TURNING THE PAGE
The Newsletter of the PSC Retiree Chapter
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Aging With Intention

by Marvin Weinbaum

Marvin Weinbaum is a senior life coach and columnist. He writes about aging with purpose, dignity, curiosity and resilience, translating insight into practical guidance for everyday life. Feel free to send your questions to marvin@coachweinbaum.com.



Marvin Weinbaum

“Who you are has more than a little to do with who your father was, and his father before him.”

My father didn’t talk much; he worked. An immigrant, he was a product of his generation, a strong, self-sufficient man, he kept his feelings to himself. And while the “strong, silent type” can be appealing in motion pictures and romance novels, it’s not helpful for a child growing up; not for the child, not for the father. What I know of his history came from others, and through his tears at weddings and graduations. It is one of the few regrets of my life that I did not prompt his story from him.

Don’t make the same mistake I did.

Too many of us assume our stories aren't worth telling. “Who would be interested in me? My life isn't particularly remarkable. I didn't do anything special.”

I disagree.

It’s far more than likely that our children, our family and friends want to know about us. They deserve to know. To know the details, the stories, the ups and downs, the fears and pleasures. When I think about my own life (I’ve begun a memoir), it is enough for me to believe that anyone who wished to do so might satisfy their curiosity and, through my story, learn a bit about their heritage, and perhaps learn something about themselves. I need no agenda beyond that. It is enough.

Stories are magical; the small stories may ultimately be the most important ones. Your grandchildren will be fascinated to know how you met their grandmother, what sports you played, what your first job was, what you

worried about when you were a child; how you overcame your problems and fears. And you needn't sanitize your story. Younger generations don't need us to pretend we always made the right decisions. They may learn more from the times we failed, recovered, and tried again.

The ordinary details of our lives become history, your history, faster than we realize.

If you chose to take this path, modern technology, with all its problems and frustrations, has made things easier. Here are some suggestions:

- Audio and Video Recordings
  - *Have someone interview you. Record the conversation. Video is best.*
- Answer the questions in "Grandfather/Grandmother Remembers," a children's book.
- Create a Digital Photo Album
  - *Digitize your photos. Create an album (through Shutterfly) by adding commentary and stories to the photos.*
- Create a Family Tree
  - *A family tree will tell a grandchild who his great-grandfather was. A photograph can show what he looked like. A story can make him come alive.*
- Begin a Journal
  - *Record your random thoughts and memories in real-time.*
- Write a Memoir/Autobiography (it can be self-published for around $2000 through Amazon)
  - *"Start it at no particular time in your life; wander at your free will all over your life; talk only about the thing which interests you for the moment; drop it at the moment its interest threatens to pale, and turn your talk upon the new and more interesting thing that has intruded itself into your mind meantime." Mark Twain*

Most important, don't wait until you think you have something notable to say. Someday, someone who loves you may want to know what you were like when you were young. What made you laugh. What scared you. What you believed. What you learned. You won't be there to answer.

Your stories can be.

So, if you've spent a lifetime collecting memories, don't take them with you.

[The editors invite readers to send articles about their own lives and memories to retirees@pscmail.org.]

Clean Up Those Toxins! De-Carbonize CUNY!

by Nancy Romer and Eileen Moran

PSC's Environmental Justice Working Group (EJWG) is partnering with PSC Health & Safety Watchdogs to make real progress on decarbonizing and cleaning up our campus buildings and more. The EJWG's long relationship with Public Power NY and the DSA Eco-Socialists has already yielded big gains with more to come. When developing his platform (2024-25), Mayor Mamdani turned to DSA Eco-Socialists to help write his environmental plank. They had been working on both expanding public renewables with Public Power NY and the Green Healthy Schools campaign. PSC EJWG has played a key part in both campaigns. Now we will work with the Mayor's office to actualize that platform: developing much more renewable energy through the NY Public Power Authority (NYPA) (publicly owned by you and me) for public buildings including buildings on our CUNY campuses; and cleaning up toxins and transforming heating and cooling systems to renewable energy in K-12 schools and City-funded CUNY community colleges.

Right now, the PSC EJWG and Health & Safety Watchdogs are working together engaging faculty, staff and students through popular education and action to push these demands. Together we are organizing campus-based town halls, as we have done before, advancing education and action. Our focus this year is on the importance and value of using science to develop sound public policy. The broad federal assault on science puts us all at risk, as do the federal denials of climate change and US Secretary of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy's false health and vaccine information.

