



(Retired Association of Freeport Teachers)

February 1, 2011

To each of you, I wish a Happy, Healthy and Healing New Year. The year 2011 must be a YEAR OF ACTION!!! We are being attacked on all sides because of the economy, unemployment, etc. We still have a Pension, receive Social Security Benefits and have good Health Insurance.

When you hear about Pension Reform, Health Care Reform, Social Security Reform, reform can mean "diminished, changed, etc.", do not just sit there, become proactive. All these issues and more can and will **affect Retirees and Active teachers** as well.

There have been, and will continue to be, attacks on public employee pensions, and particularly teacher pensions. The public views defined benefits such as ours with great envy and resentment, and often propose that teachers and public employee's pension be reduced to lower levels or eliminated altogether. Politicians look greedily at the accumulated funds and dream of balancing the budget with them. The State Constitution protects pensions, but it comes up for possible rewriting every 20 years. So far, a referendum to rewrite our state constitution has not passed. It will be coming up for a vote again very soon. To keep it from passing, we will have to be alert and do everything possible to avoid that.

Charter School and Voucher Plans must be opposed since they drain money from public school budgets, causing many problems, such as higher taxes for local schools, greater difficulties in negotiating for improvement in salaries, health benefits, pension improvement, etc.

To educate yourself, go to [NYSUT.org](http://NYSUT.org). You will find great information and ideas to help you. Please use this valuable web site.

Joyce Fischer  
FTA Retiree Representative, RAFT editor



**The following was sent to me by the FTA President, Stuart Napear - IT'S IMPORTANT. Please read it very carefully:**

There's a site called Spokeo.com that's new online. USA phone book with personal information everything from pics you've posted on FB or the web, your approximate credit scores, home value, income, age, etc. You can remove yourself by first searching for yourself on their site to find the URL of your page, then going to the Privacy button on the bottom of their page to remove yourself. I right clicked on the privacy link as you must fill in the URL of your information page to be removed. You also have to give an e-mail address so you can send back a confirmation that you wish to be removed. I used my two hotmail account. They limit how many times you can use the mail account for removal in a day. What they list for free is scary, but for \$2 someone can gain full access to your profile. Make sure your kids, spouses and other retirees know to remove themselves as well. Remember you have to click on the link in the e-mail to confirm removal. If you are listed more than once, you must remove yourself from each listing separately.

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**News from our members**

It is with deep regret and profound sadness, that I inform the membership of the passing of **David Taub**, husband of **Mireille Taub** (Giblyn 6/02) December 25<sup>th</sup>. Born in Paris in 1932; survived the Holocaust as a hidden child, came to the US in 1959 after marrying the great love of his life, the former Mireille Shyko, his wife of 51 years who survives him; resident of Freeport since 1968. Proud father of Elizabeth and Rick Breslow, Peter Taub and Bill and Janice Taub. Devoted grandfather/"Papa" to Sam Breslow and Sydney and Dylan Taub. Sales engineer, bon vivant, linguist, punster, raconteur. Lover of classical music, fine art and food, oenophile and finest mind of the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Memorial contributions may be made to the Holocaust and Tolerance Center of Nassau County, 100 crescent Beach Road, NY 11542, Attn" Sara Cushman for David Taub Memorial.



**Impact of Repealing the NEW Health Care Reform Law**

The following is a list of **some** of the significant consequences we face if the New Health Care Reform Law is repealed:

**Repeal of Protections Against Insurance Company Abuses**

- Would eliminate the ban on discrimination on the basis of pre-existing conditions
- Would eliminate the ban on annual and lifetime limits
- Would eliminate the ban on rescissions
- Would eliminate other consumer protections ( soaring insurance costs)

**Repeal of Benefits for Seniors**

- Would increase drug costs for seniors
- Would deny seniors new preventative care and other benefits
- Would increase retiree health care costs for employers

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**Medicare Reminder**

*Starting in 2011, consumers who have Original Medicare will no longer pay coinsurance or a deductible for certain preventive care services recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. Recommended services, which are 100 percent covered include:*

- *Diabetes screening*
- *Medical nutritional therapy*
- *Blood tests for heart disease*
- *Bone mass measurement*
- *Screening mammograms*
- *Pap smears, pelvic exams and clinical breast exams*
- *Colon cancer screening (fecal occult blood test, flexible sigmoidoscopy and colonoscopy)*
- *Prostate cancer screening (PSA test)*
- *Flu shot*
- *Pneumonia vaccine*
- *Hepatitis B vaccine*
- *Annual wellness visit*

*Learn more about coverage of preventive services at [www.Medicareinteractive.org](http://www.Medicareinteractive.org).*



**HOW DO YOU BECOME A BETTER INFORMED AND EDUCATED RETIREE?????**

You can attend bi-monthly meetings of RC#18, and/or CORTLI (Coalition of Retired Teachers of Long Island). By attending these meetings, you will arm yourself with the information and tools you will need in order to keep yourself updated, aware and involved.

**CORTI**

**RC#18**

March 14 - Woodbury  
April 11 - Woodbury  
May 9 - Hauppauge  
June 13 - Hauppauge

March 21  
May 16  
June 20

If you are interested in attending any of the above meetings, please e-mail me for directions. The meetings are from 10:00 am until 12 noon.

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**PLEASE READ AND RESPOND**

**I have tried in the past and will continue to try to find a successful way for the Freeport Retirees to get together. Other retired teachers from all over the island, meet on a regular basis for lunch,brunch,dinner, etc. Stuart Napear, the FTA President has offered the FTA office this coming spring. The FTA will gladly supply the place; we need to supply the Retirees!! Please forward any suggestions or dates that might make this come to fruition.**

**The FTA office is located at 30 South Ocean Avenue, Suite 305, Freeport, N Y, (516) 442-0373**



*The following is what I sent to those retirees who supplied an e-mail address to me. If I do not have an e-mail address for you, PLEASE send one to me at [jrfisch@optonline.net](mailto:jrfisch@optonline.net) so that I will be able to send important information to you immediately after I receive it.*

As you have been told before, under Civil Service law, school districts are required to reimburse NYSHIP (Empire) enrollees for Medicare premium charges. The basic Part B Medicare insurance is \$96.40. If you have been on Medicare, you should have received a letter from Freeport to be signed, followed by a check for a 3 month period. This procedure should take place 4 times a year. Since the Medicare deductions vary according to your annual income, it is up to you to make sure that you are receiving the full reimbursement. When you receive your SSA - 1099- Social Security Benefit Statement, check the Medicare Premium deductions. If you have any questions, call Sue McNulty at 516-867-5216.

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**FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT - LEXIPHILES**  
**( People with a love for words)**

1. When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, UCLA.
2. When fish are in schools they sometimes take debate.
3. A will is a dead giveaway.
4. With her marriage she got a new name and a dress
5. Show me a piano falling down a mineshaft and I'll show you an A-flat miner.
6. In a democracy it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your Count that votes.
7. Acupuncture; a jab well done.
8. A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.
9. If you take a laptop computer for a run you could jog your memory.
10. He had a photographic memory which was never developed.
11. Did you hear about the fellow whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.
12. Police were called to a day care center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.
- 13 The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.
14. To write with a broken pencil is pointless.
15. You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
16. The batteries were given out free of charge.

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