

the

HHHART BEAT

Newsletter of the Half Hollow Hills Active Retired Teachers
Summer, 2015

Volume 28, No. 4

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



**HHHART
Trip
to
Wave Hill
Spring 2009
Photos by
John Meehan**



John Meehan, who passed away earlier this year, certainly left a lasting imprint on our District and our Union. For more than 35 years, John was a dedicated Art educator in four district schools: Candlewood, West Hollow and High Schools East and West. He established the photography department at Half Hollow Hills, was the audio visual supervisor for the district and the set designer and builder of sets for the dramatic and musical productions at both high schools.

If one word describes John's work ethic, it would be "perfection". He strove to reach perfection in every project he was involved in. He was also passionate about his family (wife, Karen, and children, Tim and Jacqueline), his hobby as a photographer, restorer of classic automobiles and his love of gardening and everything Irish.

As president of Half Hollow Hills Historical Society, John spearheaded the restoration of the first one room school house located on Straight Path, next to Paumanok. He designed the logos for both the High School West Colts and the Union's district newsletter, *FOCUS*. Upon retirement, John became the official photographer and public relations director for both high schools. His many slide shows, on opening day, were the highlights of Superintendent's Day.

Many of our teachers and district residents employed John's artistic talents and expertise to record memorable events in their lives and the lives of their loved ones.

We'll miss you John. May you Rest In Peace!

Dick Lee

—The President's Message—

I want to thank all of you for your calls, cards, and good wishes for my recovery following my automobile accident. I am on the mend now with only a fractured pelvis still a problem.

Fortunately, I was able to be present at our Annual Meeting with the help of our wonderful Board. It was held at a new venue this year, the Melville Branch of the Dix Hills Library. (See page 6.)

If you missed this meeting, please mark your calendar and try to attend next year's. We had some wonderful speakers and were brought up to date on all the activities going on in Albany and NYSUT, as well as locally in the Half Hollow Hills Teachers Association. There were some very helpful handouts including information about our insurances and a record booklet for all of your important documents.

We welcomed Joan Perrini, our new NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant, as our featured speaker. She has been active in our area as former President of the Islip Retiree Chapter and President of the LIRDC (LI Retired Delegates Council). Her office, located in the Suffolk Regional Office, 150 Vanderbilt Motor Parkway, in Hauppauge and can be reached at 631-273-8822 or you can go online at jperrini@nysutmail.org She is a great source for all Retiree concerns, questions and/or appointments.

In view of the many recent political attacks on education and teachers, in addition to those on pensions, Medicare and Social Security, it is extremely important that we support our Union's efforts to protect us from these attacks and also to support those leaders who are on our side. Voting is one way you can do this and the other is to contribute to Vote-Cope, our political action fund. We are trying to get 100% of our retirees to contribute at least \$5 per month on automatic pension deduction. It's the easiest way to help. If you are already donating try to give a little more. This is a crisis for all of us. You can call the NYSUT office at 631-273-8822 for a deduction form or call NYSUT at 800-342-9810.

Continued on page 3.



Teacher/Para Retirees 2014-15

Elementary

Otsego

Pat Scaringi

Paumanok

Arden Leder
Paula Giugliano

Signal Hill

Elizabeth Wilson

Sunquam

Angela Gaudio

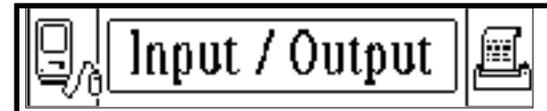
Secondary

Candlewood

Diane Bishop
Eileen Dunne

High School East

Eileen Burnett
Susan D'Amato



We want to hear from you! Please send your news for our *HHHART Beat* columns – Keep in Touch, On the Road, Reflections, FYI, and Where Are They Now?– to barbuss@aol.com or rgsg6h@aol via e-mail, or to:

The HHH Teachers Association
6268 Jericho Turnpike Unit #10
Commack, NY 11725

If you want a hard copy of *The HHHART Beat* and our union news mailed to you instead of receiving them via e-mail, please mail a check for \$15.00, PAYABLE TO HHHART to:

Sandra Glickman
732 Verona Drive
Melville, NY 11747

We hope you all have a good summer and we look forward to welcoming you at our Fall Luncheon on September 9th at the Bonwit Inn in Commack.

