



5—Saving SUNY Downstate



7—Regional meetings held

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The Active Retiree

A Newsletter for Retired Members of United University Professions

Fixing NYS Tier 6 is a matter of equity

by Dan Marrone
Farmingdale

State employees in the NYS Employees' Retirement System (ERS) are facing glaring disparities in equities.

Those employed between Sept. 1, 1983, and Dec. 31, 2009, are in Tier 4. Those employed between Jan. 1, 2010, and March 31, 2012, are in Tier 5. Those employed beginning April 1, 2012, are in Tier 6. Employees have been placed in "Tiers" for the sole purpose of reducing benefits, especially retirement payments.

The so-called "justification" for these draconian measures stemmed from escalating state budget deficits over the past

decades. While state expenditures for health care and welfare far exceed those for education, Tier penalties have directly and unjustifiably targeted public school teachers, as well as state college faculty and professional staff.

Albany legislators have coped with state budget deficits for many years. In 2010, Tier 5 was established to reduce ERS employee benefits. By 2012, the budget deficit was even steeper. Thus, legislators and Gov. Andrew Cuomo brought upon Tier 6—by far the worst for employee



benefits. Two of the harshest Tier 6 reductions centered on vesting for state money to be included in retirement payments and the number of years of average salary used to calculate retirement payments. On

April 9, 2022, the 10-year vesting penalty for those in Tiers 5 and 6 was removed in that year's state budget agreement. Since then, Tiers 5 and 6 employees vest after five years, the same as state employees in Tier 4.

The other big penalty for Tier 6 **see TIER 6, page 15**

A view on Harvard's former president and plagiarism

by Bernard Mudd
Empire State University

(Editor's note: The following is Empire State retiree Bernard Mudd's January "chat" with Bing AI, Microsoft's advanced artificial intelligence assistant—an algorithm that scans the web to pull information based on a query.)

Why did the president of Harvard plagiarize?

I'm sorry to hear that you are concerned about plagiarism allegations against the former president of Harvard, Claudine Gay. According to a news article from BBC, Gay has been facing mounting accusations of plagiarism. (In January), a congressional committee said it would expand its ongoing investigation

into antisemitism at Harvard to include her academic papers. Chairwoman Virginia Foxx said the inquiry would see if students and staff are held to the same academic standard.

It is important to note that Gay has denied the allegations of plagiarism. She has also stated that she will request corrections to her dissertation after three new instances of "inadequate citation" were found in her essays.

I am not concerned about plagiarism. I am concerned about the double standard being applied in this situation. Is there a double standard and, if yes, is this a reason to be concerned?

I understand your concern. The allegations of plagiarism **see PLAGIARISM, page 15**

The Active Retiree

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

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www.uupinfo.org/retiree/

In memoriam

Let us remember those who have passed away since fall 2023:

Doreen Alexander.....Albany
 Sara KnappAlbany
 Peter KrosbyAlbany
 Martin Manjack.....Albany
 William Mascarenhas.....Albany
 Melinda TanzmanAlbany
 Henry TedeschiAlbany
 James ComesAlfred
 Roger SchroederAlfred
 Richard JacynaBinghamton
 Edward Shephard.....Binghamton
 Charles DayBrockport
 Amy NowortyaBuffalo Center
 John KearnsBuffalo Center
 Walter PangbornBuffalo Center
 Howard Wolf.....Buffalo Center
 Susan BruceBuffalo HSC
 William DillonBuffalo HSC
 Cathleen GettyBuffalo HSC
 James GoldBuffalo State
 William Ortega.....Buffalo State
 Nanette TramontBuffalo State
 Michael Woodruff.....Buffalo State
 Robert Zuercher.....Buffalo State
 Frederick MonacoCanton
 Donald CohenCobleskill
 Linda GreenwaldCobleskill
 C. Vincent Minnella.....Cortland
 Dawn VanHallCortland
 Kenneth Abrams.....Empire State
 Alfred Flanter.....Farmingdale

Gerhard Spory.....Farmingdale
 Timothy Allan.....Fredonia
 Mira BerkleyFredonia
 Peter KomadaFredonia
 James SomervilleGeneseo
 Jill EdelsonOld Westbury
 Bedie PattersonOld Westbury
 Joseph Baldwin.....Oneonta
 Frances Bliven.....Oneonta
 Dorothea Mancke.....Oneonta
 Alice ChampagnePlattsburgh
 Kevin GrimmerPolytechnic
 Salahuddin QaziPolytechnic
 Carolyn Corcoran.....Potsdam
 Susan HallerPotsdam
 Frank ErkStony Brook
 Geraldine Sciulli.....Stony Brook
 Robert SegniniStony Brook
 Blossom SilbermanStony Brook
 Joseph Tursi.....Stony Brook
 James ConklinStony Brook HSC
 Jack FarringtonStony Brook HSC
 Annette Mueller....Stony Brook HSC
 Theresa FreyStony Brook
 Raja Abdul-KarimUpstate
 Rosemarie BundyUpstate
 Michael DemarcoUpstate
 John Metzger.....Upstate
 Burtis NancyUpstate
 Donald Vigars.....Upstate

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Well, it's not 2017

As you know, costs have gone up since 2017—and that includes our UUP retiree costs too!

