

**OPENING CHAPTER MEETING:  
STATE OF LABOR  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1-3 PM**

The Retirees Chapter will begin a new academic year on September 12 in the PSC Union Hall, 16<sup>th</sup> floor, 61 Broadway. The theme is “the state of labor.” It’s been a momentous year for the PSC in particular and labor in general. As she has for the past 16 years, PSC President **Barbara Bowen** will

address our opening meeting on “the state of the union.” **Ruth Milkman**, professor at the Graduate Center and the Murphy Institute, will join her, speaking on the state of the American union movement. Join us for discussion, light refreshments and the opportunity to renew ties with new, and not so new, retiree colleagues.

**LABOR DAY MARCH  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 9 AM**

The PSC contingent will gather on **East 45<sup>th</sup> Street between 5<sup>th</sup> and Vanderbilt Avenues starting** at 9 AM. We step off at 11 AM sharp. Come march (or ramble) with your PSC sisters and brothers and our community allies in the 2016 Labor Day Parade.



To RSVP visit <http://psc-cuny.org/news-events/form/march-psc-nyc-labor-day-parade>

The Labor Day Parade is our chance to talk to our labor brothers and sisters about how quality public higher education is everyone's right and needs public investment. Our recent contract fight put this idea on the table and in the minds of working-class New York. We need to keep it there.

A large PSC turnout bearing this consistent message lets New York know that we are in this struggle for the long haul. We are committed to quality public higher education as a right for all New Yorkers. It is a banner we carry all day every day, not just when our contract expires. It is one part, but a key part, of the common struggle to preserve and expand public services and defend the public good.

Our fight for access to quality public higher education is as much a part of the fight for working-class New York as is our ongoing struggle to defend and expand the social safety net. It's the same struggle, the same fight! See you there.

**OCTOBER CHAPTER MEETING:  
ELECTIONS FORUM  
SAVE THE DATE! Wednesday,  
October 5, 1-3 PM**

Speakers to be announced. Because the first Monday in October, when we normally meet, is Rosh Hashanah and the second Monday is Columbus Day, we've scheduled a rare Wednesday meeting. Mark the change in your calendars. Same

place, same time: PSC Union Hall, 16<sup>th</sup> floor, 61 Broadway.

**RETROACTIVE PAY DUE TO RETIREES**



Retirees who worked any of the years between 2012 and 2016 will receive retroactive pay. CUNY has promised to work with the state payroll office to expedite payment. A number of retirees have inquired about when this will happen. The answer is unclear because of CUNY's lack of urgency and the inherent complications involved in calculating back pay (and pensions) for retirees.

Despite intense pressure from the PSC throughout the summer, CUNY management has not moved with any urgency on the issue of back pay and the new salary increases. As we go to press, there is no movement on pay dates and salary increases. Go to <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/where-is-my-raise> and send a message to Chancellor James Milliken urging him to act immediately to provide the pay to which you are entitled.

The complications involved in calculating back pay for retirees are

explained in this excerpt from the PSC's Contract FAQs web page:

*One of the union's priorities—and one we achieved—was to include those who had retired during the contract period in applicable retroactive pay. As with other salary, taxes and pension contributions will be deducted from your retroactive pay, and CUNY will make pension contributions based on the amount you receive. It may take several months, however, for the City and State to calculate retroactive pay for retirees. You will not receive the retro pay or the contribution adjustments until 2017, and it may take even longer for those in TRS to have your benefit level adjusted. (For updates on TRS adjustments, contact TRS.) You should contact the payroll office at the college where you worked so they know where to send your check and can tell you when to expect it. <[psc-cuny.org/ContractFAQs#retired](http://psc-cuny.org/ContractFAQs#retired)>*

Check the website <[psc-cuny.org](http://psc-cuny.org)> for updates. As soon as the PSC has information on payment dates, it will post the update on the website.

### **HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR PSC RETIREE MEMBERSHIP?**

You should have received an invoice for \$71 for dues for the academic year (September 2016 through August 2017). If you haven't already, please send your check to the PSC. If you did not receive an invoice or misplaced it, call the PSC Membership Department at 212-354-1252.

