

JANUARY 2021



Academic Year 2020-21 No. 3

psc-cuny.org/retirees.org

**VIRTUAL CHAPTER MEETING. MONDAY,
JANUARY 11, 1 – 3 PM**

**Theme: Seeking Social Justice and
Exploring Privilege**

For full details, go to:

<https://www.psc-cuny.org/retirees#UPCOMING%20EVENTS>

IMPORTANT LINKS:

Retiree Chapter:

<https://www.psc-cuny.org/retirees>

Health & Safety Watchdogs

<https://www.psc-cuny.org/about-us/environmental-health-and-safety>

Welfare Fund

<http://psccunywf.org/>

THE MONTH THAT WAS MEETING ON HEALTHCARE FOR ALL

Lolly McIver, Retiree

Healthcare and the glaring need for its reform in this country was the focus of the Retirees Chapter meeting on **Monday, December 7**. Three long-time advocates for single payer presented:

- Marva Wade, a registered nurse, former VP of the NY State Nurses Association, and a leader in NYSNA's advocacy of Medicare for All and the NY Health Act;
- Oliver Fein, MD, professor of clinical medicine and clinical public health and a dean at Weill-Cornell Medical College and past president of Physicians for a National Health Program; and
- Len Rodberg, professor emeritus and former Urban Studies department chair, Queens College, and legislative consultant for the NY Health Act.

Dave Kotelchuck, an activist in labor health and safety issues and past co-chair of the PSC Social Safety Net Committee moderated the discussion.



According to Marva Wade, the U.S. pandemic experience is a humanitarian crisis that makes us realize how desperately we need single-payer healthcare. Conditions for nurses are bad and getting worse. Many are burnt out and leaving the profession. Over 50 healthcare workers in NY State have died of Covid-19.

Michelle, a nurse in the video Marva Wade showed, emphasized the need for Emergency Medicare for All and testing for all. She says, "I'm a hero, but I'm broke this month. My father with the MTA is a hero too. But he's broke this month too." And hospitals who call nurses heroes will not sit down and negotiate for safe staffing.

Safe staffing is critical; nurses need personal protective equipment (PPE), adequate testing, and paid sick leave, Michelle said. For example, nurses are frequently asked to come back to work three days after a test without

knowing the results of the testing. Michelle herself developed Covid-19 with very few symptoms, went home, and exposed her parents.

The National Fight

Oliver Fein focused on the national fight for Medicare for All (Medicare 2.0), which has become more urgent because of Covid-19.

Underlying issues include:

- Poor outcomes caused by shortages of PPE, testing, ventilators, etc;
- Structural racism causing hospitals in poor areas to lack funding and other resources;
- Under-insurance that throws into question whether the costs of vaccines will be covered; and
- Lack of insurance that has occurred because millions have become unemployed.



Even before Covid-19, two-thirds of personal bankruptcy filers cited medical bills or illness-related work loss as a cause. The statistics pile up. Other countries with universal healthcare cover all their citizens, but spend half of what we do. U.S. hospitals have the highest administrative costs of any developed nation—double the percentage spent on such costs in Canada. And with all the money we spend, our outcomes are poorer than any other country with national health coverage.

PNHP (Physicians for a National Health Program) proposes Medicare for All 2.0: universal coverage; lower administrative costs brought about by single-payer coverage without patient co-pays or deductibles; choice

of doctors and hospitals; improved quality through nationwide health information technology; and lower drug prices; all publicly-funded and privately delivered.

New York Health Act

Len Rodberg discussed the NY Health Act (NYHA), a state Medicare for All act, that is close to being passed into law in NY State. The State Assembly has passed a version of NYHA three times in recent sessions. In 2018 a majority of State Senators supported the bill. One problem with NYHA is that few people in New York seem to know about it. The *New York Times* covers healthcare legislation in California, but never mentions NYHA.

NYHA would be financed by public funds and a progressive tax on payroll and non-payroll income. It would cover every New York resident and full-time worker, would offer comprehensive benefits (including long-term care) with no deductibles or co-pays. All of this would cost far less than what we now spend.

