

RC 10 SKYLINE NEWS



NYSUT Retiree Council 10

Serving Over 9000 Members in Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Washington Counties

TEACHER UNION SOLIDARITY

ISSUE 1 for 2018-19 Sept-Oct

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TO UPDATE YOUR
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CALL NYSUT MEMBER
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From Your President:

There is an old Union song that you may recall hearing, *Solidarity Forever!* If you read a paper, follow TV news, or just find yourself in a place where political views and public policy are discussed, you may wonder if that is an old idea fallen out of favor with a lot of the public. Despite the volume of public discourse, that is not the case. It's just that we seem to be living in a large classroom again, where some of the students did their homework and understand, and some skimmed over it and are trying to fake it in hopes of not being called on. The loudest are those who did not do any of the homework and now hope to cover that up by being argumentative so no one will notice.

"To remain the land of the free, we must also be the land of the fair."

the "issue" of the day as "how it impacts me," and give little thought to how others are impacted differently because of where they live.

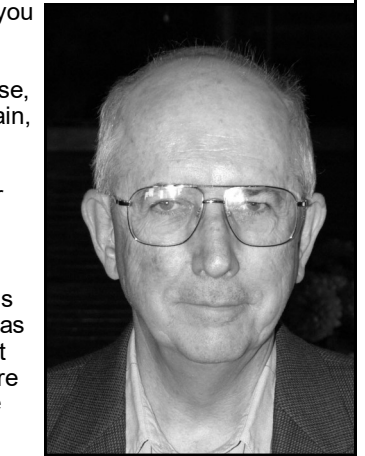
If you live in an urban area with good public transit services, you may have less concern about how many parking spaces are to be required at a proposed new retail store. After all, everyone can take the bus or tube or Uber and get their shopping done without that worry. If you have to drive 30 miles or more each way to a grocery store, as does someone I met at a luncheon this weekend, parking spaces matter a lot.

You may see funding for school bus service for all students as less urgent where there are good sidewalks, crosswalks, and lights on most corners. I worked in a large district where every student got a school bus ride, as there were no sidewalks at all and it would have also required an army of crossing guards -- if there was anyone to do it. There were so few adults available during the day that written school policy required us to release from class any older student who was a member of the fire department if a fire call came in. No other need was of more importance than public safety. How do you convince someone in a large urban area with a paid, well-staffed fire department that this is a real need and the only solution that will work for us? All too often public policy debates polarize around a pair of alternatives that amount to "my way or the highway." As teachers, we all took steps to protect children who were being picked on or teased for some reason. We tried to make them welcome and to help our other students see their worth and how they could enrich our school experience.

We often see changes in public policy that improve our response to crisis situations. Now we are seeing a change in public policy about how to treat children of those entering our country to ask for asylum. Some public officials see attacking children as a proper way to deter their parents from taking action that they do not like. The theory is that punishing the child will encourage the parent to comply with our wishes. Unfortunately, the practice has been that even when the parent is deterred from staying in the US or attempting to use their legal rights to a hearing, the punishment of the children continues. The government officials have often lost track of where the child is and who the parent is. Parents have left the US and their children were not returned to them or even identified as subject to reunification. When a Federal judge ordered the reunification with their parents of children age five or younger, the government could not find many of the children. They were in government care, at government expense, but no one knew where they were.

If, as teachers, we had punished children when their parents spoke out or advocated against us or our contracts, we would all have lost our jobs in a hurry. No one would have agreed with that approach. This country has a right to bar someone from entry or residence. That person has a right to a hearing and a fair trial as does everyone under our law. The legal delay often associated with this process can be remedied by employing more hearing officers. The State Department and other related agencies can secure and make information accessible to domestic law enforcement that would enable them to move that process along promptly. The punitive approach now in place does not work. What can work, and quickly, is a system where an employer is subject to an immediate stiff fine and related punishment for each day and person that they employ who is not a legal resident. Economic migrants will quickly learn that there are no off the book jobs here and hence no benefit from sneaking in. Persons holding jobs legally will have the same rights and benefits that others have, and they will pay taxes. Punishing children is not the way to go. Instead, harshly punish those who profit from the illegal workers and watch the speed with which the problem gets resolved.

The approach which takes account of the needs of both sides is the one that will last and work best. Putting off any effort to accommodate the needs of the other viewpoint will only prolong the problem, not resolve it. Acknowledging the merits of both sides in this issue will help us all. Continuing to pretend that one side is so righteous that all else does not matter will leave us with a problem for decades. To remain the land of the free, we must also be the land of the fair.



