

the

HHHART BEAT

Newsletter of the Half Hollow Hills Active Retired Teachers
Summer, 2011

Volume 24, No. 4

HHH Teachers Association, 6268 Jericho Turnpike, Unit #10, Local 2701, NYSUT/AFT/AFL-CIO, Commack, NY 11725-2810

HHHART Fall Luncheon

Tuesday, September 13, 2011



At the Stonebridge Country Club

Time: 12:30

Menu: Salad, Choice of (Hanger Steak, Chicken, Salmon, or Pasta)

Dessert, Soda, Coffee, Tea

Cost: \$29

Directions: From L.I.E. East or West L.I. Exp. to Exit 56 North. Travel North on Rte 111, (Rte.111 turns left at Jade Garden Restaurant), proceed to Rte. 347, make left. Stonebridge Country Club is on Rte. 347 approximately 3/4 of a mile on the right-hand side. (Look for ZZs Grille) From Northern State Parkway To the end onto Vets Hwy 347/454. Make your way into the left hand lane. After the 7th traffic light, make a U turn (Adjacent to Carvel). After making U turn, get into the right lane, Stonebridge will be approximately 1000 feet on the right-hand side. (Look for ZZs Grille)

Please reserve _____ place(s)

Names(s) _____

Check for _____ enclosed

Check made out to Joan Petroske must be received by August 30th

Send to Joan Petroske

36 Lakeview Drive, Manorville, NY 11949

---The President's Message---

I hope that you have been keeping up with all the political and legislative reports which affect us as retirees and have been taking some action to protect our positions. There is always information on our Website BLOG (hhhart.net) about opportunities to participate. Make phone calls and/or write to your state and national representatives and your local newspapers, fax or e-mail, and attend rallies. NYSUT.org has sample letters to use. Don't forget to write or call President Barack Obama at the White House, Washington, DC 20500 or phone 202-456-1414. These things do make a difference!

There have been some major changes in the Teachers Association this spring. Mel Stern retired as President and had a wonderful party attended by dignitaries from Long Island and Albany including Dick Iannuzzi, Half Hollow Hills Board members, the Superintendent of Schools, and active and retired teachers. It was a fitting tribute to Mel who has actively represented us for about 40 years. We wish him well!

There were 13 teachers who retired in June who represented 4 Elementary Schools, both Middle Schools and both High Schools, A TA election was held in April and the new officers are:

President—Richard Haase,
First Vice President— Ed Nordstrom,
Second Vice President—Crystal Roberts,
Treasurer—Patricia Fox,
Secretary—Stefanie Deringer,
Elementary Trustee—Jason Brittman,
Middle School Trustee—Heather Neary,
High School Trustee—Michael Zaiff,
Para Trustee—Lori Levine.

I continue to serve as Retired Teacher Rep.

I attended the annual NYSUT Representative Assembly in April where HHHART received the Abel Blattman award for outstanding participation in the 2010 Vote-Cope campaign and our website was awarded First Place in the Journalism Awards. Our webmaster, Betty Volpe, attended the ceremony in May and received the plaque.

On June 8th, we had our annual End-of-Year and New Retiree Party at the lovely home of Malinda Dobrins in Dix Hills. It didn't rain this year(!), but it was a very warm day. We helped

to inaugurate Malinda's newly-refinished pool area and Marlene Flanagan jumped in.

Our Board has been busy planning events for the fall. Our annual luncheon will be on September 13th at the Stonebridge Country Club in Smithtown, and a theater party at the Engerman Theater in Northport has been arranged, with the help of Dick Lee, on October 26th. Also, the CORTLI Luncheon will be at the Crest Hollow Country Club on October 20th. We are very honored to learn that Barbara Easterling, President of the ARA (Association of Retired Americans with 4 million members) will be coming as the guest speaker. Flyers for some of these events are included in this newsletter. We hope you will make every effort to attend. Enjoy the summer vacation. I look forward to seeing you in September.