Financing healthcare through employment makes no sense, he said. Since 1950, health care costs have risen to the point where family coverage now costs \$20,000 per year. Unions are forced to negotiate for these benefits and give up pay raises as a result. And when workers lose their jobs, they lose their health care coverage as well.

Len suggested we need a system like Canada. When you walk into a doctors' office there, the first question they ask is not "What's your insurance?" It is "What's wrong and where does it hurt?"

Rodberg pointed out "a delicate and complicated situation," that many unions do not support single-payer healthcare. At issue is what role unions can play in a single-payer system. All their members will receive health care with no copays or deductibles at facilities and with doctors of their choice—and more comprehensive care than they currently receive through their unions. But this also means that these union members will be abandoning their current health care programs

that they fought and sacrificed wage raises for and that are attractive to them.

We have work to do to bring single-payer healthcare to our nation or our state. Marva Wade hopes that New York, by passing single-payer, can become an example that influences and inspires other states. Len Rodberg is convinced that once people understand single-payer and it benefits, we will have no trouble passing the NYHA. Ollie Fein advocates that we move toward a national single-payer health program for all Americans, with state plans such as NYHA as first steps toward this goal.

FROM OUR LIVES

Many retirees wrote about your lives in retirement in response to the online survey. This is a selection from those responding in December. Those you see here are about switching gears after years at CUNY. We welcome other voices on any theme.

retirees@psccmail.org

SHELTERING IN WATERCOLOR

Carol Montgomery, LaGuardia CC

When I decided to retire from LaGuardia Community College in 2010, I wasn't worried that I would be bored. I was teaching an evening class at NYU, playing tennis regularly, and taking a weekly watercolor class at the Art Students League. And my daughter was expecting a baby.

Although I was introduced to watercolors at about age 12 and took art classes in high school, painting was something I did for fun. In college, as an adult, I would occasionally paint, but for long periods of time I did not pick up my brushes, especially when my children were young and then when I was pursuing a doctorate in linguistics.

After the doctorate in 1996, I enrolled in a weekly watercolor class at the Art Students League, painting the figures from live models. In good weather, my instructor, the late

Frederick Wong, added a plein air session in Central Park that I attended during the summer months. I continued taking both of these classes into my retirement.

As a retiree, I also joined the PSC's Environmental Justice Working Group and became a guide at the Brooklyn Museum. In addition, I did some traveling, mainly to watercolor workshops held abroad and in the U.S. in places like Santa Fe, New Mexico. These domestic and international workshops took me to some beautiful locales and enabled me to learn from accomplished watercolor artists from several countries.



Now, many of the activities in which I participate have been shut down due to the pandemic. Despite the bleak situation we are facing, I am truly fortunate to be able to paint. Now I have more time to develop "my practice." I am taking an online class, "Expressive Watercolor," through the League with a fine instructor, Elizabeth Allison. Her demos, assignments and feedback motivate me to produce and experiment with new subject matter, materials and techniques. I try to focus more on process than final product because unlike oils, watercolor does not allow for much reworking or correction. Many of my more experimental pieces end up in the recycling bin.

Sheltering in place, I have set up part of my dining room as a studio. I paint still lifes using things I have on hand or paint from reference

photos, usually ones I have taken or that friends have sent me. I maintain a sketch book with ideas for larger studio paintings. Before the weather became colder, I was even able to meet a group of friends to paint outdoors. Mostly we met in Prospect Park or Brooklyn Bridge Park, staying socially distant and wearing masks. I then used some of these sketches as preparation for more finished paintings.

At age 78, I am grateful that painting is an activity that can be continued well into one's later years. I, of course, will be glad when things return to some sort of normalcy, but I have learned that having time to engage in a creative pursuit is something to be utilized and appreciated.

Voyage to the Seventh Continent

Bruce MacIntyre, Brooklyn College



In January 1993, during a sabbatical year, my wife Mary and I took a very unusual two-week vacation: a cruise to the Antarctic Peninsula and nearby islands. *Why*, in heaven's name, did we go there? Because "it's there!" The "seventh continent" is one of superlatives: the coldest, driest, windiest, iciest, wateriest, cloudiest, and (including its icecap) highest land mass on our planet. Thanks to our not voyaging below 66° 33' south latitude, and the fact that it was summer down there (daytime

temps averaging 37° F), we did not experience all those superlatives.

