PSC
Retrospective

1972 -- 2012

Celebrating the Fortieth Anniversary of the Union of CUNY Faculty and Professional Staff
Pillars of Labor

Belle Zeller and Israel Kugler, the first President and Deputy President of the PSC (1972), added to the Pillars of Labor, Tamiment Library, 6/1/12.
PSC founded, 1972

A line drawing commemorating the merger of the Legislative Conference and United Federation of College Teachers into the PSC.
Tenure Quotas

CUNY imposed draconian tenure quotas in ‘73, reversing them in ‘74 in response to a mass PSC campaign mobilizing members, students & allies.

Irwin Polishook, Sam Ehrenpreis, Lilia Melani & others in front of Board.
Mobilizing labor support was important to reversing the (Chancellor) Kibbee tenure quotas.

Irwin Polishook, speaking, as Albert Shanker, UFCT and Victor Gottbaum, DC-37, listen.
Tenure Quotas

The PSC also launched a public relations campaign to reverse the Kibbee tenure quotas.

Note the PSC ads before (left) and after (right) the quotas were reversed.
Contract Mobilization

The PSC mobilized for its first contract, including a strike authorization vote. Below: Rally for a Decent Contract at the Marc Ballroom, Union Sq., 1972.
Contract Mobilization

The PSC set up picket lines at many CUNY colleges, organizing members and building alliances with students.

Baruch College, 1973: Belle Zeller and Israel Kugler, second and third from left.
Contract Mobilization

The PSC set up picket lines at many CUNY colleges, organizing members and building alliances with students.

Bronx CC, 1973: Belle Zeller, PSC President, and Sam Ehrenpreiss, BCC Chapter Chair, greet a BCC student on a campus picket line.
Contract Mobilization

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York College, 1973: Students join with PSC on picket line, organizing around both contract and student issues.
Contract Mobilization

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Hostos CC, 1973: Jerry Meyer, center, and other Hostos members and students.
Contract Mobilization

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Queensborough CC, 1973: Fred Greenbaum is at the right.
Contract Mobilization

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1973: Mayor John Lindsay pictured next to PSC members picketing for a good contract. (We know little about this picture except that it was taken in spring, 1973.)
Fiscal Crisis

The PSC organized to stop the reorganization of CUNY and college closings during the city fiscal crisis in the mid seventies.

LEFT: A huge PSC rally in June, 1976 to defend CUNY near City Hall. CUNY was saved, but there were layoffs and free tuition was ended.

Fiscal Crisis

HOSTOS: Faculty, staff & students from the college, with community & the PSC support, successfully mobilized to save the college.

Below: Rallies in 1976 and 1977
Fiscal Crisis

HOSTOS: Faculty, staff & students from the college, with community & the PSC support, successfully mobilized to save the college.

Marching down 149th Street
In the Bronx.
Fiscal Crisis

The PSC and others successfully lobbied Gov. Hugh Carey to bolster CUNY organizationally and financially in the wake of the fiscal crisis.

But Carey also tried to cut CUNY in the early 80s, only to have the legislature restore some of the monies after lobbying by the PSC and NYSUT.

Irwin Polishook (left) and Belle Zeller (right) with Carey.
Passing the Torch

Belle Zeller, who stepped down as PSC President in 1976, congratulates Irwin Polishook who won in the election that year to succeed her.
Chapter Chairs

Chapter chairs are a vital part of the PSC leadership. Chairs, as a body, have met regularly, beginning in the 1970s.

PSC President Irwin Polishook presiding at a chapter chairs meeting in 1979.
NYSUT

The PSC has been active in its state affiliate, the New York State United Teachers, since NYSUT’s founding in the 1970s.

PSC delegates Al Bachman, Howie Jones and Sheila Polishook at the 1979 NYSUT Representative Assembly.
Contract negotiations

Sitting across from management at a 1981 bargaining session.

From left to right: Geraldine Chapey, Claude Campbell, Arnold Cantor, Harold Wilson and Belle Zeller.
A settlement in a class action suit led by PSC activist Lilia Melani won salary and affirmative action benefits for female instructional staff.

After ten years of litigation, a settlement was reached in 1984.
Solidarity: PATCO


PATCO was the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization, whose members were subject to mass firings by President Ronald Reagan in 1981.
Solidarity: Labor Day

The PSC has regularly marched in labor day parades over its many decades of history.

1982 Labor Day Parade: Irwin Polishook (center behind banner) and Irwin Yellowitz (marching behind his daughter (who is holding one end of the Banner)
Solidarity: CSI

The PSC picketed in solidarity with striking cafeteria workers at the College of Staten Island.

The photo is undated, but we believe it is in the early eighties.
Solidarity: Chicago

PSC delegates to 1986 AFT convention in Chicago join the picket line of striking Tribune workers.