Joan Detroske



Party Pics



Teacher Retirees 2011

Elementary

Forest Park/Otsego,
Vanderbilt
Margaret Anderson

Signal Hill
Laura Kelley
Dorothy McAvoy

Sunquam
Joanne Geller

Vanderbilt
Peter Klement

Districtwide
Lucille Kenney

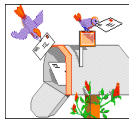
Secondary

Candlewood
Mary Anne Jedrlinic
Linda Julia

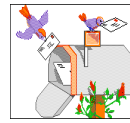
West Hollow
Dale Kaplowitz-Mintz
Marlene Ginsberg (para)

High School East
Nora Carpenter
Denise Corazon-Moore
Barbara Drayer

High Schools East/
West
Robert D'Agostino



--- Keep In Touch ---



Just to let the folks know that Alice Gunn, wife of Jack Gunn, former Math teacher at HS West, lost her battle with cancer on April 22, 2011. Alice was 72. She was very proud of her two "hole-in-ones." She enjoyed her retirement at Carolina Trace, in Sanford, NC. *Harry Shaver*

Have not been able to make meetings and luncheons. Lillian fell and fractured her femur and has been wheelchair bound since. Hopefully she will regain her courage and ability to walk again. Her general health is excellent. Keep her in your prayers.

Anthony & Lillian Grimaldi

We sold our home in West Islip. Stuart, FL, is now our permanent home. We are happy here. Children and grandchildren visit us often.

Grace Ricketts

Myra and I spend the winter months in Key Largo, FL. We still operate the Orient Star II Charterboat in Orient Point, NY. We have five grandchildren and all is well.

William Russo

Our #2 son went off to college last August. Our daughter married in September. Our son married in October. We are working on being snowbirds.

Phil Kordula

Life is good. Can't believe I have been retired for eleven years. I have been teaching adult Bible study in my parish and I am now involved with the local food pantry. It takes 20+ hours of my time each week. As a lifelong learner, I have been working on a four-year program at the University of Dallas Catholic Bible Program. With two grand boys back in New York, that has put about 36,000 miles on my "new" car.

Thanks for your dedication to the newsletter. It is a great service to all of us.

Love and prayers, *Harry Shaver*

Enjoying two sets of twin grandchildren – Emily and Isabel and Jackie and Suzanne. I now have adjunct positions as Assistant Professor of Biology at Nassau Community College and Suffolk county Community College.

Vincent Sydlansky

Four grandchildren – two boys, two girls.

Martha Daly -3-

Since retiring I've had some wonderful adventures. I went on an African Safari through Kenya and Tanzania and went scuba-diving in Indonesia. Both were life changing experiences. I spend my summers on Long Island playing a lot of golf. Retirement has been wonderful.

Ronnie Rubin

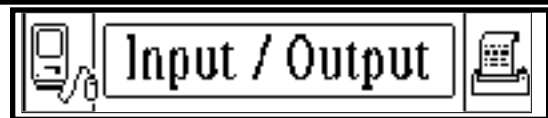
Made a leap of faith and moved away from Long Island and built a house on top of a hill that overlooks a lake. We love it here in Tennessee.

Frederick Ronald Wright

Thanks for keeping me informed. I moved to Princeton Junction, NJ. I have Macular Degeneration (the dry kind), but I am happy to report that I am still reading with some difficulty. Otherwise, I am very healthy. I can no longer drive. It is tough to have to rely on someone else. They never do it just like I do and, maybe, thank God for that.

Eileen Donovan

Party Pic



To those of you who sent us items for our *Keep In Touch* column, thank you for being patient. This is a very popular column and we like to use the articles throughout the year for our four issues. Yours might have finally appeared in this last issue. We're looking forward to receiving more about you for the 2011-12 issues.

We hope your summer is fun-filled and that we will see you at the HHHART fall luncheon.