What we did experience was truly another world, one of awesome majesty and surprising beauty. On each of the four days at the continent, we ventured ashore from our "home-base" ship on Zodiac powerboats to visit research stations and see the quiet, untouched-by-human-hands natural surroundings. We observed all aspects of penguin life (olfactory and otherwise!). We learned to distinguish five types of penguins: Gentoo, Chinstrap, Adélie, Macaroni, and Magellanic. Two species of whales (Humpback and Orcas) often "played" around our 333-foot ship, the *Illiria*. Six species of seals amused everyone from time to time, and scores of bird species kept the birders (including Mary) forever busy.

The 122 passengers, ranging from pre-teen to 85+, and the 80 crew members on board were terrific, too, leading one Arizonan to plan a reunion of participants to take place only two months after our return home. There was pleasant camaraderie on board as we enjoyed interesting mealtime conversations with guests from across the U.S. A retired Presbyterian minister from Colorado was among the more entertaining of passengers. In the "small-world" department, I ran into the conductor of NYC's Jupiter Symphony, who was also on the trip. Each day offered one or two nature-related lectures by our expert scientist guides, and an end-of-day "round up." About the ship's food and service, I need say no more than it was five-star in every respect. I gained eight pounds; Mary claimed to have lost weight!

A great bonus was the visit to beautiful (albeit sultry) Buenos Aires on the trips to and from Ushuaia, capital of Tierra del Fuego (first described to Europeans by Magellan), where we boarded our ship for the nine-day cruise in the uncanny eternal daylight of the midnight sun.

During the trip we took hundreds of colorful photos and slides, some of which I've shown in public presentations.

A Creative Odyssey

Jane House, Graduate Center

After a PhD in theater and stints as an adjunct professor of speech and theatre, I took a position at the CUNY Graduate Center and eventually became director of publications where I got to use my writing and editorial skills. In retirement I added new threads to the fabric of my creative life. While acting remains an abiding passion—I'm still a member of film and theatre unions—practicing that art has become more difficult as I age. So I've turned my attention to something I can do solo: creating art. Initially my watercolors were based on photographs I took, but a workshop at the Riverdale Senior Center helped liberate my imagination and I started experimenting with line, color, shape, design, texture and paper, independent of any external stimulus. Later in a ceramics workshop at the Center, I discovered sculpting in clay and relished the experience of direct hand contact with this pliable medium.

As a beginner, I find freedom and joy in not overly planning what I make and allowing for “mistakes,” which might give rise to unexpected creative outcomes. While I may have a subject in mind, I allow my hands to work the clay as I try to sense in what direction they're going. I'm just beginning to learn both the possibilities and demands of this medium and am now able to shape textured beards and hair, the mane of a seahorse and the rush and flow of a wave. I feel I'm on a creative path that has been trodden by countless artists since the Stone Age.

In using my new medium to comment on current realities—environmental pollution, feminism, the 2016 election—I often find myself inspired by the ancient Greek myths. Four of my works have a mythic-aquatic theme; the Me Too movement informed *The Transformation of Daphne* (pictured here) and *Leda and the Swan*; and the 2016 election influenced *Serpent Mask*. I have had the good fortune to win some local prizes for my sculptures and to be exhibited in several

galleries.

To view some of the work:

www.janehousecreations.com



The Transformation of Daphne, low-fire glazed clay, 9.5" X 8" X 7," 2019.

I Become a Composer in My Old Age

Jacob E. Goodman, City College

I'm a New Yorker—not by birth, but by upbringing. By the time I graduated from Bronx Science, I knew that I was interested in mathematics, but I also liked to improvise at the piano. Not play what others had written, just improvise. In college I majored in math, taking all the undergraduate math courses that NYU offered; I also minored in music, and took all the music courses as well. But I realized that I would make a better living in math than in music, so by the time I was ready for graduate school at Columbia I was setting out to be a mathematician and not a composer.