## **RETIREES WALK AND TALK AND CYCLE**



### **Brooklyn Heights Walking Tour**

**Thursday, September 22, 11-12:30, Plus Lunch**

Meet in front of Brooklyn Borough Hall. [2,3,4,5 trains to Borough Hall; A,C,F to Jay St./Metrotech Sta.; R to Court St.]

Following the success of a tour of the Lower East Side last year, Steve Levine will take us through the historic neighborhood of Brooklyn Heights, which was designated as New York City's first historic district in 1965. Of the 1,100 buildings within the district, 600 were built before 1860. We will pass houses representing every urban architectural style of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Among the highlights of the tour are Packer Collegiate Institute, Riverside Apartments (model homes for working-class tenants), Grace Church, the Heights Promenade and Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims.

We will stop for lunch at Teresa's Restaurant on Montague Street, notable for its Polish soups, pierogi and blintzes. The tour will conclude with an optional walk across the

Brooklyn Bridge. Steve Levine teaches urban history at City College's Center for Worker Education.

Please email Steve Leberstein at [sleberstein@gmail.com](mailto:sleberstein@gmail.com) to sign up & put **Brooklyn tour** in the subject line. Space is limited!

### **Baruch Area Walking Tour**

**Friday, October 14, 11-12:30, Plus Lunch**

Inspired by a Retirees Chapter walk that focused on the social ecology of a neighborhood around City College last spring, Bert Hansen (emeritus, history, Baruch) is offering to lead a walk in the area of Baruch College illustrating several basic architectural styles of NYC buildings with the goal of helping people to picture the era as the buildings were erected.

Of special interest is the fact that for most of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the neighborhood was home to major social-welfare institutions. Most of their buildings have survived, often as luxury residences in today's market. The walk will visit examples from 150 years of city history, including Neo-Classical, Beaux-Arts, Deco (post office with New Deal murals) and Modern styles. This walk is intentionally introductory, for people who want to gain a new awareness of what they can see when they explore NYC on their own. Architecture buffs are welcome, but experts might be disappointed. As is now a PSC Retiree Chapter tradition, we will end with lunch, this time at an Indian or

South Asian buffet. For more information, contact Bert at [Bert.Hansen@baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:Bert.Hansen@baruch.cuny.edu).

Please email Steve Leberstein at [sleberstein@gmail.com](mailto:sleberstein@gmail.com) to sign up & put **Baruch tour** in the subject line. Space is limited!

### **Tour De Bronx by Bike**

**Sunday, October 23, Beginning 8 AM**



**Cyclists, save the date.** PSC retirees may wish to join thousands of participants cycling through the burgeoning neighborhoods, scenic waterfronts and greenways of the Bronx in the largest free cycling event in New York State. Google "Tour De Bronx 2016" to find out more about the ride and how to sign up. And then, to find out how to hook up with PSC retirees, email Eileen Moran at [eileenmoran7@gmail.com](mailto:eileenmoran7@gmail.com) with the **Tour de Bronx** in the subject line.

Choose one of two rides. The 25-mile route takes riders through the south, east and mid portion of the borough including the Mott Haven district, Clason Point along the East River, and the largest park in New York City, Pelham Bay Park boasting

nearly 3,000 acres of natural forest. The 40-mile route also includes a visit to the historic Fort Schuyler on the Throgs Neck peninsula, the nautical community of City Island and northern portions of the borough, like Woodlawn and Riverdale. Both rides conclude at the iconic New York Botanical Garden where riders receive a complimentary souvenir t-shirt and enjoy a live musical performance.

### NOTES FROM BEYOND NEW YORK CITY

Hello everyone.

I enjoy getting the PSC retiree report and reading about all the wonderful things you are doing in NYC. Five years ago I retired to Baltimore with my husband, Fred Pincus. Our son and daughter-in-law live here so it was a natural place to retire. However, I do miss NYC. I have an article that will be published on my mixed experience of retirement. It is called "Retiree" and can be found on my website at <https://nataliesokoloff.wordpress.com/memoir/retiree/>. If anyone lives in or visits Baltimore, please make sure to look us up: [nsokoloff@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:nsokoloff@jjay.cuny.edu).