Town halls have been organized at several of our community colleges as a step towards including city-funded community colleges in the Green Healthy Schools campaign. In their efforts to decarbonize and detox campuses, campus activists may select speakers from Public Power NY, Tree-age (youth climate organizing), PSC Watchdogs, or DSA Eco-Socialists to address their campuses' unique needs and perspectives.

Green healthy schools: a huge undertaking

There are over 1400 K-12 NYC school buildings and five multi-building community college campuses. Massive transformation of their heating and cooling systems will cost billions of dollars over many years but will dramatically cut emissions in NYC. We know that 70% of all carbon emissions in NYC come from buildings, and CUNY has some of the worst carbon-

emitters in the city and the state. We aim for NYC and NYS to be models for what states and cities can do to minimize the harmful effects of climate change and transition away from fossil fuels.

Fortunately, the PSC and EJWG, in partnership with labor, including NYSUT, UUP, ALIGN, environmental groups such as NYRENEWS, 350.0rg, eco-socialists, community groups, NY Public Power, and the UFT Environmental Justice Committee, have successfully passed NYC and NYS legislation to transition away from fossil fuels with public renewables prioritized in public buildings.

Gov Hochul has been a reluctant partner, signing progressive climate laws but not funding them. Responding to pressure from PSC, NYSUT and UUP, the Governor announced her administration's intention to completely decarbonize all SUNY campus buildings. We will continue to organize so that all CUNY campuses are included and provided with new renewable heating and cooling systems, too. Two years ago, the NYS budget included appropriations for SUNY and CUNY to begin decarbonization with a $50 million grant to three of CUNY's oldest campuses to begin that transition.

Much of our work rests on effectively taxing the rich in NYS. The Governor should and will face enormous pressure to do this to protect the health of all New Yorkers. We know that climate change is upon us: heat waves, flooding, epidemic levels of respiratory illnesses, mass migration precipitated by changing agricultural conditions particularly in the Global South, and more. We can't roll back the clock, but we can and we must do what's possible for future generations.

We retirees have not witnessed the worst of climate change, nor are we likely to experience it directly in our lifetimes. But we owe it to our students, our children and grandchildren, and everyone else's as well, to do what we can to minimize the coming effects. We must end our use of fossil fuels and move toward a healthier and carbon-free environment now and in the future. Join us and help make it happen!



What is the PSC Action Fund?

by Liz Stevenson, PSC Legislation and Political Action



So, what is this new thing I now see in PSC email blasts and *This Week in the PSC* called The PSC Action Fund? Is it new? No. It is something some of us know well. The PSC Action Fund is the PSC-CUNY's Committee on Political Education or what we knew as VOTE COPE. It is the political action arm of our union and part of the non-partisan VOTE COPE program supported by hundreds of thousands of union members from our state and national affiliates, NYSUT and AFT. COPE contributions are voluntary and only PSC-CUNY members may contribute. Some of us retirees have been contributing to it for years, some before we even retired as in-service employees. Then the contributions came out of your paycheck. As a retiree, you are unable to make payroll contributions, but you can still make one-time donations. Retirees can use this form.

Why contributions are vital

We use Action Fund money to subsidize our advocacy efforts in Albany and City Hall, to support and hold accountable political candidates, to contribute to organizations who fight alongside us for CUNY funding, and to stipend members who do political work for the union. Regular union dues are not used for political campaign contributions. Our political efforts center on the fight for CUNY funding at both the state and local levels, as well as protections for workers and unions.

Numbers count! The more members we have contributing to the PSC Action Fund, the stronger our argument is that our members care about the extent to which legislators and our union affiliates prioritize CUNY and the PSC. We put our money where our mouth is, and we expect them to pay attention to our demands and needs.

Some things the ACTION FUND accomplished

In recent years, our Action Fund has helped to elect Zohran Mamdani and defeat Andrew Cuomo; make improvements to Tier VI retirement benefits (for both TIAA and TRS participants); increase funding for CUNY initiatives like Reconnect, SEEK, and ASAP/ACE; and increase budgets for both capital expenses and general operating expenses CUNY-wide. We continue to promote our New Deal for CUNY legislation, which includes demands for more

full-time faculty, advisors, and mental health counselors. And we are actively campaigning for a bill to hold CUNY accountable to address widespread pension issues, which have cost PSC members anywhere from hundreds to tens of thousands of dollars in back payments and unfair interest charges.

So, let's do our part, retirees. We may not be able to get around as easily as we used to, but money talks and our contributions can walk the walk for us.

