



RETIREES
American Federation
of Teachers

AFTerwords

NEWSLETTER • LOCAL 2373
ROWAN UNIVERSITY
201 Mullica Hill Rd., Glassboro, N.J., 08028

Fall 2013

National Day of Action

Rally at Rowan Protests Proposed Chained CPI Social Security Benefit Cut

Rose Glassberg arrived on campus with arms full of red and white paper chains and signs, prepared to protest the proposed chained Consumer Price Index (CPI) Social Security benefit cut that could force many senior citizens to reduce their standard of living.

The Glassboro chapter had planned to create a human chain across busy Route 322, in front of the Student Center, on this "Day of Action," sponsored by the Alliance for Retired Americans across the country on July 2, 2013. However, the rainy weather sent Rose and everyone else gathered there inside the Student Center.

Once inside, members of the Retirees Chapter and Local 2373, as well as members of the community, draped Room 221 in red and white paper chains, and propped up signs that said, "Chained CPI Cuts our Social Security: Some Cuts Never Heal!"

The Rally wants the proposal to be dropped out of President Obama's budget and for payments into the system to be

restructured based on updated tax brackets.

Rose Glassberg, an executive officer of the Alliance and President of the Retirees Chapter, led the discussion about the effects of changing the formula to calculate the rate of inflation for increases in the cost of living adjustments in Social Security benefits to the CPI. "What's wrong with CPI is that it believes seniors don't need as much of a cost of living increase. To talk about reducing seniors' cost of living is not just wrong, but cruel," Glassberg said.

Ed Wolfe, fellow executive officer of the alliance and Vice President of the Retirees Chapter, said political think tanks are trying to convince workers that the proposed change is more connected to entitlements than benefits. Dr. Wolfe then mentioned that the GI Bill helped him to go to college and made a huge difference in his life.

Chuck Linderman, Washington Township resident, said that the change focuses too much on the benefits of seniors rather than trying to adjust the amount

higher earners pay into Social Security.

Joe Basso, President of the AFT Local, and Karen Siefring, former President of the Local, attended the Rally and spoke on behalf of those most affected by a change in the Chained CPI. "Really, what we're asking for is for everyone to contribute their fair share," said Siefring.

Dan Dougherty, Retirees Chapter member, spoke about the positive way government programs affected him. Dougherty and others gave moving testimonials to the importance of government benefits.

The rainy day did not dampen the spirits of the assembled group. In fact, the reporter and photographer from the South Jersey Times who covered the "Day of Action" helped ensure that the message the Rally delivered went well beyond the walls of the Student Center. Articles, photographs, and an editorial in the South Jersey Times appeared, and the action was picked up in the national register of events by the Alliance.



Demonstrating resolve against the Chained CPI on July 2, 2013, from left to right: Rose Glassberg, Joe Basso, Karen Siefring, Ray Cibo, Fran Mitchell, Dan Dougherty, Ed Wolfe, Toni Libro, Charles Shaud, Eileen Shaud, Chuck Linderman.

Photo by participant Judith Eadson

The Jasper Street Miracle at the South Camden Theatre

Many stories are worth retelling. The story of the South Camden Theatre is especially worthy. The theatre began as the extraordinary dream of a virtually unknown playwright and aspiring director Joseph Paprzycki. Some six years ago, in a request for financial support, Helene Pierson, Executive Director of Heart of Camden, memorably summarized the beginning:



Playwright/director Joseph Paprzycki, is seeing his dream come true at the South Camden Theatre.

"A few years ago, I was stopped outside of mass by a man named Joe Paprzycki. Said he wanted to build a theatre, said Father Doyle said he should talk to Heart of Camden. I am here on this earth because my S. 6th Street Waterfront South grandmother took the Ferry to Philadelphia to watch a play in which my grandfather was one of the main characters. His name was Joe. So, of course, working on a theatre in

Waterfront South with this man named Joe was my Destiny. Most of you know Joe's story by now. Turns out, he too, had Waterfront South grandparents. They owned a corner bar. He wrote a play about it. The bar needed to become a theatre. It was Joe's destiny."

My own skepticism limits my faith in destiny, but I have no doubts about the power of committed dreamers. Joe Paprzycki, Father Doyle of Sacred Heart parish, Helene Pierson and the other members of the Heart of Camden, dreamers all, led the way.

They convinced the Scanlon Foundation to purchase the three boarded up houses on the site of the proposed new theatre. As plans quickly began to develop, the Heart of Camden convinced, Pepe Piperno, another dreamer, and his Domenica Foundation to fund a large portion of the theatre Construction. Other Dreamers followed. Dozens contributed the hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars required to make the dream a reality. Together they surmounted obstacles and succeeded. Go to the corner of 4th and Jasper in South Camden and see what dreams are made of.