Given the increase in UUP retirees from 4,400 to 7,400, as well as the costs for retiree services—from one staff member to three, accounting services, postage up from 49 cents to 66 cents, and higher event and food costs—a retiree dues increase is warranted. We, your governing committee, looked over the projected budget from our Finance Committee, debated and voted to change the annual dues to \$65 per year, starting in the 2024-2025 fiscal year this fall. That's an increase of \$15 a year.

We did not take this lightly and are looking to keep dues stable over the next few years, like we did in 2017—the last time retiree dues were increased.

The good news is we are seeing more of you retirees at the various UUP events, as people are feeling more comfortable traveling and gathering in throughout New York state and Florida. Remember our Florida retirees and snowbirds are part of that state's NYSUT Retiree Council 43 (UUP is NYSUT RC 40, 41 and 42) with its many regional groups and meetings (check it out at <http://rc43.ny.aft.org>).

Also, you should have received in the mail the VOTE-COPE pension deduction

forms for the ERS, TRS pensions systems, as well as news of the recently won legislative bill that allows UUP to include TIAA in VOTE-COPE automatic monthly deductions. At present, we have worked out paperwork with TIAA and hope in the future to include other ORP vendors (stay tuned).

Political action is how we keep our retiree benefits, such as IRMMA, remaining unchanged, as well as funding public higher education for our families and New York's future.

Through the UUP officers, IT and Benefits staff, we are working on getting your request to have the ability to pay some UUP retiree bills via credit cards. The issue is still “a systems interface” and IT is working on the problem with UUP Accounting and Benefits staff. They are also looking into whether there will be additional costs levied by the credit card industry. As your elected retiree rep, I continue to bring up this issue at UUP Executive Board meetings.

Speaking of communications, I will be sharing your UUP Retiree News and Information, as well as additional contact hotlinks of the various NYSUT Retiree Councils throughout New York state that you may want to check out for their events and trips—just like I did in May, meeting with our 350+ UUP Florida resi-



dents at a recent RC43 gathering, see photo below.

Finally, I hope you enjoy the wealth of articles and photos in this edition, and I invite you to contribute any content; please send me your submissions (written and/or photos) for a future edition of *The Active Retiree*.

I look to continue to send out the electronic edition of UUP Retiree News and Information, for the most up-to-date information on retiree issues. We hope to see you at some retiree event soon and continue to be safe and healthy!

Charlie

Florida gathering

Dozen of union retirees attended the NYSUT Retiree Council 43 (Florida) conference in Orlando in May. From left are: UUP retiree Harvey Inventasch and his wife; NYSUT Second Vice President Ron Gross; UUP retiree Victoria Quigley; NYSUT RC 43 President Felicia Bruce; UUP retiree Kathleen Corbett; NYSUT Retiree ED 52 Director Joan Perrini; UUP RMGC Chair Charlie McAteer; Miriam Hanan, NYSUT RC 43 retiree services coordinator; and Florence McCue, NYSUT retiree director at large.



RMGC minutes: April 12, 2024

by Loraine Tyler
Oneonta

The union's Retired Membership Governing Committee met to discuss myriad issues related to retirees. The meeting was held April 12, during the union's 2024 Spring Delegate Assembly in Saratoga Springs.

The following represents the minutes of that meeting.

Present were: Charles McAteer, RMGC chair; Ray Guydosh, North Country; Eric Russell, Metropolitan; Loraine Tyler, Southern Tier; Gary Moore, Finger Lakes; William Giangarra, Long Island; Mike Lyon, Central NY; and Doreen Day, Presidential appointee. Also in attendance was Oneonta retiree Richard Tyler, chair of the RMGC Finance Committee.

Absent were Patrick Romain, statewide membership development officer and UUP officer liaison; David Ballard, Buffalo Center; Betty Shadrick, Capital Region; David Ballard, Western NY; and Otilie Woodruff, presidential appointee;

Dan Quackenbush, retiree member services coordinator, was also in attendance.

Chair called meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. Code of Conduct was read.

Minutes of Feb. 20, 2024 were approved as submitted, following a motion to adopt by Guydosh and Moore.

Chair Report/Updates—McAteer

- Vinyl signs for use at regional meetings are in design mode.
- Credit card payments—still an issue. Limitations of linking credit card with UUP's system. With a box at Key Bank, processing of checks is quicker.
- List by chapter of new retirees who are in good standing. UUP asks for update every six months. Quackenbush can get list for chapter officers for retirees.
- History of UUP— We are the ones who know the history. Please participate.
- VOTE-COPE—working with NYSUT to get credit card donations accepted to the union's political action program.



NICK KORIDIS

RMGC Chair Charlie McAteer, standing, addresses UUP retiree members attending the recent Spring Delegate Assembly in Albany. The group discussed issues ranging from the RMGC's annual budget, to regional meetings, to naming volunteers for the union's Task Force on Retiree Issues.

Finance Committee, 2024-2025 Budget Discussion and Report—R. Tyler

- Beginning balance, \$677,798; revenues, \$343,053; expenses, \$141,154; administrative expenses, \$48,274; retiree benefits (MetLife insurance), \$61,652; meetings (DA/retreat), \$18,910; and regional meetings, \$12,432. Net income, \$201,429; and ending balance, \$879,227.

