

HHHART's Annual Meeting, Age of Information...

took place on Wednesday, May 8th, at the Bristol Assisted Living Facility in East Northport. The article on last year's meeting began: "On a misty, foggy day...." This year's meeting began in a similar vein but included torrential rain. Even so, we had almost 40 retirees attend. The Bristol provided us with a lovely room and an excellent breakfast which we all heartily enjoyed.

We had plenty of time to visit with friends and choose the raffles we desired. After we were sated, Joan Petroske, our hardworking President, brought us up-to-date on our retirees (we have over 680 members) and the issue of overtesting which can be used to group children by ability and to evaluate teachers. She also spoke about common core standards.

She then introduced Dick Lee and Mel Stern who spoke about health care issues and the political scene for teachers and retirees. Many people attending this meeting have used the Health Advocate Program and were pleased with the service. Dick also talked about the free benefits and services provided by NYSUT. He reminded us that, if there are changes in your life such as divorce or death of a spouse, that it is very important to change your beneficiary on insurances, tax shelters, etc.

Mel Stern discussed how overtesting is very frustrating to parents and children. K through 2 testing is not necessarily diagnostic in every district and may be used as an achievement test. There are bills now in Albany to address the cost of the testing and where the money is coming from. In the Assembly, they are A6954 and A6593. In the Senate, they are S4712 and S4764. In 2017, there could be a NY State vote to change the constitution. Our pensions can be affected.

The speakers were introduced: Elder Law Attorney, Jennifer Cona, Assistant Director Outreach and Community Development Guild Net Jewish Guild Healthcare, Shannon Prasad, and Director of Business Development, the Bristol Assisted Living, Janine Valentiner.

They provided us with many handouts and discussed their area of expertise. We received information to help us when we have problems with relatives or ourselves pertaining to estate planning, medicaid issues, and living at home vs in a facility. There was a tremendous amount of information for us to think about now and for the future.

There were many, many raffle prizes – gift certificates to Trader Joe, Crumbs, Home Goods, gift baskets, hanging flower pots, a ticket to the HHHART Picnic and Fall Luncheon – donated by the speakers, the Bristol, and HHHART.

Many people stayed long after the raffles and speakers, socializing or asking more questions. It was a wonderful meeting. Thank you to the staff of the Bristol and to Malinda Dobrins, Betty Volpe and Alice Langholz for organizing the day.

Barbara Arbuss

Smiling Faces At Our General Meeting



---The President's Message---



It's amazing, but summer is just about here again! Our last event — our picnic on June 26th — will end our year. Don't miss it!

There was a lot of good information available at the R.C. 20 Annual Luncheon on May 30th. If you missed it, we discussed the small COLA of 1% starting in September. That amounts to a \$15 a month increase based on the first \$18,000 of our pension. For new retirees to be eligible, you must be 62 years old and retired 5 years, or at least 55 and retired 10 years. Go to the NYSTRS's website for more information.

The guest speaker was Kim Haeflin from NYSUT's Member Benefits. She reviewed the many benefits and discounts available to members, all of which may be paid by pension deductions. For more information on Vision, Dental, Catastrophic, Pet, Lifeline insurances and discounts on heating oil, Bose, Buyers Edge and emergency services. Kim can be reached at the Nassau NYSUT office in Woodbury.

And did you know that "under the property tax law a voter who casts a ballot in favor of overriding the tax cap has only 2/3 the voting power of someone who votes against the proposal? This means that 41% of voters maintain control of the will of 59% of voters in the same school district ". (Andy Pallota, NYSUT VP)

Majority Rule does not apply in New York State! This law MUST be amended to remove from a school budget those costs that are outside of district costs and to assure that the tax cap is adjusted for growth in enrollment.

If you want your voice to be heard, go online to NYSUT's Member Action Center.

Hope to see many of you on September 12th at our Fall Luncheon. Happy Summer!

