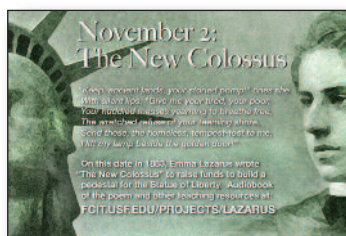
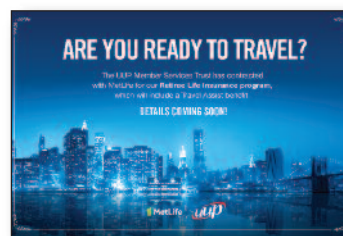




6—Be aware!
Watch out for fraud



10—Poet writes of the
promise of America



15—UUP signs with MetLife
for insurance, travel plan

Also inside:

- 2 — Retirees in training
- In memoriam
- 3 — From the RMGC chair
- Letter to the editor
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- 8 — NYSUT benefit
- 9 — Road to autocracy
- 14 — UUP pet insurance

The Active Retiree

A Newsletter for Retired Members of United University Professions

Welcome your newly elected officers for retirees!

Chapter members recently elected officers for retirees, who have agreed to serve their chapters in myriad ways, such as attending chapter executive board meetings, and helping to facilitate in-district and statewide advocacy efforts. Welcome aboard!

Election results for chapter officers for retirees are as follows:

AlbanyBetty Shadrick
Alfred.....Gary Moore
BinghamtonRobert Mess
BrockportTBD

Buffalo CenterAnastasia Johnson
Buffalo HSCGail Willsky
Buffalo StateOttillie Woodruff
CantonTBD
Cobleskill.....TBD
Cortland.....Jo Schaffer
Delhi.....Jacquene Howard
Downstate.....Shirley Patterson
EmpireJay Gilbert
ESFJohn View
FarmingdaleDaniel Marrone
FredoniaJoy Bilharz
GeneseoJames Bearden
Maritime.....Barbara Warkentine

Morrisville.....James Engle
New PaltzF. Glenn McNitt
Old WestburyNancy Nearman
OneontaLoraine Tyler
OptometryTBD
OswegoLawrence Fuller
PlattsburghRaymond Guydosh
PolyTBD
PotsdamTBD
PurchaseWarren Lehrer
Stony BrookJoel Rosenthal
Stony Brook HSCIrene Stern
System Admin.John Schumacher
UpstateDebra Benware



Albany Chapter retiree, newsletter win big

Lawrence Wittner, a professor of history emeritus from the Albany Chapter, has earned a prestigious Phillip H. Smith Best of the Best Award in this year's UUP Journalism Contest.

His column—Memories of voter suppression—was recognized as the Best First Person Narrative. It ran in the Fall 2020 issue of *The Active Retiree*.

The retiree newsletter and website—and the contributors who bring them to life—also received awards in the annual UUP-sponsored competition for work produced between March 2020 and February 2021.

Wittner's winning narrative also earned the newsletter an award of merit for Best Editorial or Column, and the newsletter took home third-place honors for General Excellence. The newsletter was edited by former Retired Membership Governing Committee chair Jo Schaffer of Cortland. The retiree website—<https://uupinfo.org/retiree/>—received an honorable mention.

Wittner's winning column was about his first-hand experiences working to register Black voters in the Deep South in the early 1960s.

“(I was) delighted when Congress responded

see **AWARDS**, page 7

The Active Retiree

UUP Officers

Frederick E. Kowal/President
Thomas J. Tucker/VP for Professionals
Jamie F. Dangler/VP for Academics
Jeri O'Bryan-Losee/Secretary/Treasurer
Thomas C. Hoey/Membership Dev. Officer

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 Port Jefferson Stn., NY 11776 (631) 474-3541

Glenn McNitt Capital District (Region A)
 mcnittfg@gmail.com (845) 255-1398

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Stacey Johnson Western NY (Region D)
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Loraine Tyler Southern Tier (Region G)
 tylerll@oneonta.edu (607) 433-2452

Paul Griffen Finger Lakes (Region H)
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Doreen Day Presidential Appointee
 jtsdor@optonline.net (631) 924-2962

Ottile M. Woodruff Presidential Appointee
 ottwood79@roadrunner.com (716) 773-3158

MDO Tom Hoey Ex-officio
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UUP Retiree Member Services Coordinators

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Gretchen Sarnowicz gsarnowi@uupbenefits.org

Publications Consultant

Karen Mattison karenmattison@gmail.com

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

United University Professions

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 518-640-6600 1-800-342-4206
 fax: 1-866-812-9446

www.uupinfo.org

In memoriam

Let us remember those who have passed away since spring 2021:

