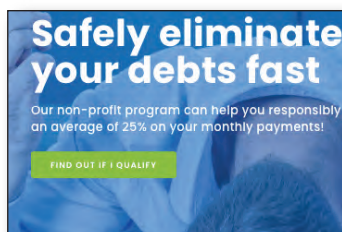




8—Retirees come together at regional meetings



16—UUP benefit offers help with student debt

### Also inside:

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# The Active Retiree

A Newsletter for Retired Members of United University Professions

## New York should review its energy plan

by Dennis Higgins  
Oneonta

Last year the Climate Action Council completed a scoping plan intended to achieve decarbonization goals in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Projections to meet these goals from New York's energy research and development authority (NYSERDA) are for 50 gigawatts of solar, 10 gigawatts of on-shore wind, almost 20 gigawatts of off-shore wind, a huge battery system, lots of new transmission lines, and dispatchable backup power.

A gigawatt of power (GW) is a thousand megawatts (MW). At 100 percent pro-

duction, a 1 MW facility can power 1,000 homes. But solar and wind do not produce at 100 percent, or even 25 percent. Last year, New York state's solar rivaled Alaska's at about 12 percent capacity factor: the state's proposed 50 GW of solar would generate on average 6 GW. Onshore wind in the state last year had a 22 percent capacity factor. The proposed 10 GW would generate an average of 2.2 GW. Of course, any production would not necessarily come when needed, and there are no season-to-season battery solutions for this amount of energy in existence.

Still, the solar and wind facilities will require about a million acres of upstate

farmland and forest. To make this part of the plan happen, the state enacted accelerated siting (94-C) for these projects. The state bar association publication writes:

[T]he burden of hosting renewables facilities, especially solar farms, will not be distributed evenly ... [but] concentrated in those areas where it is easiest and least expensive for energy companies to build. ... [D]evelopers will choose sites where population density and land prices are low, the ground is level, the soil contains no rocks or roots, and transmission lines are close ... These also happen to be the very places where New York's prime

see **ENERGY**, page 17

## Take advantage of continuing ed courses, programs

by Dan Marrone  
Farmingdale

Organizations devoted to the well-being of retirees—many of whom are senior citizens—universally encourage taking advantage of continuing education opportunities. SUNY has long offered tuition waivers for New York state residents 60 and older, who audit credit-bearing classes at any of the state's public colleges and universities.

Many other opportunities exist for retirees to take advantage of “lifelong learning continuing education programs” at various SUNY campuses.

The key questions are “Why bother taking noncredit, lifelong

learning courses? In general, why should retirees participate in continuing education?” The common reason for retirees to pursue continual education is intellectual enhancement that usually boils down to the following rationale: “Continuing lifelong learning into your retirement years improves mental well-being, strengthens physical health, and helps you forge new social connections.” The last element, “social connections,” is immensely important because a serious vacuum occurs when one retires.

Furthermore, many retirees experience isolation and loneliness especially when children “fly away” leaving empty nests. This also occurs with the tragic loss of a lifetime soulmate.

see **CONTINUING ED**, page 19

# The Active Retiree

## UUP Officers

**Frederick E. Kowal** / President  
**Carolyn Kube** / VP for Professionals  
**Alissa G. Karl** / VP for Academics  
**Jeri O'Bryan-Losee** / Secretary/Treasurer  
**Patrick Romain** / Membership Dev. Officer

## RMGC Members (2023-2026)

**Charlie McAteer** Chair and Delegate  
158 Montrose Dr. cfmcateer@gmail.com  
Port Jefferson Stn., NY 11776 (631) 474-3541

**Betty Shadrick** Capital District (Region A)  
bps505@gmail.com (518) 356-3217

**Bill Giangarra** Long Island (Region B)  
Mr.G1angarra@gmail.com (631) 754-7417

**Ray Guydosh** North Country (Region C)  
r.guydosh@gmail.com (518) 566-8769

**David Ballard** Western NY (Region D)  
Ubfast99@yahoo.com (716) 688-7996

**Mike Lyon** Central NY (Region E)  
lyon689@gmail.com (315) 399-7251

**Eric P. Russell** Metropolitan (Region F)  
ericprussell@hotmail.com (917) 446-5414

**Loraine Tyler** Southern Tier (Region G)/Secty.  
tylerll@oneonta.edu (607) 433-2452

**Gary Moore** Finger Lakes (Region H)  
MooreGE@retired.alfredstate.edu (585) 455-0525

**Doreen Day** Presidential Appointee  
jtsdor@optonline.net (631) 924-2962

**Ottillie M. Woodruff** Presidential Appointee  
ottwood79@roadrunner.com (716) 773-3158

**Rich Tyler** Finance Chair  
richard.tyler@oneonta.edu (607) 433-2452

**MDO Patrick Romain** Ex-officio  
promain@albany.edu (518) 377-6915

## UUP Retiree Coordinators

Gretchen Samowicz gsarnowi@uupbenefits.org  
Dan Quackenbush dquackenbush@uupbenefits.org

## Publications Consultant

Karen Mattison karenuemattison@gmail.com

*The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual authors and not necessarily the opinions of United University Professions.*

## United University Professions

P.O. Box 15143, Albany, NY 12212-9954  
518-640-6600 1-800-342-4206  
fax: 1-866-812-9446

[www.uupinfo.org/retiree/](http://www.uupinfo.org/retiree/)

# Letter to the editor

## With sincere thanks

### To the editor:

I am writing to sincerely thank Brenda Seckerson for her recent article "Fighting for full pension benefits" published in the Summer 2023 edition of *The Active Retiree*. In this article, she discussed the difficulties in receiving her full pension from NYSLRS, which included unused sick leave. She had worked for 14 years for the University at Albany and retired two-and-one-half years ago. I too retired from the UAlbany two years ago after 15 years teaching.

Before reading the article, I was unaware of the fact that the pension benefit calculation was to include unused sick leave, which adds to the overall time served. As Brenda suggested, I contacted NYSLRS and was told that the recalculation was in the works, but there was no estimated time for completion. As such, as she also suggested, I wrote a letter to the State Comptroller's Office (Thomas DiNapoli) requesting that this issue be addressed promptly. Within two weeks, I received a direct call from NYSLRS indicating that the recalculation was complete. Several days later, I received a letter that showed my updated pension amount and updated years served, plus the amount I would be receiving in back payment that would be added to my next pension check.

I also suggest that recent retirees contact NYSLRS to see if their pensions include the unused sick leave. If they do not and a timeframe is not provided for the recalculation, they should also contact the State Comptroller's Office to request that this issue be addressed in a timely manner.

— Guy Cortesi  
Albany

## In memoriam

Let us remember those who have passed away since winter 2022:

Roy Elk . . . . .Albany  
Hedi McKinley . . . . .Albany  
Winthrop Means . . . . .Albany  
Lawrence Raffalovich . . . . .Albany  
Dan Willard . . . . .Albany  
Joseph Zacek . . . . .Albany  
Ann Baldwin . . . . .Alfred  
Joseph Foreman . . . . .Alfred  
Howard Green . . . . .Alfred  
James Clum . . . . .Binghamton  
Peter Cocozzella . . . . .Binghamton  
Neville Dyson-Hudson . . . . .Binghamton  
Donald Levis . . . . .Binghamton  
Ambrose Lynch . . . . .Binghamton  
John Chasse . . . . .Brockport  
Earl Ingersoll . . . . .Brockport  
John Killigrew . . . . .Brockport  
Jacqueline Stolt . . . . .Brockport  
Jack Wolsky . . . . .Brockport  
Cleo Alexander . . . . .Buffalo Center  
James Atleson . . . . .Buffalo Center  
Harvey Axlerod . . . . .Buffalo Center  
Necia Black . . . . .Buffalo Center  
Michael Burke . . . . .Buffalo Center

see IN MEMORIAM, page 12

## From RMGC Chair Charlie McAteer

# 7,000+ retirees strong

**A**s we move into 2024, I would like to thank you for continuing membership as a retiree—as one of the more than 7,000 UUP retirees.

