



NEWSLETTER of the Joliet Township High Schools

RETIRED TEACHERS

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JJC CRONIN SCHOOLHOUSE

There is an opportunity for JTHS retirees to assist at Joliet Junior College's Cronin School, a one-room building that is housed on the JJC campus. **Russ Ghilain**, a retired teacher from JT West and Central campuses is seeking docents to assist in presentations to visiting students who stop at the school as part of field trips to JJC. The docent position is a paid job through the Junior College. Russ states that they usually have 3-5 people assisting with the school presentations but recently went from two people to one. The docent would present historical information related to education in a one-room school and specific information related to the Cronin School. They would greet visitors and answer guest inquires, communicate matters pertaining to the maintenance of the schoolhouse and the overall field trip program with colleagues and the supervisor. A docent may work from 0-12 hours per week but part-time staff are allowed up to 28 hours per week. The schoolhouse would be one of 4 activities in which visiting field trip groups would participate. These would also include a self-guided nature trail, planetarium and lunch. The schoolhouse presentations would usually last between 15 to 30 minutes with no more than 4 schoolhouse presentations scheduled per day. This sounds like a great opportunity for retirees who would be very qualified to host the visiting field trip groups but not consuming a great deal of preparation or time. The job posting can be found online on the JJC website under Schoolhouse Docent. If you have questions Russ can be contacted at rghilain@comcast.net or (815) 280-2525. He will be able to give particulars about the position to people interested in applying. Russ has recently secured pay for this position through the Junior College Foundation. It is near minimum wage but can be changed depending on education, experience, etc.

According to Russ the docents work usually 12 hours or less per week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Four groups or less on any given day and the sessions start at 10:15 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 12 noon. Russ became interested in this project years ago because his mother, Marie, taught in the Cronin School in 1928-29 before her marriage.

Deaths

• **John Corradetti**, Age 94 of Joliet, passed away Sunday, November 24, 2019 at his late residence surrounded by the love of his family. John was born in Chicago Heights, IL and attended Bloom Township High School. After graduation, he served in the U.S. Navy during WWII, where he worked as a radio calibrator for the Allied ships in Okinawa. While stationed in Boston for a short time, he met the love of his life, Yolanda who became his wife of 68 years. Upon completion of his service, he moved back

to Illinois where he continued his education, receiving a Business Administration degree at Illinois State University, and a Master's degree from Northwestern University. After teaching a few years at Joliet Township High School, he taught Business Education at Joliet Junior College and later became Business Department chairman. During his 42 years of teaching, John was proud to have taught over 10,000 students, and he touched the lives of so many more. As a leader at the college, John recognized the need for fair business practices for its faculty. He served as a teachers' union board member and union president for several years, securing health benefits and collective bargaining rights for JJC staff and all public employees. For his service, John was the recipient of several JJC awards, including the Susan H. Wood Award. After his retirement, he continued to assist his colleagues by forming the JJC Annuitants Association. John worked with others to make sure members understood the financial transition from working to retirement. He worked tirelessly to understand the state's laws dealing with the SURS pension system, and he developed and published a guide instructing surviving faculty spouses concerning state pension system procedures. For seven years, he published quarterly newsletters for JJC retirees. John's legacy currently continues with the John and Yola Corradetti Endowed Scholarship at Joliet Junior College, which provides financial aid for students majoring in business. John was known for his love of the game of golf. He served as a caddy in high school at the Homewood Flossmoor Country Club and for decades, you could find John golfing every Sunday morning at Woodruff or Inwood with many of his colleagues and friends. In his spare time, John loved to paint, garden, read, and travel. However, his favorite passion was his family. Nothing made him happier than a house full of family, where spaghetti, lasagna, meatballs or taffy apples were served on a regular basis. He was a member of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, St. Paul Paulites, Veteran of Foreign Wars, KSKJ, and The Old Timers.

• **Priscilla M. Curran**, age 93, of Downers Grove and formerly of Joliet, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at the OakTrace Retirement Community surrounded by her family. She was born July 16, 1926 in Janesville, WI. Priscilla attended St. Mary's Grade School and Janesville High School where she graduated with the class of 1944. She continued her education at the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater where she was a member of the Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority, graduating class of 1948. Priscilla was a teacher in Freeport, IL, when she met the love of her life, Richard, and they were married August 18, 1951. Throughout her teaching career, she taught at Joliet Junior College, Joliet Township High Schools, and Freeport High School. She was one of the founding educators of JJC North Campus in

Bolingbrook and was a long-time substitute teacher and night school teacher with the JTHS system. Priscilla retired after many years of dedicated service as an educator and enjoyed 20 years of retirement with her husband before his passing, spending the cold winter months in sunny Siesta Key Florida. She was a devoted parishioner of the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus for many years and was involved in the St. Raymond's Women's Club and Eucharistic Ministry. Priscilla was also very active in her community and spent countless hours involved in the St. Joseph Hospital Auxiliary and the Women of Rotary.