Norma, Barbara & Sandy

HHHART Website

If you haven't visited our website, named *the hhhartline* at www.hhhart.net, take a minute to read what is going on with HHHART and NYSUT. Pictures from our summer get-together at Malinda Dobrins' home are posted. Links are there for the forms needed for dues and the fall luncheon. Of particular interest is Joan Petroske's biography in the *About* section.

We hear that individual schools or departments are meeting regularly. Let us know if you would like future dates announced on the site. We can also post pictures for those events. It is a great opportunity to touch base with long, lost friends. Send information to Betty Jayne Volpe, Webmaster, at bjvolpe@optonline.net.

**AFT: A Union of Professionals:
AFT Teachers Lawsuit Challenges
Wisconsin Law**

AFT affiliates in Wisconsin are among the unions that have filed a federal lawsuit charging that the Wisconsin "budget repair" bill — which the Wisconsin Supreme Court on June 14th decided could be implemented — is unconstitutional. The 4-3 decision by the Wisconsin Supreme Court overturned a Dane County Circuit Court's ruling that the Legislature violated the state's open meetings law in passing the bill. The court ruled with breakneck speed — on the same day it decided to take the case. "We are disappointed but not surprised by the Supreme Court ruling and will redouble our efforts to restore a fair and democratic process to Wisconsin," AFT president Randi Weingarten says. "The hundreds of thousands of people who have demonstrated their disagreement with the governor's and Legislature's attempts to silence the voice of the public deserve no less."
(from AFT on the internet)

Countering the War on Unions

Leaders of U.S. and Canadian public employee unions met June 8th-9th in Washington, D.C., to discuss the concerted right-wing attacks on public service workers that have taken place since the November, 2010, elections and to consider strategies and actions to alter the prevailing anti-government, anti-union narrative that dominates public discourse. The program, "The War against Public Service and Public Employee Unions," was sponsored by the Albert Shanker Institute. The meeting included a compelling presentation titled "Why We Need Public Spending," a study on the real story of public spending and public service in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries, including the United States. Drawing on decades of data, the study upends the conservative view that government spending is a drag on economic development and growth. In fact, it has had exactly the opposite effect.
(from AFT on the internet)

Corrections/Additions—HHHART Directory

Additions

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Nora Carpenter | norvva@aol.com |
| Tom Depelteau | ivoryjoe@optonline.net |
| Barbara Drayer | bdrayer@optonline.net |
| Dale Kaplowitz-Mintz | kappy267@gmail.com |
| Thomas Magnani | tmagnani52@gmail.com |
| Richard Miranda | richardmiranda@optimum.net |
| David Mondschein | dmondschein@comcast.net |
| Bonny Robinson | bondbread@optimum.net |

Changes

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Marilyn Drange | mwdrange@gmail.com |
| Richard Hogan | RDHAPES@Yahoo.com |
| Thomas Magnani | tmagnani52@gmail.com |
| Richard Miranda | richardmiranda@optimum.net |
| Toni Shannon | ashannon@mfire.com |
| Bonny Robinson | bondbread@optimum.net |

Address Change

Elaine Spitzer
9648 Ginger Court, Parkland, FL33076



4-

Party Pics



Know Your HHHART Board

Our Board interviewee for this issue is Gloria Montesano, Programs and Social Committee.



I was the eighth child of immigrant parents. My mother was 44 at my birth and she probably would have had more but, unfortunately, my father passed away at the age of 49. I grew up with four wonderful brothers and three sisters.

I gave my mother a jolt when I told her I wanted to go to college since the prevailing consensus at that time was that young girls never went to college and when I informed her that tuition would be ten dollars a semester, she fainted! Luckily, my brother had just been mustered out of the army and gave me the money to start my extended education. Incidentally, upon his 70th birthday I made out a check to him in the amount of his original investment with interest. Was that a surprise!

I graduated from Hunter College with a B.A. and received my Master's at Queens College. I taught at William Floyd, Herricks, New Cassel and Half Hollow Hills covering a span of 41 years.

