



Adieu and au revoir!

By Jo Schaffer
COARM Chair

Adieu to Judy Wishnia, statewide chair of COARM for the last 10 years. She chose not to run again for the position, having given her all and more in service to UUP retiree members.

During her tenure, Judy has made sure that COARM is financially stable, programs in the seven regions have been established, and the voice of the higher ed retirees has been heard loud and clear as a member of the UUP Executive Board and the NYSUT Retiree Advisory Committee, among others.

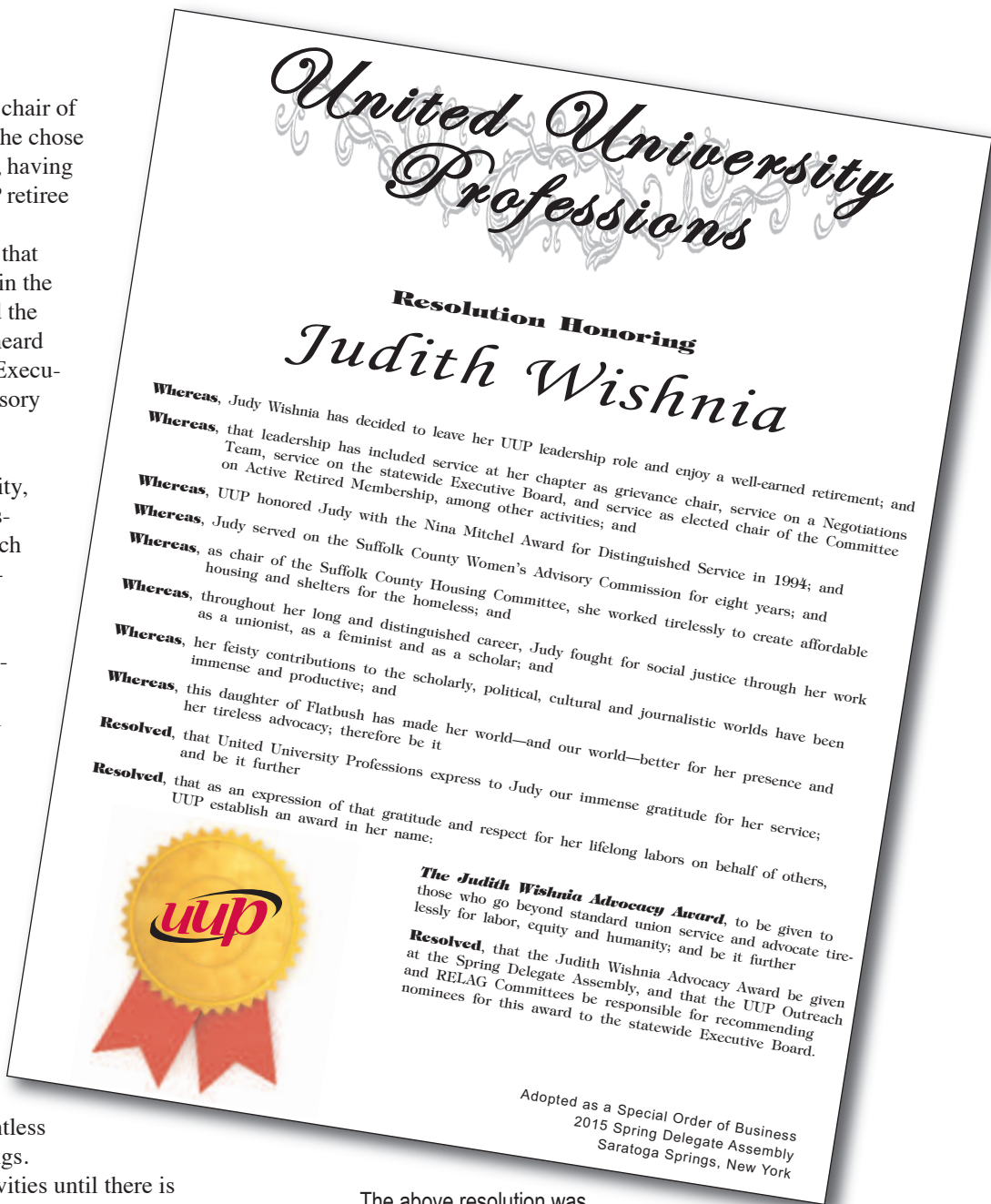
Judy came to this activity via a long academic career at Stony Brook University, teaching women's studies and French history. Throughout her teaching and research career, she has always found time to support her union colleagues through UUP service and political activities. She has written in these pages of her early experiences in a union household: she is a true "Union Maid" in the words of that proud union song.

At the recent UUP Delegate Assembly and NYSUT RA, she was formally recognized for her years of service. At the RA, she was selected as a Higher Education Member of the Year. At the DA, Mac Nelson of Fredonia and I presented a resolution honoring Judy; an annual award for union advocacy was established in her name.

Many of you know her for all these activities. Many more of you know her as the nicest version of Madame Defarge as she has knitted countless sweaters during her years at UUP meetings.

Judy has promised to continue her activities until there is "security" in Social Security, real "care" in Medicare and our University is made whole again.

So, while we say adieu to her, we really mean that we will see her again—au revoir.



The above resolution was adopted by delegates to the 2015 Spring DA in Saratoga Springs.

The Active Retiree

UUP Officers

Frederick E. Kowal/President
J. Philippe Abraham/VP for Professionals
Jamie F. Dangler/VP for Academics
Eileen Landy/Secretary
Rowena J. Blackman-Stroud/Treasurer
Arthur M. Shertzer/Membership Dev. Officer

Elected COARM Members (2015-2017)

Jo Schaffer, COARM Chair and Delegate
 31 Pearl St. schaffer@twcny.rr.com
 Cortland, NY 13035 (607) 753-7245

Jo Schaffer, Southern Tier Region
 31 Pearl St. schaffer@twcny.rr.com
 Cortland, NY 13035 (607) 753-7245

Carole E. Torok, Central NY Region
 7278 Lakeview Dr. fctk@sunyit.edu
 Ava, NY 13303 (315) 822-5283

Alvin Magid, Capital District Region
 2200 Grand Blvd. magid2@juno.com
 Schenectady, NY 12309 (518) 377-9542

Barbara T. Maertz, Long Island Region
 17 Daria Dr. maertzbt@farmingdale.edu
 Oakdale, NY 11769 (631) 957-2499

Eric P. Russell, Metropolitan Region
 134 Smithfield Ct. ericprussell@hotmail.com
 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

John T. Nixon, North Country Region
 473 Cooper Rd. nixon1@cit-tele.com
 Hammond, NY 13646 (315) 578-2570

Anastasia K. Johnson, Western NY Region
 491 Ashland Ave. jhnsn@buffalo.edu
 Buffalo, NY 14222 (716) 885-2486

Arthur M. Shertzer, Ex-officio member
 ashertze@uupmail.org (631) 632-6570

UUP Retiree Member Services Coordinator
 Walter Apple wapple@uupmail.org

UUP Associate Director of Communications
 Karen L. Mattison kmattiso@uupmail.org

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily the opinions of United University Professions.

