

the

HALLOWART BEAT

Newsletter of the Half Hollow Hills Active Retired Teachers
Spring, 2010

Volume 23, No. 3

.....*Reflections*.....

New Careers For The New Decade

Every decade has its uniqueness, out with the old, in with new. What's remembered is that which has the staying power to continue on in one form or another through the decades. Transformation of the old ways, and creation of new ways, are ongoing adaptations necessary to meet the needs of societal conditions. To this end we expect to see our newly minted career seekers address present day issues with their career choices

Consider the ever present concern with public safety and security. This has given rise to a growing need for packaging-injury attorneys to exclusively represent those who have been hurt in their attempts to remove the products they have purchased from the creatively designed containers they came in. Packaging designers have surely gone overboard in their concern for product protection. Of course there is a need for the prevention of product tampering and theft. However, there should be concern for those who may slice and dice their fingers with the sharp instruments used to pierce plastic coverings. Other injuries can be caused by the inept or careless use of screwdrivers, letter openers, or pliers to remove lids that are constructed to insure protection. Consider also the proliferation of sprained wrists, elevated blood pressure, damaged bottle caps, and spilled contents, all suffered in the pursuit of product access. We may well see an increased need for consumer protection services that target anger and frustration management, as well as safecracking skills. We must all become safer and speedier package openers.

This decade of technology advancement is certain to bring with it a need for ego-repair specialists, a field that will provide therapies for the rebuilding of egos damaged by the new technological challenges. The numbers of people who once thought themselves proficient in the ways of information access and transmission, but who are slowly discovering their

ineptitude in the understanding and use of high-tech equipment is growing in disproportion to the speed one can travel on the information highway. These people are hurting. They feel inadequate and left behind. They need help. The community of psychology practitioners must step up to provide damage repair to their egos.

In this decade, technology and medicine will meld in new and important ways for the manufacture of communication protection and enhancement. There will be a growing need for thumb prosthetics as a deterrent against "messageitis". This new condition will surely immortalize the decade. A more far-reaching improvement could be the development of an instrument that would maximize communication opportunities by making obsolete what we now consider multi-tasking communications operations. We must develop a broader concept of simultaneous operations that would group reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, and thinking as one task. This opens a wide field for creative persons to innovate.

Our current pop culture cries out for other new medical specialties. We will need body piercing repair specialists to mend piercing made in hard to reach places, foot arch reconstruction specialists for those fortunate (or unfortunate) enough to own Jimmy Choo shoes, and tattoo spelling correctionists for those who need to rewrite their tattoo messages with minimal inconvenience so that Love My Harry could easily become Love My Larry.

This decade will provide unique challenges and opportunities to meet them. It may well be remembered for its adaptability to a fast-changing world. Graduates, go get'em! *Elaine Hoffspiegel*

Upcoming Event in June

Save the Date

END-OF-YEAR PARTY AND RECEPTION FOR NEW & PRESENT RETIREES

on Wednesday, June 9th starting at 2:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

MALINDA DOBRIN's Home

1 Candlewood Path North, Dix Hills

All retirees welcome! Come anytime! Join your friends for a fun afternoon.

RSVP to Malinda at 631-499-6989.

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

It seems that the daily news contains frequent attacks on education, teachers, and the Public Schools. The implementation of the Tier 5 Pension Plan affects all public employees hired after January 1st who join either the State Teachers' or Employees' Retirement Systems. This means that teachers will need to be at least 57 with 30 years of service to retire without penalty and must contribute 3.5% to their pensions for the duration of employment.

Charter Schools are increasing in numbers and will impact our public schools. Many articles have been written pro and con as to their effectiveness, but the fact remains that they can select their students and deny admission to children with special needs and those with emotional or behavioral problems. Public schools teach all children.

The recent financial problems in NY State and the projected state aid cuts are resulting in increasing efforts to reduce school budgets. One of the first outcomes is the projected layoffs of teachers. Districts all over Long Island are forecasting numbers from 20 to 80 or more. The newly introduced 25/55 bill, which creates a one-year option for NYSUT members to retire without penalty at age 55 with at least 25 years of service, may save jobs of some teachers, but the current unemployment situation may discourage senior teachers from leaving.

