

# the HHHART BEAT

Newsletter of the Half Hollow Hills Active Retired Teachers  
Fall, 2014

Volume 28, No. 1

HHH Teachers Association, 6268 Jericho Turnpike, Unit #10, Local 2701, NYSUT/AFT/AFL-CIO, Commack, NY 11725-2810

## POLITICAL ACTION

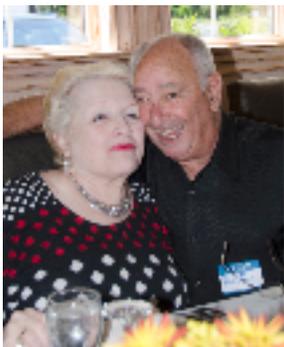
Once again we face an important Election Day cycle with crucial issues at stake for us. The entire NYS legislature, Governor, Comptroller, and Attorney General positions as well as the U.S. House of Representatives are all up for grabs. We **MUST** take a proactive role to elect those people who are pro-education, supportive of our active and retired members and, at the same time, work tirelessly to "fire" those politicians who are threatening our profession!

The NYSUT endorsed candidates that best reflect our positions can be found on page 6.: These candidates, from both political parties, have voting records and/or views that we share and can best support our students and our active and retired brothers and sisters.

If you have some spare time and want to help us in our quest to elect responsible leaders, please join us at our phone bank. We will be making calls from our NYSUT Suffolk Office(150 Motor Parkway, Hauppauge, 3rd.floor) Monday to Thursday from October 1st to Election Day except on October 13th (Columbus Day). Our hours are from 3 to 7p.m.. Also, every Tuesday, we will be calling from 10 a.m. to accommodate our retirees. Please join us if you can. We can make a difference and we will but not without YOUR support! As always, thanks for all you do.

*Mel Stern*

NYSUT Suffolk Political Action Coordinator.



**Fall Luncheon**

## HHHART FALL LUNCHEON

The Fall 2014 Half Hollow Hills Retired Teachers' Association Luncheon took place on September 18th at The Bonwit Inn in Commack. About 50 hungry retirees braved the sunny, perfect San Diego day to meet for good food and good news. Both were delivered. The enthusiasm over the opportunity to see old friends and colleagues, and, for some, new acquaintances made the meeters and greeters as hard to settle down as a bunch of rowdy kids. But settle we did and listened attentively.

Dick Lee gave an explanation of our Medical coverage (see page 6). See Joan Petroske's *President's Message* (page 2) and Mel Stern's *Political Action* column (cover ) for other important information which you missed, if you weren't there.

Richard Haase, the TA President shared the good news that, in spite of a no-contract start to the school year on September 9th, a five-year contract agreement was achieved and expected to be signed very soon. He assured the audience that all retirees' benefits were safe for the life of the contract. His words were well received. Fred Seiden thanked Richard and all the negotiators for their successful efforts on behalf of all currently employed teachers, as well as those who are retired.



A segment of the afternoon was reserved for recognition of the retirement of Cathy Rossello the TA's Office Manager for nine years. Cathy served efficiently, patiently, and with lots of caring to help anyone with big or small needs.

(Continued on page 6)

## -----*The President's Message*-----

HHHART started the new school year with our Annual Luncheon on September 18th, held this year at the Bonwit Inn in Commack. It was a beautiful early Autumn day and we filled the room to capacity!

Our guest of honor was Cathy Rossello, Office Manager for the TA, who has just retired after nine years working for the TA and also for our retirees. She has always been so helpful in keeping our records in a data base, collecting dues and Vote-Cope, helping with correspondence and mailings, and keeping us informed of NYSUT and TA happenings. We honored her with the presentation of a check and a beautiful bouquet of flowers. Cathy spoke about how much she enjoyed working with all of us and thanked us. She leaves us with her very capable daughter, Chrissy, who is now the Office Manager.

Rich Haase, President of HHHTA, gave us a review of TA activities and the state of our contract negotiations with the Board. The TA team thought that the new contract had been settled at the end of the school year, but there were some minor discrepancies that had to be settled. They have now been worked out and he was happy to tell us that a new five-year contract, with no loss of teacher benefits, would be presented to the faculty for approval at the next Rep. Council meeting. He also told us how Cathy has been so helpful to him in the three years he has been President

This is an election year and I urge you to exercise your right to vote and to vote for those candidates who have been supportive of teacher and educational issues. Mel Stern, our Political Action Coordinator, gave us a run-down of candidates who have done that and some who haven't. Please see his article on the cover of *HHHART Beat*. By the way, Mel is the newly-elected President of Retiree Council 20. Congratulations!

