

## COARM tackles elder abuse

By Judy Wishnia  
COARM Chair

**A**s we grow older, we may grow wiser, but we may also grow physically and mentally weaker. Most of us have knees that are reluctant to bend, backs that ache and keys or eyeglasses that mysteriously “disappear.” We frequently joke about our aging bodies. But for many older people there is a problem that is no joking matter and that is the national affliction of elder abuse.

We have all read the newspaper articles about physical abuse or neglect in nursing homes. Occasionally we hear of a family member accused of killing an elderly relative. But these cases are just the tip of the iceberg of a severe national problem which, for the most part, remains hidden within the confines of the domestic sphere. In fact, no one really knows just how severe the incidence of elder abuse is. It is difficult to get statistics from New York state, which has a limited tracking system. But the number is staggering: At least 15,000 cases of elder abuse were reported to Adult Protective

Elder abuse usually refers to “intentional or neglectful acts by a caregiver or ‘trusted’ individual that lead to ... harm of a vulnerable elder.”

— Art Mason  
Director of Lifespan

Services, the primary agency tracking elder abuse. Actual figures are certainly much higher, since the National Center on Elder Abuse estimates that for every reported case of elder abuse, another five or six go unreported by seniors who are incapable or reluctant to report their abusers.

During the Spring Delegate Assembly, members of COARM’s Elder Abuse

Committee met with Art Mason, a prominent social worker and expert on elder abuse. He is the director of Lifespan, a multi-county welfare agency serving the elderly in the Rochester area.

During the meeting, Mason said there would be a conference in the fall, during which it is hoped that a comprehensive state-wide strategy to address elder abuse would be developed.

Mason said elder abuse usually refers to “intentional or neglectful acts by a caregiver or ‘trusted’ individual that lead to, or may lead to, harm of a vulnerable elder.”

He noted the many ways in which abuse can occur:

- Physical abuse: Use of force to threaten or physically injure a vulnerable elder person (includes slapping, burning, beating, bruising or other injuries).
- Sexual abuse: Sexual contact that is forced, tricked, threatened or otherwise coerced on a vulnerable elder, including anyone who is unable to grant consent.
- Emotional abuse: Verbal attacks, threats, see **ELDER ABUSE**, page 6

## Retirees get down to business at Winter DA

By Judy Wishnia  
COARM Chair

**B**ecause of the “Save SUNY” demonstration held Friday, Feb. 5, in front of the state Capitol, the time for committee meetings was shortened and COARM met for only one hour on Friday morning.

However, we managed to have an “informal” meeting for another hour later in the afternoon and accomplished some of our agenda. We will be having a retreat the day before the Spring Delegate Assembly so we can continue with our plans to strengthen COARM and the role of retirees in UUP.

### ELDER ABUSE

On Thursday evening, COARM had a

meeting of its Elder Abuse Committee with Art Mason of Lifespan of Rochester, who is an expert on elder abuse. The meeting was very enlightening. It was decided to devote space in this issue of *The Active Retiree* to explain this massive problem and to see what we in UUP can do about it (see story, above).

Thanks to Don Cohen, Bob Kasprak and the rest of the committee for their superb work on this.

### DA RESOLUTIONS

During the scheduled COARM meeting, retirees spent a good deal of time discussing several proposed resolutions.

One resolution was on campus privileges for professional retirees. While some cam-

pus grant both academics and professionals access to campus facilities such as libraries, parking, gymnasiums and e-mail, many campuses do not recognize that professionals who have devoted their working lives to SUNY should have the same privileges as their retired academic brothers and sisters.

COARM prepared a resolution calling on all SUNY campuses to honor the concept of treating all retirees as academic employees.

In the course of a very passionate discussion, COARM members came to the conclusion that the solution was more complicated than could be solved within our limited time. This will be one of the main topics

see **COARM**, page 5

## The Active Retiree

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

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## Life as I see it ...

# Retirement has ups and downs

By Henry Geerken  
 SUNY Cobleskill

**B**efore retirement, everybody talks about how much they're looking forward to "the golden years" of little responsibility and the ability to answer whatever wanderlust they might have commensurate only to their "spare" cash.

This sounds great in theory and, yes, there have been several days when I have never taken off my pajamas and lounged the day away. But being a retiree does create some problems.

The first problem: If you have been an active member of UUP your life has been a kaleidoscope of activity. Between teaching or meeting the public, faculty meetings, UUP chapter meetings, and advising and grading papers, you become conditioned—like Pavlov's dogs—to respond in an instant to the ring of a bell (be it telephone, alarm clock, end-of-class hour or a signal from your watch). On command, you immediately switch into "professional mode," like a race horse reacting to the clang of a bell at the start of a race.

When you retire, you find that the bells no longer ring to summon you to participate in life. You go from dynamo to dud in a heartbeat. Throughout your working life, you have lived for The Weekend, when you can simply unwind. But when you are retired, every day is The Weekend and it can be very difficult getting into that mind set.

The second problem: Living on a



Geerken

"fixed" income. Fixed income is very similar to what happens to dogs and cats when they are neutered. The dog or cat is "never the same," and neither are you.

You suddenly become aware of what everything costs and you start to evaluate things on the basis of

"Do I really need this," against "Can I still live if I don't get it?" This really comes to your attention when you find yourself paying \$5 for a little itty-bitty pill that's supposed to prevent you from dying.

