

Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children

MASS LINKS

Linking Educators in the Commonwealth

Patricia Cronin is Presented the Gwen Morgan Emergent Leadership Award

The Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children presented Patricia Cronin, Director of Catholic Charities Metro East, the 2006 Gwen Morgan Emergent Leader Award on April 7, 2006. This award is given on a yearly basis to an individual who has taken advantage of a leadership opportunity to improve the quality of care for children and families, or to advance workforce and professional development opportunities for early education and care professionals. This is an individual who has been able to look down the road, as Gwen has throughout her career, and impact the future based on vision and determination.

Thirty-four years ago, Pat was one of the original founders of the Cambridge/Somerville Family Child Care System. Since then, she has been dedicated to providing quality experiences for families and children through the establishment of teen parent programs, professional development opportunities for family child care providers, establishment of high quality center-based programs, mentoring, and community work.

Pat has also provided leadership in her ability to dream great things for the field of early childhood education and then find creative ways to see the realization of her dreams. Before it was mandated by local CPC councils Pat was a strong advocate of NAEYC Accreditation, program evaluation and degrees for early childhood educators. Her vision of creating programs that serve low-income families and meet the needs of every child individually has been a shared philosophy and culture throughout all the programs she develops. She does not just delegate, but is a hands-on leader that inspires her staff and allows them to find their way of expanding the high quality of care through reflective supervision. It is this type of leader that makes our field stronger!

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NAEYC Accreditation

Since the beginning of February, MassAEYC representatives have presented over 30 seminars attended by over 800 people, explaining the new NAEYC Accreditation System. The seminars have been sponsored by CPC's, CCR&Rs, Director's Groups, and individual programs. In addition, 7 regional meetings have been held sponsored by MassAEYC, United Way Mass Bay, EEC, and DOE. The 2 state agencies provided free copies of **NAEYC Program Standards and Accreditation Criteria**. Overall, the reaction has been extremely positive as misinformation and rumors have been debunked, people have a chance to delve into the self-study materials. The four new steps are presented, and the updated procedures designed to eliminate and prevent some of the issues with the old system are explained. If you are interested in hosting a local presentation, please contact the MassAEYC office at: massaeyc@yahoo.com or 978-654-6053.

New Presidents Elected

July 1, 2006 marked the beginning of a new fiscal year for MassAEYC local affiliates and with it, elections of new presidents. Since MassAEYC received its certified affiliation with NAEYC in Dec, 2002, the professionalism, effectiveness, and strategic orientation of the local affiliates has drawn many new members to the local Boards. The MassAEYC Board would like to thank the outgoing Presidents for their huge contributions over the past years and welcome all the new leaders.

Boston: New co-presidents: Craig Simpson and Maureen Myers.

Cape Cod: Beth Hollister continues as President.

Essex County: (outgoing) Leslie Kalafarski and (new) Gail Feigenbaum.

Montachusett: (outgoing) Cindy Lannano and (new) Laura Douglas.

Southeastern Mass: (outgoing) Michelle Ouelette and (new co-presidents Kelly Gabardi and Lori Cruise.

Western Mass: (outgoing) Ellen Edge and (new) Margery Heyl.

Worcester Area: (outgoing) Linda Granville and Mary Police and (new co-presidents) Kathy Segalla and Lori Bastien.

From Your President: Yvonne Beirne

Fall is upon us and change is in the air. MassAEYC has presented a conference with the Schott Fellowship, work is underway on our Spring Conference in March 2007 in Westford and many of you are making plans to attend the NAEYC Conference in Atlanta in November. I look forward to attending my second conference and as a veteran I am going to make the most of every moment.

Our state moves ahead in its work with the new Department of Early Education and Care. They have moved to their new offices at 51 Sleeper Street in Boston and continues to work toward their goals. The opportunity to participate on the Transition Team has been informative and challenging. As a Family Child Care provider I am not always able to get there but Marcia has been fully engaged, especially in the Quality Committee work. Navigating the waters of this educational and political arena has been enlightening. We anticipate a busy year with new regulations, core competencies, and the development of a quality rating system.

My first year as President has been an information gathering and filtering process. Being involved with many

organizations gives me insight as to how the changes are being received in the field. Family Child Care providers are worried. I continue to work on my goal of creating a statewide FCC network to be sure providers are receiving accurate information. Our state affiliate work has focused on strengthening our affiliates. I am currently organizing our statewide committees to do strategic work on Public Policy, Accreditation, Membership, Governance/Finance and Conferences. MassAEYC is looking ahead at wonderful opportunities to come. I am thankful and optimistic to be in this field at this time.

New At-Large Board Members

Three new members have joined the MassAEYC Board: **Ronda Martinez**, Director of the Henry Buckner Child Care Center; **Karen Gale**, a Group Child Care Licensor with EEC; and **Paula Bowie**, Training Coordinator with Child Care Resource Center in Cambridge. We look forward to their input and participation.

Rewards For Time - MassAEYC's New Frequent Training Credit Program

MassAEYC is please to announce a new benefit for our members—the RFT—Rewards for Time. This is a benefit for all our members who support our Massachusetts training. Every time a member attends a training event sponsored by a local affiliate, or attends a MassAEYC Conference, they will receive a credit certificate worth fifty cents per hour. These credits can be redeemed for up to \$10.00 off the registration fee for the MassAEYC Fall or Spring Conference. Or, they can be used at the MassAEYC book table for up to half off the price of a book, with a \$10.00 limit. We really appreciate the support our members show and want to continue to enhance the benefits they receive. For more information, check our website, www.massaeYC.com.

