

# Branching Out

## **What in the World is all This Fuss about Common Core**

Most of us struggle trying to understand the driving forces and subtleties behind many of the issues facing us today – things like medical care, climate change and education.

At our luncheon on Tuesday, February 17, 2015, at Mallozzis in Rotterdam, we are going to have the opportunity to learn about one of these issues, namely, education and more specifically about a game changer in the field of education – Common Core.

You have probably heard or read some of the debate about the pros and cons of Common Core. Unfortunately, much of the discussion is not objective and balanced, rather, is a promotion or defense of a biased position. This has made it difficult for those concerned about the declining performance of our educational system to learn the truth about the condition of our system and what can/should be done to improve.

Every one of you has a stake in this debate, whether as a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, even as a concerned citizen, and, certainly, as a tax payer.

On February 17, 2015, we have a unique opportunity to learn first-hand from a member of the education community about the ‘state of education’ in our country and more about the subtleties embedded in the controversial Common Core Standards.

Our speaker will be Mr. Tim Farley who is the Principal of the Ichabod-Crane Middle School in Valatie, NY. Tim has a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Earth Science, a Master’s Degree in Special Education, and a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration.

Mr. Farley is the proud father of four school-aged children and has 23 years experience as an educator.

**Because this topic is of such importance, we are opening up attendance for the luncheon.**

**Please feel free to invite other members of your family, neighbors and friends to this luncheon so that they might learn some truly significant information about Common Core.**

This might be the most important luncheon topic we will have this year. Don’t let this opportunity slip away. Make your reservations with Glenn Gerber using the form that is included in this issue of Branching Out.

For questions about this presentation, please contact Mr. Sherrie Wages by e-mail at [swages@nycap.rr.com](mailto:swages@nycap.rr.com). Questions regarding reservations should be addressed to Glenn Gerber at 355-9570.

P.S.: To learn more about this topic, Google “Common Core” and look for presentations by Dr. Sandra Stotsky and Dr. Duke Pesta

## **Toy Modification Program Update**

### **Jan 5, 2015**

The Toy Modification Program has received a \$4,000 grant from the GE Foundation for 2015. This will enable the Program to continue its support of the disabled community.

During 2014 the Program provided 275 items and modified/repaired 11 items owned by others. This includes 4 personally owned favorite toys of disabled children.

The Program's support by 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank of Scotia, Grimmers Electrical Supply, and the Northeastern Woodworkers Association continues. New organizations for the Program to support are continually being evaluated while we continue to streamline the delivery process.

While basic modified toys and switches are the Programs' mainstays due to the continued identification and enrollment of preschool clients the Program is always seeking to improve on the "products" and their effectiveness while controlling costs.

The recipients, their families, and their teachers/therapists are encouraged by knowing that there are many people who think of them and enjoy helping them reach their goals.

# SCHENECTADY ELFUNS

You are cordially invited to attend the Schenectady Elfuns Luncheon to be held at the Mallozzi's Restaurant, 1930 Curry Road, Schenectady, NY 12306 on Tuesday, February 17, 2015. Our speaker will be Mr. Tim Farley, Principal of the Ichabod Crane Middle School in Valatie, NY. He will speak on how Common Core infiltrated our classrooms right in plain sight and expose the false narrative that has been promoted by the likes of Bill Gates, Arne Duncan and Barack Obama. Mr. Farley will also illustrate how Common Core ignores the needs of special needs students and is developmentally inappropriate, especially in early childhood. To learn more see our article in Branching Out.

Details- Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2015

Place: Mallozzi's Restaurant, 1930 Curry Road, Schenectady, NY 12303

Times: 11:30 AM Cash Bar

12:00 PM Luncheon: Ceasar Salad, Chicken Parmesan with Pasta and Eggplant Rollatini, Vanilla Profiteroles, Rolls & Butter, Soda, Coffee, Tea, and Decaf.

1:00 PM **Tim Farley**

Costs: \$ 23.00 for One, \$46.00 Two; etc.

Reservations close Friday, February 13 2015 To be refundable, cancellations must be received (Glenn Gerber, 355-9570) 48 hours prior to the luncheon.

Carl Erikson, President  
Schenectady Elfuns

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Please return this reservation portion to: Glenn Gerber, 219 Shirlwood Dr., Schenectady, NY 12306, to be received not later than Friday, February 13 2015 Include your check payable to Schenectady Elfuns, \$2300 per person.

Please print name(s): Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Elfun: first \_\_\_\_\_, last \_\_\_\_\_

Guest: first \_\_\_\_\_, last \_\_\_\_\_

## Future Luncheons

Wednesday, **March 17th** at the Mohawk Golf Club

Richard L. Walters & Adam Lendt

The Enigma that is Explosive Ordnance Disposal. NY National Guard's 108th Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Company activities in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, and Canada.

March 17 Mohawk Golf Club

SFC Richard L. Walters & SSG Adam Lendt, NY Nat. Guard

The Enigma that is Explosive Ordnance Disposal. NY National Guard's 108th Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Company activities in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, and Canada

April 15 Century House

Brian Merriam, Schdy Chamber of Commerce

\$7500 that Changed the World – The Amazing Story of Edison and Steinmetz that Almost Didn't Happen

May 19 Glen Sanders

TBD – GE Speaker

June 17 Edison Golf Club

Wally Graham, Chairman of the Board and Past President of the SI Group