– AND THEN WHAT HAPPENED? ARTICLE FOLLOW-UP –

The OMB Proposal on Funding Science: When We Protest, Sometimes We Win!

by David Kotelchuck

[On May 29, 2026, the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a set of proposals to upend the decades-old peer-review system by which federal agencies evaluate and fund science grant proposals. See article about this in the Sept/Oct issue.]

As we noted, the OMB proposed that heads of federal science agencies or their designees conduct "pre-issuance reviews" to assure that all science-grant proposals are in compliance with "administration priorities." If the proposals are turned down, there is no appeal process—the reviewers then are in effect "political commissars." There are also no requirements that the agency heads or designees have competence in the subjects they are reviewing. (Robert Kennedy, anyone? Former Congressman Zeldin at EPA?)

The public comments about these proposals? A stunning half a million individuals and organizations submitted comments—95 percent of them in opposition to the OMB proposals. Among them the AAUP, our national union, the AFT, and locally the PSC and CUNY, among others. Only 1 percent of the statements were in support.

The White House backs off!
On September 23, 2026, the *New York Times* reported that President Trump "backed off" promulgating the OMB proposals, following a White House meeting the previous week, during which Congressional Republicans and Democrats "fiercely opposed" them.

Many years ago, in his famous Canandaigua, NY speech, Frederick Douglass spoke for the ages, saying, “If there is no struggle, there is no progress.” So, we understand today that if we do not protest, we will not turn back the onerous policies of the present. **BUT WHEN WE FIGHT BACK, SOMETIMES WE WIN!**



We must continue the fight

We have turned back, for now, the Trump Administration’s most draconian set of attacks on the funding for scientific research by the federal government. But the Administration still has plenty of power over such federal spending and is still trying to exert it. The National Science Foundation is holding back $1.4 billion (19 percent) of its funding for basic research in this, the second year of its two-years of funding appropriated by Congress, according to a report by the *New York Times* (10/2/26). This is a far greater percentage held back than in the recent past. Left open is the question of whether this Administration understands the importance of basic scientific research, research which often does not start out with a specific practical application as its goal, but often leads to advances never contemplated initially, as was the case with the discovery of CRISPR gene editing.

Defeating the OMB proposals was an important win, but efforts to properly evaluate and fund federal research continue, as do efforts to turn back the racially discriminatory de-funding of DEI programs. So, too, must we continue to fight.

– WHAT’D I MISS? CHAPTER MEETING RECAP –

Challenges To Healthcare and Beyond: September Chapter Meeting

by Eileen Moran

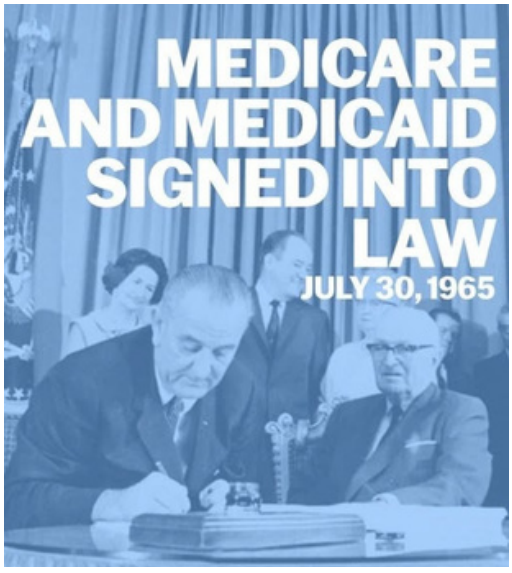
A common theme voiced by the three presenters, **Barbara Caress, Debbie Bell and President Davis**, was the ongoing threat the current federal administration poses to our values and priorities with continuing federal attacks on higher education generally and cuts to healthcare including remaking Medicare by using the playbook of privatized Medicare (dis) Advantage to maximize profit over care.

Pres. Davis began highlighting PSC goals for the coming year: waging a strong

contract campaign, building stronger chapters and member solidarity and protecting our colleges' professions and communities from the authoritarianism coming from Washington. That includes preventing CUNY administrators from folding again to federal pressure. Three of the Fired Four adjunct faculty inappropriately terminated have been re-hired, but the struggle continues until all four are back teaching at CUNY. Our priority is not just to reinforce free-speech rights but the right to teach and say what we know when science itself is under attack.

Everything from academic freedom, immigrants' rights, science, and healthcare are on the table in the 2026 elections. At this critical moment, consider donating to the PSC Action Fund (aka VOTE COPE https://psc-cuny.org/issues/issues-cope/) so we can help elect more progressives that will ensure funding for higher education and check the worst initiatives coming from D.C. We helped elect a progressive Mayor, but we must do much, much more.

