

the

HHHART BEAT

Newsletter of the Half Hollow Hills Active Retired Teachers
Winter, 2009-10

Volume 23, No. 2

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

.... *President's Message*

Best wishes to all of you for a Happy and Healthy New Year! And a big thank you for your cards, calls, and gifts during my recent hospitalization. I'm on the road to recovery, but it's a slow process.

I hope all of you have been keeping up with the news from Albany and NYSUT in the last several weeks. Mel Stern even called me at the hospital to be sure I had the news! The best news for us, as retirees, is that the Governor included the Permanent Health Care Moratorium for all of us in NY State. You probably remember my many requests over the years to lobby your representatives for this bill! The Permanent Moratorium means that our health benefits cannot be diminished unless the inservice teachers negotiate a reduction in their benefits.

Although it hasn't been written yet, it appears that there will be a 25/55 early retirement incentive coming within the next three months. NYSUT has been working for this for a long time. This may encourage senior members to retire and create openings for new teachers. It will also save the jobs of younger teachers.

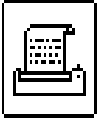
Included in the bill was the creation of a Tier 5 Pension Plan which affects public employees hired after January 1st in both the State Teachers' and Employees' Retirement Systems. Although we have opposed this plan for a year, we were able to maintain the majority of Tier 4 benefits including death and disability, the ability to purchase prior public and military service credit, and automatic permanent Cost-of-living adjustments. The bad news is that Tier 5 teachers will need to be at least 57, with 30 years of service, to retire without penalty. NYSTRS Tier 5 members will have to contribute 3.5% to their pensions for the duration of their employment. Conditions for state employees vary in some respects.

Those of us on Long Island have been having a fierce winter. We are looking forward to the coming of Spring.

Joan Detroske



Input / Output



During the past several months, we have had a variety of difficulties in our private lives which accounts for missing our self-imposed December deadline.

Norma had back surgery. She most likely will need a second surgery. Sandy had knee replacement surgery and is now able to get around quite well after a lengthy rehab period. Barbara sold a house, bought a condo, packed hundreds of boxes, moved, couldn't use her computer, and is now renovating. Her phone number and internet address are the same. Her new address is: 118 Estate Drive, Jericho, NY 11753.

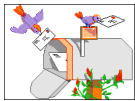
We made a New Year's resolution to put out the winter issue as soon as possible and we hope this is one resolution that really gets done.

If you have an e-mail address you have not shared with us, please do so because sending the newsletter via the internet costs us nothing.

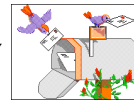
Hopefully, 2010 will bring good news for everyone. We wish Joan continued recovery. We wish you all a healthy, happy new year.

Sandy, Barbara & Norma

**Don't forget your 2010
VOTE/COPE donation. Twenty
dollars is suggested.**



---Keep In Touch---



I am still working at the Country Club. This past July I celebrated my 80th birthday. I have 9 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. I don't travel for pleasure but I have been to deSesa, Germany, to visit my youngest daughter and 3 grandchildren.

Mary Brewer

This past 7th and 8th of May, my wife, Jocelyn, and I returned to Parris Island, SC, for the 50th anniversary of my platoon graduation in 1959. Twenty members of the platoon and one of the drill instructors participated in the reunion. We witnessed 6 new platoons graduate. It was a thrilling experience for all the old "jarheads."

George Barrett

To all retirees of HHH East, hope all is well. For the past twenty years, I have been involved in marketing and merchandising for celebrities, such as Shari Lewis and Lambchop, Debbie Reynolds, and many more. My wife, Renee, and I do all the concessions at the children's shows at the Capital One theater in Westbury. In 2002, we purchased a Greyhound racing dog named Dawn. What an experience. We've lived in Hawley, PA, since 1999 but, hopefully, will move to some part of North Carolina near the ocean. Have one great life!!

Harvey Brown

I retired in 2001 and am enjoying retirement. I still have the Island Paintball retail store which takes up most of my days. Also I maintain a large vegetable garden which I enjoy. We take day trips to Brooklyn, Arthur Avenue in the Bronx, and Manhattan's out-of-the-way places. We have four grandchildren who are central to our lives.