### Leaders gather

Your UUP retiree leaders—the eight regional representatives of the Retired Membership Governing Committee and the 32 chapter officers for retirees—met this fall for regional training and obtained the updated UUP Retiree Leadership handbook to help in their areas. The leaders are working on spring regional/campus retiree events, replete with good speakers and food! Look for those announcements in the New Year.

### NYSUT RC 43 to meet in Florida

This year we will be part of the NYSUT Florida Retiree Council 43's regional conference, scheduled for Monday, May 20, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Florida Hotel, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, FL 32809. The cost for the full-day event with breakfast, lunch and many programs is \$40 for any UUP retiree member in or visiting Florida. UUP retirees are members of NYSUT Retiree Councils 40, 41 and 42, but can be a part of this NYSUT statewide Florida retiree group too. To get more information on NYSUT RC 43 (it has 13 regional area in that state) and/or for an invitation to the 2024 event, email Miriam Hanan, NYSUT retiree services consultant for RC 43, at [miriamtrh@gmail.com](mailto:miriamtrh@gmail.com) or call her at (516) 236-0276. Please mention you are a current UUP retiree,

living or visiting Florida and would like to be on their email list for this and other regional events. We hope to see you in Orlando! (Note: Council 43 holds these meetings in different Florida regions each year.)

### Membership cards mailed

This fall, you should have received a two-sided color letter from UUP President Fred Kowal with your 2024 UUP/NYSUT membership tear-off card, plus a list of the many UUP and NYSUT retiree benefits. It includes your union membership ID number, which will assist you in obtaining benefits and discounts.

If you did not receive that USPS mailing, call UUP at (800) 342-4206 and ask to have a UUP membership card mailed to you.

### Brod award nominations sought

We hope you know and would like to nominate a worthy UUP retiree for the 2024 Pearl H. Brod Outstanding Retiree Award.

Nominees can be any active UUP retiree who has provided exemplary service to UUP and to SUNY, and/or has rendered outstanding volunteer service to their community *after* retirement.

The late Pearl H. Brod of Farmingdale was a long-time academic delegate who served as elected chair of the statewide Committee on Active Retired Membership (the name was changed to the Retired Membership Governing Committee in recent years) from 1999-2003; she served as COARM's Long Island Region



representative from 1993-2009. The award was first given out in 1998, and was renamed in her honor in 2011.

More information and a nomination form can be downloaded at <https://uupinfo.org/awards/pdf/PearlBrodApp.pdf>

UUP proudly awarded this honor in 2023 to Daniel Marrone of Farmingdale and David Ritchie of Cortland. Congratulations to these great UUP retirees as they continue their work for all of us.

The RMGC looks forward to your submission. The RMGC will forward its selections to the UUP statewide Executive Board for consideration. Award(s) will be handed out at the union's 2024 Fall Delegate Assembly.

Stay safe and healthy this exciting new year, with the hope that we can see you at one or all of UUP and/or NYSUT events.



# RMGC minutes of Oct. 13, 2023

by Loraine Tyler  
Oneonta

The union's Retired Membership Governing Committee met to discuss myriad issues related to retirees. The meeting was held Oct., 13, during the 2023 Fall Delegate Assembly in Rochester.

The following represents the minutes of that meeting.

Present were: Charles McAteer, RMGC chair; Betty Shadrack, Capital District; Bill Giangarra, Long Island; Mike Lyon, Central NY and vice chair; Eric Russell, Metropolitan; Loraine Tyler, Southern Tier; Gary Moore, Finger Lakes; Doreen Day, presidential appointee.

Staffer Walter Apple, retiree member services coordinator; Richard Tyler; chair, RMGC Finance Committee.

Officers for Retirees (OfR): Shirley Paterson, Downstate; John Schumacher, System Administration; Joseph Marren, Buffalo State; Robert Mess, Binghamton; Nand Relan, Stony Brook HSC; Jo Schaffer, Cortland, (past chair); and Larry Fuller, Oswego.

Observers: Dave Ritchie, Cindy Fuller, Bruce Bryski, Sue Pawagi, Mike Formato, Lisa Yates, Raymond Lopez, Ruth Meyer-wiitz.

Absent: Patrick Romain, statewide membership development officer and UUP officer liaison; Raymond Guydosh, North Country; David Bollard, Western; and Ottilie Woodruff, presidential appointee.

McAteer called to meeting to order and read the UUP Code of Conduct Statement at 10:50 am.

Minutes of Aug. 8, 2023, were approved as submitted. Moved by Giangarra and Russell.

Approval of Agenda-approved as modified. Finance Report will go first.

## Finance Committee, Budget and Report—R. Tyler

Beginning balance: \$650,923  
Revenues: \$349,796



NICK KORIDIS

RMGC Finance Committee Chair Rich Tyler of Oneonta updates retirees on budget rules and the status of retiree finances.

Expenses: \$322,785

Net Income: \$27,011

Ending Balance: \$677,934

Report approved via motions by Russell and Moore.

## Chair Report—McAteer

- UUP has 6,917 current retiree members.
- Retiree officer handbook updated and distributed.
- Update on UUP database upgrade proposal for RMGC members
- Apple and McAteer have received training. Other RMGC regional reps will be trained via zoom.
- Reps will get lists of their members. McAteer, Lyon and the presidential appointees will have access to entire list. OfR can work through chapter assistant for sending out info. List should include name, address, email addresses and phone numbers. Lists can be requested from Apple.
- All OfR positions are filled. OfR is an elected member of each chapter board and should have access from the chapter

assistant, as needed.

- McAteer serves on NYSUT Retiree Advisory Committee, and is chair of its Subcommittee on Communications.

## Report of MDO—Patrick Romain (Read by L. Tyler)

- Thanked everyone who works for the better of the union.
- Current project is to recognize retirees at the Spring DA and continuation of UUP's 50th anniversary. celebration.
- He noted that he attended all three retiree regional retreats and the RMGC pre-meeting.

## Retiree Benefits Report—Apple

- Checks will be processed daily using Dropbox established by Key Bank.
- Pre-retirement sessions scheduled monthly via Zoom and in person on campuses.
- Apple is moving into a new position in UUP Benefits, dealing with health insurance issues for in-service as well as retirees. He will be liaison with the Governor's Office of Employee Relations

## Safeguarding retirement security

On Oct. 17, the Alliance for Retired Americans held an annual daylong meeting, "Preparing for Retirement Symposium: Individual and Collective Efforts." The event brought together government officials, labor movement leaders, policy experts, Social Security and pension advocates, academics, attorneys and economists to discuss retirement security and social insurance issues. AFT and ARA members who attended the in-person and virtual event learned about ways for individuals and the government to take action that ensures retirement security for all.



### Fight for SS benefits gains momentum

A bipartisan plan aimed at securing retirement benefits for public employees has been quietly gathering steam in Congress, representing a substantial boost to address a long-standing wrong. The Social Security Fairness Act, championed by Reps. Abigail Spanberger (D-Va.) and Garret Graves (R-La.), targets the repeal of two provisions, the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset, embedded in the Social Security Act. These provisions have long been criticized for unfairly reducing or altogether eliminating Social Security benefits for people who have devoted much of their careers to serving the public. Left, AFT President Randi Weingarten promises to work tirelessly for retiree issues.

(GOER) and will be training Gretchen Sarnowicz; Dan Quackenbush and Jo-Marie Ethier to take over retirement benefits. The RMGC thanks Apple for his years of excellent service to retirees.