History of Medicare



Both Debbie Bell and Barbara Caress began with a history that traced the development of health coverage by NYC and beginning in 1965, Medicare for those over 65. Barbara Caress used a PowerPoint titled Medicare: Past, Present, and Future, shared here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s8yDKwlJfZbPPrahLEIFLcZqHMe4FI52/view.

Medicare got passed because President Johnson beat Goldwater in a landslide that produced large Democratic majorities in the House and Senate. Advocates had been pushing for such coverage for decades. Then it was expected that national health insurance would expand beyond retirees. At the time, health insurance was narrowly concentrated on covering hospital costs and was primarily provided through employment, so when one stopped working due to age or impairment, one lost all coverage. Life expectancy improved dramatically, and now most Medicare recipients live 20 years or more after retirement.

Professor Caress outlined the additional services added with Parts B, C, and D, but this was modeled on private health insurance practices thus inheriting their flaws. We also learned from Professor Caress that payroll taxes only cover Part A for hospitalization. Huge annual federal

appropriations are required to cover Part B, C and D, and without federal action, the Trust Fund will run out. The current administration is already chipping away at these costs to provide enormous tax relief for the 1% in the Big Beautiful Bill (sic) as millions will likely lose coverage due to the cuts to the ACA and Medicaid.

Debbie Bell focused more on NYC history. The City did far better than the federal government and did it earlier with health coverage as early as 1945. Mayor LaGuardia developed a nonprofit medical plan for NYC residents. Later Mayor Wagner enabled collective bargaining, but securing a health plan for city workers required getting permission from the NYS legislature. Unions pushed for health insurance guarantees in NYC's administrative code which passed in 1967 and included retirees.

Both HIP and Emblem were nominally non-profit, but the addition of United as a for-profit raises a red flag going forward, especially given its vertical integration, so we need to stay alert. In 2014 and 2017, the Municipal Labor Committee (MLC) made savings agreements with the City, the second phase of which was to require retirees to enroll in a Medicare Advantage Plan. Retirees organized and have so far successfully prevented that change. The co-pays now cover about 10% of the city's Medigap costs. Going forward as more savings are sought, we need the MLC to ensure transparency and that they negotiate positive changes, such as only one co-payment per day or set monthly or annual limits to co-pays.

Both presenters outlined considerable challenges going forward both on the national and local level. First medical costs will continue to rise and the increased national debt due to the 2025 tax cuts will squeeze budgets locally and nationally. While the Mayor does not support any switch to Advantage, the federal government is experimenting with adding pre-authorizations to more of Medicare's services, mimicking the worst practices of the for-profit insurers. During the Q&A, Ms. Bell reminded us of how powerful the hospitalization lobby has become and how irresponsibly they have acted since NYS limits on their pricing practices were removed. Both presenters closed by affirming that effective educational organizing will be required of us all.

As President Davis noted in his talk, let's be inspired by Mayor LaGuardia who built a thriving public sector during the depression. Securing what we all need and what CUNY needs will require robust taxation of the rich. Let's channel LaGuardia and engage this struggle for the common good.

Elections 2026!: October Chapter Meeting

by David Kotelchuck

Speakers for the October meeting were **Steve London, CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies**, who asked: “Will the 2026 Elections Be a Blue Wave?” and J**en Gaboury, PSC-CUNY First Vice-President**, who suggested “What You Can Do. Building Union Power in 2026.”

For an audience of 125 retirees, Steve London, a political scientist and former PSC-CUNY first vice-president, analyzed the immediate political situation in the United States during Donald Trump’s second term in office. In a series of slides, Steve presented and analyzed what he considers the best, most accurate data on U.S. voting patterns compiled by fellow political scientists:

- First and most obvious is the dramatic decline in Trump’s approval rating down to 33 percent by Oct. 5, “the most disapproved and least-liked president in history,” Steve noted.
- Perhaps more important were the polls on the so-called generic ballot, asking which party voters were leaning towards in the November elections. As of early October, 51 percent were leaning to vote for Democrats and 43 percent Republicans, an eight-point gap with a statistical uncertainty of plus or minus three points. “This,” Steve said, “favors a ‘blue wave’.”
- Then, to round out the data, Steve presented polling results of people’s general favorability towards each major party. The GOP’s favorability rating has been declining steadily during Trump’s second term, while the Democrats’ favorability has been holding steady—that is, the Dem’s base is holding, the GOP’s is not. (Steve’s talk and slides are on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18maixnrBhw)

The Conclusion: a Blue Wave in the US House and Senate

The best combined analysis of U.S. polling data in Steve’s judgment is by the website *Fifty Plus One*. Their conclusions: The Democratic Party has a 99 percent probability of winning the House, and a 71 percent probability of winning the Senate. Steve cautioned that the above assumes “no fussing around on the part of Trump with the elections.” But the Trump Administration does this all the time, which PSC VP Jen Gaboury addressed later in her talk “What You Can Do!” (See below.)

