

# the HHART BEAT

Newsletter of the Half Hollow Hills Active Retired Teachers  
Summer, 2012

Volume 25, No. 4

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

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

Our annual meeting on May 9th was enjoyable, informative, and successful! Elections of officers for the next three years were held. and since there was no contest, our Secretary, Malinda Dobrins, cast one ballot for the slate. The officers are Joan Petroske, President, Eileen Lohrey, Vice-President, Malinda Dobrins, Secretary, and Ellen Keuling, newly elected as Treasurer. Dick Lee, as Chairman of the Election Committee, presided over the proceedings.

Our guest speakers were current HHHTA President, Richard Haase, past president, Mel Stern, and past president, Dick Lee. Many of the retirees present had not met Rich before. He was very knowledgeable, open to questions, and has a great sense of humor. Rich informed us of the current situation related to the budget and its effect on teacher layoffs and transfers. He spoke about negotiations with Central Office personnel and the problems related to teacher assessment.

Mel, our Political Action Coordinator, gave us a run-down on actions in Albany and nationally and the importance of retirees being involved in the political process, voting, and supporting Vote-Cope which works to protect teacher concerns. Dick provided information on our various benefits and answered questions of members regarding the Health Advocate Program, Medicare, and insurances.

Members conversed over refreshments and renewed acquaintances.

In April, I attended the NYSUT Representative Assembly in Buffalo as a Senior Delegate. The theme of the conference was "Reclaim the Dream -- Vote!" Teachers from the host union, Buffalo Federation, were very upset about the Teacher Assessment Plan proposed by State Ed Commissioner, John King, and they submitted their own, which was rejected. They staged a walkout when Commissioner King came on stage and carried placards that proclaimed "Students are more than test scores!" All teachers are upset by the plan to publish teachers' assessment scores. When Maria

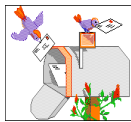
Neira, NYSUT Vice President, spoke she urged everyone to shout "We're mad as hell and we're not going to take it anymore!"

A new feature of this convention was the presentation of winning videos made by high school students in the Truth To Power contest. These highlighted human justice issues such as abolition of child labor and slavery in India and Pakistan and the leaders in those movements. Others revealed persecution of religious minorities and women, and efforts to provide small loans to women and poor people in Bangladesh. The students' work was very professional. State Comptroller, Tom DiNapoli, was cheered for his courageous defense of our defined benefit pension plan. He spoke about 401(K) plans saying that they were never meant to take the place of pensions and that adoption of such options would undermine retirement security for all teachers and related personnel.

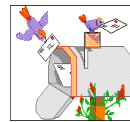
I attended the pension and Retirement Committee where Resolutions were voted on. One of those approved was the Retirement Option Modification which would permit teachers to make a one time Change of Beneficiary. This would be helpful to those who have remarried, divorced, or who are in other situations. It was presented on the convention floor and approved and becomes part of NYSUT's agenda.

On May 31st many members attended the annual meeting/luncheon of Retiree Council #20 at Captain Bill's in Bay Shore. It was a perfect day on the Bay, a great lunch, an opportunity to acknowledge Carol Hall, a retiree from North Babylon, who received NYSUT's Community Service Award for 2012, and a chance to hear Floyd Cameron, NYSUT's Director of Retiree Services, who probably is most informed about the effects of legislation already passed, and what's on the Governor's agenda which may impact negatively on retiree and in-service rights and benefits. Most impressive.

(by Joan Petroske, continued on page 8)



## --- Keep In Touch ---



Ted and I are enjoying a summer here in New York after a sunny winter in Florida. This is known as "the good life", earned after an even better life of teaching American and British Literature at Half Hollow Hills High School - East and West. Last summer (2010) we sailed down the Danube from Vienna to Budapest. Fabulous!

*Gracine Ehrlich Dunn*

My wife Cathy and I have been enjoying going to our home in Myrtle Beach. There is a beautiful pond behind our home that features ducks and beautiful scenery. We spent some time there this summer with our daughter, my brother and his wife.