Our next activity will be the CORTLI Annual Luncheon on October 16th at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury. There will be two guest speakers: Roger Tilles, LI's Regent on the Board of Regents, who will address the current testing issues and teacher ramifications, and David Keefe, VP of the NYSTRS who had been President of the Hempstead TA for many years. -2-

If you haven't made your reservation yet, send a check made out to Eileen Lohrey, our VP, for \$30 asap.

And – Save the Date – November 19th, for the NYSUT Regional Conference at the Woodbury Country Club. Notices and sign up forms will be coming in the mail. The cost of \$34 will cover Breakfast and Lunch as well as the 3 or 4 workshops which are always so informative.

Be sure to read this issue and its many articles, including Dick Lee's insurance information. I hope to see you at all the upcoming events.

*Joan Detroske*

Fall Luncheon



### Input / Output



It was great to see so many of you at our Fall Luncheon. Now that you have experienced the pleasant feeling of joining us for an afternoon of catching up with friends and former colleagues, and news of what is going on in HHH, we hope you will add our functions to the activities you look forward to attending.

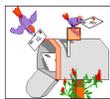
If you have never sent us news for the *HHHART Beat*, try it. You probably will enjoy sharing, as much as others will enjoy hearing about you. We get wonderful feedback from our readers about the enjoyment they get from reading about you. Send your piece to (Barbara Arbuss) [barbuss@aol.com](mailto:barbuss@aol.com). If you have sent us something this year, be assured that it will be published in this year's Winter, Spring or Summer issues (yes, we still work on a school year calendar).

Please remember to vote on November 4th.

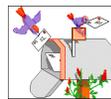
*Sandy, Barbara & Norma*

### *Paraprofessional Retirees 2014*

Christine Anderson     Janet Rottkamp  
Denise Cueas             Roseanne Smith



---Keep In Touch---



Judy and I continue to enjoy the sunny South with all its museums, theaters, and cultural civility. As a member of the Atlanta Council on Foreign Relations enjoying its monthly guests, in addition to attending forums at Georgia Tech's Sam Nunn School for Foreign Affairs, with all its guests and contacts, I have a perpetual smile on my face. There is a life after teaching American History and Government for three and a half decades. Books, new acquaintances, morning workouts, fun with my grandchildren, the pistol range, and many hours of working in our HOA have led to a fulfilling retirement. The predicate to all this is having Judy by my side. Best wishes to my former colleagues and their families for continued healthy, prosperous lives filled with ample doses of daily contentment. I extend our family toast to the TA and all its members, both current and retired :*"Faith, Family, Friends, and Freedom."* Many thanks for the work and many hours putting together the Newsletter. It's greatly appreciated.

*Tony Cuzzuocoli*

Some years ago a friend and I signed up for an OLLI course at U.R.I. and I haven't missed taking a course at their 3 sessions . The latest is "Aging Gracefully". It recommends community building, family, crafts, and taking courses. Six of my 13 grandchildren live close enough to visit. Had my 88th birthday with my great-grandson, who was born on the same date and is 4. All is well. It just takes a little longer to complete everything in my apartment so I can get out.

*Kathleen M. Blank*

Just finished Home Schooling a student for the past 31/2 years. This student had MS, unfortunately. It didn't stop his challenge to achieve his goal. In all my years of teaching high school. and college, this experience is at the top of my educational achievement .

*Harvey Brown*

My new book of short stories, *Truly Lament-Working Through the Holocaust*, will be published in the Fall of 2014. It was one of three finalists, out of 420 submitted, in the Leap Frog Press Contest. Matt's e-mail is: [mthsfreese@hotmail.com](mailto:mthsfreese@hotmail.com)

*Mathias B Freese*

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 4th  
Be sure you're registered to vote.

