

**TURNING
THE PAGE**

The Newsletter
of the PSC
Retiree Chapter



SUMMER 2026

Academic Year 2025-26, No. 5

CONTENTS

IN THIS ISSUE

“The Origins of May Day”

by Irwin Yellowitz

“May Day 2026: How Labor Got To Work”

by Lorraine Cohen

“Bernie Vs. the Billionaires”

by Marianne Pita

“Tax The Rich!”

by Nancy Romer

WHAT'D I MISS? CHAPTER MEETING RECAPS

“NYC’s Hidden Gems: March Chapter Meeting”

by Marva Lilly

“Could The New York Health Act Be The Answer?: April Chapter Meeting”

by Francine Egger-Sider

“Fight For Domestic Workers: May Chapter Meeting”

by Doris Hart

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

No Kings! Demonstrations March 28, 2026

CULTURE CORNER

Poem: “When in disgust with bosses and their lies”

by Diane Menna

COMMUNITY BOARD

Call for topics and speakers for Chapter Meetings

TTP wants your ideas and contributions

Last year, we put out a special summer issue that was streamlined and focused on a selected theme. As we saw our rights curtailed and justice denied, we shared some thought-provoking opinion pieces on our democratic and academic rights. As our national (and international) circumstances have continued to deteriorate, and people everywhere have stood up, raised their voices, and taken to the streets, the editors thought an appropriate and hopeful theme for this summer would be “resistance.” Again, we invite you to send us your own ideas and responses.



The Origins of May Day by Irwin Yellowitz

May Day, May 1, is celebrated in many countries as a public holiday honoring workers, their organizations, history and current struggles. It is often known today as International Workers’ Day. What are its origins, and why is it not celebrated as widely in the United States as elsewhere? The answers take us back to the origins of May Day in the late nineteenth century.

The 1880s was a turbulent decade for labor in the United States. Two national labor organizations—the Knights of Labor and the American Federation of Labor—grew in numbers and influence. They demanded that an eight-hour workday begin on May 1, 1886. This was a wish for the future more than a reality for the present, but many workers did achieve the eight-hour day—even if only temporarily.

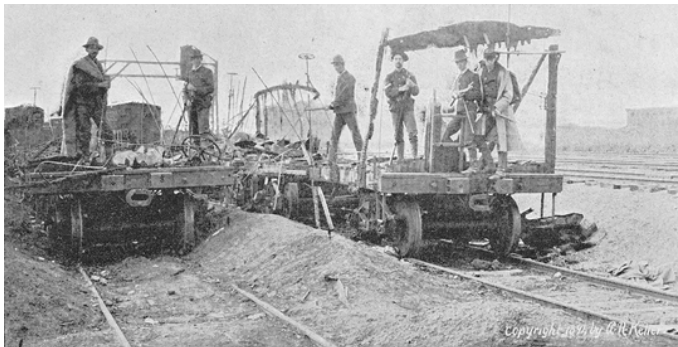
On May 4, a rally was called by anarchist leaders in Chicago to support strikers at the McCormick Harvester Company. The rally at Haymarket Square was peaceful until someone threw a bomb into the police leading to a gun battle



1886 engraving image of the Haymarket massacre.

between police and workers. This resulted in numerous deaths and injuries among both police and workers. Although the bomb-thrower has never been identified, the authorities assumed the bombing was instigated by the anarchists, and ultimately eight were arrested. In a trial that focused on their beliefs more than their actions, and despite the lack of evidence about who threw the bomb, nor any intent by the anarchist leaders to attack the police, all eight were convicted. Four were hanged and one committed suicide.

The outcome of the trial outraged socialists and anarchists in both the United States and Europe. In 1889, the Second Socialist International called for May Day 1890 demonstrations to protest the Haymarket events. When the American Federation of Labor called for the coal miners' union to demand the eight-hour day on May 1, 1890, the socialists added this as a core element of the May Day protests. In following years, May Day continued to be an occasion for the socialist movements in Europe to support the eight-hour day as well as other labor demands. Although events in the United States were central to the origins of May Day, it did not become a major day of labor recognition or protest in this country. The increased activity by workers and their organizations for the eight-hour day alarmed many conservatives. The Haymarket Riot added to the concern. Thus states began to establish a Labor Day to honor workers without any implication that employers should meet their demands. To avoid any connection to the eight-hour day movement, or the support of May Day by the socialists, these states set their labor days in September.



A group of men stand on abandoned railway cars during the Pullman strike in Chicago, July 1894. Kean Collection / Getty Images

In 1894, during the national Pullman Strike, Congress passed a national Labor Day holiday bill, and President Grover Cleveland signed it. Clearly it was intended to mollify workers during the heightened tensions of the Pullman Strike. However, it

also aligned with the movement in the states to establish an annual Labor Day. By 1894, thirty states had done so. The American Federation of Labor had a contentious relationship with the socialists, and so the AFL was ready to endorse a Labor Day in a September setting to avoid any connection to May Day, which was strongly supported by European and American socialists.