Johnnie AngusAlbany
 Herman SalomonAlbany
 Charles Bischoff.....Binghamton
 Jeanne Eichelberger.....Binghamton
 Lionel MetivierBrockport
 Charles SommerBrockport
 Frederic Fleron Jr.Buffalo Center
 Stephen Roberts.....Buffalo Center
 Alan SelmanBuffalo Center
 John Fopeano Jr.....Buffalo HSC
 Jean HaarBuffalo HSC
 Bruce Adams.....Buffalo State
 Gerald KirschCobleskill
 John Buttino.....Cortland
 Beverly Heath.....Cortland
 Thomas Mwanika.....Cortland
 Vincent PicernoCortland
 Sandra SpierDownstate Medical
 Roy SpeckhardEmpire State
 Matilde FavaFarmingdale
 Marian GrometFarmingdale
 Stanley LambergFarmingdale
 Abdul Naseem.....Farmingdale
 Barbara Spaulding-DavisFarmingdale
 Joanna Kirk.....Geneseo
 Joseph PaparoneNew Paltz
 W. David HarmonOld Westbury
 Albert RabilOld Westbury
 Nancy FiskeOneonta
 Robert Rothenberg.....Oneonta
 Albert MihalekPlattsburgh
 Charles SimpsonPlattsburgh
 Bruce BuchananPotsdam
 Richard Delguidice.....Potsdam
 Bruce BashfordStony Brook
 Judith FriedlanderStony Brook
 Howard ScarrowStony Brook
 Daniel Hughes.....Stony Brook HSC
 Donald PisaniStony Brook HSC
 Michael FormikellUpstate Medical
 Susan KnappUpstate Medical

CONTACT INFORMATION

UUP Retiree Services800/342-4206 x638

Retirement Systems (Pensions)

NYS Employees' Retirement System866/805-0990

NYS Teachers' Retirement System800/348-7298

Optional Retirement Programs

Fidelity800/343-0860

TIAA800/842-2776

VALIC800/448-2542

VOYA800/584-6001

From RMGC Chair Charlie McAteer

Thank you ... and welcome!

I would like to thank the chapter officer for retirees who served you well these past years and welcome the latest group of elected or appointed officers for retirees. Thank you for stepping up to serve these next two years.

Special thanks to those groups who submitted nominations for the UUP Pearl H. Brod Retiree of the Year. We had four applications this year and are reviewing them for recommendations to the UUP Executive Board.

I also thank those who contacted their legislators on UUP retiree issues and am proud to say we were collectively successful in keeping several proposals from making their way into the final New York state budget. We were able to stave off plans to: eliminate the full reimbursement of Medicare Part B standard premiums to retirees in NYSHIP; eliminate the reimbursement of the Income Related Medicare Adjustment Amount; and institute a graduated or sliding scale health insurance reimbursement system, thus preserving the current flat rate contribution.

RMGC leaders are being asked to meet with chapter officers for retirees this fall and to plan in-person meetings in the eight regional areas, as rules and safe regulations allow. Stay tuned for information from your UUP retiree regional coordinators.

Check out the article on page 7 about

Florida NYSUT Retiree Council 43 for those who live or snowbird there.

UPDATE: The Task Force on Retirees submitted a report in December 2016 that included seven recommendations. The following are the last four. (The first three were discussed in the Winter 2021 edition of *The Active Retiree*.) Also note that COARM is now the Retired Membership Governing Committee (RMGC).

Recommendation 4. As the constitutional amendment to create an Officer for Retirees at every campus was approved by the 2016 Fall DA, COARM should be encouraged to consider ways to better utilize these officers to UUP, COARM and the retired members. Rationale: These officers represent a pool of active retirees that can improve communication between COARM and the retired members. How this can be accomplished should be left to the first cohort of Officers for Retirees in collaboration with COARM. (Currently moving forward)

Recommendation 5. COARM should consider whether a name change might help to clarify its function. (Completed 2019 Fall DA)

Recommendation 6. The MDO, COARM chair, UUP secretary/treasurer and NYSUT representative (and others as required) should begin negotiations to bring us into compliance with the NYSUT



constitution and the requirements of the Landrum-Griffin Act, so UUP retirees can again be seated on the NYSUT Retiree Council. (Completed 2020)

Recommendation 7. UUP should reassess the relationship of retirees to the union in nine years. This will be three in three election cycles and will allow time to see how the chapter officers for retirees are working. (To be scheduled in 2025)

Stay safe and hope to see you soon!

Charlie

Letter to the editor

'Don't ever waste the time, ink and space again'

To the editor:

I am quite disappointed with the Winter 2021 issue of *The Active Retiree*. I do not understand why you chose to publish the article "Where will the far left take us?" by Bernard Mudd of the Empire State College Chapter.