The third problem: The societal perception is that retired people are too old to appreciate the changing complexities of life. Young people consider us too old to be interesting, and mid-lifers want to stick us in nursing homes, where we can rock our lives away and drool on our clothes. Instead of being revered and venerated like some cultures, we are considered a drag on society.

The final problem: As we age we lose muscle tone. Instead of "floating like a butterfly and stinging like a bee," our left hook takes the

consistency of overcooked spaghetti. We become confused easily and there are people who take advantage of us and, in many cases, abuse us. It's a sad commentary on life "in the golden years."

There is one thing that people forget. Within a few years, they'll be retired also and whatever they have planned for us is what they'll have to live with.

Have fun, kids.

**"When you retire, you find that the bells no longer ring to summon you to participate in life."**

*From the COARM chair*

# The struggles and martyrdom of workers

In 1911, my 15-year-old father, a recent immigrant to the United States, was proudly driving a horse and wagon as a copy boy for the *New York World*. In an era when there were few telephones, it was his job to go to where the news was happening, get the reporter's copy and bring it back to the newspaper office. On Saturday afternoon, March 25, he was told to go to the Asch building near New York University, where there was a gigantic fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist factory.

When I was a child, he told me of his experiences at the fire, watching dozens of young women and some young men, with flames engulfing their hair and clothes, leap from the ninth floor windows to crash onto the street below. It was one of the experiences that led him to unionism and to his later service in Local 6 of the International Typographical Union.

And for me, it was a childhood memory that never faded.

Since March is Women's History Month and next March is the 100th anniversary of the tragic event that took 146 young lives, I thought I would return to my occupation as a historian to remind you how the unions were built by the struggles and martyrdom of working people.

The story begins at the turn of the 20th century with the millions of immigrants, Jews who fled the pogroms of Eastern Europe, and Italians who fled the oppression and poverty of Italy, who arrived in New York City. For many, one of the first employment opportunities was in the then-flourishing garment industry. At first, the various jobs were farmed out and dresses or pants were sewn, buttonholes made, or blouses embroidered in the crowded and unhealthy tenement apartments. Eventually, more of the work was done in factories and, by 1909, there were numerous such work sites that employed mostly young women and girls sewing the then-fashionable blouses or shirtwaists. The Triangle factory alone had more than 500 workers. It was certainly much more efficient to have everything done in one place, but there was also a

My father's firsthand account of the Triangle Shirtwaist fire is "a childhood memory that has never faded."



WISHNIA

downside for the factory owner. Having hundreds of workers in one place led to conversation about long hours (in busy season, one might work 16 hours each day) and low pay. It was also easier for the fledgling union, the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) to reach large numbers of workers at one time.

There had been a number of strikes of the shirtwaist workers in 1908 and 1909, but after a few days, facing beatings by thugs and possible starvation for their families, the strikes usually fizzled out. But by the end of 1909, the discontent had reached a boiling point. In September, about 150 Triangle workers, members of ILGWU Local 25, went to a union meeting. When they went to work the next day, they found themselves locked out. They decided to strike. Word of the walkout spread quickly and, encouraged by the union, more and more factory workers joined the walkouts. Thousands turned out for a meeting at the venerable Cooper Union Hall, many standing in the aisles and on the stage. Speeches were made by the famous socialist lawyer Meyer London, by Mary Dreier of the Progressive movement's Women's Trade Union League (WTUL) and by Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor.

The speeches were militant, but all mixed militancy with caution. Now was not the time to strike; more organization was needed. Suddenly a young woman, barely five feet tall but well known to many in the audience as a firebrand union supporter, ran

to the stage. Clara Lemlich rejected the hesitancy of the speakers. Now is the time for a general strike! she shouted. The audience roared its approval and a vote was taken: All supported the general strike. And thus began the famous strike of the 20,000.

The young women organized their picket lines and issued their demands: a 52-hour week, a 20 percent raise in pay, and recognition of the union.

Within a few days, some of the smaller shops settled. But the larger factories, led by the two owners of Triangle, resisted. For weeks, the women walked. They were beaten by cops, arrested and jailed, sent to the workhouse, but they persisted. They were aided with some money and support from the wealthy women in the WTUL and students from the women's colleges, but it was the workers themselves who were the stalwarts of the strike.

Finally, there was a settlement, with the Triangle owners as the last holdout. The demands for raises and shorter hours were part of the agreement and they got "recognition" of the union, but not the union shop they had hoped for. Safety issues were not discussed.

Then on March 25, 1911, a small fire began on the eighth floor of the Triangle factory. Fed by scraps of blouse material, a fireball erupted. Within 30 minutes, 146 young people were dead. Workers scrambled to the stairs, to the elevators, to the roof. Some of the luckier ones made it to safety.

see TRIANGLE, page 4

# Regional meetings

## Good stuff slated for Capitol District

By Al Magid  
Albany

Over the last several years, the Capital District COARM Executive Committee (Al Magid, chair; Don Cohen; Jim Kiepper; and Hy Kuritz) has been organizing semi-annual speaker/luncheons for Capital District retirees, academics and professionals—one event in the autumn, another in the spring.

Covering a wide range of important public-policy topics, the luncheons have continued to attract impressive speakers, as well as a growing number of SUNY retirees from around the Capital District, and other guests.

In the current climate of fiscal distress and economic insecurity in the state and nation, myriad stakeholders have emerged to vet and vent on a wide array of issues, among them SUNY's present condition and its future. Various proposals to reform the SUNY system to meet the current exigency and improve its prospects statewide and on the individual campuses have precipitated much discussion and debate and, as expected, advocating for and against. Among the

proposals are some that resonate across the country and at the national level.

