

**NEXT CHAPTER MEETING,
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 5, 1 – 3 PM**

LABOR AND THE 2016 ELECTION.

The 2016 election for President, Congress and the New York Assembly and Senate will have immense consequences for the nation writ large and for our own labor and higher education constituencies. We've invited two speakers: **Ed Ott**, distinguished lecturer of labor studies at CUNY's Murphy Institute and former executive director of the NYC Central Labor Council; and our own **Irwin Yellowitz**, former chair of our chapter and professor emeritus of labor history at CCNY. Irwin will present a historical assessment of the labor vote in presidential elections, 1980 to the present, and Ed will look at what is at stake for

labor and the nation in this election. Their presentations will undoubtedly promote robust discussion.

**Wednesday, October 5, 1-3 PM,
PSC Union Hall, 61 Broadway.**
Light refreshments as usual.

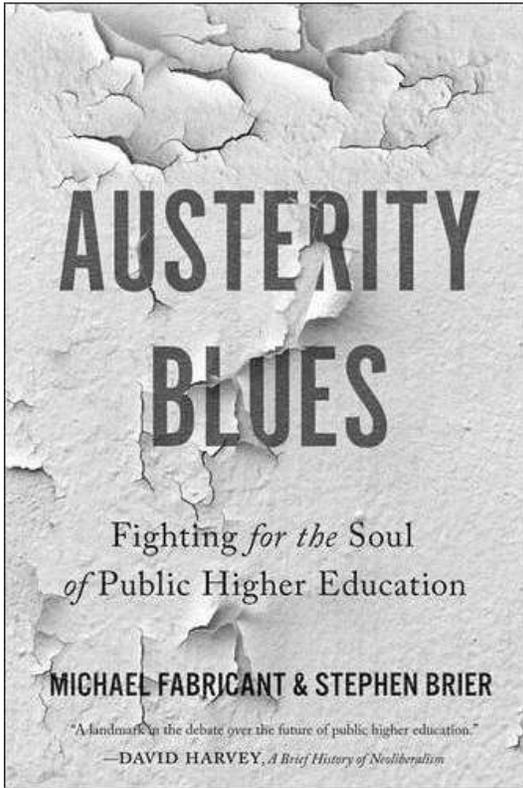
NOTE: This is a Wednesday meeting. Because of holidays on the first two Mondays of October, this meeting will NOT be on the first Monday of the month, as usual, but on the first Wednesday, October 5.



**UPCOMING CHAPTER
MEETINGS/LUNCHEON**

Monday, November 7: Solitary Confinement/Mass Incarceration and the Need for Prison Reform.
Speakers to be announced.

Monday, December 5: Defending Public Higher Education.



Speakers: Mike Fabricant and Steve Brier, authors of an upcoming book from Johns Hopkins University Press, *Austerity Blues, Fighting for the Soul of Public Higher Education*. They will examine how austerity politics, disinvestment and growing privatization threaten public higher education and undercut its mission to promote opportunity for poor, working-class and minority students in a democracy.

Mike and Steve are two of our own. Mike Fabricant is the very busy PSC first vice president and a professor at Hunter College and the Graduate Center. Steve Brier is an historian who is professor of urban education at the Graduate Center.

Monday, January 9 Luncheon: Speakers from the Living New Deal. The Living New Deal is a national database of thousands of documents, photographs, and personal stories about public works made possible by the New Deal. Its goal is to promote and extend the legacy and policies of the New Deal.

John Jay Faculty Dining Room. Reservation forms will be sent out in December.

And if you think this is a lot to mark in your calendars (electronic or otherwise), read on.

IT IS OCTOBER AND IT IS ALL ABOUT ELECTIONS NOW

Don't sit on the sidelines! You can play an active role in this momentous election.

GOTV (GET OUT THE VOTE)/PHONE BANKING. As we all know, Tuesday, November 8 marks one of the most important election days in recent history (and those of us of certain ages have been through more than a few nail biters). At stake is not only the presidency and control of the U.S. Congress, but the

New York State Assembly and Senate.

It's crucial that we elect *state candidates who will defend and expand public higher education and promote a pro-labor agenda*. A more progressive state Senate and Assembly could ensure proper funding for CUNY and our next contract, stop tuition hikes and promote taxing and spending policies that reverse growing inequality in New York State. It's also critical, of course, that we elect more progressive candidates to Congress to make college more affordable, and also to protect and *expand the social safety net programs* we all rely on, including Social Security, Medicare and public pensions.



Sign up to phone bank for NYS Assembly and Senate candidates! Join the PSC in supporting Hillary Clinton for President and other union-endorsed candidates for national and state office!