### Regional Reports and 2023-24 Funding Requests

- L. Tyler moved and Russell seconded the motion to approve funding for fall/spring campus/regional retiree meetings. Passed.

- L. Tyler moved and Moore seconded the motion to approve funding for regional reps to hold planning meetings with their campus officer for retirees. Passed.

- L. Tyler moved and Russell seconded that Lyon's expenses be paid to be an observer in the event the RMGC chair is unable to attend a UUP Executive Board meeting. The vice chair will not carry the limited Executive Board voting powers as an observer. Passed.

- All regional reps reported on their meetings fall 2023 and plans for the spring.

### Old Business

- OfR retreats were held on Long Island, Albany and Rochester this fall. NYSUT Organizing grants (\$3,000) defrayed some expenses. Well received.

- Update on third-party UUP dues notification procedure. This will protect our members from losing benefits due to lack of payment. Suggested this could be added to the Retiree Membership form.

- Our members are entitled to \$1,000 life insurance from UUP, and a \$3,000 payment from Civil Service, but we need to know when a death occurs.

- Update on UUP VOTE-COPE—the ORP auto-deduct option. Complicated process, may look to start with TIAA ORP first. Benefits is still working on the process.

- Update on any UUP policy on committee chairs/co-chairs in regard to retiree participation. Technically, there is no policy.

### VOTE-COPE—Day

- Direct payment through ERS and TRS. Must send check if in an ORP. Members can contribute through UUP expense vouchers.

- Day presented on VOTE-COPE at all three regional retiree leadership retreats.

### New Business

- Task Force on Retiree Issues is being reconstituted with a report due 2025. RMGC needs to nominate members to the committee for consideration by the UUP president, as well as offer suggested topics for consideration by the task force.

- Future meetings: Zoom meetings January/February and during summer. In-person meeting at Spring DA (April 12 and 13 in Saratoga Springs for pre-meeting and RMGC meeting).

- Pearl H. Brod Retiree Award nominations are due April 1 (the past date of April 15th was changed to reflect the 2024 Spring DA/RMGC schedule). In the future, nominations will be due 10 working days prior to the Spring DA. RMGC can give up to two awards per year.

- Each chapter should consider giving a chapter retiree award.

- Discussion of Mideast crisis.
- Opportunities in Retirement—lifelong learning (see related story on page 1).

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.



# RMGC minutes of Aug. 8, 2023

by Loraine Tyler  
Oneonta

**T**he union's Retired Membership Governing Committee held a virtual meeting Aug. 8 to discuss retiree issues. The following represents the edited meeting minutes, which were approved at the Oct. 23 RMGC meeting in Rochester.

Present: Charles McAteer, RMGC chair; Eric Russell, Metropolitan; Loraine Tyler, Southern Tier; Mike Lyon, Central NY; Bill Giangarra, Long Island; and Doreen Day and Ottilie Woodruff, presidential appointees.

Absent: Ray Guydosh, North Country; Gary Moore, Finger Lakes; David Ballard, Western NY; Betty Shadrack, Capital District; and Membership Development Officer Patrick Romain, officer liaison.

Walter Apple, retiree member services coordinator; Richard Tyler, chair, RMGC Finance Committee; and Jo Schaffer, past chair.

McAteer called to the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and read UUP Code of Conduct statement.

Minutes of April 21, 2023, were approved as submitted. (E Russell and J. Schaffer)

Agenda was approved with two additional new business items.

## Chair Report—McAteer

- Update on database upgrade—Apple and McAteer have been trained. District reps will have access to district information; chair and presidential appointees will have access to all retiree information. Officers for retirees will work with the chapter assistants for access.
- Update on UUP

VOTE-COPE ORP auto-deduct option. Because ORP pension funds can be in so many investments, an auto-deduct option is complicated.

- Nearly 7,000 current retirees.
- Working with Apple to update the UUP Retiree Leader Handbook.
- Elections for secretary and vice chair were held. L. Tyler was re-elected as secretary and Lyon was elected as vice chair.
- NYSUT Retiree ED 52 meeting (follows OfR training in Albany). RMGC is entitled to nine delegates: Chair and eight regional reps. R. Tyler and two presidential appointees are alternates.
- MDO Romain is in the office Tuesdays and Thursdays. Will report at the DA.

## Retiree Benefits Report—Apple

- Dues notices went out Aug. 8 and are due Aug. 31. Memberships are not cancelled until November.
- Fourth quarter bills for dental and vision went out Aug. 8.
- Checks will be processed daily using the Dropbox established by Key Bank.
- Pre-retirement sessions scheduled monthly via Zoom.

Apple is moving into a new position in Benefits dealing with more active issues. He will be liaison with GOER and will be training Gretchen Sarnowicz and Dan Quackenbush to take over retirement benefits. UUP will post Apple's current position.

## Finance Report—R. Tyler

- Budget will be presented at the RMGC meeting at the Fall DA.
- Funding for regional meetings for fall was approved at the April meeting.
- Moved by Schaffer and L. Tyler that retirees who attend regional NYSUT re-

tiree meetings be reimbursed. Passed.

- Moved by Russell and Lyon that funding will be provided if RMGC chooses to send an observer above the nine seats to the NYSUT ED 52 meeting. Passed.

## Old Business

- Update on chapter officers for retirees: Three campuses will appoint or hold emergency elections—Delhi, Polytechnic and Optometry. Cobleskill just appointed its OfR for the next two years.
- OfR retreats are scheduled, and jackets will be ordered.
- Sept. 12-13 Long Island for Metropolitan NY & Long Island
- Sept. 26-27 Albany for Capital, North Country & Southern Tier
- Oct. 11-12 Rochester for Western NY, Central NY & Finger Lakes
- McAteer applied for \$3,000 NYSUT Organizing grant.

## New Business

- Future initiatives for the next three years include UUP Task Force on Retiree Issues being reconstituted with a report due in 2025. The task force will include some RMGC members.
- Recently notified that retirees can not serve on committees as chair or co-chair. This appears to be a change in policy. Retirees need to be respected for their experience and willingness to serve. McAteer will follow up.
- Discussion of third-party notification for UUP retiree dues. Apple to research if the Retiree Membership application can be modified noting this request.
- RMGC informal meeting will be held after dinner on Oct. 12 and formal meeting will be Oct. 13, time to be announced. Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.



## What your beneficiaries need to know

Don't forget to remind your beneficiaries that, upon your death, they need to inform the campus Human Resources Department *and* contact UUP Retiree Coordinator Gretchen Sarnowicz at (800)

342-4206. If they don't contact the campus or UUP, they won't get the survivor's benefits: that's \$3,000 from the state and \$1,000 from UUP. Remind them to make the calls!

## Attention FL snowbirds, soon-to-be retirees

**R**C 43—the only NYSUT-sanctioned out-of-state retiree council—is waiting to welcome you to the Sunshine State.

RC 43 has an active, dedicated group of New York state retirees who would love for you to join a local Florida unit.

All units sponsor social activities, meetings with guest speakers, community projects that benefit children, and engagement in non-partisan politics in conjunction with Florida unions.

If you are interested in becoming involved with retired colleagues, even on a seasonal basis, contact Miriam Hanan, NYSUT retirees services consultant, at [miriam.hanan@nysut.org](mailto:miriam.hanan@nysut.org) or at (516) 236-0276. She will connect you with the contact information of your local unit representative.

Once again—welcome to Florida!



CHAITRAM AKLU

## NYSUT Leaders

Statewide union retirees posed for a photo after a breakfast meeting at the recent NYSUT Retiree Leaders Conference in Albany. They discussed mutual issues among retirees in New York and Florida, as well as talks related to public higher education with retirees from UUP, PSC/CUNY and SUNY community colleges. Shown, standing from left, are UUP RMGC members Eric Russell of Downstate, Doreen Day of Stony Brook HSC, and RMGC Chair Charlie McAteer; and Ross Stonefield, Florida retiree VOTE-COPE leader. Seated from left, are Miriam Hanan, Florida retiree consultant; UUP RMGC members Rich Tyler and Loraine Tyler, both of Oneonta; Felicia Bruce, Florida RC 43 leader; and June Smith, NYSUT Long Island PAC/VOTE-COPE leader.