With these considerations in mind, the Executive Committee has organized Capital District

COARM's spring speaker/luncheon around the theme "The SUNY System and American Higher Education."

Currently the arrangement is to have at least two speakers. Confirmed is UUPer Patricia Bentley, a librarian at SUNY Plattsburgh who is an activist in both UUP and AAUP.

More speakers will be added.

The speaker/luncheon event will be held Wednesday, May 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in Alumni House on UAlbany's main campus. The first hour will provide an opportunity for retirees to schmooze about this and that; a buffet lunch will be provided for an hour, beginning at 11 a.m. Speakers will begin at noon. Their presentations will be followed by a Q-and-A session, until adjournment at 2 p.m.

Capital District retirees should watch for more detailed information in the mail. Mark your calendars—and join us!

**SAVE THE DATE**  
Capital District  
speaker/luncheon  
scheduled for  
May 19 from  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Binghamton retirees receive benefits info

By Jo Schaffer, Cortland

On Thursday, Dec. 10, Jo Schaffer, Southern Tier COARM's elected representative, held a Retiree Workshop with the assistance of Corinna Kruman, the SUNY Binghamton Human Resources retiree benefits representative.

Schaffer distributed UUP materials, ranging from dental and vision plans and various brochures to travel assistance cards. There was a lively discussion about how better to share this information before and during retirement.

Another meeting for Southern Tier retirees is planned for the spring.

## Triangle ...

(continued from page 3)

Others threw themselves on the descending elevators and were crushed by other falling bodies. Some tried to put out the fire with hoses, but there was no water pressure. The eighth-floor workers tried to alert those on the ninth floor but by the time they reached them, the fire was raging. Some tried an exit door, but it was locked. Others tried to exit by the one fire escape, but it accommodated only one person at a time. Eventually it collapsed, sending more bodies to the street.

The fire department arrived, but their ladders would not go high enough and the nets they set out for jumpers collapsed with the first body. By then, those trapped on the ninth floor were at the windows, hair and clothes on fire.

Next came the scenes my father saw: girls jumping, sometimes hand in hand, others looking up at the blue sky as they plummeted downward.

The city was in shock. Parents and friends came to identify the bodies, which were often so mangled or burned that a ring or a gold tooth was the only way one could recognize a daughter or a sister. The funeral cortege drew 350,000 mourners.

The shock of the fire and the lack of safety standards initiated a huge political change. The workers learned that only they could protect themselves. The unions grew and fought for better working conditions. The city established a commission that eventually issued mandates for improving fire prevention.

For politicians, there was also a change. The Democratic Party's Tammany Hall turned against the old guard and brought up a new generation of reformers. Most notable were Robert Wagner, who as a senator would become the author of the New Deal labor laws, and Al Smith, who as governor of New York established the policies that would eventually be emulated by Franklin Roosevelt with the New Deal. It was said that Smith, who had viewed the bodies in 1911, always had the ghosts of the Triangle fire victims looking over his shoulder.

The owners of the Triangle factory were tried and acquitted of causing the deaths of the workers, but the unions were able to effect the changes that eventually led to the National Labor Relations Act, Social Security, unemployment insurance and the other reforms of the New Deal.

*Judith Washburn*



Above, COARM Chair Judy Wishnia chats with Assemblyman John McEneny, who spoke in support of SUNY.

Left, Horace Ivey of Upstate proudly carries the "Stand Up for SUNY" sign.

Right, Pearl Brod of Farmingdale rallies for SUNY with students and fellow UUP members.



KAREN L. MATTISON/MARK SHARER PHOTOS

## COARM ...

(continued from page 1)  
of our spring retreat.

We came to a more rapid decision on two resolutions devoted to retiree health care coverage. The governor has introduced another tier to the pension system. New employees will now be in Tier 5 and will have to continue to pay into their pension plans beyond the current 10-year limit.

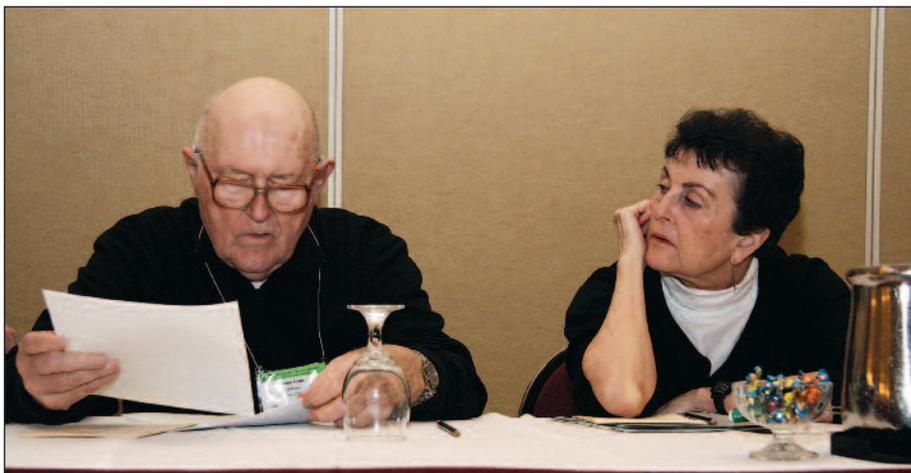
Most unions were reluctant to agree to a plan that will cost members more money. But with promises of retirement bonuses, most unions signed on. NYSUT, one of the

last holdouts, finally did sign on, but got a real reward for the agreement: All retirees will *permanently* get the same health benefits that active employees receive in their contracts. This was an important victory for NYSUT since this will cover a number of districts where retirees do not have health insurance.