DAVID GOLDEN

~David Golden, President

NYSUT RETIREE SERVICES CONSULTANT RC 9/10

Jeanette Stapley (518) 532-9223 (jstapley@nycap.rr.com)



SAVE THESE DATES—TRAVEL AND SOCIAL CALENDAR!!!!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2018, TASTE OF TROY. Put on your walking shoes for an entertaining and delicious way to learn about Troy—its ups and downs, and the role food is playing in bringing this architectural gem back to life. You'll sip and sample some of New York's classic flavors and sprinkle in history and culture to round out the day. The group will meet just past our first stop, 275 River Street, Troy, at 10 am. This Central Troy Historic Food Tour is a leisurely 3-hour, 1.5 mile walk with informative stops along the way. The tour ends at the Troy's

Farmer's Market with time for you to explore and shop (if you wish) the 80+ vendors. The stops are: 1. Psychedelicatessen—taste hand-rolled bagels and store-cured lox; 2. Whistling Kettle—sample 2 teas; 3. St. Paul's Episcopal Church—inside tour of entire Tiffany-designed interior; 4. Illium Café—Rif of a Reuben and salad; 5. Brown's Brewery—2 different beer sips, paired with Buffalo Cauliflower; 6. The Dutch Udder Creamery with three tastes of homemade ice cream; 7. Troy's Waterfront Market. This progressive meal of tastes should leave you comfortably full and replace brunch/lunch. Price is \$53 for those members who have paid the annual sustaining membership fee. Price is \$55 for guests and members who have not paid the annual sustaining membership fee. Tour is limited to 14 people. Make checks payable to RC 10, and mail your check and registration form to Fran Hyde, 1538 Tibbits Avenue, Troy, NY 12180. Phone: [518-271-7030](tel:518-271-7030).

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2018, FALL CONFERENCE. Come join us at NYSUT headquarters, 800 Troy Schenectady Road, Latham, from 9:30 am to 2 pm. As part of RC 10's Social Justice Program, this year's presentation will be Runaway Inequality: An Activists Guide to Economic Justice. Program Presenter Charlie Albanetti, Director of Citizen Action of New York, will lead us in an interactive workshop and discussion of the effects of forty years of government deregulation, financial strip-mining, and cuts to social spending. The top 1 percent controls nearly 40 percent of America's wealth. As inequality is at epidemic levels, learn how we can turn the tide. This workshop and lunch will be free of charge. The \$20 reservation fee will be returned to you after the workshop and the return of a short evaluation. The Companion Book can be purchased here with free shipping: <https://runawayinequality.org/product/runaway-inequality-an-activists-guide-to-economic-justice/> or copies will be available at the workshop for a donation. Mail the registration form and your \$20 check made payable to NYSUT RC 10 to Barbara McCarthy, 5 Ascot Circle-Apt. 9, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866, before October 6. If you have any questions or dietary restrictions, call Barbara at 518-682-2814 or email her at irishiz9@aol.com.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2018, LOWER EAST SIDE NYC. Program at the Tenement Museum followed by a 2-hour walking, historic/foodie tour. Tour the Lower East Side and explore the area where many of our immigrant grandparents may have lived! Contact Barbara at bzuccaro@roadrunner.com or call 518-792-6799 to be placed on a waiting list.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, JOY BEAR PROJECT. RC 10 will hold another Joy Bear Workshop from 10 to 12 at NYSUT on Route 7 in Latham. Joy Bears are decorated teddy bears that are given to cancer patients to provide comfort as they undergo chemo treatment. It is the hope of the project to get dozens of bears decorated and delivered to the American Cancer Hope Club to be offered to their clients. This project only asks you for your time. You do not need to be a long-time craft person to make a Joy Bear. All materials are provided free of cost. However, if you have craft supplies (thread, lace, ribbon) that you would like to donate, please bring them with you. Supplies to decorate bears for children and men would be helpful. New teddy bears would also be greatly appreciated. Bring a friend or two to help us complete these much-appreciated bears. To sign up, please contact Ann Cherney at acherne1@nycap.rr.com or call 982-1923 after 3 p.m. Please help!

MAY 30 TO JUNE 10, 2019, SLOVENIA & CROATIA: HIDDEN COVES AND ANCIENT TREASURES BY SEA. Undiscovered gems—beautiful and historic beyond imagination. Set sail by small ship (the MY Casanova is a 126-foot yacht first launched in 2016) through the crystal water of the Northern Adriatic Sea to medieval villages, hidden coves and the picturesque coastlines of Croatia and three nights in post card perfect Slovenia. The entire ship is reserved exclusively for 30 RC 10 members. Learn how communities of the Northern Adriatic have been linked through history as you explore ancient white-stone streets constructed by the Romans and marvel at towering mountains, picture-perfect lakes and striking Venetian Gothic architecture. Understand the influence of the past as you discover ruins of ancient villages with experts and walk among the splendor of historic national parks. For additional information, contact Karen Maher kmaher2@nycap.rr.com 518-477-6746 (home); 518-588-4083 (cell).