Joan Petroske



Teacher Retirees 2013

Elementary

Forest Park

Lou Ann Roche

Paumanok

Patricia Carr

Melissa MacCormac

Linda Strickler

Secondary

Candlewood

Judy Arth

Cathy Colligan

Catherine DiGennaro

Donna Freck-Hasel

West Hollow

Barbara Beck

Kim Burrell-Lefranc

Janet Gaby

Kim Langendorfer

High School East

Kevin Hill

Susan Hirschmann

Gordon Hodgson

Gwenn Polansky

Lois Ann Stafford

High School West

Patrice DeStefano

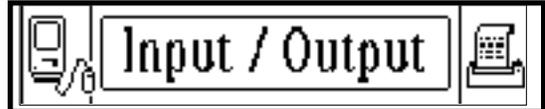
Jane DeStio

Maureen Dickson

Mary Lee Kane

Jean Kretzer

Patti Ann Surico

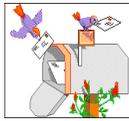


With our Fall issue, we will begin charging \$12 to mail issues of the *HHHART Beat* to those who have been receiving a hard copy. The check should be made out to **HHHART** and mailed to Ellen Keuling, 24 Caffrey Ave., Bethpage, NY 11714. You can still get issues on line at no charge.

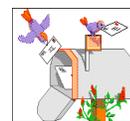
For HHHART information, forms, and activities, as well as the *HHHART Beat*, go to the HHHART Website at: <http://www.hhhart.net>.

Have a good, healthy summer.

Norma, Barbara & Sandy



--- Keep In Touch ---



Ten years has flown by. We split each year between New York and Punta Gorda Florida. Golf, tennis, boating and painting watercolors take up much of our time. Mugs volunteers at the visual art center coordinating life drawing and hanging the shows. We have taken some wonderful trips - to Singapore, Thailand, Italy, Australia and New Zealand. *Margaret Kiepe*

My husband Michael and I live in Centerport from Spring to the end of December when we go to Florida and enjoy the warmer weather. *Teresa Dicozzi*

Having a wonderful time in Panther Valley, New Jersey! Taking courses at the local college. *Richard Turrisi*

We're happy and healthy and enjoying family as they grow. Five grandkids are doing great. Two younger boys are wonderful, good students @ Port Jefferson High and Elementary School and good athletes too. Jane retires from Kings Park CSD in June. Hooray! Looking forward to time together. We're headed to Alaska this summer. My best, Milt *Milton Schoch*

Enjoying retirement in South Carolina. I'm volunteering at a free clinic in Bluffton and it is so rewarding. Great watching my granddaughter grow up. *Linda S. Julia*

Oil painting, traveling, mentoring, theatre-going, "grandmaing", (new word) and having loads of fun with Jerry and friends in our wonderful new space in Westbury, NY. "Life is Beautiful." *Arlene Dorfman*

I continue to play golf at Fort Jackson and local courses with a 21 handicap. *Ronald Beattie*

I am doing well. Still enjoying lots of tennis with my husband, Bob, here and in Florida. Hi to all. *Frances Kranz*

Teaching Biology at Nassau Community College (Adjunct Associate Professor) and Suffolk County Community College (Adjunct Assistant Professor) *Vincent Sydlansky*

I'm keeping busy as a member of the local Kiwanis club in Eatonton, GA. *George Barrett*

Enjoying the good life with my wife Michele. Golf, traveling, playing softball and enjoying the grandchildren, Kelly, 5 yrs. old, James Patrick (JP), 3 yrs. old, and Joey, 2 yrs. old. *Joseph Goonan*

My wife, Carilon, and I heard from Tony Cuzzucoli who has retired to Roswell, not far from us. We were able to meet for lunch with him and his wife, Judy. Tony has a wealth of information on friends and fellow teachers. It was good to meet with them and renew "old" memories. *Ernest Kaeck*

We are spending our winter months in Lauderdale by the Sea, a delightful enclave of beaches, restaurants, and active retirees. Summers we sail and cruise the New England coastal waters with our friends. My husband, Joe, has just achieved his Masters Captain's License from the U.S. Coast Guard so I am in good hands. This year we will go as far as Newport and Martha's Vineyard, in July. Ah, retirement. so few days to enjoy it all. *Lois Rossbotham*

Always interested to hear what's going on back on Long Island and Half Hollow Hills, and the wonderful folks who did and still do work there. Sincere and fond memories to all. *Margaretta Brandt*

