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- [Frank Vel: Teacher used storytelling to inspire kids](#)

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Detroit Area Meetups



Whatever your interest. Wherever you are. Go offline!

Meetups near Detroit, MI
Sunday, September 03

4:00 PM
English Bulldog: The Detroit English Bulldog September Meetup

4:00 PM
Vegan: Downriver Vegan Meetup September Meetup

6:30 PM
Russian Language: The Detroit Russian Language September Meetup

8:00 PM
Spanish Language: The Detroit Spanish Language Meetup

Monday, September 04

1:00 PM
Japanese Language and Culture: Let's Go Tigers!

7:00 PM
Indie Film: Casablanca (FREE admission courtesy Mich Theatre)

Published: September 05, 2006 3:00AM

OBITUARIES

Frank Vel: Teacher used storytelling to inspire kids

September 5, 2006

BY JOE ROSSITER
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

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Frank Vel believed there was more to teaching than just educating students.

The longtime educator with a quick wit and infectious laugh liked to inject levity into the classroom to keep his courses interesting.

"He wasn't just a teacher, he was an inspiration and an entertainer," said his wife, Maureen Vel. "He came alive while teaching and wanted the students to feel the same about learning."

After a prolonged bout with cancer, Mr. Vel, a former journalism instructor and school administrator, died of a stroke Aug. 8 at his home in Stanwood. He was 77.

While teaching at the University of Detroit, Mr. Vel helped initiate a curriculum for yearbook instruction and spent more than a quarter-century teaching summer journalism workshops at universities throughout the United States and Canada.

Students and advisers learned about layout, design and photography.

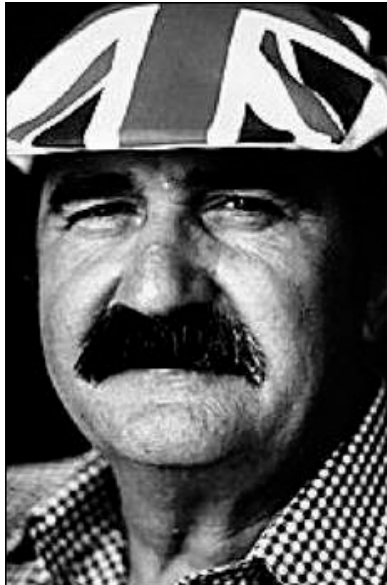
Bob Berschback, a sales representative for Jostens, a leading publisher of yearbooks in the country, taught the workshops with Mr. Vel and cowrote a book on yearbook design and layout with him.

"The workshops attracted thousands of kids," he said. "Frank had an amazing gift for storytelling and used that talent in his instruction. You didn't just get facts, figures and boring lectures."

Born and raised in Detroit, Mr. Vel served in the Army during the Korean War and attained the rank of sergeant.

After his discharge, he attended Eastern Michigan University, graduating in 1954 with a degree in journalism. Five years later, he received a master's degree in education from the University of Michigan.

His teaching career began at Lincoln High School in the Van Dyke district, where he taught English for five years.



Zoom

Frank Vel

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Tuesday, September 05

6:30 PM

Entrepreneur: WCRT "Success by Association" Detroit September Meetup

6:30 PM

Knitting: The Ann Arbor Stitch 'N Bitch Knitting Group Meetup

7:00 PM

Green Party: The Detroit Green Party September Meetup

7:00 PM

Pagan: The Detroit Metro Area Pagan September Meetup

8:00 PM

German Language: The Detroit German Language Meetup

He also taught at the University of Detroit for five years.

The remainder of his career was spent in the Utica Community Schools district as a principal at several junior high schools and in central administration until his retirement in 1994.

Mr. Vel married his second wife, the former Maureen Corpron, in 1989, and they moved to the Canadian Lakes region near Stanwood, where he spent his days fishing, golfing and playing with his grandchildren.

In addition to his wife, survivors include two daughters, Kimberly Spiering and Carrie Vel; two stepdaughters, Amy Paterson and Heather Miciuda; two brothers; a sister, and three grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday at SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Catholic Church, 41233 Ryan, Sterling Heights.

The body was cremated.

Contact **JOE ROSSITER** at 313-222-6594 or jrossiter@freepress.com.

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