From left to right: Irwin Yellowitz, Irwin Polishook, Belle Zeller and Al Bachman.
The Credit Union

1989: The PSC/CUNY Federal Credit Union celebrates its tenth anniversary.

The officer of the credit union in 1989 were Howie Jones, President, Geraldine Chapey, VP, Peter Jonas, Treasurer and William Williams, Secretary.

Suzanna Kelly (First staff person/ bottom right) has worked for first the PSC & then the credit union for 40 plus years.
Faces From the 80s

A meeting at LAGCC

Pictured in this undated photo are Arnold Cantor (with pipe), Irwin Polishook (center) and John Hyland (turtleneck).
Betty Shabazz

Betty Shabazz with Irwin Polishook in this undated photo. Shabazz, who taught for many years at Medgar Evers, was the widow of Malcolm X.
Faces From the 80s

Clarissa Weiss and Diana Rosato

To the best of our knowledge, these photos are from 1983. PSC staff are key to the union’s many successes over the years -- none more so than these two stalwarts.
Faces From the 80s

A Meeting at Queens College

Saul Cohen, Claude Campbell, Sidney Lieberman and Marty Kaplan.
Faces From the 80s

Registrars

Registrars Peter Hoberman, Peter Jonas, Mary Bryce Jennings and Gregory Wist.
Faces From the 80s

BMCC

Left: Chapter Executive Board. Right: Howie Jones and Charlotte Bishop.
Faces From the 80s

Administering PSC
Grievance Policy

Harold Wilson,
Nick Russo,
Norman Bindler
and Dan
Kaminker.
Faces From the 80s

New York City
College of Technology

Pearl Gasarch,
Gerry Grayson,
Shirley Behesti
An undated photo from the nineties of David Allen, Irwin Yellowitz and Sam Ehrenpreis, all of whom helped shape the fund during this period.
Belle Zeller Awards

A scholarship Fund established in the Name of the PSC’s first president.

Belle Zeller, President Emerita, presenting a scholarship award to Baruch student Anthoula Katsimates at the December, 1992 awards dinner.
De-funding I

The de-funding of CUNY accelerated in the nineties under governors Mario Cuomo and George Pataki.

From the December 1990 Clarion.
De-funding II

In the nineties, enrollment increased and staff lines decreased as CUNY per capita funding diminished under Cuomo and Pataki.

From the November 1992 Clarion.
De-funding: The Fightback

1995 Rally Against the Cutbacks

The PSC and UFS joined forces in a lawsuit in August 1995 to reverse the BOT’s June 1995 retrenchment resolutions,
In 1996, a state Supreme Court judge vacated the BOT's 1995 retrenchment resolutions. On appeal, the decision was reversed. But CUNY and the PSC entered a settlement agreement, part of which is a basis for the 2012 Pathways lawsuit by the PSC.
CC Conference

The first CUNY-wide community college conference organized in response to political and budget assaults on CUNY’s CCs.

Anne Friedman (left) and Lorraine Cohen (right) were the primary organizers of the conference at BMCC in 1997.
CLTs have been one of the most active constituencies of the PSC over its many decades.
Chapter Chairs, 1990

Chapter chairs elected in 1990.
(From the May 1990 Clarion)
Chapter Chairs, 1995

Chapter chairs elected in 1995
(From the May, 1995 Clarion)
Chapter Chairs: 1999

Elected in April, 1999

Two from this cohort are presently PSC officers (Bowen and London).
Irwin Polishook Retires

After serving as PSC President across four decades, Irwin Polishook stepped down, retiring from CUNY on February 3, 2000. Richard Boris served the remainder of his term through May, 2000.

Irwin Polishook steps down

Irwin H. Polishook stepped down from the presidency of the Professional Staff Congress on Feb. 3 and retired from the university. Richard Boris, who has been first vice president of the union since 1995, succeeds him. He will serve the remainder of Dr. Polishook’s term of office, which ends in May.

Dr. Boris is a director of New York State United Teachers, the PSC’s statewide affiliate, and a delegate to the National Council of the American Association of University Professors. As first vice president Dr. Boris has participated in contract negotiations, lobbying and campus visits. He has also represented the union before legislative committees and task forces.

Dr. Boris, who teaches political science at York College, was elected to chair its PSC chapter in the spring of 1993 after serving as acting head.

A member of the instructional staff since 1973, he previously taught at Dickinson College and was visiting professor at Indiana University. He earned a B.A. from Hunter College and a Ph.D. from Indiana.

An election for all 21 union-wide posts takes place this spring.
New Caucus Wins

The New Caucus won the majority of EC seats and the top leadership positions in the April, 2000 election

From the May 2000 Clarion
The Retirees Chapter honored Larry at its January 8, 2000 luncheon.

Lawrence Kaplan and Barbara Bowen.