## UUP RETIREES VOTE-COPE PLEDGE CARD

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

UUP Active Retiree Region \_\_\_\_\_ UUP Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

I pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to VOTE-COPE Non-SUNY Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Check Enclosed

**Send check or money order, made payable to VOTE-COPE, to:**

**Walter Apple, c/o United University Professions, P.O. Box 15143, Albany, N.Y. 12212-9954**

**VOTE-COPE Solicits and Accepts Only Voluntary Contributions. Contributions or Gifts to VOTE-COPE are NOT Tax Deductible.**



## RMGC and retiree news from the chapters, regions

### Metro/LI Regional Leadership Retreat



NICK KORIDIS

Leaders from the New York Metropolitan and Long Island regions met to discuss issue of import to retirees. They gathered Sept. 13 at the Long Island Hilton in Huntington. From left, are Nand Relan, Brenda Henry-Offor, Stephen Pereira, Eric Russell, RMGC Chair Charlie McAteer, Ed Drummond, Doreen Day, Dan Marrone and Shirley Patterson. In the mirror waving is photographer Nick Koridis.

## Stony Brook

Newly retired UUPer Ed Quinn from Stony Brook, a former statewide membership officer, is shown at a Moving Up meeting to welcome him to the ranks of retiree members. He is surrounded by UUP retirees from Stony Brook and Farmingdale, as well as 'retirees in training' from Stony Brook. From left are Paula Di-pasquale-Alvarez, Dave Ecker, Quinn, Pam Wolfskill, Charlie McAteer, Doug Cody, Chuck Wrigley and Nick Koridis.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICK KORIDIS



## Cortland



Above, Officer for Retirees Jo Schaffer, center, helps out at the UUP Welcome Picnic at SUNY Cortland, Sept. 8. On her left is Chapter President Jaclyn Pittsley.

Left, from left, attending the picnic are Binghamton Chapter President Brendon McGovern, and Cortland retirees Henry Steck, Schaffer and Jamie Dangler.

## Rochester Regional Leadership Retreat



NICK KORIDIS PHOTOS

Dozens of UUP retirees from Western NY, the Finger Lakes and Central NY attended the recent UUP/NYSUT Retiree Council 40 Retiree Leadership Retreat, including RMGC reps and chapter officers for retirees from those regions. Presenters included keynote speaker Bev Voos, a NYSUT retiree leader from Rochester, right; UUP Membership Development Officer and RMGC officer liaison Patrick Romain, above; and RMGC presidential appointee Doreen Day of Stony Brook HSC, left, who discussed VOTE-COPE and how to contribute.





# How one retiree came to write fiction

by Howard R. Wolf  
Buffalo

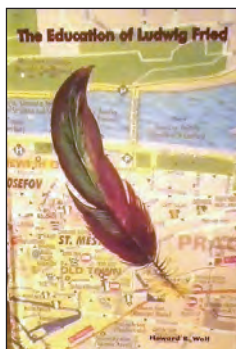
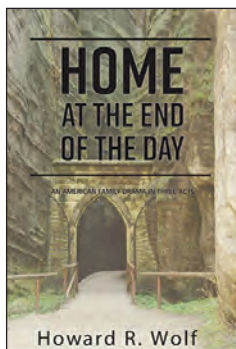
When I joined the University at Buffalo's department of English in 1967, I hoped to teach literature and to continue to be a productive creative writer.

Because I had won a Hopwood for Fiction at the University of Michigan and completed a Ph.D. thesis on the fiction of Henry James, my goals seemed possible.

The key word was "possible." Though I still saw the writer as a freelance on the frontlines of history, I was able to sustain this notion during the "anti-war movement" (1963-1975) when universities were at the center of American life.

But a silence descended upon UB in 1975 when the Viet Nam War ended. The halls of the department's offices now felt empty. No students rushed through to announce an emergency meeting.

How could I now teach literature with a sense of urgency at the end of a period of cultural crisis, and what kind of urgent creative writing might it make possible?



I tried to make up for a sense of lost material by teaching in Turkey, Malaysia and Hong Kong, in the hope that overseas countries in transition would replace domestic tranquility with international drama.

But several obligations brought me back to Buffalo, in part to raise a daughter as a single parent, which tender experience engendered: *Forgive the Father: A Memoir of Changing Generations* (1978).

I now paid more attention to the lives of students and colleagues as they struggled to come to terms with the demands of a postwar period; and I discovered I could write about characters

among whom I was living (including myself) more meaningfully through the act of teaching drama and fiction.

If the 1960s had exposed at the macro-level the implications of universities resisting the demands of external forces (the draft, war-related research), the post-1975 period allowed one to discover at a micro-level the personal history of individuals: Tolstoy vs. Freud?

And so began a decades-long project to write short fiction that would attempt to portray in reimaged terms the "human comedy" in which I was both author character: soliloquy and drama.

Timeless advice comes to mind: "Write about what you know!" Hint for retirees: What's in your memoir?

*(Emeritus professor of English at the University at Buffalo, Howard R. Wolf has twice been a Fulbright Scholar and has lectured as an Americanist, creative writer, and literary journalist in twenty countries. Widely published, he is the author of the play Home at the End of the Day [2017] and his ongoing series, The Education of Ludwig Fried. When not writing, he gardens, listens to jazz, and ruminates.)*

## True crime novel penned by Binghamton retiree

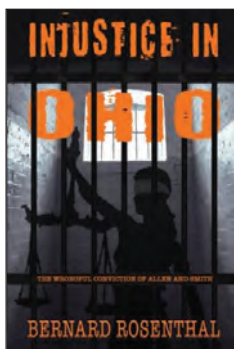
by Bernard Rosenthal  
Binghamton

An active retiree member from the Binghamton Chapter, Bernard Rosenthal wrote *Injustice in Ohio*, a true-crime novel about two wrongfully convicted people, now exonerated.

1994, Lorain, Ohio.

Nancy Smith, a bus driver, is charged with taking children to a man who sexually abuses them.

But in a police lineup, the children, who knew the bus driver, were unable to identify the man who had supposedly abused them. Attendance records show that the



children were in school on the days of the claimed abuse. The bus driver's log showed no diversion from her route. After reporting his findings to the Lorain County prosecutor and recommending that the investigation end, since there was no credible case, the officer was promoted to a desk job.

In a courtroom filled with false claims, Nancy Smith and a man named Joseph Allen, who had never seen the children nor the bus driver, are found guilty of jointly abusing the children. Smith is

given a minimum of 30 years and a maximum of life, while Allen is given multiple life sentences.

She is white; he is Black. Both are innocent.

This book addresses the way in which false claims prevailed because, in this judicial system, process and procedure trumped truth—and political ambition trumped all of it.

Today, a new trial has been granted. Allen and Smith are both out of prison. What happens next remains to be seen.

The book was published by Local History Press, an imprint of Sunbury Press Inc., Mechanicsburg, Penn., in March 2022.



## Latest Nickel Series novel to hit shelves in 2024



by SEG Publishing

Since his 2013 retirement, Buffalo Center Chapter's Gary Earl Ross has published four hard-boiled mystery novels in the Nickel City series from SEG Publishing.