Nevertheless, while working on my Ph.D. in math, I still managed to find the time to audit music courses. When I got my Ph.D., I got a job as an assistant professor at CCNY, and began devoting my life to being a mathematician.

That worked out pretty well. I wrote a number of papers solving problems that had been posed before me, posed some interesting questions myself, advanced to a full

professorship, organized conferences, won some prizes, the whole lot. Along the way, however, I had the opportunity to study musical composition for a short time with Ezra Laderman, a composer who was then living in New York, but soon left to join, and later to head, the Yale School of Music. In that short time I learned a lot from him about the craft of composition, but I continued to work in mathematics. By then I had a family, and responsibilities, and made up my mind that I would continue to work in mathematics until I retired.

But about nine years before retirement an opportunity had presented itself. David Del Tredici, who held a distinguished professorship at City College, was teaching a course in musical composition, and I found out that I was eligible to audit his course. I wasted no time and introduced myself to him. He seemed perfectly happy to have me join his class even though I was at least 40 years older than every other student. For the next four years I worked hard in his course, composing, but I superimposed that activity on the mathematical research I was still pursuing. The result was that by the time of my retirement two things happened: on the one hand, my mind was no longer agile enough for me to continue my mathematical research, but at the same time the portion of it that was involved in composing—which, by then, I was doing pretty much intuitively and not in any formalistic way—was flourishing!

It's now twelve years since my retirement, and I've been living in northern California for three years now, to be near my two daughters and my two grandchildren. I still receive mathematical journals (including one that I co-organized with a friend and co-edited with him for 25 years up to my retirement), and look into them occasionally out of curiosity about what is going on in the field that I spent most of my life in. But nearly all of my serious work is now concentrated on music.

Aside from composing, I organize concerts, arrange performances of my own music, serve on the board of the New York Composers

Circle (an organization I founded in 2002 which has now grown to over 70 members), and I take an interest in the affairs of the San Francisco branch of NACUSA, the National Association of Composers of the USA. I've had several works performed at NACUSA concerts so far, and more are waiting in the wings. A few months ago I finished the string quartet I started writing in New York, and it is due to be performed at a streamed concert early next year. My Variations on a Theme of Beethoven, which I arranged for piano in honor of Beethoven's 250th anniversary, will have two performances early next year (one in San Francisco, the other in the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie once it reopens). There was a recent performance in Croatia of my Three Nocturnes for Violin and Organ, which is still streaming, and several older performances of my music can be seen on YouTube, with more to come.

At any event, it's very rewarding to hear one's own music!

AROUND THE UNION



Joan Greenbaum,
LaGuardia & Graduate Center

In early December, after two almost five-hour meetings, the PSC Delegate Assembly passed a Resolution to Prepare for Strike-Readiness. Does it mean our almost 30,000 active members may authorize a strike? Not necessarily. But it does mean that there are wide-ranging discussions on campuses over the failure of CUNY's central administration to protect and engage faculty and staff in confronting pandemic health and safety conditions.

There are many ways in which CUNY's central administration has not responded to the PSC's

three main demands: Save Lives, Save Jobs, Save CUNY. Here are just some of them from this past semester.

Part-timers Laid Off

By the beginning of the summer, almost 3,000 adjuncts were laid off. Some were long-term adjuncts about to get three-year contractual rights. 422 adjuncts lost the health insurance they had earned the right to. They were denied a life line during the pandemic.

In the fall semester some adjuncts were hired back, but Medgar Evers refused to hire back all of their experienced adjuncts who were due 3-year appointments and blamed a PSC grievance. Indeed, an important goal of labor law is *to continue* employment during contractual disputes.



Workload Balloons

The firing of both long-term and recent adjuncts resulted in cancelling many classes throughout CUNY and thus ballooning class sizes. Imagine teaching an introductory mathematics class at City College with 70 students, or a basic writing class at a community college with 36-40 students. Now imagine doing that online where student's participation is only as good as their internet connection and their ability to work quietly at a computer, perhaps in a crowded apartment. Faculty have reported drop-out rates amounting to half of those enrolled. Larger class sizes have meant more hours spent grading, reading papers and staring at computer screens, causing fatigue and greater stress. It is also well documented that preparation and teaching of online courses is more time-consuming and difficult for teachers new to their practice.