Teaching was the joy of my life, so much so that I feel as though I didn't work a day in my life. One of my greatest rewards was being operated for breast cancer by one of my former first grade students who related to me all he remembered about his cherished first grade experience. I was happy to see that he finally learned how to tie his shoes.

Currently, I am teaching religion at St. Matthew's and am part of the adult choir. I am also very active in the St. Matthew's "Yes Group," (Young Energetic Seniors) which meets once a week for social and travel events. My favorite pastimes are reading, hiking and knitting. (Thank you Honey Kellman for your help here.)

I have an incredibly wonderful family – a devoted husband, four children, and four grand children.

Gloria Montesano

Life has been good.

A Night Of Celebration For Mel Stern



A fabulous reception for Mel Stern, who has retired as President of the Half Hollow Hills Teachers' Association, was held on Wednesday, June 1st. Mel taught in Half Hollow Hills for 41 years and was an active member of the Teachers' Association. He became President in 2005 and held this office until he retired in 2011. He did much to further and advance the work and status of teachers.

The cocktail hour was followed by a lovely dinner. We heard speeches from Ed Nordstrom, the emcee and First Vice-president, and Dick Ianuzzi, the President of NYSUT, who had flown in from Albany for the party. Dick Lee spoke and so did Richard Haase, the newly elected President of the Half Hollow Hills Teachers' Association. Susan Berland, of the Huntington Town Council, spoke as well. We were delighted to hear from Mel's oldest son, Steven, who gave sincere insight into the man we all know as Mel Stern. The evening was a befitting tribute to a dedicated man.

Have a wonderful, healthy, and happy retirement, Mel, and thanks for all you did for students and teachers during your career.

Norma Smith

'Tis the season of allergy, colds, bronchitis and any other 'itis' that is going around, so we need to recognize the old fashioned remedies that are up there with the new pharmaceuticals in the job that they do with almost the same effectiveness but at far less cost.

So here's to chicken soup that most famous of homemade cures for whatever ails you.

**Ode To Chicken Soup
And
All The Cooks Who Make It**

Chicken soup, oh chicken soup,
Your powers are amazing.
You heal, you soothe, you calm, you're balm,
For anything needs saving.

You're prepared with concern and caring,
By those who rush to nourish,
And filled with stuff, that sure enough,
Allows good health to flourish.

Chicken soup, oh chicken soup,
A gesture of friendship treasured,
By one who feels twice blessed to know,
Ways friendship can be measured.

So chop those onions, carrots, greens,
Toss in the mushrooms, parsley, beans.
Before you cook, make sure to look,
You've added just the right amount,
Of love.

If your chicken soup is vegetable,
mushroom and barley, butternut squash, or
tomato, this applies to you too.

Elaine Hoffspiegel



In the spring of 2010, I went to the Czech Republic to tour Bohemia and Moravia and stay in Prague. I was the only one to sign up for the tour, so I had my own private guide. I saw some towns I had seen before but from a different point of view.

In Plzen I toured the connecting tunnels which were under the city from the 1300s, where people stored their food and sought refuge in times of invasion. Plzen was celebrating the 65th anniversary of their liberation from the Nazis by Americans. The Czechs had erected two granite obelisks commemorating the date and the name of the battalion. There was also an outdoor exhibition in a nearby park of the American soldiers entering the city and of townspeople celebrating and capturing the German soldiers. I also toured the Pilsner Urquell Brewery. At the end of the tour there was a "tasting" - 1/2 liter. That's my kind of tasting!

The tour of a silver mine from the 13th century in Kutna Hora was unique. The width of the tunnels in many places was only for the slim, and there were spots where I had to bend so that my helmet wouldn't hit the ceiling. When you shut off your flashlight, it was blacker than black. How the miners of long ago worked with only the light of a candle is amazing.