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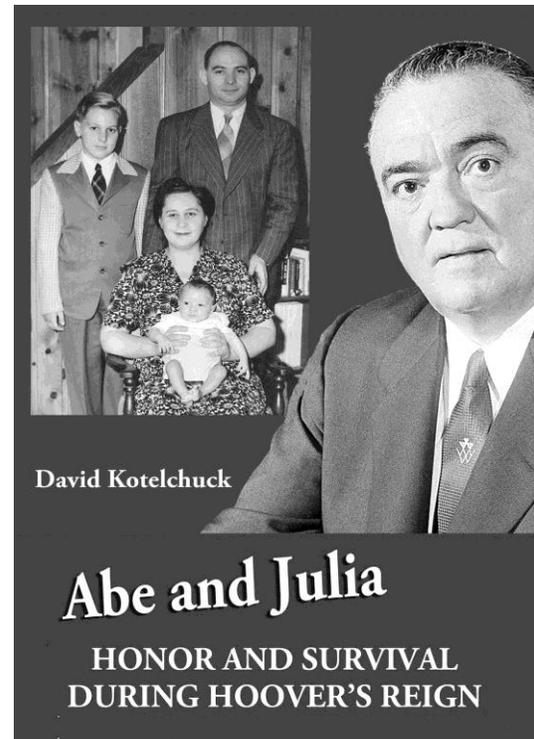
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Co-Editor, Domestic Violence at the Margins: Race, Class, Gender &

Culture  
Co-Editor, The Criminal Justice System and Women, 3 Ed.

### BOOK REVIEW

**Abe and Julia: Honor & Survival During Hoover's Reign**  
by David Kotelchuck



Many people know about the excesses—legal and illegal—of Hoover's FBI, a.k.a. McCarthyism. The stories most of us know are about Hoover's more prominent victims, especially the actors, writers or screenwriters like Dalton Trumbo who went to prison for contempt of Congress rather than "name names" of friends or colleagues.

Kotelchuck's memoir of the FBI's persecution of his parents beautifully portrays the impact of the

FBI's hostile, extra-legal, mistreatment of ordinary people because of their beliefs. His parents, Abe and Julia, endured years of physical surveillance as well as having their phone tapped and their mail read. Not content with removing Abe from his federal job based on false evidence, the FBI visited each of his subsequent employers to ensure any future employment would be short lived. As Kotelchuck's book documents, throughout, Abe and Julia acted with integrity—no small feat under such oppression.

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) passed in the 1970s provided access to FBI files that clearly affirmed Hoover's cavalier trampling on the civil rights of thousands of Americans during the Cold War hunt for communists or communist sympathizers. It was a broad enough brush to harass anyone.

Unless you had a close friend or family member victimized by Hoover's FBI, as Kotelchuck did, it is hard to imagine the extraordinary lengths the State went to persecute communists or those suspected of being communists, or empathetic to communist or socialist ideals. Government employees, including thousands of college professors and public school teachers, lost their jobs, all without due process.

*Abe and Julia* is well written and is immensely valuable, especially now as we witness a resurgence of some aspects of McCarthyism—notably broad sweeping suspicion of others, albeit with new labels—Muslims,

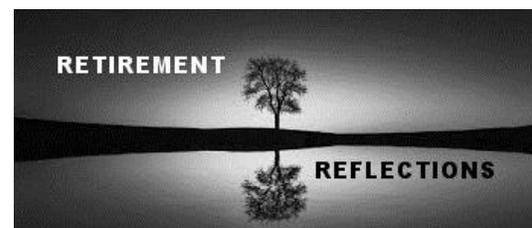
Mexicans, immigrants. With the newer surveillance techniques of the internet age, and the powers granted to Homeland Security, we cannot afford the passivity that comes from not knowing our history and its threat to repeat itself.

The PSC Retirees Social Issues Book Group read this book and had a fascinating afternoon discussing it and our memories of the Fifties.