In this series, African-American Iraq War vet and retired army CID detective Gideon Rimes sets up shop as a private investigator in his home town, nicknamed for the bison head five-cent piece. In *Nickel City Blues*, Rimes is hired to protect a blues singer stalked by her ex-boyfriend, a cop. In *Crossfire*, the search for a missing doctor puts him in the contested space between two criminal organizations. Published before events that got worldwide coverage, *Storm Warning* depicts a white supremacist attack on a diversity gathering in Buffalo. *Naked*

*Lady* involves what could be revenge porn, but is somehow linked to a classic Conn saxophone with a nude etched into its bell. The series' next book—tentatively titled *Nickel City Monsters*—is due out in 2024.

Also a playwright whose 2005 courtroom drama *Matter of Intent* won a Mystery Writers of America (MWA) Edgar Allan Poe Award, Ross last year saw his Victorian stage thriller *Stoker's Guest* awarded a New York State Council on the Arts Fellowship. In November his latest play, *Split Wit*, about the only witness to a murder suffering from a severed corpus callosum, will be staged in Buffalo, where Ross lives.

He is a member of International Thriller Writers, Crime Writers of Color, and MWA, for which he serves on the board of the New York Chapter.

## Book reveals new info on 19th century architect

by Fordham University Press

A new book by retired distinguished professor of fine arts at Buffalo State College Francis R. Kowsky reveals new and previously unknown biographical material about an important figure in 19th century American architecture and music.

In *Hell on Color, Sweet on Song*, Kowsky, a notable architectural historian, presents a study of American architect and musical genius Jacob Wrey Mould. While Mould is not a name that readily comes to mind when one thinks of New York City architecture, he was one-third of the party responsible for the early development of the city's Central Park. To this day, his sculptural reliefs, tile work, and structures in the Park enthrall visitors.

Mould introduced High Victorian architecture to NYC, his fingerprint most pronounced in his striking and colorful ornamental designs and beautiful embellishments found in the carved decorations and mosaics at the Bethesda Terrace.

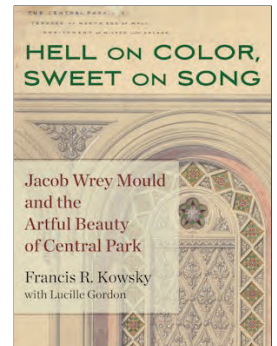
Mould, whose personal history included a tie to Africa, was born in London in 1825 and trained there as an architect before moving to New York in 1852. The following year, he received the commission to design All Souls Unitarian Church. Nicknamed "the Church of the Holy Zebra," it was the first building in America to display the mix of colorful materials and medieval Italian inspiration that was characteristic of High Victorian Gothic architecture.

In addition to being an architect and designer, Mould was an accomplished musician and prolific translator of opera librettos. Yet anxiety over money and resentment over lack of appreciation of his talents soured Mould's spirit. Unsystematic, impractical, and immune from maturity, he displayed a singular indifference to the realities of architecture as a commercial enterprise.

Despite his personal shortcomings, he influenced the design of some of NYC's revered landmarks, including Sheepfold, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the American Museum of Natural History, the City Hall Park fountain, and the Morningside Park promenade. From 1875 to 1879, he worked for Henry Meiggs, the "Yankee Pizarro," in Lima, Peru.

Resting on the foundation of Central Park docent Lucille Gordon's heroic efforts to raise from obscurity one of the geniuses of American architecture and a significant contributor to the world of music in his time, *Hell on Color, Sweet on Song* (Fordham University Press, 2023) sheds new light on a forgotten genius of American architecture and music.

Funding for this book was provided by Furthermore, a program of the J. M. Kaplan Fund.



## IN MEMORIAM

*(continued from page 2)*

Richard Jones . . . . .Buffalo Center  
 Thomas Kalman . . . . .Buffalo Center  
 Theodore Krygier . . . . .Buffalo Center  
 F. William Lawvere . . . . .Buffalo Center  
 David Mark . . . . .Buffalo Center  
 Emmet McNamara . . . . .Buffalo Center  
 Gabrielle Miskell . . . . .Buffalo Center  
 James Phillips . . . . .Buffalo Center  
 Negesh Revankar . . . . .Buffalo Center  
 Gerald Rising . . . . .Buffalo Center  
 Anthony Rozak . . . . .Buffalo Center  
 Cecelia Rzepecki . . . . .Buffalo Center  
 Donald Sherman . . . . .Buffalo Center  
 Scott Woodward . . . . .Buffalo Center  
 Aubrey Neil Yerkey . . . . .Buffalo Center  
 Margaret Acara . . . . .Buffalo HSC  
 Sharon Dittmar . . . . .Buffalo HSC  
 Ulana Loza . . . . .Buffalo HSC  
 Joseph Merrick . . . . .Buffalo HSC  
 Pieter Metz . . . . .Buffalo HSC  
 Anna Poliszczuk . . . . .Buffalo HSC  
 Kristina Young . . . . .Buffalo HSC  
 John Bruno . . . . .Buffalo State  
 Stanley Dickson . . . . .Buffalo State  
 William Ganley . . . . .Buffalo State  
 Stephen Mangione . . . . .Buffalo State  
 Harrish Sikka . . . . .Buffalo State  
 Irving Tesmer . . . . .Buffalo State  
 Paul Thoms . . . . .Buffalo State  
 Joy Buffan . . . . .Cortland  
 John Catalano . . . . .Cortland  
 Elliott Mason . . . . .Cortland  
 Phyllis McGinley . . . . .Cortland  
 Homer Mitchell . . . . .Cortland  
 Kenneth Wickman . . . . .Cortland  
 Anna Zado . . . . .Cortland  
 Robert Davidson . . . . .Delhi  
 Vincent Pellegrino . . . . .Delhi  
 Arthur VanBrunt . . . . .Delhi  
 Georgiana Belfiore . . . . .Downstate Medical  
 Victor Burnett . . . . .Downstate Medical  
 Joseph Derose . . . . .Downstate Medical  
 Eugene Garrow . . . . .Downstate Medical  
 Simon Gerecht . . . . .Downstate Medical  
 David Gordon . . . . .Downstate Medical  
 Peter Kottmeier . . . . .Downstate Medical  
 Marc Miller . . . . .Downstate Medical  
 Arline Resnick . . . . .Downstate Medical  
 Lawrence Rosenstock . . . . .Downstate Medical  
 Marvin Rotman . . . . .Downstate Medical  
 Elma Boyko . . . . .Empire State  
 Suzette Vandeburg . . . . .ESF  
 David VanTress . . . . .ESF  
 John Hillman . . . . .Farmingdale  
 Joseph LoCascio . . . . .Farmingdale  
 Brian Maher . . . . .Farmingdale  
 Peter Nolan . . . . .Farmingdale  
 Beverly Perlow . . . . .Farmingdale