I'm enjoying my retirement, spending time together Michael and I. Fixing up the old homestead, and going with him when he performs with his Doo Wop Band. I wish everyone a happy, healthy summer. *Karen L. Nicoletti*

Great to be retired and enjoying a healthy life. My limousine business (Exclusive Transportation) has transported many HHHTA teachers & retirees. Life is wonderful!!! *Barbara Goetz*

We're still on the go. I hit 80 in May and Ken 84.... and definitely retired this time. We haven't volunteered for anything yet. There are a lot of history & pleasant rides here. *Elizabeth Tremaine*

More General Meeting Pics



Know Your Benefits by Dick Lee, Trust Fund Administrator

“Cancer Centers of Excellence”

Your NYSHIP (Empire Plan) has a Special Cancer Service called “Centers of Excellence”. Paid-in-full benefits are available for cancer services at a designated Center of Excellence when arranged through United Healthcare. You will also receive nurse consultations and assistance in locating cancer centers. When applicable, a travel allowance is available.

You must call **Empire Plan** at **1-877-769-7447** and choose the Medical Program or call the **Cancer Resources Center** at **1-866-936-6002** and register to participate in the Centers of Excellence for Cancer Program.

If you do not use a Center of Excellence, benefits will be provided in accordance with the Empire Plan Hospital Program coverage and for the Medical/Surgical Program coverage. **Program requirements apply even if Medicare or another health insurance plan is primary.**
“Medicare and NYSHIP (Empire) Coverage”

NYSHIP (New York State Health Insurance Program) requires ALL enrollees who are retired and attain age 65 to enroll in Medicare Part B. \$104.90 is deducted from your Social Security benefit, each month, to pay for this coverage which involves doctor/surgeon charges. Since it is a requirement to have Part B, the school district reimburses participants, twice a year, for this coverage. This is done, automatically, if you have notified the district (Barry Corbett – 631-592-3094) of your and/or your spouse’s eligibility for Medicare.

For Participants whose individual income is over \$85,000 per year or \$170,000 per year as a family, there is a surcharge added to your Part B coverage cost. This extra amount is reimbursable as long as you send a copy of your SSA 1099 form to Barry Corbett to verify that you were assessed a surcharge. This verification must be provided **every year you pay a surcharge** for Part B coverage. You get a SSA 1099 form from the Social Security Administration each January.

In Governor Cuomo’s State Budget proposal for 2014, he recommended the elimination of Part B surcharge reimbursement for teachers. Because so many NYSUT members protested the attempt to eliminate this benefit, he removed it from his budget proposal.

If you would like to get involved in future issues, affecting retirees and active teachers, you may do so by logging on to the NYSUT member Action Center at: **MAC.NYSUT.org** and have YOUR VOICE heard in Albany.

Check Your Beneficiaries

In past articles we have advised you to check that your beneficiary for your life insurance policy is the correct designee. You may call Newman Co. (516) 488-1100 to check for this information. You should also check the beneficiary/beneficiaries for your **403b, IRA or tax shelter account**. These tax shelter accounts were often opened many years ago and your life situation might have changed since you initiated it. Call your tax shelter agent to verify that your intended beneficiary/beneficiaries are correct and current.

Your Health Advocate Card

WE CAN HELP YOU...

When you need Healthcare help!

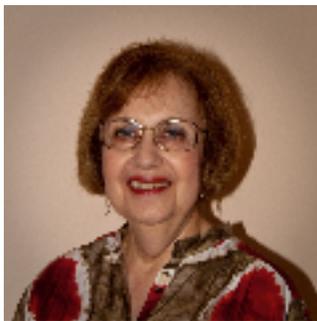
- * Understand your benefit plan provisions and features
- * Untangle insurance claims
- * Find the best doctors and hospitals
- * Navigate healthcare issues
- * Save time and money
- * And ... much more

answers@HealthAdvocate.com

1-866-695-8622

Know Your HHHART Board

Our interviewee this issue is Barbara Arbuss, who is a publisher of the *HHHART Beat*



I was born in Brooklyn but spent my elementary school years in New Jersey which was a bit of luck because I went to a John Dewey public school in a bucolic setting with a nature trail, rock garden, and other lovely stuff. I was also fortunate to be raised in a large, loving extended family. It was the years when there was women's work and men's work but I was always encouraged to choose any profession or trade I wanted.

