



Professor Emeritus Adele Mitchell

SCCC Retiree Among the “Fabulous 50 Nurses of Hawaii”

Pete Herron

Suffolk County Community College retiree, Adele Mitchell, Nursing at both Ammerman and Grant Campuses, was among those chosen to be among the “Fabulous Fifty Nurses of Hawaii.” After retiring from Suffolk County Community College in 1979, Professor Mitchell joined the University of Hawaii, Manoa, nursing faculty. The award was a celebration of fifty years of the nursing program at the University of Hawaii, Manoa. The university asked for nominations for the 50 best nurses in Hawaii. Adele was both surprised and humbled by the nomination and even so more when selected. What really made her proud was to see and meet former students who were also elected. That, Adele says, was a real honor!

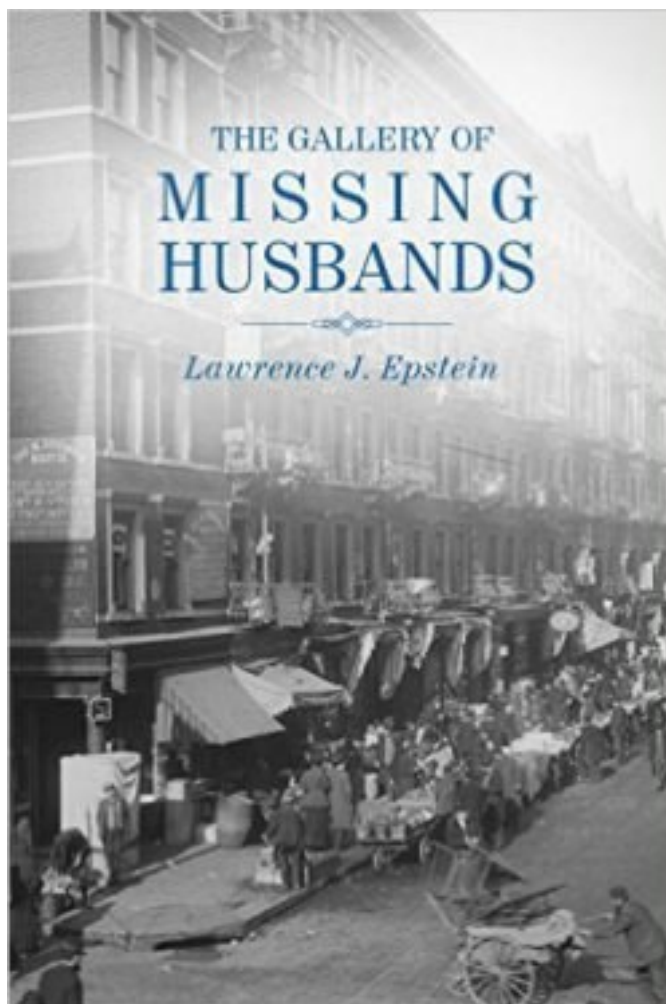
The awards program included a fabulous dinner, with pictures and gifts, and of course, leis. The attendees were former deans, the University of Hawaii president, faculty and colleagues. Even some politicians showed up. The honorees were dubbed “The Fabulous 50!” Each honoree received flowers and a crystal glass bowl etched with the UH logo and “Fabulous 50 Nurse.”

Suffolk County Community College Retiree Publishes a Novel

Emeritus Professor Larry Epstein recently published *The Gallery of Missing Husbands*, a 32,000 word mystery novel set on the Lower East Side in New York in 1914. The title refers to a weekly section of the newspaper *The Forward*. The Gallery consisted of mostly grainy pictures of men who had abandoned their families. The novel opens as the protagonist, Daniel Levin, witnesses the death of the area’s greatest psychic. Asked by the victim’s attractive sister-in-law to investigate, Levin uncovers a web of romantic deceits, blackmail, and murder. His investigation leads him to a midnight break-in at the city morgue at Bellevue Hospital, an anarchist determined to avoid being forced back to Russia, a corrupt police officer filled with hate, and a friendship with a crime reporter. Eventually, Daniel understands the complexity of missing husbands and fragile families.

Beyond solving several murders, Daniel has to deal with a debilitating personal problem. He feels guilty about what he believes was his responsibility in his mother’s suicide.

Readers can get a free PDF copy at Larry’s website: (<http://www.lawrencejepstein.com/the-gallery-of-missing-husbands/>). The Amazon link for a 99 cent Kindle book is: <https://amzn.com/B01GQFFCUA>





MOVIES NOW AND THEN

By Ann Fey



BIG EYES (2014) directed by Tim Burton opens with our hero Margaret Albrecht, who has left her husband, driving along a highway with her daughter in the back seat. They are on their way to San Francisco, where she tries to get a job, and tries to sell her paintings of large-eyed soulful-looking waifs in a public park fair. There she meets him, charming Walter Keane! He paints generic European charming village scenes of winding streets with stereotypical brick architecture and flowers in window boxes. Soon, they marry.