HEOs and CLTs face enormous new challenges during the pandemic. Many lab techs have to be on campus setting up and running labs for science and health services classes, as well as research studies. Many HEOs have also been told to report to work on campus despite the fact that often their work could be done at home. For many who are allowed to work from home, lack of proper computers, software and/or phone services, combined with the pressures of child care and family life, bring them high levels of stress.

Add to this the fact that there is little or no Covid-19 testing on most CUNY campuses. Where there is testing, those who work on campus are usually given 45 minutes to report to an HHC facility nearby. There are no provisions for students, many of whom are frontline workers. CUNY campus Covid-19 liaisons are asked to report staff and student Covid-19 cases that they find out about to the City's Health Department, which does contact tracing. Most cases are self-reported. The PSC volunteer Health and Safety Watchdogs have been monitoring conditions on campus and have reported numerous instances of poor ventilation, which is a critical source of viral spread.

Adding insult to injury, PSC members' contractually-mandated raises were not issued in November. CUNY claims that it does not have the funds. However the administration is not actively and publicly lobbying for funds in the many ways that the PSC is doing.

In counting the ways CUNY has ignored and threatened harm to faculty, staff and students, this report is but a brief outline. A CUNY administration in touch with its student body and with a greater level of concern for its faculty and staff would have consulted with the union and acceded to the union's demands for better working conditions. Retirees who are in touch with in-service PSC members might want to talk with them about working conditions and their views about a strike authorization. This is indeed also a worrisome time to be a retiree, facing the possibility of deadly illness while the

programs and institutions we helped build are under existential threat.

CELEBRATING STUDENT SCHOLARS: THE BELLE ZELLER SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUNDRAISING EVENT

Marcia Newfield, BMCC



So who was Belle Zeller? Most of us know that she was the founding president of the PSC. In his acceptance of the Belle Zeller Scholarship Trust Fund Lifetime Achievement Award, Professor Emeritus Irwin Yellowitz gave a more rounded portrait of her: she broke ground by transferring her academic research about the influence of political pressure in New York State to practicing lobbying herself. President John F. Kennedy consulted her in revising the Federal Lobbying Registration Act.

She was chairwoman of the Legislative Conference of the City Colleges from 1944 to 1972. When that organization became a union and merged in 1972 with the United Federation of College Teachers, another union representing part-time instructors, she became the first president of the Professional Staff Congress. She also continued teaching

political science at Brooklyn College, paving the way for other female faculty. Yellowitz says she became so well known in Albany, fighting for tenure and pensions for college instructors, that she was an institution in herself. Her *NY Times* obituary (she died in 1998 at age 95) corroborated that: "She would burst in on legislators who were busy with other business, even if they were behind closed doors, even if they were in conference. Because of who she was, people accepted that. She was able to get people's attention because she was a scholar as well as an activist."

Scholarship and Community Service

Zeller's combination of scholarship and activism became the inspiration for the Belle Zeller Scholarship Trust Fund, which was established in 1979 by the PSC as an independent charitable organization to reward students who had a minimum grade-point average of 3.75 plus a record of outstanding community service. Currently, winners receive \$2500 a semester until they reach 120 credits. It is not a surprise that over one hundred candidates applied this year for these ten scholarships. Their records were impressive, as were those of the seven who received Special Recognition Awards. The 2020 scholars include two from Brooklyn College, Marwa Elraey (Linguistics & Communication) and Michelle Braun (Forensic Linguistics & Cross-Cultural Communication), and two from CCNY, Yanna Almonte (English & Creative Writing), and Denisha McCurchin (Biomedical Science), one from CSI, Nicole Agu (Accounting & International Business), and one from Lehman, Ezekiel Olumuyide (Chemistry).

The Irwin Polishook Award, in the name of the PSC president who served from 1976 to 2000, went to two CUNY graduate students: Alison Domzalski (Biochemistry) and Lynne Turner (Sociology). This year, a revived award honoring former CUNY Chancellor Robert Joseph Kibbee was bestowed on two undergraduates, Paguindamba Tankoano (Liberal Arts at BCC and Environmental Sciences at Lehman College) and Nataly Lopez (Liberal Arts, Hostos Community College).