I knew at a very early age that teaching was the career for me. I adored my first grade teacher and kept in touch with her until I left for college. I can't say that she was my mentor because she tried to convince me to get married, have babies and then teach. Happily, I didn't take her advice; although, it worked out for me exactly as she advised.

I left college after a short time to join the ranks of the employed in Manhattan and had a fabulous time. I had a fun, fairly exciting job, with lots of perks, in the advertising department of a small firm. The only drawback was that the office was on the 50th floor of the Empire State Building. I think I went near a window only once or twice in the years I worked there. (I freeze at great heights). After getting stuck in the elevator, I rarely relaxed when coming and going.

After I met my darling husband, we dated, married, and had two children. We moved to Syosset and I was a stay-at-home mom. During that time, I was involved in working at preschools and wound up running one while I went back to school to get my education degree.

After six months teaching in Hauppauge, I was hired by Manny Ginninger to teach at the Vanderbilt School which was opening in a new school. The staff was a combination of teachers:

the top of the seniority list and the rest from different Half Hollow Hills schools or somewhere else. It was a very exciting time. Manny encouraged new ideas, different teaching styles, and parties. We really had fun. Some of my very best friends and superior colleagues were at that school.

For a little less than half my career in Half Hollow Hills, I worked as the Math Specialist at Vanderbilt and later was split between Vanderbilt and Signal Hill. Each year for a few years, I ran a week-long Math Fair for the entire school. It was a lot of work but I had lots of help from my fellow teachers and lots of the older students. It was hands on and fun while learning.

For several years, each elementary school had a Math Facilitator and I had the good fortune to become the Chairperson of the Facilitators. They were a talented, expert group and were a joy to be with. It was a wonderful program and we were all sorry when it was disbanded.

My extended family is much, much smaller now but has been enriched with the advent of granddaughters. I am particularly close with one of them and she fills my life with great joy as do her parents and my husband.

Now that I'm retired, I do the things I loved all my life, but more of them. I love to read and belong to two book clubs. My husband Al and I love to travel, go to concerts, theater (mainly me), and find good dining spots. I play Mah Jongg and bridge and, happily, have edited the *HHHART Beat* for seventeen years with my friends Sandy and Norma.

We have friends local and throughout the U.S. and we enjoy many trips to visit them. I never expected that life after work, which I loved, would be so good. How lucky is that! *Barbara Arbuss*

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

The following letter was sent to Anne (Cacciatore) Wessinger:

Allison Berlin said she ran into you in a store and had a conversation with you. I hope it is okay that she shared your e-mail with me. It is too infrequent that we get to (or perhaps take the time to) thank the teachers in our life who had a profoundly positive impact. You are one of them, so I thought I should let you know and say a very belated thank you. Even with thirty-five years of time blurring my memory, I recall that you taught me the joy of hard work, what it meant to reach for excellence (that was your clear expectation), and the impact that good teaching can have. You also, if my memory serves me, taught me how to organize my thoughts in an outline. That is a skill I still use today.

Here is a short update to catch you up on my life thus far: I left Dix Hills and went off to the Wharton School at Penn and then UCLA Law School. Rather than practice law in the more traditional ways, I went off to Washington D.C. to become a lawyer for a committee of the House of Representatives. It was wonderful work about which I had great passion.

While in D.C., I met the love of my life, Margaret Feron. She is the daughter of a NY Times foreign correspondent and lived all over the world in her youth. (20+ years later we are happier than ever with each other.) In 1994 we both left our D.C. jobs and traveled around the world for about a year. I won't bore you with the list, but we hit a lot of places. Somewhere in northern India, I decided that I was going to become a high school teacher and that has been my life ever since.

I started as a World History and U.S. History teacher eighteen years ago and then mixed in some math. Slowly I moved into administration and today I am the head of an independent school not far from San Francisco. My work is a joy as I have found an educational mission in which I deeply believe. Plus I get to serve kids every day. If you are interested, check out www.athenian.org. Along the way we had two wonderful kids, Hannah, who is now a high school junior, and Cade, who is a freshman. They both attend Athenian.

