

ARE WE READY FOR “YES?”

Gene Goldwasser

It seems to me that 2011 was the year of “No.” Practically any program or budgetary issue or legislative proposal made by President Obama was opposed by the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives, and if they compromised, then their members in the House “shot them down.” It’s amazing that every piece of legislation has been fought over including something that Republicans claimed they wanted – the continuation of the payroll tax cut. At the last minute as Congress seemed intent on recessing for the holidays, the legislation passed. Although not for the year that both sides claim they want, the 60-day extension allows negotiations to go forward while not penalizing those 160 million Americans who would be most affected. It seems that the devil is in the details since there are other provisions in the bill that provoke disagreement on both sides. How would the extension be paid for? What provisions would be made in Medicare to allow physicians to continue to receive payments at the current levels? Why did the compromise version of the bill contain a provision that requires the president to make a decision on the Keystone Oil Pipeline project?

It’s no wonder that the approval rate for Congress is at an all-time low. Instead of compromising and enacting legislation that would actually benefit Americans, Congress seems intent on retreating to the extreme ends of the room. According to David Frum in his article in the November 28, 2011, issue of *New York* magazine, “The conservative shift to ever more extreme, ever more fantasy-based ideology has ominous real world consequences for American society. The American system of government can’t work if the two sides wage all-out war upon each other: House, Senate, president.”

Despite the obstacles put in his path, Obama’s first term contains an impressive list of accomplishments including ending the American military presence in Iraq; the Affordable Care Act, which provides coverage

for the uninsured as its most salient benefit; the Recovery Act, which provided measures to stimulate our economy; the Dodd-Frank financial reform, which provided much needed regulations and reform of the financial industry; a bailout and restructuring of General Motors and Chrysler that is being repaid and has reinvigorated the auto industry; and Race to the Top, which provides much needed funding and reforms for education (although we are in disagreement with some of its provisions). Others positive outcomes include the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and consumer-friendly regulation of food safety, tobacco and credit cards. Not a bad list if you also include targeted strikes against Al Qaeda and the killing of Osama bin Laden as well as helping to orchestrate the successful ending of Qaddafi’s reign in Libya.

Regardless of his accomplishments, Obama will always be vilified by conservatives and Tea Party activists. He will never achieve the status Harry Truman attained with both Republicans and Democrats or Ronald Reagan achieved despite raising taxes and signing arms-control treaties. Since 2012 is an election year, be prepared for the situation to get worse, not better. As the primary season evolves, will a Republican candidate emerge unscathed with the ability to unite the party behind his or her candidacy? Will a third party develop to meet the needs of those unwilling to compromise (Ron Paul? Tea Party members?) ?

Are we ready for “Yes?” Sadly, I don’t think we are. I think we’re in for more of the same as Congress and the president will continue to struggle this year. If Obama wins re-election, and if his coattails are long enough to sweep others into office in the Congress, then perhaps, 2013 will be the year of “Yes.”



NYSRSAS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Eugene Goldwasser, President
 Joseph Quinn, 1st Vice President
 Elliott Kigner, 2nd Vice President
 Jack Zamek, Treasurer
 Pat Galaskas, Recording Secretary

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Stewart Mortman, Legislation
 Lorraine Schottenfeld, Education
 David Long & Stan Opas, Publicity
 Bill Sigelakis, Membership
 Jack Zamek, Benefits

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Ken Forman
 George Pincus
 Vincent Deland
 John Wallace

HELP NEEDED

Gene Goldwasser

The NYSRSAS Executive Board has several openings. We are looking for an **editor** for the newsletter since after several years of outstanding service, Mario DiSciullo has expressed his regrets that he must retire from this position. Responsibilities include: interacting with members and others who write articles, editing, overseeing the layout of each issue and working with the printer.

We are also looking for **committee chairs** for benefits and education, and several executive board **members-at-large**. Interested members should contact me at ejgoldwasser@optonline.net or call me at 631 689-2747.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Jack Zamek



Sterling Optical.