*Peter L. DiGennaro*

Every time I get the HHHART Beat I'm amazed at all that the retirees do. No wonder we had such a good faculty

*Peter E. Reilly*

Gary and I are still seeing the world, (most recently the Baltic, Easter Island and Mongolia.), as well as maintaining antique mall booths in West Virginia to market some of our collections of vintage books and paper ephemera. There just isn't enough time to go everywhere and see everyone we would wish to.

*Paul Kreyling*

Retired, moved to South Carolina and enjoying life. Volunteering at a free medical clinic for uninsured patients.

*Linda Julia*

I have started my own business, Educatix of America, Inc. It provides professional development, consulting services, as well as conferences and workshops. Also, I adjunct in the English Department at St. Joseph's College, New York. Essentially, I feel that retirement's greatest challenge is that a retiree never gets a day off!

*Joan M. O'Hanlon*

I remember all of our happy times and difficult ones in our efforts to help teachers and children. Thank you for your continued effort. Since leaving I have had two new lives – one in Montana and now in beautiful New York State. I'm 82, well and happy. I have a carriage barn with an apartment if you ever want to visit.

*Dolores Cederberg*

Hats off to all who produced the last edition of HHHART Beat! Well done!

*Sheryl Lindenbaum*

The following news clip from the March 20, 2012 issue of *The Coloradoan* was sent to us by William Lauer regarding Dorothy Lauer:

The headline reads "SILVER STRONG- 81-year-old Fort Collins woman to hit 2,000th Curves workout". and the article states ..."Dorothy Lauer is the Wonder Woman of Fort Collins' silver haired generation. Although she has arthritis, has had two knee replacement surgeries and a hip replacement, on March 29, Lauer ,81, will complete her 2,000th Curves workout since 2004.

Exercise is her medicine, her social outlet and the gasoline that fuels her day... Lauer performs a 30-minute circuit workout six days a week... Lauer has become an ambassador and cheerleader for women of all ages and exercise levels... Before joining Curves she could barely reach past her knees when trying to touch her toes. Now, her hands are flat on the floor....

(Ed. note : Keep up the good work)



### Teacher Retirees 2012

#### Elementary

##### Paumanok

Christine Pastrich

#### Secondary

##### West Hollow

Florence Burger (para)  
Sandra Russell

##### High School East

Glen Cochrane  
Dr. Joanthan Strumpf

##### Districtwide

Susan Mandel

##### High School West

Marlene Berotti (para)  
Barbara Winick

**Mark your calendars  
the HHHART Fall Luncheon  
September 12th**

## Welfare Trust Fund Benefits

Dick Lee, Trust Fund Administrator

### “A Discount Dental Plan with Special Rates for HHHART Members”

We just negotiated special rates for our members from one of the largest dental discount companies in the region, **EDP Dental Plan** (for Long Island residents) and their national affiliate, **Key Dental** (for off of Long Island residents). With more than 2,000 local dentists and 87,000 dentists across the country in the network, it's easy to find a participating provider. If your dentist is not a participating member of the EDP or Key Dental Plan, they will notify your dentist and offer to enroll her or him in the program.

EDP's and Key Dental's low cost plan saves you money on all dental procedures from cleanings and exams to implants and braces. The discounts are given to the patient up front at the time of service to make it simple for the member.

The **regular** yearly cost for this plan is:

Individual Coverage	\$99.00
Individual + one dependent	\$179.00
Family coverage	\$199.00

The yearly cost of the Plan for **HHHART** members is:

Individual Coverage	\$79.00
Individual + one dependent	\$129.00
Family Coverage	\$169.00

Below is a sample savings chart for common dental services for EDP members:

