



**“Literature of Genocide”**

**Two sessions presented at the high school**

On Tuesday and Thursday,



January 16th and 18th, Dr. Bernard Weinstein of Kean University presented two

sessions dealing with genocide through prose and poetry. Dr. Weinstein’s two hour sessions were provided through a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities Teacher Grant fund, an extension of the Council’s statewide Teacher Institute program.

The Council is a registered provider for the 100 hours of continuing education. Participants received credit for the four hours plus a stipend for attendance at both sessions.

Three areas covered were the Holocaust, the Armenian genocide of 1915-1919 and Cambodia from 1975-1979 with the primary focus on the Holocaust.

A wide variety of articles were provided dealing with the discussed areas along with a book, Images from the Holocaust, A Literature Anthology.

On Tuesday, a short history of anti-Semitism was presented before going into the main areas. Thursday was a discussion of three pieces of literature. The first was

Lemon” which concerned conditions in the ghetto and how people were forced to survive. The second selection, “Lest Innocent Blood be Shed”, dealt with helping the Jews move through Nazi occupied France to freedom. The final selection was “Butterfly”. This was a short poem describing what would never be seen by the children in the death camps.

Those in attendance from the high school were Joe Blanchfield, Jeff Bronico, Laura Burck, Melissa Culp, Andy Herbster, Diane Larena, Carol Mertz, Doug Morris, Mike Piancone, Don Smith and Gerry Smith.

Teachers from the middle school were: Barbara Alderfer, Jen DiBiase, Zena Fialkowski, Mike Hinkle, Alice Romberger and Marlene Sharpe.

Dr. Weinstein conducted a five day seminar this past summer under the auspices of the Council for the Humanities at Monmouth University. It dealt with the same subject and was attended by Morris and high school librarian Nancy Butow. He has also co-authored a book about the Holocaust with survivor Margit Feldman.

**How about some humor!**

President-elect Bush wants to eliminate the need for foreign oil. He wants to start drilling in Mexico.

I’m not into working out. My philosophy: No pain; no pain I always wanted to be somebody, but I should have been more

**Legislative Program**



**Pensions**

**Lowered Vesting**

NJEA supports legislation that would reduce vesting requirements from 10 years to five years under state-administered public employee retirement systems.

**Pop-Up Survivor Option**

This legislation provides an additional retirement allowance option for TPAF and PERS. Under this option, a member’s pension benefit would be restored to maximum should his or her spouse die before the member.

**Pension Credit for**

**Temporary Service**

This bill permits purchase of temporary service credit in TPAF and PERS even if that service was not contiguous with permanent employment.

**PERS Death Benefits**

This bill establishes death benefit coverage parity for PERS with TPAF.

**NJEA opposes:**

NJEA opposes any initiatives to legislatively target pension investment or to change the calculation of benefits into full- and part-time accounts. NJEA also will oppose bills to raise employee co-payments and deductibles in the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP), establish medical savings accounts, and eliminate the surcharge paid by non-SHBP group health insurance vendors.

**OFFICERS:**

<b>President:</b> John Pokrivchak Middle School	<b>Vice-President:</b> Doug Morris High School	<b>Treasurer:</b> Barbara Alderfer Middle School	<b>Recording Secretary:</b> Debbie Carty Freeman School	<b>Corresponding Secretary:</b> Linda Snyder Andover-Morris
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# President's Letter

In March, The National Education Association will again celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss through the annual "Read Across America" project. Research has shown that a child's reading ability plays a major role in the student's success in other academic areas. Parents and teachers who encourage reading in the child's early years are helping to prepare that student for success in high school and college. Reading is an important skill that a person can use throughout a lifetime of learning.

This year, Reading Across will be celebrated in the Phillipsburg School District through a variety of activities. Librarians will be meeting this month to organize their activities, in their respective buildings, and we should be hearing about their plans in the near future. You may wish to contact your librarian to offer your time and effort for this worthwhile event. And if you volunteer to help, you may get to wear one of those cool cat hats.

## Fact or Fiction?

**Fiction:** The PTA is a tool of teacher unions.

**Fact:** This had to be dreamed up by someone who never attended a PTA meeting. I ought to know. I am not only a PTA veteran, but I hold the National PTA's Distinguished Service to Children Award.

**Fiction:** Public educators are afraid of competition. That's why they oppose charter schools and vouchers.

**Fact:** Only a nitwit public educator would favor vouchers, which suck funds from public school systems. Voucher is another way of spelling "segregation"--this time along class



**PEA President John Pokrivchak (center) and Treasurer Barbara Alderfer (right) present the \$1650 food drive check to Cathy Rummel (left) representing**

lines. Even the charter school movement is hardly the howlingsuccess predicted. Been to Arizona? Checked Michigan test scores?

**Fiction:** Entering test scores prove public schools don't adequately prepare students for college.

**Fact:** Any senior can take the SAT or the ACT. As many as 17 percent of those taking the SAT never had earned above a C in their classes. The College Board, which owns the SAT, decries constant misuse of test data by critics with an anti-public education agenda. The SAT score on reasoning just hit a 25-year high. Three out of four test takers this year scored higher than the national average. The ACT is at a five-year high. (My dream is to someday give the ACT exam to members of Congress!)

*By Frosty Troy*

## Meet them:

### The "Standards Board"

*Teaching staff members --* Ed Carpenito of Rumson, Michael Cohan of Union Township, Victoria B. Duff of Toms River, Carl E. Fratz of Penns Grove-Carneys Point Regional, Pamela Garwood of Bridgeton, Susan Heinis of West Essex, Cheryl Johnson of Garfield, Donna Puluka of Hunterdon Central Regional, Bruce Peragallo of Edison, and Cheryl Roeser of Ramapo-Indian Hills.

*College representatives --* Gloria

Castucci of Seton Hall University and Ana Maria Schuhmann of Kean University.

*District administrators --* Elementary school principal Louis Della Barca of Egg Harbor Township, Wanaque Superintendent Patrick J. Pelosi, and elementary school principal Bruce Segall of Mahwah.

*School board members --* Dennis DeGroat of Stillwater and Anne Thomas of Piscataway.

*Members of the general public --* Carlo Parravano, director of the Merck Institute for Science Education, and Wendi Webster O'Dell of North Hanover, education commissioner for the N.J. PTA.

## Association Reps:

### Andover-Morris:

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### Barber School:

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### Freeman School:

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