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Teacher**Book of the Month: *A Death in Texas: A Story of Race, Murder and a Small Town's Struggle for Redemption* by Dina Temple-Ralston**

Reviewed by G.L. Lockett upon recommendation from an AHS student

Written by a journalist, this book explores conceptions of progress in a place that almost no one had heard of before the headless body of an African-American man was found outside the 'colored' cemetery in Jasper, Texas in June 1998. The impact of events on various community members is told in their own words as the story unfolds.

The investigation of this death received nationwide attention, because, by proxy, it challenged Americans to consider whether questions about racism had been solved or just shelved

after the turmoil of the 1960s. The question became, "Is it possible to treat this as any other awful crime, or is something else required?"

The resounding answer is that a classic 'hate crime' occurred when James Byrd, Jr. was kidnapped and dragged three miles to his death along a country road during a drinking spree by three young, white men affiliated with the Ku Klux Klan. After separate jury trials, two of the men were put to death and the third (21 at the time) is to spend the rest of his life in prison.

This book is not 'fun' to read, but I recommend it because it is informative, the writing is clear and concise, and it keeps the reader engaged.

Dates to Remember

February 1	Early Dismissal Professional Day TALENT SHOW
February 2	Groundhog's Day
February 7	Hypnotist Show Dan LaRosa
February 12	Ziti Dinner Fundraiser
February 14	Valentine's Day PTSO Fashion Show
February 19-23	Winter Recess

Kindergarten Registration

at the Annual Family Resource Fair
Saturday, March 17
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
For more info call Prendergast School, 736-5080 or visit www.ansoniam.org

February 2007

Ansonia High School



The Charger Times

Awards to Honor a "Renaissance Man"

Mission Statement

To prepare every learner to meet ever-changing personal and global challenges, the primary mission of Ansonia High School is to cultivate the emotional, physical, social, and intellectual growth of each student. The success of our mission requires the active participation of students, faculty, parents, and community in the learning process.

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The Ansonia High School Class of 1974 lost a treasured classmate with the sudden passing of Joseph "Jay" Amico on September 29, 2006.

A former employee of Sikorsky, a mountain climber, an artist and a self-taught musician, Jay expressed a strong passion for the arts and was a great example of a well-rounded human being and a life-long learner! To honor Jay's life, his family believed that the best way would be to help others.

Thus, recently, the family generously donated \$1500 each to the music and art departments at Ansonia High School to be spent any way teachers Maria Tangredi and Nancy Bennett-Morgenstern felt would most benefit their respective departments. They are currently re-

searching ways to best spend the money donated in Jay's name. Some items being considered are a floor loom for the art room and a new MIDI keyboard for the electronic music lab.

In addition to the bequests to the two departments, the Amicos have established "The Joseph 'Jay' Amico Artistic Memorial Scholarship Fund." Beginning with the Class of 2007, two talented students of the arts will each be the recipients of a \$150 award. The students must have outstanding talent in the visual and/or performing arts and plan to further their education in one of these fields.

The administration, Ms. Tangredi, and Mrs. Bennett-Morgenstern are deeply touched by this act of kindness and generosity

of this family. Their benevolence will not only immortalize the memory of a "man of the arts," but it will also undoubtedly benefit a great number of students for years to come.

Student of the Month

Alex Thomas has been overwhelmingly voted in as Student of the Month for February! According to several of Alex's teachers not only is he an incredible athlete, but he is also an exceptional student who sets high standards for him-

self. He also has been described as a consummate gentleman as well as a role model who is always polite and sincere in his dealings with teachers, staff and students. Please congratulate Alex this month for this noteworthy achievement.

The February Student of the Month is Alex Thomas

Cooperative International Studies Program

On February 8, 2007, students participating in CISP are about to embark on their second semester of study. During the upcoming months, students will be exploring the world of International Sports and Games.

There are still a few spots open for any student interested in learning about this field. The criteria for membership include a love of learning, an interest in sports, a

desire to cooperatively collaborate with students from outside of our school district to research various subjects that focus on our theme for the semester, and time to devote to after school field trips.

There are approximately two after school meetings during each of the months of February, March and April. In addition, there will be at least two days on which students will be participating in field

trips during the school day. Bus transportation is provided at no cost to students, and there is no fee for participation in the program.

Any students interested should visit Mrs. Nargi, in Room 104, to pick up an application form. All students are welcome; however, the program is limited to 20 students from each school; so hurry if you are interested.

CAPSS Awards

On December 7, 2006 the annual CAPSS Awards of Excellence were presented by the Valley Superintendents to middle and high school students. Timothy Stobierski and Tiffany Ryan, two Ansonia High School students, were presented with this award by Ansonia Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Edward Favolise.