In addition, for those districts that currently grant the same health care coverage as actives, retirees will no longer go through the annual agony as the Legislature passes the maintenance of cov-

erage for yet another year. For those in UUP who are enrolled in an Optional Retirement Plan such as TIAA/CREF, the situation is more complex since the ORPs are not covered by Tier 5. It is likely that this issue will be discussed in the current legislative session, so this is the resolution COARM presented to the Delegate Assembly:

Whereas, under New York State Civil Service Law, state retirees have traditionally been given the same health care coverage see **MORE COARM**, page 8



John Hain of New Paltz and Barbara Habenstreit of Brooklyn HSC review COARM materials during the DA.

Below, Duke Piroha of Delhi discusses a resolution on retiree health care.



# Newsletter earns four awards in *New York Teacher* journalism competition

UUP's newsletter for its more than 3,400 retiree members earned four awards in the annual NYSUT Journalism Contest run by *New York Teacher*.

The *Active Retiree* won top honors for Best Newsletter for publications with a circulation of more than 1,000. The award recognizes outstanding writing, photography and design. The winning June 2009 issue, inset, included articles on the state Alliance for Retired Americans conference and NYSUT Representative Assembly highlights, as well as regional meeting coverage and recognition of two award-winning UUP retirees.

"This is the way it's done," wrote contest judges. "Great publication, filled with informative and interesting articles ranging from topics of interest for retirees to general interest articles. The layout, writing and overall appearance of the newsletter exude professional quality."

Individual awards went to:

- Mac Nelson of Fredonia, who earned first-place honors for Best Feature Story for his April 2009 article "All aboard," about his cross-country train trip to visit friends in Illinois, California and Oregon.
- Don Cohen of Albany, who picked up a first-place award for Best News Story for his April 2009 article "Elder abuse under review."
- COARM Chair Judy Wishnia of Stony

The judges had this to say: "Excellent article on an often overlooked topic in today's society. Thoroughly reported with important details in break-out points. Excellent!"

## Elder abuse ...

(continued from page 1)

rejection, isolation or belittling acts that cause or could cause mental anguish, pain or distress to a senior.

- Neglect: A caregiver's failure or refusal to provide for a vulnerable elder's safety, physical or emotional needs.
- Abandonment: Desertion of a frail or vulnerable elder by anyone with a duty of care.
- The most common form of abuse is financial exploitation: "Illegal or improper use of an elder's funds, property or assets. Examples include but are not limited to cashing checks without authorization or permission, forging signatures, misusing or stealing an elder person's money or possessions, coercing or deceiving an older person into signing any document (e.g., contracts or wills) and the improper use of conservatorship, guardianship or power of attorney."

Elder abuse can occur anywhere, in institutions or in the home, and it affects seniors across all socio-economic groups, cultures and races. Women and "older" seniors are

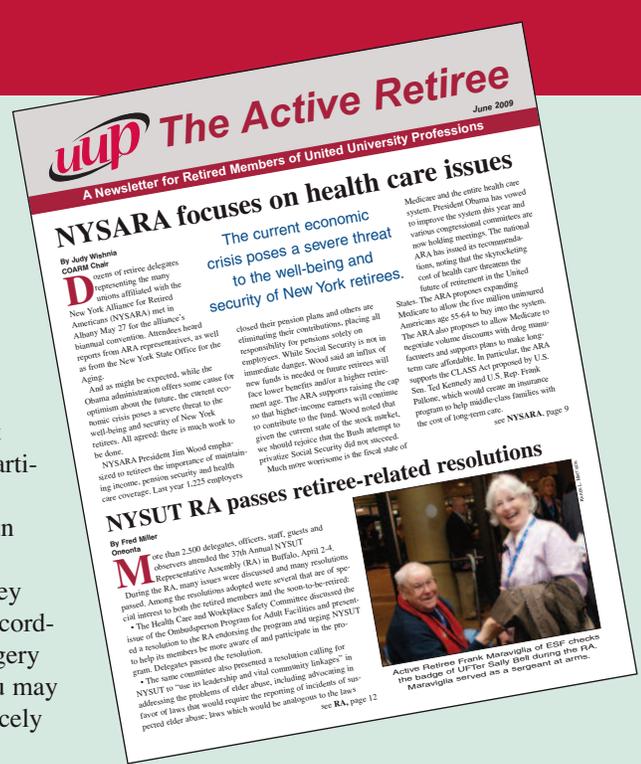
more likely to be victimized. Dementia and other mental health issues are significant risk factors, as is isolation.

What can we do to bring this problem into the open and rescue vulnerable seniors?

Despite the fact there is only one federal employee dedicated to elder abuse and that, except for urgent calls to the police, New York state does not have mandatory reporting in the community, there are still ways to report abuse. For instance, keep in contact with your elderly and vulnerable friends and neighbors.

If you are concerned about someone you know, contact local adult protective services at [www.ncea.aoa.gov](http://www.ncea.aoa.gov) or call the elder care locator at (800) 677-1116. To report suspected nursing home abuse, go to [www.ltombudsman.org/staic.pages/help.cfm](http://www.ltombudsman.org/staic.pages/help.cfm)

COARM has formed a committee to work on this crucial issue and has begun to educate members about this problem (informational meetings, blogs, twitter, bumper stickers). Ed Alleyne and Eric Russell have created a PowerPoint presentation, which is



**NYSARA focuses on health care issues**  
The current economic crisis poses a severe threat to the well-being and security of New York retirees.

