

# Retirees: Don't Miss These Fall Events



See Pages 9-12 for Cultural/Educational Program

June 2010\*

Volume 43, Number 10  
Local 1, American Federation of School Administrators, AFL-CIO



## Arne Duncan Visits New York Schools



■ US Secretary Arne Duncan, second from left, visited three Brooklyn schools on May 18. Above, Principal Patricia Tubridy of PS 214, D-19, speaks with Mr. Duncan while Mayor Bloomberg, left, and CSA President Ernest Logan, right, and a horde of reporters listen in.

YURIDIA PEÑA

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STORY AND MORE PICTURES, PAGE

## How CSA Fared in Year's Legal Battles

BY ANNE SILVERSTEIN

CSA's legal team won a number of important victories this school year, successfully defending the contractual rights of members.

The DOE kept CSA's lawyers busy with reorganizations that attempted to change union positions into management positions. The DOE also attempted to withhold performance bonuses from excessed Assistant Principals in temporary positions and made a unilateral decision that affected the per session pay of CSA members who do double duty as athletic directors.

The major arbitrations this year that were wrapped up or are still ongoing included:

■ Parking permits. Last summer, an arbitrator ruled that the city violated the CSA contract when it reduced the number of permits issued to CSA members. Bruce Bryant, CSA General Counsel, said despite the arbitrators' decision, the city refused to comply

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## ACS Proposal Threatens Day Care Centers

BY ANNE SILVERSTEIN

The Administration for Children's Services is looking to overhaul the city's Day Care system and if one of the repercussions is that a number of presently operating Day Care Centers have to close, the city couldn't care less.

ACS released a concept paper in April explaining its proposed reorganization of the city's publicly funded early care and

education system. The paper outlines the purpose of an RFP (request for proposals) that will be released early this summer. Basically, the boards of all Day Care Centers must submit an application to see if they will qualify for funds. In addition, one of the requirements will be that boards must contribute a percentage (as of yet not released by ACS) of the center's operating costs, an impossibility for many of the boards which rely heavily on city funding.

"Many of our Day Care Centers have no source of outside funding," said CSA First Vice President Randi Herman. "And the boards are not peopled by wealthy individuals with deep pockets. There is no way these organizations can find potentially hundreds of thousands of dollars to augment the city's funds. Consequently, the boards will not be able to apply, and if they do apply, they certainly won't be consid-

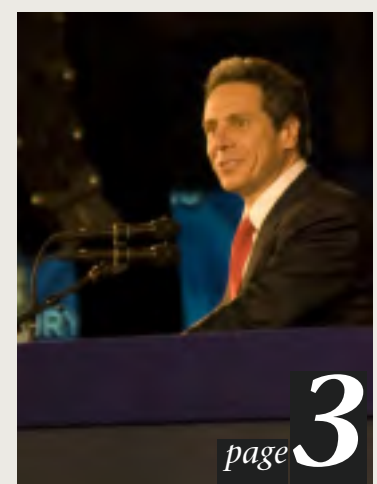


KEN DEAN

CITY BUSES carry CSA's Day Care message throughout Manhattan.

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## Convention in Rye, NY Democrats Nominate Cuomo



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### Council of School Supervisors & Administrators

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### PRESIDENT'S PAGE

# Catching Our Breath

## Going About Our Business in a Year of Turmoil. By Ernest A. Logan

As another school year ends, we can hardly catch our breath as the initial budget cuts turn into year-end budget cuts and we hear rumors that the DOE's mid-year so-called "consolidation" may become what it always was intended to be – a full-fledged reorganization. In a year when we've witnessed heart-stopping earthquakes in Haiti and Chile, and a flood of federal stimulus money merely backfilling huge budget holes, CSA members have calmly gone about the business of educating children no matter what financial situation or restructure du jour they've found themselves in.

In February, CSA's supervisors and administrators carried on through the fourth DOE reorganization since 2002. The DOE replaced ISCs and SSOs with "clusters" in an expanded Children First Network. Principals and Assistant Principals pretty much rolled with the punches, but EAs were required to apply for new jobs ... again. CSA negotiated with the DOE to make sure that EAs took their seniority and salaries with them to their new posts. Applying for jobs for the second time in three years made it a challenging year for EAs, softened slightly by performance differentials awarded for the first time after CSA persuaded the city to modify selection criteria to include EAs.

The closing of large schools has become as predictable as reorganizations, so it came as no surprise in February when the DOE announced the closing of 19 more. Although CSA has no quarrel with closing schools that fail after receiving full DOE support, we showed up at every DOE hearing to protest the way this was done. In many cases, the DOE didn't ascertain whether superintendents and SSOs had provided supports and guidance. In fact, evidence showed that some superintendents never showed their faces before announcing a school was closing. And there was evidence that these institutions were overwhelmed with ELL and special-



needs students. In March, in a dramatic response to a UFT/NAACP lawsuit, a judge reversed the Chancellor's decision to close the schools. The city's appeal is ongoing while the schools remain open.

Some think closing traditional schools is part of a hidden agenda to open lots of charters. Because charters are a hot trend with the DOE, critics suspect that they receive preferential treatment. With President Obama and Education Secretary Duncan under the same charter spell, any cap on charters has made it hard for states to win federal Race to the Top (RTTT) grants. All considered, this year the charter school conversation turned into a shouting match that had little to do with improving education. Because CSA welcomes charters, with oversights, as a supplement to traditional public schools, we've done our best to modulate the conversation. (We have members at nine charter schools, and more will be coming on board, I'm sure.) We continue to address the legislature on ways to treat traditional as well as charter schools fairly, and in May we issued a Memo of Opposition to a sloppy Senate bill that made no attempt to correct a funding formula that's unfair to charters or provide worker protections.

Until RTTT concludes in September, the rhetoric on charters will remain heated. Winning a grant could bring NYS as much as \$700 million. President Obama's RTTT makes generous innovation grants to selected states for turning around schools. After losing the first-round competition, NYS went forward this month with a second application. Winning in round two could pay off, but it could also jeopardize collective bargaining. CSA has been immersed in related conversations in Albany, particularly because all options for turnaround schools mandated in RTTT could result in the removal of Principals and Assistant Principals from under-performing schools, regardless of circumstances. Without thoughtful safeguards, short-term funding could bring long-term pain.

Problems for low-performing schools will escalate if the city continues to reduce Day Care for working families. A growing number of children will enter first grade unprepared and sometimes with special needs left unaddressed. This year, the assault on city-funded Day Care again spiraled out of control, when ACS, the social service agency in charge, said it would close 16 more programs and send the children to centers farther from home. More recently, ACS came up with a scheme called EarlyLearnNYC that will fund fewer slots, serve fewer children and shut down many more small community-based centers. Meanwhile, the city has been discouraging teachers and administrators by canceling one contract negotiation after another. The truth is that the universal pre-K system – including city-funded Day Care – is beyond the abilities of ACS. It needs to be replaced by a system under the expert eye of DOE. To start that ball rolling, CSA has put forward a bill in Albany to study administrative control of early childhood education.

Moving ahead in my second term as CSA President, I'll continue to fight for a fair Day Care contract and an early childhood system that is seamless and comprehensive and to reach a new contract for our thousands of DOE members. Having been re-elected by acclamation last November, my fellow officers and I are acutely aware of the gratitude we owe our tireless in-service members and exceptionally active retirees. New challenges await us, many starkly economic. One challenge will involve the city's plan to overhaul special education, mainstreaming thousands of special needs children into local schools. While it's clear that the responsibility will fall squarely on the shoulders of Principals and Assistant Principals, it is not at all clear if you will be given the resources to do right by the students during a time of treacherous budget cuts. With this and every other formidable situation that comes our way, we will stand together and, as usual, make things work for children.

# Arne Duncan Visits NYC Schools

BY YURIDIA PEÑA

US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan toured three Brooklyn public schools on May 18, a trip that comes at a pivotal time in New York as the state awaits the outcome of its Race to the Top (RTTT) application.

RTTT is a competitive federal program that is awarding billions of dollars to states that have shown progress in overhauling school systems to meet certain federal reforms. In the first round, awarded earlier this spring, Tennessee and Delaware won money. NYS was 15th of 16 finalists in part because of its charter school cap as well as seniority rules, which are both seen as anathema to Duncan-minded reformers.

CSA President Ernest Logan joined Mayor Michael Bloomberg, NYC Schools Chancellor Joel Klein and UFT President Michael Mulgrew on Mr. Duncan's trip to the Kings Collegiate Charter School, PS 214, D-19 and PS 65, D-19.

When the visit was originally planned, only two schools were included in the itinerary. But American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten expressed disapproval of the visit to PS 65 for political reasons, and Mr. Duncan agreed to add PS 214 to the day's agenda to mollify her.

During the press conference at PS 214, Mr. Duncan said he was thrilled NYS was reapplying for RTTT. Mr. Duncan expressed support for pending state legislation, which, if passed will double the number of charters statewide. He also spoke ruefully about the future of America's children if school districts balance their budgets by laying off teachers.

During Mr. Duncan's visits to classrooms, he spoke to a number of children as well as faculty. At PS 65, Keyshaun Sinclair, a fifth-grader, told Mr. Duncan he has an interest in basketball, but he was afraid his height would hamper his professional aspirations; Mr. Duncan responded by naming several short NBA players and encouraged him to keep playing.



■ US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan chats with fifth-grader Keyshaun Sinclair at PS 65, Brooklyn. Keyshaun explained to Mr. Duncan that he was too short to play basketball, but Mr. Duncan told him that he should keep playing, reeling off the names of several short NBA basketball players.



■ PS 65 Principal Daisy Garcia greets Mr. Duncan as he enters the Brooklyn school.



■ From left: Principal Andrew Buck, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, CSA President Ernest Logan and Assistant Principal Richard Dixon at the Middle School for Art and Philosophy in Brooklyn.

Although it wasn't on Mr. Duncan's schedule, Mayor Bloomberg and CSA President Ernest Logan took a few minutes to visit with the leadership of the Middle School for Art and Philosophy, which is housed in the same building as the Kings Collegiate Charter School.

# CSA Networks at Democratic Convention

BY ANNE SILVERSTEIN

CSA officers and staff were busy networking at the 2010 NYS Democratic Convention in Rye Brook, NY, in late May, discussing pending legislation and budgetary concerns in between attending meetings and observing the Convention's business of nominating candidates for the Nov. 2 election.

Attorney General Andrew Cuomo received the party's nod as the gubernatorial candidate. Mr. Cuomo selected Rochester Mayor Bob Duffy as his candidate for lieutenant governor.

CSA First Vice President Peter McNally spoke to Mr. Cuomo after Mr. Cuomo accepted the nomination: "I congratulated him and thanked him for making education a priority in his acceptance speech."

Mr. McNally said that he also pointed out to Mr. Cuomo that "The audience gave him a stand-

ing ovation at that point in his speech."

Delegates agreed to allow the five Attorney General candidates to all appear on the ballot in the Sept. 14 primary. They are: Nassau County District Attorney Kathleen Rice, Assemblyman Richard Brodsky of Greenburgh, former prosecutor Sean Coffey of Bronxville, state Sen. Eric Schneiderman of Manhattan and Eric Dinallo of Manhattan, a former state Insurance Department superintendent.

The Republicans will meet the first week of June at the Sheraton New York in Manhattan and are expected to allow former Suffolk County Congressman Rick Lazio and current Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy, among



■ At a luncheon after Andrew Cuomo accepted the Democratic nomination on May 27, CSA Executive Vice President Peter McNally, left, and Mr. Cuomo chatted.

others, to duke it out in the September primary. In addition to Mr. McNally, the following staff members from

CSA attended the Convention: Noah Franklin, Dee-Dee Goidel (Retiree Chapter), Sondra Peeden, and Alithia Rodriguez-Rolon.

## COMING EVENTS

Events are at CSA's Brooklyn Headquarters, 16 Court Street, unless otherwise noted.

**JUNE 8, 5 PM:**  
ABENY Executive Committee/ Executive Board

**JUNE 9, 5 PM:** CSA Latino Caucus

**JUNE 14, 4:30 PM:**  
Joint meeting CSA District Chairs- Executive Board (Russo's on the Bay)

**JUNE 16, 4 PM:**  
Pre-retirement workshop, pre-registered participants only

**JUNE 17, 9 AM:**  
Retiree Chapter Executive Board

**JUNE 21, 4 PM:**  
Pre-retirement workshop, pre-registered participants only

**JULY 12-15:** ELI's SBISI kicks off new cohort for Series 1 & 2

**JULY 13-14:** ALPAP workshops

**JULY 19-22:** ELI presents The Principals' Institute

**JULY 26-29:** ELI Leadership Summit

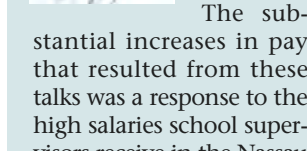
Please check with the event organizer to confirm times and dates.

## 25 Years Ago

(1985)

On June 4, CSA President Ted Elsberg met with the Director of the Office of Municipal Labor Relations, Robert Linn, in a collective bargaining session to discuss salary

increases for school supervisory and administrative positions. The substantial increases in pay that resulted from these talks was a response to the high salaries school supervisors receive in the Nassau and Suffolk counties. Mr. Elsberg also addressed how Education Administrators were treated unfairly by the city and effectively negotiated a pay increase for those positions as well.



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# Grievance Corner

Bob Reich

## A Review of the Rating Appeals Process: You Have Rights



Make sure you review your rating sheet and that the information is accurate.

Can you believe it? The school year is ending and summer is in sight. Education Administrators and Assistant Principals should be receiving their annual ratings. If you receive a satisfactory rating, pat yourself on the back for a job well done and plan for next year.

If you receive an adverse rating, however, you should immediately e-mail or call me. I will provide you with the appeal application that must be submitted. The appeal must be submitted within 20 days of your receipt of the rating exclusive of summer vacation. Should you fail to file an appeal within the mandated timeframe, the Department of Education may refuse to hear your appeal.

If you do not receive a rating, an issue that several EAs have faced in the past, you must notify CSA immediately. If you have worked 15 or more days you are entitled to a formal rating.

If you did receive a rating (and most of you have), make sure you read the rating sheet. It provides you with your attendance record for the school year and, if inaccurate, must be corrected. The sheet, if you are a probationer and received an unsatisfactory rating, may also include a discontinuance recommendation. A Principal can recommend a discontinuance or a denial of completion of probation, but if the superintendent has not signed the rating sheet, that recommendation

(Date) \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Lawrence Becker, Chief Executive  
Division of Human Resources  
Office of Appeals and Reviews  
Department of Education  
7th Floor, 65 Court St.  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Mr. Becker,

I wish to appeal the "U" rating given to me for the school year ending June 2010. During the rating period, I served as (Your Position) in (Your School and District). The rating officer was (Name/Position).

Sincerely,  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
File Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Position \_\_\_\_\_

cc: CSA Grievance Department

the stipulation may bar you from certain job opportunities in the future.