Norma, Barbara & Sandy



--- *Keep In Touch* ---



There can be an "encore" to life even after one is widowed and past eighty six. Although I am limited by medical and mobility issues, having made a decision to enter an independent living facility has extended my living boundaries. Activity programs enable me to exercise gently, engage socially, participate in book, movie and cultural events. My apartment overlooks Sarasota Bay, so I have a view of birds, water and sky. I am grateful that although limited physically. I can still have continued pleasurable moments at this time of life.

Natalie Forman

Thanks for all you do for us. Fond regards.

Claire Matchiodi

The move to Florida was a move to Paradise for me. I am still restoring and showing my 1952 Chevrolet hardtop. The Show Car season is year round, although it slows during the summer. We spent three weeks visiting Israel in the fall of 2013, with a side trip to Petra, Jordan. The fifteen day tour revealed historical and religious sites, as well as highlighting politics, education and business. We spent an additional week in a rental apartment in Tel Aviv, living with Israelis. It was truly an Israeli Discovery Tour, which was the name of the tour group.

Irwin Becker

Thanks for the great job you do on the Newsletters. I do really enjoy reading them.

Dat Capuro

Our daughter was married in Maryland last year. She went to Europe after the celebration, and now she and her husband live in Virginia, where they both secured positions at James Madison.

Roberta Scheurman

Presidents Message continued from page 2.

Plan ahead to attend the CORTLI (COALITION of Retired Teachers on LI) Luncheon on October 15th at the Woodbury Country Club at noon. One of the speakers, already confirmed, is Paul Pecorale, new VP of NYSUT, and former President of Patchogue Retired Teachers. He is in charge of Retiree issues at NYSUT. More information to come.

Have a safe, healthy, and pleasant summer!

Joan Detroske

In 2012, I was diagnosed with a rare leukemia. Then I was in and out of the hospital, in rehab, and needed home care. Now I am so much better. I have not needed transfusions for a long time. I do appreciate reading updates from the teachers I knew.

Carolyn Young

Retirement is glorious! Nothing like it. We are so fortunate. Since I just retired in June, 2014, my husband Ronnie and I have begun our short term and long term journeys. Last summer we went to Lancaster, Vermont, Massachusetts, Ellis Island, The Statue of Liberty, Atlantic City, FDR and Eleanor Roosevelt's homes in Hyde Park, and The Culinary Institute. We have been to the theatre and museums in and around NYC. We went on a Tauck tour of Italy in October. Missing my friends at Candlewood, but the new life style is the best!

Clare Katz

My husband and I traveled to Spain for our 25th anniversary. I sub as a TA in my home district and absolutely love it, especially when I get to work in the elementary schools. Quite a change after all the years in high school.

Patti Ann Sirico

I appreciate the hard work you do.

Mary Taverna Ali

I am still a Senior Lecturer in the English Department of the Long Island campus of St. Joseph's College. It is great therapy after the death of my beloved husband, Reese, in November, 2012.

Joan M O'Hanlon

Friends from Half Hollow Hills,
I will be giving an author talk/book signing on Wednesday, July 15th, 7pm, at the Mattituck Library.

Bill Batcher

**HHHART dues are due July 1st.
Payment will be accepted no later
than September 30th.**

Our thanks to Alice Langholz for taking pictures at the HHHART General Meeting.

Welfare Trust Fund Benefits

Dick Lee, Trust Fund Administrator

•••••UPDATED 2015•••••

The following information is an update for your estate planning, it is important that your heirs know who to contact upon the death of a HHHART member. Listed below are some important contacts you should share with your loved ones:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| ASO (516) 394-9477 | Life Insurance and Long Term Disability | |
| ASO (516) 396-5500 | Dental Plan | |
| Shelter Point Ins. Co. (800) 365-4999 | Excess Major Medical/Vision Care | |
| HHHTA Welfare Trust Benefits | 631) 499-4240 | <i>Richard S. Haase, Chairperson</i> |
| | (631) 499-4240 | <i>Richard P. Lee, Administrator</i> |
| HHH Central School District | (631) 592-3094 | <i>Barry Corbett, Health Benefits Administrator</i> |
| NYSUT Member Benefits | (800) 342-9810 | |
| AFT Member Benefits (800) 238-1133 | | |
| NEA Member Benefits | (800) 637-4636 | |
| NYSHIP | (877) 769-7447 | Empire Plan |
| HIP/HMO | (888) 839-7380 | |
| NYS Teachers' Retirement Sys | (800) 356-3128 | |
| Social Security | (800) 772-1213 | |
| Medicare | (800) 633-4227 | |
| Health Advocate | (866) 695-8622 | |
| HHHART Website | HHHART.net | |
| HHHTA Website | HHHTA.com | |
| HHHTA Email | office@hhhta.com | |

Life Insurance:

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 **First Reliance** 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. **ASO** is our third party administrator who does the billing.