Children: Our Link to the Future: March 30 and 31, 2007

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW! The Third Annual MassAEYC Conference will be again held at the Westford Regency Inn. Friday will be full-day sessions, Saturday will feature 3 sets of workshops. Our keynote presenter will be Rae Pica, movement and fitness expert and author. Check her website at www.movementandlearning.com. If you'd like to present, RFPs are available now on our website.

Berkshire Committee of WMAEYC Forming

In January, representatives from the Western MassAEYC met with Kathleen Bailer and Anne Dempsey from Berkshire County to discuss the formation of an affiliated group that would serve Berkshire Early Education professionals. The geography of western Mass made it difficult for the western-most county in the state to reap the benefits of the well-organized WMAEYC affiliate. Outreach had been an ongoing discussion at both the local and state level. Monthly meetings held in different locations in the county, with many different participants, culminated in an event on June 28th in Pittsfield.

Amy O'Leary gave an update on policy issues in the state and the "planning committee" gave updates and solicited input from the group for future plans. Initial conversations have focused on the need for timely dissemination of information on federal, state, and local policy issues, and for increased opportunities for county professionals to network. If you missed the meeting, and would like more information, or to get involved, the group already has a website, www.berkshireaeyc.org. Everyone is excited about having a more localized connection to the Berkshire County professionals.

Ballot Question # 3

There are 3 questions on this year's ballot. Number 3 is called the Better Child Care Initiative. This proposed law would allow licensed and other authorized providers of child care in private homes under the state's subsidized child care system to form a union to bargain collectively with the relevant state agencies about all terms and conditions of the provision of child care services under the state's child care assistance program and its regulations. For more information, contact: YES on 3 for Kids, Campaign for Our Children's Future, 529 Main Street, Suite 222, Charlestown, MA 02129 Phone: 617-241-3367 www.Yeson3forKids.org.

A New Ally on the Literacy Front—Words That Cook

By Sue Minichiello

Are you a coordinator of a CPC, an R&R or an MFN looking for products to support workshops or to beef-up your resource room or lending library? Maybe you're an educator in need of college or professional development credits. Perhaps you work with parents and children together, helping to advance their literacy skills. No matter where you fall in this spectrum, Words That Cook is here to help! Words That Cook, LLC is an award-winning educational media company producing and delivering innovative literacy resources that empower educators and parents to inspire and motivate children.

In the fall of 1992, the company's founders – Monty and Laurie Haas – recognized a need for literacy programs that specifically addressed the vital element of parental involvement. For 10 years, they provided a variety of national, state and regional family literacy workshops, often funded by Community Partnerships for Children. In the fall of 2002, they launched a 13-part series broadcast on select PBS affiliates and on public access cable stations nationwide called *Words that Cook! Parenting with children's books™*. Through this series, families are introduced to authors, illustrators, storytellers, librarians, teachers and others who share their expertise and enthusiasm as they model successful literacy-building techniques that anyone can use.

The Words That Cook website (www.wordsthatcook.org) offers related free resources to parents and educators: creative tips, tools and techniques for bringing literacy to life at home and in the classroom, the *Recommended Book List*, and resources and activities connected to each book recommendation. Also available is *Read it Aloud! A parent's guide to sharing books with young children* – offering practical techniques and strategies that parents can use to enliven books and language through performance and interactive reading, discussion and non-competitive wordplay games.

A Foundation for Literacy: Reading Aloud, Storytelling & Writing™ is a college-accredited distance education course available for graduate, undergraduate or professional development credits. The course offers self-paced learning based on current research with continuous access to instructors. Assignments throughout each course are completed with children in classroom, childcare or home settings.

For more information on the many Words That Cook resources, visit www.wordsthatcook.org, call 774-885-2000 or E-mail Sue Minichiello at sue@wordsthatcook.org



SAVE THE DATE

October 2006

- 10: Many Thanksgivings, BAEYC, Children's Museum, Boston, 617-522-0881.
- 11: Our Rich Diversity...Our Cooperative Strength, MassAEYC and Schott Fellowship, 978-654-6053.
- 13: Annual Administrator's Luncheon, CCRR Affiliates of Southeastern MA, 508-778-9470 x226.
- 18-19: Margie Carter and Deb Curtis, PET and WMAEYC, Robin Jurs 413-341-3344.
- 19: Focus Series, Old Colony Chapter BAEYC, www.oldcolonychapter.org.
- 21: Understanding Autism, Child Care Circuit, 888-525-6500.
- 25: Public Policy Event: Karen Tewhey, EEC speaker, Essex County AEYC.

November 2006

- 4: Keys to Quality Conference, Rhode Island, 401-721-6404.
- 8-11 NAEYC Annual Conference, Atlanta, www.naeyc.org.
- 14: Sometimes It Helps to Say What You Feel, BAEYC, 617-522-0881.

December, 2006

- 2: Babies and Toddlers Conference, BAEYC, 617- 522-0881.
- 5&6: Lesley Earlychildhood Institute - Framingham http://www.lesley.edu/academic_centers/cfpp/eci_institute.html

January, 2007

- 9: Meeting the Emotional & Care Giving Needs of Children from a Variety of Cultures and Families, BAEYC, 617-522-0881.
- 26: Directors and Administrators Conference, BAEYC, 617-522-0881.

February, 2007

- 9-10 NHAEYC/VAEYC Administrators Conference, Fairlee, VT
Lorraine.Harris@hitchcook.org.

March, 2007

- 30-31, Children: Our Link to the Future, MassAEYC, Keynote: Rae Pica
www.massaeyc.com.