By Judy Wishnia  
COARM Chair

Dozens of retiree delegates representing the many unions affiliated with the New York Alliance for Retired Americans (NYSARA) met in Albany May 27 for the alliance's biannual convention. Attendees heard reports from ARA representatives, as well as from the New York State Office for the Aging.

And as might be expected, while the Obama administration offers some cause for optimism about the future, the current economic crisis poses a severe threat to the well-being and security of New York retirees. All agreed: there is much work to be done.

NYSARA President Jim Wood emphasized to retirees the importance of maintaining income, positive security and health care coverage. Last year 1,225 employees

closed their pension plans and others are eliminating their contributions, placing all responsibility for pensions solely on employees. While Social Security is not in immediate danger, Wood said an influx of new funds is needed to insure retirees will receive lower benefits and/or a higher retirement age. The ARA supports raising the cap so that higher-income earners will continue to contribute to the fund. Wood noted that given the current state of the stock market, we should rejoice that the Bush attempt to privatize Social Security did not succeed.

Much more work remains to be done on the fiscal state of

Medicare and the entire health care system. President Obama has vowed to improve the system this year and various congressional committees are also working on recommendations. The national ARA has issued its recommendations, noting that the skyrocketing cost of health care between the United States and other nations is a major concern.

The ARA proposes expanding Medicare to allow the five million uninsured Americans age 65 and up into the system. The ARA also proposes to allow Medicare to negotiate volume discounts with drug manufacturers and support plans to make long-term care affordable. In particular, the ARA supports the CLASS Act proposed by U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy and U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone, which would create an insurance program to help middle-class families with the care of long-term care.

see NYSARA, page 9

**NYSUT RA passes retiree-related resolutions**

By Fred Miller  
Ontario

More than 2,500 delegates, officers, staff, guests and observers attended the 73rd Annual NYSUT Representative Assembly (RA) in Buffalo, April 2-4.

During the RA, many issues were discussed and many resolutions passed. Among the resolutions adopted were several that are of special interest to both the retired members and the non-retiree workforce.

- The Health Care and Workplace Safety Committee discussed the vital interest to both the retired members and the non-retiree workforce of the Onshored Program for Adult Facilities and proposed a resolution to the RA endorsing the program and urging NYSUT to help its members pass the resolution.
- The same committee also presented a resolution calling for NYSUT to "use its leadership and vital community linkages" in addressing the problems of elder abuse, including advocating in favor of laws that would require the reporting of incidents of suspected elder abuse; laws which would be analogous to the laws

see RA, page 12



Active Retiree Frank Maravaglia of ESP chooses the badge of UP'er Spilly Doh during the RA. Maravaglia served as a sergeant at arms.

Brook, who received an Award of Merit for Best Editorial for her June 2009 commentary "Labor left out of social history." "A direct and beautifully written column on the importance of unions in U.S. history and why they are needed today as much as in earlier times," wrote the judges.

Contest judges are professional writers, editors and graphic designers.

available for meetings.

The committee is also working to support passage of the proposal of Sen. Jeffrey Klein to amend the social services law in relation to tracking and reporting elder abuse (S. 5376). This proposed legislation is being "tweaked" by elder abuse experts, such as Mason, and it is hoped it will become law in the near future.

The committee is also recommending that SUNY medical schools and social welfare departments offer courses on elder abuse. Alleyne, Flossie Brush, Russell and Don Cohen will be working on this.

Just as there was once official and societal silence about domestic violence, advocacy brought the issue into the open, so must we shine a light on this form of abuse.

Active Retirees interested in working with COARM and/or in the communities, should contact Cohen at [bdonco@gmail.com](mailto:bdonco@gmail.com) or Bob Kasprak at [telecom18@juno.com](mailto:telecom18@juno.com).

(Don Cohen of Albany contributed to this article.)

Norma Klayman listens to the discussion during one of the many UUP meetings she attended as a retiree and a member of the Buffalo State Chapter.



# Goodbye, Norma

## UUP mourns the loss of a 'founding mother'

By Karen L. Mattison  
UUP Publications Specialist

Anyone who crossed paths with Norma Klayman knew her as a feisty, in-your-face, never-back-down kinda gal. And they respected her unwavering and heartfelt conviction to UUP Active Retirees.

It's also why they mourn her loss.

Klayman, the chair of the Committee on Active Retired Membership (COARM) from 1991-1999 and a professor emerita of foreign languages at Buffalo State, died Jan. 22 following a long illness. She was 88.

"I first got to know Norma back in the 1960s, when we were fellow members of the New York State Speech and Theatre Association," said Fred Miller of Oneonta, a longtime UUPer and former elected representative for COARM's Southern Tier region. "Norma demonstrated, then, the same sort of drive, energy and level-headed leadership that we will always associate with her. We have lost a valued colleague."

UUP in 1999 honored Klayman with its annual Outstanding Retiree Award. In presenting her with an engraved crystal vase, former UUP president Bill Scheuerman complimented Klayman's "in-your-face approach" to the challenges confronting retirees, and called her a "pacesetter, a pioneer of retiree issues" within UUP.

Klayman was instrumental in creating

COARM, and worked diplomatically to strengthen the voice of UUP retirees. Her efforts led to the hiring of a retiree services coordinator responsible for handling members' pre- and post-retirement concerns, and with helping to secure dental and vision benefits for retirees.

