 <p><b>PSC/CUNY</b> Professional Staff Congress <b>RETIREES CHAPTER</b></p>	<p><b>FEBRUARY, 2012</b></p> <p><b>To:</b> All Members of the Retirees Chapter</p> <p><b>Re:</b> Meeting Notice</p>
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The next meeting of the Retirees Chapter of the PSC will be held on **Monday, March 5** at the **PSC Office, 61 Broadway**, between Rector Street and Exchange Place, **16<sup>th</sup> floor**, from **1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** Photo ID is necessary to enter the building.

This month our speaker will be Jared Herst, PSC Pension and Welfare Benefits Officer. The **Executive Committee** of the Retirees Chapter will meet at the PSC Office, 61 Broadway, **14<sup>th</sup> floor**, at **10:30 am**. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

The February newsletter follows➡➡➡



February 2012    Issue 5  
Academic Year 2011-2012

# Retirees Newsletter

**Professional Staff Congress**  
Jack Judd, Editor

**I. DR. DAVID KOTELCHUCK, APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT OBAMA AS A MEMBER, ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH, NIOSH.** On February 10<sup>th</sup>, the White House announced a new series of presidential nominations, including that of Dr. David Kotelchuck as a member of the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). A long-time leader and activist for the PSC Health and Safety Watchdogs, Dr. Kotelchuck is a member of the retiree chapter Executive Committee.



The February 10<sup>th</sup> White House press release read in part:

“Dr. David Kotelchuck is Professor Emeritus at Hunter College of the City University of New York. From 1984 to 1997, Dr. Kotelchuck was Director of the graduate Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences program at Hunter College, and from 1989 to 2011 Deputy Director of the New

York/New Jersey Education and Research Center. He was also an associate professor at the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine from 1992 to 2011, a lecturer in physiology at the Harvard School of Public Health from 1979 to 1980, and Assistant Professor of Physics at Vanderbilt University from 1962 until 1967. In 2008, he received the Alice Hamilton award from the Occupational Health and Safety section of the American Public Health Association. Dr. Kotelchuck received his B.A. in Physics from Johns Hopkins University, a Ph.D. in Physics from Cornell University and an M.P.H in Occupational Health and Safety from the Harvard School of Public Health. “

## II. CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON MALCOLM X

By, Joel Berger

Blending personal experiences with reflective analyses, Professor Joe Wilson (Brooklyn College) and Paul Washington (Medgar Evers) illuminated the complexities of Malcolm X as related by Manning Marable in his recent book,

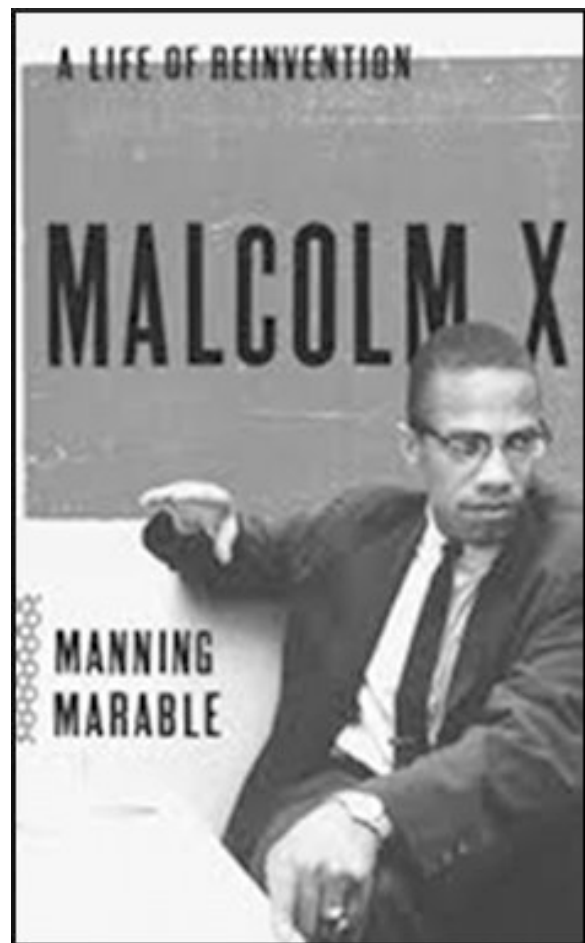
"Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention" at the most recent chapter meeting.

Wilson was a close friend and associate of Marable who, he said, was "certainly among the most preeminent scholars following the general African-American radical tradition." Marable examined both the nationalist and the internationalist tendencies of the radical African-American community.

As an advocate for radical and transformational politics, Manning Marable frequently clashed with the nationalist community. Issues emerging from Marable's work involve the nationalist critique in terms of power, capitalism, and society. Aspects of masculinity, gender, and control are filtered through a racial subtext of color classifications, status, and opportunities. Movement ideologies act as boundaries when " Marable takes a decidedly internationalist perspective. He takes a working class perspective to his dealings with Malcolm X." The nationalists would accuse Marable of looking at Malcolm through the wrong prism, and of "crossing the line" by writing of Malcolm's homosexual encounter and extra marital affairs.

Wilson observed that, Marable's book is "hotly contested, "and that he is "vilified in many quarters." Although some "suggest that his work was not honest" or that "he had an agenda," Wilson believes that, as an historian, Manning Marable "just followed the trail of history" as revealed in archives and interviews. "He didn't have a preconceived mind set," and after 12 or 13 years engaged in writing the book, Manning Marable "concluded whatever history had to present."