Among his many criticisms, he called the Affordable Care Act "Medicaid for all." Mudd also attacked President Obama and President Biden personally. And he stated that the political left is and has always tried to make America more "Third World." This

is all hyperbole. Nothing more.

Most importantly, Mudd's commentary was fundamentally anti-labor and anti-union. There is no room in *The Active Retiree* for any opinion that is deleterious and unhelpful to UUP's agenda. Don't ever waste the time, ink and space again. It is counterproductive to the hard work of our great organization, especially in our currently polarized political environment.

— Daniel Arcieri
Farmingdale Chapter

Retiree meeting highlights: Jan. 13, 2021

by Loraine Tyler
Oneonta

The Retired Membership Governing Committee met virtually on Jan. 13. The following is a summary of the meeting; the RMGC did not have a voting quorum at this Zoom meeting.

Chair report: Charlie McAteer

— There are now 6,010 retired members of UUP.

— UUP has three representatives on the NYSUT Retiree Council from the following regions: RC#40, Western NY, Finger Lakes, Central; RC#41, Southern Tier, Capitol Region and North Country; and RC#42, Metro NYC and Long Island.

— UUP has two seats on the NYSUT Retiree Advisory Council. Otilie Woodruff and McAteer represent the RMGC.

— The UNUM Travel Assistance benefit ended on Jan. 1, 2021. McAteer, Barbara Maertz, Jo Schaffer, UUP Director of Finance and Human Resources Tina George and UUP Member Benefits Director Doreen Bango will confer on other options. They were looking into how frequently members use this benefit and in which locations. It was noted that dues will not change as a result, as this was a free add-on to the life insurance program.

— Investigating credit card payment for

dues, vision and dental insurance plans. Question of cost to retiree fund (\$7 per transaction, \$10,000 yearly) for dues, but vision/dental credit card fee should be covered by UUP Benefit Trust Fund. Also will look into making direct transfers among accounts.

— Approximately 23 percent of UUP retirees live out of state.

— Letters from UUP President Fred Kowal were sent for the presidential, Senate and House races.

— The Winter 2021 edition of *The Active Retiree* is ready. UUP Associate Director of Media and Publications Karen Mattison, who assists with editing and design of the newsletter, will retire March 31. Options were discussed for Mattison to continue as a consultant.

— Chapter elections (held every two years; the goal is to have an officer for retirees at every chapter.

— Retirees must have an active member sign their nomination form to run as an AFT or NYSUT convention delegate.

— Annual Pearl H. Brod Retiree of the Year Award nominations are due April 15.

MDO report: Tom Hoey

— This is a critical time for UUP: Huge state budget deficit, so a united front is important.

— Expect continued growth in retiree numbers.

— Retirees need to talk with new hires regarding importance of membership

Benefits report: Walter Apple

— Now is the time to schedule pre-retirement workshops, which are offered in two parts (health care and union benefits)

— Notices of death must be sent to Apple at the UUP Administrative Office, PO Box 15143, Albany, NY 12212.

Finance Committee report: Maertz

— Budget due at 2021 Spring DA, June 4-5. Given COVID interruptions, last year's budgets will be used

— Discussion: to move a percentage of the reserve fund to TIAA investment account; to send to RMGC, for electronic vote, the amount based on the allowable percentage of our reserve that can be invested via UUP finance policy.

New Business

— NYSUT Retiree Organizing Grant. UUP requested \$3,000 for summer/fall retreats.

— Regional meetings will also occur

— By-laws are dated; need to add regional structures.

— Next virtual meeting is slated for March 9. Need reports from regional representatives.

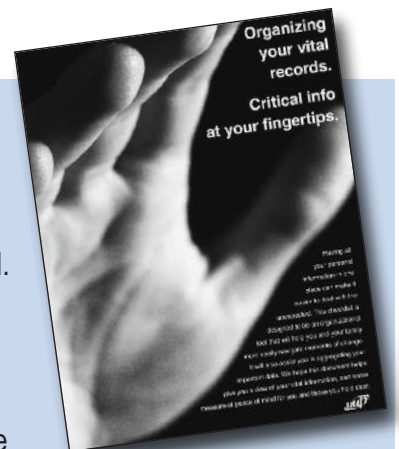
Organizing Your Vital Records booklet available online, by mail

Having your personal information in one place makes it easier to deal with the unexpected.

The Retired Membership Governing Committee (formerly COARM) created a checklist designed to be an organizing tool that will help you and your family more easily navigate moments of change. It will assist you in aggregating your important data.

We hope this document helps give you a view of your vital information, and some measure of peace of mind for you and those you hold dear," said RMGC Chair Charlie McAteer.