(On that note, if you sign a stipulation that includes your retirement, you may be forbidden from working in any capacity with the DOE or a vendor dealing with the DOE. Check with CSA before signing any stipulation; signing under pressure often has results that you never considered.)

Principals now receive their ratings in the fall after test results are available. Here again, if you receive a rating that is negative, call me to review your rights.

• • •

If you contact CSA about any issue, we will assign you an advocate. She or he will meet with you and review all the case documentation. If, during the course of our work, we learn that you have not responded to letters in your file, we'll help you draft a response. When we meet, we'll explain the appeal process in detail.

For those members who received adverse ratings in past years and who filed a waiver pending grievance/arbitration results, etc., the waiver must be updated annually. If you are unsure what this means or how to do it, contact me at bob@csa-nyc.org.

I know that you all have worked hard this year. Try to take some time to rest this summer. It will be September before you know it.

has no weight. Call me if there is a recommendation to discontinue or deny.

Should your superintendent or Principal tell you that they are extending your probation, you must approve this action. Do not sign an extension of your probation period without consulting with CSA. The wording of

## Queens Office Honors One Of Its Own: Dr. Sherry M. Copeland

The Queens Office of Early Childhood held a dinner on June 5 to honor Sherry M. Copeland's on her 25 years of service as an Education Administrator. Dr. Copeland taught early childhood grades (including the ASTER program for Gifted and Talented children) starting in 1972. She authored some key texts about early childhood for the NYC schools starting with *Full Day Kindergarten* in 1982, and other books for the first, second, and third grade curriculum. Her book, *Emergent Curriculum and Standards in the Early*

*Childhood Classroom: Strengthening Content And Teaching Practice* will be released this month as well.

Dr. Copeland became Director of Early Childhood District 27, Queens, in June 1985. She continued in this role after the 2003 reorganization as Regional Director of Early Childhood for Region 5. She remained in this position following the 2007 reorganization for the borough of Queens, and is currently serving as Borough Director, now serving all seven districts in Queens.

## Letters

### Long-Time Reformers Publicly Recant about Misguided Policies

**To the Editor:** In 2008, Sol Stern, a darling of the right-wing reformers of our country's education system, publicly admitted that he had been mistaken in his longtime belief that school choice



Mr. Gordon when he was an AP.

would lead to an improvement of the school system and conceded that the public school system would most likely be damaged by such a policy. Now Diane Ravitch, probably the best-known and most influential member of that group, confessed in her new book that she has been wrong in her three decades advocacy of such education policies and programs as charter schools, school vouchers, imposition of educational standards from the top, and high-stakes standardized testing. She concluded that their imposition would eventually lead to the destruction of our nation's public school system. In this, she has joined all of us progressive educators and other

critics of such measures who had opposed those reactionary measures from the outset.

But it might be too late! At the urging of these right-leaning ideologues and others of their like-minded colleagues, the federal government has already put into place such ill-conceived and misguided policies as No Child Left Behind and Race to the Top, in effect creating a juggernaut that might not be stopped before it has destroyed our public schools in our lifetime. Nevertheless, we must do what we can. To paraphrase Rabbi Hillel, "If not the progressive educational community, then who?" And if not the CSA and Administrators and the American Federation of School Administrators in particular, then what are we? And if not now, then when?"

Therefore, I urge CSA President Ernest Logan to use his good offices in both CSA and AFSA to launch a remobilization of our union's actions and redouble the efforts that can lead to the kind of results that brought to a halt the NYC Department of Education's plan to improperly close a number of our schools.

—BERNARD GORDON  
Assistant Principal Assigned, District Administrator of Data-Driven Instructional Programs, D-17 Office (retired)

### Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor are printed monthly in the CSA News. If you would like to submit a letter for publication, please send it to Anne Silverstein, Editor CSA News, 16 Court St., Brooklyn, NY 11241, or e-mail her at anne@csa-nyc.org. Letters should be no longer than 400 words.

## Council for Unity Hosts Fundraiser



The Council for Unity held its annual fundraiser and awards dinner at the Harvard Club on April 22. Honorees were Judith S. Kaye, retired NYS Chief Judge; Greg Anthony, CBS sports analyst and former NBA player; and attorney Sanford A. Rubenstein. Tamara Tunie, inset, of Law & Order: SVU fame, served as emcee. In attendance from CSA, standing from left, were Bill Meehan, CSA First Vice President Randi Herman, and Mark Brodsky. Seated, from left, Stephen Bennett, Aura Gangemi, Bernie Lopez and Shelli Sklar.

# A Threat to Day Care

Continued from Page 1  
ered as viable applicants," she said. In the early days of city-funded Day Care – the middle of the 20th century – city Day Care Centers did kick in 10 percent of the operating costs, according to those who worked at the time. But that requirement fell by the wayside years ago, and organizations have no recourse to suddenly begin a vast fundraising operation.



YURIDIA PEÑA

The concept paper raises other concerns as well. ACS' model is predicated on a blended funding stream, i.e., combining Head Start funds, city tax levies, federal block grants and Universal pre-K funds. But the regulations for using federal Head Start money are quite different than the regulations for the other funding sources, suggesting a future quagmire of accountability for Day Care Directors.

"ACS has told us, 'Don't worry. We'll take care of making sure the money is used appropriately.' But will ACS be there when the feds show up at a Day Care Center and say, 'You can't use Head Start money the way you're using it. Will ACS back up the organization at that point or will the Day Care Director and board take the fall?'" asked Dr. Herman rhetorically. "They say this new model is not a Head Start program. So when is a Head Start program not a Head Start program? It's murky waters we're entering," she said.

The concept paper raises other big questions as well. The work hours specified are longer than those specified in the Day Care Directors' CSA contract. "We've also asked about titles and credentials of future employees and have gotten no answer," said Dr. Herman. In addition, Head Start Directors cannot be unionized by federal law, she pointed out. The CSA Day Care contract, however, calls for city-funded day care centers to be staffed by CSA members and 1707 teachers. If Head Start money is now "blended" in with the other funding, how does that affect CSA and 1707 members?

Last but not least, if the city wants to reorganize Day Care to improve services, she said, now is the time to remove

CSA held meetings for all Day Care members in Brooklyn and Manhattan in May. Above, Citizens Day Care Center, Manhattan.

day care from the umbrella of ACS and move it to the Department of Education. All research shows that early childhood education is invaluable to the success of inner-city children in keeping them in school, college-bound, and out of jail.

"The time for Day Care to be considered a social service is over. Head Start does not focus on developmental milestones; it focuses on the integration of social services for early care. CSA wants to focus on early childhood education with the community school as a model," said Dr. Herman.

"If the city wants to make a change, why doesn't it take the opportunity to work with educators and come up with something that's really new and treat Day Care as an educational component? This supposed overhaul is just more of the same old stuff except that it will put out of business many Day Care Centers that are currently trusted members of their communities. The city gets to say it's done something radical, but as usual, it won't pan out and it will be the working parents and their children who suffer. It's so predictable," she said.

# Political Agenda

Noah Franklin

## Union Recognizes the Challenges of Charters

All spring, CSA made sure that it was heard as state policymakers debated one of the most controversial issues facing the state today: charter school reform. CSA also kept up the pressure on the city administration to settle the long-expired contract for Day Care Directors and Assistant Directors.



The charter school enrollment process must ensure that each school has a diverse student body.

### Charter School Debate

CSA took part in a spirited public hearing over whether these publicly-funded, privately-run schools need more oversight to make them more transparent and accountable to the public. CSA emphasized the need for more transparency and accountability in financial and management practices of charter schools, while urging more parity in state funding. CSA represents school leaders at nine NYC charter schools.

"CSA welcomes charter schools as a supplement to traditional public schools, a sound way of increasing choice, and an additional spur to innovation and competition," said CSA Executive Vice President Peter McNally before the NYS Senate Standing Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions on April 22.

However, Mr. McNally told the panel of state lawmakers, organizations that run charter schools should not only be held accountable for test scores, but also for the way they manage the schools. "The charter school enrollment process must ensure that each charter school has a diverse student body, reflective of the community in which it is located, and also has students with disabilities or who are English Language Learners," he said.

Mr. McNally drew attention to the current state funding formula that has given charter schools less in funds per student than students in conventional public schools. CSA's unionized charter school members have lobbied state legislators to lift a freeze on charter school funding that keeps monies capped at 2008-09 levels. The freeze is likely to continue in the next budget year.

"At the same time that we discuss legislative amendments needed to hold charter schools more accountable, we must acknowledge that legislative changes are needed to help those charter schools that are at an unfair disadvantage in terms of funding," Mr. McNally said. Two weeks later, the NYS Senate passed a contentious bill that would more than double the number of charter schools from 200 to 460 in the state, a move seen as key to helping the state win up to \$700 million in federal grant money through the Race to the Top Competition. The bill also contains measures to address concerns with charter school transparency and enrollment process. However, CSA has argued that the bill does not go far enough, because it does not address charter school funding issues and doesn't address an employee's right to organize. As of this writing, the bill still needs to be passed by the state Assembly and observers say it is unlikely to pass in its current form.

### Stalled Day-Care Contract

On April 20, the City Council's Civil Service and Labor Committee held a hearing on whether the city is at an impasse with CSA over its Day Care contract. CSA First Vice President Randi Herman testified that the union and the city are, indeed, at impasse. "Day Care Directors and Assistant Directors have been working 1,385 days, or nearly four years, without a contract since June 30, 2006, because the city has made no genuine effort to negotiate," she said. "The city is refusing to fund any general wage increases and is insisting on unreasonable cuts to health insurance benefits."

"Even if their contract were settled today, they (our members) might be out of work because of consistent efforts by ACS to reduce the number of unionized, non-profit Day Care centers," Ms. Herman added. "In recent years, as their contract negotiations have stalled, the city has proceeded to dismantle the current contracted childcare system."

Additionally, since the Day Care contract expired, the price of average consumer goods in the NYC area has jumped 11.3 percent. Consequently, Ms. Herman explained, "Our members are trying to make ends meet and provide for their families on considerably less than they had four years ago when their dollars went further."



Dr. Herman: The city is refusing to negotiate with us.

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- 在孩子上幼兒園前，提高他們的教育和健康水平
- 孩子的安全環境有保障

請撥打市長電話表達意見：212-788-3000  
Council of School Supervisors & Administrators AFSA Local 1: AFL-CIO www.csa-nyc.org

This Chinese version of CSA's Day Care ad is running in Sing Tao, a Chinese language newspaper with a citywide circulation of 55,000.

# A Cause for Celebration!

## PENCIL Gala Raises More Than \$1.5 Million

BY YURIDIA PEÑA

On May 12, educators, and government, corporate and not-for-profit leaders gathered at PENCIL's Spring Gala at Cipriani Wall Street to celebrate the partnerships PENCIL has helped form with NYC schools.

Students from NYC schools helped make the evening a success. Culinary students from Harry S. Truman High School, Bronx, prepared Italian-inspired hors d'oeuvres for the cocktail hour. Andrew Grell, a charismatic seventh grader from PS 71, D-8, Bronx, interviewed celebrity guests as they arrived for the evening. He has benefited from his school's collaboration with CNN/US President Jonathan Klein who received the NYC Public School Alumni Award that night.

From Gramercy Arts High School, a show-stopping step team performed and novice designers sashayed on the stage wearing Norma Kamali-inspired fashions. Ms. Kamali, the clothing designer, is a partner with Gramercy Arts, and she and the school's Principal, Denise DiCarlo, received the PENCIL Partnership Award this year.

Guests were also shown a short film that chronicled a day in the life of students Jakai Wade (Global Technology Preparatory) and Larry Castellanos (Talented & Gifted School) during their "President for a Day" experience at CA Inc. CA Inc is one of the largest information technology management software companies in the world. Then, students presented PENCIL's 2010 Corporate Partner Award to the real-life CA Inc. President William E. McCracken.

"... The dedication, the compassion, the commitment that they and you all have is what we're here for tonight," he said as he accepted his award.



■ TOP LEFT: The Step Team from Gramercy Arts High School.  
■ TOP RIGHT: Seventh-grader Andrew Grell from PS 71, Bronx, interviews guests.  
■ ABOVE: Denise DiCarlo, Principal, Gramercy Arts HS, accepts the PENCIL Partnership award.  
■ FAR LEFT: PENCIL partner Norma Kamali, co-recipient of the PENCIL Partnership Award.  
■ LEFT: A culinary student from Harry S. Truman High School prepares appetizers.

# The Welfare Fund

Douglas V. Hathaway, Ph.D.

## Health Care Reform Legislation: The Questions Begin



Who will pay for mandated federal dependent coverage remains to be seen.

**QUESTION:** My son will graduate from college this month, and, unfortunately, does not yet have a job lined up. I heard that Gov. David Paterson signed a bill that provides dependent children coverage until age 29, but the new federal health care reform bill says he can have coverage only until age 26. What's the truth?

**ANSWER:** You are not the only one confused. Gov. Paterson signed legislation last summer mandating that a parent's health insurance plan cover dependents until age 29. This becomes effective for all city plans except HIP on July 1, 2010.

Under this regulation, insurance plans must offer coverage to dependents but the plan does not absorb the cost. The dependent (or parent) must pay the full cost of the benefits much in the way COBRA operates. (COBRA allows a plan to charge 2 percent extra for administration and billing costs and this does not.) Contact GHI to arrange for this coverage.

Since the Welfare Fund is self-insured, and this mandate only applies to insured plans, the Welfare Fund's Trustees must decide if we will participate in this program. Stay tuned.

Now, under the federal health care reform law, plans that renew after Sept. 23, 2010,

must provide coverage for dependents until they turn 26. Still to be determined is who bears the cost, and if it applies to self-insured plans such as the Welfare Fund. Interim rules were published just as I am writing this. As more information is made available, both the city and the Fund will decipher it and we'll inform the members as to what it all means for them and their children.

*We'll keep you posted as we decipher the new rules under the new law.*

**QUESTION:** I am an Assistant Principal in Staten Island. My husband's diabetic medication was not approved by Medco either at the pharmacy or by mail order. The medication is glyburide. When I spoke to the MEDCO pharmacist, I asked if he could prescribe a substitute medication. He said none was approved. We have been having trouble with my husband's prescription coverage for a while now. Can you please assist me with this matter?

**ANSWER:** Certainly. Diabetic medications (and testing supplies) are provided by your basic health plan (in your case, GHI-CBP) under yet another NYS mandate. In order to get diabetic medications and testing supplies, go to any pharmacy and show your GHI card. The benefits are provided through Express Scripts group GH3A, and you will only have to pay a small co-payment.

Since this is the last column until the fall, I remind all Medicare-eligible retirees that their 2009 Medicare Part B reimbursements will arrive in August. Once you receive the basic reimbursement, follow the instructions on the check stub if you qualify for receipt of an Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA) reimbursement. The instructions are also on the Welfare Fund's website, [www.csawf.org](http://www.csawf.org) or the city's Office of Labor Relations website, [www.nyc.gov/html/olr/downloads/pdf/healthb/irmaa.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/olr/downloads/pdf/healthb/irmaa.pdf).