The Retirees Chapter honored Lawrence Kaplan at its annual Winter Luncheon on January 8. A professor emeritus of economics at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Kaplan was stepping down as chair of the Retirees Chapter after leading it for nine years. “Larry Kaplan is a dynamo,” PSC President Barbara Bowen said after the event. “He sets a high standard for us all.”

PSC News Bulletin/February 2001
BMCC and 911

The PSC provided huge support to the BMCC chapter after it lost students and a building and suffered through post 911 trauma.

A year later BMCC Remembers 9/1/01
Labor Goes to the Movies

Eleven years ago, Labor Goes to the Movies began its monthly film showing at the PSC Union Hall.

An article from the February 2002 Clarion by Jonathan Buchsbaum, who has headed the series from its inception.
‘03 Budget Campaign

In March, 2003, the PSC delivered a truckload of postcards to Albany as it mobilized against the Pataki budget cuts.
EOCs

From ‘66 to the present, EOCs have opened “the doors to jobs and higher education in NYC.” EOC faculty and staff have made important gains under the PSC contract.

The Educational Opportunity Centers

Opening the doors to jobs and higher education in NYC

By AMY NICHOLAS
Brooklyn EOC Chapter Chair

What are the Educational Opportunity Centers? Since many PSC members know little about the EOCs, I have been asked to provide some information about what we do – to provide a map of our terrain.

Originally created as the “Urban Centers” of SUNY in 1966, the EOCs were the brainchild of the late Governor Nelson Rockefeller and a group of state legislators from Brooklyn and upstate, led by Assemblyman Arthur Eve of Buffalo. Their thought was to create a series of educational institutions throughout New York that would offer an opportunity to those otherwise denied one.

The EOCs have helped many thousands of adults to realize their dreams of gaining jobs and education. The Brooklyn EOC alone has served 28,000 New Yorkers. Courses taught at the EOCs include high school equivalency, college preparatory, English as a Second Language, computer technology and a wide variety of industry and college partnerships. Amazingly, all of these courses are free. We receive no money from our students other than a refundable book deposit.

It is important to say that when the EOCs were created in 1966, they were just one of many programs with the goal of fighting poverty and discrimination. The 1960s were turbulent times and many people of good will were seeking ways to redress race and class injustices in New York. But the EOCs have succeeded in their mission where many others have not. One of the main reasons for their success (beyond the hard work of so many people) is the EOC’s unique structure: each one is directly connected to a local college. For the New York City EOCs, this local college connection is with CUNY.

In the last 36 years, we have helped countless students reach goals that other educational institutions were unwilling or unable to help them tackle. When we look back, we see our students who became college professors, computer technology specialists and business owners. One became director of an EOC, while another became a Regent of the State University of New York. We believe this is what the founders of the EOC concept had in mind in 1966, when
Education Not War

The PSC marched in many anti-war demonstrations from 2003 to the present carrying signs that read “Money for Education, Not War”

This was a massive anti-war demonstration in February 2003 opposing the Bush’s administration’s move towards war in Iraq. Several hundred thousand marched in NYC and 6 million worldwide on that day.

From 2004 to the present, the PSC, working with other labor anti-war activists, has successfully pushed our national and state affiliates, AFT and NYSUT, to take anti-war positions.
During the last decade the PSC marched in every NYC Labor Day parade and over the last three years at May Day rallies.

Jim Perlstein, front right, has co-chaired the Solidarirty Committee for several years and led efforts to mobilize PSC rank and file for these solidarity events.

PSC organizer, John Gergely is a one man band at the head of the PSC contingent at the 2012 May Day Parade.
Saving PICA

In 2004, the Municipal Labor Council negotiated a deal with the first Bloomberg administration to save the PICA program.

The PICA program covers high-cost drugs for cancer, asthma and psychiatric conditions. Right: Barbara Bowen is at the table representing the PSC.
A Job Well Done

John Hyland, treasurer, and Cecelia McCall, secretary, at a 2006 celebration honoring them as they stepped down as PSC officers.

Cecelia and John served as secretary and treasurer from 2000 to 2006, when they both decided not to run again.
Grievance Counselors

Over 40 years, hundreds of chapter and central office grievance counselors have been key to contract enforcement and the protection of member rights.

Central office grievance counselors Danny Lynch (LAGCC), Howard Prince (Retiree Chapter) and Donna Gill (Hunter/HEO) pictured in this 2006 photo.
Anti-bullying

The PSC has a long history fighting workplace harassment and bullying, an issue of particular importance to HEOs.

HEOs at the Calandra Institute (Gloria Salerno and Emilise Aleandri, right, pictured with PSC Cross Campus VP, Iris DeLutro, left) settled a workplace harassment suit against CUNY for $1 million in 2005.
HEO/CLT FUND

Under recent PSC contracts, $500,000 per year is set aside to support professional development activities for HEOs and CLTs.