I toured many castles and palaces. I certainly enjoyed the food and beers from different regions. I visited 2 more castles outside of Prague, one of which was near the village of my grandmother. I also went to museums, exhibitions, Dvorak's home, and an opera. I had such a good time practicing my Czech, and people were pleased and impressed that an American knows their language. I was even told that my accent was perfect. Boy did that make me feel great! I feel very fortunate that I can go on these trips and enjoy my life. *Joan Vanecek*

Vote
cope

The **Vote** drive continues.

Send your 2011 **VOTE/COPE** donation to the TA Office or enroll in the NYSUT automatic pension deduction plan. \$25 or more suggested.

Welfare Trust Fund Benefits

Dick Lee, Trust Fund Administrator

Retirees who elected to continue their union life insurance coverage into retirement, should have received a bill for that coverage from Newman Co. It's due date is July 1, 2011. This very valuable benefit, unique to H.H.H.T.A. members, allows retirees to continue their coverage into retirement. Currently, the monthly union rate is 21 cents per \$1,000 of life insurance coverage. This very low rate is guaranteed through April 30, 2012 from Mutual of Omaha. Those retirees who retired **before July 1, 1988** have a \$5,000 life insurance policy for life as long as the premiums are paid and are current. Those retirees who retired **after July 1, 1988** can be insured for twice their last contractual salary until age 70 and then it is reduced to the amount of their contractual salary at retirement. We are the only union we know of that has this lifetime policy and because the retirees are covered by the same policy as the active members it is a very reasonable and valuable benefit. The Welfare Trust Fund is the owner of the Life Insurance Policy. Each year we bid out the policy to several life insurance companies to keep our rates as low as possible.

Do you know who your beneficiary is for your life insurance policy? If not, you should call Newman Co. ((516) 488-1100) to update your records.

(CLIP AND SAVE)

| <u>BENEFIT</u> | <u>Important Dates and Resources</u> | <u>BILLING DATES</u> | <u>DUE DATE</u> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Life Insurance | | June 1st | July 1st (Billed by Newman & Co) |
| 2. Yearly Dues | | Spring | July 1st (Billed by HHHART) |
| 3. Excess Medical & Vision Care | | December 1st | January 1st (Billed by Newman & Co.) |
| 4. Vote-Cope | | \$25 to \$50 suggested | From January 1st to December 31st |

RESOURCES

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Newman & Co | (516) 488-1100 |
| HHHTA – Dick Lee, Welfare Trust Fund Administrator | (631) 499-4240 |
| Half Hollow Hills CSD, Barry Corbett , Health Benefits Administrator | (631) 592-3094 |
| NYSUT Membership Benefits | (800) 342-9810 |
| Health Advocate | (866) 695-8622 |
| NYSHIP (Empire) | (877) 769-7447 |
| HIP/HMO | (888) 839-7380 |
| N.Y.S. Teachers Retirement System | (866) 695-8622 Ext 6140 |
| Social Security | (800)772-1213 |
| Medicare | (800) 633-4227 |
| H.H.H.T.A. website – www/hhhta.com (forms and information) | |

OPTIONAL BENEFIT

Mark Your Calendar

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| N.Y.S. Retired School Employee | (1) 877-521-0244 |
| Dental Discount Program thru Cigna | Code: NYRS0710 |
| | www.cignaplussavings.com |

The HHHART Newsletter is a publication of the Half Hollow Hills Active Retired Teachers