Benefit Billing Dates

1. Life Insurance
2. Yearly Dues
3. Excess Medical and Vision Care
4. Vote/Cope \$50 Suggested

Due Date

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| June 1st | July 1st (Billed by ASO) |
| Spring | July 1st (Billed by HHHART) |
| December 1st | January 1st (Billed by ASO) |
| From January 1st to December 31st | |

Optional Benefit:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. NYS Retired School Employee | Dental Discount Program Thru CIGNA www.cignaplussavings.com 1-877-521-0244 |
| | Code: NYRS0710 |
| 2. NYSUT Dental Plan thru Met Life | 800-342-9810 |
| 3. AFT Dental Plan - Thru Careington | (Identify yourself as an AFT member) 888-949-8184 |
| 4. EDP Dental Plan | (Identify yourself as a HHHART member) 877-327-8376 |

Excess Major Medical Policy

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 **ASO** in **December**, are:

Individual - \$48.95 **Family** - \$113.15

This policy also provides a \$50 a day in-hospital benefit for the primary policy participant.

| The 2015 Survivor Benefit Rates | | Empire | HIP |
|--|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Not on Medicare (under 65) | <i>Individual</i> | \$805.05/Month | \$917.29/Month |
| | <i>Family</i> | \$1,808.86/Month | \$2,247.35 |
| On Medicare (Over 65) | <i>Individual</i> | \$401.84/Month | |

** Survivors of former HHH employee's, must contact the Business Office at 631-592-3094 within three (3) months of the death of the employee in order to continue medical coverage (the survivor's coverage continues for (three) 3 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 continue this program is \$15.00 per year and is due by July 1st. Among the many services **Health Advocate** provides, it can also assist you with the following services:

- Find the right doctors, dentists and health care providers for your specific needs
- Schedule appointments and arrange treatments and tests
- Help resolve insurance claim issues
- Assist with elder care concerns
- Assist in the transfer of medical records
- Work with insurance companies to obtain appropriate needed services
- Answer questions about test results, treatments and prescription drugs
- Get cost estimates for common medical procedures in your area

Health Advocate is available to you and your family, including your spouse, dependent children, parents and parents in-law.

For More Information Call:
1-866-695-8622
www.healthadvocate.com

HHHART Beat Communications Award

Once again the *HHHART BEAT* has been presented with a Communications Award by NYSUT.

An Award of Distinction was presented to the Half Hollow Hills Active Retired Teachers in the category Best Overall Graphic Design for the piece, *Where Are They Now?*, which appeared in the Winter 2014-2015 Issue. This was designed by Barbara Arbuss.

Congratulations Barbara!

Sandy Glickman

Where Are They Now?

If you are a builder or an architect you can see your life's work long after it's completed. As a teacher you very seldom get to see your handiwork. Occasionally though you do get a nice surprise! Mine came in the form of "The Famous Russel!" last summer at a Jimmy Buffet Concert near our cabin in Bethel, NY, sight of the Woodstock Concert in '69. After a fun tailgate my family and friends went through the gates and into the concert. While waiting for the girls, my friend Mike approached, followed by a tall, young state trooper, who asked, "Mr. Kordula"?

I looked into a familiar face and confirmed it by glancing at his nameplate. It read Russel J. Fragile aka "the famous Russel!" Russel was the youngest of three brothers. Adam, the oldest, always would tell me stories about his younger brother, Russel. The second oldest, Jon, would also do the same. I heard lots and lots of Russel stories while I taught them. As good fortune would have it, when Russel entered fifth grade, he was in my class and I got to meet the subject of all their stories.

Over the years, I got to know not only the three boys but their great Signal Hill parents as well! Here in front of me was the grown up version, now a trooper, married, living upstate. Let me tell you it was a wonderful and heartwarming treat. He got to meet my whole family and we caught up on all those in between years. I invited him to bring his wife to our annual Smallwood Fire Department open house this year on the Fourth of July and am looking forward to seeing him again. Diane and I are spending our winters in Fort Myers and splitting time while visiting in NY between Huntington and Smallwood. We have lots of Nanny and Pop time with our children and four grandchildren, ages one month to three.