Today, in the United States, May Day has become an important moment of protest and organization among socialists and others in the progressive Left, but it still lacks the breadth of support—including among labor unions—found in Europe and other countries. Once again, the past influences the present.



May Day 2026: How Labor Got To Work by Lorraine Cohen

On May 1, a beautiful sunny spring day, thousands of members of NYC trade unions, immigrant solidarity groups and other progressive advocacy organizations came together in Washington Square to reclaim May Day. This year the celebration of May Day was envisioned as an expression of the power of working people to fight back against the power of the “billionaire class.” The thousands who turned out were demonstrating against Trump’s political and economic policies. He has intentionally pursued domestic and foreign policies that are intended to weaken labor unions; persecute immigrants; attack civil liberties and the rule of law; eliminate the freedom to criticize right-wing narratives and agendas; undermine the enforcement of environmental, medical and scientific standards; curtail the rights of women, the disabled, and LGBT communities; and weaken the most basic rights of citizenship, including the right to vote. This regime has unleashed attacks against their “domestic enemies,” and war and terror against peoples in countries that they have defined as “dangers to the U.S.”

This year’s May Day demonstration was envisioned as a prelude to build up to May Day 2028, two years from now. Shawn Fain, the president of the United Auto Workers, has called for working people to participate in a general strike on May Day of 2028. Fain is calling on unions to align their contracts to expire at the same time, coinciding with a general strike that will not just bring out workers for a one-day event but start to build a movement that could bring about transformational changes in the balance of power between labor and capital, a large working-class movement opposing the power of the very wealthy.

With this in mind, we began our work. Over a 2-month period, the PSC used its communication and organizational resources to ramp up the turnout of PSC members. In speeches to the DA and in PSC-wide communications, James Davis emphasized the importance of members turning out on May Day. Unlike other May Days, the Central Labor Council endorsed a rally in Washington Square and a March to Foley Square. On April 15th the PSC held an evening meeting to urge members to help build for May Day. One of the most important presentations of the evening was made by the newly hired director of organizing, Marlena Fontes. At that meeting, she laid out a plan for how we were going to achieve a large

turnout. She explained that every campus needed to have volunteers to become “captains” to plan events, spark interest and organize members and recruit more captains. Marlena also set up a WhatsApp link for all captains; we met on Zoom weekly to report on conversations with members and May Day events that were taking place on campuses. These photos and reports posted on the WhatsApp site built a sense of momentum. As May Day got closer, all faculty and staff were asked to wear red so that May Day would become visible to everyone on the campuses.



PSC members shared photos through WhatsApp.

An important change in this year’s May Day was the strong endorsement of the Central Labor Council. The CLC in collaboration with the NY Immigration Coalition endorsed May Day putting out a strong statement to encourage unions to participate: “The Trump administration’s assaults on working people, from ICE raids and the rollback of TPS and humanitarian parole to stripping federal workers of bargaining rights, and canceling union contracts is a direct attack on the entire Labor Movement and a deliberate strategy to drive down wages and break worker power for everyone. We as workers are at risk when exploited or exploitable; our solidarity transcends identities, borders, industries, and union halls to create pathways to our collective dignity at work and for our families.”

The main event planned for May Day was a rally at Washington Square Park and a march to Foley Square. The PSC also urged members to attend an event earlier in the day in front of the New School for Research called Hands Off Higher Education. The PSC played an important role in bringing together many of the higher education workers in NYC. Union members from the New School, NYU, St. Johns, CUNY, AAUP, and UUP were present at this event. The PSC was there in force, including many members of the Retirees Chapter. We joined a picket line carrying PSC signs that read “Money for Education, not for Oligarchs” and “Tax the Rich and Fund CUNY.” After picketing, we heard from union activists at each school who gave rousing speeches explaining the anti-labor tactics being used to deal with budgetary issues such as firing faculty, delegitimizing unions and contracts that had been signed, and fighting against the formation of unions among contingent labor. Our own PSC president, James Davis, put these attacks into a broader framework and reminded the crowd that solidarity was the most important weapon that labor has.



Afterwards, the New School demonstrators began to march towards Washington Square. As we arrived, we were amazed at the large numbers of unions and community groups in the park. It took some time to wend our way through the crowds to find the

PSC. It was a joyous occasion, seeing friends and co-workers, including many of our retiree colleagues. At about 5:30, after musical performances and speeches, we began to leave Washington Square and make our way down Broadway. Thousands of people lined the streets with banners and posters chanting as we made our way to Foley Square. The estimate by news teams was about 20,000 people. I did not make it all the way to Foley Square, but I took note of the many organizations I saw in the park and on the march: OPEIU Local 153, RWDSU Local 1-S, New York Taxi Workers Alliance, SEIU 32BJ, 1199 SEIU, CSEA Local 1000, Laborers Local 79, Hotel Workers Union Local 6 UNITE-HERE, and DC 37. In addition, there was a strong presence of immigrant workers' organizations like Make the Road NY, tenants groups, and anti-war groups. Also present were advocacy groups, such as the ACLU and Physicians for a National Health program, and left organizations such as DSA, whose Tax the Rich signs were prominent.