Anthony Pennino

In the early spring, I presented a workshop on *Dealing With Difficult Patients* to the staff of Jeanne Jugan Residence in the Bronx. In June, I appeared on the show *Eye On Careers* on Channel 12. Later in the month, I addressed seniors (like myself) on *Motivating Yourself To Be Fit In The Mind and Body*.

Joe O'Connor

I now live in California with my daughter and her family. My 90th birthday was in April and my daughter, her husband and the grandsons and their wives took me whale watching and for a lovely dinner by the water.

Eleanor Schwarz

I'm still enjoying South Carolina. Can't believe I've been here 22 years. At seventy-nine and one-half, I'm still playing golf and visiting Long Island quite often. My grandchildren are graduating from college and one is following in the footsteps of grandma and going into the teaching arena. Life is good!

Josephine Leibfried

Normand and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in August.

Jeannette Madeau

This is the best bargain I've every had! Thanks. (ed. pertaining to HHHART dues and Health Advocate)

Audre Robertson

Regards to all. I've been retired two years already. Where does the time go?

Ruth Sandak

The newest family event – my 84-year-old father is getting married. My youngest daughter, Lia, had a baby girl in August. That makes five grandchildren all together.

Alida Schubert-McGuire

All is well here in Port Jeff. Loving retirement, 4 kids, 5 grandkids, 2 dogs and still no time. Our youngest, Cooper (6) is now in Kindergarten and our big boy, Parker (11), is going to middle school. We have five grandchildren, Trystan Bates, 9, Coltin and Kennadie Bates, 7, live in York, PA. Ella Schoch, 2, born on papa's birthday, and Eli, almost 1, are Schoch kids from San Diego. Everyone is happy, healthy and growing up fast and sweet. Enjoyed a 60th (and 2nd) birthday party with everyone this past summer – wonderful. Best to all.

Milt Schoch

I live in an independent living facility. It was recommended by our New York union. I love it here!

Virginia Matrose

I'm finishing my seventh year of retirement. My husband is finishing the second. We enjoy traveling. I have lunch with my Paumanok friends. We have three grandchildren – a granddaughter at West Hollow, one at Chestnut Hill and a two-year-old grandson. We are enjoying them!

Gloria Damrauer

Love living in FL. Play lots of tennis and golf and enjoy the outdoors. During the summer we try to take a couple of trips.

Sondra Weitz Silverman

Keep In Touch (continued)

Grandmother again – this time, Sophia Ann Stein. Already have 6 – Meg, Liam, Sam, Ben, and Helena. Now living in Myrtle Beach, SC, and loving it.
Mary Ann Baillargeon

I am living one of those "Widower meets widow" stories. Adell is a retired teacher from Dallas Texas. We are engaged and planning a Fall (2009) wedding . We will live in South Setauket and winter in our condo in Daytona Beach, Florida
John Hewlett

I have a new address: 77 Alfred Road, East Merrick, NY 11566. I spent the summer on the Jersey Shore in a town called Ocean Grove. I love to watch the sunrise over the ocean.
Patricia S. Gordon

Have been working part-time in a Physical Therapy clinic. Started school again as a student in the Physical Therapist Assistant program at Suffolk Community. In 2 years I'll be finished. Learning lots on the computer I never dreamed of! Love what I do. Can't wait to finish! Then it will be alphabet soup - BA, MS, ATC, PTA.
Karen L. Bath

We had our 8th grandchild in November and still counting. Ed will be ordained a Deacon in the Roman Catholic Church on May 15, 2010.
Laura Scaduto-Vigneaux/Ed Vigneaux

Joe and I are living in Fountain Court. We are looking forward to celebrating our 50th anniversary on August 27, 2010. Miss my friends from Forest Park.
Dorothy Guarino

I'm absolutely LOVING retirement. If I knew it was this much fun I would have done it sooner.
Marilyn R. Veglia

Thanks for all your efforts on our behalf. Stay well.
Robert Leporati

Where Are They Now?

I'm not sure if you will remember me. I am Todd Solomon and I was a student of yours the last year Manasquan was open (1978/1979).

I don't remember everything about elementary school, but I remember the year of fourth grade so clearly. It was a year of change for me. You once told our class, "I may not be the best teacher, but I will be the teacher you will remember for the rest of your life". Well, you were

50% correct because looking back over time, you were my best teacher and you helped shape my life for the better.