<u>Procedure</u>	<u>Usual Fee</u>	<u>Member Price</u>	<u>Savings</u>
<u>Routine 6 Month Check Up</u>	<u>\$60</u>	<u>\$9</u>	<u>85%</u>
<u>Filings (one surface)</u>	<u>\$100</u>	<u>\$39</u>	<u>65%</u>
<u>Adult Prophylaxis (polishing)</u>	<u>\$90</u>	<u>\$29</u>	<u>73%</u>
<u>Panoramic x-ray</u>	<u>\$95</u>	<u>\$34</u>	<u>70%</u>
<u>Full Mouth X-Rays</u>	<u>\$120</u>	<u>\$39</u>	<u>70%</u>
<u>Root Canal Molar (general dentist)</u>	<u>\$900</u>	<u>\$459</u>	<u>51%</u>
<u>Porcelain Crown (+lab)</u>	<u>\$1200</u>	<u>\$495 + lab</u>	<u>50%</u>
<u>Orthodontics (Braces)</u>	<u>\$5000</u>	<u>25% off</u>	<u>25%</u>
<u>Upper Denture (+ lab)</u>	<u>\$1500</u>	<u>\$575 + lab</u>	<u>50%</u>
<u>Sealants (per tooth)</u>	<u>\$45</u>	<u>\$18</u>	<u>58%</u>

Interested HHHART members may get further information on the Plan, a list of participating providers and an application for membership at:

**For L. I. Residents** - (EDP Dental Plan) (1) 877-327-8376 or (631) 272-5230 or [www.edpdental.com](http://www.edpdental.com)

**For off L.I. Residents** – (Key Dental Plan) (1) 800-539-4550 or [www.keydental.com](http://www.keydental.com)

**When calling or going on line be sure to identify yourself as a HHHART member.**

We so enjoy the newsletter regaling the travels and exploits of our colleagues. We, too, are still following in the footsteps of the adventuresome.

In July, 2010, we enjoyed a two-week cruise on the Volga from Moscow to St. Petersburg. It was the hottest summer on record and the 95° temperatures and the late sunset (11 p.m.) afforded the Russian people ample opportunity to swim in the river.

Our fondness for the water has not diminished, so this past spring (2011), we boarded a four-masted Clipper Ship in Nice and sailed to ports along the French and Italian Rivas from Marseilles to Rome, with stops in Corsica and Sardinia. What a majestic sight to see the sails catching the wind, the canvas billowing out, a mountain of white against the azure blue sky, and to listen to our Captain playing *Amazing Grace* on his bagpipes as we sailed out of the ports.



As I write this, we are preparing for a cruise on the Elbe, from Hamburg to Prague with a side trip to Poland

Good health to all and *Happy Traveling*.

*John and Barbara Samoske*

In October/November of 2010, I went to Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand for 18 days with one of my friends. It was a great trip - stayed at lovely places, saw many fascinating sites and had delicious food (got to eat really good "pho soup"). The group of people were a fun lot. Vietnam was interesting in that the government is communistic, but the economy is capitalistic; e.g. one can start one's own business, people have to pay to go to the doctor and they have to pay for their children's books and to go to the public schools. People of the North and South were very happy to see and meet Americans. Ha Noi is still very conservative and has more charm than Saigon, now called Ho Chi Min City, which reminded me of Chinatown, USA, with skyscrapers. The amount of luxury resorts and buildings going up in Da Nang and Hue (remember those names

from the 60's and 70's?) is quite unbelievable. In Da Nang we traveled on a highway that was once an airstrip for our American planes and the nearby hangars are still there. In Ho Chi Min City we went to the "Hanoi Hilton" where many of our servicemen were jailed. Not a nice place is an understatement.

Outside of the city in the jungles I went to a place called the Chu Chi Tunnels (remember the tunnels where the Viet Cong hid?) The tunnel openings ran about every 25-35+ feet underground and had meeting rooms, sleeping quarters and even a hospital. I went down into 3 of the 4 tunnels that were open to us. The openings to go up & down were quite narrow - easy for me, not for a chunky person. The air vents for the tunnels were made to look like termite mounds so our servicemen would not be suspicious. There was also a place to show the 8 kinds of traps the Viet Cong made for our soldiers to fall into as they walked through the jungle. They are too horrible to describe. I shuddered to think how the servicemen suffered. Humans can create such horrendous tortures, worse than those silly teenage horror movies.