After discussing our U.S. electoral prospects, Steve segued over to global trends in elections in what are considered democracies. He noted that

since WWII, political coalitions in these countries have become more reactive and manipulative and less ideological and have turned to trying to capture unhappy voters at the margins of politics, resulting in a series of unstable governing coalitions. This is true in the U.S., but according to Steve, it has also been developing both in the right-wing governing coalitions in Latin America and in the formerly leftist Social Democratic coalitions in Europe, which have lost their traditional working-class base. The result globally is a collection of governing coalitions characterized as right- and left-wing populist. Steve closed his talk by warning that even if Democrats take over control of the U.S. Congress, they must deliver real change to the lives of the American people or face continued populist unrest and the threatened return of elected governments headed by wanna-be dictators.

The PSC is trying its best to head off the anti-democratic movement in this country, as our second speaker, Jen Gaboury, discussed.

What You Can Do! Building Union Power in 2026.
Jen Gaboury is the PSC-CUNY first vice-president and a political scientist in the gender studies program at Hunter College. Picking up from Steve London's talk, Jen noted that there are some elements of left populism in New York in the DSA and other groups working, for example, in the campaign to tax the rich. She noted that the union is now actively talking to members in many chapters. We have an ambitious agenda, she noted, "to take Congress, as well as to build power and engage more members in our electoral work." The PSC has endorsed Claire Valdez (NY-7), Brad Lander (NY-10), Daria Elisa Chevalier (NY-13), and Analilia Mejia (NJ-11) in Congressional races, as well as 11 NYS legislative candidates. (In statewide races, such as governor, the PSC defers to the choices of our state affiliate NYSUT.)

Jen noted that we are working to support these state candidates so that when the budgets are being worked on in Albany and NYC, support for CUNY and SUNY will be high on their agendas. Also, the PSC is conducting rallies and doing phone-banking to flip two NYS Congressional seats, those of Michael Lawler (NY-17) and Nicole Malliotakis (NY-11). Meanwhile the PSC, CUNY Rising, and NYPIRG are organizing voter registration drives among the estimated 100,000 unregistered CUNY students.

Nationally, the PSC is participating in the Higher Education Labor United coalition by sponsoring non-partisan discussions with Congresspersons

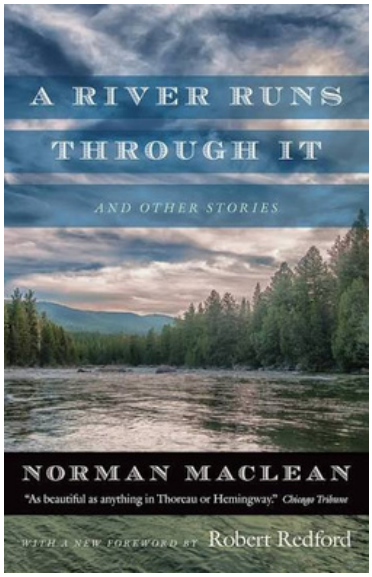
and Senators to support free tuition for public colleges, expanded public-service loan forgiveness, and increased funding for PELL grants, among other items. In addition, beyond the Nov. 3 election results, the PSC is recruiting our members and working with other groups in the Hands-Off coalition to oppose “misdeeds, shenanigans, malfeasance, and political violence” in the period between the elections on November 3, 2026 and the seating of members of Congress on January 3, 2027.

Finally, Jen, noting that retirees have had a lower than usual rate of participation in recent phone-banking sessions, asked that we form a permanent phone-banking committee to assist both in future elections and in the upcoming contract negotiations. Members can sign up either for individual phone sessions or to serve as a Solidarity Captain, organizing other members to participate. Volunteers should contact: retirees@pscmail.org.

– CULTURE CORNER –

Book Review: Norman Maclean’s *A River Runs Through It*

by Gail Green-Anderson



Despite the fact that my formal education and my years teaching writing and literature in the English Department at LaGuardia Community College means I write as well as read, I have thought of myself as a reader, not a writer. That conviction has trailed me into retirement and my seventy-third year. Yet, recently, I have found that conviction to be softening. Reading and rereading Norman Maclean’s *A River Runs Through It* has to do with that softening.