Paul Washington's perspective was shaped by the experiences of his two brothers and a sister who were followers of Malcolm X first in the Nation of Islam, and then in the Muslim Mosques, Inc., followed by the Organization of Afro-American Unity. "These organizations impacted not only the black community, but also impacted upon Malcolm's life," Washington said.



Critics of Manning Marable's book were "upset" that he used the term "reinvention," implying that Malcolm was constantly "moving or changing." Washington doesn't see it that way. He likened Malcolm's changes to those of W.E. DuBois and Paul Robeson. "Malcolm was growing and developing as time progressed."

Paul Washington met Manning Marable in 1997 at the formation of the Black Radical Congress. He believes that to understand Marable's book, you have to understand his thinking. Summarizing Marable's view of Malcolm X, Washington quoted his response at an interview ending with Marable's statement that, "Malcolm X represents the cutting edge of a kind of unique attack on globalization in the twenty first century. In fact, Malcolm, if anything, was far ahead of the curve in so many ways."

Washington emphasized that Marable's book was based on primary sources and interviews. Washington noted also that Manning Marable was able to see the notes written by Malcolm X which were omitted from the Alex Haley biography. Washington concluded by stating, "There was no better person to write the biography of Malcolm X than Manning Marable. He had the temperament; he had the activist background; he carried the spirit of organizing; and he believed in the Pan-Africanist, internationalist struggle. He really, in the book, showed the trajectory of Malcolm as he evolved at each stage of his life."

### **III. NYSUT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU.**

By Irwin Yellowitz, President, NYSUT Retiree Councils 37-38

As a member of the PSC Retirees Chapter, you are also a member of the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), and entitled to their extensive set of services. Because the PSC-CUNY Welfare Fund provides many vital programs to PSC retirees, some services offered by NYSUT are not

relevant. However, many are, and I would like to advise you about these.



If you, or a member of your family, are having difficulty with illness, and need help reaching a social service agency, or navigating the bureaucracy of a specific agency, you can call on NYSUT Social Services at 800-342-9810, ext. 6206.

If you are struggling with a Medicare question or issue, you can log on to the NYSUT website and click on "Medicare Interactive," or contact the Medicare Counselor Hotline at 800-333-4114.

If you are interested in a legal services plan, auto insurance, travel services, financial counseling or discount opportunities, among others, you can contact the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust at 800-626-8101, or visit the NYSUT website at [www.nysut.org](http://www.nysut.org). Click on member benefits for a full listing of programs. Most of these programs carry a fee, but because NYSUT offers them through a group arrangement, the cost is usually less than if you purchased equivalent services as an individual.

If you want to know more about NYSUT's programs or activities, consult the website, which is filled with useful information.

If you have any questions about NYSUT and retirees, please contact me at [iyellowitz@aol.com](mailto:iyellowitz@aol.com) or through the PSC office, 212-354-1252.

#### **IV. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

By, Eileen Moran

In testimony before the NYS Legislature's Higher Education budget hearing on Feb 1, President Bowen and Vice-President London emphasized the need for substantial re-investment in CUNY, particularly its community colleges whose budgets have been severely cut in the past several years and whose funding Governor Cuomo wants to maintain at the 2010-11 figure. However, our six community colleges require an additional \$685 per FTE just to get back to 2009 funding levels – inadequate even then. Further, the PSC maintained opposition to any new pension tier which would make recruitment of faculty even more difficult. The PSC reaffirmed its objection to balancing the budget on the backs of CUNY students by increasing tuition and fees.

As always, increasing the number of fulltime faculty remains a priority. Funds to pay for adjunct health insurance, requested in CUNY's operating budget, are included in the Governor's draft budget. Thus far, the first two hurdles to securing regular funding for coverage for part-time faculty have been overcome.

Contributions to the PSC's COPE fund have been increasing steadily and special thanks is due to our Retiree Chapter for continuing to be the chapter with the largest donations, demonstrating Retirees' commitment to

CUNY and its students. During the fall semester, members of the legislation committee have been visiting legislators in their home districts, but this spring, the lobbying intensifies in Albany. Several trips are planned for March, including a one-day bus trip with students on March 14. A number of retirees will be lobbying with the PSC's contingent but others are needed and welcome to join the one day bus trip on March 14. (To sign up, call Amanda at the PSC, 212-354-1252).

**V. PSC THEATER PARTY.** A special matinee performance of "Call Me Waldo," presented by the Working Theater will take place on March 4, 3PM, at the June Havoc Theatre, 312 W. 36<sup>th</sup> Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor. It has been reviewed as "a warm-hearted comedy about an average guy experiencing a midlife crisis," and, "wildly entertaining." Discount tickets are available for retirees and family members at \$20. Contact Steve Leberstein at: [sleberstein@pscmail.org](mailto:sleberstein@pscmail.org).

#### **VI. Labor Goes To The Movies.**

A wonderful way to spend a Friday evening at the movies shown in PSC Union Hall, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, 61 Broadway at the munificent sum of a suggested \$2 donation. Refreshments included:



--March 9: **Fast Times At Ridgemont High**

--April 20: **The Organizer**

--May 11. **Charulata**