From the perspective of the PSC, May Day was a beginning, not an ending. Our union sees May Day as a strategy to build a long-term capacity to organize and mobilize members in response to the ongoing political, social, and economic attacks of the Trump regime as it continues to wage war on labor, immigrants, higher education, and democratic rights.

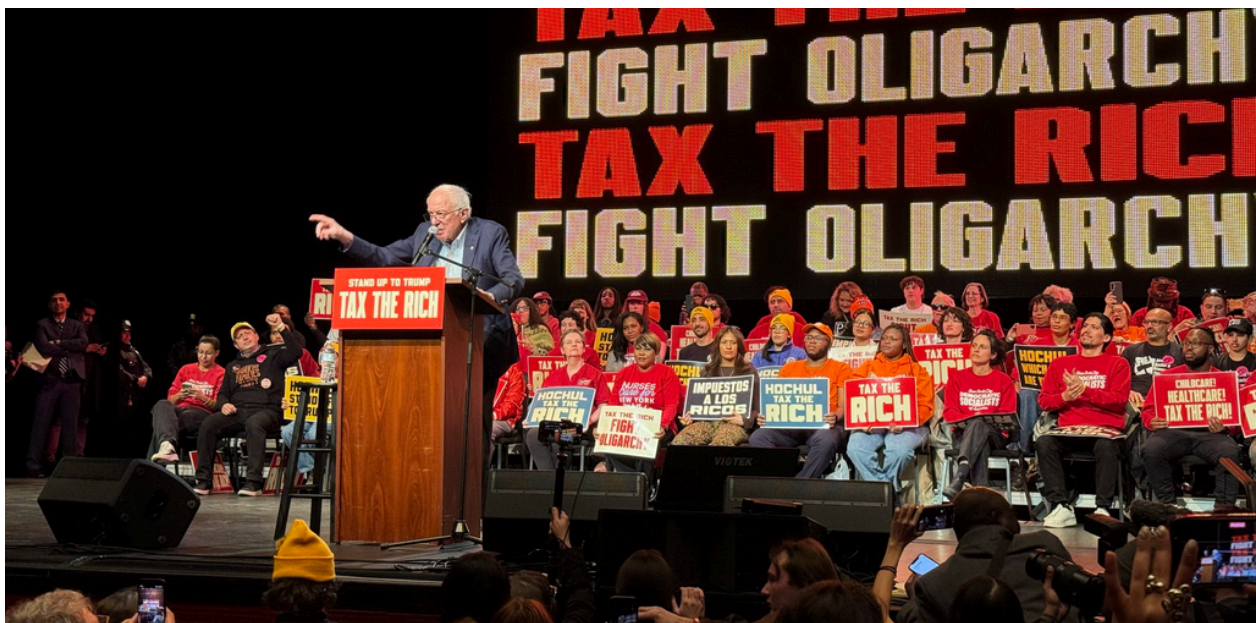
At a post-May Day meeting of captains, Marlana asked us to reflect on the day itself. Captains at the meeting talked about feeling empowered, hopeful, and motivated. Marlana announced that the PSC had met its target goals: 135 May Day Captains had signed up from various campuses and constituencies. There were approximately 750 PSC members who had signed in on May Day itself. Counting all the people who were involved in pre-May Day events, approximately 1700 PSC members were engaged in May Day activities. The captains voted to keep attending the weekly

meetings with Marlena. May Day 2026 was a joyful, memorable day. I, along with many others active in the PSC, hope this day was a turning point for NYC labor to use collective action to fight for a better life for working people. May Day 2026 was hopefully an important day for reviving the power of labor to make progressive social change. We are on our way to May Day 2028.



Bernie Vs. the Billionaires by Marianne Pita

Bernie Sanders coming to the Bronx? To Lehman College? I was not going to miss it for the world. We got there early to make sure we had seats and who should we run into for the second time in two days but PSC President and Vice President, James Davis and Jen Gaboury. (The day before was No Kings Day.) Turns out James was going to speak to the 2000 plus Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), their invited guests, and the press. Why was he so honored? Our union has been out in front of every major municipal union on progressive issues, including endorsing now-Mayor Mamdani when most unions did not think he stood a chance. When President Davis took the stage, I could not have been prouder. He spoke about what it would take to rebuild CUNY: a major revision to our tax code where now working people pay much more than their share.



TAX THE RICH rally headlined by Senator Bernie Sanders at Lehman College March 30, 2026.

Senator Bernie Sanders was greeted with a standing ovation before he even said a word, and no wonder. He began by thanking New Yorkers, saying, “The work that you did to elect Mayor Mamdani will not only impact

this city, . . . , it is reverberating all over this world. You have given America hope. . . . You showed this country and people all over the world that in spite of all of the money and all of the power of the oligarchs. . . ordinary people can take them on and defeat them.” He compared our times to the Gilded Age and said wealth inequality is much worse than it was then. Working people pay between 8 and 12% in taxes while billionaires pay 3, 4 or 5 %—and many corporations pay nothing.

