

Brenda Jurta Leaves AE/MS

By Gretchen Hildebrand
AE/MS Second Grade Teacher

Brenda B. Jurta, our beloved Title I Tutor, Spelling Bee Director, colleague, parent, friend, and neighbor has retired from AE/MS after 17 years of loyal service. I am among the very sad to admit this fact, but the Federal Title I Program rules have made it so.

Brenda grew up in Franklin where her father is still a resident. She was a very active child, taking tap and ballet lessons before she entered elementary school. Brenda had many diverse interests: she loved to ice skate, roller skate, and ride her bicycle. She was also a Girl Scout, and sang and soloed in her church choir... in Latin!

Brenda attended Saint Mary's School from grades one to eight, where it comes as no surprise that she won the school and county spelling bees and competed at the state level. After eighth grade graduation, Brenda went on to Bishop Brady High School and then the University of New Hampshire where she earned a BA in English Literature.

Immediately following her graduation from college, Mrs. Jurta traveled extensively in Europe for an entire year, which she spent hiking, backpacking, and staying in youth hostels. Her journey began in England where, using a two-month Brit-Rail train pass, she also took in Scotland and Ireland.

From the British Isles, she explored

the European mainland countries of Belgium, France, and Switzerland - the country where she worked as a chambermaid and waitress and learned how to ski in the Alps.

From Switzerland, Brenda traveled through Italy to Greece where she lived on the Greek island called Paros, and traveled to Rhodes and Crete by ship. This travel was an education in itself, and Mrs. Jurta says this was an experience which "I reflect back upon over and over again through books that I read and current events."

Two years after her transcontinental wandering Brenda eloped with her college sweetheart, James Jurta, aka John Jurta IV. They decided to settle in Andover and built a small cabin on Old Morrill Hill Road.

The cabin measured all of eight feet by 10 feet and was built by hand. "We lugged the materials up the road, which at that time was a grassy footpath. We lived simply with an outhouse, wood heat and no running water or electricity. Our lives were an adventure, as we wanted to be conservative with natural resources."

Mr. Jurta is also a musician and has had rock bands since he was a teenager. He attended Berkelee School of Music in Boston and afterward started up a jazz band. "So music was and is a big part of our family life."

When their first child, Amaliya, was born, Brenda and "Jazz" (James Jurta)

decided to build a larger house, which they did little by little, using materials from Mr. Jurta's carpentry renovation jobs. James, Benjamin, Amanda, and Anna Katie were born like clockwork - each child being two years apart. The Jurtas also raised chickens for eggs, had many rabbits and dogs and one cat.

Brenda learned about a tutoring position at Andover Elementary/Middle School from the principal at the time, Mr. Higgins. She applied and was hired on the spot. It was convenient for her as well as rewarding, for three of her five children were attending AE/MS, with two more about to begin. Having an English degree and as a mom who stayed home with her children until they were of school age, it was the perfect situation.

"Over the years of helping build up the Title I Program, I have found the greatest satisfaction in the students' confidence in their ability to read, and better yet, their love of reading. Every child is unique - you just have to find their strengths and utilize them to build up the weaker areas."

Observing Brenda with students in my classroom was always a joy. She built strong relationships with the children, learned what their interests were, and pushed them all to work their hardest and do their best. Her sincerity, drive, and determination on their behalf paid off. The reading records speak for themselves.

Brenda was always ready to help in



any spare moments during her work day too. She took an extra child here or there for extra help, assisted at class parties, was unafraid to direct students back to tasks and was the "Mrs. Clean" of the often less-than-lovely staff room. Long after she stopped drinking coffee herself, Mrs. Jurta faithfully brewed it for those of us whose day could not start without it.

As a long-time member of the AE/MS staff and therefore, her colleague, as a teacher of Brenda's remarkable children, and as a recipient of her caring, her humor, love of learning, and profound work ethic, I speak with confidence for the rest of the AE/MS community in saying that we will deeply miss her presence and her "presents" in our future life at the school. Children who have been under her care are undoubtedly the better for it, and we adults who are her friends can only hope she stays in touch, so that our lives can be better also.



The Constant Quilter

Antiques in August

Green Dot Specials: 20% off many fine antiques and collectibles throughout the month of August

League of New Hampshire Craftsmen Fairgoers

Bring in proof of admission to the Fair between August 10 and 14 and receive an additional 10% off everything in the shop

Special Vacation Hours

We will be closed July 31 to August 9.

We will be open from 2 PM to 6 PM from August 10 through 14

Wednesday - Saturday 10 to 5 • Thursday 'til 8 • Sunday 12 to 5

Pancake Road and Route 11, Andover

Info@ConstantQuilter.com • www.ConstantQuilter.com • 735-4100

Tucker Mountain Timber Services LLC

TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT LOT CLEARING BRUSH MOWING



Field Reclamation
+
Brush mowing

Also offering
conventional
and small-
scale logging



**Eric Johnson • Tucker Mtn Rd.
tuckermtn@hotmail.com
ANDOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

603.735.5602

Our People Make The Difference

Any insurance agency can sell you insurance, but when you're looking for an expert in a particular type of insurance, call the A.W. Frost Agency, Inc.

Whether you need personal, business, professional, life, or other insurance services, call one of our "specialists"... in a field where "people make the difference."



Contact us for full details.

FOREST CONE & EVERGREEN SHOP

On Kearsarge Valley Road at Route 11 in Wilmot

**Come and Enjoy Lavender Week!
August 8 through 13**

**Unique Handmade Lavender Soaps, Sachets, Wands,
Candles, and More!
Lavender Cookies and Lavender Punch will be
Served to Our Guests**

Plants • Cut Flowers • Yankee Candles • Gifts



Mon-Fri 9-6 • Sat 9-4 • 526-6397



See us at our booth at the

Wilmot Farmers' Market

Saturdays,
9 am to Noon
in Wilmot Flat

Highland Lake Apple Farm
Maple Street off Route 11
East Andover
735-5058