As retirees, we are not directly impacted by these items, but they will affect our children and grandchildren and our society. Please take every opportunity to express your opinions to your elected representatives.

Enjoy the Spring and try to come to our end-of-year party on June 9th. (See cover)

Joan Petroske

Your Help Is Needed

The financial problems in New York State are impacting the SUNY (State Universities of NY) system. In this economy, SUNY is besieged with student applicants. At a time, when more students need placement, the SUNY budget is in danger of being cut. Send letters to help avert these cuts at: www.savesuny.org.

RC 20 Luncheon

On May 25th, the NYSUT Retiree Council (RC) #20 will have Kathleen Donahue, Vice President of NYSUT, as the speaker at their luncheon at Captain Bill's in Bay Shore.

This is a chance to socialize, have a fine lunch, and learn about what is happening in our profession.

You may have already received the invitation with the pertinent information.

Please notify Betty Volpe (bjvolpe@optonline.net) if you wish to be added to our e-mail list. We will continue to keep you informed.



Input / Output



And the Winners Are....

The 2010 New York Teacher Journalism Competition awarded honors to the following authors from the 2008-2009 *HHHART BEAT* issues

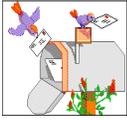
for – Best Feature Story entry –
Marlene Flanagan's article (Winter, 2008), *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer*, won an Award of Merit.

for – Best News Story entry –
Dick Lee's article (Winter, 2008), *Welfare Trust Benefits*, won First Place.

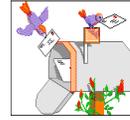
for – Best Opinion Writing –
Joan Petroske's article (Spring, 2009), *The President's Message – Happy Spring, I think!*, won an Award of Merit.

Congratulations to all.

Sandy, Barbara & Norma



--- Keep In Touch ---



I am still involved as a volunteer with my local ambulance corps. As an Emergency Medical Technician for Critical Care I am able to offer Advanced Life Support for any patient we care for. As a squad we went on 5800 calls last year.

Alphonso J Szigethy

Jon and I spent our first winter (2008) in Florida. We love being snowbirds! The highlight was getting a call from our son wanting to know how to start the snow blower. AAH! Priceless!

Kathryn Greguski

I am anxiously awaiting grandchild #3, due in March. I have a granddaughter, Kelly, and a grandson, James Patrick. I am busy traveling, playing softball, golfing and, of course, enjoying the children.

Joseph Goonan

Loving retirement and travel. Favorites so far – Italy and Yellowstone National Park. Volunteer work for Good Shepard Hospice is so enriching and am meeting so many outstanding seniors. Celebrated a 109-year-old birthday with a much decorated citizen. Need something fulfilling in your life? Volunteer.

Dat Capuro

Just want to say to all who have put this issue together ... a great job done. Thanks for your time and effort to keep us posted. Take care.

Linda Martucci

Please pass along to everybody involved in putting the newsletter together what a great job they did. It literally "blew me away". The warmth, sensitivity and caring are so typical of Half Hollow Hills teachers. Much kudos. God bless.

Lou Marett

When I read the local (Bluffton, SC) newspaper sports' pages, I am confronted with "HHH---" What's this? HHH? I went from one "HHH" to the three H's here which means Hilton Head High School. Every time I see HHH in print, I am reminded of a time so long ago- part of my memory bank. Enjoy your lives. Don't allow a moment to escape you!

Loretta Janelis

Retirement is as busy or busier than when I was working. We are in and out all through the year and are having enjoyable experiences. We really enjoy the HHHART Newsletters. Keep us on the "List". Good wishes to all who can remember way back to '93.

Bob and Irene Peterson

I'm still a very happy retiree and am pleased to report that, after marrying my 20-year partner Gary in California in 2008, then waiting for state courts there to declare us still legal after Prop 8 ended same-sex California marriages, we are now BOTH covered by my Half Hollow Hills health insurance (with kind assistance of Barry Corbett at C.O.). This is a long-awaited milestone! Meanwhile, we're still traveling to remote locales: a rainforest immersion in Surinam and Guyana; most recently soaking up Buddhist culture in Myanmar. Life is great!!