The enormous wealth inequality in New York City has led to the conditions we see around us every day: unhoused people sleeping on the streets, crumbling schools and colleges, underpaid municipal workers struggling to pay their bills and fighting like hell to hold on to their health care plans. On top of that environmental conditions continue to deteriorate even though New York State has a Climate Action Plan. Governor Hochul tells us there is no money to implement the plan. The auditorium at Lehman College rang with our response: “Tax the rich! Tax the rich!”

By the time this article goes to press, the budget will have been passed, but whether Mayor Mamdani’s proposed Fair Share Act (2% surcharge on millionaires) goes through or not, the fight is not over. Our part in this struggle is clear: we can roll over and play dead, or we can roll up our sleeves and figure out how we can get involved. The union is a leader in this city on so many of the issues that plague our city; let’s put our time and wisdom into the struggle.

Facts of Life in These United States



The top 1% of families in the United States take home 21% of all the income.

(<https://www.epi.org/multimedia/unequal-states-of-america/#/NewYork>)



The top 1% of families in New York State take home 31% of all the income.

(Economic Policy Institute
<https://www.epi.org/about/>)

”

There were 900
billionaires in the
US in 2025.

*(Fortune magazine, Dec. 2025:
<https://fortune.com/2025/12/08/how-many-billionaires-does-america-world-have-ubs/>)*

”

154 of those
billionaires live in
New York State .

*(Fortune magazine, March 2026:
<https://fortune.com/2026/03/26/new-york-home-to-154-billionaires-worth-975-billion-some-making-2-million-an-hour/>)*

”

New York City has the largest
number of billionaires of any
city in the world.

*(Forbes magazine, April 2025:
<https://forbes.com/sites/gemmacontino/2025/04/02/the-cities-with-the-most-billionaires-2025/>)*

These facts were gathered by Dave Kotelchuck. We all know that there is an unequal distribution of wealth in this country and particularly so in this city. So, what can we do about it? Who is going to do it? How can it be accomplished? And, what exactly would we do with the money?



Tax The Rich! by Nancy Romer

PSC-CUNY has been deeply engaged in the fight to Tax the Rich to produce greater revenue from the state and city governments. This increased funding would allow the city to address the multiple needs of our people. What, specifically, would we use increased revenues for?

- Fully funding CUNY—with strong staffing and student supports as articulated by a New Deal for CUNY, repairing decrepit buildings including replacing antiquated heating and cooling systems.

- Universal childcare, starting in the first year of life and continuing through traditional kindergarten.
- Food assistance, including making up for the defunding of SNAP, expanding food programs in schools, community centers and hospitals.
- Repair of NYCHA public houses and development of new truly affordable housing and providing no-cost loans to small landlords with rent-stabilized apartments to be able to repair those apartments, prepare them for rental and thus dramatically expand the rental market.
- Full public-school funding, allowing for decreased class size, hiring more teachers and providing more support services for children and families.
- Climate mitigation including loans to co-ops and small landlords to comply with LL97 (Dirty Buildings Law) and begin to institute the Green and Healthy Schools program, which would replace fossil fuel heating and cooling systems with renewable energy, remove toxins, create more green and play spaces, and create resilience hubs in public schools and CUNY community colleges.
- Improve public transportation, making buses faster and free.
- Provide medical coverage for New Yorkers thrown off Medicaid and those with significant increases in their ACA charges.
- Enforcing fair labor practices, as well as instituting a \$30 per hour minimum wage.
- And more.

To achieve these goals and provide for the well-being and dignity of our people, we will need additional taxation from those who can best provide it: ultrawealthy individuals and corporations. We think they should pay their fair share in order to meet the people's needs and to make up for the Trump tax cuts for the rich, tax cuts that deprive New Yorkers of even more money than in the past. All these investments will stimulate New York's economy and produce a significant return.

Who is doing the work?

PSC has joined with other unions to Tax the Rich: United Auto Workers (UAW) Region 9A, 1199 SEIU, New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA), Communication Workers of America (CWA), Hotel and Gaming Trades, Committee of Interns and Residents, Doctors Council, CWA 1180, Local 802 Musicians, OPIU 153, as well as advocacy groups such as Democratic Socialists of America, Bend the Arc, Jews for Racial and Economic Justice, Housing Works, Hunger Free America, Indivisible, WEACT, Rise and Resist, Network for a Sustainable Tomorrow, NY Energy Democracy Alliance, Working Families Party, NY Progressive Action



Network, and many others. Invest in Our NY (IONY) (a list of 25 organizations that have been agitating for these bills can be found here: <https://www.investinourny.org/about>).

How can it be achieved?