The staff of the Fund and I wish you all a happy, healthy (and for our in-service members, relaxing) summer. We will be here all summer, ready and able to answer any questions you may have. Or drop by the 34th floor of 16 Court St., Brooklyn to say hello.

# Lowly Lunch Tables: Would You Believe This Public Art Project?



BY YURIDIA PEÑA

School lunchroom tables are, perhaps, among the most utilitarian furniture. But a public art project has allowed the lowly lunchroom table to soar to new inspirational heights.

Organized by the non-profit organization Leap (Learning through an Expanded Arts Program), middle school students converted lunchroom tables into powerful paintings, murals and mosaics that conveyed messages about today's social and environmental issues. The art exhibit is entitled *A View from the Lunchroom: Students Bringing Issues to the Table* and it was launched at Union Square Park in Manhattan this spring.

In collaboration with NYC Parks & Recreation, Leap's public art program chose 10 NYC schools to put together teams of young artists. Their goal was a project to be showcased at Union Square Park on April 29 and then installed in the city's public parks. Teams picked their subjects and tackled the tables.

Some tables were covered with peace signs while others had messages

■ Top: Hundreds of people viewed the lunch tables at Union Square Park on April 29.  
■ Right: A detail of one of the tables. Its message: You promised me the world but what happens if there is nothing left?  
■ Bottom: Eighth graders from IS 347, D-32, Brooklyn.

including "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" and "You promise me the world but what happens if there is nothing left?"

Other tables addressed violence, natural disasters and social norms. One school addressed body image. "The media only shows perfect bodies, perfect faces and nobody actually looks like that," said Fatoumata Camara, an eighth-grader.

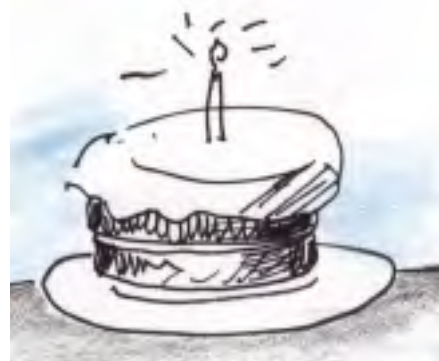
Students from IS 347 (D-32, Brooklyn) were proud of their table, which took several weeks to complete. It depicted people wearing gas masks and the flags of countries which were devastated by recent earthquakes. "(We are) making changes in the world," said IS 347 student Yalimar Ramirez.

## Where To See This Remarkable Show

- IS 51, D-31, Staten Island, Clove Lakes Park: playground entrance Clove Road between Cheshire Place and Bard Avenue.
- IS 61, D-31, Staten Island, Silver Lake Park: behind dog run entrance along Victory Boulevard and Eddy Street.
- IS 347, D-32, Brooklyn, Fermi Playground: Starr Street and Central Avenue.
- IS 291, D-32, Brooklyn at Irving Square Park: at center of park.
- PS 9, D-24, Queens at Juniper Valley Park: enter at Juniper Boulevard S. at 78th Street.
- PS 75, D-24, Queens at Forest Park: behind park headquarters at "Overlook"
- 80-30 Park Lane and Forest Park Drive.
- Accion Academy, D-12, Bronx, at Crotona Park: inside park along Crotona Avenue between Claremont Parkway and Crotona Park North.
- IS 219, D-9, Bronx at Claremont Park: near gazebo and park house. Entrance where Teller Avenue meets Morris Avenue.
- St. Hope Leadership Academy Charter School at St. Nicholas Park: Playground 133 located at St. Nicholas Avenue at West 133rd Street.
- Academy for Social Action, Manhattan: Sheltering Arms Park, Amsterdam Avenue between 129 and 130 streets.



## Retirements



■ **ELVIRA BARONE**, who has served as a Network Leader since 2007, is retiring. Prior to this last position, she served as the Local Instructional Superintendent/Community Superintendent for Region 9/District 7 for four years. Ms. Barone has held numerous positions during her years with the city's schools including the principalship of PS 62, D-8, Bronx. Ms. Barone received her bachelor's degree in education from Alabama State College and her master's degree from the College of New Rochelle. She began teaching in the Archdiocese of NY in 1971 and moved to the city's schools in 1977 where she conducted Chapter 53 screening in the Bronx. She moved through the ranks, becoming an Assistant Principal at PS 89, D-11, Bronx in 1989 and became Principal of PS 62 in 1994. She also served as a President of the NYC Elementary School Principals Association from 1997 to 2000. A party in her honor will be held on June 14 at 6 p.m. at the Davenport Club, 400 Davenport Ave., New Rochelle. For information, contact Giovanna Delucchi at (718) 292-4502 or e-mail her at gdelucc@schools.nyc.gov.

■ **CARRYL COLE**, the Assistant Principal of Instructional Support at August Martin High School, Queens, is retiring from the Department of Education after 37 years of service of which she spent 24 years at August Martin. The party begins at 6 p.m. on June 18 at the Villa Russo II Palazzo, 101-12 Lefferts Blvd., Queens. The cost is \$70 per person. Call Kathy Orsogna or Mary Ann Sottile at (718) 528-2920, x 1120 for more information.

■ **WENDY GOLDBERG**, Principal of PS 214, D-25, Queens, retired on Feb. 27 after 28 years of service. Ms. Goldberg began her career as an ESL and grade 5 classroom teacher in D-24 and then served as a grade 3 and 6 classroom teacher in D-30. She went on to teach in PS 31Q, D-26, Queens for 17 years where she chaired many committees. During this time, she wrote and received just under \$180,000 in ESL grants for her school. In May 2003, Ms. Goldberg became the Assistant Principal of PS 214, also in Queens and then served as its Principal for the last 6 1/2 years. In April, the Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers honored Ms. Goldberg as Queens Principal of the Year. Ms. Goldberg will also be honored at the school's End-of-Year Party on June 23, 6 pm, at Verdi's Whitestone, 149-58 15th Ave, Queens. The cost is \$60 per person, \$70 with gift. Make checks payable to PS 214 Social Fund and send to: Lisa Glickman, PS 214Q, 31-15 140th Street, Flushing, NY 11354. For more information, please contact Ms. Glickman at lglickm@schools.nyc.gov or call (718) 461-4055.

■ **MILDRED D. JONES**, Principal of Community School 44, Bronx District 12, will be retiring after more than three decades of service to the New York City public schools. Her career encompassed classroom teacher, Teacher Center specialist, Fordham University adjunct professor, as well as her administrative service in the Bronx and Manhattan. Affectionately known as "Mickie", Mrs. Jones plans to offer education support services following retirement. A gathering commemorating her years of service is planned for the fall. For information please contact the organizers at acjones@defendingourchildren.com.

## The Year's Legal Battles

*Continued from Page 1*

and the union took the city to court last fall. "We're expecting a decision by the end of the school year," he said.

■ CSA resolved a Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) charge that came about after the DOE reorganized its accountability division and attempted to relabel Education Administrator positions as management spots. "We got back 8 disputed positions," Mr. Bryant said. The case was resolved through discussions with the DOE; no PERB hearing was necessary.

■ CSA won a PERB decision involving the Brooklyn Excelsior Charter School, which tried to prevent the union from organizing the administrative staff. The issue involved whether PERB had jurisdiction over charter schools. CSA said that the administration staff comes under the Taylor Law, "meaning we can organize them," said Mr. Bryant. The school has hired private consultants to handle certain administrative tasks – personnel among them. They argued that the consulting firm, not the charter school, was the employer and therefore outside PERB's purview. The PERB hearing officer ruled in the CSA's favor; the school has appealed to the whole board.

■ CSA won a decision on behalf of a Brooklyn Principal who had been fined \$10,000 by the NYC Conflict of Interest Board. The case revolved around which agency has the right to punish a tenured school Principal. The COIB originally determined that the Principal's behavior

was a COI and referred the case to the DOE for disciplinary action. The DOE decided not to pursue the case and the COIB prosecuted the charges, fining him \$10,000. "We challenged this action and

### CSA reaffirmed its right to organize staff at charter schools.

got a court order that said a 3020-a is the exclusive disciplinary process established by state law and that the COIB did not have independent jurisdiction," said Mr. Bryant. The case is on appeal.

■ CSA also filed an *amicus* brief in the UFT's lawsuit against the city involving the closing of 19 schools. A judge ordered the schools reopened, and the city has appealed that decision. "Our brief focuses on two facts: The DOE has made superintendents powerless to provide resources to schools that are in danger of closing and the DOE has excluded superintendents from their role when a school is to be closed," Mr. Bryant said.

In grievances, CSA won a number of significant cases for groups of members as well as for individual members.

■ A number of excessed Assistant Principals who are temporarily assigned to schools did not receive their performance bonuses when the rest of the

administrative staff at these schools received theirs. So far, the union has prevailed in 30 performance bonus cases involving members this year. The one remaining involves 20 excessed Assistant Principals.

■ CSA recently won a case involving Assistant Principals who also serve as the high school athletic director. The case revolved around a certain portion of per session pay that the DOE decided unilaterally not to pay last year. The DOE must make good on two years of back pay and restore the complete per session payments going forward.

■ CSA favorably resolved several arbitrations involving summer pay for 12-month employees.

■ CSA still has a pending arbitration concerning the two snow days from the winter of 2010. The DOE closed schools but required that central employees come to work. CSA contends that uniform rules should govern the school system.

"We've processed a number of individual grievances including medical cases, per session cases, rating appeals and final entitlements and we've prevailed in many of them. We've seen a substantial increase in the number of grievances we're handling," he said, which reflects the fact that issues that were once handled in a more informal manner are now going through the legal process. "But for the grievance process, these members wouldn't have had any recourse in many of these cases," he said.

### COALITION FOR EDUCATIONAL JUSTICE

## Calls for a Special 'Zone' for Failing Schools

BY CSA STAFF

On April 28, about 150 people including parents, lawmakers, educators and union officials gathered at City Hall to ask the city to create a special zone to handle low-performing schools and prevent school closings. The Coalition for Educational Justice named this proposed district the School Transformation Zone.

The DOE has closed more than 90 schools since 2002. The School Transformation Zone echoes an earlier district implemented in 1996 called the Chancellor's District run by then-Chancellor Rudy Crew. The Chancellor's District was disbanded by Chancellor Joel Klein shortly after the reorganization of 2002-2003.



YURIDIA PEÑA

■ CSA Executive Director Operations Anita Gomez-Palacio was among the educators who demanded action on behalf of low-performing schools.

"Educator of the Year" is Dr. Laverne Nimmons, Principal of PS 335, D-16, Brooklyn. Sylvia J. Yearwood, a retired Education Administrator, will be honored as ABENY's 2010 Lifetime Achievement Awardee. Patricia Owens, a business teacher at Clara Barton High School, is "Teacher of the Year." For information, call Nora Barnes, Chair, at (917) 312-3823 or (212) 861-3942.

### Teachers' Retirement System

May 2010 Unit Values  
Diversified Equity: 55.347  
Stable-Value: 19.318  
International Equity: 9.100  
Inflation Protection: 10.219  
Socially Responsive Equity: 9.883  
WWW.TRS.NYC.NY.US

(opposite Citi Field). Price includes a full buffet dinner, an open bar, a DJ and dancing. For AAP members, \$45. Non-members, \$90. Limited space, so make your reservation now. Contact Bob Kingsley by e-mail at aapexccdir@earthlink.net.

### 'Educator of the Year' Honored by ABENY

ABENY's next general membership meeting will be held on May 16 at 3 p.m. at the Bedford Stuyvesant YMCA, 1121 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn. For information, contact President Mellouise Murdaugh at (917) 971-7162. ABENY will honor outstanding educators and scholarship winners at the annual Scholarship and Awards Luncheon on June 19, at noon at Antun's in Queens Village. This year's

## Notebook

### Welcome Back EAAs

The Education Administrators Association will hold a *Welcome Back Gala* for all Education Administrators on Sept. 29. Network with colleagues and welcome new members. Festivities begin at 5:30 pm at Carasello Restaurant, 162-54 Crossbay Blvd., Howard Beach. Questions? Contact Noreen De Luca, EAA President at NDeLuca@schools.nyc.gov.

### AAP Offers Cruise Around NY Harbor

Come join your AAP colleagues for a sail around New York's harbor to celebrate the end of the school year. The cruise on June 29 "sets sail" at 6:30 p.m. from the World's Fair Marina in Flushing

# Retirees!

## YOUR COMPLETE FALL PROGRAM OF CULTURAL & EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

**SPECIAL PULLOUT SECTION**

PLEASE KEEP THIS SECTION FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

### ONE-DAY COMPUTER CLASSES

In an attempt to offer more diverse computer instruction, this semester, the Educational/Cultural Program will offer one-day computer classes. We'll provide each participant with a laptop computer for use during these sessions. Please note that you should have a good working knowledge of computers to take either of these classes.

#### F10C3 Exploring the Use of the World Wide Web

**Instructor:** Leonard Fagen  
**Location:** 16 Court St., 4th fl., Brooklyn  
**Dates:** Monday, 12/6  
**Time:** 9:30 am to 12:30 pm  
**Fee:** Member \$12, non-member \$17  
**Limited:** 10 participants  
Learn about the history and structure of the World Wide Web. Learn what a browser is, why you need one to use the Internet and why you may choose one browser over another. Explore browser plug-ins, different types of search engines, instant messaging and VOIP (using your computer for phone services), and social networks. You'll practice by exploring various websites looking for information, consumer goods and other areas of interest.

#### F10C4 Exploring Computer Productivity Tools

**Instructor:** Leonard Fagen  
**Location:** 16 Court St., 7th fl., Brooklyn  
**Dates:** Monday, 12/13  
**Time:** 9:30 am to 12:30 pm  
**Fee:** Member \$12, non-member \$17  
**Limited:** 10 participants  
Computer programs have provided the average person with tools to make life more orderly and productive. Most members have only begun to scratch the surface of the abilities of word processors and spread sheet programs. Would you like to use your computer to make your life a bit more efficient and productive? Would you like to explore how to use a word processor to put your home documents into better order? Would you like to explore different systems to keep your financial world more orderly? We'll also

discuss how you can prepare informational documentation for your heirs. We will explore Microsoft Office applications (as well as some other company's applications such as Google Docs and Works) to create form letters, tables, newsletters, signs, spreadsheet lists and ledgers. In addition, we will also look at a calendar program and how to efficiently store digital pictures.

### FILM AND DINING CLUBS

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Film and Dining Clubs are set up in similar fashion. We do not charge for registration; participants pay for films and/or meals. Please provide us with an email address when registering; however, a telephone number will work as well. **If you registered during the last two semesters, you should not re-register. You are already in the system.** Once you register, we'll put you on the club's contact list. Members may bring one guest without restrictions. Our goal is to involve as many members as possible. Once we know the size of both clubs, we will create procedures that make sure we are providing everyone with equal access. We expect these clubs to meet at least three times during the semester.