• **Terrance Gebhardt.** "Terry" age 61, passed away Friday, November 29, 2019 at Alexian Brothers in Elk Grove Village, IL. Born in Joliet, a lifelong resident of Ingalls Park. Terry worked in the Maintenance department at Joliet West High School. He was an avid Chicago Cubs fan, and enjoyed playing baseball. His grandchildren were his love, and Terry was the Best Papa.

• **Brian L. Lynch,** age 67, of Joliet, passed away peacefully on Thursday, October 17th with his loving family by his side. Brian was born on March 30, 1952 in Joliet. He attended Pershing Elementary, Hufford Junior High, and Joliet West High School graduating in 1970. High school is where he deepened his love for playing baseball and football, but also where he met his wife, Lorna. Although being a Tiger on the undefeated 1968 JT West football team was a highlight of his high school career, his finally asking Lorna to go on a date with him to a basketball game and dinner at the Skylark, was most certainly the greatest moment of those years. After high school, Brian attended The University of Dubuque playing football for the Spartans. Brian and Lorna were married on August 4, 1973 at First Presbyterian Church in Joliet and lived in Dubuque, Iowa until Brian graduated in 1974. Brian's first job was teaching Earth Science and coaching football and girls' basketball at Walsh Junior High in Ottumwa, Iowa. His dream was to teach and coach at his alma mater so when the opportunity came in 1979, Brian and Lorna moved back to Joliet where Brian continued his career with Joliet Township High Schools, teaching at East, Central, and West campuses. Brian earned his Masters Degree in Sociology from Governors State University. Prior to retiring from JT in 2016, Brian coached football, baseball, and softball emphasizing a team philosophy. He always strived to make a difference for his students; caring for them and working tirelessly to not only help them learn a subject matter, but to become better individuals. Brian developed a deep fondness for photographing his grandchildren, old barns, planes, wildlife, sunsets and any other inspirational subjects. He loved printing his photographs to make collages for his grandkids to hang in their bedrooms and often sent prints to family and friends.

• **Donald (Don) Nichols,** age 85, of Joliet, passed away on Thursday, January 9, 2020, at the Joliet Area Community Hospice Home. He was born in Crete, IL Don resided in Joliet most of his life. Don retired from Joliet West High School where he served as Athletic Director. He was the former Chemistry/Physics teacher and Athletic Director at Joliet East High School, a career spanning 34 years. Don was instrumental in coaching basketball and golf, Don started the Will County High School Golf Tournament that still bears his name today. Don loved to travel and enjoyed golf, woodworking and fishing.

• **Barbara Joyce Racich,** age 81 passed away on November 16, 2019. She was a Para-pro in AVAC at JTHS Central retiring in 2018 with 29 years of service. Well respected by her colleagues. She will be sorely missed by those who worked with her.

JTHS Foundation

On Nov. 5, 2019, the JTHS Foundation awarded \$31,248.81 in grants to students and teachers at JTHS West and JTHS Central, providing funds for educational materials and enhancements that are not funded in the regular school budget. To raise money for these grants and the over \$40,000 in scholarships to be awarded in May of 2020, the Foundation hosts a trivia event and a golf outing. The trivia event, Revisit the 20th Century, will be held Sunday, March 8, 2020 at the Holiday Inn Ballroom, 1471 Rock Creek Blvd in Joliet at 3PM. To sponsor the event or to reserve a table, contact Mark Turk, 815-922-4065 or mlturk05@comcast.net. The golf outing will be held at Inwood Golf Course on June 18, 2020 and reservations and sponsorships can be made with Mark Turk also. Also for fund-raising, the Wall of Honor plaques and the Buy-a-Brick programs are still available to honor alums, classes or community members.

At its January meeting, the Foundation board was pleased to welcome new member, Jeff Barnes, a JTHS West alum. New board members are still being sought. Please contact Mark Turk if you are interested in joining the board.

And Finally...

Stop me if you've heard these.

- Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The Ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.
- A jumper cable walks into a bar. The bartender says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything."
- A woman has twins and gives them up for adoption. One of them goes to a family in Egypt and is named "Ahmal." The other goes to a family in Spain; they name him "Juan." Years later, Juan sends a picture of himself to his birth mother. Upon receiving the picture, she tells her husband that she wishes she also had a picture of Ahmal. Her husband responds, "They're twins! If you've seen Juan, you've seen Ahmal."
- A dyslexic man walks into a bra.
- A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm and says: "A beer please, and one for the road."
- Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the other: "Does this taste funny to you?"
- Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail and with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath. This made him. (Oh, man, this is so bad, it's good...) A super calloused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.
- And finally, there was the person who sent twenty different puns to his friends, with the hope that at least ten of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did!

The next issue of this newsletter will be published at the end of April, 2020. It will only be available in a PDF version or on-line. If you are not on the e-mail list, send us your address. The newsletter will also be available on the JTHS home page. If you do not have an internet connection please send \$4.00 to Alice Henderson to cover mailing costs for two years. Keep the news and feedback coming as we all like to hear from and about former colleagues. Please send information to:

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