To recover some of the money taken by the federal Big Ugly Bill (aka One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025-OBBA) from our state coffers, PSC and allies are pressing Governor Hochul to add additional state and city taxes to New Yorkers earning more than \$1 million per year. State legislators (State Senator Jackson and Assembly Member Meeks) are supporting our call for taxing the rich by advancing bills that would create a more graduated tax rate with higher rates for top earners, providing an additional \$10 billion in state revenue each year. State Senator Liu and Assembly Member Souffrant Forrest are advancing the Fair Share Act which would authorize New York City to charge an additional 2% on all annual income over \$1,000,000. Massachusetts has a similar “Millionaires Tax.” This would generate an additional \$2.2 billion every year for New York City.

State Senator Hoylman and Assembly Members Kelles and Shrestha are proposing to increase taxes on the most profitable corporations—12% for corporations earning over \$10 million and 14% for corporations earning over \$20 million per year. These taxes would cover the \$6 billion deficit left by former Mayor Eric Adams and give the city the funds it needs to address New Yorkers’ needs.

Additionally, State Senator Liu and former Assembly Member Mamdani have proposed the REPAIR Act which would amend the NY State constitution to end property tax exemptions for Columbia and NYU, institutions with enormous profit-making real estate holdings. This change would generate over \$321 million each year for CUNY.

According to the Fiscal Policy Institute New Yorkers earning over \$1 million per year have collectively received a total of \$12 billion in annual federal tax breaks, equivalent to \$129,600 per millionaire each year or 2.7% of their income. Reclaiming this tax cut from millionaires and billionaires would more than cover New York City’s budget deficit, and it would allow us to cover our basic needs as listed above.

Who is the stumbling block?

Mayor Zohran Mamdani has been a proponent of taxing the rich for his entire time in the state legislature. It was the center of his mayoral campaign platform. He and the coalition built by Democratic Socialists of

America, Our Time (the post-Mamdani election platform), PSC and other groups have been building momentum and power to see these changes succeed. The state legislature is miraculously behind us but the governor is the barrier to success. Governor Hochul's centrist politics developed in conservative sections of western NY with family and business buddies in corporations (including fossil fuels—which explains her stalling on climate goals) have kept her in the “NO” column for this important change in the tax codes.

A new direction in governance is the only way

Taxing the rich will allow us to meet people's needs and provide a model of how radical/progressive governance such as that provided by Mayor Mamdani can succeed in truly serving the people. This new direction in governance in the U.S. – rejecting the control of billionaires – is the way forward. Getting the governor to support taxing the rich and/or getting the state legislature to override her potential veto is a fight worth having. This is our moment to push as hard as possible and to show what progressive politics can look like. The PSC has led the labor movement in this Tax the Rich campaign. We have lobbied the state extensively, organized rallies, demonstrations, call-ins and write-ins. By the time this issue of *Turning the Page* comes out, the decisions will likely have been made. As of this writing, the state budget is more than a month overdue. Let's hope we finally move the governor and prevail. Let's TAX THE RICH and get our people's needs met now!!



– WHAT'D I MISS? CHAPTER MEETING RECAP –

NYC's Hidden Gems: March 2 Chapter Meeting

by Marva Lilly

We had an exciting opportunity to learn about some little-known but fascinating museums located right under our collective noses. The topic was **NYC's Hidden Gems: Lesser-known Museums of New York**.

Our first speaker was **Victoria Munro, executive director of Alice Austen House**. Alice Austen House is located on waterfront property in Staten Island with views of Brooklyn, Manhattan and New Jersey. It is a nationally designated site of LGBTQ+ history centering on a 55-year relationship



between Alice and her life partner, Gertrude Tate. The site provides an important window into pre-Stonewall LGBTQ+ history and an overview of the important life and work of American photographer, Alice Austen. Her photos capture her participation in a variety of sports and clubs. She promoted bicycling for women, was a champion tennis player, and was the first woman on Staten Island to own a car.

BANKSY MUSEUM

The second speaker was **William Meade, executive director of the Banksy Museum**, located at 277 Canal Street. This museum stores over 167 replicas of the mysterious and now famous, or infamous, graffiti artist Banksy who started painting in the mid-1990s. Meade believes Banksy is not a single person, but a collection of artists. His art was stenciled on public sites in cities like New York, Paris, London, and Palestine, but over 90% of the murals have been destroyed or painted over, so Meade had nine street artists come to New York to replicate his street art. The only original piece that can be found in NYC is the Homer Boy which can be seen at 79th & Broadway. A Zabar's manager saw groups gathering to take photos and the store decided to put their own sign above the mural for publicity. Ironically, you can now go to a museum and view the street art of Banksy, who is known to hate museums.

The next speaker was **Susan Chevlowe, Chief Curator of the Derfner Judaica Museum and Art Collection** located at the Hebrew Home in Riverdale. It was founded in 1982 when Ralph and Leuba Baum donated their collection of 800 Jewish ceremonial objects to the home. They reopened in 2009 when Riverdale residents Helen and Harold Derfner were named benefactors. The Baums had an intense desire to preserve and pass on Judaica to future generations and donated their collection to the home. The art collection includes works by many renowned artists, and the Defner has a sculpture garden that overlooks the magnificent Hudson River and the Palisades.