-Eileen Moran

## RETIREMENT REFLECTIONS

Marie Jean Lederman



Miraculously, it has been twenty-five years since I retired. Most of the prior decades, I was in the English Department at Baruch with time off to direct the Freshman Skills Assessment Program and the Instructional Resource Center in the Office of Academic Affairs. Later I worked at LaGuardia. In ancient times, I was an undergraduate art major who switched to English because I fell in love with Lord Byron.

I planned to spend my life writing about the sex lives of the Romantic poets. Instead, I came to CUNY and became inspired by my SEEK and then Open-Admissions students. Whether I was teaching writing or literature, I incorporated visits to a

museum or theater, always culminating in a writing assignment. These were exciting and frustrating years. My colleagues and I shared CUNY's experiences through conferences, books and newsletters, leading to a greater focus on college teaching nationally.

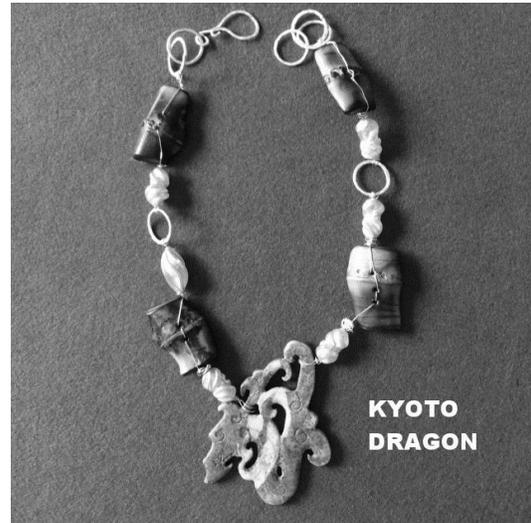
For most of my life, I spent one night a week in a sculpture studio. When I retired I enrolled as a full-time sculpture student in the Art Students League and spent the next ten years there. I exhibited in group shows, eventually specializing in art medals. At one point I took a wax class given in a jewelry department and started making one-of-a-kind jewelry.

I have exhibited with an international group of art medalists in countries as diverse as Scotland, Finland, Portugal and Bulgaria. I exhibited with Canadian art medalists in Toronto and Ottawa. Last year I had some medals in a show of Japanese and American art medalists in Gallery H2O in Kyoto.

Some of my art medals are traditional, carved in wax and sent to a foundry to be cast in silver or bronze—think coins. More often I fabricate one-of-a-kind medals using metals, fossils, stones, pearls and other found objects.

When my husband Martin Benis (Baruch, accountancy) was alive we traveled extensively. Now my travel is mostly art-related. I look for objects in markets, fairs, antique shows, woods, beaches; later these become medals or jewelry. I bought a stone carving of a dragon and

some bamboo buttons in a temple fair in Kyoto. With vintage Japanese class pearls and pure silver, these became my KYOTO DRAGON [see photo] necklace.



In retirement it's hard not to think of years past—of triumphs, losses, our past selves. What I have been doing is both different from and an extension of what I have done all my life. Writing, sculpting and making jewelry come from the same place; I live in my mind and work with my hands. I've always been a traveler, and the last twenty-five years have been an extended trip. We all know where the trip ends. We can make all kinds of plans, but it's often the accidental byways that turn out to give the most pleasure and be the most fun.

**EDITOR'S NOTE.** Reflections on retiring, retirement and the long transition to this life we live as retirees are welcome features of this Newsletter. Each of us transitions differently—some with bumps in the road, others with leaps and bounds. Many of us in the PSC Retirees

Chapter keep a foot in our prior worlds, particularly the union and the university. If you would like to write something for *Turning the Page*, please send a short draft to us and we will be glad to consider it. New retirees are very welcome also! Please send your suggestion to [retirees@pscmail.org](mailto:retirees@pscmail.org) and put "reflections" in the subject line.

And you may have noticed our new name and new masthead. As our activities and activism expand, so does our monthly Newsletter. At the June Coffee Hour meeting just prior to the semi-annual luncheon, 55

people attended and voted for (with some lobbying included) a name for the Newsletter. *Turning the Page* had the highest score, and we hope that this speaks well for all of us who have joined the chapter and are, indeed, turning the page to a new chapter (the PSC Retirees Chapter) in our lives.

Joan Greenbaum