(You can phone bank at the PSC or from home using a new virtual phone banking system developed by our state affiliate, New York State United Teachers/NYSUT. Once you have an ID, you can use it from home with your own phone and computer. Out

of state canvassing dates may also be set up.)

To sign up, go to <http://psc-cuny.org/form/2016-phone-banking-and-gotv-activities>. Or call the PSC at 212-354-1252 and ask for Kate Pfordresher or Tiffany Brown.

[**NOTE:** Wednesday, October 5, the date of our next chapter meeting, is one of the phone banking days. Phone banking at the PSC that day will be from 3 – 6 PM and/or 6 – 9 PM. Go to the link above to sign up.]

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS THIS MONTH
(Yes, more to mark on your calendars.)



Baruch Area Walking Tour
Friday, October 14, 11-12:30, plus lunch

Inspired by a Retirees Chapter walk that focused on the social ecology of a neighborhood around City College last spring, Bert Hansen (emeritus, history, Baruch) is offering to lead a walk in the area of Baruch College illustrating several basic architectural styles of NYC buildings with the goal of helping people to picture the eras when the buildings were erected.

Of special interest is the fact that for most of the 20th century, the neighborhood was home to major social-welfare institutions. Most of their buildings have survived, often as luxury residences in today's market. The walk will visit examples from 150 years of city history, including Neo-Classical, Beaux-Arts, Deco (post office with New Deal murals), and Modern styles. This walk is intentionally introductory, for people who want to gain a new awareness of what they can see when they explore NYC on their own. Architecture buffs are welcome, but experts might be disappointed. As is now a Retiree Chapter tradition, we will end with lunch, this time at an Indian or South Asian buffet. For more information or to sign up, contact Bert at Bert.Hansen@baruch.cuny.edu and put "Baruch tour" in the subject line. **Space is limited!**



**Tuesday, October 24, 2-4 PM
16th floor at the PSC**

Join this supportive community of PSC writers for helpful feedback and critique of your written work. All genres, topics and themes are welcome. Please bring 6 copies of 4 pages each of work you would like to

share. This group meets once a month. For more information, email Connie Gemson at chgemson@aol.com.

RETIREE DUES: MAYBE YOU FORGOT



You probably received an envelope from the PSC with an invoice for the \$71 annual union dues. Maybe it slid to the bottom of a pile of bills? Maybe it went to an old address? Retirees need to renew annually. Since we are no longer on payroll, there are no deductions! Your NYSUT benefits and our PSC programs depend on you sending in your dues.

If you didn't receive it, or if you can't find it, please call the **PSC Membership department** and ask for it. Perhaps you also need to update your mailing address now that we are sending this 'Turning the Page' as a paper copy, as well as by email (and maybe you need to update that too). Call 212-354-1252.

AND THE ROUND UP

RECAP: SEPTEMBER CHAPTER MEETING ON 'STATE OF THE UNIONS'

Over eighty people came to the September 12th Retirees Chapter monthly meeting, but if you missed it or want a recap of what happened, read on.

The chapter opened this year's program with a **New Retirees Luncheon**, from 12-1 PM, welcoming new members who signed up to join us. After eating and schmoozing, we did a round of introductions, getting to know each other, and in some cases, renewing friendships (one of the benefits of membership).

The regular chapter meeting began at 1 PM with **President Barbara Bowen's** discussion on the State of the Union. With the contract ratified, the focus now is on contract implementation, especially payment of back salary and raises. Disappointment and dissatisfaction with the unpreparedness of CUNY management and government agencies have generated intense efforts to get faculty and staff their hard-won raises and back pay.

As Barbara reported, the union is also deeply engaged in developing its own agenda for the short and long term. The PSC Executive Council is developing its strategy and plans for moving forward to increase funding for CUNY and to prepare for the quickly upcoming *new* contract

negotiations. There is momentum among members from the recent contract campaign. A key component will be the promotion of tax reform to generate revenue *to support public higher education as a right of all New Yorkers*. The leadership and members are excited and ready for action, pleased with victories, but not at all satisfied.

As is customary at our meetings, all attendees then introduced themselves. It was an impressive turnout, with some spontaneous cheers from different campuses.



"NYC is still a 'union town,' but there is no room for complacency"

Our invited speaker, **Ruth Milkman**, distinguished professor of Sociology at the Graduate Center and the Murphy Institute, spoke about her work on "The State of the Unions," a research project of NYC organized labor, co-authored with Associate Professor Stephanie Luce. It contains excellent data on the density (percent of workers in unions) and composition of union membership in NYC. NYC has done

relatively well in recent years, better than the national average. NYC is still a "union town," but there is no room for complacency in the face of many challenges, such as increases in freelance work and the lower level of union members in the private sector. A lively discussion period followed, including the rise of community centers and associations among immigrant workers as well as the New York State-wide fight for 15 (\$15/hour).

