GGHS), and Kim Dos Santos (GGHS) all completed the Fountain Valley Triathlon together! The race was long but supporting each other made it much more enjoyable!

Advocate Editorial Staff:
Willie Burghard, Sara McCarthy, Kelly Nolan, Susan Kaylor

Contributors this Month:
Chrissie Leong, Duyen Tong
Jordan Intermediate’s Intramural Dance Team

Jordan Intermediate’s intramural dance team, known as JDC, brought home a Gold Medal First Place Award in the Hip Hop Division at Showstopper in Anaheim. Not only was this JDC’s first prestigious dance competition, but this was also the team’s first time being awarded a full scholarship to compete amongst other teams in the county. Led by their GGUSD home-grown coach, Dorothy Ho of Charade Dance, these young dancers committed endless hours of their time and effort to this pursuit. With dedication and grit, these dancers learned that nothing is impossible!
POLLIANN SHIMMIN: GGEA would like to congratulate our April IMAD winner, Polliann Shimmin, for her commitment to building strong relationships with students, families and community.

Polliann began working for Garden Grove USD in 1986 at Parkview Elementary, then Carver School and is currently at Allen Elementary in her 33rd year of teaching, she will retire this June. At present, she is the Resource Specialist at Allen, she has always believed in building strong relationships with students, colleagues, and other members of the community.

Polliann states, “that every day is new and different at an elementary school, it takes a large group of people to run it smoothly and safely for both students and staff. I have always volunteered to do whatever needs to be done to get through another successful day.”

A few of Polliann’s volunteer projects have included reconditioning gently used bicycles to give to children in the community, collecting and delivering clothes and furniture to families who were starting over out of shelters. She also works as an “advocate for children within Orange County’s foster care system and children with special needs and their families.” Polliann was motivated by the needs of her school community of students and their families to become more involved. She is beloved and respected by all of her school community.

CHERIE LETCHER: Cherie Letcher is a graduate from the University of Maryland, College Park. (Go Terps!) and moved to California to go into Advertising. But after hearing the Michael Jackson song/Gandhi quote, “Man in the Mirror”/“Be the change in the world you wish to see,” she left her job as a Marketing Director to attend Cal State Fullerton to earn her teaching credential. Cherie began teaching in GGUSD at Bell Intermediate then moved to Garden Grove High School where she was a Girls League & Boys League Advisor and Activities Director. When she moved to Jordan Intermediate to teach math, her students expressed an interest in learning how write the way she wrote on the board, so she began the Calligraphy Club, teaching both students and staff members the classic “Monotype Cursive” style of calligraphy. She then had the opportunity to teach an Introduction to Art elective which opened the door to other art opportunities for both herself and the students. She eventually changed the Calligraphy Club into Art Club so student artists could socialize, share ideas, teach one another and feel connected. Cherie's Art Club contributes so much to the school. Art Club members felt like they were part of an important team as they transformed our Multi-Purpose into New York City for musicals like Annie & Guys & Dolls, a traditional street with Victorian styled homes with white picket fences & gas lamp posts, and China for Mulan. The students actually painted two 25 foot long dragons for Mulan in addition to Chinese gardens, symbols of prosperity, creating paper mache boulders, and more! When the students aren’t working on musicals, they use their artistic skills to create ornaments and cards for senior citizens at local assisted living homes. They have also created holiday cards for the Jordan staff. Many of her students have showcased their work at local showings including the Orange County Fair and the Laguna Festival Art Fair. Her time and dedication to her students have had a tremendous impact on our students.