#### F10C5 Film Club

**CSA Leader:** Mark Kaufman  
**Location:** will vary  
**Dates:** will vary  
**Time:** will vary  
**Fee:** Free registration for members. Participants will be responsible for buying their own film tickets.  
**Limited:** 12 participants  
This club now comprises the Manhattan and Brooklyn film clubs. It aims to provide a social setting in which we can explore both classic and recent films in a cordial and intellectual environment. After each film, the group will meet to discuss it. **Theaters are in Manhattan only.** On occasion, Mark may set up a free showing at CSA.

#### F10C6 Dining Club

**CSA Leader:** Stanley Wilson, Harriet Cohen, Barbetta Krinsky  
**Location/Dates:** Will vary based on member input.  
**Time:** Mainly lunch – usually around 2 pm  
**Fee:** Free registration for RC members. Participants must pay for lunch.  
**Limited:** 15 participants  
This club has been created to provide members with an opportunity to explore their food interests in a social setting. Please note: The minimum costs for each meal is expected to be between \$37 and \$55, excluding beverage. **If you registered last semester, you need not register again.**

Dear Colleagues:

As we prepare for another stimulating Educational/Cultural program developed by our Retiree Chapter Committee, I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and unwavering support for the Committee members and our three team leaders: Michael Ebenstein, Marty Smith and Emerson Spry. The sophisticated program coupled with superb management skills on the part of the coordinators and event leaders assures continued growth and success for this outstanding service provided to our members. Enjoy the offerings!

Fraternally,

Gary Goldstein, Director CSA Retiree Chapter

Dear CSA Retirees:

If you have been following the CSA Retiree Chapter's Educational/Cultural Program since its inception some five year ago, you may have noticed that each semester brings something new. This semester is no different. As a rule, we have not attempted any programs in January or February. However, we secured a commitment from the American Folk Art Museum for a group rate for its annual American Antique Show on Jan. 20, 2011, and we couldn't pass up the opportunity!

As always, if you have special interests or ideas please let the Educational Cultural Committee know. Call the Retiree Chapter Office at (718) 625-3434 and speak with me, Marty Smith or Emerson Spry. We always incorporate members ideas in the Committee's planning for the next semester's program.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Ebenstein, CSA Retiree Chapter Educational/Cultural Coordinator

ONLINE REGISTRATION AT  
[WWW.REGONLINE.COM/RETIREECHAPTERFALL2010](http://WWW.REGONLINE.COM/RETIREECHAPTERFALL2010)

### CLASSES AND CLUBS

#### F10C1 Golf T, P, S

**Instructor:** Bob Guido, Brian Gerowitz  
**Location:** North Shore Towers, Grand Central Parkway, Floral Park, Queens  
**Dates:** Wednesdays: 10/6, 10/13, 10/27 and 11/3  
**Time:** Section 1 meets from 10 am to 11:30 am and Section 2 meets from 11:30 am to 1 pm  
**Fee:** Member \$140, non-member \$145  
**Limited:** 8 participants per session  
Robert Guido and Brian Gerowitz are PGA professionals who work at the North Shore Towers Golf Club. For this class/clinic, we will continue the theme from last semester which was "Course Play." With the small size of the group, Bob and Brian will be able to personalize instruction for the participants even though everyone may not be at the same playing level. Please note that if we have sufficient numbers, we will run two sections. Section one will be filled first.

#### F10C2 Digital Camera

**Instructor:** Leonard Fagen  
**Location:** 16 Court St., 4th floor, Room E, Brooklyn  
**Day/Dates:** Mondays, 10/18, 10/25, 11/1, 11/8, 11/15  
**Time:** 10 am to noon  
**Fee:** Member \$47, non-member \$52  
**Limited:** 10 participants  
Learn how a digital camera works, how to take better photographs, and how to use a simple computer digital photo program. During the first two weeks, we'll discuss using digital cameras and photographic composition. During the last three weeks, participants will use computer laptops to learn a simple computer digital photo program. Over the course of the entire five weeks, we'll discuss the various types of computer programs, photographic papers and computer accessories that are available, as well as how to upload photos to online services. You should have a good working knowledge of computers to take this class.

### KEY TO SYMBOLS:

- T TRAVEL INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE MAILED
- P PARKING/TRANSPORTATION IS AVAILABLE
- S THIS EVENT IS SOMEWHAT STRENUOUS

Many of these classes are offered at the offices of CSA at 16 Court St. A number of subways have stops nearby: Take the 2, 3, 4, 5, R or M to Court St./Borough Hall. Take the A, C or F to Jay St./Borough Hall.

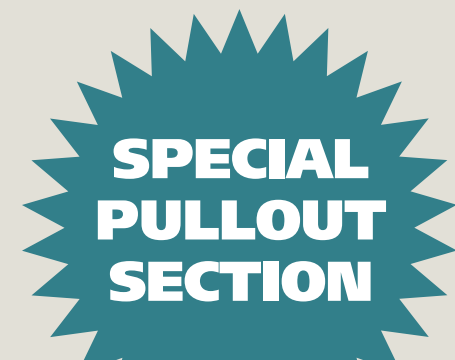


YURIDIA PEÑA

■ Len Fagen shows John Bernardino a thing or two about his digital camera during a class on the subject of digital photography this spring.

Continued on next page

# COMPLETE FALL PROGRAM OF CULTURAL & EDUCATIONAL EVENTS



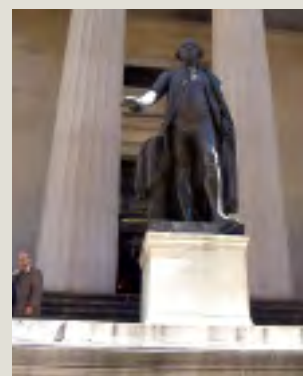
ANNE SILVERSTEIN

■ The Retiree Chapter's Educational Cultural Committee: Back row, from left: Michael Ebenstein, Stanley Wilson, Marty Smith, Emerson Spry and John Oricchio. Front row, from left, Harriet Cohen, Harriett Fortson, Gayle Lockett, Lucie Elio and Lois Honig. Ms. Lockett is also Executive Vice Chair of the Chapter. Not present: Barbetta Krinsky, Mark Kaufman, Eugenia Tarantino and Al Slutsky.



MARTIN SMITH

■ The clock in the lobby of the Waldorf Astoria was created for the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. Nine feet tall, the clock weighs two tons. The Retiree Chapter visited the hotel in March.



MARTIN SMITH

■ The Retiree Chapter headed to Wall Street and the NY Stock Exchange on March 18. Far left, the New York Stock Exchange entrance at Wall Street. Left, a statue of George Washington graces the steps of Federal Hall on Wall Street.

Continued from Previous Page

## THEATER CLUB

**F10C7 Theater Club**  
**CSA Leader:** Stanley Wilson, Harriet Cohen  
**Location:** 400 E. 56th St. Apt 8M, Manhattan  
**Dates:** First session: Wednesday, 9/29 Theater performances: 10/5; 10/12 or 13; 10/19 or 20  
**Time:** First session: 2 pm to 4 pm  
**Fee:** Member \$15, non-member \$20  
**Limited:** 11 participants  
 This club will function the way book clubs do. After each performance, we'll discuss the show. We'll explore character development, playwright style, set design, lighting, staging and music. The first session is at Stanley Wilson's home and future sessions begin at the theater. Afterwards, we head to a local coffee shop. Shows will be either Wednesday matinees or Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. Once you are registered, you will be responsible for paying for the set of three tickets. To participate in this club, you must register each term. **Bring a blank check to the first meeting.**

## LECTURES/SEMINARS

**FP10L1 Metropolitan Museum of Art Lecture and Docent Tour - From the Taj Mahal to Mount Fuji - Treasures of Asia** T, P  
**CSA Leader:** Emerson Spry  
**Location:** 1000 5th Ave. at 82nd St., Manhattan  
**Date:** Tuesday, Sept. 21  
**Time:** Lecture from 10:30 am to 11:30 am; Tour from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm  
**Fee:** Member \$10, non-member \$15  
**Limited:** 25 participants

The Educational/Cultural Program has recently been setting up its museum/art lecture events by featuring both a lecture and docent tour on the same day. These offerings have become very popular. We therefore encourage you to come with us as we return to the Metropolitan Museum of Art to learn about the artistic traditions of China, Korea, India and Japan.

**F10L2 Museum of Modern Art Docent Tour and Lecture - Matisse: Radical Invention 1913-1917** T, P  
**CSA Leader:** Emerson Spry  
**Location:** 11 West 53rd St., Manhattan  
**Date:** Wednesday, Oct. 6  
**Time:** Tour - 10 am to 11 am; Lecture - 11 am to noon  
**Fee:** Member \$15, non-member \$20  
**Limited:** 25 participants  
 Through Emerson Spry's contacts at the Metropolitan Museum and the Museum of Modern Art, the Retiree Chapter has organized comprehensive art discussions. On Oct. 6, we'll examine the career of Henri Matisse during a pivotal time in his life. Between Matisse's return from Morocco in 1913 and his departure from Nice in 1917, the artist produced some of the most experimental and enigmatic works. This exhibit reveals the critical role this period played in the artist's development.

**F10L3 NYC Office of Labor Relations Employee Benefit Program - Required Minimum Distributions** T, P  
**CSA Leader:** Emerson Spry  
**Location:** 40 Rector St., 3rd Floor, Manhattan  
**Dates:** Wednesday, Oct. 20  
**Time:** 10 am to 11:30 am  
**Fee:** Free to members, and members may bring spouses to this event.  
**Limited:** 25 participants

## KEY TO SYMBOLS:

- T TRAVEL INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE MAILED
- P PARKING/TRANSPORTATION IS AVAILABLE
- S THIS EVENT IS SOMEWHAT STRENUOUS

Managing your money in retirement is important and complicated. Some decisions you made prior to retiring may need revision. This seminar will review your retirement sources of income including your pension, Social Security, deferred compensation, interest from investments, etc. We'll review pension decisions you may need to make such as when to apply for Social Security and how to take distributions from your deferred compensation account. We'll also discuss the benefits of the NYCE IRA and how it can be used for distribution planning. The seminar will also address the issue of how you can avoid outliving your money.

**F10L4 UN Lecture/Briefing** T, P  
**Presenter:** UN Lecturer (TBA)  
**CSA Leader:** Emerson Spry  
**Location:** 1st Ave. and 46th St., Manhattan (UN Visitor's Entrance)  
**Date:** Friday, Nov. 5  
**Time:** 10 am to 11 am  
**Fee:** Member \$10, non-member \$15  
**Limited:** 25 participants  
 Do you enjoy keeping up with world events and political machinations across the globe? Are you interested in how the world tries to solve problems? Then join us as we return to the United Nations for another special briefing on one of the major endeavors of the United Nations Peace Keeping Department. Our previous two private briefings were on the Congo and Haiti. **To clear security, please make sure**

you arrive for check-in at 9:45 am and bring an appropriate government photo ID (i.e. driver's license.)

**F10L5 New York City Office of Labor Relations Employee Benefit Program - Estate Planning** T, P  
**CSA Leader:** Emerson Spry  
**Location:** 40 Rector Street, 3rd floor, Manhattan  
**Dates:** Tuesday, 11/16  
**Time:** 10 am to 11:30 am  
**Fee:** Free to members; members may bring spouses to this event.  
**Limited:** 25 participants  
 This seminar will introduce basic estate planning. We'll cover the definition of estate planning, how assets are transferred and the forms of property ownership. We'll review how the NYC Deferred Compensation Plan and NYCE IRA can be used in estate planning. The seminar will discuss the planning for an event in which you or a family member is incapacitated, and critical conversations to have with your family. It will help you create an action plan, highlight some issues which can be addressed immediately, and some which may require seeking legal advice.

## TRIPS/WALKING TOURS

**F10T1 Mount Vernon Hotel Museum and Garden** T, P  
**CSA Leader:** Stanley Wilson  
**Location:** 421 East 61st St. (between 1st Avenue and York Avenue.)  
**Date:** Tuesday, 9/14  
**Time:** 1:30 pm to 3 pm  
**Fee:** Member \$24, non-member \$29  
**Limited:** 25 participants  
 Join the Retiree Chapter as we view living conditions of the 18th and 19th centuries through a docent-led tour of the fully furnished rooms of the Mount



■ The Mount Vernon Hotel Museum and Garden sits nearly in the shadow of the 59th Street Bridge. Constructed in 1799 as a carriage house and converted into a hotel in 1826, it provided a country escape for New Yorkers living in the crowded city at the southern tip of Manhattan. The Retiree Chapter will visit on Sept. 14.

Vernon Hotel and Museum. This is where many New Yorkers went to escape the crowded southern part of the city. The Mount Vernon Hotel and Museum is truly one of the hidden treasures of the city. You'll be amazed at its location on the Upper East Side of Manhattan in the shadow of the 59th Street Bridge. As a special treat, we complete our tour with scones and tea. For those who wish, join us prior to the tour for a Dutch treat lunch at Bistro 61. The fee includes scones and tea, not lunch.

you have never visited Forbes, this is a venue featuring intimate galleries that offer different art exhibitions every few months in addition to Malcolm Forbes' various toy collections. The Forbes Galleries are free.

**F10T3 Municipal Arts Society of New York - Walking Tour of Brooklyn Heights** T, P  
**CSA Leader:** Emerson Spry  
**Tour Guide:** Matt Postal  
**Location:** Meet outside wine shop at corner of Clark and Henry Streets, Brooklyn  
**Date:** Monday, 9/20  
**Time:** 10 am to noon  
**Fee:** Member \$20, non-member \$25  
**Limited:** 25 participants  
 Discover America's first suburb, Brooklyn Heights and its outstanding 19th century buildings. Just one subway stop past Wall Street, Brooklyn Heights is the city's first landmark district with rows of restored brownstones facing tree-lined streets. A stroll along the promenade affords excellent views of Manhattan and the harbor as well as glimpses of gardens and rear elevations of once affordable brownstones. After the tour, we will have a Dutch treat lunch at a nearby restaurant. The fee does not include lunch.

**F10T4 Municipal Arts Society of NY Walking Tour of Park Slope** T, P  
**CSA Leader:** Barbetta Krinsky  
**Tour Guide:** Francis Morrone  
**Location:** Meet outside the Montauk Club, Eighth Avenue and Lincoln Place  
**Date:** Monday, 9/27  
**Time:** 10 am to noon  
**Fee:** Member \$20, non-member \$25  
**Limited:** 25 participants  
 This tour includes the triumphal arch at Grand Army Plaza. Many consider this arch second only to the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. We will cover landmark streets such as Montgomery Place and Carroll Street, and the mansions on Prospect Park West, which sport the works of such architects as Francis Kimball, Henry Ogden Avery, C. P. H. Gilbert, Stanford White and Montrose Morris. A Dutch treat lunch at a nearby restaurant will be held afterwards. The fee does not include lunch.