(See *On The Road* page 5) *Paul Kreyling*

Where Are They Now?

A former student of HHH, Fred Block, came into the HHH Community Library where I work. We talked at length, since I knew him from Vanderbilt and we recognized each other. Fred taught special education in Mount Vernon for a few year and enjoyed it. But when the Bush years came along, he said he couldn't bear to live in this country. He, his wife, and son settled in the south of France. He now teaches English to high school students and is studying for a degree in the winemaking field.

He talked about how much more comfortable he feels in a country where making money is not the top goal. The people in his community are satisfied to be able to live in moderate comfort and family life is much richer because people have time to spend together. Everything is covered by the government – child care, health, education through college. I asked about taxes and he said the people are willing to pay what it takes, because the money is used to improve their quality of life.

Fred welcomes e-mail from his former teachers. His address is fblock@mac.com. I found his views so refreshingly different from most of the former students I've talked to. He had the courage to change his life so radically

-3- and seems content with the result. *Lola Ferris*

HELP! – AUTHOR UNKNOWN

One of our members sent us a wonderful piece titled *THIS IS HAPPENING RIGHT HERE IN OUR OWN COUNTRY!* We would like to put it into our next issue and want to give the author credit for the writing. Please contact us by leaving a message at the TA office or by e-mail (RGSG6H@aol.com), phone (516-921-2505), post, or other and tell us who you are.

Thanks, Norma, Sandy, Barbara

We were notified that Dr. James Rahman, husband of Peggy Rahman a former speech teacher who retired in 1993, died in February.

We received word that Ellen Schoenberg's husband, Roy, died in January, 2009. Roy shared his poetry in the *HHHART Beat* in the past and this is a poem he wrote towards the end of his life.

My Wife Cries

My wife cries, is it the pain for my illness, I try to comfort her,
That's life I say, beginning and ending, I too have fears, less I say____
But inside I think, I have understood finality, though I am aged,
And seek not gods, no after life, just quietude, no hopeless displays.

I've seen autumn's leaves fall, snow to walk upon, spring's beginning,
All the rest, I have passed many of the tests and dream not of eternities____
Sure I understand why there are those who seek heavens waiting, pleading,
In my limitations I will not join them, this is my rightful exception____

As I type away, I view shadows but at this moment, there is love extended,
Beneath the exterior, I trod my way, knew some, tried or failed____
Bled and thought, I see my kin in mind, think of those who touched me,
I am next on long lines, there is the swill of waves, beauty never dies____

September 12, 2009

REMINDER

All retirees can be reimbursed for the "Income Related Adjustment" of their Medicare premiums. All you need to do is send copies of your SSA1099 to Barry Corbett and request the reimbursement. (Thanks to Gloria Damrauer for reminding us.)

We received many tributes to Frank Cantoni who was an Art teacher at High School East. Frank passed away in March.

Frank was my best friend and mentor from the time I came to HSE in 1970 until his retirement in 1985; so the throwaway line that he was simply an Art teacher and had at one time been on a negotiating team are understatement to say the least. Frank was one of the leaders of the 1975 negotiating team, remember the strike? He and others were jailed for violating the Taylor Law and made HUGE sacrifices for our union in specific and for L.I. teachers in general.

He was, along with Marty Maghakian, one of the founders of possibly the finest Art Department in Suffolk and served as its chairman toward the end of his career. Frank was innovative, caring, and a very special person whose like we will not see again any time soon.

Richard Rubin

Frank was a very special human being ... and an extremely accomplished artist!

I watched as he and Marcia adopted their three children ... and provided them with a very special and loving environment! To know him was to appreciate him!

Ann Carro

I was very sorry to learn about the passing of Frank Cantoni. He was an excellent teacher and a gifted artist. I shall remember him in my prayers. Thank you for keeping me informed.