United University Professions
 P.O. Box 15143, Albany, NY 12212-5143
 518-640-6600 1-800-342-4206
 fax: 1-866-812-9446

www.uupinfo.org

Briefly ...

Retiree Retreat slated for mid-July

A COARM retreat has been scheduled for July 14-16 at The Desmond in Albany.

The sessions will focus on developing future activity and increased involvement in the union by the more than 4,600 retiree members of UUP. Guests are invited to give direction and additional assistance to the planning sessions. Topics will range from local, state and national advocacy for senior issues, benefits, protecting public higher education, and other matters of concern to retirees.

For more information, contact UUP Retiree Member Services Coordinator Walter Apple at wapple@uupmail.org or at 800-342-4206.

Dues to increase; benefits available

By Walter Apple
UUP Retiree Member Services Coordinator

U UP Retiree Member dues will increase to \$45, effective Sept. 1, 2015. If you use an auto-payment with your bank, please make sure to update the amount to \$45.

As a reminder, the login information for UUP Member Benefits Special Offers is: UUP Retirees (Institution Name) and 06638 (Department ID).

As a UUP retiree member, you are also eligible for benefits under NYSUT (www.memberbenefits.nysut.org or 800-626-8101), the American Federation of Teachers (<http://www.aft.org/about/member-benefits> or 800-238-1133), the National Education Association (<http://www.neamb.com> or 800-637-4636) and SUNY (<http://www.suny.edu/benefits/employee-discounts/>)

In future newsletters, I will highlight different discounts available.

Please direct questions to me at wapple@uupmail.org or at 800-342-4206 ext. 638.

Corrections

I tend to believe that people have that one bad day or event that haunts them for weeks on end. Such was the case for me with the December 2014 issue of *The Active Retiree*.

It seems nothing went right. Lots went wrong. And it was my fault.

So, here are my apologies to those who submitted articles that were somehow muddled, and to those who faithfully read this newsletter.

Apologies to Barbara Maertz of Farmingdale, who did not get the byline she so richly deserved for the Q & A article she wrote on the UNUM life insurance benefit. I also added a photo of the person I believed to have written the article, so I include one of Barbara here. It's the least I can do.

Apologies to Mac Nelson of Fredonia, whose articles are always entertaining and well written. I'm not sure how it happened but I'm guessing the conversion of the document from Mac's computer to mine somehow added dozens—and I mean dozens—of exclamation points in an otherwise wonderful submission titled, "My 'No problem' problem." Silly me, I never thought to question Mac on the use of so many exclamation points.

These are rookie mistakes, and I regret them both.

— Karen L. Mattison



Farmingdale's Barbara Maertz outlines COARM finances at the 2015 Spring DA.

From the Outgoing COARM Chair

'It has been exciting and rewarding'

This is my last column after deciding not to run for COARM chair, but given the political situation, I am sure that when crucial issues arise, I may be tempted to write again.

It has been exciting and rewarding to work with COARM and all of our retirees, for the maintenance of retirement security and for our SUNY system. I am especially grateful to those who came to meetings, signed petitions, visited legislators and contributed to VOTE-COPE. We made a difference.

But, we, as retirees, must also be aware of other crucial issues that affect our lives and the lives of all Americans. We need more health care coverage, we need to address global warming, and most important for us as educators, we must protect and increase support for public education, from pre-K to graduate school. In order to solve these problems, we must first address the enormous and growing income inequality in the United States. The rich get richer and the rest of us get poorer.

In early May, I attended a very exciting NYSUT Representative Assembly in Buffalo, where one of the speakers was AFT President Randi Weingarten. In her very passionate speech, she pointed out that New York has the largest income gap in the United States, and it has the most segregated school system. New York state: our state!

Then I read in *The New York Times* (May 5, 2015) how children who grow up in poor neighborhoods, with street violence and poor schools, earn far less than those who live in more stable areas. If these families move to "better" neighborhoods, the children, attending better schools and enjoying a better environment, do better and earn more money later in life.

Given the high cost of housing, especially in the downstate area, it is difficult for many to relocate. But why should they have to



Outgoing COARM Chair Judy Wishnia, right, is named a NYSUT Higher Education Member of the Year at the 2015 NYSUT Representative Assembly in Buffalo. She received the award from NYSUT President Karen Magee, left, and Vice President Paul Pecorale.

move? Why can't we improve low-cost housing, repair decaying neighborhoods, and, most importantly, invest in improving local schools?

An article in *Newsday* (April 30, 2015) supplied part of the answer. Charter school proponents were the biggest special-interest group in state politics in 2014, outspending teachers' unions by more than 2-to-1. For example, Families for Excellent Schools, a pro-charter-school group "backed by Wall Street financiers and allied with Cuomo, spent more than \$9.6 million on lobbying." Paul Appelbaum, a venture capitalist who heads Rock Ventures, is chairman of Families for Excellent Schools, receives funding from the Walton family (Walmart!) I could go on and on.

Happily, in this budget round, we were

able to beat back Cuomo's efforts to expand charter schools. But we need to address income inequality by raising taxes on the wealthy and we need more money for public schools, including our public universities.

NYSUT and UUP fight for public education. It's time to organize on the grassroots level, time to pressure our legislators. We cannot allow the wealthy corporations to impoverish the working and middle classes, to deprive our students of the education they, and the nation, deserve. We must fight for first-rate public education from pre-K to graduate school, which will enable all students to live a healthy, happy and secure life.

Judy Wishnia

COARM reports minutes from 2015 Winter, Spring DAs

Submitted by Loraine Tyler
Oneonta

Minutes of Jan. 25, 2015

Present: Judith Wishnia, Patty Bentley, Frank Maraviglia, Barbara Maertz, Al Magid, John Richert, Jo Schaffer

Guests: Loraine Tyler, Rich Tyler, Nancy Ives, Deborah Zinser, Horace Ivey, Ed Hines, Stacy Johnson, Charles Simpson, Irene Stern, Samuel von Winbush, Charles McAteer, Sandra Spier, Ed Drummond, Harvey Inventasch, David Curry, Carol Braund
Staff: Walter Apple

Chair Judith Wishnia called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Chair's report—Wishnia

The Active Retiree—We're at bottom of publication schedule. Director of Communications Mike Lisi will look into problem.