SEPTEMBER 8 TO 20, 2019, ICELAND. SPECIAL NOTE: Our first travel date filled so quickly and has been so popular with RC 10 members that we have added this additional travel date. Has Iceland been on your bucket list? Reserve a space now on this exciting and fascinating trip. This is small group adventure (moderate activity level program) offered exclusively for RC 10. After exploring Reyjavik, we'll head north to the Snaefellsness Peninsula—the entry point of Jules Verne's Journey to the Center of the Earth, visit the home of Leif Ericson, stay at a lodge on an Icelandic horse farm, and visit the northern fjords near the Arctic Circle. We'll visit the Black Castle lava formation and explore Godfoss Waterfall and Lake Myvatn. Then on to the northern town of Dalvik to whale watch in the Arctic Sea, surprisingly good in September! Then we fly back to iconic Reykejavik (maximizing our travel time) and head south to Explore the Golden Circle. We'll visit the Seljalandsfoss Waterfall, go off roading on a Super Truck tour through black sandy landscapes and ATving in volcanic landscapes. We'll see geothermal power first hand and then, of course, relax at the thermal waters of the Blue Lagoon. Seven doubles and four singles (at no additional cost) are available. For more information, contact Maureen Woerner, 518-374-8277 or reeniewoerner@gmail.com.

THE FOLLOWING TRIPS ARE FILLED:

OCTOBER 21 TO OCTOBER 26, 2018, OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA FE.

NOVEMBER 30 TO DECEMBER 8, 2018, DANUBE WALTZ RIVER CRUISE—HISTORY, MUSIC AND CHRISTMAS MARKETS.

SEPTEMBER 7 TO 19, 2019, ICELAND.

OCTOBER 28 TO NOVEMBER 12, 2019, SWITZERLAND & THE HEART OF THE RHINE & MOSELLE RIVER CRUISE.

When registering for a trip, please remember that a member of RC 10 is anyone who has retired from a NYSUT local that is located in Albany, Saratoga, Rensselaer, or Washington counties or is a Social Member who has retired from a NYSUT local in some other part of the state and has paid member fees to his/her Council and a social membership fee to RC 10. Anyone who did not retire as an in-service member of a NYSUT local is not eligible for sustaining or social membership and must pay the guest registration fee. A sustaining member has paid the annual sustaining membership fee for the fiscal year that is from July 1 to June 30.

IMPORTANT: See <http://rc10.ny.aft.org> for registration forms specific for each event, as well as additional trip information. If you are unable to access the website, use the generic travel form printed on page 3 of this newsletter.



TRAVEL/SOCIAL GENERIC REGISTRATION FORM

Use this form if you are unable to access the event-specific registration forms at <http://rc10.ny.aft.org>.
(If you are signing up for more than one activity, or will be taking a guest, please copy this form and fill in the appropriate information.)

Name _____ Home Phone _____ Cell Phone* _____
*Take phone to event

Email _____ Registering for: Event & Date _____
Check One: For 2018-19: () RC10 Member who has paid the annual sustaining membership fee
() Guest or Member who has not paid the annual sustaining membership fee

Event Selections:

For Luncheons/Meals, Entrée of Choice _____ For Trips, Pick Up Location _____

Other notes (Keep it Simple): _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____



RC 10 SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP FORM

July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION AND FILL IN ALL BLANKS

SEND TO: Beverly A. Harrington, P O Box 74, Guilderland Center, NY 12085 Questions: sharrin1@nycap.rr.com

Name: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (Cell) _____ Email: _____

I retired in (year) _____ from _____ School District in _____ County as a
____ Teacher ____ Counselor ____ Medical ____ SRP in (area—elementary, middle school subject, high school subject,
etc.) _____

I served in the capacity as _____ in my local Union chapter.

If you are interested in volunteering with RC 10, please contact rc10secretary@hotmail.com.

Membership. Make Membership checks payable to: **NYSUT Retiree Council 10**
Please place an X before the correct statement:

_____ I have been retired 20 years or less and am including \$20.

_____ I have been retired 20 years or less, have an annual pension of less than \$25,000, and am including \$10.

_____ I have been retired 21 years or more (since 1998 or before) and wish to still receive information from RC 10 by sending
in this completed membership form with no fee.

_____ I have been retired 21 years or more (since 1998 or before) and I am including \$_____.

_____ I am enclosing \$_____ as a donation for the **Scholarship Fund**. Please enclose a **SEPARATE CHECK** made
payable to **NYSUT Retiree Council 10 Scholarship**. (The bank requires a separate check.)