The range of community service by the awardees spans from income tax preparation and advice, to preparing meals for the homeless and ill, to translating research grant proposals for environmental projects, to coordinating community share and farming projects, to organizing low-wage workers, to tutoring high school students in science and healthy eating, to providing fire-safety education in disadvantaged communities, to engaging young adults in social change around education, housing and food justice.

The Belle Zeller Scholarship Board and Advisory Committee lament that they don't have resources to grant more scholarships. Hence this virtual fundraiser on December 9th, picking up a tradition that was dormant for more than a decade. Donations are welcome. The website (bellezeller.org) is being updated so that viewers will be able to see the complete event, which included remarks by CUNY Chancellor Matos Rodriguez, NYS legislators Toby Ann Stavisky and Deborah Glick, honorees Irwin Yellowitz and PSC President Barbara Bowen, former CUNY University Student Senate President Timothy Hunter, and keynote speaker, Distinguished Professor Myriam Sarachik, who reminisced about her forty years as a physicist at CUNY and the way the attitude towards women in physics has changed from virtual exclusion to active encouragement. Added treats were performances of Bach, Chopin, and Stravinsky, performed by pianist and BMCC professor Howard Meltzer and cellist George Dewar.

SHOULD CUNY COMMEMORATE AN ENEMY OF ACADEMIC VALUES?

Laurence Kirby, Baruch College

In October, NYU followed other colleges and public bodies in removing the Sackler name from one of its institutions (its biomedical school). Perhaps it's time to take a look at a CUNY institution that bears the name of a man who was not only a leading pusher of an addictive drug that has killed and ruined the lives of even more people than the Sacklers'

opioids, but was also a central figure in one of the worst attacks on basic academic values of the last 75 years.

The Weissman School of Arts and Sciences is one of three schools that make up Baruch College. The former School of Liberal Arts and Sciences was renamed in honor of **George and Mildred Weissman** in 1998, after they donated \$10 million to the college.



Philip Morris ads like this obfuscated the health risks of cigarettes

George Weissman was the CEO of tobacco giant Philip Morris. His rise up the ranks at Philip Morris was propelled by his skill at obfuscating and denying the health risks of cigarettes. As CEO, he was the point man in the entire tobacco industry's response to rising concerns about tobacco and health. In a now-infamous 1964 memo responding to the Surgeon General's report on smoking, he proposed a campaign to "give smokers a psychological crutch and a self-rationale to continue smoking," including the ideas that "more research is needed" and that there are "contradictions" and "discrepancies."

He went on to coordinate a huge and sophisticated public relations campaign that attacked and distorted the scientific evidence on smoking and health and claimed that the question was still "open." Under his leadership, Philip Morris and other companies suppressed and ignored unfavorable research, gagged scientists, presented the research of tobacco industry consultants without revealing their

affiliations, sowed doubt about studies that demonstrated links between tobacco and disease, and pushed hard against health warnings on cigarette packets and other means of educating the public.

The playbook of techniques he pioneered was later used by the Sacklers in evading responsibility for the effects of the drugs they were pushing. It's used today by the fossil fuel lobby to deny the urgency of the climate crisis and to work against effective measures to deal with it. And it underlies the attacks on science that characterized the Trump Administration's disastrous failure of response to the pandemic.

It seems an indignity for New York's great public higher education system to have a component named for a person who was so prominent in undermining some of the bases on which academic science is built. Perhaps PSC/CUNY members might have some suggestions for a more worthy person to commemorate on the portal of Baruch's arts and sciences school.

<https://weissman.baruch.cuny.edu/about-weissman/>

<https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/tobacco/docs/#id=yyp0124>

IN MEMORIAM

Leith Mullings. 1945-2020

Renate Bridenthal, Brooklyn College

As Distinguished Professor Emerita of Anthropology at the Graduate Center, Leith Mullings' scholarship focused on inequality, its consequences, and resistance to it in the United States and other regions of the world. Her work on race, class, and gender in the framework of ethnographics pioneered Black feminist studies. As president of the American Anthropological Association from 2011 to 2013, she encouraged the Association to address issues of social justice.