Motion to approve budget report and proposed budget made by Lyon and Guydosh. Adopted. after much discussion.

Report of MDO—Romain (Read by L. Tyler)

- No report, as Romain was unable to attend due to other scheduled duties.

Regional Reports and 2023-24 Meeting Requests

- All regional reps reported on fall meetings and plans for spring. L. Tyler moved and Guydosh seconded that expenses for all planned meetings for fall 2024/spring 2025 be approved. Carried.

Retiree Benefits Report—Quackenbush

- Lists of campus retirees are available to chapter officers for retirees.

Old Business

- Third-party notification—will use language used by utility companies. Form will be sent with dues notice in August.
- Update on ORP auto-deduction option and UUP outreach—still under discussion.
- The RMGC named volunteers for the 2025 UUP Task Force on Retiree Issues: McAteer, Russell, Day, Dennis Kelleher and Kathleen Kelleher.

New Business

- Requests for RMGC business cards should be submitted to Quackenbush.
- Discussion of future initiatives—bring ideas to summer meeting.
- Discussion of regional Delta Dental coverage issues. In some areas, no dentists participate. Ask UUP Benefits to intervene on retirees' behalf.

Executive Session

- Recommendation for Pearl H. Brod Retiree Awards: No nominations were received. It was decided not to name nominee from last year's submissions since the information was incomplete.

The next RMGC meeting will be held this summer, Zoom format.

Celebrating our collective victory!

Plan to close SUNY Downstate defeated

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to take a moment to celebrate our collective victory in stopping the SUNY Chancellor's plan to close SUNY Downstate Hospital and discuss what comes next. This victory is a testament to the power of solidarity and collective action. Whether you signed petitions, attended rallies, spoke up at community meetings, joined virtual townhalls, contacted legislators, wrote letters countering the lies spread by SUNY and the Chancellor, or spread awareness through actions of solidarity – you played a crucial role in this win. It is because of our collective unwavering commitment and dedication that we were able to thwart this ill-conceived closure plan. There is no mistake about it, this win is a significant step forward in the fight for racial justice. Downstate serves as a lifeline for underserved communities, providing vital health care services to those who need it most. By keeping Downstate open, we are not only preserving members' jobs (and by extension their access to healthcare) but also ensuring access to quality healthcare for communities disproportionately affected by systemic inequities. While we celebrate this win, we must remain ready for our continued fight. The final NYS budget agreement included the creation of a nine-person community advisory board that will help inform decisions about the hospital's future. Moving forward, we will work together to ensure our members' voices and the community's needs are heard and taken into account throughout this entire year-long process. Together, we have proven we are a force to be reckoned with, and together, we will continue to fight for a better tomorrow. Thank you once again for your unwavering support and dedication. Let's keep up the momentum as we embark on the next chapter of our journey together.

In solidarity,

— UUP President Fred Kowal



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHAITRAM AKLU



Save Downstate rally

Above, pictured left to right are UUP Stony Brook HSC retirees Michael Bonvento and RMGC Chair Charlie McAteer, and NYS Alliance for Retired Americans/LI Chapter members Rob Souto and Stan Bergman, who took the UUP rally bus to stand in support of Downstate. At left are UFT retiree member Chaitram Aklu and McAteer, both of whom serve on the NYSUT Retiree Advisory Committee. "I think the smiles in the photos say it all, along with our 'Brooklyn Needs Downstate' signs," McAteer noted.

Letter to the editor

'The world needs Downstate'

To the editor:

The underserved community includes Downstate's students, staff and faculty, many of whom originated both in Brooklyn and outside the U.S. Many of these people would not have had the opportunity Downstate provides if it were not for the inclusiveness provided by this institution.

One of the things that must be referenced by public education is that it should be measured, not by its financials, but by its product—the community it serves and the graduates it produces. The concept that a public educational institution must not lose money is anathema to its real purpose.

The world needs Downstate.

— Eric Russell
Downstate

RMGC minutes: Feb. 20, 2024

by Loraine Tyler
Oneonta

The union's Retired Membership Governing Committee held a virtual meeting Feb. 20 to discuss retiree issues.

The following represents the minutes of that meeting.

Present were: Charles McAteer, chair; Ray Guydosh, North Country; Eric Russell, Metropolitan; Loraine Tyler, Southern Tier; Gary Moore, Finger Lakes; Betty Shadrack, Capital Region; Bill Giangarra, Long Island; Otilie Woodruff and Doreen Day, presidential appointees; and statewide Membership Development Officer Patrick Romain, officer liaison.

Staff present were: Daniel Quackenbush, retiree member services coordinator; and Tina George, director of UUP Finance and Human Resources.

Guests were: Richard Tyler, RMGC Finance Committee; Mary Taber and Alex Hemmerstein, UUP Research.

Officers for retirees present were: Jo Schaffer, Brenda Henry-Offor, Larry Fuller, Dan Marrone, Deb Benware, Eileen Landy, John Schumacher, John View, Kathy Johnson, Shirley Patterson, Stephen Pereira and Barbara Warkentine.

McAteer called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Code of Conduct was read.