**This section is for Retired New York State Teachers and SRPs who are members of another Retiree Council in New
York State or Florida.**

_____ Social I would like to become a Member for trip discounts and am including \$20. I am a FEE PAYING MEMBER of
RC____. FEE PAYING MEMBERS of other RCs are eligible to join RC10 as social members.

Office use: Date Paid: _____ Check Number: _____ Amount: _____

**Keep this section as your RC 10 Membership receipt for 2018-19 as No Membership Card
will be issued.**

Date Paid: _____ Check Number: _____ Amount: _____



Social Justice Committee News

As part of RC 10's ongoing commitment to Social Justice, our Council has been participating in the Regional Foodbank's BackPack Program. This Program is designed to meet the needs of hungry children on weekends when other food resources are not available. The program provides bags filled with foods that are child-friendly, shelf-stable, and easily-consumed. Bags are packed each week by school staff and discreetly distributed to participating children every Friday afternoon. The bags are then returned on Monday to be refilled for the next weekend.

In the four counties that RC 10 represents, the following school districts currently have a Regional Food Bank BackPack Program: Albany, Argyle, Averill Park, Berne-Knox-Westerlo, Brunswick-Brittonkill, Burnt Hills, Capital Region BOCES, Cohoes, Corinth, Fort Edward, Greenwich, Guilderland, Hartford, Heatly, Hoosick Falls, Hudson Falls, Lansingburgh, Mechanicville, North Colonie, Ravena, Rensselaer, Schodack, Shenendehowa, South Glens Falls, Stillwater, Troy, Voorheesville, Watervliet and Whitehall School Districts.

It costs the Regional Food Bank \$183 to support a child for the entire year. There are never enough funds to provide for all the applicants so we are asking for the assistance of RC 10 members to contribute to this very worthy cause. No contribution is too small since our combined efforts will help to sustain the program. If you would like to make a contribution, make checks payable to The Regional Food Bank, and write **RC10 BackPack Program/Name of School** you would like to support in the **memo section** of your check. For example: **RC 10 BackPack Program/ North Colonie**. If you do not care which school gets the funds, simply write **RC 10 BackPack Program**. In order to better track our contributions, please send donations to Barbara McCarthy, 5 Ascot Circle-Apt. 9, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Donations are tax-deductible and all donors will receive a donor acknowledgement letter. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara McCarthy at irishiz9@aol.com/518-682-2814. Thank you for your anticipated generosity. **As of June 1, we have collected more than \$3500, enough to feed almost 20 children for an entire year!**

*****Please note: This program is not to be confused with the NYSUT Backpack Program for School Supplies which is currently being advertised on WAMC.*****



Volunteer Tutoring Opportunity

Wanted – tutors for a free, after school, one-on-one tutoring program in the South End of Albany, located at 20 Rensselaer Street on the first floor of one of Albany Housing's high-rise buildings.

Tutors are expected to come at least once a week and work with the same student each week. Each student comes twice a week and the tutor certainly may work with the same student both times if desired. Otherwise, the student will have two different tutors. Each session is 1 to 1½ hours long.

For more information, see our website at <http://rc10.ny.aft.org> or contact Wizard's Wardrobe Volunteer Executive Director Debbie Fagans at 518-776-0664 or at edfagans@mac.com.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT SINGLE PAYER?

There will be a free forum on single payer health insurance on September 26th, at 6 pm, at the Rotterdam Public Library, 1100 North Westcott Avenue. You will be able to view a documentary on the benefits and affordability of the program. Dr. George Jolly, a retired physician and member of Physicians for a National Health Program, will be able to answer your questions and discuss benefits of the single payer program that is proposed for New York State. The forum is sponsored by the Capital District Chapter of New York State Alliance of Retired Americans (NYSARA).



CHECK OUT RC 10 ON THE WEB!

Due to financial constraints, *Skyline News* currently has only five issues per year that can be mailed to members. And each of

those issues is only four pages long, so we often do not have room for all RC 10 news. However, our website at <http://rc10.ny.aft.org> has many more articles, details, trip flyers, and other features to inform and interest our members. This month, you can find the following features and articles on the webpage, including:

- A report from the July 2018 AFT Convention.
- A link to the summer issue of NYSUT Member Benefits newsletter.
- More detailed information on trips and social events, including registration forms and photo albums.
- Resources like the current Social Security newsletter.

Due to the fact that *Skyline News* issues come out about every 2-3 months, trip details and other news is often available first on the webpage. And don't forget, you can also be notified of RC 10 news and receive PDF issues of *Skyline News* by email — so make sure you register your email either on our website, or by emailing it to rc10secretary@hotmail.com.