The document can be found on the website at <http://uupinfo.org/reports/reportpdf/OYVR2016fillable.pdf> or by contacting Walter Apple, retiree member services coordinator, at wapple@uupbenefits.org or at (800) 342-4206.



More meeting highlights: March 9, 2021

by Loraine Tyler
Oneonta

The following is a summary of the Retired Membership Governing Committee virtual meeting on March 9, 2021.

Present: Charles McAteer, chair; Ray Guldosh, North Country; Eric Russell, Metropolitan; Loraine Tyler, Southern Tier; Paul Griffin, Finger Lakes; Otilie Woodruff and Doreen Day, presidential appointees; RMGC Finance Committee members Barbara Maertz and Richard Tyler; Membership Development Officer Tom Hoey; and guests Jo Schaffer and Judy Wishnia.

Chair McAteer called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. The Code of Conduct was read.

Minutes of Sept. 24, 2020, were approved as submitted. Highlights of Jan. 13 event were entered as submitted.

Chair report: Charlie McAteer

— Weekly communications, including the ARA *Alert*, are sent to the regional representatives and retirees. Reports are made at Executive Board meetings.

— As of February, UUP had 5,852 retirees; 1,353 (23 percent) live out of state.

— Woodruff and McAteer attended a NYSUT Zoom meeting for RC#43 (Florida retirees).

— Since there was no quorum at the January meeting, two electronic votes were sent to RMGC members. Eight voted yes to

vote electronically and yes to approve an additional \$35,000 in the retirees' investment fund. Three did not respond.

— The annual Pearl H. Brod award will be presented at the October DA in Rochester. Nominations closed April 15.

— Walter Apple, UUP retiree member services coordinator, held several virtual pre-retirement meetings.

— Eight campuses do not have candidates for officer for retirees: Brockport, Cobleskill, Canton, Stony Brook HSC, Potsdam, Optometry, Purchase and SUNY Poly.

— Membership applications should be published in chapter newsletters.

— A COVID vaccination information postcard was sent to all retirees.

— The next *Active Retiree* will be published after election results are known.

Finance Committee report: Maertz

— The current balance is \$560,000.

— In-person meetings are likely to take place beginning in the fall.

— Maximum available for investment is limited to 25 percent of reserves. We are at that level.

Regional reports

— Reports were made by representatives Guldosh (North Country), Russell (Metro), Griffin (Finger Lakes) and Tyler (Southern Tier). Due to COVID, no in-person meetings have been held since March 2020.

— Two retreats for RMGC members and newly elected officers for retirees will be held this summer/fall.

Old business

— An application for the NYSUT 2020-2021 Retiree Organizing Grant (\$3,000) to train and activate retirees and to complete the job description for officers for retirees is being considered.

— Two two-day retreats will be held by geographical area: Retiree Councils #40 and #41 (Western NY, Finger Lakes, Central and Southern Tier) will meet Oct. 13-14 in conjunction with 2021 Fall DA in Rochester; RC#42 and part of #41 (Capitol, North Country, Metro NYC and Long Island) will meet on a date to be determined at a retreat location in the Hudson Valley. RMGC members and officers for retirees—and representatives from NYSUT, UUP, ARA and others—will be invited. McAteer, Schaffer and Russell will plan the agenda.

New business

— Two publications need updating: *The Handbook for Officers for Retirees* and *Organizing Your Vital Records*.

— Archival materials should be sent to the UUP archivist for organizing and storage. At the end of each chair's term, materials should be sent to UUP.

— The meeting adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

— The next RMGC Zoom meeting will be June 1 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



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NYSUT Social Services is a free and confidential benefit for all members, in-service and retired, and their families. Tell your concerns to one of our staff professionals who will make an assessment and suggest strategies which may improve your situation. We provide follow-up and reassurance through difficult times and periodic telephone contact for those in need. No question or concern is unimportant to us.

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Common Scams



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This project was supported, in part by grant number 90MPPG0010-01-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

UUP Active Retiree Region _____ UUP Chapter _____

I pledge \$ _____ to VOTE-COPE Non-SUNY Email _____

_____ Check Enclosed

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R.I.T.

by Jo Schaffer
Cortland

No, R.I.T. in this instance does not refer to a college in Rochester, nor is it a mistaken set of initials for RIP or RPI, another college further east. It refers to the common definition of a UUP active member as a Retiree In Training.

This is a term that comes from common usage that the UUP Retired Membership Governing Committee (formerly COARM, the Committee on Active Retired Membership) has used for years. You might think that this statewide committee, representing more than 6,000 UUP retirees, is only concerned in enlarging and protecting retiree benefits.

Not at all!