Joe Marchese

What terribly sad news. Frank was a consummate artist. At one time he was illustrating a children's book that I had written and the work was stunning. I agree with Dick Rubin that he did so much more than people appreciated.

Ferryl Best

Know Your HHHART Board

Our Board interviewee for this issue is Eileen Lowry, HHHART Vice President



Eileen attended Great Neck schools, graduating from Great Neck South in 1960 and went on to Oswego State. She graduated in 1964 and was certified to teach K-9 Elementary Ed and Social Studies.

She opted to teach elementary school in Schenectady, NY, first, as a fifth grade teacher and later as a 5/6 teacher. She was there for four years, was active in the Schenectady Teachers Association serving as a building rep.

After four years, she headed to Denver, CO, with friends where she worked for the State Education Department, bused tables and finally got a job in an inner-city school. When she was exceded, she returned to Long Island and was hired by Half Hollow Hills in August of 1969. She was assigned to Otsego and worked there until her retirement in 1997.

Over the years, she became active in the HHHTA serving first as a rep and, prior to retirement, serving on the Executive Board as the Elementary Trustee. Her work on the Executive Board involved different school activities as well as district committees.

She is enjoying retirement! Traveling is fun although she hasn't driven from LI to Acapulco, Mexico in her Chevy Corvair convertible lately. Last year, she was off to Alaska. Eileen spends time golfing, skiing, reading, "doing lunch" exercising, attending classes and volunteering. She presently serves as Vice President of HHHART where she is involved with many LI professional organizations such as CORTLI and Retiree Council 20.

Eileen is a wonderful asset to our association. -5-

HHHART...On The Road



I spent December – April, 2008-09 in Hawaii, Australia, and New Zealand. Since my son, Ken, his wife, and my three grandchildren reside in a beautiful town (Mandurah) near Perth in western Australia, I was doubly fortunate to experience most of my time there. The climate is dry (it only rained twice); the Indian Ocean beaches in the area have the feel of Montauk, yet the water has the color of the Caribbean.

Western Australians have a great affinity toward Americans and are filled with questions about our history and lifestyles. They are closer to Singapore than to Sydney and are fiercely proud of their unique heritage. The public schools are wonderful and, yes, their national healthcare system is excellent.

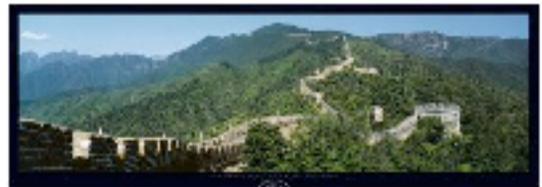
Most Americans who visit Australia stay in the eastern part of the country – Sydney, Melbourne, etc. – but they miss a lot by not seeing and experiencing the culture and beauty of the west!
William (Bill) Walters

We recently spent time traveling in the Sultanate of Oman on the Arabian Peninsula: ancient cities of Muscat and Nizwa, desert Bedouin settlements, a dhow cruise through the strait of Hormuz along its ruggedly spectacular coast. We found a traditional Arab society of friendly, hospitable and fun-loving people who served as a good reminder of the need for many of us to look beyond unfortunate stereotypes we hold.

Paul Kreyling

Joe and I just returned from a trip of a lifetime- to China. We walked on the Great Wall, went to the Forbidden City, rode in a rickshaw and took a train ride with no wheels and no driver which went 280 MPH, in addition to experiencing a myriad of other not-to-be believed sights.

Fran Mercolino



We took our granddaughters to London for their high school graduation gift. They enjoyed riding on the EYE and visiting Stonehenge and Bath. We attended a performance of "The King and I" at Royal Albert Hall, which everyone enjoyed.