John Reilly . . . . .Farmingdale  
 Richard Leva . . . . .Fredonia  
 Thomas Rywick . . . . .Fredonia  
 Fawzi Yaqub . . . . .Fredonia  
 Barbara Conlon . . . . .Geneseo  
 John Kucaba . . . . .Geneseo  
 William Mathews . . . . .Geneseo  
 Mary Nitsche . . . . .Geneseo  
 Alan Shank . . . . .Geneseo  
 James Migli . . . . .Maritime  
 Edward Parker Jr . . . . .Morrisville  
 Margaret Peer . . . . .Morrisville  
 Walter Borenstein . . . . .New Paltz  
 Joan Goland . . . . .New Paltz  
 Konrad Wu . . . . .Old Westbury  
 John Carney Jr . . . . .Oneonta  
 Janet Frankl . . . . .Oneonta  
 Richard Insinga . . . . .Oneonta  
 Roy Cole . . . . .Optometry  
 Anthony Annunziata . . . . .Oswego  
 Ronald Brown . . . . .Oswego  
 Nicholas D'Innocenzo . . . . .Oswego  
 Paul Dussere . . . . .Oswego  
 Richard Izzett . . . . .Oswego  
 Andrew Nelson . . . . .Oswego  
 Eugene Perticone . . . . .Oswego  
 Padmini Gulati . . . . .Plattsburgh  
 Dorothy Suds . . . . .Plattsburgh  
 Junko Geddes . . . . .Potsdam  
 Taina Hu Chao . . . . .Purchase  
 Caroline Kyzivat . . . . .Purchase  
 Humbert Lucarelli . . . . .Purchase  
 Marie Trump . . . . .Purchase  
 Thomas Kuo . . . . .Stony Brook  
 Eileen Mandable . . . . .Stony Brook  
 Robert Muller . . . . .Stony Brook  
 F. Joseph Pequigney . . . . .Stony Brook  
 Marshall Spector . . . . .Stony Brook  
 Doris Williams . . . . .Stony Brook  
 Charles Wurster . . . . .Stony Brook  
 Laurie Baylis . . . . .Stony Brook HSC  
 Bruce Bowen . . . . .Stony Brook HSC  
 Kenneth Hauser . . . . .Stony Brook HSC  
 Bertha Murphy . . . . .Stony Brook HSC  
 Frances Ricco . . . . .Stony Brook HSC  
 George Tortora . . . . .Stony Brook HSC  
 Scott Miller . . . . .SUNY Poly  
 Josephine Cleveland . . . . .Upstate Medical  
 Vincent Coon . . . . .Upstate Medical  
 Barbara Cooper . . . . .Upstate Medical  
 Robert Daly . . . . .Upstate Medical  
 Barbara Finley . . . . .Upstate Medical  
 Deritha Fiorelli . . . . .Upstate Medical  
 Daniel Glauber . . . . .Upstate Medical  
 Jorge Grimes . . . . .Upstate Medical  
 Barbara Jones . . . . .Upstate Medical  
 Frank Kline . . . . .Upstate Medical  
 Peter Uva . . . . .Upstate Medical



# Peace, security require stronger UN

by Larry Wittner  
Albany

Addressing the United Nations Security Council on Sept. 20, 2023, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky delivered a heartfelt plea “to update the existing security architecture in the world, in particular, to restore the real power of the UN Charter.”

This call for strengthening international security under the aegis of the UN makes sense not only for Ukraine—a country suffering from brutal military invasion, occupation, and annexation by its much larger, more powerful neighbor, the Russian Federation—but for the nations of the world.

For thousands of years, competing territories, nations, and empires have spilled rivers of blood and laid waste to much of the world through wars and plunder. Hundreds of millions of people have died, while many more have been horribly injured or forced to flee their shattered homelands in a desperate search for safety. World Wars I and II, capped off by the use of nuclear weapons to annihilate the populations of entire cities, brought massive suffering to people around the globe.

In 1945, this mad slaughter and devastation convinced far-sighted thinkers, as well as many government leaders, that human survival was dependent upon developing a framework for international security: the United Nations. The UN Charter, adopted in a conference in the spring of that year in San Francisco by 50 Allied nations, declared that a key purpose of the new organization was “to maintain international peace and security.”

The UN Charter, which constitutes international law, included provisions detailing how nations were to treat one another in the battered world emerging

from the Second World War. Among its major provisions was Article 2, Section 4, which declared that “all members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.” Furthermore, Article 51 declared that “nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs against a member of the United Nations.”

It makes sense to strengthen  
“international security under the  
aegis of the United Nations.”

— Lawrence Wittner  
Albany Chapter



Although the UN Charter provided for a General Assembly in which all member nations were represented, action to maintain international peace and security was delegated primarily to a UN Security Council with fifteen members, five of whom (the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain, and France) were to be permanent members with the right to veto Security Council resolutions or action.

Not surprisingly, the right of any of these five nations to block Security Council peace efforts, a right they had insisted upon as the price of their participation in the United Nations, hamstrung the world organization from enforcing peace and international security on numerous occasions. The most recent instance has occurred in the case of the Ukraine War, a conflict in which, as Zelensky lamented, “all [Security Council] efforts are vetoed by the aggressor.” As a result, the United Nations has all too often lacked the power to enforce the principles of international law confirmed by its members and enshrined in its Charter.

Some people are perfectly content with the weakness of the United Nations. Fierce nationalists, as exemplified by Donald Trump and his Republican followers, are contemptuous of this or any international security organization, and many would prefer its abolition. Others have little use for the United Nations but, instead, place their hopes for the maintenance of international peace and stability upon public and governmental acceptance of great power spheres of influence.

Meanwhile, a segment of the international Left ignores the United Nations and insists that world peace will only be secured by smashing “U.S. imperialism.”

Sadly, those forces opposing international organization and action fail to recognize that

their proposals represent not only a return to thousands of years of international strife and mass slaughter among nations, but, in today’s world, an open door to a nuclear holocaust that will end virtually all life on earth.

Compared to this descent into international chaos and destruction, proposals to strengthen the United Nations are remarkably practical and potentially effective. Zelensky has suggested empowering the UN General Assembly to overcome a Security Council veto by a vote of two-thirds or more of the Assembly’s nations. In addition, he has proposed expanding the representation of nations in the Security Council, temporarily suspending membership of a Security Council member when it “resorts to aggression against another nation in violation of the UN Charter,” and creating a deterrent to international aggression by agreeing on the response to it before it occurs.

Of course, there are numerous other ways to strengthen the United Nations as a force for peace and to help ensure that

see UN, page 17

# The two Claras: Pioneers of public health nursing

by Dan Marrone  
Farmingdale

**T**he American Public Health Association defines public health nursing as “the practice of promoting and protecting the health of populations using knowledge from nursing, social, and public health sciences ...

Areas of interest include, but are not limited to: Immunizations; Infection Prevention; Environmental Health; and Opioid crisis response.” Public health nurses are essential health care professionals, who work at federal, state, county and city government-funded hospitals and clinics. They toil in exhausting 10- to 12-hour shifts.

SUNY emphasizes public health care delivery and education. SUNY has four academic health sciences centers, five hospitals, four medical schools, two dental schools, the state’s only college of optometry, and 25 other state-operated campuses dedicated to health professions and services. Each year, SUNY health care facilities serve more than 1.3 million patients. During the COVID-19 pandemic, public health nurses at these SUNY facilities stalwartly aided those in dire need. The invaluable service of present-day nurses carry forward the valiant legacies established by Clara Barton and Clara Maass.

## Clara Barton

Clarissa “Clara” Harlowe Barton (Dec. 25, 1821-April 12, 1912) was a pioneering American nurse that achieved heroic stature by tending the wounded on battlefields during the Civil War (1861-1865). With funding approved by President Abraham Lincoln just before his tragic assassination, Barton founded the “Office of



**Barton**

Missing Soldiers.” Later in life, she founded the American Red Cross, a nongovernment organization that is a member of the International Red Cross.

Union Army authorities prohibited female nurses at Civil War battlefields due to the inherent risk of death. Barton circumvented this restriction by bravely aiding and carting away wounded soldiers amidst battle. Among the carnage of the Civil War, the Battle of Antietam (Maryland) was the bloodiest.

On Sept. 17, 1862, the battle between Union and Confederate forces resulted in 22,717 wounded and 3,600 killed. That day, Barton went to the frontlines and risked her life to aid wounded soldiers—many of whom would have perished without her aid.

The National Park Service states: “As bullets whizzed overhead and artillery boomed in the distance, Miss Barton cradled the heads of suffering soldiers, prepared food for them in a local farm house, and brought water to the wounded men. As she knelt down to give one man a drink, she felt her sleeve quiver.

She looked down, noticed a bullet had killed the man she was helping.” Barton bandaged the wounded soldiers and placed them on wagons that were brought to makeshift hospitals, where she assisted in amputations, dressed wounds and in many instances served as a surrogate mother/wife for delirious soldiers. Barton became a role model that spurred the recruitment of other battlefield female nurses. In this time where there were no pain-relieving medicines, her efforts and that of a growing number of other female nurses assisted thousands of wounded soldiers.