"Norma was a founding mother of COARM and she worked hard for UUP to recognize the issues that affect both UUP and retirees," said COARM Chair Judy Wishnia of Stony Brook. "She will be missed."

"The mere fact we have a retiree group is because of Norma's efforts," said Henry Geerken of Cobleskill. "She was given the responsibility of organizing us when UUP hadn't a clue about what to do with us.

"I'll give her a few months and then she'll have Heaven organized as well."

Klayman earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in French from UAlbany and an Ed.D. in foreign language teacher education from the University at Buffalo. After teaching high school for 20 years, she was persuaded to accept a position as a professor of foreign languages at Buffalo State in 1964. She retired in 1985.

In addition to the Outstanding Retiree Award, Klayman was the recipient of many honors, including the John Hay Fellowship to the University of Chicago and the Bertha E. Brimmer Award from UAlbany, which also honored her with its Distinguished Alumni Award.

"Norma worked hard for UUP to recognize the issues that affect both UUP and retirees."

— Judy Wishnia  
COARM Chair

"The mere fact we have a retiree group is because of Norma's efforts."

— Henry Geerken  
Cobleskill

"We have lost a valued colleague."

— Fred Miller  
Oneonta

## In memoriam

Let us take time to remember the UUP Active Retirees who have passed away:

Philip Arak, Brooklyn HSC  
Florence Beer, Morrisville  
Julia Boken, Oneonta  
Harold Emmerson, Brockport  
Ireneo Gutierrez, Buffalo HSC  
Richard Hyse, Oswego  
Aaron Kramer, Maritime  
Sanford Levine, Albany  
Richard Mancuso, Brockport  
Anne Miniadis, Brooklyn HSC  
Richard Pfeiffer, Farmingdale  
Carlene Polite, Buffalo Center  
Helen Anne Rivlin, Binghamton  
Pneena Sageev, Buffalo Center  
Zoltan Sebestyen, New Paltz  
Earl Wilsey, Oneonta

## More COARM ...

(continued from page 5)

granted in the contract to employed personnel, and

Whereas, under Tier V legislation for new employees, NYSUT received a guarantee that health care coverage for retirees based on local contracts with the active workforce would be permanent, and

Whereas, H.R. 1322, the Emergency Health Benefit Protection Act, currently included in the Affordable Health Care for Americans Act (H.R. 3962) which was passed by the House of Representatives, prohibits employers from reducing health care benefits after retirement unless a corresponding reduction is made in the active workforce benefits, and

Whereas, the maintenance of health care coverage is vital to the well-being of UUP retirees, therefore be it

Resolved, that UUP will do all in its power to maintain the same retiree health care coverage based on the contract for actively employed personnel, and be it further

Resolved, that if Tier V is extended to ORP, that it include a permanent guarantee of health care coverage for retirees, and be it further

Resolved, that UUP do all in its power to support H.R. 1322, to guarantee the maintenance of health care benefits for all retirees.

The second resolution is a response to the governor's proposal to tax the Medicare Part B reimbursement. The resolutions reads:

Whereas, in Gov. Paterson's proposed budget there is the imposition of a new tax on Medicare payments by the State of New York, (This is 25 percent for families and 10 percent for individual coverage); and

Whereas, this tax is targeted at retirees and employees age 65 and over who receive Medicare Part B, and that this tax is onerous to those who currently live on or will live on fixed incomes, therefore be it

Resolved, that UUP will do all in its power to work with other New York State public employee unions and to advocate for this class of employee and retiree to stop the imposition of this proposed tax.

Both resolutions were passed unanimously by all the delegates.

Other internal COARM issues:

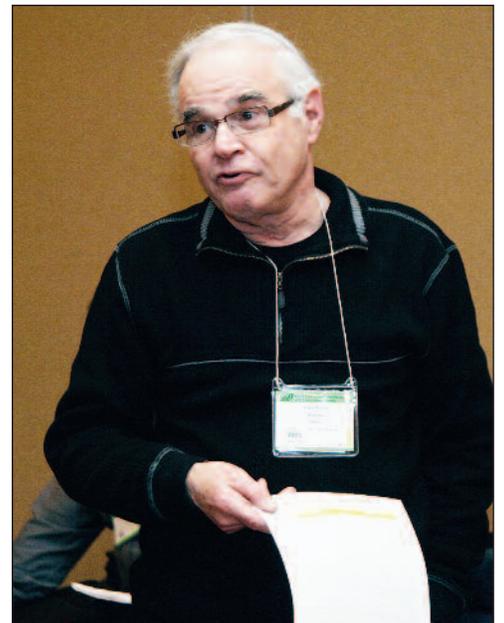
- Spring meetings for the regions were approved.



KAREN L. MATTISON PHOTOS

Above, President Phil Smith, right, discusses the union's legislative agenda with RELAG and COARM members. Listening are Judy Wishnia of Stony Brook and Eric Russell of Brooklyn HSC.

Right, retiree Ivan Steen of Albany makes his case during a meeting of chapter leaders.



- Regional chairs were reminded to choose people who can assist and substitute for chairs in the regions. If the chosen people are not delegates and they come to the Delegate Assembly meetings, COARM will pay their expenses, but they will not have a vote.

- Pat Stempel and Jo Schaffer are continuing to work on a booklet on how to get personal and financial affairs in order in case of illness or death.

- COARM will be sending out its revised constitution for the NYSUT Retiree Council. There is hope that after 10 years of trying, UUP will finally be able to fill its nine council seats.