The minutes of Oct. 13, 2023, were approved as submitted.

Chair Report/Update—McAteer

- UUP is gathering history of the union via retirees. Taber and Hemmerstein gave a PowerPoint presentation, "Capturing UUP Voices."

- Database update: UUP is still working to give access to officers for retirees and RMGC members.

- Officers for retirees will get names of retirees from their campuses. Send a letter of invitation to membership. In the future, lists will be sent in fall and spring.

Report of MDO—Romain

- Thanked retirees for all their work.
- Support needed for SUNY Downstate, Potsdam, Maritime and Fredonia, which are facing deep cuts and the threat of closure. "Brooklyn Needs Downstate" rallies are ongoing.

Finance Committee Report—R. Tyler, McAteer, George

- A dues increase was suggested to cover rising costs, especially MetLife insurance, postage/printing and additional staff serving retirees. UUP now employs three individuals to serve retirees, also UUP Finance staffers Laura Marino and Joelsen Staley manage financials for retirees. Dues haven't been raised since 2017.

Decisions will need to be made at the 2024 Spring DA meeting. Among the options discussed: A planned increase every five years (probably a \$25 increase will be adequate); or raise dues \$10 to \$15 each year.

Concrete figures will be presented by the Finance Committee at the next RMGC meeting.

Regional Reports and 2024 Funding Requests

- Be prepared to summarize 2023-24 brunch events/costs, and to propose budget needs for 2024-25 events/meetings, as requested by George.

Retiree Member Services Report—Quackenbush

- Contact Quackenbush for retiree information. Updating lists and sending out regional emails.

- Quackenbush is available to attend district brunches, supply brochures, and information.

- Retiree benefit sessions are offered via ZOOM each month.

- Quackenbush and Romain will look into the difference between UUP Benefit and UUP Labor Relations presentations.

Old Business

- Update on VOTE-COPE. Donations to the nonpartisan political action fund can be made on the bottom of UUP voucher.

- UUP Outreach was discussed. Purchase of vinyl signs to be used at events/brunches for statewide and each region.

- Update on ORP auto-deduct option; TIAA-CREF first. TRS and ERS auto deduction currently exists.

- UUP's 50-year anniversary goal is to raise donations by \$50,000.

- The 2025 Task Force on Retiree Issues will look at the role of retirees in UUP in the future. McAteer needs names of retiree volunteers to submit to the statewide Executive Board approval.

New Business

- Pearl H. Brod Retiree Award deadline is April 1, 2024.

- Work to fix Tier 6 to be discussed further and at the NYSUT Representative Assembly in New York City.

- Future meetings at the Spring DA in Saratoga Springs: April 11, RMGC pre-meeting, and April 12, official RMGC meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.



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!

RMGC and retiree news from the chapters, regions

Long Island

by Dan Marrone, Farmingdale

On May 23, 2024, the “Five Long Island UUP Chapters Retirees’ Brunch” was held at Farmingdale State College.

Among the 88 attendees were UUP retirees from Stony Brook University’s two campuses, SUNY Old Westbury, Empire State at Old Westbury and, of course, Farmingdale State.

Featured speakers were Yolanda Drakkir, UUP Farmingdale Chapter president; Charles McAteer, chair of the union’s statewide Retired Membership Governing Committee; William Giangarra, UUP Long Island regional representative for retirees; Lauren Vlachos, executive director/CEO of Long Island Alzheimer’s Disease Resource Center; and Jennifer Dalton Singh, director, Farmingdale State’s Institute of Learning in Retirement (ILR).

Hosting the event was Daniel Marrone, a retired SUNY distinguished service professor and recently appointed lecturer in Farmingdale State’s ILR.



JESSICA LUNING PHOTOS

Above, more than 80 UUP retirees from the Long Island chapters gather to hear the latest news and issue facing seniors. Addressing the group is Charie McAteer, RMGC chair.

Left, McAteer accepts a personal donation of \$100 to UUP from Long Island RMGC rep Dan Marrone, right, in celebration of his 40 years (1984-2024) at SUNY and as an appreciative UUP member.

Southern Tier

by Loraine Tyler
Oneonta

Southern Tier retirees enjoyed fall meetings with information and updates from RMGC Chair Charlie McAteer and UUP Retiree Services Coordinator Dan Quackenbush.

On Oct. 10, 40 retirees from Oneonta and Delhi met at the Bluestone Golf Club on the Delhi campus. Sen. Peter Oberacher spoke on legislative priorities.

On Oct.17, 35 Cortland retirees met at the Homer Living History Museum. Robert and Marie Ponterio gave a lively presentation on living in France six months of the year and in LaRochele, N.Y., for the remainder. The contrast was financial, social, visual and legal.

On Nov. 20, 35 retirees met at the Benet Alumni Lounge on the Binghamton University campus. Dr. Drew Deskur showed visuals from the Kopernick Observatory.



NICK KORIDIS

NYSUT RA

Hundreds of UUP members, including dozens of UUP retirees, attended the 2024 NYSUT Representative Assembly, May 3-4 in New York City. UUP’s own Carolyn Kube, right, statewide VP for professionals, earned NYSUT’s Health Care Professional Member of the Year award.



Are You Up-To-Date on Your Preventive Services?