**F10T5 Chocolate Tasting Walking Tour with Francine Sagan** T, P, S  
**CSA Leader:** Harriet Cohen  
**Location:** 350 Hudson St., Manhattan, Jacques Torres Chocolate Haven  
**Date:** Tuesday, 10/5  
**Time:** 11:30 am to 1 pm  
**Fee:** Member \$29, non-member \$34  
**Limited:** 25 participants  
 Francine Segan is a renowned expert on all things food. She not only does various food tours across the city but also teaches at the 92nd "Y" and the New School. Here, Ms. Segan leads us on our first chocolate tour. The tour will involve not only tastings at the four locations, but also some demonstrations. We begin this tour at Chocolate Haven. The second stop will be Kee's at 80 Thompson St., the third stop is Vosges. (*The Wall Street Journal* says Vosges is for foodies interested in trendy ingredients.) We will sample its weird but delicious bacon chocolate. Our final stop will be MarieBelle where we will sample its delicious hot chocolate.

**F10T6 NY's Parisian Upper West Side and Roerich Museum** T, P, S  
**CSA Leader:** Marty Smith  
**Location:** 105th St. and Broadway in Straus Park, Manhattan  
**Date:** Thurs., 10/7  
**Time:** 1 pm to 4 pm  
**Fee:** Member \$22, non-member \$27  
**Limited:** 25 participants  
 Join noted tour leader Justin Ferate and discover some of the Parisian treasures of the Upper West Side. The Riverside-West 105th Street Historic District is an exquisite Beaux Arts neighborhood with what must surely be some of the most imposing developer-built houses in all New York City. Elegant limestone mansions boasts mansard roofs, carved pediments, fluted Ionic columns, and scallop-shell arches. Then we're off to visit the Nicholas Roerich Museum. Nicholas Roerich was a well known Russian painter whose paintings explore the mythic origins, natural beauty and spiritual strivings of humanity. After the museum, the tour continues briefly before it ends at the Hungarian Pastry Shop near the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine. If you are interested, there will be a Dutch treat lunch at TOAST prior to the trip. The fee does not include lunch.

**F10T7 Merchant's House Museum/ Ukrainian Art Museum with Lunch at Five Points Restaurant** T, P, S  
**CSA Leader:** Lucie Elio  
**Location:** Merchant's House - 29 E. 4th St.; Ukrainian Art Museum - 222 East 6th St. (bet. 2nd and 3rd Avenues; Five Points, 31 Great Jones St.  
**Date:** Thursday, 10/14  
**Time:** Merchants House: 10:30 am to noon; Lunch: 12 to 1:30 pm; Ukrainian Art Museum: 2 pm to 3:30 pm  
**Fee:** Member \$55, non-member \$60  
**Limited:** 20 participants  
 We return for a second time this semester to Greenwich Village for another all day event. The trip starts at the Merchant's House Museum. The home built in 1832, is an elegant red brick and marble row house on East 4th Street that was home to a prosperous merchant family for almost 100 years. With its original furniture, decorative objects, clothing and personal memorabilia, it

## 57TH ST. ART GALLERY TOURS



Our Art Gallery Tours continue to receive rave reviews. Join tour guide Tina Weintraub as she returns to the upscale New York art gallery scene of 57th Street. For your convenience, we have two tour dates for this popular event. Please choose only one day. After each tour, the group will continue the discussion of the galleries over lunch, which is included in the fee. (Look a bit further along in the brochure for F10T14 and our new Art Gallery Tour on the Upper East Side.) T, P, S

**F10T8 Art Gallery Tour 1 - 57th Street Art Galleries**  
**CSA Leader:** Stanley Wilson  
**Location:** TBA  
**Date:** Tuesday, 10/19  
**Time:** 11 am to about 3 pm  
**Fee:** Member \$48, non-member \$53  
**Limited:** 13 participants

**F10T9 Art Gallery Tour 2 - 57th Street Art Galleries**  
**CSA Leader:** Mark Kaufman  
**Location:** TBA  
**Date:** Thurs., 10/21  
**Time:** 11 am to about 3 pm  
**Fee:** Member \$48, non-member \$53  
**Limited:** 13 participants

offers a glimpse of 19th century domestic life. After our tour of the Merchant House, we will walk a couple of blocks to the Five Points restaurant for lunch. After lunch, we will have a docent-led tour of the Ukrainian Art Museum that is just a few blocks away. The Ukrainian Art Museum was founded in 1976 by the Ukrainian National Women's League of America. Its mission is to preserve, interpret, and present the rich cultural heritage of the Ukrainian people. Its collections include folk art, fine arts and photographic documentary items. The fee includes lunch.

**F10T10 Behind the Scenes at Lincoln Center** T, P, S  
**CSA Leader:** Lucie Elio  
**Location:** David Rubenstein Atrium, Broadway, between 62nd and 63rd Streets  
**Date:** Wednesday, 10/27  
**Time:** 10:30 am to noon  
**Fee:** Member \$16, non-member \$21  
**Limited:** 25 participants  
 We begin our exploration of Lincoln Center at the David Rubenstein Atrium. We'll get a look at what happens on and off the stage at the Metropolitan Opera House, Avery Fisher Hall, David H. Koch Theater (previously the New York State Theater), the Vivian Beaumont Theater, and the dramatically transformed Alice Tully Hall. If the stars align, we may catch a rehearsal! We'll have a Dutch treat lunch afterwards for those interested. The fee does not include lunch.

REGISTER ONLINE AT [WWW.REGONLINE.COM/RETIREECHAPTERFALL2010](http://WWW.REGONLINE.COM/RETIREECHAPTERFALL2010) OR USE THE REGISTRATION FORMS STAPLED INTO THE CENTERFOLD.

Continued on next page

PULLOUT SECTION

PULLOUT SECTION

# YOUR COMPLETE FALL PROGRAM OF CULTURAL & EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Continued from Previous Page

**F10T11 Federal Reserve Bank** T, P  
**CSA Leader:** Emerson Spry  
**Location:** 33 Liberty St., Manhattan  
**Date:** Wednesday, 11/3  
**Time:** Tour - 10:30 am to 11:30 am; Lecture - 11:30 am to 12:30 pm  
**Fee:** Member \$5, non-member \$10  
**Limited:** 20 participants  
 We return to the Federal Reserve Bank in New York for this popular trip. A docent will lead us to the Reserve's gold vaults! After the tour, we will reconvene for a lecture about the Federal Reserve System. A short Q&A period will follow.

**F10T12 Behind the Scenes at Channel 13** T, P  
**CSA Leader:** Marty Smith  
**Location:** 450 33rd St., between 9th and 10th Avenues, Manhattan  
**Date:** Tuesday, 11/9  
**Time:** 11 am to noon  
**Fee:** Member \$5, non-member \$10  
**Limited:** 20 participants  
 PBS influences policy makers across the country and our own Thirteen plays an important role in the cultural and educational life of NYC. Join the Retiree Chapter for a docent-led tour of this special institution. Afterwards, we'll head to a nearby restaurant for a Dutch treat lunch. The fee does not include lunch.

**F10T13 French Culinary Institute, L'Ecole Restaurant** T, P  
**CSA Leader:** Mark Kaufman  
**Location:** 462 Broadway, Manhattan - near Grand Street  
**Date:** Wednesday, 11/10 or 11/17  
**Time:** 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm  
**Fee:** Member \$55, non-member \$60  
**Limited:** 25 participants  
 We return to the French Culinary Institute. Enjoy a sumptuous lunch at L'Ecole restaurant followed by a tour of the restaurant's kitchen and the Institute itself. The fee covers the tour, lunch and coffee or tea, but not alcoholic beverages.

**F10T14 Art Gallery Tour of the Upper East Side** T, P, S  
**CSA Leader:** Michael Ebenstein  
**Location:** TBA  
**Date:** Thursday, 11/18  
**Time:** 11 am to about 3 pm  
**Fee:** Member \$60, non-member \$65  
**Limited:** 13 participants  
 Our Art Gallery Tours of Chelsea and 57th Street have been a huge success for years now. This semester, we're adding a tour of the Upper East Side Art Galleries. After touring the galleries, we will lunch at Centolire. As with the other art gallery offerings, lunch is included in the price, but not alcoholic beverages.

**F10T15 Onassis Cultural Center and Lunch at the "21" Club**  
**CSA Leader:** Barbetta Krinsky  
**Location:** Onassis Cultural Center, 645 5th Ave., Manhattan  
**Date:** Tuesday, 11/30  
**Time:** Onassis Center, noon to 1:30 pm; lunch, 2 pm to 3:30 pm  
**Fee:** Member \$55, non-member \$60  
**Limited:** 15 participants  
 Previous trips to the Onassis Cultural Center have been met with rave reviews. The Center, one of the special small museums in NYC, enhances its docent-led tours with exceptionally expert and experienced staff. The exhibition will be *Heroes: Mortal and Myths in Ancient Greece*. After our visit, we lunch at the "21" Club. The fee includes lunch.

**F10T16 Tour and Lunch at the Russian Tea Room**  
**CSA Leader:** Lois Honig  
**Location:** 150 W. 57th St., Manhattan  
**Date:** Wednesday, 12/1  
**Time:** Tour 11 am to 11:30 am; lunch 11:30 am to 1:30 pm  
**Fee:** Member \$75, non-member \$80  
**Limited:** 12 participants  
 One of the more iconic venues in NYC is the Russian Tea Room. We've made special arrangements with the Russian Tea Room for a price-fixed lunch that will include a short tour of some of the restaurant's exclusive private dining

rooms. For this trip, we will waive the guest registration restriction; guests may register at the same time as members.

**F10T17 American Folk Art Museum's American Antique Show**  
**CSA Leader:** Michael Ebenstein  
**Location:** The Metropolitan Pavilion at 125 W. 18th Street (Between 6th and 7th Avenues), Manhattan  
**Date:** Thursday, 1/20/2011  
**Time:** All day  
**Fee:** Member \$15, non-member \$20  
**Limited:** 40 participants

This is the first time we will attempt an event in January. The American Folk Art Museum is devoted to aesthetic appreciation of traditional folk art and creative expressions of contemporary self-taught artists of the US and abroad. Each year, the museum organizes an annual antiques show - The American Antique Show. We've purchased a limited number of tickets.

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

1. You will purchase tickets in advance.
2. We will send you the tickets as soon as we receive them. We expect to receive the tickets at the end of November or in early December.
3. We cannot accept cancellations; we cannot offer refunds.
4. You may purchase up to four tickets.

## A 'Rising School to Watch' Harlem's Hugo Newman College Prep Makes the Grade!

BY YURIDIA PEÑA



■ McFarlane

around this once-failing Harlem school.

This year, the Hugo Newman College Preparatory School, (PS/IS 180), D-3, Manhattan was named one of three "Rising Schools to Watch" by the NYS *Essential Elements: Schools to Watch* program. Principal Peter McFarlane has turned

Dr. McFarlane is hardly an unknown educator in the city; among the honors he has received was being named a Cahn Fellow in 2004. He also serves as a mentor in the Executive Leadership Institute's Advanced Leadership Program for Assistant Principals.

New York is a member of the National Schools-to-Watch Program, which was formed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform. The program is non-competitive and is designed to highlight high performing middle schools. The state's program identifies and

publicizes effective middle-level schools and their school leaders, who are committed to continuous improvement.

Awards are offered to schools that have successfully completed the *Essential Elements Schools to Watch* process. A handful of schools are then named designees or rising designees.

Other "Rising Schools to Watch" recently named in the area are the Carrie Palmer Weber MS in Port Washington, NY and Van Wyck JHS in Wappingers Falls, NY.

For more information about the program please visit [www.schoolstowatch.org](http://www.schoolstowatch.org).



■ City Councilman Domenic M. Recchia chats with Mary T. Alarcon, Assistant Principal, PS 124, D-27, Queens, before a workshop at ELI's Brooklyn Educational Leadership Center. Mr. Recchia visited the Executive Leadership Institute (ELI) on April 6. The City Council provides funding for professional development for CSA members.

## Got a GREAT IDEA?

We're calling for proposals for workshops for the 2010 Educational Leadership Conference!

Summer hasn't begun yet, but it's already time to think about the CSA Educational Leadership Conference on Nov. 13 at the Hilton NY. Did you implement a special program or a new way of collecting and analyzing data? Have you developed a new approach to dif-



■ SSP Intervenor Nancy Westerband Brown presented last year.

ferentiated instruction? Download a "call for proposals" form from the CSA website under the 45th Leadership Conference tab - [www.csa-nyc.org](http://www.csa-nyc.org). Questions? Contact Conference Chairman Pierre Lehmueller by email at [pierre@csa-nyc.org](mailto:pierre@csa-nyc.org) or by telephone at (718) 852-3000, x 1041.

## Feedback (Members Respond To ELI Workshops)



It's really good information for school leaders to take back to our schools and apply right away to motivate the staff, and to actually move our students forward.

—KANCY DAVIE, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL PS 22 BROOKLYN, D-17

This was excellent! We learned strategic planning as opposed to impulsive action. Everything has to be thought through, even communications. You have to know yourself and know the high point in your rhythm and close the door and do your strategy planning then.

—VIVIAN R. HILL, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL MS 192, D-29, QUEENS,



They are well informed and also have viewpoints from other people in the field who are dealing with the same issues and learning about ways to address them.

—GARDY ALABRE, RESIDENT PRINCIPAL (NEW LEADERS FOR NEW SCHOOLS) VICTORY COLLEGIATE HS, BROOKLYN

## NATION Labor

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Manufacturing Up

Things are looking up in the manufacturing sector for the ninth month in a row. According to the manufacturing index, which is released monthly, April showed the most growth since June, 2004, with 17 of the manufacturing industries reporting growth. In addition, factory employment continued to show growth for the fifth month in a row. (Workers Independent News)

### NEW JERSEY: Student Walk-outs

In response to Governor Chris Christie's proposed \$820 million in cuts to the public schools next year, thousands of students walked out of classes on a designated day in protest. Reportedly 17,000 students signed up for the event on Facebook. Since then, most school budgets have been rejected by voters. The walk-outs increased tensions between the teachers' union, which is in contract negotiations, and the Governor's office. The union denied any involvement in the walkouts and did not endorse the action. (WPIX.com)

### CALIFORNIA: Avoiding Layoffs

Teachers across the U.S. are rallying to save school funding and, in support of a national effort organized by the American Federation of Teachers, many are wearing pink hearts in support of the "Pink Hearts, Not Pink Slips" campaign. California is anticipated to be hit heavily by budget cuts and it's calculated that there may be a loss of as many as 36,000 teacher jobs. (USAToday)

### MINNESOTA: Nursing Strike

Minneapolis-St. Paul is poised for what may be the largest nursing strike in US history. If a contract cannot be reached, 12,000 nurses may walk off the job to protest cuts to pension benefits and proposed changes to work rules. Hospitals have started looking for replacement workers in preparation of the strike; they would be paid at a higher rate than the nurses. (Workers Independent News)

### RHODE ISLAND: Teachers Union

In an ongoing battle, the Rhode Island teachers union is suing the school district for the firing of all of its high school teachers. Teachers were alerted last week that they would need to reapply and present a five-minute lesson to get their jobs back. The union is challenging this arrangement. According to the Federal model chosen, no more than half of the staff may be rehired. (Washington Post)

— COMPILED BY CHRISTINE ALTMAN

## What You Need To Know To Register

### GENERAL PROCEDURES

1. Only CSA Retiree Chapter members and spousal members will be registered during the period of time up to Monday, July 12, 2010. Guest registrations received prior to July 12, 2010, will be placed on a waiting list until July 12, 2010. After July 12, 2010, all registrations will be on a first come, first served basis.
2. Please note: Members can choose to either register by mail or online. **Guests may only register by mail.** The online system will not allow guest registrations.
3. If you are put on a wait list, and a cancellation occurs in a particular event, the Retiree Office will contact you and ask your permission to place you on the registered list. No such change in your registration status will be made without contacting you and getting your approval.
4. Individual members will be placed in programs in the order in which their registrations are received.
5. Members may register for any or all of the program events. **All events are to be placed on one form.** However, it is important that **each registrant must complete a separate registration form.** If you intend to register by mail, make additional copies of the registration form as needed. Copies of the various registration forms can be found on the CSA website [www.csa-nyc.org](http://www.csa-nyc.org) under the Retiree Chapter heading in the "Upcoming Events" section.
6. In the case of too few registrants for an offering, the CSA Retiree Chapter reserves the right to cancel the program with full refunds.