Having lots of fun traveling all over. In January we went to India with Bob and Ruth Sondak and Rita Stein – a life-changing experience. Kevin is now golfing in Scotland. We will take our two grandsons to London and Ireland (July) and then we are off to Alaska. Meanwhile, lots of babysitting, theatre and golf. It's a tough life, but somebody has to do it. *Alida Schubert McGuire*

I (New Image) performed piano and vocal – "The American Songbook" and Classic Rock at the following restaurants during the summer – Thursdays at Chris in Westbury, Fridays at Perum Angelo in Wantagh, and Sunday 10-1 at Gabby's Bagels in Woodbury. Hope some of you caught me there.

*Rich Miranda*

After a family of men (three sons and two grandsons) we finally got twin girls. They have brought great joy to our lives. We have traveled to 92 countries, in every continent and hemisphere. I work in Family Court as an advocate for abused women, and use my extra time to take courses, go on Art Tours, visit museums, and enjoy the theatre. Retired life is great, but I always remember the students I nurtured and adored.

*Elaine Hauptman*

This year, I am retired 15 years. Living the last 6 in South Carolina – Hilton Head/Bluffton area. Miss my Long Island as it once was! Do a fair amount of traveling and am certainly enjoying the good life in Paradise. Love to all.

*Loretta Janelis*

**Fall Luncheon**



## **PASSING THE BATON**



This past summer, Cathy Rossello, our longtime TA office manager retired. Cathy was the go-to person for anyone needing information regarding messages or activities relating to HHHTA and HHHART. Cathy always assisted in a very pleasant manner. She was honored at our Fall Luncheon.

The transition to a new office manager was a seamless one. Cathy's daughter, Chrissy James, was hired in her place. Chrissy started in August and seems right at home. She lives in Commack near the office, with her husband, Brett and their two children, a son, 15, and a daughter, 12.

Chrissy says this is the job she always wanted ...and she is looking forward to working in the District. We look forward to working with Chrissy.

## **HEALTH ADVOCATE SAVES THE NIGHT**

For the last few years, I have had sleep issues and found that a medical appliance helped a great deal. Medicare not only paid for the appliance, they wanted it changed every three months.

For about six months, the provider Medicare chose did nothing about getting the appliance. After seven months and many, many calls, still nothing was done. It became impossible to speak to a live, knowledgeable person. I always got a recording asking me to leave a message. My message was never answered.

I had used the Health Advocate services before with positive results. So I called Health Advocate to come to my rescue and they certainly did. A wonderful Health Advocate, Gloria, called many people. She managed to get through, she finally got everything straightened out. She was terrific and all is well now.

*Honey Kellman*

## **Avon Walk for Breast Cancer**

The following letter was sent by Malinda Dobrin's daughter, Marlene Beilis.

This October, I'll be walking the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in NYC. With some of my friends, and thousands of others, we'll walk 39.3 miles over 2 days to support breast cancer research.

I'm walking because 3 years ago, one of my closest friends, Kristen Lichtenthal, lost her mother to breast cancer. She fought this horrendous disease for almost 3 decades, first diagnosed at age 32. She died at 59, just 6 weeks shy of her 60th birthday and 3 weeks shy of her 40th wedding anniversary.

In 2012, a group of us walked the Avon Walk and Kristen had the amazing honor to speak at the opening ceremony about her mom and her fight against breast cancer. When our team finished, blistered and achy, we vowed to do it again. So here I am asking for your help to make a difference. Last time we raised more than \$30,000, and we're hoping to do it again!

Please visit our team page, and thank you in advance for any support you can give us!

<http://info.avonfoundation.org> (team name: HelloTitty). And, grab your Kleenex to watch a short video from our walk in 2012.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJE11nCIYmg>

## **LIFE CELEBRATION OF PETER CONNORS**

On Saturday, July 12, 2014, a boat-load of about 50 people: wife LiAne, sons, Craig and Todd, and families went "out off" Point Lookout and 'buried' Peter Connors' ashes in the Great South Bay.

*Tom Carey*



**Fall Luncheon**

# Know Your Benefits

Dick Lee, Welfare Trust Fund Administrator

## Excess Major Medical Coverage Explanation

### **VOLUNTARY EXCESS MAJOR MEDICAL/VISION CARE POLICY**

Excess Major Medical/Vision Care coverage is often misunderstood and there is some confusion in what is covered and when to file for medical reimbursement. This inexpensive policy, \$46.20 individual coverage or \$110.40 family coverage, is an optional benefit billed annually to participating active and retired teachers. Open enrollment for this union benefit is during the month of November.