The RMGC is very concerned with preparing R.I.T.s for the next phase of life and service. This is not a premature concern. I urge my active colleagues to remember that one of the most important documents they signed as part of their SUNY contract was for a pension plan. And whether they committed to a state plan, such as ERS or TRS, or an optional retirement plan such as TIAA, they were an R.I.T.

Now I urge my fellow retirees to strongly suggest their active colleagues take the opportunity to participate in



Schaffer

the frequently offered pre-retirement meetings hosted by Walter Apple, UUP's retiree member services coordinator. It is never too soon to take advantage of his extensive knowledge in preparing for retirement.

The RMGC offers regional and chapter sources of information. You can download *Organizing Your Vital Records* at <http://uupinfo.org/reports/reportpdf/OYVR2016fillable.pdf>, which is an easily accessible booklet for members and their beneficiaries. Also, you should tell your active members to go to the website at <https://bit.ly/3iJvKt6> to periodically update their UUP beneficiary information.

AWARDS ...

(continued from page 1)

to the scandal of Southern voter suppression with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which outlawed the discriminatory voting practices of the past and established federal oversight of any new voting procedures in the offending states,”

Wittner wrote. “Imagine, then, (my) sense of sorrow, mingled with disgust, when, in 2013, by a 5-4 vote, the Republican-dominated U.S. Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act. This opened the door for numerous Republican-controlled state governments—many but not all Southern—to implement mass purges of their voter rolls, closure of polling places in minority neighborhoods, government ID requirements, felony disenfranchisement, and other barriers that deprived millions of Americans of the right to vote.

“I wonder how Republican leaders can live with themselves when they betray the most basic principle of democracy. Of all

the things they have done during their time in power, this is surely one of the most despicable.”

The column inspired and moved the judges. Wrote one: “Wittner is a prolific researcher and writer. But this column is a bit different. His “research” comes from personal experiences that ... inspire me to rise above my apathy. His writing achingly reflects the struggles of the civil rights movement of the 1960s, and how any gains that were made [at great cost] are now in jeopardy or lost. This is a poignant reminder that fighting injustice is an ongoing battle.”

Members can read Wittner's latest column, “The fateful choice,” on page 13 of this issue.

“Congratulations to this year's retiree honorees for their award-winning efforts,” said RMGC Chair Charlie McAteer. “And many thanks to all of our active retirees, regional reps and officers for retirees for their help in keeping this newsletter at the top of the pack.”



What your beneficiaries need to know

Don't forget to remind your beneficiaries that, upon your death, they need to inform the campus Human Resources Department and contact UUP Retiree Member Services Coordinator Walter

Apple at (800) 342-4206. If they don't contact the campus or UUP, they won't get the survivor's benefits: that's \$3,000 from the state and \$1,000 from UUP. Remind them to make the calls!

Not sure where to start with your summer to-do list?

Whether it's assisting NYSUT members with everyday essentials, important choices about insurance needs, or making prudent decisions about financial and legal concerns, NYSUT Member Benefits can help.



Scan the QR code below to learn more about the following endorsed programs and services.

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With the **Member Benefits Discounts & Deals** program, NYSUT members can save up to 50% at more than 700,000 merchants nationwide (including thousands throughout New York State). Save on groceries and food delivery; restaurant dine-in or takeout; gasoline, oil changes and vehicle maintenance; clothing and shoes; and much more. You can even request that your favorite merchant join the network.

Saving you money: Every \$\$\$ counts

Whether your summer plans include home renovations, replacing or upgrading appliances, getting a new car, stocking up for the return to school, or even just hanging out and enjoying some time off, Member Benefits has a variety of endorsed programs -- **Purchasing Power**, **Buyer's Edge Inc.**, **Office Depot/OfficeMax**, **Bose**, **Powell's Books** -- that might be able to minimize the impact on your wallet and maximize your enjoyment of the all-too-fleeting summer months.



Protecting your family: Insuring yourself and your family

Member Benefits endorses a number of competitive insurance programs that are available to NYSUT members. These include **auto/home/renters, life, disability, long term care, dental, vision**, and even **pet insurance**. Some of these programs are also available to or cover spouses/domestic partners of members, dependent children, dependent parents, and grandparents. Most offer payroll & pension deduction as payment options.

Planning for the future: Have a plan for wherever life takes you

It's never too early or too late to make a plan. Just starting a career or looking at retirement? Beginning to pay off loans or building a nest egg? Looking to buy a new home or refinance the one you're in? Welcoming a new child or adopting? Now would be a good time to look into the ways to put a plan in place or make adjustments to your existing one. Explore the **Member Benefits Financial Learning Center** for assistance; while you're there, check out our **Legal Service Plan** and **Financial Counseling Program**.

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

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.