631-499-4240

President

Joan Petroske

Vice President

Eileen Lohrey

Treasurer

Joan Petroske

Secretary

Malinda Dobrins

RC 20 Representative

Joan Petroske

Programs/Social/Hospitality

Rowena Book

Helen Chipkin

Honey Kellman

Alice Langholz

Gloria Montesano

Malinda Dobrins

Marlene Flanagan

Ellen Keuling

Alice Langholz

Betty Volpe

Joan Petroske

Dick Lee

Barbara Arbuss

Sandra Glickman

Norma Smith

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E-mail Data Base

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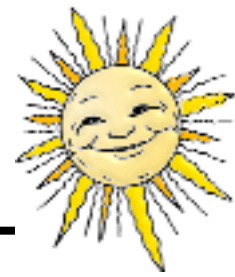
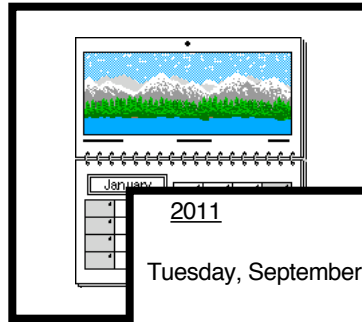
RA Delegate

AFT Delegate

Newsletter Publisher /Co-Eds

HHHART Web Address

<http://hhhmart.net>



Welcome
Summer

2011

Tuesday, September 13th

HHHART Fall Luncheon
Stonebridge Country Club

Thursday, October 20th

CORTLI Luncheon
Crest Hollow, Woodbury

Wednesday, October 26th

HHHART Theater Party
Engerman Theater, Northport

IN MEMORIAM

Virginia Crowe
Signal Hill
June, 2011

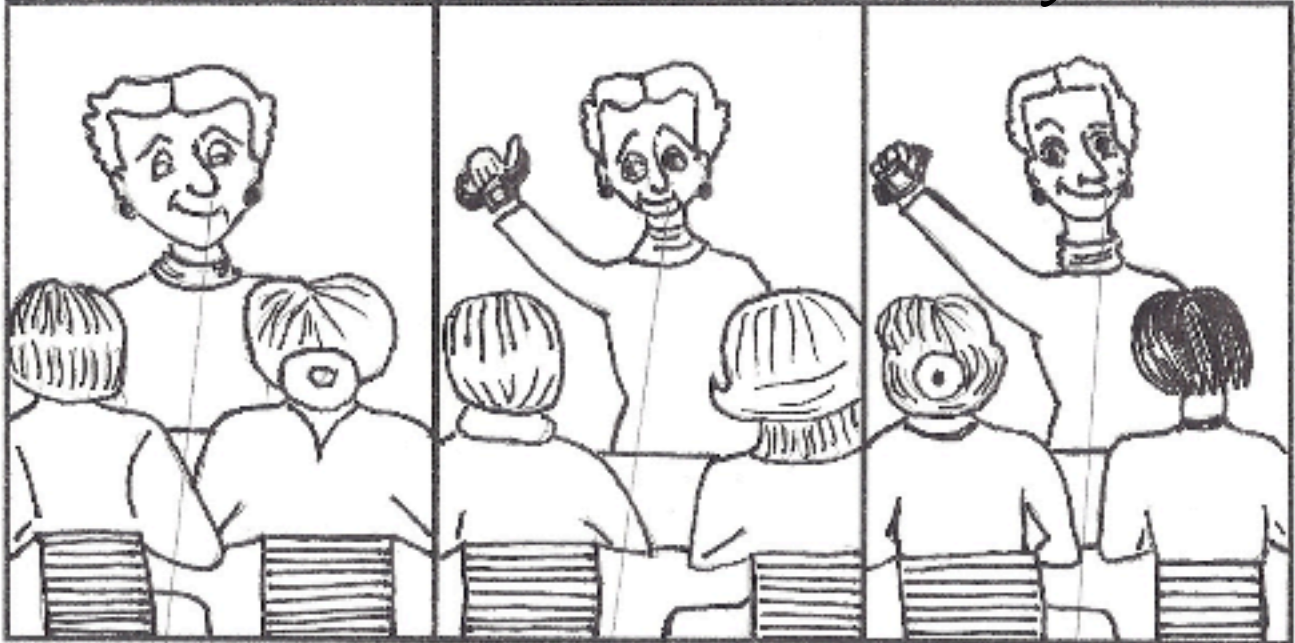
Mark your calendars
the HHHART Fall Luncheon
September 13th

Summer hours for the Half Hollow Hills Teachers Association:

Monday to Thursday 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.
Closed Fridays and the last week of July and
the first week of August.
Website: HHHTA.com

GLIMPSES

by Norma



It really is important to have the LifeAlert line. Especially if you live alone.