From the moment I first heard of the dream and the plan, I was full of surprise, hope, and deep doubt. Like most of Camden, the area around Sacred Heart is severely blighted. Thanks to Heart of Camden, on the streets immediately next to the church itself, most of the houses have been renovated or rebuilt. But just a couple of blocks away, the blight remains. No matter. To Helene Pierson and the other supporters of the theatre, "the greater the challenge, the stronger the effort." As she wrote in the letter quoted above,

"Out of the project, a sort of neighborhood battle cry for revitalization became our mantra, or if you know us well, it is more of a neighborhood cry for peace—Art will Save Us!"

What a cry! What a dream! As someone who has devoted much of his life to reading, studying, writing and talking about plays, poems, and novels, I was immediately lured, almost bewitched. It may seem madness, but what attractive madness: "Art will save us!"

I was reminded of an excellent play I saw several years before by British playwright Timberlake Wertenbaker titled *Our Country's Good*. It is a many-layered, multi-problem work, but its main story line is that convicts in a penal colony can be redeemed, made more compassionate, and beneficent by staging and acting in a play. The main assertion seems to be that asking or cajoling convicts in a prison colony to produce a play is not a frivolous activity but an important redemptive activity, something that vitally contributes to individual remediation and our country's good! How about that, "Art will save us!" and in Camden!

Not surprisingly, the plans for organizing actors and producing plays moved more rapidly than the building of the new theatre. Therefore, the South Camden Theatre Company began by staging its first productions in the cafeteria in the basement of Sacred Heart. I saw my first productions of the company there. They included Joe's own *Last Rites* and a series of one acts called *Facing Each Other* with local actors, and even neighbors in the leading roles.

Once the splendid new theatre opened, the number of plays increased, the quality of the productions became much more refined and clearly professional, and the surprisingly good acting became even better. A whole season was devoted to the plays of Tennessee



Now home to the South Camden Theatre, this once-corner bar in the Waterfront South area of Camden has been transformed into a thriving professional theatre with critical acclaim.

—Photo by Ed Wolfe

Williams, which included the best production of *Suddenly Last Summer* that I have ever seen.

Since it opened in 2010, more than 15,000 have attended, and several of the performances have won critical acclaim from local reviewers Howard Shapiro, Jack Shaw, and Wendy Rosenfield.

The coming season will include Tennessee Williams' *Kingdom of Earth*, Joseph Paprzycki's *Express Tracks*, and *Geremini* by Philadelphia native, Albert Innaurato.

If you are at all taken by the story of Joe Paprzycki's dream, I suggest you to buy a ticket, or a season pass, and go see the Jasper Street miracle. With each season and each performance, I find the productions to get better and better. And each time I go I wonder more and more if art can, indeed, save us and how we measure "our country's good," especially in Camden. You can contact the Waterfront South Theatre at 400 Jasper Street, Camden, NJ 08104, or southcamdentheatre.org.

—Edward L. Wolfe



AFTerthoughts from Rose

by Rose Glassberg

When did it become OK to starve children but keep paying subsidies to wealthy tobacco growers? When did we decide that seniors living on \$17,000 per year are the cause of our major financial problems? Since when is it acceptable to shut down government to achieve what you couldn't last November?

If the U.S. Supreme Court, not exactly a bastion of ultra-liberal sentiment, said that the Affordable Care Act is constitutional, why does a group of Congressmen think they can hold the budget hostage to defeat this law? Where, except in the Mad Hatter Tea Parties they hold, is the great groundswell against this law allowing 14 million Americans to have the health insurance they otherwise could not afford? And where would *we* be without Medicare and our additional state coverage, including prescriptions?

"Well," you might be thinking, "it's that time of year when Rose's social

conscience gets particularly prickly." You'd be right, of course. This year is particularly hard on me, watching the Philadelphia public schools, starved by the Governor whose idea of reform is to eliminate tenure and shut down the high school where I taught for 11 years before I came to Glassboro. I listened to the teachers who teach there now talk about their students. They sounded like me, 40 years ago. And *one* counselor for approximately 1,500 students? Really? Even students in neighboring districts see the inequity in that; what's wrong with Philadelphia's politicians?

What's happening in your areas? Are you satisfied that children where you live have the same opportunity for a decent education that you and I had? Do your neighbors have the same decent health coverage that we have? How about people in less affluent sections of your town? I'm having trouble keeping up with all the Food

Banks in our area; are you experiencing the same problem? Workers in fast-food places who earn the minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour and average about 25 hours of work a week recently staged a one-day strike to dramatize their situation – and no, they don't get tips.