Elections for districts and chair are in spring. Please run!

4,600 retirees strong. We must think of ways to reorganize the "committee." UUP

President Fred Kowal and Wishnia sent letters to every chapter president asking for a representative of retirees on each chapter executive board.

When actives retiree, they don't always get the correct information. Each chapter needs to offer pre-retirement seminars each year. Needs to be run by UUP, not Human Resources. HR should supply appropriate names.

Connections to national organizations—Alliance of Retired Americans, Senior Action Council.

Reorganization Proposal—McAteer

- Add a third type of delegate: Academic, Professional, Retiree based on current



Above, from left, Nancy Ives of Geneseo, Jo Schaffer of Cortland and Sandy Harper of Downstate listen to the discussion.



Left, Harvey Axlerod of Buffalo Center shares his thoughts with retiree members.

formula for delegates. Most chapters would have zero or one additional delegate. Members would vote for a vice president for retirees, so retirees would have a delegate on the Executive Board. This proposal would need to be ready for 2017 election cycle. It keeps the district structure for organizing luncheons. Finances would remain the same.

- Have two retirees: one professional and one academic. This would give us two people on the Board.
- What determines "active" retiree. Is it paying dues or some level of activity?
- Look into establishing a committee to write a formal proposal.

- Statewide membership development officer is COARM liaison. He is the person to bring the proposal to the board.
- Why: Voting in delegates, get representation from all 33 chapters

Annual Retreat

Bentley moved and Maertz seconded a motion to plan a retiree retreat for May 18, which would lead into retiree advocacy day May 19 in Albany. We would spend most of the day on Monday on retreat issues. Passed.

Report from RELAG and political activity—Bentley

- Discussed issue of getting retirees names, addresses
- Status of acceptance of health insurance plans at SUNY Stony Brook
- Retiree Advocacy Day May 19
- IRMMA is not in this year's budget
- Crucial to organize retirees for advocacy

Finance—Maertz

District reps have received financial information. Budget must be approved in March for 2015-2016. District reps must ask for funding for meetings.

Regional Meetings—approved and authorized for payment

Capital District—Magid: Semi-annual brunch/forum May 12 at the Alumni House. Topic will be Innovations in Education: Math and Reading

Long Island—Maertz: Meeting at Stony Brook April 22 and Farmingdale May 1. Programs will include descriptions of wine by Bob Reganse.

Southern—Schaffer: Meetings continue in Cortland, Binghamton and Oneonta/Delhi. Oneonta/Delhi meeting will be at the end of April at Christopher’s Restaurant. Speaker to be new MDO Arty Shertz. Meetings in Binghamton and Cortland TBA.

North Country—Bentley: The scheduled NC meeting in July had to cancel as only two persons RSVP’d. A planned set of meetings in October in Plattsburgh and the Potsdam area were hampered by weather, elections and reservations. By the end of the elections, we hoped to host a newly reelected Senator and perhaps the new Congresswoman-elect in the Potsdam area, thanks to John Nixon. That too, collapsed for reasons of timing, distance and, finally, my fall. We did, however, stay in touch through campaigns, and the NYSUT Retiree Councils in the North Country. For the spring, we will have an email blast to all members related to our three chapters with news and updates on retiree issues. John Nixon and Joe Lamendola are planning a late spring meeting in Canton and I will work with Charlie Simpson and David Curry on a meeting in Plattsburgh in late May. We are particularly subject to the Snowbird flight, which begins in October and usually brings folks back in May. I believe the NC is particularly ripe for conference calls with chapter presidents and representatives and with mailings (email or traditional) to keep members in touch.



Above, left, Judy Wishnia accepts accolades on her retirement as COARM chair. Above, right, Charlie McAteer of Stony Brook discusses a proposal on the reorganization of COARM, as Frank Maraviglia of ESF listens.

Announcing meetings and asking members to travel 90 minutes in the Adirondacks just doesn’t seem to resonate.

Minutes of April 17, 2015

Minutes taken by Maertz and Tyler, submitted by Schaffer

Present: Judith Wishnia, Chair; Patty Bentley, Harvey Axlerod, Barbara Maertz, Frank Maraviglia, Al Magid, Eric Russell, Jo Schaffer. Stempel excused.

Guests: Bob Kasprak, Harvey Inventasch, Rich Tyler, John Richert, Horace Ivey, John Nixon, Mac Nelson, Charles McAteer, Ed Drummond, Ora Bouey, Sandy Harper, Jim Engle, Stacy Johnson

UUP officers and Executive Board members: Pamela Malone, Outreach co-chair; Arty Shertz, MDO; Walter Apple, retiree member services coordinator.

Wishnia called meeting to order 8:05 a.m. Minutes of Jan. 25, 2015, meeting approved as amended.

Chair’s report—Wishnia

Wishnia announced that Schaffer was elected as COARM chair. Wishnia was thanked for her years of service with a card, gift and standing ovation.

John Nixon and Stacy Johnson were introduced as new regional reps.

1) Other announcements:

NYSARA annual meeting in Albany, May 12-13. Wishnia and Schaffer to attend.

Political Action activities; retirees and veterans invited to attend in all regions:

- North Country chapters, May 19
- Western NY Chapters , May 28
- Capital Chapters, June 2
- Long Island Chapters, June 9
- Central NY, June 10

Finance—Maertz

COARM revised budget 2015-16 presented by Maertz.

Increase in dues, \$45, to cover the UNUM travel insurance increase as negotiated last summer. Axlerod suggested that an explanatory letter accompany renewal letter. Insurance card to be included in mailing.

Amendment: that an additional \$500 be added to stipend for Karen Mattison for *The Active Retiree* work; total of \$2,500.

Metropolitan Region had \$400 added for new initiatives and an additional \$400 for annual programs.

Bentley asked that her expenses to attend Supreme Court arguments for marriage equality be covered. Wishnia moved, Maertz seconded, not to exceed \$500 for travel and housing. Approved.

Budget approved as amended without dissent.

see **Minutes**, page 12

Retiree pens book on ‘flip side of genealogy’

By David Kendall
Brockport

“We are all wiser than our minds” is a phrase attributed to the late psychologist/philosopher/educator Carl Rogers. Well-educated or not, we are all teachers to future generations. I emphasized this sentiment so often in some of my graduate classes during my teaching years at SUNY Brockport (1968-1998) that one class at the end of the semester gave me a wooden plaque with those words inscribed.

Educational institutions are, of course, interested primarily in improving the mind, but knowledge is not wisdom—in the same way that belief is not truth and evidence is not proof. While acknowledging our limitations, we must all do the best we can to disseminate our culture, with all its shortcomings and accomplishments, to descendants and future generations.