In the acknowledgments to *A River Runs Through It and Other Stories*, Maclean writes, “Although it’s a little book, it took a lot of help to become a book at all. When one doesn’t start out to be an author until he has reached his biblical allotment of three score years and ten, he needs more than his own power.”

When asked in an interview with Nicholas O’Connell, “Why did you start writing fiction so late in life,” Maclean responded, “I can’t answer that, but I’ll make a couple of stabs …. One stab is that in the literary profession, which

was my life profession, it was always said that no one began serious writing late in life. That was kind of a challenge."

Maclean rose to the challenge, writing an autobiographical novella that is powerful in large part because of the sweep of time that Maclean draws on for material and the high stakes he brings to his project. He seeks to understand his brother, Paul, the basis of the character Paul in the novella. While he remains compelled to understand his brother, renowned for his artistry as a fly fisherman—hence the many scenes of fly-fishing in the novella— he does not arrive at the understanding he seeks. I find his literary capacity to passionately seek but not settle for an easy resolution to be among the qualities I most admire in his novella.

A River Runs Through It is back in the book reviews because it has been fifty years since its publication. Monte Burke, in his *New York Times* review marking the anniversary of its publication quotes Annie Proux: "The novella is one of the great American stories of the 20th century, a lesson on how to write." And then there is the film based on the novel that Robert Redford directed. While I don't see the film as a substitute for reading the novella, I find it a stirring complement.

I was deeply moved by *A River Runs Through It*. I went on to read the other short works that accompany the novella. From there I moved to reading *Young Men and Fire*, Maclean's nonfiction work, unfinished at the time of his death, an investigation into the deaths of the thirteen smokejumpers who died in the Mann Gulch fire. The very real tragedy that highly detailed book addresses made it a hard read for me. I could not finish all of it. That Maclean set out to write *Young Men and Fire* speaks again to his commitment to writing in response to a challenge, to seeing writing on the level of a responsibility one must assume in the time one has left on earth.

I now question why, for all these years, I have considered myself a reader, but not a writer. Perhaps I have shirked a responsibility to write about the world I occupy in the time I have left. I am not sure what to do with these thoughts. For now, I am writing this piece for *Turning the Page* and imagining where it might lead me.

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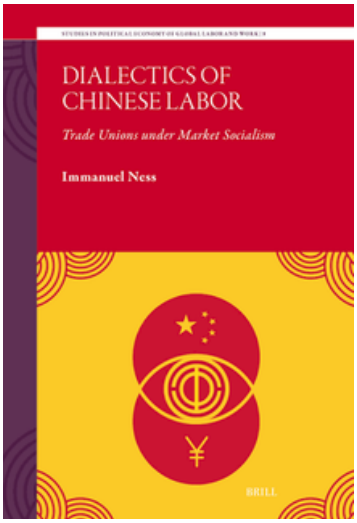
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Book Review: Immanuel Ness' *Dialectics of Chinese Labor: Trade Unions under Market Socialism*

by Renate Bridenthal



Immanuel Ness, a professor of political science at Brooklyn College, has written extensively on labor relations and militancy and migrant workers struggles. Now after many visits to China, he has taken on the contentious issue of labor relations in China, officially a communist state. Labor studies in Western academe often deride the All-China Federation of Trade Unions as being under the thumb of the Communist Party. Ness wades into the debate about whether China's workers are disempowered. He approaches the question of China's economy not from the liberal tendency to construct economic models, but from a historical materialist perspective that recognizes political economy is always changing and states are accordingly in transition. Such an analysis necessarily acknowledges contradictions in the process of change.

China's case is complicated by the fact that it made a first transition from a war-torn semi-colonized country to communism in 1949 and a second transition in 1978 to a mixed economy with some capitalist forms. Now, China aims for further transition to a more developed version of socialism. In contrast to historical revolutionary transitions, where property and its power changed hands from one class to another, China's move to bring the profit motive into a polity that retained land and critical resources like energy and finance under its control raised new kinds of problems. How to reconcile the use of capital accumulated from workers' labor for their collective use as organized by the Party state with the socialist aim of direct worker control over the use of accumulated capital? How to reconcile private incentive with the long-term public good? People live in the short run and so the workers' struggles in a workers' state can become acute.