### MAIL-IN PROCEDURES

1. Your original registration form will be returned with a notation of either "Registered or "Waiting List". The turn-around time for registration should be no more than three weeks. If you do not receive notification within this time period you should call the Retiree Office at (718) 625-3434 and speak to Michael, Marty or Emerson.
2. For Educational/Cultural events you must submit a separate check for each event you wish to attend. For example, if you wish to register for five events you must complete one form but submit five separate checks. This will be the same process if you are completing a registration for your spouse or for a guest. Once we are sure that an event will run, checks will be deposited for those who are registered. For those on the wait list, their checks will be held. For wait list people, if you do not attend an event your check will be marked VOID and returned after the event runs.
3. All checks are to be made payable to CSA Retiree Chapter and mailed to: CSA Retiree Chapter, Attn: Educational/Cultural Committee, Suite 711 16 Court St., Brooklyn, NY 11241-1003.
4. Cancellation policy for all events is shown below.

### ONLINE REGISTRATION

1. Online Registration can be done by logging onto the Retiree section on the CSA website ([www.csa-nyc.org](http://www.csa-nyc.org)) and following the prompts on the website.

2. Once you finish the process of registering, notification of whether you are registered or placed on a wait list will be done automatically through the program's online system.
3. Please note that all rules and procedures listed above for general and mail-in registration will prevail for online registration.
4. Once you have completed this process, your credit card will be charged for those events for which you are registered. The system will not charge your card for events where you are wait-listed.
5. When you finish the registration process, you must make sure to print "Your Registration Record." It will be your only copy of your registration.
6. Cancellation policy for all events: See below.

### CANCELLATION POLICY

1. For either mail-in or online registrations of all Educational/Cultural events, refunds will be given for program cancellations made up to a month prior to the date of the event. For cancellations less than a month prior to the event, refunds will only be issued if we can fill your slot from the waiting list. There will be no exceptions. **All cancellations must be in writing or by email.** Call the Chapter office at (718) 625-3434 if you have questions.
2. **All refunds will be processed only after the event has been concluded.**
3. In the case of mail-in registrations, checks will be voided and returned to the registrant.
4. In the case of online registrants, refunds will be activated through your credit card.

16 Court Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11241  
(718) 852-3000  
www.nysfsa.org



President: Peter McNally, NYC  
Vice President: Crystal Boling-Barton, Buffalo  
Secretary: Eric Mayus, Yonkers  
Treasurer: Audrey Fuentes, NYC

## Principal-Teacher Evaluation Bill Gives Reason for Concern



Peter McNally

BY PETER McNALLY  
President of NYSFSA

**MAY 25, 2010:** Six days left before NYS's application for Race to the Top is due. As I write this, CSA and NYSFSA await the outcome in Albany of several bills that will affect school leaders across the state if they become law.

On May 21, we received notification that the Assembly had drafted a new version of the teacher and Principal evaluation bill (A11171), and on May 25, the Assembly passed it. An earlier version of this bill contained items that NYSFSA and CSA had expressed concern about to state lawmakers and state officials, and the latest version did little to address our worries.

The main focus of the bill deals with the evaluation process for teachers and Principals. The bill authorizes the linking of student test data to evaluations; between 20 to 40 percent of an evaluation will depend upon this test data. The new system will be phased in during the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years.

One of our major concerns with the bill in its earlier incarnations was that we believed calling for the use of student data was an unfunded mandate. Although NYC has an \$80 million data system in place, other school districts have none. But earlier on May 21, the NYS Education Department (SED) received \$19.7 million to develop a statewide data collection system thus removing that objection.

However, later on May 21, another wrinkle was added. The change would allow state-designated, low-performing schools to be transferred to the jurisdiction of an Educational Partnership Organizations (EPO). The bill permits the SED commissioner to authorize a district superintendent, or in NYC's case, the schools chancellor, to transfer a low-performing school from his jurisdiction to that of an EPO. We do not

think the state should allow private, for-profit Educational Partnership Organizations to have oversight of or funding for a low-performing school. These funds should be directly invested in the state's public schools and students and should not fuel profits for management and the company's shareholders.

NYSFSA and CSA have spent hours on the telephone with SED and elected officials expressing our concerns with this bill as well as the proposed charter school legislation that would lift the cap on charter schools statewide from 200 to 460. As you know, CSA represents charter schools and understands the issues concerning raising the cap, including the impact on the state's Race to the Top application.

CSA has presented testimony and has advocated for more transparency and resolution concerning site placements for charter schools as well as for more accountability and transparency in the financial regulation of charters. As recent articles in *The New York Times* and other publications have made clear,

*We're keeping our eye on a bill that will affect how we are evaluated in the future.*

certain accounting irregularities have occurred in a few charters that simply couldn't happen in a traditional public school. A state court last year ruled that the state comptroller has no right to audit them, so who's minding the schools? As far as placement of charter schools is concerned, CSA and NYSFSA are advocating for the governance law to be upheld and decisions concerning placement to be decided at the district level.

### In other business:

1) The Regents Elementary Middle School Committee discussed the possibility of merging the processes for how schools are determined to be Schools Under Registration Review (SURR) or Persistently Lowest-Achieving (PLA) Schools. The Regents will vote on this in June after a review/input period. NYSFSA will submit a response since we find there are very strong implications for school leaders in these processes.

Actually, the proposed course of action for schools named as SURR or PLA Schools are very similar to the "Turnaround Schools" model mandated by those who accept RTTT Funds as well as federal School Improvement Grants.

## Major Political Shifts On The Horizon

BY ALITHIA RODRIGUEZ-ROLON

Scandals and power shifts have dominated the NYS political scene recently. So far this year, Gov. David Paterson has decided against running for office after a staff member's domestic violence scandal called his judgment into question.



Cuomo is a favorite for governor.

More recently, the NYS Senate voted to expel Hiram Monserrate after his conviction on misdemeanor assault charges.

As for the entire legislature, it has been resoundingly blasted for inaction on the budget and other issues. All seats in the NYS Senate and Assembly will turn over in November and the governor and attorney general offices are up for grabs as well. Attorney General Andrew Cuomo is the favorite in the race for governor, having clinched his nomination as the Democrats' candidate months before May's convention. (Editor's note: *The Republican Convention took place after this publication went to press.*)

The Senate and Assembly elections are crucial this year because

of legislative redistricting. The U.S. Constitution requires that congressional and state legislative district boundaries be redrawn every 10 years, reflecting population shifts revealed in the federal census.

In New York, this work is done by the NYS Legislative Taskforce on Demographic Research and Reapportionment. Members of this Taskforce are appointed by the Majority leaders of both houses of the legislature, so whoever retains majority control of the Assembly and Senate in the upcoming elections will appoint members to serve on this workgroup that is charged with reshaping legislative districts.

NYS Senate Democrats, who have a slim majority of 32-30, must not only try to secure additional seats but retain control of existing Democratic seats if they are to remain in the majority. The Assembly, however, is a different story with the Democrats holding on to a comfortable lead over the Republicans by 107-43 despite losing two seats to Republicans in special elections.

As we go to press, a number of individuals have come forward to announce their runs against incumbents. In many races, it is too early to predict who will be on the ballot or win in the fall. Primaries will be held on Sept. 14 and the general election will be held Nov. 2

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## Emphasis is on Reform

BY ALITHIA RODRIGUEZ-ROLON

The NYS legislative session is scheduled to end June 21 but with the budget still unresolved, legislators may have to put off returning home for a few more weeks.

Much of the focus this year has been on reform; reform of the budget process, campaign finance, and charter schools. With New York's first round application for Race to the Top (RTTT) came much debate over how to reform the oversight of charter schools to make them more accountable and transparent while increasing their numbers in order to compete for federal funds. While several bills have been introduced with different approaches to this goal, the main bill advanced by both houses, A9558 (Silver)/S6468 (Sampson), gained much attention during the legislative session. This bill would lift the charter school cap, make the NYS Board of Regents the only charter school authorizer and

ensure that practices of all charter schools are transparent.

The legislature also took action to provide an early retirement incentive to NYS United Teachers collective bargaining members. This legislation was signed into law by Gov. David Paterson (Chapter 45 of the Laws of 2010). In May, the Governor also submitted a bill extending this incentive to other employees, including school leaders.

Also of interest, legislation has been introduced in both houses to require the NYSED, in consultation with other relevant state agencies, to make recommendations on the creation of a seamless and comprehensive set of educational systems and supports for children from birth to age five.

This bill was written originally by CSA. The union's goal: to consolidate the child care oversight process under one government agency with an emphasis on education in all early childhood settings.



## New York State Says 'Yes' to Race to the Top Round Two



Students from P.S. 269, D-22, Brooklyn, ran in a fundraising race for Haiti.

NY ROADRUNNERS

BY CHIARA COLETTI

NYS is taking its second run at President Obama's Race to the Top grants this month after making it to the semi-finals but losing out at the finish line in April. In fact, out of the 41 states that entered round one of the federal competition last January, there were only 16 semifinalists and two winners: Delaware and Tennessee. Shock could be felt from coast-to-coast. Critics denounced the scoring system or damned the initiative as an attempt to dismantle unions; supporters praised the federal government for setting the bar high and sticking to it.

Race to the Top (RTTT) is a \$4.5 billion fund – which is set aside from the rest of the President's \$100 billion economic-stimulus package for education – to be used exclusively for K-12 innovation. Under the control of the U.S. Secretary of Education, the \$4.5 billion RTTT fund has nothing to do with school aid but makes grants available to selected applicants from all states. States are asked to concentrate on: adopting standards and assessments to better prepare students for careers and college; expanding charter schools; getting high-quality teachers into the classroom; turning around low-performing schools; and creating systems to track student performance.

Failure to raise the cap of 200 on charter schools and teacher unions' objections to using student test score data in teacher evaluations have been the two most frequently cited reasons to explain why NYS not only didn't make it to the finish line but came in second to last among finalists in the first round.

But, perhaps two facts had created undue confidence. First, NYS already has more charter schools than any

other state, most of them in NYC. Second, NYS's law that prohibits the use of student achievement data in tenure decisions, for teachers who entered the system after 2007, will sunset this month. But apparently these two factors didn't wash with the federal RTTT reviewers; the charter cap and the teacher evaluation system were only two of their reservations.

*One reason NYS lost points is because it doesn't have a state system to track student performance.*

With NY's second RTTT application about to wend its way through the review process in D.C., the NYS Education Department (NYSED) now waits to see if the application will be strong enough to place NY among the 10 or more states to make the second cut in September and possibly share in the \$3.4 billion remaining in the RTTT pot. But success hinges on how well NYS has addressed concerns that judges expressed earlier. Common wisdom once held that urban-oriented states like NY would have the edge, but it's now clear that smaller, heavily rural states find it easier to act cohesively and reach consensus.

For one thing, the US DOE was looking for evidence that teacher unions and school districts widely supported a state's application. But possibly because of state size and geographic complexity, as well as insufficient time for securing signatures,

NYS's first application was supported by only 66 percent of school districts statewide and only 61 percent of those districts had support from union representatives. However, in the second round, the federal government has lifted the sign-off requirement due to concern that seeking consensus would compromise education reform.

While NYSED's application was praised in nearly every area, many sections need further attention. In the Great Teachers & Leaders section, for instance, NYSED's plan was viewed as vague. In terms of turning around lowest-achieving schools, the application was praised as "multi-faceted, comprehensive, rooted in research and best practice, and realistic," but it was criticized for identifying very few low-achieving schools out of a very large statewide pool, and thus it defied credibility. Most important perhaps, New York lost a significant number of points because it does not have a state system to track student performance. Although NYC's system was pronounced a "model" and "impressive," it couldn't compensate for the rest of the state. As a result, NYSED has worked with CUNY and SUNY in hopes of improving the state's data collection efforts and gaining 14 points on the current RTTT application.

While praised by many around the nation for its vision, rigor and transparency, RTTT has been criticized for requirements related to closing underperforming schools and removing Principals for inadequate reasons and for flaws in the application scoring system. If the feds eradicate some of those flaws and if NYS pushes enough of its own major roadblocks out of the way, there is a chance that NY will win the uphill battle to the top and that it will be worthwhile.

## NATION Education

### LOUISIANA: Health Clinics

A school health clinic is serving two St. Charles Parish schools in New Orleans. The aim is to ensure that elementary and middle school students have regular check-ups with doctors and dentists and families have less dependence on emergency rooms. Children can only be seen with parental permission and go to the clinic during recess. An added benefit is that parents do not lose work for doctor appointments. The clinic costs about \$300,000 annually to run and is covered by state funding, Medicaid and private insurance. (nola.com)

### FLORIDA:

#### Recording Teachers

Hillsborough County teachers are participating in "Measures of Effective Teaching Project," a study funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to find out what makes an effective teacher, with the goal of training others to do the same. About 725 teachers will be recorded in action and their techniques will be studied to understand how well their lessons are received and understood. (TBO.com)

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Growth Decline

Though preschool enrollment continues to go up, pre-school growth has slowed and the overall increase this year was smaller than years past, leading some to speculate that cuts to preschool programs are coming. According to "The State of Preschool 2009," most ranked states fell short of "quality benchmarks" and, with less being spent per pupil, the downward trend is not expected to change. (Seattle Post Globe)

### GEORGIA:

#### Against RTTT

Georgia teachers have formally opposed the state's bid for Race to the Top (RTTT) funds. Gov. Sonny Perdue's plan to create a merit pay system has failed in the legislature, due to the efforts of the 43,000 member Georgia Association of Educators and the 78,000-member Professional Association of Georgia Educators. The Federal government has looked unfavorably on Georgia for its lack of "front-line support" for reform. (The Atlanta Journal-Constitution)

### ILLINOIS:

#### School Vouchers

School voucher legislation is now being considered in Illinois. If enacted, children could transfer from city schools that are in the bottom ten percent to private or parochial schools, taking some \$3,700 in state funds with them. Approximately 30,000 of Chicago's 400,000 students could be impacted. Educators are fighting the legislation, saying it is not appropriate to divert money to private schools. (Chicago Tribune)

— COMPILED BY CHRISTINE ALTMAN

### In Memoriam

■ SAUL BRUCKNER, 76, the founding Principal of Edward R. Murrow High School, died suddenly on May 1 after apparently suffering a heart attack while swimming in his backyard.