It was September of 1978 and it was the first day of school. Different from today, we did not know who our teachers were going to be on the first day of school. I'm not sure if you remember, but we sat in the auditorium and the teachers would call the names of the students that were in their class. I remember you standing up and calling out names. I was saying to myself, "please not me!" I'm not sure if you knew, but you did have the reputation of being a hard ass. I was a short and intimidated kid. Well, you announced my name and I nearly (*expletive deleted*) in my pants. My neighbor and close friend at the time, Jarid Futerman, was also in the class and I kept saying to myself, "if he can survive, so can I."

So, I started the school year petrified and scared to go to school. Weeks later your classroom began to feel like my home and it felt like the second safest place in the world to me aside from my real home. You made us feel as if we were your kids and that you were not going to let anything happen to your kids while they were under your wing.

I remember the great times we had in your classroom singing around your piano, "watching your fishing films, playing kickball in the back of the school during class time, scaling baseball cards with you in the classroom, and watching the news every day at 12:15, you kicking the loud speaker button every time Mrs. Forman came on. I really remember learning real math for the first time as well.

I also remember the hard lessons you taught me, like showing respect for the American flag. I will never forget when you pulled me out and made me say the pledge in front of the class because I was joking around. It was a lesson well taught and well deserved. You also taught me to take responsibility for all of my actions including not doing my homework. Yes, you gave me good principles to live by, ones that I pass on to my own kids. You helped shape the person I am today (a good father, husband and son). I came into your class intimidated and unsure but walked out with confidence and felling like a young adult.

So, from the bottom of my heart I want to sincerely say, "Thank you for making fourth grade one of the best times of my youth."

Best regards,
Todd Solomon
This is an internet message sent to John Bilitsky from a former student.

Focus on Social Justice

by *Dick Lee*

In the past few years NYSUT has realized that our mission as a union should include helping workers not protected by collective bargaining contracts. Child labor abuses, protection for migrant workers and fair trade issues are just some of the areas where our Union has taken a leadership role. NYSUT has also started to address social injustices that have not only affected the general population but also the students in our schools. Such issues as bullying, racism and discrimination are topics being explored and addressed by our Union in schools, seminars and workshops throughout our state (NYSUT) and country (AFT).

Much of the impetus for these initiatives can be attributed to our new Secretary-Treasurer, Lee Cutler. He not only talks about these social injustices but also practices what he preaches. He has visited exploited workers in Africa, South America and the Middle East and organized informational campaigns to alert others of their plight. If you would like to participate in one or more of these Social Justice programs or if you just want more information on these initiatives, you can call Lee Cutler's office, in NYSUT headquarters, **1(800)342-9810** or visit **NYSUT.org** and click on Social Justice and Labor Center.

We received word from Natalie Forman that her husband of 62 years, Manuel, died this past November, 2009.



Welfare Trust Fund Benefits

by *Dick Lee*, Fund Administrator

With all the recent discussions on breast cancer testing and at what age this testing should begin, Health Advocate has published a free booklet, "Your Guide to Breast Health, Facts, Tips and Key Questions You Should Know to Ask". This informative guide is designed to raise awareness about the importance of early detection and screening in the fight against breast cancer and the ways women can keep their breasts healthy throughout their lives.

For your free booklet follow these easy instructions:

1. Visit <http://www.healthadvocate.com>
2. Click on the pink box labeled "Help Fight Breast Cancer."
3. Click on the "Click Now" button under "healthy women" logo on the right, which takes you right to the guide.
4. To order a hard copy, click on "Add to Cart".

You can also visit:

<http://.healthywomen.org/healthcenter/breast> (which provides a lot of good information), scroll down to "related publications" and click on "Guide to Breast Health" on the left.

Contact Health Advocate at 1(866)695-8622.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk

October 18, 2009, was a cold, windy, rainy day, but "pink" prevailed. Volunteers manned their booths and walkers braved the pelting rain. The Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk was a sight to be seen. Families with young children in strollers, high school teams, and the Half Hollow Hills Active Retired Teachers walked the Walk. Our team raised over \$2,800! Many thanks to all our supporters.

Betty Volpe

Know Your HHHART Board

People have expressed interest in learning about those who help to keep us informed, protect our benefits and plan our social events, so we are instituting this new feature.