Sure Sight eye care plan at
 800-Eyes-789 (800-393-7789)

Prepaid Legal Services.

Call NYSRSAS member Fillmore Peltz at 516-798-7800

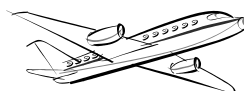
MVCP pre-negotiated new and used autos, at 800-345-0990. Decide on the make and model as well as features you want and then call MVCP. They'll contact a dealer and negotiate the lowest possible price for you.



Car Rentals.

Avis at 800-831-8000,
 Rate code AWD5061700.

Alamo at 800-354-2322,. Rate code 706768.



Southwest Airlines

at 800-435-9792
 (20-50% discounts to travelers
 over age 65)

Eastern Dental Plan.

This is a discounted dental program.
 Phone 631-272-5230 or
 toll free @ 877-327-8376
 for fee schedules and lists of
 participating providers.



United Health Programs of America – Dental and chiropractic. (Hugh Marasa-member and agent) Rates: \$64 for individuals, \$112 for couples, and \$136 for families. Phone UHP @ 800-238-3884

Family Assist Net provides 10-15% discounts for nursing home care or assisted living care. Phone 518-482-3509.

Always identify yourself as a NYSRSAS Member whenever using the above benefits.

DOES SOCIAL SECURITY NEED TO BE “FIXED”?

Stu Mortman

We hear talk from various politicians about their desire to fix Social Security. They want to “fix” it in the same way that I fixed my good old dog Clyde. Social Security is a 2.7 trillion dollar trust fund. It does not take money from the federal government. If it runs low on funds it is mandated to reduce benefits. Both Social Security and Medicare are based on one of our most fundamental core values - the protection of the most vulnerable among us.

Not to long ago there was a push to privatize Social Security. If we had taken that move where would we be in today’s financial climate? Think for a moment about the plight of the elderly (especially women) before Social Security. Do we want to return to the days of the Poor House? This is one of a few government programs that truly work.

Today Social Security contributions are capped at \$107,000 of earnings. If we scrap the cap (or just move it) we can correct for any projected shortfall in the system. The attack on Social Security and Medicare are political maneuvers designed to distract us from the true causes of our deficit and the fact that the vast majority of income growth in our country is going to the top 1% of incomes.

What caused the vast proportion of our deficit?

The Bush tax cut

The economic downturn

The Iraq/Afghanistan wars

Stimulus/Recovery spending (small percentage of deficit)

Bank Bailout (small percentage of deficit)

Remember, Social Security does not contribute a penny to the deficit! If we compromise on any aspect of Social Security we will create the climate for future invasion of the program. We must demand: no cuts to our COLA, no cuts to Social Security benefits, no payroll tax holiday for big corporations and no rise in the age of eligibility.

Social Security was established as a promise to all Americans that they and their loved ones would have a stable source of income on which they could depend when they retire, were widowed, disabled or were survivors. For some seniors, it is their only source of financial security. Social Security is more than just a retirement program. It provides protection to the spouse and young children of workers who die, and it protects workers who become disabled and are unable to support their families.

Social Security does exactly what it was designed

to do. It gives people a secure, basic income protected against inflation for as long as they live. Social Security is the largest single source of income for America’s retirees. Two-thirds of Social Security beneficiaries rely on Social Security for most of their income. Without it, nearly half of all retirees would fall into poverty.

The Social Security Trust Fund can pay 100% of benefits through the year 2036. After that, with no changes, the Trust Fund would still continue to pay over 78% of promised benefits. Social Security is owed \$2.7 trillion by the federal government. This money belongs to the people who contributed it, not to the government. The best way to strengthen Social Security is to have the federal government pay the money back.