Here is what the signal you wear looks like. Some people wear it around their necks, or on the wrist.

Of course, I would have much preferred it if they offered it in gold or silver!

**Half Hollow Hills Active Retired Teachers
Membership Renewal/Application
July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012**

(Please use "block" print when filling out this form)

Name: _____

Street: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: (_____) _____ Date of Birth: _____

Year Retired _____ School _____ E-Mail _____

**MEMBERSHIP: UNDER 75---\$30.00; Over 75---\$12.00, Couples—one
pays full \$30, other pays \$18. Couples over 75 only pay \$12.00**

Please make your check payable to:

Half Hollow Hills Teachers' Association

Mail To:

HHHTA

6268 Jericho Turnpike, Suite 10

Commack, NY 11725

(631) 499-4240

NEWS??? Send it along. We really want to hear from you!! (use back if needed)

Summer is the perfect time

Summer is the perfect time for so many things – gardening, vacationing, swimming, catching up on reading, and whatever else one wants to do but can't seem to find the time for during the school year. That's why summers seem to go so fast, because we're so busy!

But summer is also the perfect time to pay attention to those things that we don't have time for during the rest of the year, such as, (groan), our finances. It's so easy to go day-to-day without making any long-term financial plans, setting up a budget, saving for a rainy day, etc.

Fortunately, the Financial Counseling Program endorsed by *NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation* can be of great assistance in getting your financial house in order.

When you enroll in the plan, you'll receive toll-free access to certified financial planners and registered investment advisors who will address your various financial questions and situations. You'll also have options for in-person consultations. And you have the added comfort of knowing these professionals are there solely to help you, not to line their pockets by pushing you in one direction or another.

These financial professionals do not sell any financial products; hence, they receive no

commissions from mutual funds, brokerage firms, insurance companies or any other third party. These are the professionals of Stacey Braun Associates, Inc., the provider of the Financial Counseling Program.

Stacey Braun Associates is an investment advisory company established in 1977. It provides fee-based professional financial counseling.

Here is a sampling of topics you can receive advice and assistance on:

- Pre- and post-retirement planning
- 403(b) and 457(b) plan advice
- Mutual fund questions
- Establishing risk tolerance
- Mortgages and refinancing
- Savings
- Estate and inheritance planning
- Financial advice relating to divorce
- Tax planning
- Insurance
- Social Security
- Education funding

The plan also includes no-cost written summaries or reports upon request; access to Stacey Braun's password-protected website, which features all kinds of helpful information and calculators; an e-mail helpdesk; and free admission to regional educational workshops.

In addition to the plan described here, a

403(b) Limited Financial Counseling Program is available.

So why not take a little time out of your busy summer and see how you can benefit from the Financial Counseling Program?

For more information, call NYSUT Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 or visit www.memberbenefits.nysut.org.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.



A Night at the Theatre

A HHHART Fall Event

Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2011 – 6:30 P.M.

HHHART has reserved 50 prime seats for the John Engeman Theatre's production of the classic musical, CAMELOT. The cost per ticket is \$51.00 (a 15% discount off the regular ticket price) Prior to the show there will be a Welcome Cocktail reception with cheese and crackers and crudites exclusively for HHHART members. [FYI – the price includes \$9 for one drink –any additional drinks would be on a cash basis.]

Complimentary Valet parking is provided by the theatre.

Tickets will be sold on a first come first served basis. Interested members should call the box office at **(631) 261-2900** and tell them you are part of the Half Hollow Hills Retired Teachers' Group for the October 26th performance of CAMELOT.

Tickets must be paid with a credit card. You may pick them up at the box office on the night of the performance. Plan ahead, call for the tickets, and join your fellow HHHART colleagues for a great night at the theatre!