- Vice President for Academics Fred Floss has invited retirees to set up a mentoring program on the history and benefits of union membership. As so many new members do not know about labor's struggles and the need for activity, it sounds like a wonderful idea. (Volunteers??)

- In the spring, COARM will hold another retreat on the Thursday before the Spring Delegate Assembly. One of the tasks will be to continue to establish committees.

- Kudos to the Elder Abuse Committee, which is making COARM active beyond UUP.

- COARM reviewed a carefully outlined budget prepared by UUP Director of Finance Tina George, and the UUP and COARM Finance committees.

- COARM's Benefits Committee is examining the rise in the cost of the dental plan

# Remember when?

By Judy Wishnia  
COARM Chair

Several members of our listserv have been trading memories of their long-lost youthful years. Most of the writers grew up downstate. I have summarized some of their postings, which, not surprisingly, involve food.

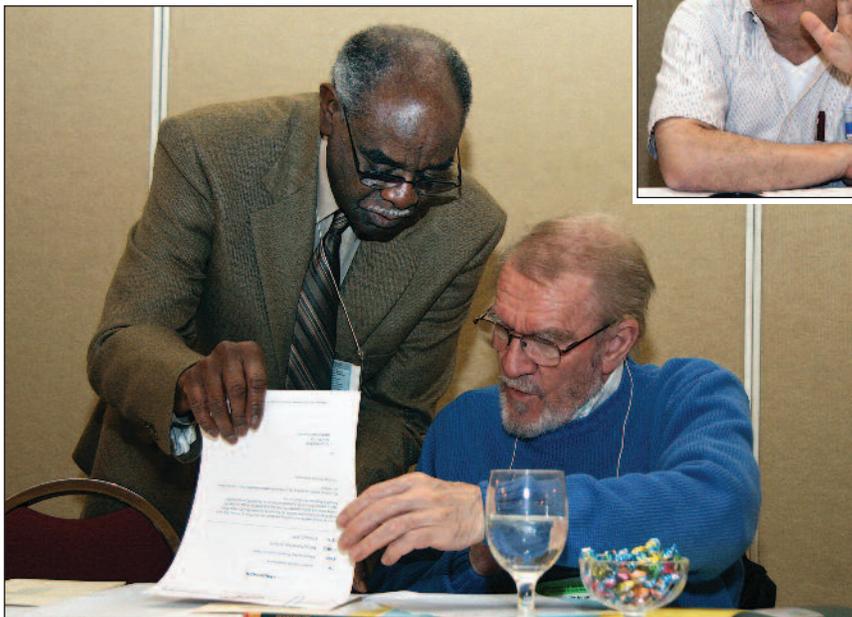
For instance, many remember Katz's Deli and the delicious sandwiches and sour pickles. Katz's still exists, as does the heartburn. And, of course, there was Ratners, the dairy restaurant on Delancey Street, and Yonah Shimmel's knishes (celebrating its 100th birthday this year). Brooklynites fondly remembered the corner candy store and the Charlotte Russe (for the uninitiated: pound cake topped with whipped cream with a cherry on top) and, of course, the hot dogs at Nathans. And the fun at Coney Island. Henry Geerken's favorite ride was the Steeplechase. Unfortunately, his horse never won!

Henry also wrote, "Coney Island was fun, but nothing beat swimming in the world's largest outdoor salt water swimming pool in Palisades Amusement Park. It was there that I was introduced to malt vinegar on french fries. But to this day I have never found anything that comes close to a New York City hot dog. I think floating in water for a few days is what made them taste so good. The garlic would repeat for hours afterward, insuring lasting memories."

Actually my husband disagrees. He worked at Nathans when he was in college and he says the volume was so heavy that hot dogs never stayed on the grill for more than a few minutes and hence were always very fresh. And, as a Brighton Beach youngster, he reminds Henry that he swam in a much larger outdoor salt water pool, the Atlantic Ocean!

Then there are the Bronx memories: Al Magid wrote of Krums, which served very cheap ice cream in very big bowls called "the kitchen sink." It was well known that one person could not eat it all, even though one would get a "freebie" if indeed it was finished.

Do you have memories you would like to share? How about you upstaters? Send them to [hgerken@stny.rr.com](mailto:hgerken@stny.rr.com) or to [jwishnia@notes.cc.sunysb.edu](mailto:jwishnia@notes.cc.sunysb.edu).



Top, Al Magid of Albany makes a point during the DA. In the background, right, is retiree Jay Gilbert of ESC.

Above, Rodney Patterson of Albany, seated, and Ed Drummond of Stony Brook HSC go over COARM's finances.

Inset, Harvey Axlerod of SUNY Buffalo comments on an agenda item.

and will look into the possibility of raising the death benefit, as suggested by Frank Maraviglia of ESF.

- The retreat will also continue the work on a resolution for parity for professional retirees, and we will be discussing how to make better contact with

our retirees who no longer live in New York state.

- Retirees with other topics or who wish to join in the discussion should contact COARM Chair Judy Wishnia at (631) 751-3810 or [jwishnia@notes.cc.sunysb.edu](mailto:jwishnia@notes.cc.sunysb.edu).

# 2010 Outstanding UUP Active Retiree Award



**I. Eligibility:** Any active UUP retiree who has rendered outstanding volunteer service to his/her community and has provided exemplary service to UUP and to SUNY *after* retirement is eligible to be nominated. (A candidate may qualify if outstanding in all or any combination of the criteria listed.)