Through transmission of our insights and anecdotes, each of us has the opportunity to remain a teacher to new generations, many yet-to-be-born. Life stories, experiences and conclusions are unique to each individual and we cannot know which ones might be helpful to a given descendant or to future generations. Our task is only to provide them.

Many “wise” people are convinced that only the elite and educated have the wisdom necessary to move the planet forward peacefully. Yet results prove otherwise; we need more input from the rank-and-file. But first their wisdom must be recognized. Many have little academic knowledge, but millions have emotional intelligence, practical life experience, spiritual understanding and folk wisdom that is rarely recognized and almost never valued.

With retirement came a new beginning and the design of a book to help with the credibility of my message. Rather than search for a publisher whose main motive would understandably be profit from sales, I decided to self-publish the book—*When Descendants Become Ancestors: The Flip Side of Genealogy*—and market it to select populations on my own.

That meant that I had to get some help with self-publishing guidelines, since I had never done this before. After making it very clear that I wanted no adjustments to the content, I hired Balboa Press to aid with the logistics and printing process. With little marketing help requested and several thousand dollars required to begin the venture, I knew it would be difficult to even meet expenses. But my goal was to spread a message, not to sell books. The book was an avenue toward credibility, not profit—and I charge no fees for my presentations.

The book was finally ready to be marketed in September 2014—but where would I begin? I decided to contact genealogical organizations first, though my mission of encouraging people to write anecdotes about life as it’s happening applies to all age groups,



Brockport retiree member David Kendall and his wife recently returned from a tour of five southern states over the winter, promoting his new book with book signings, presentations and workshops. He encourages everyone to share their wisdom by writing stories about their lives for the benefit of their descendants and future generations.

including children.

For the winter months of 2014-2015, my wife and I decided to tour a few southern states and make presentations with book signings to those groups who answered my emails, and with whom we could coordinate our travel plans and their meeting schedules.

Several engagements ensued, and we were thrilled with feedback we received and the opportunities to make many new friends and acquaintances, as well as set up numerous appearances with other organizations for next winter. Meanwhile, we are attempting to duplicate those efforts in some northeastern and mid-western states during the warmer weather.

Several presentations have already been scheduled, and dates and times can be accessed through my website.

(When Descendants Become Ancestors: The Flip Side of Genealogy is available in hardcover, paperback or e-book formats from Balboa Press, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and the author through his website and accompanying blogs at www.stories4descendants.com. A signed copy can be obtained or future presentation scheduled by calling 315-482-3325 and leaving pertinent information.)

Regional meetings

Capital District retirees look at innovative teaching

By Al Magid
Albany

In one particular Capital District city, two-thirds of the students in all grades read below grade level. A majority of students in the fourth and eighth grades—the gateway respectively into middle school and high school—perform below grade level in math and English language arts. The graduation rate for students in that high school is 60 percent, one of the lowest in the Capital District and the state. Together, these deeply disturbing numbers augur poor outcomes all through life.

Without a strong foundation in reading and writing and math on which to build, far too many of those youngsters will find themselves denied the joys and benefits of advanced formal education, wide employment opportunities, and broad cultural enrichment.

The pattern recurs across the state and nation. It is imperative that this baleful condition be countered with vision and vigor on diverse fronts: political and economic, policy formulation and implementation, community and family—and with innovative teaching/learning strategies.

With these considerations in mind, Capital District COARM's Executive Committee hosted its spring semi-annual meeting on "Innovating in Teaching Youngsters Reading and Math," May 12 in the Alumni House on UAlbany's main campus, with two fine speakers: Virginia Goatley, chair and professor in the University Center's department of literacy teaching and learning, and Gretchen Oliver, a Ph.D. candidate there who specializes in curriculum and instruction.

Among other questions, Goatley addressed that of how to integrate math and literature and social studies, indeed all disciplines, in the teaching of literacy skills, laying stress upon the need to



Capital District retirees heard from Virginia Goatley, left, chair and professor in the University Center's department of literacy teaching and learning, and Gretchen Oliver, center, a Ph.D. candidate there who specializes in curriculum and instruction. Opening the discussion was UAlbany retiree Al Magid.

provide schoolchildren with a key role in the conversation having to do with curriculum development. She highlighted practical ways to pursue that goal, for example, by placing greater emphasis interrelatedly on children writing to learn and learning to write. Goatley underlined also the need for even young schoolchildren to use a wide range of technology as a means of learning to draw upon primary sources to build analytic and literacy skills.

Oliver highlighted her involvement with others in a research project, with practical applications, having to do with technology-enhanced mathematics teaching and learning for students at different grade levels who must learn English. She stressed the need to educate teachers of such students in how to build their own confidence and skills. Oliver pointed up also the likely benefits accruing to English-learning students by encouraging conversation among them.

The meeting ran from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It began with SUNY academic and professional retirees and guests from the campuses at Albany, New Paltz, and Cobleskill

socializing over coffee, tea and sweets, and consulting printed materials provided by UUP Member Benefits and Services. From 11 a.m. to noon, there was a buffet lunch. Concurrently, UUP Coordinator of Legislation Rob Trimarchi remarked on the upcoming UUP advocacy events in Albany. Goatley and Oliver delivered their presentations from noon to 1 p.m., followed by an hour-long Q & A.

Capital District COARM urges the more than 300 academic and professional retirees from the Albany, New Paltz and Cobleskill campuses and the retirees from SUNY System Administration to participate in its lively and informative semi-annual meetings, held in October and May. All of the meetings include guest speakers and are keyed to timely issues, with an emphasis on education and public policy, domestic and international.

And, of course, there's always good food and drink. A buffet lunch is provided by statewide COARM.

Capital District COARM's Executive Committee is currently planning an October program.

Southern Tier holds two campus meetings

By Jo Schaffer
COARM Chair

There were two scheduled meetings in the Southern Tier this spring: Cortland and Oneonta/Delhi, with one pending at Binghamton.

Seventy-two folks attended the Cortland brunch meeting Saturday, April 25. The formal meeting was preceded by a social hour, where members caught up with each other after the long winter. This particular event was co-sponsored by the Office of Institutional Advancement, the College Foundation and UUP.

These joint retiree meetings are one of the longest running labor/management programs at the college. Each partner gets a few minutes to make a presentation. The college president and I spoke with the same distress about the recently passed NYS budget. I took advantage of the tone set to encourage our members to continue the fight for restoration and maintenance of the SUNY budget.