Our first interviewee is Joan Petroske, who has been HHHART President since 1994.



Joan attended Christopher Columbus High School in the Bronx, even though she was accepted at the very selective Hunter High School.(Her friends were all going to attend Columbus, and Hunter did not accept boys,at the time.) She went to Cornell University, where she had a dual major – Child Development and Sociology/Social Work. She worked as a Social Worker, for two years, in a Foster Care and Adoption agency.

Her teaching career in Half Hollow Hills began when , after she subbed for ten days, she was invited to teach Reading half time. She worked with First Graders. She also taught Physical Education half time. Even then they knew that if you ask Joan to do a job, she will give it her all. Her full-time elementary experience started in 1970, when she was assigned a Fourth Grade class at Taukomas. Working towards her Master's Degree at Hofstra, at night, while she was teaching, and raising her children,Susan and Cliff, was a challenging time constraint, so her husband, Ed, (who was very much a presence in HHH, as a teacher and as a retiree until, sadly, he died in 2006) developed a system whereby each of the members of the family rotated the time-consuming household jobs which often fall exclusively on the woman .

Joan was the building representative for the Teachers' Association at Taukomas and, when it closed, at Vanderbilt until she retired in 1992. She was on the executive board of the TA and became chairperson of the elementary school representatives. Joan was on many school committees and did presentations at various venues.

Joan has been President of HHHART since 1994, She and Ed were involved in lobbying in Albany and Washington and were delegates to NYSUT and the AFT. Presently, Joan is involved as a Retiree NYSUT Delegate in Retiree Council 20, CORTLI, and LIRDC. Her efforts on our behalf have been extraordinary. We are so lucky to have her.

Joan and Ed were very ardent sailors. They sailed at every opportunity, played tennis, spent time at their time-share in the Florida Keys, and lived a very full life. Joan also found time to be president of her Condo Association.

Grass does not grow under Joan's feet.

Sandy Glickman

It is very difficult to maintain an up-to-date and accurate membership list if members send dues throughout the year. Please be sure to remit your dues at the due date of JULY 1st. Each Spring we will remind you of this date. This will eliminate receiving double dues from some retirees and late dues from others. In one year, we returned 73 checks to retirees for paying their dues twice. If you are unsure of your dues status, call the Teachers Association office at 631-499-4240 and Cathy will be happy to assist you.

(CLIP AND SAVE)

Important Dates and Resources

<u>Benefit</u>	<u>Bill Dates</u>	<u>Due Dates</u>
1. Life Insurance (Billed by Newman & Co) (30 day grace period before cancellation)	June 1st	July 1st
2. Yearly Dues	Spring	July 1st
3. Excess Medical & Vision Care (Billed by Newman & Co)	December 1st	January 1st
4. Vote-Cope Voluntary Contribution From January 1st to December 31st		

RESOURCES

Newman & Co (516) 488-1100
HHHTA – Dick Lee, Welfare Trust Fund Administrator (631) 499-4240
Half Hollow Hills CSD, Barry Corbett, Health Benefits Administrator (631) 592-3094
Health Advocate (866) 695-8622
NYSHIP (Empire) (877) 769-7447
HIP/HMO (888) 839-7380
HHHTA website www/hhhta.com

Is it time for a financial tune-up?

Have you ever asked yourself these questions?

- Should I refinance my mortgage?
- Am I saving enough for my children's education?
- What is the best way to reduce my debt?
- Is my 403(b) retirement account invested properly?

If yes, you could benefit by enrolling in the Financial Counseling Program recently endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation.

For an annual fee, you'll get unbiased, objective advice from financial professionals who do not sell any financial products. The Financial Counseling Program is provided by Stacey Braun Associates, Inc., an investment advisory company.

Its certified financial planners and registered investment advisors provide fee-based professional financial counseling; they receive no commissions from mutual funds, brokerage firms, insurance companies or any other third party.

The Full-Service Financial Counseling Program includes several features. You can consult with a planner or advisor toll-free for up to six hours per year. If a planner or advisor is not available when you call, you can schedule a phone consultation at a time convenient for you.

You can request no-cost written summaries and reports on a variety of financial issues. You can receive assistance in choosing a 403(b) retirement savings program provider available



through your employer, as well as assistance on reviewing your 403(b) investment selections.

