



E-News September 2015

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School Visits

Ramapo-Catskill Library Breakfast

Hooper House Survey

Support Planned Parenthood

EVENTS:

9/27- Planned Parenthood Rally- White Plains

9/30- Haitian President Michael Martelly visits Spring Valley

10/1- East Ramapo Forum- 7:00 PM

10/6- Childcare Roundtable- 11:00 am. Albany

10/8- Mental Health Committee Hearing-Traumatic Brain Treatment and Service- 10:30 am Albany



Dear Friends,

[National Hispanic Heritage Month](#) (September 1-October 15) is a time to celebrate the culture and contributions of Americans who came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America. This year marks the appointment the first [Latino Poet Laureate of the United States, Juan Felipe](#) Herrera, the son of migrant farm workers, who lived in tents and trailers, going to schools along the road. The author of 28 books, he graduated from UCLA, earned a Masters Degree and is a poignant reminder of the importance of educating *all* children.

I'm proud that for the third consecutive year the [Assembly passed the DREAM Act](#) that would grant college financial aid to immigrants. It's time for the Senate to get onboard.

~Ellen~

East Ramapo Update

The East Ramapo Monitor team presented an update to the State Board of Regents last week. You can read the report [here](#). They also launched a [blog](#) to help keep the community updated on the work of the monitoring team that was appointed by State Education Commissioner, Mary Ellen Elia. To learn more about the three monitors who make up the team, **Dennis M. Walcott**, **Monica George-Fields**, and **Dr. John W. Sipple**, as well as their experience, activities in the District and news coverage click [here](#).

Mark your calendars: The Monitor Team will host a **public forum** to hear concerns from the community including parents, educators, students, and stakeholders.

Date: Thursday, October 1, 2015

Location: Town of Ramapo Cultural and Performing Arts Center (64 N. Main Street, Spring Valley).

Time: 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Parking: Memorial Park Parking Lot

Events:

**10/8- VCS 45th
Anniversary
Celebration- 6:00
PM- The View on
the Hudson**

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School District Listening Tour



I have been meeting with school Superintendents in my district to discuss state funding, current educational requirements, capital projects and other concerns. Listening and learning more about how I can support them and how the state can better respond to the individual needs of each district enables them to continue to provide a high-quality education for each and every student they serve. Pictured is the new Superintendent of Schools for [South Orangetown Central School District](#), **Robert R. Pritchard, Ed.D.** and **Karen**

Tesik, Principal South Orangetown Middle School

Ramapo-Catskill Library System (RCLS) Breakfast

As a strong supporter of our libraries, I know how vital state funding is to *your* library. The 28th annual RCLS Breakfast and 56th Annual Meeting on September 18 was an excellent opportunity to meet with other local and state legislators, to hear from “Library Champions,” regular library users like you, and to learn more about the current issues facing our libraries.



Hopper House Needs Your Input

The [Edward Hopper House Arts Center](#) in Nyack is asking for your participation in a brief survey. It takes less than five minutes to complete, and your responses will provide valuable insight as they prepare a strategic plan and look to the future. Click here to take the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EdwardHopperCommunityMember>

Wear **Pink** to Support Planned Parenthood

After months of outrageous attacks on women's health and rights, and misleading rhetoric targeting Planned Parenthood, join supporters nationwide in a massive show of strength and visibility. On September 29 be part of the first-ever [National Pink Out Day](#). Whether you're at home, at work, at school, or online, stand up, show how many of us across the country are willing to fight back.