Today, the private sector employs 80% of workers, which leaves 20% to the State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs). These still control strategic and heavy industries, including banking, energy, and telecommunications. However, privately owned firms compete for higher profits and try to evade official labor laws, which has led to growing resistance in the form of strikes. In response, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU)

has met the needs of worker organization. It now represents about 75% of 400 million workers in the People's Republic of China. As a partner with the state, which defines itself as a workers' state, the ACFTU operates as a negotiator and arbitrator on behalf of labor with the managements of firms. Should the negotiations fail, labor courts become the next venue of appeal. Ness shows that over 90% of cases rule in favor of the union.

The ACFTU has also responded to the new workforce created by the digital economy, such as food delivery and ride hail workers. These services constitute about a third of the labor force. Despite the transitory nature of these jobs, about 25% of platform workers have joined a union and are working under legally enforceable contracts. Ness offers an example from Shanghai where the city government paired with a pilot union to organize delivery drivers. The mobilization began with research. Some organizers enlisted as workers and others visited delivery stations. Questionnaires explored the organizational structure, labor management, compensation and demographics of delivery riders. The result was the formation of a Federation of Trade Unions of the Online Food Delivery Industry, representing 16,000 workers. The Shanghai model was emulated throughout China, offering standardized compensation, labor rights protection, legal services, skill promotion and welfare such as medical insurance. Today, over 18 million platform workers have been organized by the ACFTU.

Ness is careful not to paint an unrealistically rosy picture. Until recently, many migrant workers were excluded from the social services rendered by the *hukou*, the household registration document that grants access to public services such as housing, healthcare and education. Based on registration in the place of birth, it was inaccessible to workers in the new cities. The *hukou* was originally created 70 years earlier to secure an agricultural population in place to maintain a consistent food supply. Now reforms have begun to decouple the rights of *hukou* from birthplace to place of residence, opening these services to the migrant urban workers.

In addition, the 15th Five-Year plan (2026-2030) projects expansion of public services in health and education for all, and also promises new jobs. For gig workers, the plan calls for platforms to regulate algorithmic management, improve transparency and protect workers' rights to know, participate in and choose algorithmic rules.

The question remains about the trajectory from China's mixed economy to a fully socialist one. Ness has made a good case for this transition.

Museum Exhibits: November/December 2026

by Marcia Newfield

There is so much available in our wondrous city that you could spend every day of the month absorbing a museum or gallery. The November 2 retirees chapter meeting (1-3 p.m.) will feature three museums in our Little-Known Museums series: American Folk Art Museum, Jackie Robinson Museum, and the Grolier Club.

The American Folk Art Museum



Crafting Patriotism (until February 28, 2027)
Americans have long preserved objects as a way of telling stories about themselves. Beginning after the Revolutionary War and gathering momentum in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, people turned to early American things to construct a national history and sense of collective identity--an impulse often driven by lingering insecurity about the young nation's perceived cultural provinciality compared to Europe.

Locating Girlhood: Place and Identity in Early American "Schoolgirl" Arts (until February 28, 2027)



Though the story of landscape art in the United States has traditionally centered on male academic painters, American girls and young women were laboring over a variety of landscape scenes long before the Hudson River School. From the eighteenth century onwards, representations of landscape were a common visual thread in samplers, needlework pictures, watercolors, and other artworks commonly united under the umbrella term "schoolgirl arts," extending from country scenes and cityscapes to maps and other cartographic compositions.

Museum of the City of New York

Halumii Ktapihna—Lenape Legacies & Futures (until April 17, 2027)



This exhibit includes 30 original works and artifacts by the people who have lived on the land now known as New York City and its surrounding region. For over 12,000 years, Lenape/Lunáapeew communities shaped this place through complex governance, vibrant trade, and enduring relationships with the land and waters—connections that continue to inform Lenape/Lunáapeew identity and cultural life, even as most have been displaced from their ancestral homelands. Despite centuries of dispossession, forced migration, and erasure, Lenape/Lunáapeew people have persisted, adapting and sustaining their traditions across generations and geographies. As New York City marks 400 years since the founding of New Amsterdam, this exhibition asks: What does it mean to acknowledge the original stewards of this place, and how can we imagine a more just and connected future together?

Metropolitan Museum of Art

Past Continuous: Jackson Pollock /Lee Krasner (until January 31, 2027)



The first showing of this married couples' work together and the first show in 20 years of either artist. Although Pollock's reputation as an Abstract Expressionist eclipsed Krasner's during their lifetimes, they both embodied the movement and contributed to its development. The 120 works in this exhibit reveal the dimensions of their attempts to translate feelings onto the canvas. Pollock pioneered the use of the drip technique while Krasner explored the connections between nature and color.

