

the

HHHART BEAT

Newsletter of the Half Hollow Hills Active Retired Teachers
Fall, 2011

Volume 25, No. 1

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

HHHART Fall Luncheon

On Tuesday, September 13th, our retirees attended the annual luncheon at the Stonebridge Country Club which is a lovely location for getting together with friends. The weather was cooperative which added to everyone's enjoyment. There were many choices on the menu.

A very informative meeting was held in which the amended HHHART Constitution was presented by Joan, our President, and was ratified unanimously by the attendees. She also informed us that a COLA starts in our September checks in the amount of \$21 for those retired 5 years or more.

Another appeal from Vote Cope will be sent to all retirees. It is suggested that we should register for auto-deduction which makes giving money easy and painless.

In addition, we were informed that NYSUT is collecting money for their Disaster Relief Fund which is now being used for the Irene Hurricane victims throughout New York State. Checks can be sent to the Albany headquarters.

It was a wonderful day filled with smiles!



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

The summer seems to be on hold as I write this, but "Indian Summer" must be on its way. For those of you who missed our annual Luncheon, I want to share some of the information we discussed. (If you were there skip this part.)

Voting registration and Absentee Ballots: If you are not registered to vote or need an absentee ballot, just call your Board of Elections for your county. They will help you. It is very important that all of us participate in voting. A disgraceful statistic from our last major election is that 40% of teachers were not registered and didn't vote — 20% on Long Island!

Good news — your pension check at the end of this month (September) will have an additional \$21 COLA, if you have been retired for five years.

Many NYS teachers, especially those who live upstate, were hard hit by Hurricane Irene, suffering loss of or extensive damage to their homes. NYSUT is collecting money in the Disaster Relief and Scholarship Fund to assist teachers who had these losses. Checks can be sent to this Fund at 800 Troy-Schenectady Rd., Latham, NY 12110.

A second Vote Cope appeal will be sent to you soon and includes information for auto deductions. This is an easy and painless way to make your contribution. With the loss of 10,000 teachers statewide this year all of NYSUT's funds are down and many cutbacks are being made.

I hope you have received your date books. There was a printing error and they had to be redone.

An important piece of business at the luncheon was the presentation of the amended Constitution of HHHART and subsequent ratification by the members. The Constitution is posted on our website and you can make a copy of it. It was posted 15 days before our luncheon meeting, as specified in the Constitution. If you haven't read it, please do so now. The original was ratified in April 1993 and it needed some updating.

We have quite a few events coming up in the next month. Please check the calendar on page 8 and plan on attending them, if you are able. Hope to see you then.
Joan Petroske

Sad News From The HHHART Board

Today (ed: written in September) is a very sad day. I just returned from the funeral of Sal Montesano, the husband of our longtime Board Member and my good friend and teaching companion, Gloria Montesano. He passed away on Sunday, the weekend of Hurricane Irene. He will be sorely missed and my thoughts and prayers, along with the members of the HHHART Board, are with Gloria at this sad time.

Marilyn (Honey) Kellman

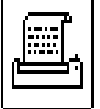
Reminder

A HHHART theater party will be held on Wednesday, October 26th, at the Engeman Theater in Northport. Complimentary valet parking is provided by the theater. Call the theater directly at 631-261-2900 to order tickets at \$51 per ticket to see a professional production of *Camelot*.

HHHART Fall Luncheon Smiling Faces



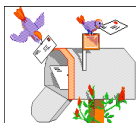
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As we prepare our first issue of *The HHHART Beat* for the 2011-2012, we want to take this opportunity to welcome our new retiree members and reconnect with longtime members. We hope that you look forward to reading each of our four issues which we hope will be a guide to learn about our HHHART activities and events and NYSUT political action.

We have received many articles on the HHHART dues form which we will be using throughout the year in our various columns. Keep them coming!

Sandy, Barbara & Norma



---Keep In Touch---



My husband and I will be leaving in October to sail our 51' sailboat to the Carribean. We plan to Island hop until April. After that, who knows?

Laura Kelley

Our family is excited about celebrating our daughter Amy's wedding to Matthew in August, 2011.