The surrender of Confederate forces at Appomattox in April 1865 brought an end in the fighting, but the abject suffering of wounded soldiers lingered long after the war. This distress was not only physical, but also social. Barton discovered that thousands of letters from distraught family relatives to the U.S. War Department were going unanswered. The government neither had the staff nor the method for locating and identifying missing soldiers. Unable and bureaucratically unwilling to deal with this monumental public health and welfare problem, the War Department just stamped “Missing” to inquiries from relatives. Shortly before the war ended, Barton met with President Lincoln to address the need for establishing a mechanism for communicating with the families of the wounded soldiers. The 16th president readily assented to her requests. Besides a modest salary, Barton received funding to set up the “Office of Missing Soldiers” at 437½ Seventh St., Northwest Washington, D.C.

After the war ended, Barton secured additional funding to oversee the identification and burial of more than 13,000 Union soldiers that died while incarcerated in Andersonville, a merciless Confederate prisoner-of-war camp in Georgia. Through her tireless efforts during and after the Civil War, Barton and others at the Office of Missing Soldiers responded to 41,855 inquiries, resulting in more than 22,000 soldiers being identified as killed in action or who later died in hospitals.

Barton then expanded her outreach efforts through the American Red Cross, which she founded. As a nongovernment, independent entity with a federal charter, “the Red Cross maintains a special relationship with the federal government with the ongoing mission of preventing and alleviating human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and generosity of donors.”

For the remainder of her long life, Barton helped establish government-funded nursing schools throughout the United States. No less than four-dozen nurse-training facilities are named after her, including the Clara Barton High School for Health Professions located in Brooklyn, N.Y. More than 60 roads and villages nationwide bear her name. On Sept. 9, 1962, a stone monument at the Antietam Battlefield was dedicated to honor Barton. In 1973, she was posthumously inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame. In 2015, the Clara Barton’s Missing Soldiers Office Museum, run by the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, opened in the small office she originally occupied in Northwest Washington, D.C.



## Clara Maass

Clara Louise Maass (June 28, 1876–August 24, 1901) gave her life in the struggle for finding a cure for Yellow Fever.

Born in East Orange, N.J., Maass enrolled, at age 16, in the Christina Trefz Training School for Nurses within Newark German Hospital. The hospital and nurse training facilities were established in 1868. Maass graduated from the nursing school in 1895 and commenced practicing at the affiliated hospital. Her stellar performance earned her a promotion to head nurse at the tender age of 21.

In February 1898, the battleship USS Maine was blown up and sank, with many lives lost off the coast of Cuba. Two months later, the U.S. Congress declared war on Spain and the Spanish-American War ensued. Maass immediately volunteered to become a U.S. Army nurse. However, she was barred from enlisting due to her gender. Maass instead was hired as a “contract nurse” by the U.S. Army. (The U.S. Army Nursing Corps was established in 1901, poignantly the same year Maass



**Maass**

gave her life for her country. There are currently 29,645 nurses in the U.S. military, 65 percent of whom are female.)

From 1898 to mid-1900, Maass served with the Seventh and Eighth U.S. Army Corps in military bases located in Florida, Georgia and The Philippines. She developed an expertise in treating those suffering from infectious diseases, including dengue, malaria, typhoid and the No. 1 killer, Yellow Fever, also known as “Yellow Jack.” While stationed in Manila, she contracted the fever and quickly recovered. Dr. William Crawford Gorgas (1854–1920) of the U.S. Army Yellow Fever Commission was intrigued by her speedy recovery. In October 1900, he requested she go to Cuba and assist him in field tests that examined the cause and cure of Yellow Fever. Soon it was determined that human subjects were needed to investigate the potential treatment for this deadly disease. As a courageous, pioneering nurse devoted to alleviating suffering, Maass volunteered to be bitten by a mosquito known to carry Yellow Fever. In March 1901, she contracted relatively mild case of the disease and, for a second time, quickly recovered.

Due to her speedy recuperation, Maass became a prime subject to test for immunization. The hypothesis of immunization is that perhaps a mild case would immunize (prevent

death) from the full-blown illness. In this way, the individual may encounter a nonlethal level of sickness, but thereafter be immune to the virus.

Since Maass had already successfully recovered from two previous bouts with Yellow Jack, she became a prime candidate to test for immunization.

With immense bravery and devotion, Maass agreed to be bitten a third time by a mosquito carrying the contagion. On Aug. 18, 1901, she once again contracted Yellow Fever. This time she fell grievously ill. She suffered painful headaches, muscle stiffness and life-threatening high fevers. Her condition worsened over six days. Knowing her end was near, Maass wrote her mother a poignant farewell letter, explaining that she was serving and sacrificing her life for humankind. Later that day, Aug. 24, she died.

News of her death caused a nation to grieve. The outrage over how and why she died spurred the U.S. government to substantially tighten the rules for testing human subjects. From this heightened scrutiny came the concept and strict laws pertaining to “Informed Consent—the detailed process in which a health care provider educates a patient about the risks, benefits and alternatives of a given procedure or intervention.”

After Maass died, massive sanitary measures were taken to mitigate the disease in occupied Cuba and later in Panama from 1903 to 1914 during the building of the canal.

Twenty-four-year-old Maass was buried in Fairmount Cemetery in Newark, near where she trained as a nurse.

On June 19, 1952, the Newark German Hospital was renamed Clara Maass Memorial Hospital. The facility has since been expanded as the Clara Maass Medical Center, a world-class medical facility specializing in the treatment of infectious diseases. The medical center has near its entrance a museum devoted to Maass and those heroic volunteers who gave their lives in the fight against Yellow Fever and other infectious diseases. Maass’s tragic, though magnificent, life story can be seen in a seven-minute video at <https://www.rwjbh.org/clara-maass-medical-center/about/history/>

In 1915, 14 years after her death, the American Nurses Association inducted Maass into its Nursing Hall of Fame. The Calendar of Saints of the Lutheran Church honors Maass every Aug. 13 for “Giving her life to help humanity.”

*(Daniel Scott Marrone, Ph.D., is a distinguished service professor emeritus from SUNY Farmingdale. He was the college’s first recipient of the Chancellor’s Award for Scholarship and Creative Activities.)*





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## ENERGY

(continued from page 1)

agricultural soils are located. ... When invoked, [94-c] denies towns and villages the land use authority granted them under enabling statutes almost 100 years old. (<https://nysba.org/preempting-local-zoning-codes-fuels-opposition-to-renewable-energy-in-new-york/>)

The picture with offshore wind is different, but not hopeful. New York has no jack ships to install offshore turbines; the Empire and Sunrise projects are years behind schedule; and as reported by Politico, contractors have reopened negotiations over pricing.

The state plan will require new dedicated transmission lines for the full nameplate capacity of solar and wind, because, occasionally, resources will generate near their full capacity rating. This year's budget will allow the state power authority to take land by eminent domain to build transmission lines.

To backup solar and wind resources, the state must retain, or build, fast-ramping dispatchable capacity equal to the capacity of the intermittent resources. Because relatively efficient combined cycle gas plants can't be "switched on" to generate full power quickly, these must be kept running in a hot stand-by mode, or inefficient single-cycle plants must be available. We could be burning nearly the same amount of gas even as wind and solar resources are deployed.

In its recent "Power Trends" report, the grid operator NYISO has said that it is

obliged by federal tariffs to keep the lights on: Despite state law, it will not be able to close peaker plants; and most of the state's other fossil-fuel resources will be needed well past 2030.

Storage is its own can of worms. Fires are burning at lithium-ion facilities in New York as I write this. But New York's

"It happens that we've known how to solve (the energy) problem for half a century. Large economies ... effectively decarbonize (with) hydro or nuclear power, or both. ... NY should revisit its energy plan."