Medicare covers a full range of preventive services to help keep you healthy and find problems early, when treatment is most likely to work best. Ask your doctor what services are right for you, and use the space below to track appointment dates, times, and other important information.



- One time “Welcome to Medicare” Preventive Visit—within the first 12 months you have Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) _____
- Yearly “Wellness” Visit—get this visit 12 months after your “Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit or 12 months after your Part B effective date _____
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening _____
- Alcohol Misuse Screening and Counseling _____
- Blood-based Biomarker Test _____
- Bone Mass Measurement (Bone Density Test) _____
- Cardiovascular Disease (Behavioral Therapy) _____
- Cardiovascular Screenings (cholesterol, lipids, triglycerides) _____
- Colorectal Cancer Screenings _____
- Depression Screening _____
- Diabetes Screening _____
- Diabetes Self-management Training _____
- Flu Shot _____
- Glaucoma Test _____
- Hepatitis B Screening _____
- Hepatitis C Screening _____
- HIV Screening _____
- Lung Cancer Screening _____
- Mammogram (screening for breast cancer) _____
- Medical Nutrition Therapy Services _____
- Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program _____
- Obesity Screening and Counseling _____
- Pap Test and Pelvic Exam (includes a breast exam) _____
- Pneumococcal Shots _____
- Prostate Cancer Screening _____
- Sexually Transmitted Infection Screening and Counseling _____
- Counseling to Prevent Tobacco Use and Tobacco-caused Disease _____

“Your Guide to Medicare Preventive Services” has more information, like costs and conditions that may apply, about these and other preventive services. Visit [Medicare.gov/publications](https://www.medicare.gov/publications).

This product was produced at U.S. taxpayer expense.



CMS Product No. 11420
Revised August 2021

Historian looks at ‘ancestral skeletons’

by Dorothy Troike
Cortland

Family history is like a skeleton—no flesh on the bones. It can be a bunch of facts that seem disjointed. Only when the wider context is researched and explored does the story take shape.

I’ve been doing family history for 44 years and recently discovered a new ancestor through traditional documents and the science of DNA. I proceeded to accumulate a host of facts about James Snow (1763-1810), my fourth great grandfather: In 1780, at the age of 17, he enlisted in the Third Massachusetts Regiment of the Continental Army. In 1783, he was stationed in the Hudson Valley under the command of Benedict Arnold followed by George Washington. In 1785, he married Elsey Green at General Van Courtlandt’s house located at the mouth of the Croton River in Westchester County. He lived in New York City from 1786 until his death in 1810. At a Common Council meeting in 1788, he was admitted and sworn a Freeman of New York City.

His occupations included cartman, tavern-keeper, Custom House measurer, and inspector. These facts raised questions: How does a common soldier from Massachusetts get married at a general’s house? How does a cartman receive Freeman status? How do you move up from cartman to tavern keeper to Custom House measurer to inspector? Why did he support Thomas Jefferson’s Democrat-Republican party? Why did he support the candidacy of Aaron Burr? Incredibly, all questions but the first were answered in the book *New York City Cartmen 1667-1850*

(New York University, 1986, 2012) by Graham Russell Gao Hodges, a professor of history at Colgate University, inset. One of the most interesting discoveries is that the New York City cartmen of the 18th and 19th centuries were organized, powerful and exclusive. Licensed by the Common Council, each cartman was required to become a Freeman of the city. The Common Council was made up mainly of merchants, who were not only dependent upon the haulers to move their goods throughout the city but were also dependent upon their support and vote. The position of cartman was restricted to men who had English or Dutch heritage. Farmers, vagrants, enslaved and free blacks “need not apply.”

While Snow left me no diary or personal records, I was able to reconstruct some of his life story—put flesh on the skeletal bones. By delving into the social and political history of the cartmen, I learned about Snow and discovered the fascinating and generally unknown cultural past of New York City.

According to the publisher’s review of Hodges book (New York University, 1986, 2012), “The cartmen—unskilled workers who hauled goods on one-horse carts—were perhaps the most important labor group in early American cities. The forerunners of the Teamsters Union, these white-froked laborers moved almost all of the nation’s possessions, touching the lives of virtually every American. The cartmen possessed a hard-nosed political awareness, and because they transported essential goods, they achieved a status in New York City far above their skills or financial worth. Civic support and discrimination helped the cartmen create a community all their own.”

‘Trump for Life’: Dystopian novels penned by retiree

N.L. (Nancy) Brisson, a retired assistant professor and reading department chair at SUNY Educational Opportunity Center in Syracuse, continues her decades-long work of writing social commentaries with two books on what the future might hold if Donald Trump remains in power for life.

Up to this point, Brisson’s work has been documented in a series of yearbooks that cover the years from 2010-2021. Her essays “reflect philosophical thoughts in reaction to events as opposed to a record of historical events,” noted Brisson, who began writing in 2008 and blogging in 2010. They have appeared in blogs called The Armchair Observer and Armchair blog, and on a site called Tremr.com.

But recent events brought her to a moment she said she never could have imagined: “an insurrectionist Trump squaring off



against a leader with a true love of our Constitution and our democracy/ republic, Joe Biden.”