Merele Milim

Retirement is wonderful! We (my wife, Mary Kay Gibby Marr taught at Burr's Lane from 1968-1975, and Candlewood in 1987-1988) have been blessed with two grandsons Charles William Marr born January 29th, and Ryan William Schlosser, born on Valentine's Day. Together with their cousins Jack, Kylie and Tatiana, they keep our lives full of love, wonderment and joy! We went on a tour of the Canadian Rockies and are planning an October visit to Denver.

John Marr

I live half the year in New York and the other half in Key Largo, Florida. We always have loved the Keys. My husband scuba dives and we bought a small boat to enjoy the waters of the Keys. After Labor Day, we are traveling to the Grand Canyon, Utah and Yosemite. Things have been very nice since I retired in 2004. Be well, everyone.

Joan Kay

One of the great joys of retirement is the ability to spend the harsh east coast winters in the sunshine of the Hawaiian Islands. Last winter we greatly enjoyed the hospitality and company of Richard Tom, while visiting Waikiki where Richie resides. Through his contacts there, he was able to get us tickets to the Pro Bowl. This winter we will be returning to "Paradise" with newly retired Mel Stern and his lovely wife, Lynn. Aloha!

Dick Lee

Since retiring in '95, I've moved to the Amish area of Pennsylvania and have had various jobs unrelated to Remedial Reading. For 5 years, I was an assistant pharmacist tech. For a year, I was a barista in a cafe and, for 5 years, I was a line cook and eventually a sous-chef in a gourmet market. I also left time to have 2 heart attacks and operations for colon, liver and skin cancer. It's tough to be old and forgetful. I forgot to add the following: For the last 8 years, I have been volunteering to do taxes for AARP and lower income families.

Bob Corcoran -3-

My husband and I are loving our life in Athens, Georgia. Living in a University town offers so much to do. There aren't enough hours in the day. I have become an avid tennis player, taking lessons, joining teams and entering leagues with my partners, one a female friend and the other my husband. I also enjoy playing Bridge and Mah Jongg. The best is babysitting for our grandson, Jack, who lives relatively close, in Birmingham. He's expecting a little brother in a few months, who will be grandson #4. We've been cruising with Dennis Gannon, and John McCann and his wife. Retirement is the best!

Frances Hugunine

My wife Marion died on May 23rd. She was a good wife and mother and the family will miss her. We will move on with the help of God.

Francis A. Roach

Our daughter Heather, a graduate of the HHH school system, received her PHD in Sociology from Emory University this spring. She will be teaching at Towson University in Maryland in the fall. We are very proud of her.

Roberta Scheurman

Our lives have involved a lot of traveling in a motorcoach over the last six years. We've settled into a routine of spending our winters in an RV Resort in Ft. Myers, Florida and using New Bern, NC. as our home base the rest of the year. In between we usually take three or four short trips with a couple of RV groups. This year we're spending a few days at a campground in the beautiful mountains of NC, after which we will be heading north for a family reunion on LI. From there we will be spending time in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. With a new addition to our family (a Shuh-Po puppy), having an RV is a great way to travel!

Ruth Elsner

I continue to teach as an Adjunct at Suffolk County Community College, as well as at St. Joseph's College in Patchague. My wife Joan is eagerly awaiting to apply for Medicare this fall. I have told her repeatedly that she is joining a rather prestigious group of individuals. Don't you agree?

Vincent McCambley

(Keep in Touch continued on page 5)

Elections Matter

Because elected officials have a direct effect on your job, your rights, and on the well-being of your family and community, it is critical that you get involved in the 2012 elections. Next year, you will vote to elect the president of the United States. As we look at what is happening now across the country, that election takes on even greater significance. Every day, in state after state, public employees and the services our communities depend upon are under assault. And while we continue to push back against those assaults, the surest recourse is the ballot box.

Jay H. Broad, Cochairman, CORTLI

After the son of Vanderbilt retiree, Denise Simonetta, suddenly passed away at age 33, she wanted to let fellow retirees know that if they wish, a contribution to any heart or asthma organization may be made in memory of Justin Capria.