The road to autocracy

by Bill Scheuerman
Oswego

Sinclair Lewis's pronouncement that "when fascism comes to America it will be wrapped in a flag and carrying a cross" conjures in my mind visions of former President Trump hugging and kissing the American flag at a C-PAC conference filled with right-wing evangelical Christians. Kissing the flag before an assemblage of conservative Christians in itself doesn't constitute fascism, but Trump has brought a fascist-like authoritarian populism to American politics that attacks our constitutional liberties in the service of a burgeoning autocracy.

Trump's authoritarian populism pays lip service to such constitutional guarantees as the rule of law, free speech, popular sovereignty and so on. What he labels "democracy" is rooted in the authoritarian practice of cultivating a shared political identity that views outsiders—Muslims, Blacks, gays, immigrants, and even Democrats—as "The Enemy." As he so clearly put it in a 2016 campaign rally, "[t]he only important thing is the unification of the people, because other people don't mean a thing." To Trump and his many white supremacist followers, these "other people" are not even people and should be treated accordingly. Trump and his allies in the right-wing media manipulate his supporters by pushing out endless lies that stoke hatred, fear and grievance to bind the group together.

Selling the image of power is the key-stone of authoritarian movements, and Trump marketed himself as an all-

"Trump's authoritarian populism pays lip service to such constitutional guarantees as the rule of law, free speech, popular sovereignty and so on."

— Bill Scheuerman
Oswego Chapter



powerful executive who, echoing Hitler's Fuhrer Principle, was the living embodiment of the people's will. "I am your voice," he proclaimed, while assuring his followers that "I alone can fix it." To the omnipotent Trump, the rule of law often gets in the way, so he ignored it by claiming that the constitution gave him "the right to do whatever I want." Consequently, he paid hush money to a porn star and a Playboy model, ignored congressional subpoenas, obstructed justice many times over, and unleashed the military on peaceful demonstrators in Lafayette Park. Shockingly, he tried to overturn the results of a fair election, which culminated in a failed coup and the sacking of the U.S. Capitol.

In keeping with the authoritarian playbook, Trump weaponized the law to punish his political opponents. Remember the "Lock Her Up" chants that characterized his 2016 campaign rallies? After taking office, he acted on that mantra, ordering the FBI to investigate the Clinton Foundation, even though the foundation had been under close governmental scrutiny for years. At

Trump's insistence, Congress launched a criminal investigation of Christopher Steele, the British intelligence agent who assisted the Mueller investigation. He subsequently turned the Justice Department under Attorney General Barr into his personal political advocate. Recall how Barr misrepresented the Mueller report and was called upon to represent the president in personal litigation arising out of a rape claim.

Trump is gone but the threat of authoritarianism remains. America's democratic political institutions are teetering precariously on the edge between Trump's authoritarianism and our constitutional democracy. The first step in reversing the descent into authoritarianism is to acknowledge its continuing threat. Otherwise, America will remain on the road to autocracy.

(Bill Scheuerman, a professor emeritus at SUNY Oswego, was UUP president from 1993-2007. He is co-author of United University Professions: Pioneering in Higher Education Unionism published by SUNY Press in June 2019.)

Hey, Florida snowbirds ...

Do you or any of your former SUNY and union colleagues live or winter in Florida?

Did you know that there is a NYSUT Retiree Council in Florida that you are welcome to participate in when you are in the Sunshine State. You still remain part of UUP Local 2190's retiree members, but can be part of this group, too. They have chapters all over Florida to reduce your travel and many have also been meeting virtually. Check it out!

For more details, contact RC 43 President Felicia Bruce at spomtch1@aol.com or NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant Judy Kalb at judydkalb@aol.com.



Poet pens of America's 'golden door' of opportunity

by Daniel Scott Marrone
Farmingdale

Celebrated poet Emma Lazarus (1849-1887) composed "The New Colossus" in 1883 as an "American welcome" to the "huddled masses." She concludes her epic work with the promise, "I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Her inspiring words were permanently affixed at the base of the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor on Nov. 3, 1883. Just four years later, she died from cancer at age 38. Emma's American "golden door" has opened innumerable times to an innumerable number of people in need.

Those fleeing racial, religious and social oppression have been welcomed into the U.S. since its tumultuous English colonial beginnings more than four centuries ago. Disgracefully, those bound in chains as enslaved individuals were brought to these shores to toil endlessly for others—the vicious and the greedy steeped in wealth and political power. Thus, the American nation has demonstrated a mixture of selfless and selfish actions and, at times, valiant and corrupt moral turpitude.