### **VISION CARE BENEFIT**

Under this plan, you may purchase a pair of eyeglasses (including eye examination) once each two policy years. The policy year starts each January 1st and runs through December 31st. For example, if you purchased glasses and/or had an eye examination on May 15, 2014, you would become eligible to purchase another pair of glasses (including eye examination) on January 1, 2016.

### **COINSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT BENEFIT**

In order to become eligible for co-insurance reimbursement from ***Shelter Point Life Insurance Company*** (your **Excess Major Medical** carrier) one must satisfy Incurred Allowable Expenses of \$1,625. For Example:

1. You submit \$2,500 out of network expenses to EMPIRE
2. EMPIRE allows \$1,800 of your submitted medical expenses
3. EMPIRE pays you at 80% or \$1,400 of the "Allowable Expenses"
4. You are now eligible for EMM
  - a. Take the \$1,800 of "Allowable Expenses"
  - b. Deduct \$1,625 (amount you must first incur to be eligible for EMM reimbursement)
  - c. That leaves \$175 you may submit to EMM
  - d. Your EMM policy will pay 20% of the \$175 or \$35 reimbursement

Since your "Incurred Allowable Expenses" has now been satisfied during the policy year (January through December) any other allowable expenses would be reimbursed at the level of 20%.

**PLEASE BE AWARE** you **MUST** include **copies** of all relevant **Explanation of Benefits** when you submit for Excess Major Medical co-insurance reimbursement.

### **IN HOSPITAL REIMBURSEMENT**

There is a \$50 a day reimbursement, for the HHHTA or HHHART member, who is hospitalized. Rehab and/or Nursing facilities are **NOT** covered for this reimbursement.

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR EXPLANATION OF THIS PLAN, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**\*Shelter Point Life Insurance Company  
516-829-8100 – or 800-365-4999**

\*This is the new corporate name for the former First Rehab Ins. Co. Their address, phone number, benefits and carriers remain the same. If you don't use Davis Vision for your eye glasses, you may go to our website for the revised vision form.

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 4th  
Know where your polling place is.



HHHART . . . On The Road

**Berkshires, Tanglewood and Mass MoCA**

The Berkshires are a great place to spend time, especially if you live in the New York area. This August I spent a long weekend there with some friends. We plan on making it at least a biannual event.

We stayed in North Adams, MA at the Holiday Inn Berkshire for three nights. We chose that hotel for its proximity to MASS MoCA, (www.massmoca.org). After spending the day at this outstanding and unusual contemporary museum, we enjoyed dinner at Public, (www.publiceatanddrink.com), which is right across from the hotel. We also enjoy Elizabeth's, 1264 East St., Pittsfield, MA but no reservations were available the evening we were there.

The next day in Lenox we began with a great brunch at Haven, which we loved, (havencafebakery.com). Then we went to Tanglewood for a fabulous performance of Candide, with the Boston Symphony, a full Chorus and great soloists. The tickets for seats in the Shed were purchased in advance and you can also opt to get tickets to sit on the lawn and have a picnic. The last day we arrived at the newly reopened Clark Institute, (www.clarkart.edu). The architecture of the new addition is spectacular and the exhibits are exceptional. We then had matinee tickets at the Williamstown Theater to see *The Visit* with Chita Rivera. That was excellent, as well. It may be coming to Broadway.

I look forward to going to MA and spending more time at the Clark, revisiting MoCA and, hopefully, a performance at Tanglewood and Jacobs Pillow for the dance. All that, and you can drive to the Berkshires – no plane needed.

*Marlene Flanagan*



**Fall Luncheon**

(Political Action continued)

NYSUT endorsed candidates

Comptroller: Thomas DiNapoli,  
Attorney General: Eric Schneiderman

House of Representatives:

CD1 Timothy Bishop,  
CD3 Steve Israel, CD4 Kathleen Rice and  
CD5 Gregory Meeks

NYS Senate:

SD1 Kenneth LaValle,  
SD2 Adrienne Esposito,  
SD5 Carl Marcellino  
SD8 Dave Denenberg.