Seniors Fight for the Future of Vital Programs

For 10 years, members of the Alliance for Retired Americans have fought for the rights of seniors. This year is no exception, as more than 400 seniors and other activists gathered in Washington, D.C., September 6-9, for the Alliance's annual legislative conference and 10th anniversary celebration. With Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid facing possible budget cuts, the members came to Washington to send a message to their lawmakers: "Don't balance the budget on the backs of the most vulnerable." Alliance member and AFT retiree Wynne Antonio traveled from Cleveland to lend her voice to that demand. "It was important for me to be here because we are in the fight of our lives," she said. During a lobby day, Antonio and her group were among 200 seniors from 38 states who headed to Capitol Hill to meet with their members of Congress to discuss Medicare, Social Security and other issues of concern.

(Inside AFT 9/16/11)

June Akesson, who was a sub at Vanderbilt and Forest Park for many years, passed away.

Frances Barone



John S. Moseley was a 1965 graduate of Half Hollow Hills High School and an English teacher at High School East from 1970 until his untimely death in 1991. His daughter, Annabelle Moseley, an accomplished poet and writer had received notes and e-mails from former students telling her how positively her father had influenced their lives. One of his students, Ms Jenny Lee has purchased a memorial bench at the Walt Whitman Birthplace. **The bench will be unveiled at a dedication ceremony on Sunday, October 23, 2011, 3:30-5 PM.** Annabelle will be reading several poems in honor of her father. All are invited to join for refreshments, conversations and poetry.

Obama's Jobs Bill

Vice President Joe Biden recently conducted a telephone conference call with education leaders across the country urging them to rally behind the President's Jobs Bill. Key points for education include \$10 billion for the 100 largest high need districts, \$15 billion for Title 1 schools and \$5 billion for community colleges. This money would restore teachers' jobs, as well as classroom aides, librarians, and custodians. Construction jobs would be created through allocations for repairs and technology. He urged educators to send letters of support to President Obama and representatives in Congress.

(Inside AFT 9/16/11)

The L.I. Alliance for Retired Americans

Conference will be held on Friday, October 14th, at 10 a.m. at the NYSUT Suffolk headquarters. Guest speaker, Eric Kingson, Professor of Social Work, Syracuse University, will speak about Social Security Reform and the Future – a subject that is important for us all.

The NYSUT Annual Conference will be held on November 9th, at 9 a.m., at the Watermill Restaurant. The speaker will be Steve Israel. The cost of \$30 includes continental breakfast and luncheon.

Know Your HHHART Board

This issue's Board Interviewee is Alice Langholz who is In charge of the HHHART e-mail data base.



I'm a true Long Islander. I was born and raised in Garden City and West Hempstead. After graduating from Hofstra University (College when I attended) midyear, I started my teaching career in Valley Stream District 13. My first class was a very bright homogenous group of fourth graders; their teacher had been promoted to assistant principal.

I left that district to raise a family, returning to teaching in Half Hollow Hills at Sunquam. It seemed every year I was among the ones almost excused. Miraculously I was able to keep my position, gradually moving up the tenure list.

My first graders were always so interesting to watch develop. Imagine watching children learn to read, write and do math day by day. It fascinated me what they had accomplished by the end of the year.

After 10 years I was "promoted" to fourth grade where I felt I had found my niche. When Sunquam closed, I was placed in Signal Hill where it was wonderful learning to work with another excellent staff. I always felt fortunate to have coworkers on my grade level that helped inspire me and encourage me to do my best. I loved working with the fourth graders. It is such a wonderful age.

Retirement has been wonderful. It has afforded my husband and me a lot of time with our three grandchildren. We've done a lot of traveling in the years since I've retired including China, Croatia, South America, France, Italy, the Baltic countries and Eastern Europe.

Photography has become my hobby. My husband is wonderful about accompanying me on photo workshops in Arizona, North Carolina, Maine and New Hampshire. I enjoy the taking of photos and editing them.

We also enjoy going to Broadway shows and playing bridge.

I'm grateful that I'm having such a good time in retirement.