■ Dr. Bruckner The high school, which Dr. Bruckner steered for 30 years after its founding in 1974, was a radical departure from other city schools; Mr. Bruckner modeled the building after a college campus in both its rigorous curriculum and standards, and in its approach to allowing students to have free periods between classes and hang out in the halls. Visitors were often surprised at how orderly the school was despite the vast freedom given to students.

Dr. Bruckner graduated from Erasmus Hall High School and Brooklyn College. He received his master's degree from Columbia Teachers' College and many years later received a Doctor of Letters from SUNY. He served in the U.S. Army in Germany. After teaching social studies in David A. Boody JHS in Brooklyn, he moved to Abraham Lincoln High School as a social studies teacher where he met his wife, Ellen. He went on to serve as Assistant Principal, Supervision-Social Studies at Bushwick High School and then, in 1969, became an original staff member of John Dewey High School as its first Assistant Principal, Supervision-Social Studies. In 1973-1974, he created Edward R. Murrow High School, which opened in the fall of 1974. In 1989, the US Department of Education declared it a "School of Excellence". Mr. Bruckner retired in June 2004. Condolences may be sent to Ellen Bruckner, at 2171 East 65th St, Brooklyn, NY 11234-6317. Donations in his memory may be made to the Saul Bruckner Scholarship Fund, Edward R. Murrow High School (Attention: Ellen Goldman), 1600 Avenue L, Brooklyn, NY 11230-4419.

■ MARY DENNISON, 63, the retired Principal of PS 105, D-11, Bronx, died on March 22 after a long battle with ovarian cancer. Ms. Dennison began her career in District 9 as a teacher where she worked at PS 103. She was promoted to Assistant Principal and worked at PS 89 and PS 106, both in District 11. Finally, she served as Principal of PS 105, also in D-11. Ms. Dennison retired in August 2006. Her husband, Robert Dennison, survives her. Condolences can be sent to him and his three children at 50 Park Dr., Eastchester, NY 10709.

■ JOSEPH ELIAS, 77, a retired Superintendent, died on April 10. A member of the New Jersey Retiree Chapter Regional Unit, Mr. Elias retired in 1991 as the Superintendent of District 3. Prior to that position he was Deputy Superintendent of District 12 and the Director of Zoning and Integration from 1975 to 1990. He also taught Sephardic music and performed around the world.

Condolences may be sent to his wife of more than 50 years, Judy, at 79 Harwood Rd, Monroe Township, NJ 08831.

■ EDNA MATILDA WILLIAMS SUTHERLAND, a retired Day Care Director, died on her 87th birthday, March 12, following complications from heart and respiratory failure. Born in Cuba and raised in Kingston, Jamaica, she became a professional musician at an early age, playing piano for choirs and singing groups by age 10. She studied teacher education in England and was the only black woman in her program during the 1950s. In 1964, she came to the US and soon became a member of the Evergreen Baptist Church where she served in many capacities including in the nursery school

and as Senior Choir Director. She served her entire professional career at the Cooper Park Child Care Center, Brooklyn, starting as a bilingual teacher's aide and rising to Director of the Agency. She retired in 1991 although she continued volunteering at the Day Care Center for many years. She also was an active member of the CSA Retiree Chapter Brooklyn Regional Unit after its establishment a few years ago. Ms. Sutherland's husband, Kenneth, died in 1981.

■ EVERSELY VAUGHAN, 85, a retired Principal, died on April 12 during a hospital stay. Born in NYC, he obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees in education from City College. He retired in 1981 as Principal of JHS 275, D-23,

Brooklyn. Prior to this appointment, he was an Assistant Principal and JHS 123, Bronx. He was an active participant in the Junior High School Principals' Association. After retirement, he served as a fulltime consultant at the Board of Examiners for five years. His expertise enabled him to plan, develop, manage and evaluate a set of standards for citywide licensing of teachers, Assistant Principals and Principals. His hobby was photography. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Gertrude, at 333 East 23rd St., Apt. 4B, NY, NY 10010.

degree from Adelphi University. She was the Assistant Director of Round Table Child Care Center and then the Director at the John Bruce Child Care Center, both in Brooklyn. At CSA, she served on the Executive Board in the 1980s and 1990s. She retired in 2007. Ms. Wharton was an active member of the Macedonia Baptist Church of Far Rockaway serving in a number of capacities including as President of the Missionary Board and Assistant Superintendent of the Sunday School. She also worked with Prison Ministries. Her husband, Charles, predeceased her. She is survived by her two sons, Charles and Andre.

■ DELLA MAE CROPPER WHARTON, 65, a retired Day Care Director and active member of CSA, died on April 25 at Peninsula General Hospital, Queens. Raised along the coast of Virginia, she came to New York to attend college and earned her bachelor's degree in early childhood education and master's



### Travel Desk

GARY GOLDSTEIN

## A Year of Travel Programs

#### Trains of the Colorado Rockies

Aug. 14 - Aug. 22, 2010

Ride aboard the famous Durango and Silverton narrow gauge Silver Railroad through the San Juan Mountains. Journey on the world's highest cog railroad to Pike's Peak. Then two nights in Durango for an "Old West" experience.

ALL-INCLUSIVE RATES include airfare. \$2,399 per person based on double occupancy.

#### Mediterranean Cruise via Spain

Aug. 21-29, 2010

Fly from NYC on Aug. 21 to Barcelona and board Royal Caribbean's *Voyager of the Seas* on Aug. 22. We'll sail to Naples, and then up the coast, returning to Barcelona. For those who would like to spend some time in Barcelona, arrive on Aug. 20 for an additional \$575 per person.

RATES, including airfare, have been reduced by \$350 for a limited time: Inside cabin, \$2,599; window, \$2,899; balcony, \$3,199; junior suite, \$3,799. Add \$198 for port and government charges. Insurance available.

#### Sail to Canada and New England

Sept. 25-Oct. 2, 2010

Board the magnificent *Caribbean Princess* on Sept. 25 in Brooklyn! We'll sail to Newport, Boston, Bar Harbor, St. John and Halifax and return to Brooklyn on Oct. 2.

RATES (for double room): Inside, \$899 per person; window, \$1,169; balcony, \$1,479; mini-suite, \$1,749 (best value!) Add \$108 port and government charges per person. Insurance available.

#### Israel - The Holy Land

Oct. 27-Nov. 5, 2010

This is a Perillo land tour that visits Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Masada, Bethlehem, Tiberias, Nazarus, Galilee, Haifa, and Caesarea. Program includes roundtrip air, hotels, daily breakfast, three lunches, eight dinners, driver tips, meal gratuities, motorcoach travel, tour escort, transfers and baggage handling. Depart JFK on Oct. 28; return Nov. 5.

RATES: \$1,950 per person, double occupancy with \$1,375 air fare (approximate).

#### Mediterranean Magnifica

Jan. 15-26, 2011

Sail on the *Magnifica*, MSC Cruises newest deluxe ship. Fly from NYC to Venice on Jan. 14 and sail to Bari (Italy), Rhodes (Greece), Alexandria (Egypt), Limassol (Cyprus), Haifa (Israel), Katakolon (Greece), Dubrovnik (Croatia), and Trieste (Italy). Return to NYC from Venice on Jan. 26 or extend your visit in

Venice. Airfare not included in price.

RATES (based on double occupancy): Inside cabin, \$1036.70; window, \$1,236.70; balcony (standard), \$1,436.70; balcony (deluxe), \$1,566.70; suites from \$2,636.70. Rates are inclusive of taxes and government charges, based upon double occupancy and are subject to change anytime. Insurance, extensions are extra.

#### Tropical Heaven

Presidents' Week 2011

Sail with us on the beautiful Carnival *Valor* departing Miami on Feb. 20, 2011 and visiting Honduras, Belize, Grand Cayman and Cozumel, Mexico. We return to Miami on Feb. 27. At this time, the rates reflect tremendous value as all taxes are included! Book now and lock in the best rates yet! (Airfare is not included but will be added when the contracts are in.) You may cancel anytime for a full refund up until 120 days prior to departure.

RATES Inside cabin, \$649 per person; window, \$749; balcony, \$899; junior suite, \$1,379.

#### A Royal Caribbean Cruise

Feb. 20-27, 2011

This cruise just became available at incredible all-inclusive rates. We'll fly on American Airlines, non-stop, from JFK to San Juan and board Royal Caribbean's *Adventures of the Seas*. Itinerary includes Barbados, St. Croix, St. Lucia, Antigua and St. Maarten.

RATES include airfare. Inside \$1,279 per person; outside (window) \$1,399; balcony, \$1,598; junior suite, \$2,049; and grand suite, \$2,749. Plus \$219 for taxes and fees. For an itinerary, email Gary Goldstein at ggoldstein@csa-nyc.org.

#### The Jewels of Asia

March 29, 2011 - April 12, 2011

It's never too early to save money while traveling in luxury through a tour of Southeast Asia! Join us in Hong Kong on March 29, 2011, as we board the elegant *Azamara Quest* and sail to Hue (Vietnam), Ho Chi Minh City and Ko Samui, Bangkok and Singapore. This regal vessel holds only 650 passengers.

RATES below include cruise, taxes, and port charges. Air is not included as some of us will use points or purchase tickets to suit individual preferences. Inside, \$2,730.64 per person, double occupancy; window, \$3,180.64 per person, double occupancy; balcony, \$3,880.64 per person, double occupancy. A \$450 deposit per person holds your stateroom without penalty until 90 days prior to departure.

For more information about these trips or about triples or quads, contact Gary Goldstein, ggoldstein@csa-nyc.org or call him at (732) 786-0314.



# RETIREE Chapter

### CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Neil Lefkowitz

## Annual Budget Battle Begins Anew



We must make sure the city and state do not renege on their past contracts with us.

As sure as tulips bloom in April and a new baseball phenomenon is discovered in May, the annual budget war has begun between the city and state.

The city says that because of proposed reductions in state aid, the city will have to lay off thousands of teachers come the fall. As the state budget remains a distant, seemingly unattainable goal, how this will play out remains unknown. The city hasn't laid off teachers since 1976 and up until now it's been rhetorical fodder for politicians.

Mayor Bloomberg will also have to set aside an additional \$600 million in pension funds because, it seems, retirees are living longer than anticipated, says an article in the *New York Post* by City Hall Bureau Chief David Seifman. Although other factors may help reduce the bill somewhat, overall, the city's contribution to pensions has exploded from \$1.3 billion in 2002 to \$6.6 billion this year.

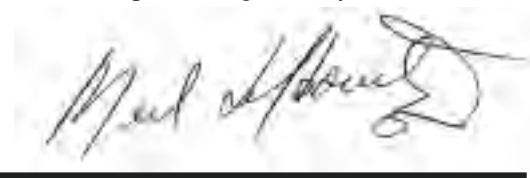
Mr. Seifman quotes the Mayor as pointing out that the employee fringe benefits cost the city an average of 75 per cent of salaries. Since CSA and the UFT's contracts have expired, we can assume these public statements are part of his negotiating technique to create pressure on these two unions to acquiesce to the idea that city workers should pay part of their health premiums.

Now to ignore the state and city's dire financial situations would be naïve on our part so this is certainly not the time to be asking for increases in expenditures. But, the main purpose of our Chapter is to protect the benefits we gained over the years and paid for with smaller salary increases. We must make sure that the city and state do not renege on their past contracts with us.

CSA President Ernest Logan has repeatedly said that he will not negotiate on the backs of retirees, and it is always a great relief to me to hear the conviction in his voice when he speaks. We have a large number of members who are retired for over 25 years and they can ill afford to pay additional health costs. I hope that the new health care reform legislation will provide them with some relief. In the meantime: Mr. Logan - stick to your guns. We're right behind you.

The Retiree Chapter officers and I have been attending pre-retirement workshops led by Dr. Douglas Hathaway, our informative Welfare Fund Administrator. He patiently explains how benefits work for retirees and also explains why it is important to maintain membership in the CSA. As of this writing, more than 90 percent of retirees have joined our Chapter, and I extend a welcome to all new members.

The officers and I want to wish you a healthy and happy summer. We will see you in the fall at your Regional Unit meetings and at the Fall Getaway in September. Don't forget to register for it - we've included a mail-in coupon on Page 14 for your convenience.



SAVE THE DATE: Our annual spring meeting and luncheon is set for April 31, 2011. It's a Saturday, NOT a Sunday as it has been in the past.

## Business and Pleasure

### April's General Membership Meeting and Luncheon



■ CSA First Vice President Randi Herman, fifth from left, is flanked by Bronx Regional Unit members and RC Director Gary Goldstein, second from left.

BY DEE-DEE GOIDEL



A retiree wore this old CSA souvenir watch

Retirees who attended the April 25 membership meeting and luncheon remarked "Thank heaven for valet parking." It was truly more than April showers raining on our festivities! After we deposited umbrellas and rain gear with the coat check, we made our way to a hot cup of coffee and morning snacks as we headed to the meeting, held at the

Retiree Chapter Chair Neil Lefkowitz gave a report summing up the year's events and future endeavors. Guest speaker Supreme Court Judge Arthur Schack, a former NYC public school teacher, gave us a bird's eye view of life on the bench and what the judicial system means to the average citizen. His talk was both entertaining and informative.

At 12:30, lunch was served. Each table's floral arrangement was later raffled off as a door prize. Several members also won gift certificates to Barnes & Noble. Several members suggested that at the next meeting we have music. A committee is looking into that possibility. Shall we dance? Let us know!

Towers Restaurant & Caterers, North Shore Towers, Queens.

Gary Goldstein, Retiree Chapter Director, is a seasoned master of ceremonies and welcomed the 130 attendees and introduced all speakers. CSA First Vice President Randi Herman's remarks encapsulated the true regard the CSA union has for its retirees. As retirees, we can't negotiate so we need the protection that our officers provide through their public stance: CSA won't negotiate on the backs of retirees!



■ The meeting at the Towers Restaurant & Caterers, North Shore Towers.



■ RC Chair Neil Lefkowitz, standing, speaks with members from Long Island.



■ Supreme Court Judge Arthur Schack was the guest speaker.

# Regional Units

## ARIZONA

Judie Shyman, wife of Arizona retiree Ed Melnick, not only won her age group in the Rock 'n' Roll marathon in Phoenix last January, she also set a state record for 67-year-old women. Ed, who runs half marathons, trains with Judie near their home in Tucson.