Ruth is a great resource for the PSC and New York unions, and we have been lucky to have her speak with us before.

We also heard from **Kate Pfordresher**, PSC director of policy and research, engaging us to sign up to make State and Federal elections calls (see THIS IS OCTOBER).

And we had our last comic update from the inestimable—now about to retire—Executive Director of the Welfare Fund, **Larry Morgan**. (Did you hear the one about..? You had to have been there.) Larry spoke to us about the essentials of how contract funds are being put into the Welfare Fund, and told us that, dare he say, “something about teeth” just might happen. As Bill Friedheim announced, after a national search, Larry Morgan is pleased to leave the Fund in the experienced and well-known hands of **Donna Costa**, the current associate director.

-John Hyland, Retirees VP,
LaGuardia CC

SOLIDARITY WITH LIU FACULTY



On Friday, August 30, the administration at Long Island University in downtown Brooklyn made a stunning move, unprecedented in the history of U.S. higher education: It locked out its entire faculty. Adding insult to injury, it removed health coverage for faculty and their families and hired scabs, many untrained and/or uncertified in the disciplines they were called upon to teach and many drawn from management.

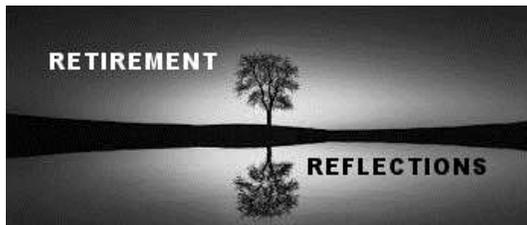
Within a week, the administration did a full retreat when faced with a solidarity movement that included academics from across the country, the PSC, the AFT, NYSUT, the AAUP, NYC labor and, maybe most important, LIU students and alumni.

Several dozen PSC members, **including retirees**, joined a solidarity rally and picket line at LIU on Wednesday, September 7 that attracted over 500 participants. The next day, hundreds of LIU students walked out from classes.

A week later, management ended the lockout, extended the expired collective bargaining agreement with the LIU union to May 31, 2017, and agreed to the union's condition to engage a professional mediator to facilitate a new, fair contract. The LIU administration will also make the faculty whole for health care costs incurred during the lockout. The LIU union, however, continues to pursue a vigorous unfair labor practice suit.

There are important lessons about academic labor/student/community solidarity in this whole sordid affair, but *a luta continua*. Stay tuned!

-Bill Friedheim, Retirees Chapter
Chair, BMCC



I first saw Brooklyn College when I was seventeen and enrolled as a student. The tuition fee was \$0, and college requirements made up about half the credits of the baccalaureate degree. I majored in Classics, took 12 credits in Education, and had no idea that seven years later I would begin a 42-year career at Brooklyn College. My work included being program head in Elementary Education (later renamed Childhood Education), and for ten years I was PSC chapter chair.

Being an old professor can bring the freedom to leave a job when it is no

longer "fun." The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) is a bureaucratic organization that provides the language of what must be taught in programs that seek accreditation. And no program can long exist without accreditation. Reports to NCATE follow a formula, as do the assessment rubrics on which they insist. The very specific language of these rubrics is the standard for evaluating students, the programs, and the professors who teach in them. It was the requirement of a 1,500 page report to NCATE that impelled me to resign as program head in Childhood Education.

I had already shepherded the program through New York State requirements, which had accepted it without exception. When NCATE sent a team to evaluate programs at Brooklyn College, everyone was on best behavior (except me). The man who evaluated my course in Student Teaching was a high school guidance counselor from an all-white school in rural Nebraska. He was warm and cordial, and his evaluation was positive but he had no idea what he was seeing. Many NCATE evaluators have little or no experience in urban public higher education. Many have little experience in diverse public schools such as The Brooklyn New School, and know little of what once were called "alternative" schools. My students were placed in a very unusual school in the Carroll Gardens section of Brooklyn. In that school, textbooks are not used, everyone calls everyone else by her/his first name, children work in

groups, and literacy is taught through literature, writing, and editing. Every child uses a computer, and teachers create the curriculum, serve on personnel committees, and work closely with parents. He was shocked.

But this episode seems to me emblematic of a more wide-spread response to education. For reasons that remain unclear to me, many people think that having been to school suffices to make them experts in defining education. They do not know that Education is a complex hybrid consisting of the intellectual content and some of the language of academic disciplines, plus the personal components of what it means to be human.

Schools are in serious trouble, as is teacher education. The problems are reflective of much that is wrong in our society as a whole. We tend to blame victims. Our society often permits and encourages attacks on labor and on unions. It is imperative that teachers enjoy the benefits of unionism and withstand assaults that seem to be increasing. As education becomes more corporate in our society, the voices of dissent need to be ever present and heard.