Alice Langholz

(Keep In Touch continued)

Harvey and I are proud and thrilled with our first great-grandchild. Averie was born a few months after our grandson, Adam, was run over and killed. She looks very much like him and has given all of us great joy and renewed hope.

Gladys Krasner

We are enjoying our retirement in Myrtle Beach. We have been traveling and enjoying our 8 grandchildren.

Mary Ann Baillargeon

(ed: The ninth, a boy, was due to arrive in July.)

All is well and I live my retired lifestyle. I'm in the city every week attending lectures and seeing Broadway shows. I also take a current events class at CW Post and do museum and art gallery tours. My husband Gary and I toured Israel for two weeks last fall and we are now planning our next European vacation. The family is healthy and happy and we enjoy our two grandsons, Max (age 7) and Harris (age 4) who live nearby in Commack. Every summer we rent a house for a week and the whole family spends a week together under one roof- this year in Stonington. CT. It is a Blast!. Life is good!

Linda Kaplan Levine

After retiring from teaching, I embarked on a second career and opened a limousine service. Over the years I have transported many Half Hollow Hills teachers and retirees. Life is good.

Barbara Goetz

Myra and I spend 6 months on L.I. and 6 months in Key Largo. We have sets of grandchildren in both locations. Life is good.

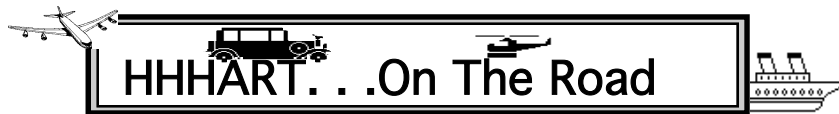
William Russo

(ed: We're so happy to read that "Life is good" for so many people.)

Correction

The correct website address for HHHART is:
<http://www.hhhart.net>.

NYSUT continues collecting for disaster relief from individuals and local unions. Make checks payable to NYSUT Disaster Relief and Scholarship Fund. Send checks to NYSUT, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110.



We are on the road again. When we moved to Sarasota in 1984, we thought we had moved for the last time. When we moved to Waterside 3 years ago, we were sure it was our last move. The events of the last six months have made us change our plans

We had four different incidents between December and June where one or both of our children had to rescue us. In late May, Max fell outside our villa and hit his head on the concrete and he wound up in the emergency room. Fortunately, it was not serious and the doctor suggested he go to rehab for a week

A week later, I came to the hospital to take him home and I tripped on a misplaced mat and fractured my hip. Max was in his room and I was in the emergency room. I had no way to get home so Helene left work and flew to Sarasota. She took me home that night and went back for Max the next day.

Two days later I wasn't any better. So we returned to the hospital and they did an MRI and found a break. I had to wait three more days before they were able to perform the surgery.

Max went to NY to Rena and Scott's wedding while I was in the hospital. Then we decided we had to be near one of our children.

After several weeks of checking retirement facilities in NY and Denver, we decided to move to Denver. Both cities offered interesting facilities and each had pros and cons. We selected the one that best suited our needs. We have been happy at Waterside, so it should not be a surprise that the new facility is very similar to Waterside. Matthew and Regina had lunch at the new facility and were very pleased with the food.

We have selected an apartment on the second floor of a three-story building with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths and a terrace. We are now in the process of preparing to move. We will be packed on August 22nd and our furniture will leave on August 23rd. Matthew will be down on August 27th and will fly to Denver with us on the next day. Our furniture should arrive several days later. We are excited about the move.

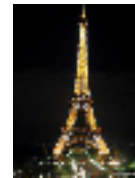
If you are in Denver or passing through, please call. Our new address is:



8101 East Mississippi Ave.,
Apt 208
Denver, Colorado 81247
cell phone 941-993-2832
e-mail maxthelma1@comcast.net

Please keep in touch by phone, e-mail, or snail mail. With love, *Thelma and Max Heit*

In the last few years, I've taken river boat trips to Russia and the Benelux countries with an old friend (a retired Syosset music teacher). With another planned for April, '11, I got the bad news that she had suffered broken bones in a nasty fall, only one week before our departure. The travel agent, who planned the trip, was my travel companion's personal friend, and the others involved were neighbors, none of whom I'd ever met.