UUP introduced program speaker Larry Klotz, professor and environmental biologist. His topic was “Of Time and Rivers Flowing: My Immersion in Polluted Water.” He outlined the pollutants, both airborne and effluent, that contaminate stream and feeder waters in the county. His presentation re-

flected the work done by him and his students over the years. Amazingly, and with grace and humor, he reported that the return of beavers to the area was of more help than human attempts to clean the streams. Much too complicated to explain in depth, suffice to say that the new beaver lodges created the means by which the little animals managed to eat and clean up their watery environment. Who would have thought that such a potentially dry and scientific talk would have held the entire audience spellbound? Well, leave it to beaver, it happened!

The Oneonta/Delhi meeting was held on Cinco de Mayo; Oneonta COARM liaison Loraine Tyler arranged the event. During lunch, statewide Membership Development Officer Arty Shertzer and I brought the 32-plus members up to date on the fiscal challenges confronting SUNY and the need to continue to fight for public higher education.

One of the more interesting questions



Newly elected COARM Chair Jo Schaffer, right, poses with fellow Cortland UUP retiree members Dave Kreh and Florence Brush.

raised was “Why, after all these years, did the task of supporting and defending SUNY fall to UUPers rather than to the administration of SUNY?” Though no rationale conclusion could be reached, the discussion was really lively.

Loraine Tyler has graciously agreed to step into the Southern Tier leadership position. We are looking for people in Oneonta and Delhi to volunteer to work on retirees issues on their respective campuses.

Farmingdale retirees learn about wines

By Barbara Maertz
Farmingdale

The Spring Long Island COARM meeting held on the Farmingdale campus was treated to a learning session about wines and their origins presented by one of our members, Bob Reganse.

In retirement, Bob has taken a lifelong interest in wines to a higher level including investing in specialty wines. He shared his knowledge about several different wines and members got to taste two red wines and a white wine for the five special characteristics of each. Bob discussed clarity, color, smell, taste and finish as things to consider when you are buying a wine. The members learned a lot and enjoyed some samples of the different wines. He showed us that good-tasting wines do not have to be expen-

sive and a Chardonnay from Washington, called Columbia Crest, turned out to be my new favorite.

Advocating for UUP issues such as teacher education programs and “Maintenance of Effort” funding were explained; members were encouraged to meet with their local legislators or to support the activists traveling to Albany June 9 by donating to VOTE-COPE, NYSUT’s nonpartisan political action fund..

Yolanda Segarra wished the COARM members well in her farewell message as Farmingdale Chapter president, She hopes that they maintain their connection to the union and to the SUNY system. Barbara Maertz introduced incoming Chapter President Vicki Janik.

The next meeting is scheduled for October. Have a great summer and see you then.



Farmingdale retiree Bob Reganse shares his expertise on wines with fellow UUP members.

Dr. Wright inspires with story of discovery

By Barbara Maertz and Judy Wishnia

At the spring brunch meeting in Stony Brook, UUP President Fred Kowal outlined the union's successes in getting additional funding for the Educational Opportunity Program and Educational Opportunity Centers, noting the union helped to secure a 22 percent increase in program funding for the first time in years. While we are still fighting for more funding for SUNY and full-time academics and professionals, it was good to hear about our successes.

Kowal asked COARM members to join him on June 9 to advocate with legislators for UUP issues, such as maintenance of effort (MOE) funding and teacher education programs. The importance of NYSUT's nonpartisan political action fund, VOTE-COPE, was explained and COARM members were encouraged to contribute.

COARM members were treated to the inspiring story of Stony Brook Distinguished Professor of Anthropology Dr. Patricia Wright, who has made major contributions in the biology, ecology and conservation of living primates.

Twenty-eight years ago, when Dr. Wright was a newly minted professor and beginning her research, she was inspired by her mentor at Duke University to discover the lemurs of Madagascar, long rumored to be extinct. She traveled the island unsuccessfully for weeks, finally crossing a small broken-down bridge

to a jungle rain forest, where she discovered a new species of primate (*hapalemor aureus*). This discovery led to a life's work studying the species and its social behaviors, and raising funds to establish Madagascar's Ranomafana National Park to protect the habitat. Along the way, she found that there are many different types of lemurs, including one now named after her.

Dr. Wright has raised many millions of dollars from donations like the Bill and Melissa Gates Foundation and individual animal protection groups. Dr. Wright established a research facility that grew from several tents to a five-story research facility with state-of-the-art labs. She has also replaced the bridge.

In addition, Dr. Wright brings close to 1,000 college students on study abroad programs every year. She has had six of her Ph.D. candidates establish their own research facilities throughout Madagascar. She has brought jobs, health care and education to the people of Madagascar, raising the standard of living and educating the people to the importance of protecting this animal.

For all her work, she was awarded the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship and numerous other prestigious awards to continue her work with students and the people of Madagascar.

COARM members asked many questions and were fascinated by Dr. Wright's story.

"It is amazing the impact that one teacher



Dr. Patricia Wright, circa 2004.

could have on the world in so many ways: research, teaching and improving the lives of so many people," commented Barbara Maertz of Farmingdale. "She is a model of public education at SUNY and an inspiring example of UUP members in action."

If you wish to learn more about her work, check out the IMAX film, *Island of Lemurs: Madagascar 3D*, directed by David Douglas, or her website at www.patriciawright.org.

Long Island retirees salute Wishnia

By Barbara Maertz
Farmingdale

More than 100 people traveled to the COARM meeting at Stony Brook to surprise Judy Wishnia on her retirement as statewide COARM chair and to honor her many accomplishments and service to NYSUT, UUP and COARM. The list includes 90 members of Long Island COARM, nine members of the Stony Brook Executive Board, five statewide UUP officers, and one surprise guest from Cortland, Jo Schaffer.

Judy was cited for her work for the last 10 years as chair of COARM, traveling to many areas of the state to attend regional meetings, statewide Executive Board meet-

ings and growing the organization to its current 4,700 members.

Arty Shertzer, Stony Brook president and statewide membership development officer, reminded us that Judy continues to be active in the local as a delegate and member of the local executive board. Judy advocates for UUP issues, as well as senior issues like Social Security and Medicare, spearheading a campaign to prevent enactment of IRMMA provisions proposed by the governor.

Statewide President Fred Kowal announced to the members that Judy had won the NYSUT Higher Education Member of the Year Award for 2015. He detailed her career in UUP and COARM. He reminded us that she has served on the NYSUT

Retiree Council and several committees for NYSUT and UUP, and regularly visited legislators to fight for union and retiree issues.

Schaffer, incoming chair of COARM, remarked on Judy's love of France and the women's labor movement her and abroad, and how she fought for the rights of women throughout her career as a professor at Stony Brook and UUP member. Judy would always rise at the Delegate Assemblies to remind delegates that they would all be retirees one day and should remember to protect the rights that they would one day need.