You'll gain access to Stacey Braun's password-protected Web site, which is chock-full of tips, narratives, market data, quotes, charts, news, calculators, an interactive financial planner, useful Web site links and more. There's even an e-mail helpdesk where you can get answers to basic financial questions within 24 hours.

If Stacey Braun holds an educational workshop in your area, the admission fee will be waived if you wish to attend. Also, you can request an in-person consultation with a Stacey Braun planner at a mutually agreed-upon location. This service is limited to 90 minutes and carries an additional fee.

If you only desire advice regarding 403(b) retirement savings programs, the **403(b) Limited Financial Counseling Program** is available at a reduced price. This option includes toll-free phone consultations to discuss 403(b) programs only (six-hour limit) and assistance in selecting a 403(b) program provider available through your employer, as well as assistance with investment allocation of 403(b) assets. Web site access, e-mail helpdesk and in-person consultations are not included in the limited plan.

For information on this and other programs, visit www.memberbenefits.nysut.org, call us at 800-626-8101 weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or use the **Contact** feature on our Web site.



The Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. Financial Counseling Program is a NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation (Member Benefits)-endorsed program. Under an agreement with Stacey Braun, Member Benefits has an expense reimbursement/endorsement arrangement of 10% of annual participation fees received plus \$9 per direct bill participant. All such payments to Member Benefits are used solely to defray the costs of administering its various programs and, where appropriate, to enhance them. Member Benefits acts as your advocate; please contact Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 if you experience a problem with any endorsed program.

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

Jan/Feb '10

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

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Vice President
Treasurer
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RC 20 Representative
Programs/Social/Hospitality

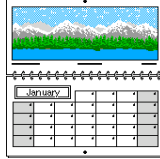
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Barbara Arbuss
Sandra Glickman
Norma Smith

E-mail Correspondence
E-mail Data Base
RA Delegate
AFT Delegate
Newsletter Publisher /Co-Eds

Welcome Winter!

Happy New Year!

Mark Your Calendar



2010

Spring TBA

HHHART Spring Trip

June TBA

HHHART End-Of-Year Party

IN MEMORIAM

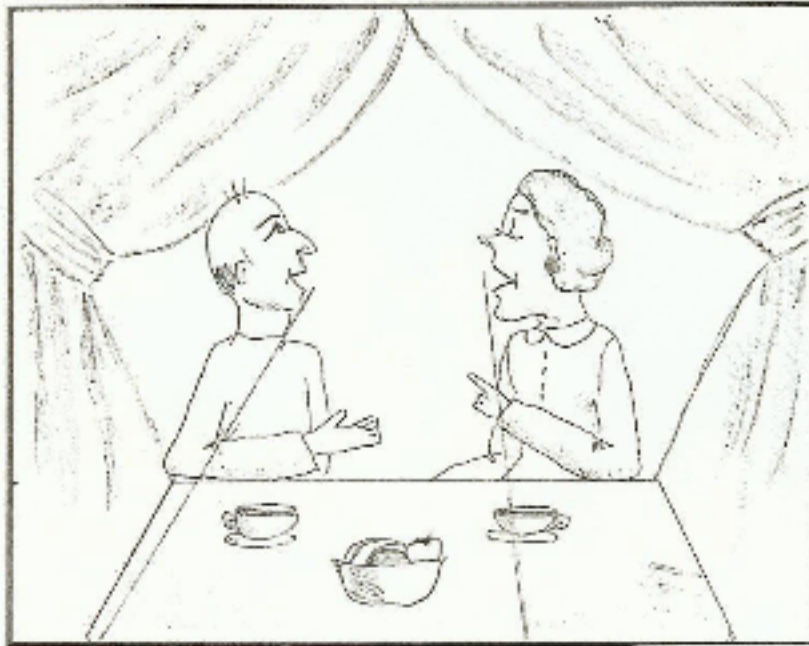
Sherry Adams
SE
December, 2009

Marilyn Youngblood
EE
January, 2010

For corrections or to be added to our list and receive e-mail messages from HHHART, send your name and e-mail address to: bjvolpe@optonline.com. Corrections and additions will be published every issue when possible. Contact the TA office, NYSUT, and HHHART Beat with changes of mailing addresses.

Glimpses

by Norma



Wouldn't it be nice to go dancing?

With our canes?