

EF EDUCATOR RECOGNITION AWARDEE

We all have been affected in some way by one or more of the many teachers and administrators with whom we have come in contact during our school experience.

Twenty-one years ago, the EFAPA began honoring these dedicated educators, not necessarily alumni, for their positive contributions to the Elizabeth Forward schools and its students.

Joining this special group this year are two more individuals who have touched many lives during their service in the EF School District, **Warren Chellman** and **Jennifer Spiegel**.



WARREN CHELLMAN

Warren Chellman joined the staff of Elizabeth Forward High School in 1963, two years after his graduation from California State College, and has never left! He has been in continuous service at EF for the last 58 years as a teacher, mentor and coach.

During his teaching career, Chellman has taught Wood Shop, Machine Shop, Metal Shop, Mechanical Drawing, CAD Drawing, Furnishing Refinishing, Woodcarving, Technology and Manufacturing. Every subject required the yearly writing of a curriculum with accompanying plans. Teaching and preparing for so many subjects and students levels was a testament to his dedication and adaptability. Chellman also developed a safety education plan that was particular to each subject, an essential component to ensure the safety of every student. The plan apparently worked because during his time teaching, all of his students still have all of their fingers, rare for shop teachers. He gets great satisfaction when hearing from former students that they learned a lot in his classes and still use the skills he taught them. Some even claim to still have their shop projects.

There were many projects Chellman's students created and produced in his shop. Several were for public consumption. One of the most sought after were table top Christmas trees, a favorite faculty choice. This was an early venture into interdisciplinary cooperation involving the Industrial Arts, Arts and Business departments. Other major projects included Adirondack

chairs, picnic tables and backyard sheds. A lasting contribution to the grounds at the high school is a set of wooden stairs leading down to the lower field in the rear of the building. With intensive instruction, discipline and safety as a priority, his wood shop students designed and constructed these stairs, which still are standings and functional after 25 years.

EF participated in an annual industrial arts fair, open to every school in Allegheny County. This was a competitive endeavor with each school anxious to get bragging rights. Every year, Chellman's students earned winning ribbons and accolades for excellence.

As part of his school day, Chellman also had various duties beyond the classroom. Extra duty assignment included homeroom, hall duty, study hall, cafeteria, testing monitor, bus and parking lot duties. He used these venues to teach and instill personal traits necessary to foster growth and development in students' development.

As a mentor, Chellman was a Directing Teacher for the Industrial Arts student teaching program for what became California University of Pennsylvania. This would involve six students per year who transitioned through each industrial arts discipline. His responsibilities included training and evaluating the student's teaching skills. Conferences were then held with Critic Teacher from the university. This was a very satisfying experience for him. In the 1990s, a new type of mentoring program was put into place for newly hired teachers. Chellman was chosen to be in this first wave of established teachers, acting as mentors. This involved periodic conferences to discuss performance, problems and difficulties along with possible resolutions and general encouragement.

Beyond the classroom and into the community, Chellman and a colleague started the Mon-Yough Wood Carvers. This group is still carving 40 years later.

Coaching was an important part of Chellman's life, too. In 1965 during his first year at EF, he started the wrestling program. He coached for 19 years with great success. His record was 188 wins, five section championships, multiple individual section champions and many WPIAL place winners and PIAA qualifiers. He later coached wrestling at McKeesport High School for eight years. It was there he earned his 200th win as a coach and extended that to 212 victories before stepping aside.

In 1971, Chellman started the EF Junior High track & field program. As the only coach for 120 boys (no cuts), the program in five years had a record of 40-10. It won WPIAL section champs three years and Little Big 10 titles four years. Chellman also served as the EFHS ninth grade football coach for two years.

Softball has been his passion for the last 25-plus years. While still teaching in 1998, Chellman joined the girls' softball program and he has stayed with the team in various capacities. He presently is an assistant high school coach. The girl's team has been quite successful over the past 25 years of his involvement, winning one WPIAL championship and 12 section crowns. The team has appeared in four WPIAL title games and one PIAA final. Ever the teacher, Chellman shows up to softball practice with his "Word of the Day" and inspirational cards written on recycled cereal boxes.

Outside of EF, Chellman has coached eight years of community league and travel softball involving his daughter and six years on the senior women's national travel circuit involving his wife. In his spare time, he enjoys traveling, hiking, woodworking, creating Christmas ornaments in the Swedish Folk Art style and gardening.

Positive feedback from former students and athletes attest to Chellman's influence on the lives of the young people he has had the privilege to teach and coach. He, in turn, has benefited from the skill, talents and accomplishments of many of these young people now grown and productive members of society.

Chellman and his wife, Becky, a former guidance counselor at EFHS, have been married 57 years. Their daughter, Stacy Chellman Jackson, Ph.D., is married to Keith Jackson, Ph.D.