NYS Assembly:

AD1 Fred Thiele,  
AD2 Anthony Palumbo,  
AD3 Edward Hennessey,  
AD5 Al Graf, AD6 Phil Ramos,  
AD7 Andrew Garbarino,  
AD 8 Jason Zove,  
AD9 Joseph Saladino,  
AD10 Chad Lupinacci,  
AD11 Kimberly Jean-Pierre,  
AD12 Andrew Raia,  
AD13 Charles Lavine,  
AD14 David McDonough,  
AD15 Michael Montesano  
AD16 Michelle Schimel.

(HHHART Fall Luncheon continued)

She was presented with a gift and a bouquet of flowers as a hearty thank you for all she has done. We were pleased to learn that her replacement is her daughter, Chrissy James. We expect that Chrissy will be a chip off the old block.

The event, as usual, left us with the pleasure of exchanges with former buddies, relief in the assurance that our Union will not let us down and very full stomachs. There were lots of doggie bags carried home for those with houses filled with pets.

A special thanks to Honey Kellman, who made the arrangements and did all the hard work associated with being in charge of this event.

*Elaine Hoffspiegel*



# Member Shopping Program powered by PayCheck Direct



**As NYSUT members, you work hard every day!  
Shouldn't buying what you want be easy?**

**Well, now it can be...** The Member Shopping Program powered by PayCheck Direct allows eligible NYSUT members to purchase what they want now and pay interest-free over 12 months. Choose from either 12 or 26 payments via automatic checking account withdrawals.

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**Through PayCheck Direct, all eligible NYSUT members have access to thousands of name-brand products such as appliances, computers & tablets, electronics, furniture, jewelry & watches, home & garden items, children's toys, and recreation & fitness items.**

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PayCheck Direct offers a 30-day in-home trial on many products; flexible return policy; no interest fees, credit checks, down payments, or finance charges; and toll-free customer service representatives located in the U.S.

*NYSUT members are encouraged to shop and compare prices before making a purchase with this program and consider it as an alternative to using their credit card. Please note that PayCheck Direct will have access to certain information from NYSUT's membership files to verify levels of eligibility for those NYSUT members that choose to participate in this program.*

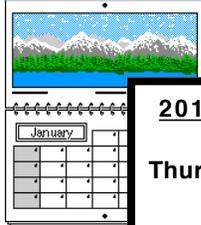
**For more information about PayCheck Direct,  
call toll-free 866-441-9160 or visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org).**

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The HHHART Newsletter is a publication of the Half Hollow Hills Active Retired Teachers  
631-499-4240

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	Sandra Glickman
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### Mark Your Calendar



**2014-15**

**Thursday, October 16th** Cortli Luncheon  
Crest Hollow C.C., Woodbury, NY

**Tuesday, November 4th** Election Day

**Wednesday, November 19th**  
NYSUT Conference, Woodbury  
Country Club

**May (TBA)** HHHART Annual Meeting

**Don't Forget To Vote!**

### E-mail Corrections and Additions

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Please notify HHHART Secretary Malinda Dobrins, [lotsofdimples@optonline.net](mailto:lotsofdimples@optonline.net), and/or Marlene Flanagan, [spirals@optonline.net](mailto:spirals@optonline.net), when you change your e-mail address. This will keep you in the loop of the news concerning our retirement group. We don't want to lose you due to changes.

**If you did not pay your dues by September 30th, you will be deleted from membership in HHHART. If this was an oversight, please send your check for \$30 to the TA office.**

### IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth Desmond  
August, 2014  
LA

Pat Donat  
September, 2014  
EE

Lillian Grimaldi  
July, 2014  
EE

Jeune Lauer  
July, 2014  
EE

Gerald "Jerry" Hartnett  
July, 2014  
GU

Frances (Schaefer) Magat  
September, 2014  
FL

If a retiree has information for either "happy" or "sad" news for e-mail, please make sure all the information is correct as I cannot send corrections. Our e-mail data base contains 556 addresses and a number of our retirees do not live on Long Island. Thank you. *Malinda Dobrins, Secretary*

We are currently organizing and updating membership information for a new retiree directory to be distributed to all. If you do NOT want your information published in the directory, please contact the Teachers Association asap. We use the directory to contact our members. If you are not listed, this may impact our ability to contact you. *Betty Volpe*