The COARM members gave Judy a standing ovation to complete a moving recognition of her years of service as an outstanding union member.

**UNITED UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONS
OFFICIAL 2015 ELECTION REPORT
ACTIVE RETIRED MEMBERSHIP ELECTION**

SUMMARY PAGE

DEC. 31, 2014	● Membership certification date.
JAN. 09, 2015	● Date notice of election and call for nominations mailed to home address of chapter members.
FEB. 04, 2015	● Date nominations closed.
FEB. 13, 2015	● Date ballots were mailed to home addresses of chapter members.
MAR. 11, 2015	● Date ballots were due at the UUP Administrative Office in Albany.
MAR. 12, 2015	● Date ballots were counted.

RETIRED DELEGATE

Candidate	Total	Rank
Schaffer, D. Jo	269	01
Bentley, Patricia W.	231	02
Alteri, Barbara M.	98	03
Ballard, David P.	75	04
Solnick, Bruce B.	70	05
Braun, Antoinette	64	06
Robin, Abigail J.	61	07
Domst, Andrea	44	08
Casarella, Gary A.	43	09
Wardlaw, Roosevelt	34	10
Wolpin, Miles D.	34	11
Torok, Carole E.	33	12
Leff, Arlene	26	13
Williams, Benjamin J.	21	14
Tyler, Loraine L.	2	15
Altschuler, Bruce E.	1	16
Kasprak, Robert J.	1	17

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Candidate	Total	Region
Magid, Alvin	45	A
Robin, Abigail J.	38	A
Leff, Arlene	21	A
Solnick, Bruce B.	21	A
Maertz, Barbara T.	166	B
Braun, Antoinette	53	B
Nixon, John T.	57	C
Wolpin, Miles D.	26	C
Johnson, Anastasia K.	141	D
Ballard, David P.	73	D
Bush, Edward W.	57	D
Alteri, Barbara M. Resigned 03/20/2015	87	E
Torok, Carole E.	59	E
Russell, Eric P.	97	F
Schaffer, D. Jo	137	G
Bentley, Patricia W. Ineligible	1	G

Election results are listed in descending order of votes received. Candidates are listed in rank order of votes received; tie votes are listed in rank order as determined by lottery.

We certify that this election was conducted in accordance with the UUP election procedure and that this report constitutes the official election report. **The term of office for each position is from June 1, 2015 through: May 31, 2017.**

Signatures on File

David H. Kreh & Jeanne L. Galbraith
Co-Chair, Elections and Credentials Committee

Signature on File

Eileen Landy
Secretary

Date: **MARCH 13, 2015** Tellers: **List of Tellers on File**

RETURNS

<u>1,186</u> <u>0</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of Control Envelopes: ● Number of INVALID control envelopes and reasons invalid: <table border="0" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 50px; text-align: center;">0</td> <td>● Non-eligible voter.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 50px; text-align: center;">0</td> <td>● Other: _____</td> </tr> </table> 	0	● Non-eligible voter.	0	● Other: _____		
0	● Non-eligible voter.						
0	● Other: _____						
<u>1,186</u> <u>21</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of valid control envelopes. ● Number of INVALID ballots envelopes and reasons invalid. <table border="0" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 50px; text-align: center;">15</td> <td>● Not in sealed inner envelope (secrecy compromised).</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 50px; text-align: center;">2</td> <td>● Secrecy compromised by voter (e.g., ballot envelope or ballot signed, initialed, etc.).</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 50px; text-align: center;">4</td> <td>● Other: <u>3 - Wrong Ballot; 1 - Voted for too many</u></td> </tr> </table> 	15	● Not in sealed inner envelope (secrecy compromised).	2	● Secrecy compromised by voter (e.g., ballot envelope or ballot signed, initialed, etc.).	4	● Other: <u>3 - Wrong Ballot; 1 - Voted for too many</u>
15	● Not in sealed inner envelope (secrecy compromised).						
2	● Secrecy compromised by voter (e.g., ballot envelope or ballot signed, initialed, etc.).						
4	● Other: <u>3 - Wrong Ballot; 1 - Voted for too many</u>						
<u>5</u> <u>1,160</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of blank ballots ● Number of valid ballots. 						

We certify that this election was conducted in accordance with the UUP election procedure and that this report constitutes the official election report. **The term of office for each position is from June 1, 2015 through: May 31, 2017.**

Signatures on File

 David H. Kreh & Jeanne L. Galbraith
 Co-Chair, Elections and Credentials Committee

Signature on File

 Eileen Landy
 Secretary

Date: **MARCH 13, 2015** Tellers: _____
 RER- 03122015

List of Tellers on File

Election results for NYSUT Retiree Council 40-42

The results for the election of President and Vice President of NYSUT Retiree Council 40-42 are as follows:

Election for President

D. Jo Schaffer: 572
 Patricia Bentley: 467

Election for Vice President

Judith Wishnia: 693
 D. Jo Schaffer: 342

Below are the previously announced results for the other officer positions in NYSUT Retiree Council 40-42:

Secretary-Treasurer—Elect 1

Vacant—No Nominations Received

Delegate to the NYSUT RA—Elect 3

(Please note that only two nominations were received)
 Elected: **Patricia Bentley**
 Elected: **Frank Maraviglia**

Minutes ...

(continued from page 5)

Bentley moved, Maertz seconded, a re-approval of the ERP motion from last year.

Maertz was nominated for Retiree of the Year Award. Approved without dissent.

Charlie McAteer proposed a new structure for statewide activism. Proposal tabled until retreat.

Regional Meetings—approved and authorized for payment

Capitol District—May 12: Innovation in Math Teaching.

LI—April 22 at Stony Brook. Patricia Wright speaker (Madagascar's lemurs); May 1 at Farmingdale.

Metro— w/NY Senior Action Committee,

May 13 and monthly thereafter

WNY—Johnson planning a meeting, TBA
Central NY—New chair Carole Torok not present

Southern Tier—Cortland, April 25;
Oneonta/Delhi, May 5; and Binghamton, late May. L. Tyler is stepping forward to chair the region

Florida—Axlerod is planning a meeting in eastern Florida for early fall.

Report from RELAG and political activity—Bentley

RELAG recap: Bentley reported that potential advocates must be thoroughly trained. Palm cards with legislative agenda will be in regional packets. Malone (PMalone@uup-mail.org) as Outreach Committee co-chair expressed willingness to include retiree is-

ssues. Communications and transportation remain problems. Efficient to use email.

Discussion reiterated that retirees are interested in protecting SUNY rather than bread-and-butter issues. Letters need to be formatted for retiree issues. For better communication, retirees need to be on each chapter executive board. Do research on pertinent interests of legislators. The MDO offered any help required.