But I was ready to GO. And go I did for four days of exploration in Paris, hitting all the tourist attractions my husband had eschewed as too gauche. (We had gone to art museums.) Then we boarded a river boat for a tour down the Seine River to Rouen, stopping along the way at points of interest. Every meal I enjoyed with new friends and learned to savor new wines and French delicacies.

Our final destination was Normandy – D-day beaches and the Omaha Cemetery. Very moving.

The rains in Paris had evolved into temperate sunny spring days (at least 10° warmer than the PA I'd left) The pastures and gardens were in technicolor. Even the Normand cheeses tasted of spring. Great! I hated to tell my wounded friend what a great trip she had missed.

Nancy Cooper

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away from a specified zip code, in any direction you choose. You can then search for hotels in the area that you select.

Strength in numbers

TripMark can even help you with group travel. Whether you’re planning a family reunion or vacationing with friends, get assistance and best available deals from the helpful folks at TripMark. For group travel only, get the process started online

by visiting the TripMark page on the Member Benefits website and following the directions listed. There is a different toll-free number dedicated solely to group travel as well as a discount code to use for booking group travel.

Speak with a real person

Would you feel more comfortable speaking to a travel agent on the phone rather than booking online? TripMark’s knowledgeable agents

are available toll-free, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. to assist with your travel planning. Please note that travel agents cannot currently book airline flights if you arrange your trip through one of TripMark’s agents; you can either book flights online or contact the airline directly.

What to do first

To get started with TripMark, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org and click on “TripMark.travel” in the Featured Discounts section of the homepage. There, you’ll find toll-free numbers for reservations, cruises and group travel, as well as a link to a NYSUT member-specific TripMark website. You can also contact Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 with any questions.



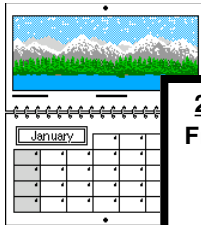
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 631-499-4240
 President Joan Petroske
 Vice President Eileen Lohrey
 Treasurer Joan Petroske
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 RC 20 Representative Joan Petroske
 Programs/Social/Hospitality Rowena Book
 Helen Chipkin
 Marlene Flanagan
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 Gloria Montesano

E-mail Communication Malinda Dobrin
 E-mail Data Base Alice Langholz
 Webmaster Betty Volpe
 RA Delegate Joan Petroske
 AFT Delegate DickLee
 Newsletter Publisher /Co-Eds Barbara Arbuss
 Sandra Glickman
 Norma Smith

HHHART Web Address <http://www.hhhart.net>

Mark Your Calendar



2011

Friday, October 14th

**LI Alliance for Retired Americans Conference
 NYSUT Suffolk Headquarters**

Thursday, October 20th, 12 noon

**CORTLI Fall Luncheon
 Crest Hollow Country Club
 Woodbury, NY**

Wednesday, October 26th

Camelot, Northport Theater

Tuesday, November 8th Election Day

Wednesday, November 9th

**NYSUT Annual Conference
 Watermill Restaurant**

Don't Forget To Vote!

Did you forget to pay your dues? HHHART dues run from July 1st to June 30th. Send a check for \$30 to the TA payable to HHHART.