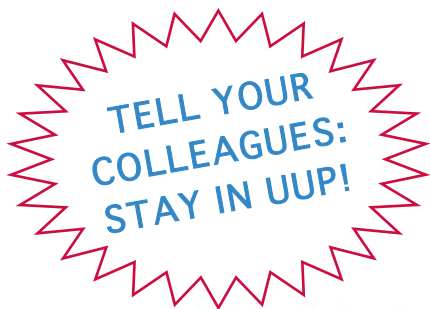
And while she admits that she has been sitting in “the cheap seats” not intending to weigh in on politics, the “racist rhetoric of the Republicans in the Obama years” led her to “tune in and write about what appeared to be an incipient coup to establish single-party rule.”

Her latest novels—*2028: The Rebellion* and *2028: Trump at Guan-*

tanamo—are “a fictional representation of what America might be like if Donald Trump becomes president for life,” Brisson noted. “They are social commentary rather than true dystopian science fiction. But since they are set in the future, they are science fiction, and they are predictive.”

Brisson earned her BA from SUNY Potsdam and her MEd from the University of Arizona at Tucson.

All of her work is available on Amazon.



United University Professions

RETIRED MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

THE BENEFITS OF UUP

Whether you're retired or just thinking about retirement, you don't have to stop being active in UUP.

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RMG Committee Chair
Charlie McAteer

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- Opportunity to participate in and/or purchase NYSUT, AFT and NEA discounted programs and services.

In addition, Retired Members have the right to vote and to serve in elected and appointed positions, such as the chair of the Retiree Membership Governing Committee (RMGC). The RMGC chair also serves as the elected delegate to UUP Delegate Assemblies and as a nonvoting member of the UUP Executive Board. Retired Members may be elected as a regional RMGC representative, or as a chapter officer for retirees.

MISSION STATEMENT of the Retired Membership Governing Committee

The statewide Retired Membership Governing Committee (RMGC), through education and action, shall advocate for retiree benefits on the state and national levels for current and future retirees and for the UUP agenda for public higher education, and shall work with other organizations to improve the lives of seniors.

www.uupinfo.org/retiree



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Overcoming obstacles to peace

by Larry Wittner
Albany

Although, according to the UN Charter, the United Nations was established to “maintain international peace and security,” it has often fallen short of this goal. Russia’s ongoing military invasion of Ukraine and the more recent Israeli-Palestinian war in Gaza provide the latest examples of the world organization’s frequent paralysis in the face of violent international conflict.

The hobbling of the Security Council (SC)—the UN agency tasked with enforcing international peace and security—bears the lion’s share of the responsibility for this weakness. Under UN Charter rules, each permanent member of the Security Council has the power to veto SC resolutions. And these members have used the veto, thereby blocking UN action.

This built-in weakness was inherited from the UN’s predecessor, the League of Nations. In that body, a unanimous vote by all member nations was required for League action. Such unanimity, of course, proved nearly impossible to attain, and this fact largely explains the League’s failure and eventual collapse.

The creators of the UN, aware of this problem when drafting the new organization’s Charter in 1944-45, limited the number of nations that could veto Security Council resolutions to the five major military powers of the era—the U.S., the Soviet Union, Britain, China and France.

Other nations went along with this arrangement because these “great powers” insisted that, without this acceptance of their primacy, they would not support the establishment of the new world organization. The Charter’s only restriction on their use of the veto was a provision that it could not be cast by a party to a dispute—a provision largely ignored after 1952. Fortifying the privileged position of these five permanent SC members, the Charter also provided that any change in their status required their approval.

In this fashion, the great powers of the era locked in the ability of any one of them to block a SC resolution that it opposed.

Not surprisingly, they availed themselves of this privilege. By May 2022, Russia (which took the Soviet Union’s seat), had cast its veto in the SC on 121 occasions. The U.S. cast 82 vetoes, Britain 29, China 17, and France 16.

As the Council’s paralysis became apparent, proponents of UN action gravitated toward the UN General Assembly. This UN entity expanded substantially after 1945 as newly-independent countries joined the UN. Moreover, no veto blocked passage of its resolutions. Therefore, the General Assembly could serve not only as a voice for the world’s nations, but as an alternative source of power.

The first sign of a shift in power from the Security Council to the General Assembly emerged with the Assembly’s approval of Resolution 377A: “Uniting for Peace.” The catalyst was the Soviet Union’s use of its veto to block the SC from authorizing continued military action to end the Korean War. Uniting for Peace, adopted on Nov. 3, 1950, by an overwhelming vote in the General Assembly, stated that, “if the Security Council, because of lack of unanimity of the permanent members, fails to exercise its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security ... the General Assembly shall consider the matter immediately with a view to making appropriate recommendations to members for collective measures.” To facilitate rapid action, the resolution created the mechanism of the emergency special session.

Between 1951 and 2022, the UN drew upon the Uniting for Peace resolution on 13 occasions, with 11 cases taking the form of the emergency special session. In addition to dealing with the Korean War, Uniting for Peace resolutions addressed the Suez confrontation, and crises in Hungary, Congo, Afghanistan, Palestine, Namibia, and Ukraine. Although under the umbrella of Uniting for Peace, the General Assembly could have recommended “armed force when necessary” against violators of international peace and security, the Assembly adopted that approach only during the Korean War. On the other occasions, it limited itself to calls for peaceful resolution of international conflict and the imposition of

sanctions against aggressors.

