



Distinguished, Veteran Teacher **Allan Rosenberg** at American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Convention, 2018



• **HIKING: WEEKLY!**

**Join our Facebook Page  
for updates: Salinas  
Valley Federation of  
Teachers @SVFT1020**

## NEW YEAR! LOOKING FORWARD...

Happy Labor Day!

Welcome Back! Right off the bat, this new school year of UNITY focuses on the things that we can control this year:

**1.) Health & Wellness**

**2.) Classroom Environment**

**3.) Being and Recognizing a “CHAMPION”**

During the “All Staff Welcome Back” event there were a couple of important reminders to set the year off right. First, one of our Board Members reminded everyone to smile. Now, in some instances commanding someone to “smile” is grounds for trouble. However, in a professional environment, a smile will make the environment hospitable.

Second, the theme of the event was “CHAMPION!” SVFT President Steve McDougall highlighted the importance of recognizing a champion in our students, with the reminder that for some of our students, “school is their only shot, their only opportunity, to receive mentoring and coaching in order to be a champion.”

Finally, I was honored to have the opportunity to interview long-time Everett Alvarez High School Ceramics teacher Allan Rosenberg. He is one of Salinas Union High School District’s Champion teachers. Rosenberg, is an artist and political activist, and rallied successfully for the advancement of candidates that support public education. I printed an excerpt of our interview, but for the full, unedited and highly political version, please visit [svft.net](http://svft.net). You may also follow Rosenberg on Facebook!

Best of Luck to All Federation Member this New Year!! In Unity-



**Allan Rosenberg**  
**Is in his 22<sup>nd</sup> Year at Everett**  
**Alvarez High School as the**  
**Ceramics Teacher. He is**  
**originally from New York.**

*How long have you been involved in the Union:*

I've been involved in the union since I got here. I am not involved specifically in the union but I am involved in political stuff...

*What was the union like 22 years ago...*

Elizondo was here and he was anti-union. The union helped get rid of him. He did a few things that were really unethical, and his ethics did him in.

*How has the union evolved since then?*

It's got ups and downs. I like the leadership now. I like Steve, I like Kati- I have a lot of respect for them. Out of all the Presidents I've noticed those two have done a really good job. They care about the union, they really care.

*You teach ceramics. What kind of art do you do?*

I am a ceramic sculptor.

*How did you get into your craft?*

In kindergarten, I used to steal clay and go home and make soldiers out of them, and then I used to play with them.

*What made you decide that you wanted to teach ceramics in high school?*

That's what I do! I became a painter for awhile, but when I was going for my masters in painting they were doing clay in the same building, and I just got back into ceramics. It's so direct and it's so easy to express myself through clay. **My work is very political.**

*Do you have any direct relationship to the holocaust?*

**Yeah, about a third of my family on my mother's side was wiped out by Nazis.**

*Why is it important for new teachers to get involved?*

It is their future. The union speaks for you. I have a friend who lives in Vacaville, he's not paying his dues because he says he doesn't have to anymore. He says, "The union hasn't done anything for me." He says that his wages haven't gone up. But our wages in Salinas have. The union stands up for you and when you have a problem you can go to the union and they'll have your back.



*Should we be worried by JANUS?*

If the union does it's job and fights for its people then JANUS shouldn't interfere with us. There are unions that aren't doing their job, that's the reality. But I am happy with our pay increase and our union is really good.

The strategy that the AFT has is the way to fight JANUS is by getting your people to sign up. What they notice is a big uptick in people signing up for the union than before. Most of the union people realize that the union is for them and it's about them. Every time the right-wing decides to attack, the unions the unions get stronger... That is why I get involved. Because I care about this country.

*Most recently, you went to the AFT convention in Pittsburg...*

Steve and Kati were there, and it was nice. Past and present Presidential Candidates gave a speeches. **The AFT and the CFT care about kids. They care about education.** At one convention, someone did research that showed poverty is the main source of lower education levels. Some democrats are selling out our public schools, by backing charter schools. Charter schools do not have to pay for students with special needs... One of the teachers was saying that one student who was a challenge cost the district \$100,000 a year. Charter schools don't have programs for special kids and they can ignore them. I personally think it's a crime to take money from public schools and give it to charter schools and private schools. I think it's horrible.

**Final Thoughts:**

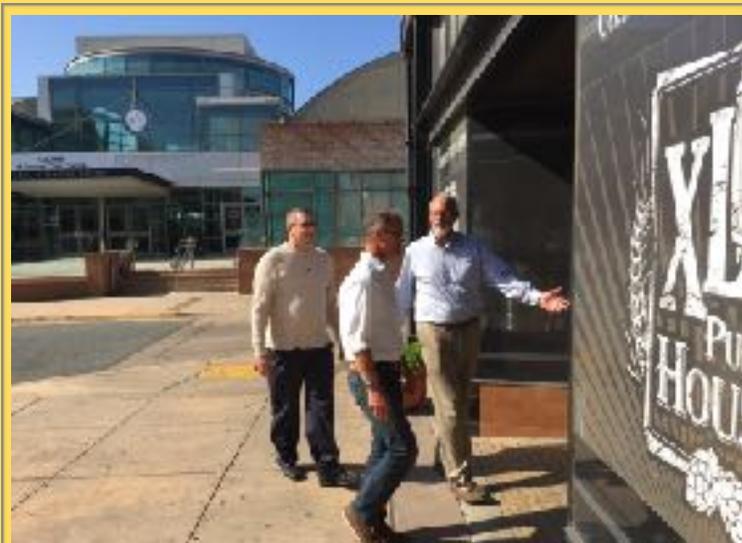
Get involved! If you're unhappy run for office. If you're unhappy with the union run for site rep, and have a voice. If there is something bothering you, take up the issue because you can change things... **if enough people get involved things will change for the positive...**



"Good Humor"

## WELCOME BACK SOCIAL!

Celebrating with colleagues is one important way of increasing personal wellness! Our welcome back event took place at the XL Public House in Old Town Salinas, with Members of the Federation, Administrators, Family and Friends. Here are a couple images from the event:



L-R: Brian Preble (ROP), Jerome Fendrych (NSHS), Bryan Robinson (EPHS)



## TEACHER'S CORNER

### C L A S S R O O M ENVIRONMENT:

1.) **Be Firm, Fair & Friendly:** if you say you're going to do something, **DO IT.**

2.) **From a Yoga Teacher:**

**If you need to give more than 3 directions you are giving too many:** in confusion lies anger. When directions and expectations are clear, students are more confident and calm.

3.) **From SVFT President Steve McDougall:**

**Think of each student as a Champion- Find at least one student to mentor... take a risk and avoid picking an easy student- consider picking a student that may not have positive coaching or mentoring outside of school.**

**\*if you have classroom tips please share!**

**svft.net**