Cambodia has so many temples (wats) to see. Naturally I was anxious to see Angkor Wat, but it is so tourist ready that seeing the other wats, which are still in their 'primitive state', were much more interesting. Thailand, of course, is much more developed business wise with the silk and rice industries in particular. I must say they and the Cambodians hate the Chinese because of the numerous invasions. We learned about Pol Pot, leader of the Khmer Rouge, who directed the killing of over a million Cambodians.

In northern Thailand, I rode an elephant through a tropical forest. It was fun though I kept feeling that I was going to slide off the little bench. Also I was in an open fenced area in a preserve with 2 tigers - twin girls 18 months old. There were 2 attendants with me. I petted both tigers and even rested my head on one of them. The first tiger I petted decided she wanted to get up and play and I didn't want her to play with me! The other one didn't want to play either; just rest as it was midday when it's hottest and they are not as energetic. I had my pictures - that was enough. No need to be a newspaper story.

*Joan Vanecek*



## HHHART GENERAL MEETING

On a misty, foggy day, Wednesday, May 9th a HHHART General Meeting was held in the Dix Hills Library. Our retirees are a hardy lot and there was a fine turnout.. We had time to 'meet and greet' each other, sample the delicious goodies set up by the HHHART Board, and vie for the raffles displayed.

Our President, Joan Petroske, chaired the event giving an overview of our activities such as the RC #20 and CORTLI luncheons, the August 5th theater party, the HHHART annual luncheon on September 12th. On June 25th, there will be a meet the congressional candidates in the area.

### Two Presidents



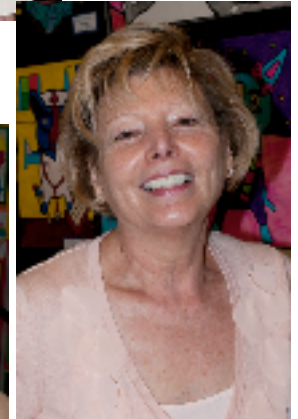
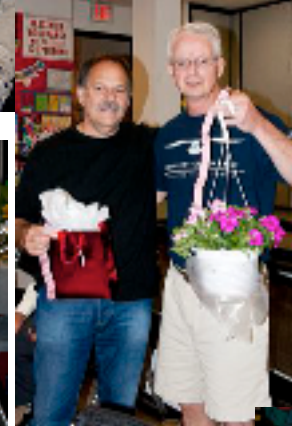
Joan then presented the current President of the Half Hollow Hills Teachers Association, Richard Haas, who gave a very interesting, informative talk on the challenges facing teachers today, relations with the Board and parents, changing education, and trying to talk about reform not demonizing teachers. Eighty-five percent of Half Hollow Hills teachers are in their 30's and 40's. This was followed by a Q and A on a variety of topics. Everyone was very impressed by Rich's demeanor and the discussion.

Following this talk, a motion was presented to accept the HHHART slate of officers, running unopposed. Malinda Dobrins cast one vote for the slate. Dick Lee discussed our life insurance plan which is unique to HHHART, the Health Advocate Plan and the dental plans that are being considered at this time.

Mel Stern followed with a discussion of Vote Cope and other issues. He reiterated that Vote-Cope monies may not be used to support a political party but are used for candidates who support legislation beneficial to the education community. The tax cap is devastating to education, i.e., in some districts, the full-day Kindergartens have been cut. Public pensions are under attack. The Triborough Law (the old contract remains in place if there is no new contract) could be eliminated if there is a new NY State Constitution. He shared a sad fact with us: about 70% of teachers don't vote. *Barbara Arbuss*

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## Raffle Winners and Others



## Political Action Update by Mel Stern

NYSUT Political Action Committee Coordinator

Most of us have been around long enough to remember the tumultuous years during the 70's and 80's when we had to continually fight for fair wages and benefits and the never-ending battles to protect collective bargaining rights. We are now back where we started from - and worse!!

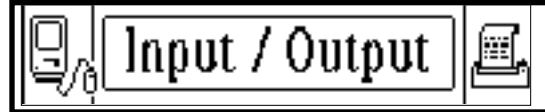
Public sector employees have become the scapegoat of the current recession, taxpayer angst and the difficult employment climate. We were "respected public servants" once when our salary and benefit packages were far lower than what our contemporaries were earning but we struggled and survived and eventually retired with dignity and with the satisfaction of a rewarding career educating our students.