Timothy was nominated by several of his teachers for his unassuming character – a responsible and respectful student who is dedicated to his school and community. President of the National Honor Society, Timothy has maintained a 3.5 GPA and won numerous awards, including the Yale Book Award and the Fairfield University Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science. He has participated in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program with Prendergast School for three years, the Chess Club, the Forensics Club, and the Travel Club

(which involved trips to Ireland and Italy). He is a CAPT Scholar, a member of the Spanish Honor Society and was selected to attend Boys' State last summer.

In the community, he is assistant senior patrol leader for Boy Scout Troop 7 and is working toward his Eagle Scout status. This past summer, he volunteered more than 75 hours at a wildlife rehabilitation facility in order to collect hair samples for the Forensics Science Club.

When asked why he volunteers for the community, Timothy said, "I volunteer for one very simple reason; it's my chance to give back. My community has done so much for me, and I have taken so much more from everyone than I could ever possibly give back."

Tiffany's four years of high school have brought out her natural leadership abilities, as well as her creative skills both in and outside of school. Tiffany is now co-leader of the

Graphic Media Club and a dedicated member of the International Cooperative Studies Program, of which she has been a member since freshman year.

She has entered her poetry writing in contests and has won several Editor's Choice awards for Outstanding Achievement in Poetry, awarded by the International Library of Poetry. In addition to her part-time job, she finds the time to volunteer and was involved in Girl Scouts for nine years. She is active in her church, serving as a member of the choir, as an alter girl and has helped out with the Bible Studies program.

One of her teachers, who nominated her for this award, said Tiffany "has always been a kind and concerned individual who is eager to help when the need arises. She readily volunteers to help if she sees a chance to do so." Tiffany said she feels it gives her the opportunity to give back "to the people who care for and support me" and she derives great pleasure from doing so.

Job Shadowing Day

Future Business Leaders of America members participated in National Job Shadow Day on Friday, Feb. 2.

Leo Franco, Mike Gandelman, Alyssa Jeanette, Rachel Kichar, and Sean McGowen went to Pitney Bowes in Shelton to meet one-on-one with a variety of business personnel.

Students attended a group meeting with business personnel and business students from Shelton, Christian Heritage and St. Joseph's high schools. After an informative meeting, students were given schedules to follow. Each student meet one-on-one with representatives from three

different departments. Departments included bankruptcy, credit, sales, compensation services, procurement, office of the president, employee services, and new business. Students were able to see what the day to day tasks were in each department. Most students were able to attend a business meeting with at least one department. The day ended with lunch provided by Pitney Bowes.

Students that attended the session said it was worth attending. Some students were able to make meaningful connections in business and several will be contacting Pitney Bowes in the future for internship opportunities.

Congratulations to the
Contessa's
who were wed
December 29, 2006

Welcome New Staff

There are several new faces at AHS. In the English Department, Mr. Buzi can be found in Room 111. Mr. Buzi will be teaching English I, English III, and Popular Literature. He will also be helping out the Graphic Media Club. Mr. Buzi is a graduate of Marist College and Sacred Heart University.

In the Guidance Office, you will find Mr. Firmender. Mr. Firmender was a Guidance Counselor at Hillhouse High School and taught English at Cathedral High School and

Hillhouse. He is a graduate of Sacred Heart University, University of Bridgeport, and Southern Connecticut State University.

Both Mr. Buzi and Mr. Firmender have stated that they have had a smooth and welcoming transition into AHS.

There are two new interns to our building, Mr. Jones and Ms. Davies. Mr. Jones is an English intern and Ms. Davies is a math intern. Ms. Davies is currently attending Sacred Heart University.

Congratulations to the
Crooks'
who were wed
January 12, 2007

Talent Show

This year's talent show took place on Feb. 1 in the Ruth Feinberg Connors Auditorium. Singers, dancers and dramatists performed to a sold out crowd. Emcees for the evening were Ryan Benefield and Eric Kuraczea. Although it was difficult, the judges, Ms. Erardi, Mrs. Fletcher, Ms. Gardner, Mr. Hashemian and Mr. Montgomery were able to unanimously agree on the top three performances. The \$100, first-place prize, went to Kristen Larkin and Tom Behrendt. Tom accompanied Kristen on the piano while she sang *Bless the Broken Road* by Ras-

cal Flatts. The \$50, second-place prize, went to Chris Antezzo's self-composed drum solo. Chris really brought the house down when he played a portion of his piece blindfolded. The third place, \$25 prize, went to Melanie McCreath who sang, *For You I Will* by Monica. Teachers and students performed the final skit, *We Go Together*, from the movie *Grease* as a tribute to our principal, Mrs. Christon who officially retired on Jan. 31.

Based on attendance and crowd reaction, the show was a resounding success!!!