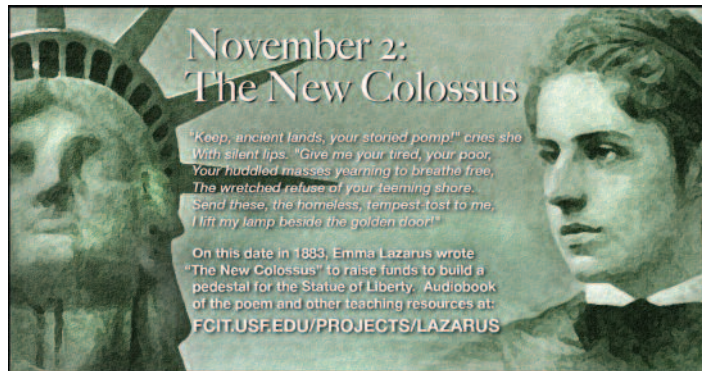
The following are some shining, positive examples where America's welcoming actions have been mutually beneficial, to individuals in distress and, as importantly, to America itself.



Physician Thomas Boylston (left, 1644-1695) immigrated to the New World seeking greater opportunities for his family. Already an eminent but unsatisfied surgeon in England, he hoped for more freedom in practicing his chosen profession across the Great Atlantic. After settling in Boston, Boylston practiced medicine and raised his family. Among his children was

medical pioneer Zabdiel Boylston (1679-1766), who achieved many "firsts." Among his monumental achievements were the first documented surgical operations to remove gallstones (in 1710) and breast tumors (in 1718). He was also the first physician to use inoculations (in 1721) to prevent smallpox. His ground-breaking medical innovations subsequently become standardized medical practices that have alleviated suffering and prevented death for countless individuals.

A granddaughter of immigrant Thomas Boylston was Susanna Boylston (1708-1797). In October 1734, she married John Adams Sr. (1691-1761). Among their children was **John Adams** (left, 1735-1826). Representing the Massachusetts Colony, the younger Adams was doggedly determined to coalesce a unanimous vote in the Continental Congress for breaking away from Great Britain. After months of heated arguments and deliberations, he achieved this unanimous vote in June 1776. Some days later, on July 4,



the "Declaration of Independence" was announced to the world. He became our first vice president on April 21, 1789, and served two, four-year terms under President George Washington. He then became our second president on March 4, 1797.



John Quincy Adams (left, 1767-1848) was the eldest son of John and Abigail Adams. "JQA" (as he preferred to be addressed) became our sixth president. After his term in office ended in 1829, JQA served in the U.S. House of Representatives where, month after month, he submitted legislative measures advocating for the abolition of slavery. JQA also tirelessly and successfully

represented in various courts of law the downtrodden, including those enslaved by plantation owners. The contributions of the Boylsons and the Adamses immigrant families to America have been monumental and profound.



Composer Emmerich Kálmán, left, entered Emma's "golden door" at the end of 1939. Born Imre Koppstein in 1882 to a Jewish family residing in Siófok (formerly in the Austro-Hungarian Empire), Kálmán, along with Franz Lehár, created the "Silver Age" of Viennese operetta during the first quarter of the 20th century. After Austria's Anschluss with Germany, Kálmán was

forced to leave Vienna in 1939. Persecuted for his religion, Kálmán was earmarked for capture and certain death. Though his parents and siblings were caught and executed by the Nazis, Emmerich evaded the murderous regime. He sought shelter in America.

Kálmán was heartily welcomed in New York City. Broadway audiences were already familiar with his spirited operettas such as Gräfin Mariza—known in English as "Countess Marisa." In 1950, with declining health, he wrote the musical score for his last operetta, "Arizona Lady," with a story line akin to his most popular operetta, "Countess Marisa." In his final composition, the "Countess in Vienna" was replaced by an engaging ranch-



owning widow in Phoenix. Kálmán let it be widely and poignantly known that his final musical composition was a heartfelt tribute to his adopted country.

In fall 2008, 150 undergraduate students from the earthquake-ravaged Sichuan Province of China came to New York for help. They were compelled to study in America because the vast majority of their colleges and universities in China were destroyed by devastating earthquakes, floods and other calamities. All told, 150 students from China were taught at selected SUNY campuses during the 2008-2009 academic year. They were designated the “**SUNY/China 150**” group, above. By the conclusion of the spring 2009 semester, the SUNY/China 150 designation became a genuine term of bond and endearment. In June 2009, just before they returned to China, the SUNY/China 150 students promised to us that they would use the academic knowledge and life experiences they ascertained in America for rebuilding the Sichuan Province. Each student did indeed play their part in helping in the ongoing monumental reconstruction effort that was needed in this Upper Yangtze Valley region of southwestern China.