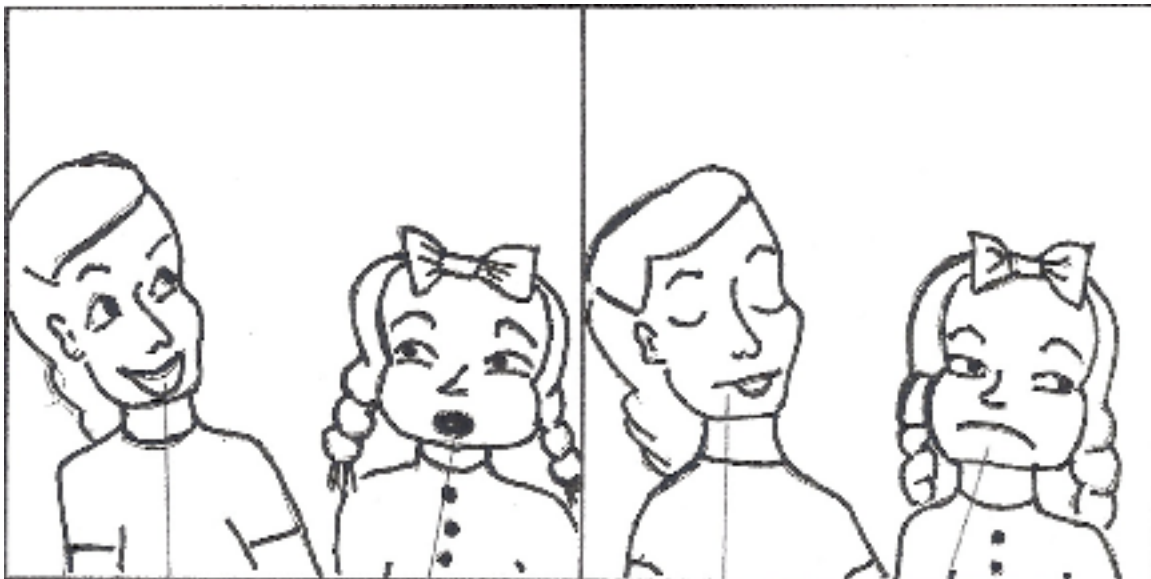
IN MEMORIAM

Robert Polo
 PE
 August, 2011

Richard Scharf
 RD
 July, 2011

Glimpses

by Norma



Hi, honey. How was your first day of Middle School?

Great. My best friend is in all my classes.

How nice. Which friend?

Hm-m-m. I don't know her name yet.

**Corrections for HHHART Directory: e-mail and home addresses
from Alice Langholz**

Tom Depelteau ivoryjoe@optonline.net
Richard Hogan RDHAPES@Yahoo.com
Marilyn Drange mwdrange@gmail.com
Toni Shannon ashannon@mfire.com
Barbara Drayer bdrayer@optonline.net
Nora Carpenter norvva@aol.com
Dale Kaplowitz Mintz kappy267@gmail.com
Peter Klement pkbigddogfax@gmail.com
Bonny Robinson bondbread@optimum.net
Thomas Magnani tmagnani52@gmail.com
Richard Miranda richardmiranda@optimum.net
Grace Napoli maryanne.napoli@yahoo.com
Lois Stein lenlois@aol.com
Lola Ferris ferris.lola@gmail.com
Anita Thomas anitavthomas1@gmail.com
Souzin Thau souzin.thau@gmail.com
Gloria Bauer woodgrnmom@optonline.net
Patricia Broshowski grande43@verizon.net
Fred Gewirtz fredjgspeech@gmail.com
Patricia Ziegler brezee183@aol.com
Don Brown donbrown1048@yahoo.com
Natalie Forman formanmn@aol.com
Mary Joyce mjoyce6@hotmail.com
Laura Kelley lkelley2149@gmail.com
Edna Liggero ednaoc@verizon.net
Nancy Cooper nancooper3@verizon.net
Karsten Vagner jokars@aol.com
Len Wood lenalwood@gmail.com
Joseph O'Connor drjoeonthego@optonline.net
Barbara Mason Grell bgrelll@optonline.net
Robert Krusinski hannahjoy@ctc.net
Elaine Grancio egrancio@optonline.net
Denise Corazon dcorazon@optonline.net
JoAnne Geller jgeller412@hotmail.com
Peggy Cunningham
peggycunningham@me.com
David C. Mondschein
dmondschein@comcast.net

Elaine Spitzer
9648 Ginger Court, Parkland, FL33076
Lucille DeLuca
950 Tarpon Center Dr., Venice FL 34285
Gerald Hartnett
1428 SE 21st Ter, Cape Coral, FL 33990-6617
Katherine Zutt
77 Chris Sundrop Ct., Riverhead, NY 11901
Thelma Heit
8101 East Mississippi Avenue, Apt 208
Denver, Colorado 81247