PAUL CARON

## BRONX



Lenny Zavlick, right, and Retiree Chapter Vice Chair Gayle Lockett, left, attended a pre-retirement workshop run by Welfare Fund Administrator Douglas V. Hathaway on May 4. About 30 people attended the event held at the Bronx Education Leadership Center at MS 127. Hope to see you at our June 10 luncheon.

—LENNY ZAVLICK

## QUEENS

On April 27, members of our Unit enjoyed a tour of Fort Totten Park. Park Ranger Sanchez showed us the historic cannon batteries and discussed many



aspects of Fort Totten. We had ample opportunity for questions and comments. Afterwards, a number of us enjoyed lunch at nearby Donovan's Restaurant.

—LEONARD B. STERMAN

This trip was incorrectly referred to in the May CSA News as a Retiree Chapter outing. The Editor regrets the error.

## PALM BEACH

Oops. The wrong date for next year's health fair was sent to the CSA News. The correct date is March 4, not March 7. See you at our next meeting on Jan. 10!

—ROSE BENNETT

## MANHATTAN

We'll hold our second annual luncheon at the National Arts Club, 20 Gramercy Park S., at noon on June 18. The cost is \$40 for members, \$45 for non-members. Send a check, made payable to the Manhattan Unit/CSA Retiree Chapter, to: Irma Schonhaut, 305 E. 24th St., Apt. 19S, NY, NY 10010. We are collecting dues for the 2010-2011 year. Send a check for \$15, made payable to the Manhattan Unit/CSA Retiree Chapter, to Treasurer Al Slutsky, 400 E. 56th St., Apt. 6S, NY, NY 10022. Call me anytime at (917) 692-2942.

—STANLEY WILSON

## STATEN ISLAND

Look for our newsletter to be mailed in early fall. If you have not been receiving our mailings, please contact Cathy Piszko at cpiszko@gmail.com or Mike Marotta at marottacentral@aol.com. Have a safe, and healthy summer.

—CHERYL OBEY

## BROOKLYN

Dues Cards will be mailed to those members who didn't pick them up at our May 25 meeting. The next newsletter will be mailed in late June only to those members who have paid their 2010 Dues.

—RON JONES

## LONG ISLAND

One of the items on the agenda of the April general meeting was the merits of the newly passed health care reform legislation. The give-and-take during the discussion revealed that there is no unanimity among our members on the value of the bill. For more information about our activities, call me at (516) 747 6291, or email me at NormanWatnick@aol.com.

—NORMAN WATNICK

## ROCKLAND/ORANGE/BERGEN

We're having our end-of-the-year luncheon on June 11 at noon at Casa Mia, 577 Route 303, Blauvelt. For information and reservations, call Assistant Leader Holly Needleman at (845) 268-7845.

—ARLENE SHAPIRO

## LOWER HUDSON VALLEY

This Regional Unit is planning a gala luncheon in September, date to be announced in an upcoming newsletter. We'll keep you posted.

—JOHN GENTILE

## SUNCOAST (FL)

The Unit will hold its next meetings in January and March 2011. We'll notify you via newsletter and personal mailing in early December. May we all have a healthy and safe summer and fall. If you require help call me, at (941) 383-0408.

—MICHAEL NEMOYTN

## NEW JERSEY

We held our first 2010 "bagel" membership meeting April 28. Guests were RC Director Gary Goldstein, Welfare Fund Assistant Administrator Sherri Tabatchnick, CSA Director Steve Rosen, and former RC Chair Irwin Shanes. We also took a trip to the Thomas Edison Historical Park trip on April 30. Our luncheon was at the Forsgate Country Club on June 8. Questions? Call me at (732) 431-1081 or e-mail me at Stephenpporter@yahoo.com.

—STEPHEN PORTER

## The Chelsea Art Scene

The Retiree Chapter's Spring Educational/Cultural Program included two art gallery tours in the Manhattan neighborhood of Chelsea. In the fall, the Retiree Chapter will return to the galleries of 57th Street and will add a new trip – to the galleries of the Upper East Side. See pages 9-12 for complete information about the fall offerings.



MARTY SMITH



Above, Tina Weintraub provides insight and information as CSA Retiree Chapter members tour the James Cohan Gallery in Chelsea on May 18. Left, after the tour, retiree members dined at East Of Eighth Restaurant at 23rd Street and 8th Avenue.

## Medicare Update

If you are nearly 65 and not planning to receive Social Security benefits in the near future, you must apply for Medicare. Visit your local Social Security office, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonly. You should apply three months before you turn 65. For more information about Medicare or other entitlements, contact Felice Hannah at (718) 625-3434, Tuesdays or Thursdays.

## Get Your Free Natter's 'Bluebook'

Complete this coupon and mail to:  
Miata Jones, CSA Retiree Chapter  
Room 711, 16 Court St., Brooklyn, NY 11241  
or e-mail her at miata@csa-nyc.org

(Only one book per member. Return the coupon by July 30. We may be unable to accommodate requests after that date.)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

## Retiree Chapter Get-Away Sept. 21 – Sept. 24

Villa Roma Hotel and Conference Center, Callicoon, NY

A FULL ARRAY OF ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE INCLUDING: three meals per day; evening receptions; sports activities; evening entertainment; guest speakers, seminars, CSA Leadership, and Executive Board Meeting; health fair; complimentary green fees and carts (nine holes) on Sept. 21; Caesar's Night Extravaganza.

ALL INCLUSIVE RATES: Double (two per room), \$404 per person; Triple, \$375 per person; Single, \$498 per person.

Rooms booked and paid for three nights and deposited on or before July 16 will receive a \$20 rebate per person at the end of the stay. Send your deposit of \$50 per person by check, made payable to Villa Roma, to: CSA Retiree Chapter, 16 Court Street, Rm. 711, Brooklyn, NY 11241, Attn: Alana Segura.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
for \_\_\_\_\_ room(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
I wish to be seated at meals with: \_\_\_\_\_

Visit the CSA website, [www.csa-nyc.org](http://www.csa-nyc.org) for more information or call the Retiree Chapter (718) 625-3434.

# Borough Briefs / In The Schools

Continued from Page 20



Detail from PS 250's Arts Evening Invitation.

Brooklyn/Queens BETAC at Long Island University, and Evelyn Cruz from the Department of Education, spoke to the parents about the progress their children were making at PS/MS 297 and discussed the importance of ESL instruction and reading at home. James Brown is the Principal.

PS 250, D-14, held its Seventh Annual "Evening of the Arts" on May 27. The evening included an art exhibition and performances from the chorus, the keyboarding club, the recorder club, and a second grade musical production of "Go Fish" and "Dancing with the Students".

On May 13 students from PS 169, D-15 held an appreciation event for sponsors who helped fund their trip to Washington DC. The supporters of the trip were Health Plus, the Sunset Park



The IS 228 Jazz Band.



City Councilwoman Sara M. González visited PS 169, Brooklyn.

Lions Club, Mr. C's Bicycles, L'Oreal and City Council member Sara M. González. "I realize the impact it will have on their academic careers just as I appreciate the transformation it will create in their young lives," said Ms. González.

The Jazz Band from IS 228, D-21, performed at Brooklyn Borough Hall on May 20; the concert was part of an ongoing series of performances that takes place each spring in the plaza in front of the landmark building. The Jazz Band is comprised of seventh and eighth graders. (Editor's Note: CSA staffers who work across the street were so delighted with how accomplished these youngsters were that Conference Chair Pierre Lehmuller "signed" them up to perform at the Nov. 13 CSA Educational Leadership Conference.) The Principal is Dominick D'Angelo.

## Queens (DIST. 24-30)

### Scrapbooking

Parents and guardians came together at PS 97, D-27, on May 11 to make scrapbooks. Memories of beach days, birthdays, weddings and more were assembled. Then the school held its bi-weekly parent/guardian exercise class. The parenting program also teaches parents about diet and living a healthy lifestyle.



Parents and guardians cherish memories.

Assistant Principal Brenda Clyburn of PS 96, D-27, Queens, reports that the school celebrated Respect for All Week by involving staff, students and parents. Music from many cultures and countries – Arabic, Chinese, Hindu, Caribbean, Spanish, Punjabi, African and several European nations – was played over the PA system. Students watched videos about different religions and, on one day, wore traditional clothing from other nations. Parents and staff provided food so students could try things from other lands.

## Staten Island (DIST. 31)

### Congressman Visits

Congressman Michael McMahon visited the Staten Island School of Civic Leadership on May 11. Mr. McMahon joined a Citizenship Symposium and students asked him questions including what plans did Mr. McMahon have for improving the transit/transportation infrastructure on Staten Island. Rose Kerr is the Principal.



Congressman Michael McMahon.

## Manhattan (DIST. 1-6)

### High Fashion Competition and Rap Concert

High School of Fashion Industries held its annual Golden Needle Competition on May 6. Students submitted original garments for best design in numerous categories such as sportswear, children's,

swimwear, menswear, bridal and fantasy. The garment that receives the most votes by the faculty wins. Creation of the Golden Needle winners are then showcased at the school's annual fashion show.

On May 18 students from PS 375, D-4, were treated to a concert by artists Emma Norris, Lipstick Magazine, and rappers BDS and Derek McKeith. Special guest Kasseem "Swizz Beatz" Dean, producer and artist, met with students as well. The school also held its first annual Community Health and Fitness Fair this spring. Health professionals and several school staff set up information stations for hundreds of community members.



Creations by student fashionistas.



Traveling Guitar Foundation artists with Lisette Caesar, PS 375 Principal (far right) and teacher Argerie Ayers (fourth from left).

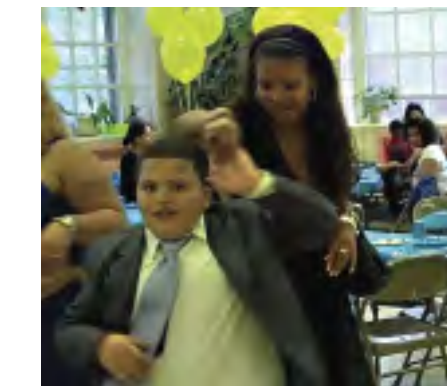
## Bronx (DIST. 7-12)

### Writing Partners, Mother-Son Dance

This year, MS 219, D-9, partnered with Teachers and Writers Collaborative, a program in which professional writers come into the classroom and work with students to improve writing skills. Students worked in over 20 sessions to produce pieces, which were then published in an anthology. On April 23, the school held an assembly to celebrate their young writers.

PS 76, D-11, participated in the Martha Stewart Earth Day Poster contest. Five students were selected as finalists to attend the Earth Day Poster Exhibit hosted by Martha Stewart Living. Finalists received a \$50 gift card to Barnes & Nobles. Student Awa Sadibe won two round-trip JetBlue tickets and a pizza party for her class. The New York Restoration Project will also plant a tree in her honor.

PS 119, D-8, held its first Mother-Son Dance on May 7 expanding on a tradition of Father-Daughter dances held each year around Father's Day. "I have



A mother and her son take a spin at PS 119.

## Faith by Nathaniel Lanzo

Hope is like a small, brown cat. It's hard to find and harder to catch. It's always next to you, but you can't see it because you don't believe it's there. But if you help it grow, it will be easy to see. If it's easy to see, it can help you in tough problems. The more it helps you in tough problems the more faith you will have.

A student poem from MS 219.



PS 76 students with Martha Stewart.



## Borough Briefs/In The Schools

Compiled  
by Yuridia Peña



### 'Day of Dialogue' Students Learn From Each Other

This spring, the Academy of Urban Planning located in the Bushwick Campus celebrated its fourth annual *Day of Dialogue* student conference. Students and teachers discussed stereotypes and ethnic misconceptions in workshops led by students. "We decided to do this so they (students) can learn from each other," said Jorge Sandoval, history teacher and the program's organizer.

The students learned how to run the workshops from teachers from a community-based organization, Leadership Program Inc. Student facilitators chose the topic and conducted 90-minute sessions throughout the day. These workshops helped raise cultural awareness within the school. "One of the ways to prevent violence anywhere is to build more understanding and tolerance," said Mr. Sandoval.



Science night at PS 255 included an exploration of chromatography.

score and handmade costumes. "Through a stroke of fate, fortune and destiny there is an incredible pool of artistic talent among students and teachers," said Principal Franca Conti. As of this writing, PS 217 was preparing for the opening of *Cinderella*, a musical on June 5.

On April 22, PS 255, D-22, held a science night for students and parents. Activities included optical illusions, making ice cream, arts and crafts and ways to be environmentally friendly. The Principal is Linda Singer.

PS 272, D-18, many students of Haitian descent were affected by the earthquake that struck Haiti this winter. Through a school collection, \$1,200 was raised for relief efforts. Students also wrote compositions to help them express their feelings about the devastation.

Assistant Principal Melvin Martinez at PS 257, D-14, Brooklyn, is also the baseball coach for the Wolves from the Grand Street (High School) Campus of schools. The Wolves were the subject of a story in the New York Post in early May that praised the team for its fortitude despite fielding a young team.

PS/MS 297, Williamsburg, Brooklyn, sponsored a student art exhibit and parent information session after school on April 22. Ana Soto, artist and instructor, worked with the children to explore cultural roots and produce representative paintings. Fifteen children who are English Language Learners and family members came to the school in the evening carrying hot dishes representing their cultures. The parents viewed framed artwork the children had painted in a gallery setting

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### Brooklyn (DIST. 13-23,32)

#### Community Service and a Playground

On June 3, the High School for Medical Professions held *An Evening with the PAL interns*. A multi-media presentation showcased student's community service learning experiences throughout the school year.

On April 22, PS/IS 226, D-21 celebrated its first career day. Architects, lawyers, doctors and members of the armed services discussed their careers with eighth graders. Students then asked visitors questions about how they chose their careers. In attendance were U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Anthony Mammoliti, NYC firefighter Douglas Dicks, podiatrist Dr. Vincent Meliso, lawyer Zachary Bergen, architect Michael Cona and actor Eric Mark Olson.

When Principal Julia Drake arrived at PS 147, D-14, two years ago, the school had a cement yard. One of her top priorities, she said, was to build a playground. Through the nonprofit



It's Greek to us! At PS 217, students presented an original adaptation of *The Odyssey*, Homer's epic.

organization Out2Play, City Councilwoman Diana Reyna and the NY Building Congress, she received the resources necessary to achieve that goal. The school held a grand ribbon-cutting on April 30 that included the first-ever concert by the school's new band!

PS 217, D-22, adapted Homer's *Odyssey* that featured an original script, original



Cutting the ribbon at PS 147 D-14, Brooklyn, from left: Andrea Wenner (Executive Director of Out2Play, Inc.); Julia Drake (Principal, PS 147); Richard Anderson (NY Building Congress); Diana Reyna (NY City Councilwoman); Ramon Peguero, Elaine Manatu, Tesa Wilson (D-14 Community Education Council); and students of PS 147.