I was fortunate to be assigned as an instructor and Long Island tour guide for the 19 Chinese students that attended Farmingdale State College. All 19 of them were enrolled in various sections of my operations management, and business, government and society courses. The students from China provided me an entirely different perspective to both courses. With their feedback, I became aware on a firsthand basis, the acute differences between living and working in China versus in America. Their gift to me was a far better understanding of “diversity” in many regards—government power, individual rights and the importance of personal relationships. In China, the government has overwhelming power and individuals have few rights. Yet, personal relationships are essentially the same whether one

lives in China or in America. Individuals have diverse nationalities, races, and life choices. Yet, there is a universality of personal relationships, especially entailing bonding among peoples, regardless of who we are or where we live.

In August 2019, about two dozen of the SUNY/China 150 students returned to their various former SUNY campuses. I attended the reunion of 10 of those that attended Farmingdale State College. By then, most were married, deeply involved in their professional careers, and had children to raise. Yet, they came back to thank those of us who had helped them more than a decade earlier. I can truly say the SUNY/China 150 students were—and are—wonderful individuals.

These true accounts of individuals are intended to show that Emma Lazarus’ “golden door” swings both ways. Yes, it has opened to provide a welcoming entry into our country for those in distress. The door also swings the other way, by allowing people in need to demonstrate universal goodness and humanity in their adopted homeland.

Emma Lazarus poignantly describes it as:

*Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!*



(Daniel Scott Marrone, Ph.D., is a distinguished service professor emeritus from SUNY Farmingdale. He serves as chapter officer for retirees and as a UUP delegate.)



United University Professions

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The fateful choice:

Nuclear arms race or a weapons-free world

by Lawrence Wittner
Albany

The recent announcement by the British government that it plans a 40 percent increase in the number of nuclear weapons it possesses highlights the escalation of the exceptionally dangerous and costly nuclear arms race.

After decades of progress in reducing nuclear arsenals through arms control and disarmament agreements, all the nuclear powers are once again busily upgrading their nuclear weapons capabilities. For several years, the U.S. government has been engaged in a massive nuclear “modernization” program, designed to refurbish its production facilities, enhance existing weapons, and build new ones. The Russian government, too, is investing heavily in beefing up its nuclear forces, and in July 2020, President Vladimir Putin announced that the Russian navy would soon be armed with hypersonic nuclear weapons and underwater nuclear drones. Meanwhile, China, India, Pakistan, and North Korea are expanding the size of their nuclear arsenals, while Israel is building a new, secret nuclear weapons facility and France is modernizing its ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and missile-carrying submarines.

This nuclear buildup coincides with the scrapping of key nuclear arms control and disarmament agreements, including the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, the Iran nuclear agreement, and the Open Skies Treaty.

Like arms races of the past, the reviving nuclear arms race places the world in immense danger, for when nations engage in military conflict, they are inclined to use the most powerful weapons they have available. How long will it be before a nuclear-armed, aggressive government—or merely one threatened with military defeat or humiliation—resorts to nuclear war?

In addition to creating an enormous danger, a nuclear arms race also comes with a huge financial price—in this case, in the trillions

of dollars. Military analysts have estimated that the U.S. government’s nuclear “modernization” program alone will cost about \$1.5 trillion.

Of course, the nuclear arms control and disarmament process is not dead—at least not yet. One of U.S. President Joseph Biden’s first actions after taking office was to offer to extend the U.S.-Russia New Start Treaty, which significantly limits the number of U.S. and Russian strategic nuclear weapons. And the Russian government quickly accepted. In addition, efforts are underway to restore the Iran nuclear agreement. Most dramatically, the UN

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was adopted by 122 nations in 2017, secured sufficient ratifications to become international law in January 2021. The provisions of this landmark agreement, if adhered to, would create a nuclear weapons-free world.

Even so, when it comes

to freeing the world from the danger of nuclear destruction, the situation is not promising. None of the nuclear powers has signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. And without their participation, a nuclear-free world will remain an aspiration rather than a reality. In fact, the most powerful nuclear nations remain in a state of high tension with one another, which only enhances the possibility of nuclear war. Assessing the situation at the beginning of 2020 and 2021, a panel appointed by the editors of the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* placed the hands of their famous “Doomsday Clock” at 100 seconds to midnight, the most dangerous setting in its history.

As a result, a fateful choice lies before the nuclear powers. They can plunge ahead with their nuclear arms race and face the terrible consequences. Or they can take the path of sanity in the nuclear age and join other nations in building a nuclear weapons-free world.

(Lawrence Wittner is a professor of history emeritus at the University at Albany and the author of Confronting the Bomb published by Stanford University Press.)

“Like arms races of the past, the reviving nuclear arms race places the world in immense danger.”

— Lawrence Wittner
Albany Chapter





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