On August 2, 2011, Congress passed the Budget Control Act of 2011, allowing the Obama administration to lift the debt ceiling. This Act also created the “Super Committee” who is charged with reducing the deficit by \$1.5 trillion dollars over 10 years. They are also responsible for making recommendations to improve the short-term and long-term fiscal imbalance of the Federal Government.

Potential Super Committee threats to Social Security

The Chained CPI: Prior deficit reduction negotiations have proposed changing the formula used to calculate the annual COLA to the so-called chained CPI, which would cut benefits of those receiving Social Security today.

Raising the Retirement Age: Raising the retirement age beyond age 67, as recommended by the co-chairs of the Fiscal Commission, is a 13% benefit cut on top of the 13% cut already made when the retirement age was increased from 65 to 67.

Means-Testing Social Security: Proposals to means-testing Social Security benefits may seem fair at first; after all, the wealthy don’t need Social Security, right? The trouble with this thought is that Social Security’s popular support is grounded in the fact that Social Security is a program for every worker. Workers contribute to Social Security and earn the right to benefits upon retirement. This popular support is the very shield that makes politicians think twice before making cuts to the program.

Potential Super Committee threats to Medicare
Voucherize Medicare: This proposal in the House

(continued on page 5)

SERVICE WITH A SMILE

Corine Lipset.

As a retiree, I feel obliged to participate in civic affairs – in some way to give back to the country that gave me so much. So – some time ago I agreed to join the cadre of Election Day poll inspectors. You know who they are. They are the people who sit at a long table at your district voting station. The table is covered with an assortment of items – a large, black loose-leaf book that holds the page of names ascribed to the voters of said district, a pad of forms upon which the names of voters are numbered and written, followed by an amazing assortment of paper plates, cups, foil wrapped foodstuffs, soda cans, thermos bottles, bags of pretzels and potato chips, and for the diet conscious, bowls of lettuce with a few tomatoes sprinkled in. Oh yes, one more item per person – cell phones.

The position of poll inspector is not for the faint of heart. It involves rising no later than 4:00 a.m. the morning of Election Day – an hour to dress, erase the catatonic expression on your face, pack your provisions for the day and evening, load the car and drive to the voting site. In addition to packing enough food and drink for breakfast, lunch and dinner, you must also pack innumerable snacks, not only for yourself but also to share with your fellow inspectors. You must not forget a cushion for the chair that you will inherit for the following 17 hours – a chair that will without question have a hard, wooden seat with a back that under no circumstances will mesh with the contours of your back. Finally, you include in your stash yesterday's newspaper (not really allowed because it might mention candidates), yesterday's because your daily delivery does not arrive in the middle of the night and besides, you haven't finished yesterday's crossword puzzle yet. Also, two books, in case voting is slow and you get t finish the first one, a few magazines that you have put aside to look through and a stack of bills that you figure you might get to pay during a slow period. Of course, that means you also have to remember to bring your checkbook, stamps and address labels. For those people who have entered the current century, a laptop, iPhone, iPad or Kindle may be toted in as well. Oh, I almost forgot. Do remember to bring any and all medications you take, as well as aspirin, Tylenol, Advil and Tums. If you take blood pressure medication, you will surely need it and if you take heart medication, you shouldn't be

Now you arrive at the voting site and find that the parking spaces allotted to the inspectors are as far from its entrance as can be. You trudge across the entire parking lot, bent under your load and arrive to be greeted by your district's chief inspector with the following: "Hurry, put down your stuff and help me. I haven't the vaguest notion of how to set up this damn machine." Since you haven't the vaguest notion either, you do not hurry to his/her rescue. It is now 5:00 a.m. and the polls open at 6:00. Somehow the next hour is privy to the following: "Which is the top of the machine?" "It's not a machine, it's called a tabulator." "Where are the ballots? Oh, how should I know they put them inside the machine?" "STOP! Don't cut that tie! The directions say that that one is not to be removed....EVER!!!!!" "Here, look at the envelopes in the suitcase. There's one for spoiled ballots, one for abandoned ballots, one for emergency ballots, one for affidavit ballots (hmm, I don't remember what that is.)" Whatever, somehow or other, the ballots are sacked on the table, the tabulator is ready and the curtain rises on Election Day of the current year.