DERFNER **JUDAICA** **MUSEUM** + Art Collection



Our last speaker, **Hua Haung, director of communications for the Queens County Farm Museum** took us on a virtual journey. The Farm, located in Floral Park, is a historic site which dates back to 1697. It is one of the longest continuously farmed sites in New York State. The farm's 47-acres have produced

food and fed New Yorkers for over three centuries. It is open every day from 10-5; visitors line up at 9 AM to purchase fresh produce and eggs. The Farm provides learning opportunities and conversations about nutrition, health and wellness.

In the second part of the meeting, Heather James-Zuckerman, PSC legislative representative, discussed opportunities for PSC retirees to get involved. A delegation went to Albany a week before our meeting to lobby their legislators. They discussed the need for fair taxation (taxing the ultra-wealthy), the CUNY Rising Alliance and CUNY Cares, which connects students health care, mental health, food and housing assistance.

Thanks to Bob Nelson for informing us of a wonderful selection of lesser-known but fascinating museums to visit in the coming months. The meeting was recorded and can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/M7xliipkxY4>

Could The New York Health Act Be the Answer? April Chapter Meeting by Francine Egger-Sider

At the April 6th PSC Retirees Chapter meeting, the focus was on the New York Health Act (NYHA). The three speakers were **Richard Gottfried (former NYS Assembly Member for Manhattan)**, **Len Rodberg (PSC retiree from Queens College)**, and **Jen Gaboury (First VP of the PSC and Professor of Gender Studies at Hunter College)**.



[Note: There were a number of technical issues at this meeting: Dick Gottfried's presentation was inadvertently not recorded and Len Rodberg's sound was not working. Both guests were kind enough to re-record their presentations and the complete video of the meeting is available here: <https://youtu.be/eEtwHR9WeBg>

The first speaker was Richard Gottfried who is the author of the NYHA (A1466/S3425). The legislation would provide health insurance to anyone who lives or works full-time in New York State. Richard started his presentation by putting the need for a NYHA in context. Every year in New York State, one third of households have some type of health coverage but still suffer due to hardship or cost. Everyone is under-insured due to denials, restrictions, and at this moment, no insurance covers long-term care or nursing homes. There is an enormous amount of waste in terms of dollars due to insurance bureaucracy, the outrageous salaries of CEOs, Rx prices, doctors and hospitals.

The alternative is the proposed state bill, the NYHA, which would offer complete benefits, no premiums, no deductibles, no copays, no prior authorizations, and no restrictions for out-of-network providers. It would be funded by a progressive graduated tax based on taxable income from employment, capital gains, and dividends. Employers would pay 80% of the payroll tax. For seniors on Medicare, no “medigap” plans would be needed. In other words, the NYHA would pick up what Medicare does not cover. Gottfried addressed the issue of organized labor bargaining for health benefits with each new contract. His position is that health benefits should not have to be bargained for. Unions should focus on wages and benefits. He explained that a federal health plan is not happening at this time. Better to start at the state level as many federal programs have emerged in such a manner. One example he gave is the Child Health Act which was started in MN, replicated in NYS, and is now available in all states.

For further information, Richard Gottfried has written two articles available online. “All About the New York Health Act” available at <https://tinyurl.com/NYHApSC1> and “Older Adults Need the New York Health Act” at <https://tinyurl.com/NYHApSC2>. The text of the bill itself is at bit.ly/NYHAinfo. The slides from Gottfried’s presentation are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/NYHApSCG>.

The second speaker was Len Rodberg, PhD in Physics, professor and past chair of Urban Studies at Queens College. He has worked closely with Richard Gottfried over the years on the NYHA. His PowerPoint addressed the economics of the proposed NYHA. He showed how health care spending has grown as a percentage of the GDP from 1980-2023. His second slide dealt with the cumulative health spending growth per enrollee since January 2009. He showed us a graph of the NYHA costs and savings, followed by the current sources of funding for healthcare versus funding under the NYHA. Slide 5 showed the progressive graduated tax under the NYHA – 80% by employer, 20% by employee. The next slide showed that there is another way to fund the NYHA with a surcharge on the existing household income tax. Len suggested putting the financing into the NYHA to pass it in one step. His last slide advocates for more support from labor, business, and hospitals rather than just from the legislature. Due to sound issues, we could not hear the presentation properly, so it was cut short. However, as noted above, Len re-recorded his presentation and the video can be viewed here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEtwHR9WeBg> Len’s slides are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/NYHApSCR>.

The third speaker was Jen Gaboury, first vice-president of the PSC, Chair of the Hunter PSC Chapter, and a lecturer at the Department of Women and Gender Studies at Hunter College. Jen Gaboury explained that the PSC now supports single payer legislation and the NYHA. She is also in touch with **Melanie D'Arrigo, executive director of the Campaign for the NYHA**, to recruit members and see what needs to be done in this fight. She stressed the need to talk to other unions—DC37 will have contract negotiations this summer.