I don't believe in meaningless guilt, especially since we didn't create the problems that are roiling in my innards, but I do believe in meaningful action. We can be the agent – in our families, with our friends, in any group we participate in – of ending complacency. We can also be the agent of contact with our representatives – at any level. Believe me, they do watch for reaction from their constituents, and we have a great deal to react to.

We are active voters; our voting percentage is higher than that of any other age group. So let's put our phones, our letters, or our e-mails into active mode, also. *Go geezers!*

Third Annual Recent Retirees Reception Welcomes New Members

The AFT Retirees Chapter held its third annual Recent Retirees Reception September 11, 2012, in Chamberlain Student Center. Berhe Habte-Giorgis, Cindy Mullens, and Charles Mullens were honored as recent retirees with a Certificate of Congratulations, a retirees pin, and boutonniere or corsage.

Jay Chaskes, the congenial Master of Ceremonies, read a moving poem by Billy Collins called "The Names," for victims of 9/11, as a fitting Invocation, since the Reception fell on that date.

Seated at the Head Table were Joseph Basso, President of Local 2373; Karen Siefing, former President of the Local; Rose Glassberg, President of the AFT Retirees Chapter; Ed Wolfe, Vice President of the Retirees Chapter; Jay Chaskes, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, and President Ali A. Houshmand, who attended and spoke briefly.

Rose Glassberg opened the program by speaking about the twenty-six year history of the Retirees Chapter. She recognized former founding president, Al Taylor (1987-1991); Kay Queeney (1991-1993); and her presidency (1993-present). Today the Chapter boasts over 100 members and associate members, awards several scholarships each year, and has a voice on campus. Rose also acknowledged the ten-year anniversary of AFTerword, the award-winning retirees newsletter under the editorship of Toni Libro.

Ed Wolfe, featured speaker, discussed his experience as a young faculty member. He highlighted striking differences between academic life then and now with personal anecdotes, including his hiring under President Robinson. He lamented the overgrowth of administrative staffs and the growing impersonality of academic life today, while acknowledging the demands of changing times.



New Rowan Retiree Charles Mullens receives a Certificate of Welcome from John Gallagher, Retirees Chapter Treasurer, with Rose Glassberg, President, enjoying the moment.

In approximately 1985, I started working part time in the library, at that time named Savitz Library. In August 1987, I began working as a full-time employee with the title of Assistant Programmer. In 1994, my title changed to Computer Systems manager, and I was instrumental in helping to guide the move into the new Library building, later named Campbell Library. This brought many challenges such as the installation of up-graded computer and telephone services. During this period, my student workers who majored in computer science and needed field experience assisted in the installation. This experience helped the students locate professional positions. During this period, I served as advisor to the International Cultural Society.

In addition to the duties of Computer Systems Manager, I also worked as Building manager and Media room manager.

– Charles Mullens

A Gallery of Photos from the Recent Retirees Reception



Dr. Marie Cammarota, Special Education Services/Instruction-Nursing, who retired in 2007, and Lori Block, Professional Academic Advisor, College of Education, meet and greet new retirees at the Recent Retirees Reception.



Seated at the Recent Retirees Reception Head Table are Dr. Joseph Basso, President of Local 2373, and Karen Siefring, former President of Local 2373.

I began work at Glassboro State College in July 1980 as a cataloger. My immediate supervisor was Nicholas Yovnello. When he assumed the position of Assistant Director for Technical Services, I became the head of the Catalog Department. When Dorothy Meyers retired in 1985, I agreed to become the Government Document Librarian. In 1996 I began work as the Interlibrary Loan Librarian. In 2005, I left this position to start the NJ Q & A service, online reference assistance at Rowan. My final position of Access Services Librarian began in 2008 and ended Sept. 1, 2013. I also served as the Reference Desk and taught information literacy to classes. I feel blessed to have worked at Rowan University, and hope to serve in retirement.

— Cynthia Mullens

I was Chair of Marketing & Business Information Systems Department until my retirement. I hold a DBA from Louisiana Tech University and taught Research Methods in Marketing, new Product & Venture and Supervised Internship. My research interests include marketing theory, strategy and non-profit marketing. I presented papers at the Academy of Business Research, the International Council for Small Business World Conference, Society for the Advancement of Management, and the Atlantic Marketing Association. My articles have appeared in numerous journals, including International Business Disciplines, Transnational Management, International Business Review and Business Research Yearbook.