That is enough for now. Thanks again for the inspiration and please know the gifts you gave lived far after we left that table in the middle of your room. Be well.
Eric Niles

Trustees Reports: Social Security Steady, Medicare Financial Outlook Improved

The Social Security and Medicare Trustees issued their annual reports on the state of the two programs' finances today. Social Security, according to its Trustees, has a \$2.7 trillion surplus, enough to fully meet the demands of a growing retiree cohort through 2033 – the same as last year. With no action from Congress, it would cover most benefits through 2087. The Trustees report for Medicare noted that its Trust Fund, which covers hospital care, can fully pay benefits through 2026 – two years later than forecast last year. The Medicare trustees report shows reduced cost growth; this is further proof in many experts' eyes that health care reform is working for seniors.

Dorothy Zuckerman
NYSUT Retiree Representative

More General Meeting Pics



Save on vacation planning with Member Benefits

Have you been planning to finally book that incredible vacation to the Caribbean, Europe or Australia that you've always dreamed about? Or perhaps you need to plan an upcoming business trip or need to rent a vehicle as part of your next excursion?

Wouldn't it be great to be able to save some money while doing so? NYSUT Member Benefits has a variety of endorsed discount travel programs designed to help you keep extra cash in your wallet while enjoying some well-deserved rest and relaxation.

If you're on the hunt for big savings, look no further than the Member Benefits-endorsed travel program offered by **Wyndham Hotels & Endless Vacation Rentals**. NYSUT members can enjoy savings of up to 20% at nearly 7,000 participating hotels among 17 hotel brands with Wyndham Worldwide; meanwhile, save 25% at more than 200,000 vacation rentals in 100 countries with Endless Vacation Rentals.

Wyndham Hotels has the right hotel for you at the right price – whether it's an upscale hotel, all-inclusive resort or something more cost-effective. With Endless Vacation Rentals, NYSUT members can save on resort condos, villas, homes, and cottages that provide space



and flexibility ideal for families and groups of friends traveling together.

These aren't your everyday run-of-the-mill hotel rooms as accommodations range in size from resort studios to multi-bedroom units. And, many units feature large living rooms, dining rooms, fully-equipped kitchens, and laundry facilities.

Whether you're looking for a multi-bedroom condo in Orlando or Las Vegas, or a luxurious resort in Mexico, the Caribbean, Europe, or Canada, Endless Vacation Rentals offers the space and comforts-of-home to make each stay a memorable time!

Don't forget the rental car discounts!

Do you need to rent a vehicle as part of your next trip? NYSUT members can get discounted rates on passenger car rentals with the following companies:

Alamo, Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz, and National. You can even receive 20% off local or one-way truck rentals from Budget Truck Rental.

Learn more about these endorsed programs – including how to access discounts, unique website codes and website links – by contacting Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 or visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org.

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.

The HHHART Newsletter is a publication of the Half Hollow Hills Active Retired Teachers

631-499-4240

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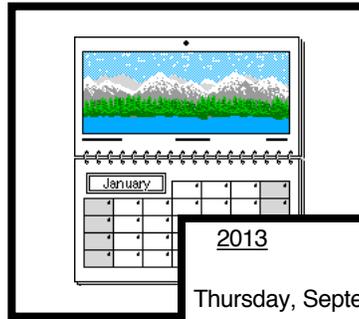
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HHHART Web Address

<http://www.hhhart.net>

Mark Your Calendar



2013

Thursday, September 12th

HHHART Fall Luncheon
Stonebridge Country Club

Thursday, October 17th

CORTLI Luncheon
Crest Hollow Country Club

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Edwin Flanagan, husband of HHHART board member, Marlene Flanagan, in December, 2012.

IN MEMORIAM

Gary Herman
May, 2013
SE

Mary Ellen McKenna
May, 2013
MU

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**HHHART Fall Luncheon
September 12th**

Just a reminder: you should have received via e-mail or in the mail your membership renewal application for July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014. If you did not, contact the Teachers Association. It can also be accessed on our web site.

More General Meeting Pics



Corrections/Additions – HHHART Directory

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Vote cope

The

drive continues.

Send your 2013 **VOTE/COPE** donation to the TA Office or enroll in the NYSUT automatic pension deduction plan. \$25 or more suggested.

(January, 2013, to December, 2013)

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