During the Q&A part of the meeting, someone recommended the film “The Healthcare Conspiracy” by Richard Hollman available at <https://healthcareconspiracy.com/>. Many people expressed concerns that they are not living in New York State. Richard Gottfried stressed

that public retirees’ monies follow you wherever you live. The NYHA covers medigap and drugs.

Lorraine Cohen made a pitch for the **PSC Social Safety Net Working Group** which has been dealing with the NYHA for many years. The issue of unions not supporting the NYHA came up again. Support from private-sector unions is strong while many public employee unions such as DC37 and UFT do not endorse it. Jen Gaboury pointed out that with New York Presbyterian Hospital leaving the new health plan for in-service CUNY employees, this could be a great moment to show a new solution, such as the NYHA.

At the end of the meeting, **Michael Foley of the PSC Welfare Fund** demystified drug coverage for retirees under 65. They are covered by the CVS Caremark Plan. Retirees over 65 are covered by the SilverScript Plan. He stressed that you should become familiar with the formulary on the Welfare Fund website to see what is and what is not covered as a starting point. Jennifer Melfi at the Welfare Fund handles all questions regarding prescription drugs (212-354-



5230 ext. 1329 or jmelfi@psccunywf.org). The maximum for prescription drugs this year is \$2,100.

Michael then addressed the topic of catastrophic insurance policy. If you have it, use it! You need to reach \$10,000 of submitted charges. It goes much faster than you think. Someone clarified that it had to be charges Medicare approved. Retirees should beware of Medicare fraud. There was a data breach, and a new Medicare card had to be issued to retirees. As usual, don't respond to emails, texts, or calls regarding medical insurance.

Fighting For Domestic Workers: May Chapter Meeting

by Doris Hart

"Domestic workers do the essential work of caring of loved ones and our homes."

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC
WORKERS ALLIANCE**

These words were spoken by **Tatiana**

Behar, director of The National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA) at the May chapter meeting. Using power point, she explained that NDWA is the leading voice of 2.5 million nannies, home cleaners and homecare workers. They are mostly women of color, and many are immigrants. Many are denied basic labor rights and don't have minimum wages, health care, or protection from harassment. NDWA was created in 2007 in Atlanta by 13 local organizations. Today there are over 60 affiliate organizations, with six chapters, mainly in the East. There are 50,000 members in all 50 states.

**WE DREAM
IN BLACK**

A brief history of domestic workers was presented in PowerPoint by **Jacqui Orie of NDWA and New York lead organizer for We Dream in Black.** She pointed out that it

was slavery that created a servant class. And even when enslaved women were freed, they had little choice but to continue domestic work because of racism. Major 1930s Labor Laws excluded domestic workers, thus denying a minimum wage or the right to organize. "Care work is real work," exclaimed Orie, and workers began organizing. In fact, domestic workers had been fighting for years for their dignity and fair wages.

In 1881 one of the first domestic workers strike was carried out by Black women in Atlanta. Dorothy Bowden founded The National Domestic Workers Union of America, which organized 10,000 workers. In 1933 domestic workers went on strike for higher wages. After several weeks, El Paso employers agreed to settle the strike. In the Irish domestic workers strike in the 1920s, all kinds of workers came together to demand fair wages and protection from abuse.

Jacqui Orie then explained the work of We Dream in Black in New York.

Goals include organizing Black, Afro-Latina and Afro-descendant domestic workers. Training sessions help to build new skills. Workers are urged to use their voices to influence politics to obtain workplace changes and justice for domestic workers.

Tatiana Behar noted that there is a Domestic Workers Bill of Rights in 13 states and 5 cities. President Biden signed an Executive Order to improve conditions for care workers. New York was the first to pass a Bill of Rights in 2010, which included a minimum wage, protection from harassment and paid time off for breaks. The State of Washington was the last to approve the Bill but added mandatory written work agreements, protection against discrimination and protection of privacy.

Still there are many barriers to full rights for domestic workers and NDWA will continue to protect immigrants and workers and build pathways to citizenship. They will continue to provide information to workers and employers to obtain those rights. Regarding local efforts, in New York City, there is a coalition for domestic workers with 50,000 members. Their goal is to get the local government to raise the minimum wage to \$30 per hour and to provide universal childcare for workers.

In closing, Bejar announced that on May 14 there would be a rally at City Hall to urge the City to support the 1.7 million dollar budget investment needed to aid domestic workers.

The recording of the meeting is available here
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sgf8bPgMOBE>.



The editors of Turning the Page sent out a call for retiree members to send us a line or two about their own experiences along with photos of the recent No Kings march. Here are a few, beginning with a longer piece by Bob and Bonnie Nelson. This introduces a new column we thought we'd call:

MEMBERS REPORT FROM THE FIELD

– Bob and Bonnie Nelson –

The third No Kings! rally was held on Saturday, March 28, in thousands of cities and towns across the country. It is estimated that 8 million participated in the United States, and there were rallies elsewhere in the world. People all over gathered to protest the rise of fascism, oligarchy, white supremacy, anti-immigrant brutality, wars of choice, climate change

denialism, science denialism, anti-intellectualism.... The list can go on and on.