Dorothy Lauer

Welfare Trust Fund Benefits By Dick Lee, Trust Fund Administrator

It's always good to plan ahead even for the eventuality of death. Although this is a difficult topic to discuss it is important that your heirs know who to contact when a HHHART member passes away. Listed below are some important contacts you should share with your loved ones:

- | <u>Benefits</u> | <u>Contact Number</u> |
|---|--|
| 1. NY State Teachers' Retirement System | 866-695-8622, Ext. 6140 |
| 2. Social Security | 800-772-1213 |
| 3. Medicare | 800-633-4227 |
| 4. Barry Corbett at HHH Central Office | 631-592-3094 |
| 5. Life Insurance (if maintained after retirement) | 631-499-4240 - HHHTA office
516-488-1100 - Newman Co. |
| 6. Excess Major Medical/Eye Glass Coverage (if maintained after retirement) | 516-488-1100 - Newman Co. |

If you have continued your union negotiated life insurance policy into retirement and are up-to-date with the yearly premiums, you should notify our office of any name, address, phone number or beneficiary changes. Currently, our carrier is Mutual of Omaha and the **monthly** rates are \$.21 per \$1,000 of insurance. The yearly premium is billed to you in **June** and is due in **July** of each year. **Newman Co.** is our third party administrator who does the billing.

Excess Major Medical/Eye Glass Coverage is available only to EMPIRE enrollees who were participants in the plan while they were actively employed in the District. If a HHHART member deceases, his or her spouse may continue this coverage as long as they continue their enrollment in the Empire Plan. The current EMM yearly rates, which are billed by **Newman Co.** in **December**, are:

Individual - \$46.20
Family - \$110.40

The **2010 Survivor Benefit Rates** for Empire Coverage are:

Not on Medicare (under 65)

Individual	\$612.34/month
Family	\$1,330.93/month

On Medicare (over 65)

Individual	\$270.97/month
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Survivors of former HHH employee's, must contact the **Business Office (631- 592-3094) within **3 months** after the death of the employee in order to continue medical coverage (The survivor's coverage continues for three months, after the death of the union member, without any cost).

Our **Health Advocate** plan may also be continued by a spouse after the death of a HHHART member. The cost to the survivor to continue this program is \$12 per year and is due by July 1st. Among the many services Health Advocate provides is assisting with eldercare issues. Caring for an elderly loved one can be a daunting, multitask affair. Personal Health Advocates can help you in the following ways:

- Locate in-home care, adult daycare, assisted living and long-term care
- Arrange transportation to services
- Arrange appointments with hard-to-reach specialists
- Arrange for transfer of x-rays and other records
- Schedule second opinions
- Interpret doctor's explanations and instructions
- Ease transactions between physicians and insurance company
- Find community support services
- Coordinate care among providers

Health Advocate is available to you and your family, including your spouse, dependent children, parents and parents-in-law. So, when you have an issue, simply call the toll-free number and a Personal Health Advocate will answer your questions, do the search needed, and provide you with options and a follow-up.

For more information"

Visit **www.healthadvocate.com** or call **1-866-695-8622.**

Legal questions have a way of piling up...

Maybe it's time to consider enrolling in the Legal Service Plan!

Stuff happens. You may be facing a speeding ticket, a house closing, a divorce, identity theft, elderly parent issues, and the list can go on and on. In today's world, at some point, you'll most likely need the advice or services of an attorney.

When that time comes, you can turn to the Legal Service Plan endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits Trust.

When you enroll in the plan, you'll receive a multitude of benefits for personal legal matters. Anytime you wish to talk with an attorney, whether for advice or consultation, you have toll-free access weekdays during normal business hours. There's even a toll-free hotline for emergencies occurring beyond these hours.

You'll receive two, hour-long office consultations with a plan attorney, legal document review and legal letters written on your behalf.

If a problem can't be resolved by letter or phone, you'll be referred to a plan attorney. Referral attorneys are located throughout the continental US and charge plan members \$200 an hour or 40 percent less than their standard hourly rate, whichever is lower.

Many personal legal matters have fees that are capped, and there are guaranteed discounts on probate fees and personal injury cases.

Also included is a Legal Security Package each year of plan enrollment. This package includes forms to request a:

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits or refer to your NYSUT Member Benefits Trust Summary Plan Description.

Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

- **Simple will** - allows you to select a guardian for your children and beneficiaries of your estate. Without a will in place, the state makes these decisions. A will also speeds up the probate process and makes settling your estate much easier.

- **Power of attorney** - allows you to give another person the right to sign your name and transact your financial affairs.

- **Living will** - enables you to express your wishes regarding end-of-life treatment.

- **Health care proxy** - allows you to appoint someone to make medical decisions on your behalf if you are unable to make them yourself; it also contains directions regarding organ donation.

The plan offers advice and guidance with identity theft issues, debt consolidation and mortgage foreclosure.

You can purchase an Elder Law rider to help you in

your health and estate planning as well as assisting you with these issues for your parents and grandparents.

If you have a business of your own, for example, a rental income property, you can purchase the Business Protection rider to obtain business legal services.

To find out more, call Member Benefits at 800-626-8101. Or go to www.memberbenefits.nysut.org to view or print a brochure and enrollment form. You can also enroll online.



I'm not married. Do I need a will?

My monthly bills are too much to handle. What can I do?

It was a minor accident, I barely hit him! How can he sue me?

I'm starting a small business. Where can I get help?

My neighbor's tree is dangerously close to my house. What can I do?

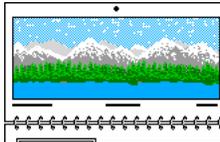
The HHHART Newsletter is a publication of the
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Mark Your Calendar



2010

Tuesday, May 25th

RC 20 Luncheon
Captain Bill's, Bay Shore
Kathleen Donahue, VP NYSUT

Wednesday, June 9th

HHHART End-of-Year Party
Malinda Dobrin's home
(See cover)

Wednesday, October 13th

CORTLI Luncheon
Crest Hollow CC, Woodbury

IN MEMORIAM

Oradell (Dell) Trayer
EE
January, 2010

Frank Cantoni
AR
March, 2010

John McDermott
TH
March, 2010

The 2010
continues.

Vote
COPE

drive

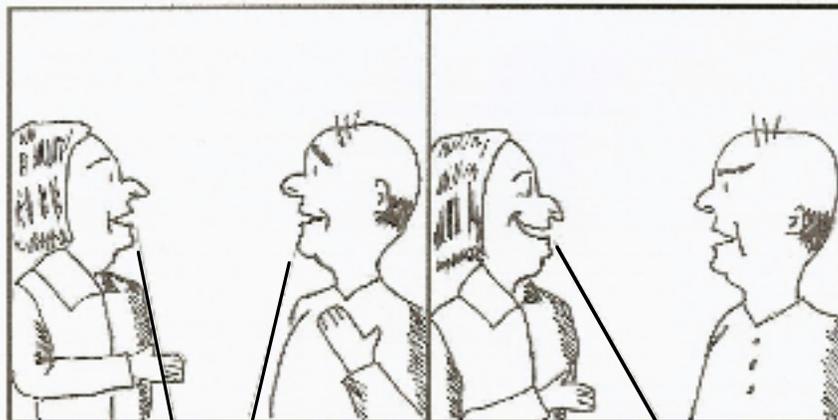
\$25 or more suggested.

Vote-Cope helps strengthen political action at all levels. The single largest expenditure is rebates to locals for their own communities for support with school budget votes and local campaigns. Funds also go toward political action expenses. NYSUT and **Vote-Cope** are non-partisan and intend to remain non-partisan providing funds to pro-education and pro-labor candidates of all parties. Issues matter, not party.

We are the largest retiree chapter in Suffolk but we have a low rate of contributions. **Please** send a check made out to **Vote-Cope** to the TA Office or you may opt to use the convenient NYSUT automatic pension deduction. (Contact NYSUT if you are interested) The 2010 **Vote-Cope** drive began in January and ends in December. In 2009, HHHART contributed \$7265. Let's try to top this.

On Wednesday, April 21st at 3:30 p.m. at High School East baseball field there will be a ceremony naming the field after Bob Domozych. Friends of Bob are invited to attend.

Glimpses



by Norma

I got a good buy on this outfit.

How much was it? -8-

It was \$10 less than its original price.