There Are No Words: Si Lewen's Parade (until January 5, 2027)



An epic cycle of 63 charcoal, pencil, and ink drawings conceived by Si Lewen (1918–2016) in the aftermath of World War II. The work is a visual narrative of war, memory, and the human condition that is informed by the artist's extraordinary life. Born in Poland

to Jewish parents and raised in Germany, Lewen fled Nazi persecution with his family in 1933 before immigrating to the United States. While serving in the U.S. Army as one of the Ritchie Boys, a specialized unit of German-speaking soldiers, Lewen arrived at the Buchenwald concentration camp shortly after its liberation in 1945. The Parade is rooted in the artist's experience of these events as well as his coming of age during the tumultuous years when, as he reflected later, the parades after World War I gave way to the death marches of World War II.

El Museo Del Barrio



Octopus & Others: Acts of Collaboration & Poetics (until Nov 15, 2026)
Inspired by a significant project from the museum's history by artist, poet, and Exit Art co-founder Papo Colo. *Octopus: An Act of Sculpture* (1982)—an accordion-style outdoor book composed of eight-by-four-foot plywood panels—was first staged in El Museo's courtyard in 1982. Anchored by a recent gift of several panels from the project to El Museo's Permanent Collection by Colo, presented here for the first time in more than four decades, *Octopus & Others* showcases the power of collaboration between artists and poets and of artworks that embrace and subvert the book form and its function.



Teddy Sandoval & the Butch Gardens School of Art (until Jan 10, 2027)
Examining the life and work of Teddy Sandoval (1949–1995), an innovative yet historically under-recognized artist whose practice explored gender, sexuality, identity, and belonging with humor and political urgency. Rooted in Los Angeles's queer and Chicane artistic communities, Sandoval's work engaged the social and cultural movements shaping the United States and Latin America. The exhibition takes its title from Butch Gardens, a gay bar in Los Angeles frequented by Sandoval and fellow Chicane patrons in the early 1970s. Sandoval adopted the bar's name for the fictional "Butch Gardens School of Art," a conceptual framework through which he fostered collaboration, experimentation, and creative community while challenging traditional art world structures.

– COMMUNITY BOARD –

Staged Reading of the Play Marshlight at The Tank

There will be a staged reading of *Marshlight*, a play by Marthe Rachel Gold, a retiree from CUNY SOM, at The Tank, 312 West 36th Street, on November 6 at 3PM and November 9 at 7PM. *Marshlight* is directed by Christina Roussos, another Brooklyn College alum. To pique your interest, Marthe has sent along this synopsis: when her husband disappears in the aftermath of his bipolar disorder, a photographer struggles to keep her son protected from his father's story. But her husband's absence pervades her life, and its echoes reverberate in the adolescence of the couple's only son, a gifted musician who is ready to leave home.

Belle Zeller Scholarship 2026

Please join us at the **Belle Zeller Scholarship Fund's 2026 Friend of CUNY and Saluting Our Scholars Reception and Awards Ceremony** on **Wednesday, December 2**, beginning at **6:00 pm** at **John Jay College of Criminal Justice**.

This special evening will celebrate nine new student scholars and honor three distinguished individuals whose leadership, service, and commitment to CUNY make a lasting difference:

- **John C. Liu**, New York State Senator – *Friend of CUNY Award*
- **Dr. James Davis**, President of PSC-CUNY – *Belle Zeller Award*
- **Dr. Brian Schwartz**, Professor Emeritus of Brooklyn College, and Vice Chair of the Belle Zeller Board of Trustees – *Leadership in Education Award*

The Belle Zeller Scholarship Trust Fund was established in 1979 to honor the founding president of the PSC, Belle Zeller, Professor Emerita of Political Science at Brooklyn College. Since its founding, the Fund has awarded scholarships to more than 400 CUNY student scholars who demonstrate the unique qualities of Belle Zeller: the combination of social

commitment and scholarship. This event is a wonderful opportunity to recognize this year's scholars and celebrate the individuals who continue to strengthen the CUNY community.

For tickets, or to donate, visit the website of the Belle Zeller Scholarship Trust Fund.

FALL SEMESTER MEETING DATES: PSC RETIREES CHAPTER

PSC Retirees Meetings, on Zoom
MONDAY, November 2, 2026 — 1:00 PM
MONDAY, December 7, 2026 — 1:00 PM

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

Turning The Page is a publication of the Retirees Chapter of PSC-CUNY, Local 2334 of NYSUT and the AFT