I loved my career at Brooklyn College. Colleagues were outstanding, and some have become lifelong friends. As a daughter of immigrants, I was able to have a fine education, and to work with the children of immigrants who followed them. I felt I was able to return to the community some of the gifts that had been bestowed on me.

I now spend my time traveling, lecturing, being with grandchildren, and continuing to work for the common good. My great regret is not being in NY enough of the year to contribute to the PSC chapter of my brother and sister retirees.

-Tibbi Duboys
Professor Emerita/School of
Education
Brooklyn College



Teaching Memoirs

Brijraj Singh (emeritus in English, Hostos) has just published his teaching memoirs with Zorba Books, Gurgaon, India. Based on forty years of teaching at the college and university level, twenty in India and twenty at Hostos Community College, *Professing English on Two Continents* describes the growth of a teacher's mind and the relevance of teaching lives. He writes about how his varied experiences of teaching English in different cultural situations and to different students not only helped him to shape different pedagogical methodologies, but also contributed to the evolution of a vision and set of values with which to go through life, and how they, in turn,

fed into his teaching. Thus the book is about what the author learned about teaching and about life from teaching English. It reaffirms the values for living implicit in the act of teaching, and offers a justification for the pursuit of this profession.

Currently the book is available as a Kindle download for \$4.99 from Amazon. The publishers hope to make it available as a print copy from the same source by the end of October.

LARRY MORGAN, PSC-CUNY WELFARE FUND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RETIRES

Donna Costa Chosen as Successor



After 12 years of successful leadership of the PSC-CUNY Welfare Fund, Executive Director Larry Morgan retired from this post on September 30, 2016. He will be succeeded by Donna Costa, who has served with him for the past five years as associate director of the Fund.

During his tenure, Larry has helped move the Fund from large and increasing annual deficits to a position of reliable financial stability. Also during this time he has helped the officers and board of the Fund select new pharmaceutical and dental benefits managers, a major undertaking, and with Donna Costa monitor these accounts so that Fund beneficiaries get the medications and services promised to them. He and she also played important administrative roles in helping secure improved health benefits for adjunct CUNY employees.

Retirees are particularly beholden to Larry for having promptly taken advantage of millions of dollars annually provided to retirees and their spouses by the 2010 Affordable Care Act. These financial gains helped move the overall budget of the Fund from red to black, while at the same time entirely removing the cap on drug spending for retirees and their spouses, included among them all of our Retiree Chapter members.

We will miss Larry. We wish him well in retirement and heartily welcome Donna to her new post. We look forward to working with her.

David Kotelchuck
Former WF Retiree Trustee

EDITOR'S NOTE

Yes, as retirees we continue to crank out events, meetings, essays, walking tours and enough activities to keep some of our aging bodies

and active minds busy. If you would like to get involved with the Retirees Chapter, there are a number of roads you can take (you know what they say about the road not taken):

Join the Executive Committee for planning meetings at 10:30 AM on the mornings before the monthly chapter meeting; come to the chapter meetings and make suggestions; and/or write for this newly expanded newsletter *Turning the Page*.

We welcome items for our regular features, Retirement Reflections and Book Corner, and are glad to feature voices from beyond the metropolitan area. You can submit an essay or poem about retirement or about activities you enjoy that others might want to join in on. You can write about housing, health, care-giving, Black Lives Matter, or your political activities. We'd also love to hear how you might be adjusting to retirement (if you are new or just getting the hang of it) and how our generation is connecting (or not) with the cohort of what is now called the Millennials. Write and tell us what you might like to do or write about. Email retirees@pscmail.org and put "Page" in the subject line, please.

-Joan Greenbaum, Editor,
LaGuardia CC & Graduate Center

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chapter Chair: Bill Friedheim*

Vice Chair: John Hyland

Secretary: Eileen Moran

Officers at Large: Joel Berger, Francine Brewer, Connie Gemson

Delegates to the Delegate

Assembly: Jackie DiSalvo, John Hyland, David Kotelchuck, Cecelia McCall, Eileen Moran, Jim Perlstein

Alternate Delegates:

Miriam Balmuth, Judy Barbanel, Joan Greenbaum, Marva Lilly, Robert Wurman

Welfare Fund Advisory Board:

Irwin Yellowitz

Retiree Representatives to the

PSC Executive Council: Glenn Kissack,* Steve Leberstein*

Chairman Emeriti: Jacob Judd, Lawrence J. Kaplan, Jim Perlstein, Irwin Yellowitz

*Bill Friedheim, as chapter chair and Glenn Kissack and Steve Leberstein as members of the PSC Executive Council, are also DA delegates.