The official PSC presence was at the Manhattan march, where the PSC contingent gathered at Central Park West and 62nd St. At least 500 PSCers were part of the crowd of over 350,000 that marched in Manhattan. The crowd was so large that the march was broken into two streams—one



Aerial Shot of the No Kings Rally, March 28, 2026.

going down Broadway and the other heading down 7th Avenue until they converged at 34th St. Here's a picture where you can get a sense of the size of the crowd in Manhattan. And here are some PSC members marching.



PSC members marching together at the No Kings Rally, March 28, 2026.

We went to the No Kings demonstration in Manhattan to march with the PSC. Eventually the overall crowd was so large that we lost touch with them. A measure of the size was that we had run into our family at the previous No Kings rallies but never did find them at this No Kings.

They, on the other hand, managed to meet up with the family of our granddaughter's kindergarten classmate.

We have tried to encourage our family to be activist and progressive. We have a photo that appeared in a local newspaper of our daughter holding a sign protesting U.S. involvement in the Middle East during the First Iraq War. She was five. Now we have a photo of her family with her own five-year-old holding a sign at the No Kings protest. Our granddaughter wrote her own sign, which said:



After marching for a half mile or so, we accidentally found two retired friends who had lost touch with their UFT contingent and marched with us instead. It was great to run into them, but the idea of having a conversation and catching up with each other was out of the question, considering the drumming, horn-blowing, chanting, and general noise echoing through the canyons of New York—another measure of the size and passion of the crowd.

– **Marie Miller Warshofsky** –

On Long Beach Island, a rather conservative beach community in Ocean County NJ, the large turnout was heartening. Demonstrators lined a thoroughfare where traffic exited the causeway to the island, and passing cars honked and waved. A trumpeter played patriotic songs, and everyone sang.

– **Alan Feigenberg** –

I was an invited speaker at the demo on the Grand Concourse at 161 St in the Bronx, just six blocks away from the building where my great-grandfather, an immigrant from Budapest, Hungary, lived. WOW! The attendees were varied, primarily retired from city jobs and schools in the Bronx. My focus was on the personal-political interrelationships between public education and immigration, our images, goals and involvement.



I tried to share the pride I had in being a professor-educator-union activist in CUNY and CCNY; an educator whose mother went to Hunter and uncle went to CCNY. Numerous people spoke to me about their ties-connections-experiences with CUNY—a history and pride we shared.

– **Paula Whitlock** –

My husband (a union member, retired professor in NJ), our daughter, a friend and a grandson all attended the No Kings event in Brookdale Park, Montclair/Bloomfield, NJ. There were many speakers, including Congresswoman LaMonica McIver, and thousands of attendees.

– Olga Steinberg –

I was with the PSC members at the rally. There were a lot of funny signs, for example . . .



See you all at the next March!



CULTURE CORNER

Poem: “When in disgust with bosses and their lies”

by Diane Menna

Apologies to William Shakespeare

When in disgust with bosses and their lies,
The workers all alone bemoan their fate,
And plague deaf HR with their fruitless cries,
And for a decent wage no longer wait.
As for promotion, not a jot of hope,
Your boss screams at you like a fiend possessed,
The guy above him is an outright dope,
The most inept do rise above the rest;
You watch the clock your dumb job despising,
Haply, the call for Union’s not too late,
All workers soon will feel themselves arising,
Collective power if first begun grows great;
Sweet self respect and strength the Union brings.
To deal with jackass men who think they’re kings.



– COMMUNITY BOARD –

Call for topics and speakers for Chapter Meetings

The Program Committee of the Retirees Chapter will be meeting in June to plan our programs for the 2026-2027 academic year. If you have any suggestions for topics, with suggested speakers, please send them to Irwin Yellowitz, Chair PSC Retirees Chapter Program Committee at iyellowitz@aol.com.



TTP wants your ideas and contributions

The editors of *Turning The Page* are soliciting story proposals and article submissions. Please let us know what you are interested in reading and writing about in your newsletter. Send your proposals to retirees@pscmail.org with “TTP” as the subject.



**SPRING SEMESTER MEETING DATES:
PSC RETIREES CHAPTER**

PSC Retirees Meetings, on Zoom

- MONDAY, September 14, 2026 — 1:00 PM
- MONDAY, October 5, 2026 — 1:00 PM
- MONDAY, November 2, 2026 — 1:00 PM
- MONDAY, December 7, 2026 — 1:00 PM



The *Turning The Page* editorial committee for this Summer 2026 issue is made up of Diane Menna, Marianne Pita, David Kotelchuck, and Joan Greenbaum. Graphic design by Amanda Magalhaes.



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