Leith was one of ours, from the beginning of her education at City College to the end at the Graduate Center. Her legacy continues with

her daughter, Alia Tyner-Mullings, a Graduate Center Ph.D. and now an Associate Professor of Sociology at Guttman Community College, where she chairs the PSC chapter and is now on the PSC Executive Council.

A cherished teacher and mentor, Leith was also a dedicated activist, engaged with various groups in the coalition Movement for Black Lives. She was a true public intellectual, exposing and fighting racism and all forms of social inequality, locally and globally in all possible arenas of struggle.



I was lucky to have had a personal relationship with Leith. For seventeen years, a close friend and I walked with her three times a week along the Hudson River talking about everything: work, love, life. She shared her thoughts and feelings about the next generation of activists, her affection for their spirit and intelligence and sweetly youthful political freshness. We knew about her profound attachment to family, the core of her strength. Her pleasure in her granddaughter and her concern about her growing up in what kind of world?

I remember sitting with her in my apartment after dinner, talking about racism. "What more can I do?" I asked. "Look inside," she said. That stayed with me and always will. I learned a lot about myself, just doing that. Now I feel amputated. We were always three abreast. Triangulated during Covid, but always three. A part has gone missing.

For more detail about Leith Mullings' scholarly work, see:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/leith/FMfcgxwKjxGMftfJBsRdvpSxqKcJnBzh>

SENIOR CITIZEN AUDIT PROGRAM CUNY

Carol Smith, CCNY

I worked at CCNY as a SEEK counselor for 34 years. Since my retirement, I have been taking classes as a senior auditor at both CCNY and Hunter. I have been auditing classes on film, Spanish literature, and Jewish Studies. Until last year, I took two classes each semester, attending the classes in person. This semester, since most CUNY classes are online, I audited four classes at CCNY: Arab Film, Jews in Eastern Europe, Spanish Literature for Young Adults, and Latin American Culture.

For seniors over the age of 60 who are residents of NY State, the cost of auditing undergraduate classes on one campus, either part-time or full-time, is \$80 per semester. In addition to completing an electronic application as a senior auditor (or non-degree student) it is necessary to submit proof of age and proof of residence.

Each CUNY college has slightly different procedures and deadlines in applying for courses each semester. If you Google "Senior Citizen Audit Program CUNY" you will find most of the senior colleges listed with explanations on how to enroll.

Senior auditors can also see the classes available in each department on every campus by using the link globalsearch.cuny.edu. Time of class meetings online and number of students currently enrolled will be listed. If the class has reached maximum enrollment, auditors are not allowed.

Hunter College averages 500 senior auditors every semester. They have the most detailed information on registration for senior auditors, but remember each campus has slightly different procedures and application deadlines for seniors to enroll.

Auditing courses is a wonderful opportunity. On most campuses it is necessary to register in January for the spring semester.

I hope that other retirees will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity as we remain in hibernation for the winter.

LIFE DURING WARTIME

Josh Brown, the retired director of the American Social History Project at the CUNY Graduate Center, has produced a series of weekly political illustrations, beginning in 2003 with the war in Iraq, called Life During Wartime. We normally publish his latest illustration, but his most recent posts have been automated GIFs which we cannot reproduce in our newsletter. But you can view them by going to the entire collection, 2003- 2019, which is online at: www.joshbrownny.com/ldw.htm.

TURNING THE PAGE is a publication of the Retirees chapter of PSC-CUNY, Local 2334 of NYSUT and the AFT. We welcome contributions from our several thousand members: articles of special interest to retirees, short essays on your activities during this period of politics and plague, and your comments on recent publications of interest. Our newsletter collective is made up of Michael Frank, Bill Friedheim, Joan Greenbaum and Dave Kotelchuck. Please write to us at retirees@pscmail.org, with "Newsletter" in the subject line, and visit the Retirees webpage <https://www.psc-cuny.org/retirees>