The first voter arrives and, to my good fortune, I am manning the poll roster book. "What is your name, sir?"

"Gosolovonichanzinski."

"Can you spell that, please?"

"G-o-s-o-lo-a"

"G? I thought you said *Hosolo.*"

"Well the G is pronounced like an H," the prospective voter spewed forth in an irritable manner.

"No matter, I'm in the G's. What is your first name, sir?"

"John."

"And your address?"

He rattles something off that sounds like Ketchup Lane.

Oh, no, I think. There are 15 John's under the G's. Now what? I have a brilliant idea. I find the longest name under the G's. Yes, it has a John next to it. I turn the book around and ask the voter if that is his name. It is, he signs the book and I hand him a ballot.

"What? Are we back to paper again? What happened to the machines where you just pulled the handle?"

(continued on page 5)

SERVICE WITH A SMILE (cont'd)

“That was two years ago, sir. This is the newest form of voting in New York State. It was introduced last year.”

“What’s wrong with those fuckin’ politicians? Not a brain in their heads!”

I ignore his comments.

“Please make certain that you fill in the circles completely with the pen provided in the booth. Otherwise, the tabulator may reject your ballot.”

The voter retires to the privacy booth and soon emerges with ballot in hand, totally ignoring the privacy sleeve provided to voters so that their ballot is not open to scrutiny by any other person. Another poll inspector shows him how to insert the ballot into the tabulator. Sure enough, the ballot is returned. The problem? Did our erstwhile voter not fill in the circles appropriately? No, he filled in the circles beautifully. But he filled in too many circles. Our voter over-voted. That is, he filled in more than the proper number of circles for a particular position. Now we have a spoiled ballot. The ballot must go into the “spoiled ballot” bag and the voter is assigned another number and given another ballot.

“Please read the directions carefully, sir,” I plead.

The voter looks at me disdainfully and retires once again to the privacy booth. “Jerks,” he mutters. “Can’t they even print the directions clearly? No my fault if they screw up!”

Finally, voter no. 1 is on his way out the door. For the next half-hour, several more voters come in and vote without issues. It is rather quiet for it is still early. At about 8:00 a.m., the place is hopping. Many voters arrive and it seems all of them have issues. One voter forgot his glasses and wants to borrow mine. Another voter has moved and her name is not in the book.

“How can that be?” she cries. “I only moved a mile away.”

“You must be in another district, madam. Please see the lady sitting at the table nearest the front door. She will be able to tell you what district you are now in.”

Several others arrived with a multitude of problems.

“I got married. Why isn’t my married name in the book?”

“My husband died three years ago. Why is his name still in the book?”

“My son is at college. When can he vote?”
home to her?”

“My mother broke her hip. Can I take a ballot And so on and on. I look at my watch. It is 8:45 a.m. Only 13 hours and 15 minutes to go!

SOCIAL SECURITY NEED “FIX” ? (cont'd)

Republican budget ends Medicare as we know it. Instead seniors would get a small stipend towards the cost of their health care, which they would need to obtain through a private insurance company. The amount would not be enough to keep up with medical inflation.

Raise Medicare’s Eligibility Age: Proposals to raise the age of eligibility from 65 to 67 is a step in the wrong direction. This population faces the most difficulty in obtaining insurance due to chronic health conditions.

Instituting a Single Deductible for both Medicare Part A and B: Budget hawks, including the Co-Chairs of the Fiscal Commission have suggested that instead of having two separate deductibles for Medicare Part A (hospital coverage) and Part B (doctor and outpatient coverage), there should be a single deductible (\$500 - \$600) for both. Some seniors have taken that to mean a savings for Medicare beneficiaries, but that is not the case. Currently, the Medicare Part B deductible is \$162 and Part A deductible is \$1,132 with coinsurance for a hospital stay of up to 60 days. Individuals who are not admitted to the hospital do not have to pay the hospital deductible, thus their yearly deductible for 2011 is \$162.