— Dennis Higgins  
Oneonta

plan would entail building 60 times the 1.2GWh Moss Landing, CA facility, the largest li-ion storage in the world. Storage and transmission and backup represent hundreds of billions of dollars in cost.

Reliability and cost hinge on the state tripling energy imports and exports. Someone might have looked at California. The Golden State wants to sell excess solar, but last year the state dumped 2.6 terawatt-hours, enough to run NYC for two weeks. NYISO indicates that New York's neighbors will probably not have excess energy to share. We may have no buyers for excess summer solar or energy suppliers to avoid blackouts the rest of the year. The NYISO already warns of a dangerously slim capacity margin for NYC as soon as 2025, potentially falling short over 400MW in normal summer weather. (2023 Power Trends and Short-Term As-

essment of Reliability:2023 Quarter 2)

California and Germany are already engaged in this experiment. They enable us to see a couple of decades into the future. They shut down carbon-free nuclear and have 35 percent to 40 percent of their grid capacity in solar and wind. Both have electricity costs double or near double their

neighbors. Both still rely on fossil fuels, including coal, to ensure reliability. When expected energy imports don't arrive in California, the lights go out.

While this would seem to be a real conundrum, it happens that we've known how to solve this problem for half a century. Large economies—Sweden and

France, for example—effectively decarbonized in a matter of a decade or two. They did it with hydro or nuclear power, or both. Further, research has shown that nuclear power has the lowest lifecycle environmental impacts, uses the least land and materials of any generating source, and is as safe as solar or wind, at about the same cost. New York should revisit its energy plan.

*(Dennis Higgins taught computer science and mathematics at St. Lawrence, N.Y., and Scranton, Penn., and finished that public career with 32 years at SUNY Oneonta. Along with an electrical engineer colleague, Higgins gives presentations on state energy plans and policy to physics classes, town boards, civic/environmental groups, Rotary clubs, and general audiences.)*

## UN

(continued from page 13)

it works as an effective international agency for battling the on-rushing climate catastrophe, combating disease pandemics, and cracking down on the exploitative practices of multinational corporations. Its member nations could also rally behind the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (still unsigned by the nuclear powers), agree on a UN program to handle the burgeoning international refugee crisis, and provide the world organization with substantially greater financial resources to

reduce global poverty and mass misery than it currently receives.

Indeed, the horrific Ukraine War is but the latest canary in the coal mine—the danger signal that people of all nations should recognize as indicating the necessity for moving beyond national isolation and beginning a new era of global responsibility, cooperation, and unity.

*(Lawrence S. Wittner [<https://www.lawrenceswittner.com/>] is a professor of history emeritus at SUNY Albany and the author of Confronting the Bomb, Stanford University Press).*

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- Add up to five dependents (age 16 or older) to receive their own premium Calm subscription

The Calm app -- recognized as Apple's Best of 2018 award winner, Apple's App of the Year 2017, and Google Play Editor's Choice 2018 -- is the #1 app for sleep, meditation, and relaxation with over 100 million downloads. Whether members have 30 seconds or 30 minutes of time available, the diverse content library offered by Calm includes numerous resources for their schedule and needs.

Members can explore guided meditations and specialized music playlists to help with stress and focus, mindful movement video and audio, relaxing sleep stories, nature scenes and sounds, specific content tailored for children, masterclasses led by experts, and more.

To learn more about how to create your Calm account and access the premium content for free, visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org/free-member-benefits](https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/free-member-benefits) and then click on "Premium Calm Service." From there, you will find detailed instructions on how to create your Calm account along with a helpful Frequently Asked Questions document about the service. You will need your NYSUT ID number to create an account with your email address and password. Your NYSUT ID number can be found on your NYSUT Membership Card or by visiting <https://www.nysut.org/memberid>.

Once you create your free Calm account on your computer, it is recommended that you download the Calm app for your iOS or Android device. After downloading the Calm app for your preferred mobile device, you can then log in with your email address and password to unlock the premium Calm content.



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left,  
visiting [memberbenefits.nysut.org](https://memberbenefits.nysut.org),  
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For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.

Jan/Feb. 2024



## CONTINUING ED

(continued from page 1)

The good news for retirees is the wide variety of continuing education offerings at SUNY campuses across the Empire State. Many continuing education programs at SUNY campuses were “on hold” or canceled during the COVID pandemic. Though there are and will be sporadic spikes in COVID cases due to seemingly endless coronavirus variants, pandemic risks are abating. Fortunately, quite a few of these continuing education offerings are currently available for free or at minimal cost to participants.

Further good news is that post-pandemic, SUNY campus continuing education programs have been restarted and even, in numerous instances, expanded.

Doreen Day, a Stony Brook HSC retiree, has taken advantage of post-retirement learning opportunities.

“After my retirement in 2018, I was looking for something to keep me occupied,” Day said. “As a nurse I knew the importance of being physically and mentally engaged as a retiree. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Stony Brook University gave me the ability to take part in workshops to learn, keep active or just have fun.”



Farmingdale retiree Dan Marrone gave presentations on the history of New York state at the Institute for Learning in Retirement at Farmingdale State College on Sept 26 (above) and Oct. 3 (left).

Another example of continuing education at SUNY campuses are courses and lectures offered through the Institute for Learning in Retirement at Farmingdale State College. Dr. Daniel Marrone has given lectures at the ILR at various times, including recent presentations on the history of New York state.

### AFL-CIO NATIONAL BOYCOTTS

#### HOTELS

**SUBMITTED BY UNITE HERE!**

Please support the workers in these hotels by continuing to boycott the following properties:

**ALASKA:**

- Hilton Anchorage
- Marriott Anchorage Downtown
- Homewood Suites by Hilton Anchorage
- Hampton Inn Anchorage
- Hilton Garden Inn

**CALIFORNIA:**

- Hilton Long Beach
- Hyatt Regency Sacramento
- Hyatt Centric Fisherman's Wharf
- La Meridien
- Hilton Los Angeles Airport
- Terranea Resort
- Hyatt Regency Santa Clara
- Hyatt Regency Sacramento
- Four Seasons Beverly Hills

→ Hotel Bel Air

→ Langham Huntington

**MARYLAND:**

→ Merriweather Lakehouse Hotel

**WASHINGTON, DC:**

→ Hotel Zena

**MASSACHUSETTS:**

→ Boston Marriott Copley Place

#### OTHER

**SUBMITTED BY Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC)**

→ Reynolds American, Inc., Vuse e-cigarettes

#### FOOD

**SUBMITTED BY Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union (BCTGM)**

→ Mondelez International Snack Foods (those made in Mexico)

#### LEGAL

**SUBMITTED BY American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees**

→ Gleason, Dunn, Walsh & O'Shea

→ McDonald, Lamond, Canzoneri and Hickernell

When some labor disputes with businesses cannot be resolved, the AFL-CIO supports its affiliates by endorsing their boycotts. A boycott is an act of solidarity by voluntarily abstaining from the purchase or use of a product or service.

## Survivor's benefit reminder

**U**UP retirees who would like to find out more about the NY State and Local Retirement System Survivor's Benefit Program can call (866) 805-0990 or at (518) 474-7736 within the Capital Region.

Retirees can also write for more information to: New York State and Local Retirement System Survivor's Benefit Program, 110 State St., Albany, NY 12244-0001. Include the last four digits of your SSN in any correspondence.

Further information can be found at <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/files/retirement/publications/pdf/1860-survivors-benefit-program-retired-employees.pdf> or at <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/retirement/publications/survivors-benefit-program-retired-nys-employees>

**NOTE: This is NOT a UUP benefit but a NYS benefit. UUP has no further information or access to beneficiary forms for this coverage.**



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