Other business

Retreat will be held in July for a two-day period at The Desmond in Albany.

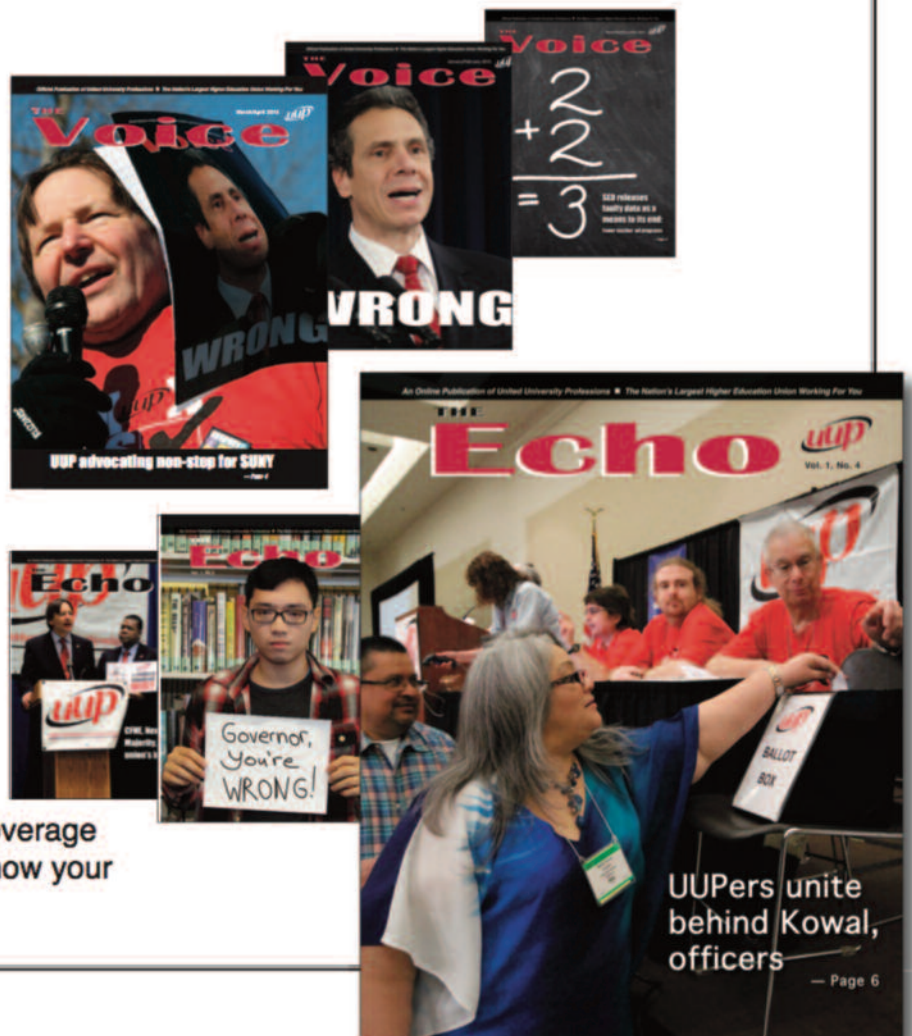
Wishnia thanked COARM members and especially Water Apple for their assistance during her terms of office.

Meeting adjourned on motion by Richert at 9:40 a.m.

**You've read
The Voice ...
Now there's
The Echo!**

Check out UUP's online publication, *The Echo*, available on the UUP website—www.uupinfo.org—under **Publications & Multimedia**.

Think of it as a web companion to *The Voice* to fill the gap between issues as we strive to bring you full coverage of what's going on in your union and how your union is working for you.



Sing out!

By Mac Nelson
Fredonia

It is a commonplace now to lament the loneliness, the separateness of contemporary Americans. They all (especially the kids) seem to be wrapped up in an electronic world, taptaptaptap, and it must be engrossing if not exactly fun. A big book of 15 years ago was titled *Bowling Alone*; that is, people aren't getting together as much as they used to. True. And nothing I write here is going to change that much.

I remember going to a movie theater with my Mom, maybe 1941, and after *Bugs Bunny* there was some sort of musical thing with text on the screen and a "bouncing ball" that told us which word we were supposed to sing, "In The Good Old Summer Time" or some such, and the audience didn't get into it and neither did I, though I tried. It was pretty lame. Mom said that had been popular 10 years earlier. Maybe people tried harder in the '30s to make common cause because life was so bleak for most of them.

And yet ...

People still love to sing together. Always will.

Switch to Comiskey Park, Chicago, home of the White Sox, maybe about 1977. By various devious means, that glorious charlatan Bill Veeck persuaded Harry Caray to sing "Take Me Out To The Ball Game" over the park's sound system in the middle of the seventh inning. Caray protested that he couldn't sing. Boy, was that true! But Bill Veeck said YES, that's exactly why I want you to do it—the fans won't be put off by some great singer. They will know they couldn't sing worse than you, so they will sing too. They loved it. The fans all sang along, and it became a permanent fixture of Chicago seventh inning stretches.

Thirty-seven years later, switch to the North Side, to Wrigley Field. Harry Caray is long dead, but the Cubs' crowd still loves to do it; in fact, it has become a hot spot for a celebrity to lead the crowd. Bill Murray, a great Cub fan, leads when he's in town. I was there one day when Jimmy Buffet led us all.

And it's not just baseball to which communal singing gives strength and joy. The Protestant Reformation would not have been



Mac Nelson leads UUP members in song at a recent Delegate Assembly in Albany.

so powerful without the great hymns the people sang together. When Martin Luther was criticized for including popular melodies in his hymns, he answered: "Why should the Devil have all the good tunes?" And that is why we have "Ein Feste Burg," "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." I regret that I have never heard this in person, but on BBC short wave it was thrilling enough.

The Welsh love singing and rugby football, and for a time they were the best in the world at the sport. They played at Cardiff Arms Park. When there was an important game there, 56,000 Welshmen would attend.

And sing. Loud.

Can you imagine being amidst 56,000 men (mostly), singing "Men of Harlech" or "Land of Our Fathers" or some hymn or aria? I sorta can, because I heard it on the radio. But I didn't feel the ground shake with it, which I am sure it did in Wales. Thrilling.

As a kid I went to two quite different Wisconsin summer camps: a small, fairly pricey one and a really cheap one, a big Boy Scout camp. I loved both, for quite different reasons. The first introduced me to shooting and to canoe trips, for which I am eternally grateful. But we never sang there. The second, Makajawan, in central Wisconsin, was real basic. No frills. Thirty-nine bucks for two weeks. At meals and campfires, the empty moments were always filled with some group or other starting a song. I learned them all, and I still sing them sometimes. They were funny, often a bit bawdy, great fun. Now and then 200 kids would yell

"JOHN JACOB JINGLEHEIMER SMITH, TADADADADADADA" or

"Ich bin ein Musikantor, und komm vom Schwabenland.