—Berhe Habte-Giorgis



Recent retirees Charles Mullens, Cindy Mullens and Berhe Habte-Giorgis are welcomed into the Retirees Chapter on September 11, 2013.



Following the program for the Recent Retirees Reception, left to right: Joe Basso, Ed Wolfe, Rose Glassberg, John Gallagher, Charles Mullens, Cindy Mullens, Berhe Habte-Giorgis, Roberta Fitzgerald, Jay Chaskes, Ted Gustilo, Fran Mitchell, Marie Cammarota, Toni Libro, Nick DiObilda, Bill Garrabrant.

Herchel "Harry" Gershenowitz, Biological Sciences, Historian of Gloucester County

Herchel "Harry" Gershenowitz, 87, of Pitman, died June 8, 2013, in Kennedy Health Systems in Stratford. A member of the Biological Sciences Department since 1965, Dr. Gershenowitz retired as Professor in 1998 after 33 years of service.

Born in Brooklyn, NY in 1926, Dr. Gershenowitz held a B.S. from St. John's University, a B.A. and M.S. from Long Island University, and an M.A. and Ed.D. from Columbia University. During his tenure at Glassboro State/Rowan University, he was a member of the AFT

Local 2373.

A prolific writer, avid researcher, and frequent lecturer, Dr. Gershenowitz was widely published in a variety of journals. He devoted much of his time to championing the life of Mary Treat, the Vineland botanist, and her historic correspondence with naturalist Charles Darwin. Dr. Gershenowitz was appointed official historian of Gloucester County by the county freeholders and published articles pertaining to local history in county newsletters.

Dr. Gershenowitz also spoke on local radio and television about South Jersey wildlife. During his retirement, he enjoyed being an amateur archaeologist and writer. *The New York Times* featured his archaeological finds and research in New Jersey Jewish history.

Dr. Gershenowitz is survived by a sister, Frieda Langman and niece, Tina Kletter, both of Staten Island. Graveside services, under the supervision of Rone Funeral Service of Vineland, were held June 9, 2013 in Alliance Cemetery, Norma, NJ.

Joanne Trimble, Mathematics and Computer Science

Joanne Swendsen Trimble, 74, of Austin, Texas, died June 30, at Christopher House of Hospice, Austin. She arrived at Glassboro State College in 1972 and left in 1984. During that time, she participated with her husband, Benjamin Trimble, in the establishment of a new Computer Science Major.

Before coming to Glassboro, Dr.

Trimble taught at Hunter College and Upsala College. Following her tenure at Glassboro State College, she joined the Mathematics Department at Marist College in Poughkeepsie. In 1992, she joined her husband in Austin, Texas, where they enjoyed retirement. Dr. Trimble is survived by her husband of 50 years, Benjamin Andres Trimble.

Cynthia "Cindy" Corison, Communication Studies

Dr. Cynthia "Cindy" Corison, 58, of Boca Raton, Florida, and formerly of Philadelphia, PA, died July 7, 2013. She joined the Communications Department in 1984 and retired in 2009 from the department of Communication Studies as Associate Professor after 25 years of service.

Originally from Oregon, Dr. Corison held a B.A. from Lewis and Clark College and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Oregon. She was a member of AFT Local 2373.

Dr. Corison became Chairperson of Communication Studies following the transition, in 1996, of the department of Communications to the College of Communication with five separate departments.

She specialized in teaching Survey

Research Methods courses for undergraduates and graduate courses in Survey Research for the MA in Public Relations. She also served as the director of the graduate program in Public Relations. In addition, she assisted with the complex task of scheduling for the large and diverse College for many years.

No public memorial service was held. Those who wish may honor her memory by donating to the Human Rights Campaign in support of marriage equality.



Lawrence "Larry" J. Stewart, Music Department

Lawrence, "Larry" J. Stewart, 73, died July 21, 2013. He was a member of the Music Department at Rowan University.

He earned his B.S. from Ball State University, an M.M. from Northwestern University, and a D.M.A. in bassoon performance at The University of Michigan. He was a member of the AFT Local and the Retirees Chapter.

As a professional bassoonist, he was a member of The Chicago Little Symphony, The National Symphony in Washington, and The Philadelphia Opera Company Orchestra, where he was second bassoonist. He cofounded The Friends of the Arts organization at Rowan University.

Survivors include his wife of 49 years, Susan K., son Davin and daughter Larisa Schreiber and three granddaughters. A memorial service was held at Stout & Son Funeral Home, Russiaville.

Huguette Henderycksen Foreign Languages and Literatures

Huguette R. Henderycksen, 86, died July 25, 2013, at the Lynmore in Fort Pierce, Florida. She joined the department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Glassboro State College in 1969 and retired as Associate Professor in 1991. She was a member of the AFT Local 2373.