The current political climate favoring the diminishment of our collective bargaining rights and pension benefits demand our undivided attention and a response from us that will mobilize and unite us to fight back! The failure to win the recall election of Governor Walker in Wisconsin (with 36% of our own union members voting to support Walker) coupled with momentum throughout the nation to destroy unions just cannot be ignored.

This summer I will be a participant in NYSUT's endorsement process as we try to mobilize our members to defeat state and national lawmakers who work against our interests and support those who appreciate, respect, and understand the importance of our profession and OUR UNION. We must not underestimate the strength of the ultra right-wing elements throughout the country - and their almost unlimited funds thanks to the dreadful Citizens United Supreme Court decision and billionaires such as the Koch brothers who will ultimately destroy everything we have worked so hard to attain.

We must **FIGHT BACK!** Join me and other union activists this fall: at phone banks, letter writing campaigns and neighborhood canvasses to work together to elect pro-education and pro-union lawmakers. We can and must survive the battle but we need to do it together.

As always, thanks for all your hard work and support.



Once again, we want to thank you for sending us news for our *Keep In Touch*, *Reflections*, and *On The Road* columns.. We look forward to publishing your in our 2012-2013 issues. We enjoy sharing HHHART news and, apparently, you do too.

Please join us for our theater matinee on August 5th and at our always popular HHHART Fall Luncheon on September 12th, at Orlando's in Commack.

Have a good, healthy summer.

*Norma, Barbara & Sandy*

### FYI continued

Be sure to vote and, if you aren't registered, register. The deadline for registering for the state primaries is in August and the date for the national election is in September.

Just a reminder: you should have received in the mail your membership renewal application for July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. If you did not receive it, contact the Teachers Association.

### Corrections/Additions – HHHART Directory

Rosanne Brandt  
9363 Sandpiper Lane  
West palm Beach, FL 33411

Marie Kossman (2addresses)  
26 Candlewood Lake Dr.  
Sherman CT 06784

14600 Glen Cove Dr #304  
Fort Myers, FL 33919  
jmckossman1@att.net

Karen Meehan	<a href="mailto:kmmeehan52@gmail.com">kmmeehan52@gmail.com</a>
Bert Anania	<a href="mailto:alouana@verizon.net">alouana@verizon.net</a>
Gloria Bauer	<a href="mailto:gjbauer2@verizon.net">gjbauer2@verizon.net</a>
Thelman Heit	<a href="mailto:thelmaxheit@gmail.net">thelmaxheit@gmail.net</a>
Donald Bianchi	<a href="mailto:donbianchi32@gmail.com">donbianchi32@gmail.com</a>
Peter Klement	<a href="mailto:pkbigdog@verizon.net">pkbigdog@verizon.net</a>
Christine Pastrich	<a href="mailto:cpastrich@gmail.com">cpastrich@gmail.com</a>
William Sefick	<a href="mailto:WJSPORT46@aol.com">WJSPORT46@aol.com</a>
Jon Strumpf	<a href="mailto:JASLBS1@verizon.net">JASLBS1@verizon.net</a>



## Attention Locals: Don't miss out on a special prize drawing!

We know that your Local Association's newsletter is a great vehicle to find out what is going on in your region, meet the members of your local and learn about exciting opportunities available to you.

Along those lines, we have a great opportunity for you! NYSUT Member Benefits has launched a special prize drawing for all NYSUT members in an effort to encourage greater participation in our free MAP Alert email service.

MAP Alerts are sent approximately once every three weeks to your email inbox and contain information about new endorsed Member Benefits programs, changes to current programs and reminders about existing programs. And, you have our word that you will not be bombarded with email messages.

You will receive one entry into the drawing for every MAP Alert that you open and read before August 15. Winners will be announced on August 16 on the Member Benefits website!



If you are not already a MAP member, visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) and click on the MAP graphic in the upper right hand corner of our homepage to join this free service.