**DEADLINE: April 15, 2010**

**II. Name of Nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

UUP Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ Years of retirement from SUNY \_\_\_\_\_

### III. Nominee Activities

A. Service to Community  
Description \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_ From-To \_\_\_\_\_

B. Service to UUP  
Description \_\_\_\_\_ From-To \_\_\_\_\_

C. Service to SUNY  
Description \_\_\_\_\_ From-To \_\_\_\_\_

D. Other Accomplishments  
Description \_\_\_\_\_ From-To \_\_\_\_\_  
(i.e., continual professional accomplishments)

*(If additional space is needed, attach a separate sheet.)*

**IV. Name of Nominator** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### V. Endorsements

- A. One or more letters attesting to the candidate's accomplishments since retirement from SUNY.
- B. Letters from leaders of organizations served, describing scope and quality of volunteer service to the community, UUP and/or SUNY.

**Send completed nomination form, including letters of endorsement, to:**

**Judith Wishnia, COARM chair  
c/o United University Professions  
P.O. Box 15143  
Albany, N.Y. 12212-5143**

***Applications will be reviewed by UUP's Committee on Active Retired Membership (COARM). The award will be presented at the 2010 Fall Delegate Assembly.***

**DEADLINE: April 15, 2010**

## Legal questions have a way of piling up...

### Maybe it's time to consider enrolling in the Legal Service Plan!

Stuff happens. You may be facing a speeding ticket, a house closing, a divorce, identity theft, elderly parent issues, and the list can go on and on. In today's world, at some point, you'll most likely need the advice or services of an attorney.

When that time comes, you can turn to the Legal Service Plan endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits Trust.

When you enroll in the plan, you'll receive a multitude of benefits for personal legal matters. Anytime you wish to talk with an attorney, whether for advice or consultation, you have toll-free access weekdays during normal business hours. There's even a toll-free hotline for emergencies occurring beyond these hours.

You'll receive two, hour-long office consultations with a plan attorney, legal document review and legal letters written on your behalf.

If a problem can't be resolved by letter or phone, you'll be referred to a plan attorney. Referral attorneys are located throughout the continental US and charge plan members \$200 an hour or 40 percent less than their standard hourly rate, whichever is lower.

Many personal legal matters have fees that are capped, and there are guaranteed discounts on probate fees and personal injury cases.

Also included is a Legal Security Package each year of plan enrollment. This package includes forms to request a:

- **Simple will** - allows you to select a guardian for your children and beneficiaries of your estate. Without a will in place, the state makes these decisions. A will also speeds up the probate process and makes settling your estate much easier.

- **Power of attorney** - allows you to give another person the right to sign your name and transact your financial affairs.

- **Living will** - enables you to express your wishes regarding end-of-life treatment.

- **Health care proxy** - allows you to appoint someone to make medical decisions on your behalf if you are unable to make them yourself; it also contains directions regarding organ donation.

The plan offers advice and guidance with identity theft issues, debt consolidation and mortgage foreclosure.

You can purchase an Elder Law rider to help you in

your health and estate planning as well as assisting you with these issues for your parents and grandparents.

If you have a business of your own, for example, a rental income property, you can purchase the Business Protection rider to obtain business legal services.

To find out more, call Member Benefits at 800-626-8101. Or go to [www.memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://www.memberbenefits.nysut.org) to view or print a brochure and enrollment form. You can also enroll online.



***I'm not married. Do I need a will?***

***My monthly bills are too much to handle. What can I do?***

***It was a minor accident, I barely hit him! How can he sue me?***

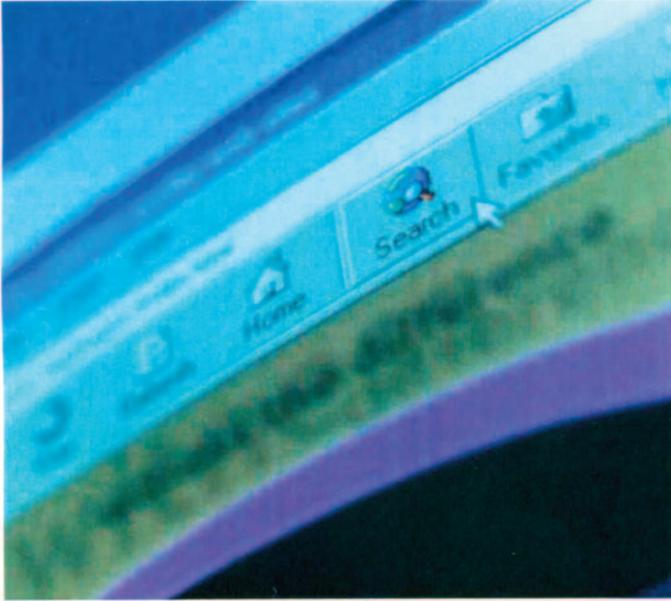
***I'm starting a small business. Where can I get help?***

***My neighbor's tree is dangerously close to my house. What can I do?***

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits or refer to your NYSUT Member Benefits Trust Summary Plan Description.

Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

# Searching for answers ? Let us help.



- Relationship Issues
- Care for aging parents
- Substance abuse
- Medicare/Medicaid questions
- Chronic illness and Disabilities
- Reassurance through difficult times

Contact NYSUT Social Services  
1-800-342-9810, ext. 6206 or [socsvcs@nysutmail.org](mailto:socsvcs@nysutmail.org)  
Free and Confidential