Restrict First Dollar Coverage under Medigap: Currently, Medigap covers most of a beneficiary’s co-payments. This option, which is based on the idea that beneficiaries over-utilize benefits, would restrict the first \$500 of an enrollee’s cost-sharing liabilities and limit coverage to 50% of the next \$5000 in Medicare cost-sharing, requiring seniors to pay for this out-of-pocket.

Home Health Co-pay: This option, proposed by the Medicare Payment Advisory Board (MedPAC), recommends charging a 5% co-payment for home health visits. This would amount to \$150 co-payment for each 60-day home care treatment period or episode.

It may be time to speak to your legislators. Remember, seniors represent an ever increasing percentage of the population. We collectively have tremendous power. We are a dynamic force and command great power because we vote.

A FOCUS ON CLASS WARFARE

Marvin Kreutzberger

One helluva week--make that a month. Not one that I'll want to experience going ahead.

Denying workers their earned right to bargain collectively is an act of denying human rights to the American working/middle class. I will not recite at length that which you already know--that the Republican party and its most lavish supporters are hell-bent on destroying labor unions, marginalizing the strength of the working/middle class, and exhausting every opportunity derivative of the financial crisis to increase the economic gap between the super-wealthy and average Americans.

Conservatives will, I believe, need to revel in this current state of affairs. Their battle victories will not endure. The war for working/middle class rights is far from over. And the hardworking multitudes will prevail. The time is about right. The ingredients are coming together. The will is emerging.

It is my expectation that events in Wisconsin and parallel sinful actions in states focusing on a similar political agenda are galvanizing the working/middle class. It is my premise that progressives (mild and ardent), liberals (left and right of center), moderates (Democrats and Independents), and reasoning (reasonable) conservatives need to embrace the practices of Republican political strategists.

I'm not talking about fabricating, stretching, and outright lying to the electorate. Rather, I envy the far-right's ability to remain Johnny-One-Note--resolutely adopting a singular mantra and repeating it over and over without straying for the fear of the consequences of ideological betrayal.

Collectively, progressives - liberals - Democrats-Independents, remain committed to too many goals. We have too many causes. We have too many demands. While each goal may be super worthy, their collective range dilutes our efforts, exhausting our energy and our resources. We become distracted our singular advantage--numbers. Numbers that turn to votes. Votes that result in change.

To my mind the groups of reason and democracy need to come together to focus on **class warfare**. This phrase has often been held in contempt (and I have been among those reticent to utter it). It seems to go against the grain of a truly capitalist democracy.

Capitalism is a social system based on the principle of individual rights.

But where has capitalism, as we have understood it, gone? More important, where is it taking us?

Conservative and far-far-far-right efforts to erase collective bargaining tear at the fabric of capitalism--presumptively and historically a more-or-less level playing field on which employers and employees meet to create an economy that benefits the people. There was a time, not so long ago, when owners and workers metaphorically sat at a round table to negotiate a balance between corporate profits and workers' earnings. The negotiating table was round, until not so long ago, an indicator of the two sides' willingness to talk with one another with an understood purpose of coming to accord on mutually acceptable outcomes via negotiation.

Today's negotiating table has been transformed to a rectangular shape consisting of two expanding sides (employers, public and private) and two shrinking sides (where the vast number of working/middle class Americans are increasingly wedged together). And, wedged apart in the process. (Recall your high school math. The area of the table remains a constant as its length and width--the variables--can be worked dependently to maintain the fixed area--think the American economic pie. Actually, in such a model, both sides benefit as the area of the pie grows in reasonably proportion.