Phil Kordula



The HHHART Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of HHHART was held on Thursday, May 28th, at the Melville branch of the Half Hollow Hills library. We were so happy to see Joan Petroske, who fortunately recovered sufficiently from her automobile accident to drive to Melville to preside over the meeting.



Our first speaker was Richard Haase, President of the Half Hollow Hills Teachers' Association. He told us that this was a big year of transitions in the district, since there were more than 100 employees affected by the closing of Forest Park and Chestnut Hill. The TA arranged for welcoming committees in the receiving schools to assist in creating a positive atmosphere and there were grassroots committees established that worked very hard to have a coalition of teachers and parents. The Common Core Testing was a hot-button issue this year and there were many open talks on the issue of opting out of the testing. Richard encouraged us to stay informed about educational issues. Aside from our intrinsic interest in what is happening, many of the issues affect us directly.



We were fortunate to have Joan Perrini from NYSUT Retiree Services speak about political issues facing us.



Our second guest speaker was Jackie Polden from the John Engeman Theater in Northport, who enthusiastically told us about the exciting programs of shows and special events which they are presenting in the 2015-2016 season.

Dick Lee handed out a very handy booklet, Important Documents Locator, which serves as a place to keep all your pertinent information together.

Refreshments were enjoyed by all while several raffle winners claimed their prizes.

Sandy Glickman

Educators and Parents Join Together to Fight Cuomo's Education Agenda

It's a good time to be a retired teacher! As you probably already know, common core curriculum, teacher evaluations, tenure regulations and teacher dismissals have been priority issues for our Governor. Teachers, Administrators and Parents are now fighting back against flawed curriculum, an unfair evaluation system, and a dismissal process that would rate a highly effective teacher in classroom observations, as an ineffective teacher based on test scores that are unreliable at best.

On May 28th, two conferences were held simultaneously, in Harrison and on Long Island, to demand that the state's recently enacted education reform legislation be suspended because it "puts into place a flawed system that will ultimately harm students". "The draft regulations are trying to implement a proven, punitive law", the Valhalla Schools Superintendent stated. "There is no hope for the regulations because they are based on a broken theory". Cuomo's legislation **prohibits** the use of all other measures of teacher practice, including student and parent conferences, lesson planning and goal setting, which allows administrators to have a more accurate picture of a teacher's quality.

Using test scores as a measure of teacher competence might rid the profession of some unqualified educators but it's also going to lead to competent teachers being victims of these scores. The Superintendent of South Orangetown, who is also the Board of Education president of the North Rockland School District, stated that "trying to evaluate teachers using tests that are not developed as a tool for measuring teacher effectiveness is not reasonable."

Already, across our state, thousands of concerned citizens have signed a petition to suspend Governor Cuomo's signature Education Transformation Act of 2015. We urge you to join these defenders of your profession by signing this petition today; you can find the online petition at: (<http://form.jotformpro.com/form/51403613544952>).

We would like to thank Bill Carr for sending this information on these historic conferences of Administrators, teachers and parents who believe that Cuomo's bill, which deals with teacher evaluation, the use of testing and teacher tenure, runs counter to research and will, inevitably, result in the loss of local control of education.

Dick Lee

The **VOte**

 cope drive continues.

Send your 2015 **VOTE/COPE** donation to the TA Office or enroll in the NYSUT automatic pension deduction plan. \$25 or more suggested.

(January, 2015, to December, 2015)



Benefits that matter to you!