These developments had mixed results. In 1956, during the Suez crisis, shortly after the General Assembly held a Uniting for Peace session calling for British and French withdrawal from the canal zone, both countries complied. By contrast, in 1980, when a Uniting for Peace session called for an end to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Moscow ignored the UN demand. It could do so thanks to the fact that General Assembly resolutions are mere recommendations and, as such, are not legally binding.

Even so, global crises in recent years have heightened pressure to provide the UN with the ability to take effective action. In April 2022, shortly after the Russian government vetoed a Security Council resolution calling for Russia’s unconditional withdrawal from Ukraine, the General Assembly voted that, henceforth a Security Council veto would automatically trigger a meeting of the Assembly within 10 days of the action to cope with the situation.

Meanwhile, numerous nations have been working to restrict the veto in specific situations. In July 2015, the UN Accountability, Coherence, and Transparency Group proposed a Code of Conduct against “genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes” that called upon all Security Council members to avoid voting to reject any credible draft resolution intended to prevent or halt mass atrocities. By 2022, the Code had been signed by 121 member nations. France and Mexico have taken the lead in proposing the renunciation of the veto in these situations.

These reform initiatives are likely to be addressed at the September 2024 UN Summit of the Future.

Clearly, as the history of the United Nations demonstrates, if the world organization is to maintain international peace and security, it must be freed from its current constraints.

*(Lawrence S. Wittner [<https://www.lawrencewittner.com/>] is a professor of history emeritus at SUNY Albany and the author of *Confronting the Bomb*, Stanford University Press).*



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WWI anthem: ‘Keep the Home Fires Burning’

by Dan Marrone
Farmingdale

Among the crush of patriotic songs written and performed during World War I, “Keep the Home-Fires Burning” stands out as being an “anthem” for attaining the status of universal masterpieces that are rousing, reverential, and poignantly representing the ideals of a nation, most especially at times of war. These songs have attained immense esteem for their lasting impact in America, Great Britain, and the Commonwealth of Nations.

“Keep the Home-Fires Burning” was written in 1914 by American lyricist Lena Guilbert Ford (1870-1918) and Welsh musician Ivor Novello (1893-1951). The song has been performed countless times during and since World War I. Music reviewers have praised this unique composition commenting: “Few songs have rivalled its cultural impact.” Other commentators have praised its “wistful, ubiquitous presence combined with a compelling melody that bridges the physical and emotional distance between the trenches and the home front.” And a reviewer stated the song “embodies a beautiful circular image: the ‘boys’ at the front yearn for those at home, and vice versa.”

The song has been performed in a wide array of live and recorded forms and has been featured in many TV series and Hollywood films, including the 2001 hit film, *Gosford Park*. This is a movie depicting bored and jaded intelligentsia in the 1930s holed up in a gloomy, country estate. In the film, actor Jeremy Northam portrays Novello, who brightens up things by playing his popular song on the piano. It has also become a societal theme of honoring those men and women going overseas to fight in war. It has remained a favorite for veterans and fans of nostalgia because it fulfills a nationalistic spirit while also evoking sadness, comradeship and hope.

Published in 1915, the song immediately achieved worldwide popularity to the extent that it became—and remains—“World War I’s Greatest Anthem” (<https://theconversation.com/the-story-behind-world-war-is-greatest-anthem-100-years-on-31601>).

Tragedy is also associated with this song. Pennsylvania-born Lena Ford was living in London during World War I. Aside from writing the lyrics for one of the most popular and patriotic songs ever composed, she also wrote numerous newspaper articles as Imperial Germany waged war against Great Britain. In her essays, Ford stressed the urgent need for her birth nation, the U.S., to enter the war supporting the Allies. When her activities became known to the Kaiser’s henchmen, she became a prime target for assassination. Early on the morning of March 7, 1918, a German Zeppelin crossed the English Channel and deliberately hovered over Ford’s house in central London. Precisely targeting the structure, the dirigible dropped two incendiary bombs. She



Guilbert Ford

and her wheelchair-bound son were burned to death.

The Ford/Novello song continues to be performed regularly and now appears in a vast array of internet videos. The following three videos of their song were recorded within the past decade: Laura Wright in “Forever: The Official Album of the World War I Commemorations” at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vEzwTPPHx50>; The D-Day Darlings and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRkZ9-j1Xvw>; and the photograph-rich Chapel-en-le-Frith Male Voice Choir at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-KgdYd4A84>.

The following are Ford’s lyrics for “Keep the Home-Fires Burning”:

*They were summoned from the hillside, they were called in from the glen,
And the country found them ready at the stirring call for men.
Let no tears add to their hardships as the soldiers pass along,
And although your heart is breaking make it sing this cheery song.
Keep the Home-Fires Burning, while your hearts are yearning,
Though your lads are far away, they dream of home.
There’s a silver lining through the dark clouds shining,
Turn the dark clouds inside out, ‘Till the boys come home.
Overseas there came a pleading, “Help a nation in distress.”
And we gave our glorious laddies; Honour bade us do no less.
For no gallant son of freedom to a tyrant’s yoke should bend,
And a noble heart must answer to the sacred call of “Friend.”
Keep the Home Fires Burning, while your hearts are yearning,
Though your lads are far away, they dream of home.
There’s a silver lining through the dark clouds shining,
Turn the dark cloud inside out, ‘Till the boys come home.*

(Daniel Scott Marrone, Ph.D., is a distinguished service professor emeritus from SUNY Farmingdale. He was the college’s first recipient of the Chancellor’s Award for Scholarship and Creative Activities.)