I stray for a moment. I am reminded that we must stop using the term 'entitlements' to describe the mix of pension and benefits workers gain via negotiation. Those jealous of workers with pensions hear 'entitlements' as something that falls from the heavens on a particular subgroup of 'entitled' people. Pensions and benefits are earned. Pensions are deferred wages. Benefits are trade-offs of wages. They are contractual agreements that both parties arrive at legally and appropriately. It is a bedrock principle of capitalism--again, a social system based on the principle of individual rights.

What has happened in Wisconsin and is occurring in other states and municipalities are immoral actions benefiting ultra-wealthy greedy people perpetually dissatisfied with their

(continued on page 7)

A FOCUS ON CLASS WARFARE (*cont'd*)

share of the economic pie and corporations with the singular goal--maximizing shareholders' profit.

I stray again. When we read that private sector employees often earn less than public employees and that their respective benefits/pensions are unfair, recognize what this means. It is not that unionized public sector employees have bled the system to their advantage. Rather, the non-unionized private sector employees have been unable to bargain collectively to their advantage.

Friday morning's *NY Times* charted 'Pension Rates and Collective Bargaining'. The data identifies the percentages of public employees covered by collective bargaining agreements. In New York, 73% of employees enjoy the human right of collectively negotiating wages and deferred wages with employers. In New Jersey the percent is 61%; California, 60%; Illinois, 53%; Ohio, 46%. At least in these states, the working/middle class maintains considerable political muscle.

So it is in those states (forget the South) that class warfare may begin. Seeds have long been planted. Governor Walker and his ilk have been (thank you) nurturing the beds. I see signs emerging, very much like the crocus and daffodils currently sprouting in flower beds, like forsythia budding on the Island's branches.

And like these perennials which emerge every spring as the conditions for them are just right, now is the time for us to prepare to spring ahead--akin to a law of Mother Nature. To remedy the unconscionable 'goal of the greedy,' a minority by definition and by design, reasonable people in a capitalist democracy need to rally around a singular goal--returning an equitable share of the economy to working/middle class Americans.

I am suggesting that, for the foreseeable future, we rally around the singular goal of 'class warfare.' Americans are increasingly recognizing that they must engage this battle. The time is right.

The conservative strategy of preserving and growing wealth and power in the hands of the few is so overwhelming that all issues need be set aside. What happened to the Republicans' promise of focusing on job creation? They are committed to setting brush fires all over our country with the purpose of distracting Americans from the greatest economic problem of our time -- the rapidly expanding gap of income and profit separating the super-wealthy

from all the rest of us.

If we do not get our collective act together--and soon--we will have met the enemy. And the enemy will be us.

Your comments are, as always, encouraged. Please share your thoughts: mkyankee@gmail.com

LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Stan Opas and Pat Galaskas

As school administrators we often spoke about lifelong learning as a goal for our students. As retirees, we are now happily in the position to enjoy it for ourselves. Opportunities abound. We outline some of them here:

The **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)** at Stony Brook University (formerly the Round Table) is open to all retired and semi-retired individuals who are interested in expanding their intellectual horizons in a university setting.

Avenues for participation include: workshops, lectures, business meetings, committees, offices and social activities. The mostly peer-taught workshops, which carry no credits or prerequisites, are designed to offer an informal exchange of ideas between all participants within a framework of accomplishing the workshop objectives.

Members are encouraged to participate at all levels in OLLI's various activities, and it is expected that benefits will accrue to a member in proportion to his/her participation.

Many members of RSAS are currently participating in this program and find it stimulating and satisfying. For more information about this program, go to the Web and type in: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/spd/olli/>.