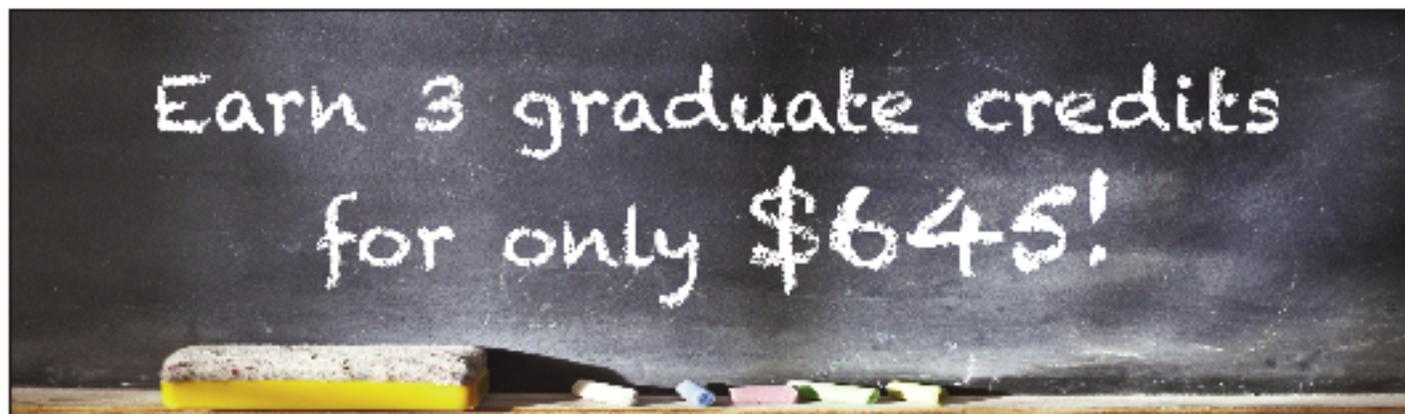
Membership in NYSUT allows you to enjoy the benefits of the more than 40 programs & services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits.

These endorsed programs include crucial products that the majority of NYSUT members already purchase:

- Homeowners Insurance
- Auto Insurance
- Legal & Financial Services
- Life Insurance
- Shopping & Travel Programs

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call 800-626-8101.

For information 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.



For more than 30 years, the NYSUT Education & Learning Trust has been offering professional development programs created with the NYSUT member in mind -- providing an extensive online inventory with studies to fit your busy schedule.

The Education & Learning Trust offers online, VESi or in-classroom courses for graduate, undergraduate and in-service credit. Professional development training is available for public education issues such as:

- School Quality
- Student Achievement
- Achievement Gaps
- Teacher Retention
- Special Education
- Cultural Diversity
- Classroom Management
- And Much More

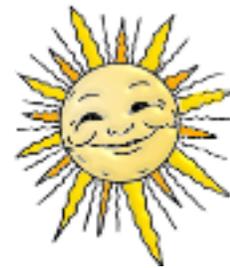
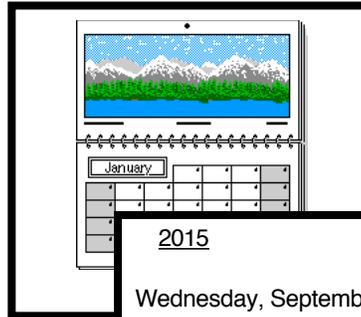
To learn more about ELT programs available and/or register online, visit nysut.org/inspire or call 800-528-6208.



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

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| President | Joan Petroske |
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| Newsletter Publisher /Co-Eds | Barbara Arbuss |
| | Sandra Glickman |
| | Norma Smith |
| HHHART Web Address | http://www.hhhart.net |

Mark Your Calendar



Welcome
Summer

2015

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Wednesday, September 9th | HHHART Fall Luncheon Bonwit Inn, Commack |
| Thursday, October 15th | CORTLI Luncheon Woodbury Country Club Woodbury |

IN MEMORIAM

Saramary Goldstein
April, 2015
RD

John Meehan
February, 2015
AR

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**

House Explosion Leaves Retiree Temporarily Homeless

Long time elementary teacher, Carol Mychailyszn, and her husband were walking their dog at 8:30 am on March 31, 2015, when they heard a loud explosion. While returning to their home, they were surprised to see the police and firemen in front of their home. To their amazement, they saw the entire rear of their home completely gone and the rest of the house in flames.

As three fire departments fought to control the blaze, Carol and her husband saw their lifelong possessions, documents and memorabilia destroyed by the fire. Local and insurance fire marshals, after thorough investigations, could not determine the cause of the explosion and blaze.

Carol and her husband are currently living in a hotel on Route 110 as they try to replace important documents and await the rebuilding of their home. Since rebuilding is a long process, they are looking for a temporary home rental in the area.

Thank goodness, Carol and her husband were out of the house when the explosion and resulting fire occurred. As they try to recuperate from this life changing experience and replace what they can, we are sure Carol would love to hear from her former colleagues in Half Hollow Hills. She may be reached through her e-mail address: Mathcam123@yahoo.com.

Just a reminder: you should have received in the mail your membership renewal application for July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. If you did not receive it, contact the Teachers Association.

**Mark your calendars
the HHHART Fall Luncheon
Wednesday, September 9th**