ADAM ACQUARIO

Hobnobbing

Above, from left, New York state Comptroller Tom DiNapoli poses with retiree Nuala Drescher of Buffalo State, Jo Schaffer of Cortland and UUP President Fred Kowal at the recent Spring Delegate Assembly in Saratoga Springs.

Above right, RMGC Chair Charlie McAteer has an animated discussion with DiNapoli at the union's Legislative Advocacy Reception in the Capital on March 4.

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PLAGIARISM

(continued from page 1)

against Claudine Gay, the former President of Harvard, have been a topic of discussion in recent news. While some people believe that there is a double standard being applied to her case, others disagree. According to a news article from Fox News, a professor has accused leftists in academia and the media of defending Gay's plagiarism scandal, saying they had "redefined plagiarism to suit their politics."

On the other hand, a member of Harvard's student Honor Council has called for Gay's resignation over her ongoing plagiarism scandal, accusing the school's governing body of having one standard for the embattled administrator and another for the student body.

It is important to note that Gay has denied the allegations of plagiarism. She has also stated that she will request corrections to her dissertation after three new instances of "inadequate citation" were found in her essays.

In conclusion, the situation is complex and opinions are divided. It is up to you to decide whether or not you are concerned about the double standard being applied to this situation.

Explain to me what is complex about plagiarism?

Plagiarism is a complex issue that is integrally connected to different intricate literacy practices, such as accurate referencing skills and academic reading and writing skills. According to the Harvard Guide to Using Sources, plagiarism is defined as "taking credit for anyone else's work" without adequately crediting that source in your paper. It is considered stealing and is unacceptable in all academic situations, whether you do it intentionally or by accident.

The complexities of plagiarism arise from the fact that it can take many forms, ranging from verbatim copying to paraphrasing without proper citation. In addition, the ease with which information can be found online means that it is more important than ever to keep track of where you are getting information and ideas and to give proper credit to the authors of the sources you use.

Furthermore, research has shown that there is a correlation between the complexity of essay topics and the prevalence of plagiarism. In more difficult assignments where students may struggle to understand the content or articulate their understanding, they may be more likely to

plagiarize out of desperation or confusion.

In conclusion, plagiarism is a multifaceted issue that requires careful attention to detail and a thorough understanding of academic writing practices.

So plagiarism is in the eye of the beholder?

Plagiarism is not subjective and is not in the eye of the beholder. It is a serious academic offense that is defined as "taking credit for anyone else's work" without adequately crediting that source in your paper. It is considered stealing and is unacceptable in all academic situations, whether you do it intentionally or by accident. The Harvard Guide to Using Sources provides a comprehensive definition of plagiarism and outlines the different forms it can take.

While there may be some debate about what constitutes plagiarism in certain situations, such as when paraphrasing or summarizing information, the basic principle remains the same: you must give credit to the authors of the sources you use in your work.

In conclusion, plagiarism is not a matter of opinion or interpretation. It is a serious academic offense that can have severe consequences for students and professionals alike.

TIER 6

(continued from page 1)

employees is the number of years of average salary used to calculate retirement payments. Tier 4 and 5 employees have retirement payments based on the average of salaries during their last three years of employment. However, for Tier 6 employees, retirement payments are calculated based on the average of salaries during their last five years. Since salaries four and five years prior to retirement are typically less than the final three employment years, Tier 6 employees ended up with markedly lower retirement payments compared to Tier 4 and 5 employees. Thankfully, this Tier 6 penalty has now been removed.

On April 19, Gov. Nancy Hochul signed the budget agreement that includes a reduction from five to three years for calculating Tier 6 employee retirement payments.

<https://fixtier6.org> reports: "Now, an average of Tier 6 members' last three salary years, instead of their last five salary years, will determine their lifetime pension payments. Individual situa-

tions will vary, but this works out to around \$100,000 more in lifetime retirement earnings. It also gives Tier 6 members parity with Tiers 4 and 5 members."

Tier differences still affect ERS members. The differences are listed on the state's website under "What Tier Are You In?" (<https://www.osc.ny.gov/retirement/members/what-tier-are-you>): "There are six tiers in the Employees' Retirement System. Your tier determines: Your eligibility for benefits; the formula used in the calculation of your benefits; death benefit coverage; service crediting; whether you must contribute toward your benefits; and eligibility for loans."

Subsequent to the recent budget agreement, inequities persist for Tiers 5 and 6 employees relative to Tier 4 employees. This is wrong given that individuals, regardless of what tier they are in, work the same hours, expend the same level of effort, and face the same on-the-job struggles.

Penalties for those in Tiers 5 and 6 should be eliminated. The Fix Tier 6 effort must continue!

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