In Nassau, Hofstra University's Department of Continuing Education offers a similar program, called **PEIR (Personal Enrichment in Retirement)** targeting those who are "55+Better." The program is designed for retired seniors seeking intellectual stimulation, cultural enrichment and personal growth in the context of a community of peers. It attracts a broad array of lifelong learners with diverse interests, talents and backgrounds. Members not only attend programs, but also develop and give presentations, share expertise,

(continued on page 8)

PORT CITY PONDERINGS

Joe Marchese

Controversies about using test results to evaluate educators and the deleterious effects this practice may have on the entire educational process continue unabated. In the October 2011 issue of *Phi Delta Kappan*, Carol Corbett Burris, Principal of South Side High School in Rockville Centre, and Kevin G. Welner, Professor of Educational Policy at the University of Colorado at Boulder illustrate some aspects of the problem. Their article, "Conversations with Arne Duncan: Offering Advice on Educator Evaluations," evolved from an open letter to the Education Secretary Burris published on *The Washington Post's* "Answer Sheet" blog, and Duncan's subsequent request that Burris send him her ideas about effective evaluation policies.

Decrying the emphasis on test-based evaluation of teachers, Burris states, "The punitive evaluation policies that New York State has adopted . . . due to the Race to the Top competition . . . are a dangerous gamble that might score political points but . . . will hinder what you and I and so many others want — better schools for our kids. We already know from research that reforms based on high-stakes testing do not improve long-term learning." Both she and Welner emphasize that no formal studies exist that connect educator evaluation methods that use test-score growth data with learning outcomes.

Engendered by my own professional experience, as well as simple logic, I have always felt that a class of brighter, more intelligent, advanced students will always perform well on academic tests of any kind even with a mediocre, or worse, teacher as Elliot Kigner illustrated with his essay in the last issue of our Newsletter. Burris and Welner put it this way: ". . . teachers with ineffective teaching skills, nevertheless, might have strong value-added scores, especially when they teach high-achieving students."

I can recall a class of Advanced 12th Grade English students I taught more than forty years ago. All of them scored in the middle to high 90s on the Regents examination, an achievement almost any teacher could have achieved with this class. However, the difference would have come in the deeper concepts and appreciation of language and literature they might have garnered from my presentations. As an example, one student became so interested in my discussion of Middle English and Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* that, on his own, he wrote a parody of the introduction to

that work using the same metric scheme and imitating Middle English vocabulary and phraseology.

An additional problem with evaluation systems with a strong emphasis on test results is that teachers may lack the incentive to teach low-achieving students since higher-achieving students will produce higher growth scores. Burris cites a letter she received from one of her teachers who noted that she always felt flattered when she was assigned the more difficult students, but now she will worry if she receives such assignments. She further stated, "The kids who are hard to motivate and have weak skills will be the kids no one wants when their jobs are on the line."

Space constraints prevent my commenting on other salient points presented by Burris and Welner. However, anyone interested in the problem of teacher, principal, and school evaluation might want to read the article.

LIFELONG LEARNING (*cont'd*)

and organize events. For more information or to schedule a visit, call Bradley Kaye at (516) 463-4824.

In addition, both **Nassau and Suffolk Community Colleges** offer the opportunity to attend regular credit courses on a tuition-free basis. Admission is based on space availability and some fees are charged (at Nassau, it's about \$10 for a parking permit). For more information, call (631) 451-4114 for the Continuing Ed office at Suffolk Community or (516) 572-7200 for the office of the Senior Observer program at Nassau Community.

Adelphi University, through its Guest Scholars program, offers undergraduate courses for \$135 per course, \$60 per course for those 62 or over, and \$50 per course for Adelphi graduates. No grades or transcripts are issued. Registration is based on space availability and some courses are not open to Guest Scholars. For more information, call (516) 877-3420.

At its Brookville campus, C.W. Post offers a series called the **Hutton House Lectures** on a wide variety of topics taught, for the most part, by university faculty members. Some are just one or two-sessions while others are offered as a series of from 4-8 weeks. Costs range from \$15 to \$140. For more information call (516) 299-2580 or check their website at <http://www.liu.edu/huttonhouse>.