HEO/CLT committee meeting in 2003 to sift through grant applications.

A similar adjunct professional development fund was established in 2007.
Grad Student Healthcare

Grad students collect petition signatures for healthcare in 2007

In 2008, an agreement was reached with CUNY on doctoral employee health insurance.
May/June 2007
Clarion reports on landmark HEO overtime victory at LAGCC.
Katrina Support

The PSC and its national labor affiliates sent hundreds of volunteers to New Orleans to help in the wake of Katrina.

PSC members who did support work in the summer of 2007 in New Orleans gather for a photo in the PSC Union Hall.
Campaign of Outrage

How cheap can you be? Five colleges short-changed adjuncts for years -- paying them less than 15 weeks or the 45 hours for the semester.

Adjuncts shamed the colleges by giving them turkey awards just before Thanksgiving in 2007. Right: Diane Menna presenting an administrator at Baruch a turkey award. As a result of the campaign, adjuncts at all 5 colleges got their full pay.
ANOTHER UNIVERSITY IS POSSIBLE: A sea of purple and blue as hundreds rally in front of Baruch College where the B.O.T was meeting.
Contract Mobilization ‘08

Part of the mobilizing for the contract ratified in 2008 was a huge rally at Cooper Union, October 30, 2007

More than 1,000 members attended.
Contract Mobilization ‘08

organizing is the key

A center spread in the July 2008 Clarion charted the mobilization of support for the contract ratified that month.
Parental Leave

The 2008 PSC contract included a landmark provision for paid parental leave.

The first beneficiaries -- parents and children -- celebrate in the PSC Union Hall, October 2009. The parental leave policy took effect on July 17, 2008.
Hall of Shame

At the site of the old NYU Hall of Fame, the Bronx Community College mounts a “Hall of Shame” dramatizing health & safety issues on the campus.

This exhibit was mounted in 2009 by the BCC chapter.
RF Contract Campaign

RF members and supporters picket on 12/22/10 in what was a successful campaign for a decent contract.

RF members are joined by the grinch (aka Bill Friedheim) on their picket line three days before Christmas.
Direct Action

33 PSC members moved resistance to draconian budget cuts to a new level when they were arrested for civil disobedience in Albany.

The arrests on 3/23/11 were preceded by a big rally protesting not only an austerity budget, but tax cuts for NY's wealthiest.
Defend the Safety Net

Campaign spearheaded by the Retirees Chapter mobilizes to defend the safety net, producing a brochure and organizing a forum on 10/26/11

Evie Rich, a member of the Safety Net Team, asks a question from the floor of the 10/26/11 forum. The cover of the brochure produced by the team is to the immediate right.
Adjunct Healthcare

2005 demonstration in front of NYC Office of Labor Relations on Rector Street calls for city funding of adjunct healthcare

In 2012, the state provided for funding adjunct healthcare in CUNY's budget.
Adjunct Healthcare

Barbara Bowen announces a victory outside the 9/26/11 B.O.T. meeting, where the Board announced that it would include adjunct healthcare in its state budget request.

The money in the budget request was subsequently included in the state budget. The PSC is now negotiating with CUNY on how a new adjunct healthcare plan will be implemented with these funds.
Occupy Wall Street

THE PSC IS IN THE HOUSE with other union, community, faith and advocacy groups at this 10/05/11 march.

The PSC has worked with the Occupy Movement to change the national, state and city political narrative from one that promotes austerity to one that highlights inequality -- and what we can do about it.
H & S Watchdogs

The Health and Safety Watchdogs are one of the PSC’s most important committees, working closely with chapters and city advocacy groups.

Front row left to right: Joan Greenbaum, Jean Grassman, Dave Kotelchuck, Harry Bubbins and Roberto Mukaro Borrero. On 3/24/12, the Watchdogs gave their second annual Environmental Justice Award to Bubbins, the Director of the Friends of Brook Park in the South Bronx.
At its 4/30/12 meeting, the PSC delivered petitions with 5,676 signatures for Pathways repeal. Working with the UFS, college governance bodies, college departments and students, the PSC has mobilized a campaign of resistance against the Board’s Pathways Initiative -- employing a variety of tactics from political actions, forums, lawsuits, petitions and more.
Thank You PSC Staff

How do we choose which of the 100s of photos of staff to use in this slide show? We really can’t, but the few we used will have to serve as surrogates for the scores of staff who have contributed to a magnificent 40 year history.

Big smiles --
April 2010.
Thank You PSC Staff

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Big smiles -- and faces from the recent past, 2006.
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Big smiles -- Dania, Amanda and Kate.
Thank You PSC Staff

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Linda, Isabel, Carol, Peter H., Mark, Diana, Ana, Adrienne, Fran, Patricia, Peter Z., John, Naomi, the late Bill Mulholland (whom we miss dearly), Clarissa and Debbie.