*Please note that you must be a NYSUT member to be eligible to win any of the prizes in this contest. Only one prize per winner. Current or retired NYSUT employees, NYSUT Member Benefits vendors, or their family members are not eligible to win.*



**All current and new MAP members who open at least one MAP Alert before August 15, 2012 are eligible to win the following prizes:**

### Grand Prize

Bose Home Theater System

### First Prize

iPad

### Second Prize

Kindle Fire

### Third Prize

Bose Noise-Canceling Headphones

### Fourth Prize

\$50 Powell's Books Gift Card

For more information about this drawing, call 800-626-8101 or visit the Member Benefits website at [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org).

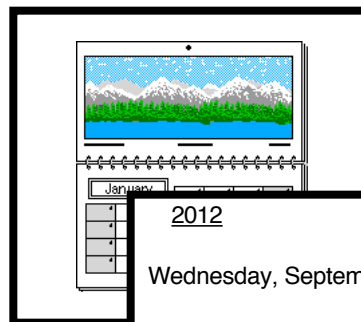
For information about programs or about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.



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

President	Joan Petroske
Vice President	Eileen Lohrey
Treasurer	Ellen Keuling
Secretary	Malinda Dobrins
RC 20 Representative	Joan Petroske
Programs/Social/Hospitality	Rowena Book
	Helen Chipkin
	Honey Kellman
	Alice Langholz
	Gloria Montesano
E-mail Correspondence	Malinda Dobrins
	Alice Langholz
Webmaster	Betty Volpe
RA Delegate	Joan Petroske
AFT Delegate	Dick Lee
Political Action Coordinator	Mel Stern
Newsletter Publisher /Co-Eds	Barbara Arbuss
	Sandra Glickman
	Norma Smith
HHHART Web Address	<a href="http://www.hhhart.net">http://www.hhhart.net</a>

## Mark Your Calendar



Welcome  
Summer

2012

Wednesday, September 12th

HHHART Fall Luncheon  
Orlando's, Commack,

TBA

CORTLI Luncheon

Sunday, August 5th

HHHART Theater Party  
Engeman Theater , Northport

## IN MEMORIAM

Mary Connelly  
April, 2012  
EE

Paula Desel  
April, 2012  
GU

Mary Lindsay  
May, 2012  
AT

David Mondschein  
April, 2012  
SE

Mary Scott  
June, 2012  
EE

Robert Steadman, Jr.  
(no information)

## (President's Message continued)

Since there are so many events taking place all over the country, i.e., Wisconsin, and statewide and locally, it is most important that we all get involved at some level in the political process for our own protection. Stay informed and be sure to VOTE in both the primaries and the National Election. If you are not registered, you can't vote. To get info on registering or voting call your county office. If you will be out of town, you can get an Absentee Ballot. Remember, *Voters Hold The Power!*

HHHART has changed its schedule of events. We will not have an End-of-Year party due to lack of attendance and uncertain weather. Instead we have planned a matinee Theater Party on August 5th at the John Engeman Theater in Northport. The show is "I Love You You're Perfect Now Change". We have a group reservation for 40 people at a discounted price of \$54.. Malinda Dobrins will handle the reservations. Please use the flyer on line or in the mail for more details. On September 12th we have our annual Fall Luncheon and this year it will be at Orlando's on Commack Road in Commack. Ellen Keuling will be in charge of reservations. Please use the flyer for details and reservations. New retirees will be our guests at the luncheon.

Hope to see many of you at these events. In the meantime, enjoy the summer! *Joan Petroske*

**VOTE**  
**COPE**

The

drive continues.

Send your 2012 **VOTE/COPE** donation to the TA Office or enroll in the NYSUT automatic pension deduction plan. \$25 or more suggested.  
(January, 2012, to December, 2012)

## Summer hours for the Half Hollow Hills

### Teachers Association:

Monday to Thursday 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.  
Closed Fridays and the last week of July and the first week of August.  
Website: [HHHTA.com](http://HHHTA.com)



## More General Meeting Pics