A native of France, Dr. Henderycksen immigrated to Pennsylvania in 1952. She received a B.S. from Shippensburg State College; MEd from Temple University; M.A. from University of Pennsylvania; and a PhD in French from Rutgers University. She taught French in high schools in Pennsylvania and New Jersey before arriving at Glassboro State College.

A service to celebrate her life was held in the Yates Funeral Home and Crematory, Fort Pierce Chapel, on August 3. Aggie Mical, who recently moved to Ft. Pierce, attended the memorial service for Huguette, which was greatly appreciated by family members.

Dr. Henderycksen is survived by a sister, Jacqueline Campbell of Fort Pierce, Florida; two nieces, Ruby St. James of Chicago and Clody Gabrieli of Montgeron, France; and a nephew, Jean-Pierre Langlois of Washington, DC.

She is interred in Wenonah Cemetery in New Jersey, alongside her departed friend, Jeannette McConnell. Memorial contributions may be made to the Humane Society of the United States.

Mark Your Calendars!

November 13
Creative Callings

December 10
Winter Holiday Party

In Memoriam

John N. Falzetta, Secondary Education and Educational Administration

John Nicholas Falzetta, 86, died September 8, 2013 in Manahawkin, NJ. He came to Glassboro in 1969, where he served as Professor of Education from 1969 to 1988.

Dr. Falzetta had a long and distinguished career in education. A man with a broad range of interests, including the social sciences, music, flying, and fishing, John served in the United States Navy during World War II, after graduating from Atlantic City High School in 1944. On his return, he earned a B.A. in economics from LaSalle College; an M.A. in social sciences from Niagara University; and an Ed.D. from Temple University. His career in public education, beginning as a fifth grade teacher in Atlantic City, included junior high school teaching, several appointments as principal, assistant superintendent, and superintendent. He was a member of our AFT Local until his retirement.

At Glassboro, John held joint appointments in the departments of Secondary Education and Educational Administration. His experience and education led to work with his own and other educational consulting firms. His friend, Tom Gallia, remembers John as a very generous man, though often quietly so, with colleagues or students who experienced financial crises. Rose Glassberg, former colleague in the department of Secondary Education, suspects that he was also generous with his knowledge and served as a mentor for younger colleagues, including Tom and the late Dick Smith. Rose states that John was very well respected in the Department of Secondary Education, as someone who had a thorough understanding of his discipline, without ever flaunting it.

John loved classical music, including opera, but he also loved fishing and flying.

He bought his first airplane with friends Al Taylor and Olney England and used it to fly from New Jersey to Key West, where he had

the family has asked that memorial contributions be made either to Meridian Hospice South, 80 Nautilus Drive,



*The late Richard Smith and John Falzetta, with Tom Gallia, on John's boat "The Mid-life Crisis" about 1984, just as we would like to remember John and Richard.
Photo courtesy of Tom Gallia*

bought a vacation home. In the 1980s, John and Mario Tomei bought their first boat, aptly named *The Mid-Life Crisis*, because, as Tom Gallia observed, "It earned the distinction of being one of the most frequently towed vessels on the Delaware Bay." John, Mario, Tom, and Dick made annual trips to Cape Hatteras for tuna.

John, whose son Brian preceded him in death, died with the rest of his family around him. His children, sons Gregory Falzetta and Andre Pierce, and daughter Elisa Falzetta, survive John, along with spouses and grandchildren. His beloved boxer Bella so brightened his final days that

Manahawkin, NJ 08050, or the NJ Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Frank X. Sutman Science Education

Frank X. Sutman, 85, of Linwood, died August 3, 2013. He was born in Newark and grew up in Glen Ridge, NJ. He held a BS from Montclair State Teachers College and a D.Ed. from Columbia University.

He taught at Rowan University in the areas of science education and curriculum development for a time, as well as other institutions, including Temple, Fairleigh Dickinson, and the Richard Stockton College of NJ. He devoted his professional life to preparing teachers of science to be successful in the classroom. He received the New Jersey Governor's Award for Education in 1987. He was a member of Local 2373 and the Retirees Chapter.

Survivors include a son, Frank Sutman, and daughters Cathy Oldis and Elizabeth Cichowski. He was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Mabel Patricia Sutman.

A celebration of his life was held at the Greate Bay Country Club in Somers Point, on August 17. Those who wish may make a donation in his name to the Alzheimer's Association, www.alz.org.

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AFTerwords is a publication of the AFT FORCE Retirees Chapter Local #2373,
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