Du bist ein Musikantor, und komm vom Schwabenland..."

(This is followed by all manner of wacky instrumental imitations.)

I bet some of you know those songs.

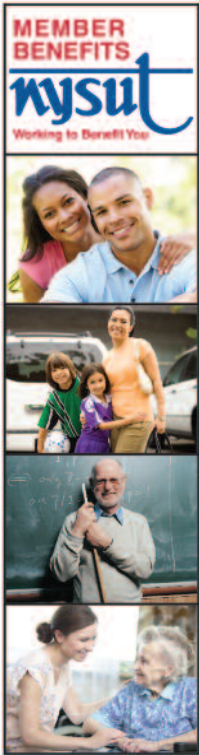
I once taught a college honors course in Comedy at Fredonia. Highly intellectual stuff. One of my students used "Musikantor" as his project. Thirty of us sang and laughed so loud and long that a colleague from next door in Fenton Hall had to come ask if we would please shut up. We knew we should, and we did. Grudgingly.

That Boy Scout camp got its cohesion, its solidarity, its fun, from group singing. For similar reasons, I, like Pete Seeger, have always loved to get people singing together. My college fraternity was very musical. Stephen Sondheim was a member, though he was just before my time. I led them in singing most evenings at dinner. I have led a small singing group, the Catch Club, for 60 years; more of that in another column, perhaps.

I have been a faculty union member at Fredonia for 45 years. I think my best contribution to UUP is that, three times a year, when we meet to conduct our business, we open the meeting with me (usually) leading 300 sisters and brothers in a song: "Solidarity forever, for the union makes us strong!"

So does singing. And I know that, after I am gone, they will still sing.

(Mac Nelson lives in Brocton. His prize-winning book TWENTY WEST: The Great Road Across America [SUNY Press] has just come out in paperback.)



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.



Social Security Works debunks myth that program is failing

By Judy Wishnia
Outgoing COARM Chair

Most of us have heard the warnings of those who oppose the role of government in improving the lives of Americans: Social Security is bankrupt, it increases the national debt, it is a burdensome “entitlement” for greedy seniors. Nancy Altman and Eric Kingson, in a new book, *Social Security Works*, refute those claims and assert that not only is Social Security not going broke, expanding it will help us all.

Before the introduction of Social Security in 1935, many seniors, after a lifetime of work, faced poverty in old age. Originally for seniors, the program expanded over the years to include survivor widows and children, and the disabled. And in 1965, the introduction of Medicare and Medicaid further assured seniors that they would not be penniless and vulnerable in old age.

Social Security is the most popular government program. Even 81 percent of Republicans agree on the importance of the program and 62 percent think benefits should be increased. Social Security is not an “entitlement.” It is group insurance paid for with taxes on wages, salaries, bonuses, etc. by workers, up to the current cap of \$117,000. Each month 165 million workers and their employers pay into the fund, which gives benefits to 44 million seniors, spouses and orphan survivors (including 9/11 families) and 11 million disabled Americans. The authors estimate that this not only aids seniors, it

lifts over one million children out of poverty. Social Security benefits also aid the economy. Recipients put that money right back into purchases.

Social Security is not bankrupt and since it has its own funds, it has nothing to do with the national debt. In 2014, the fund had \$2.8 trillion, with annual interest of \$102.6 billion, enough to pay full benefits for the next 20 years. But ever since its introduction, opponents, funded by many wealthy antagonists, have tried to weaken the program. The Reagan administration introduced an income tax on the benefits in 1984 and just recently, the increase in the age to 66 and then 67 when benefits are collected, cut another 13 percent from income. And although President Bush’s attempt to privatize the program was defeated, Republican budgets continue to raise this possibility.

Today, Social Security is more important than ever before. Economists and other experts have always said that retirement should be based on a three-legged stool: savings, pensions and Social Security. Today very few workers have pensions and those who have them, such as public workers and especially teachers, are threatened with their loss. And the suffering middle class has very little in the way of savings. One-half of Americans have less than \$10,000 in savings. For many seniors, Social Security is thus their main source of income. For those whose income is under \$22,000, 83 percent report that indeed, Social Security is their main source of income. And for women and people of color, whose



WISHNIA

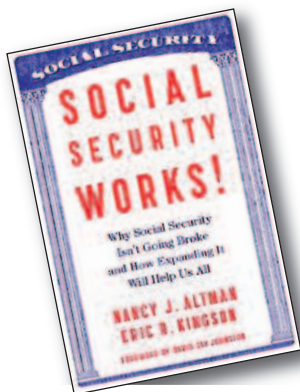
incomes were always low, Social Security is critical. In 2013, the average retired worker received a monthly benefit of \$1,294, a widow with two minor children received \$2,593 and a disabled worker got \$1,146, just enough to survive.

So given these facts, Altman and Kingson

advocate improving Social Security and raising the benefits, and suggest adding benefits for the millions of caregivers who take care of the sick and disabled. How to do this? Eliminating the cap of \$117,000 would mean that the wealthy would pay their fair share. A special tax on the very wealthy or a tax on stock transfers could also be used to raise funds. We are the wealthiest country in the world but we spend less on retirement, disability and survivor protection than most other industrialized countries. Austria spends 11.9 percent of its Gross Domestic Product on these programs, France: 11.6 percent, Germany: 10.7 percent, Spain: 9.4 percent. The U.S. spends 4.8 percent.

The authors call on us to reject the lies of the fear mongers, and to maintain and improve Social Security. It is good for those who receive the benefits and it is good for America.

(Editor’s note: Judy Wishnia of SUNY Stony Brook is outgoing chair of the statewide Committee on Active Retired Membership. She has written extensively on Social Security and other retiree issues in The Active Retiree and in the union’s membership publication The Voice.)



About the authors


Nancy J. Altman has a 35-year background in Social Security and private pensions. She is co-director of Social Security Works and co-chair of the Strengthen Social Security coalition and campaign. She has authored several books and articles on Social Security policy. **Eric R. Kingson** is a professor of social work at Syracuse University’s School of Social Work and is co-director of Social Security Works. He is the author of *Social Security and Medicare: A Policy Primer*.



**Problems come in many forms.
So does the help NYSUT provides.**

*1-800-342-9810, ext. 6206
socsvcs@nysutmail.org*

United University Professions
P.O. Box 15143
Albany, N.Y. 12212-5143

The Active Retiree 

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 103
ALBANY, N.Y.