Financially strapped, they try to sell their paintings by arranging to hang them in a popular restaurant by “renting” walls. The walls they get are in those narrow corridors that lead to the toilets, and that is where Walter sees a fellow looking closely at one of Margaret’s works, and engages him in conversation, stating that he himself is the painter. That’s how the big lies start. It escalates to where Walter gains fame and fortune as the creator of Margaret’s works, while over the years she is a stay-at-home housewife, in increasingly elegant and expensive digs, dutifully reproducing variations of those big-eyed young saddies in a studio that even her daughter is locked out of. In one frightening/funny scene, Margaret is pushing a shopping cart through a food market and suddenly imagines everyone there has her trademark huge eyes in wildly comic zany versions. And when she reaches towards the soup shelf, it’s a sort of Andy Warhol reminder.

Margaret laments the deep sadness of her childhood, which she establishes as the source of her works’ dominant image. Should she break out? Assert herself? While Walter gains celebrity status, and his public life spins around Kardashian-like recognition at gallery receptions, newspaper interviews, television shows and panel discussions, the question of her own socially isolated and emotionally servile existence surfaces. She seeks consolation and advice in a Catholic confessional, revealing her Methodist upbringing and her feeling of having a repressive husband to the priest, who advises her that in the shared bases of both their religions “...man is the head of the household.” But her endurance of the classic Stepford wife mode won’t last. She discovers that Walter never was in Europe, that he never saw those European villages, and never did those village works: his signature is painted over that of the real artist.

Meanwhile, Walter’s absurd self-indulgence and public self-celebration and the low-end trending of those sad big-eyed images printed on posters and cards bring about among journalists and art critics negative commentaries. Walter goes off the track in public. Margaret leaves, and heads to Hawaii, where the ending sequence, a confrontation arranged by Margaret, is a breakout that is extremely rewarding to the viewers, who likely get more and more involved as the film goes on. As Margaret, Amy Adams creates that 50’s June Allison sweetness, sadness added. Christopher Waltz, as Walter, gives a performance that is suited to this unusually styled film, creating a character that seems genuine, crafty, lying, smiling, superficial, egotistical, foolish, troubled, clownish, and stupid. His last sequences rival the best comedy sketches.

The film is based on a true story: Artist Margaret Albrecht still paints. (She appears in the background sitting on a bench in the opening scene where the couple meet in the park.) Walter is no longer with her--or with us. The graphic image of those big sad eyes central in this work doesn’t originate here. Consider works like the classic table game BESM: Big Eyes Small Mouth, or the book “Astro Boy” by Osamu Tezuka, and even the old Scrooge Mc Duck. The most common discussion the crowds have entered into about this film is whether she should ever have agreed to let Walter take the credit for her work. The ending is hard not to enjoy.

Retirees expected to continue to play significant role in 2016 election

	% of electorate in 2012	% of electorate in 2014	2014 Union Seniors	2014 Non-Union Seniors
Total seniors	16%	22%		
Democratic	44%	41%	67%	39%
Republican	56%	57%	32%	60%

Sources: Hart Research, AFL-CIO Election night poll and CNN exit polls.

RC39 Website

Check out RC39 website <http://rc39.ny.aft.org/> where you can read recent NYSUT RC39 newsletters, AFT and NYSUT news releases, and much more.

Health Benefit Resources for Retirees

Medicare Rights Center - Non-profit consumer service organization which advocates for older adults and people with disabilities. www.medicarerihts.org

Kaiser Family Foundation - Dedicated to filling the need for trusted information on national health issues. Kaiser is a non-profit organization focusing on national health issues, as well as the U.S. role in global health policy.

www.kff.org

<http://kff.org/medicare/video/the-story-of-medicare-a-timeline/>

Alliance for Retired Americans - Nationwide organization of more than 3 million members focusing on issues affecting seniors. www.retiredamericans.org

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation - For more than 40 years, the Robed Wood Johnson Foundation has worked to improve the health and health care of all Americans.

www.rwjf.org

Annenberg Public Policy Center - Center for the study of public policy at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. Fact Check website investigates and debunks myths about health care. www.factcheck.org

Healthcare.gov – This is the official government website of the Affordable Care Act marketplace. The marketplace is not for Medicare beneficiaries. <http://healthcare.gov>

Medicare.gov – This is the official government website for Medicare beneficiaries www.Medicare.gov

New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP Empire Plan) – This is the official website for only those retirees who are enrolled in the NYSHIP Empire Plan. <http://www.cs.ny.gov/employee-benefits>

NYSRTA IS NOT NYSUT

Recently it has been brought to the attention of Paul Pecorale, NYSUT Vice President representing NYSUT retirees, that many NYSUT retirees are receiving solicitations for funds from an organization with similar initials, NYSRTA - New York State Retired Teachers Association. **Please note that NYSRTA is not NYSUT and has no official affiliation.**

NYSUT retirees are being asked to pay annual membership dues to belong to the New York State Retired Teachers Association. This organization claims through such mailings that they represent our retirees in the New York State Retirement System as well as provides - - for a fee - - products and services such as insurance benefits. This statement is not true. The New York State Retired Teachers Association **does not** represent NYSUT members in the New York State Retirement System.

NYSUT retiree contact information is being obtained by the New York State Retired Teachers Association through requests made by them to local districts. Too often the unauthorized requests for lists are being forwarded by superintendents of schools to NYSRTA officers. NYSUT retirees' names and addresses are never disclosed by NYSUT. If you would like further information regarding this issue please contact VP Paul Pecorale at 800-342- 9810, ext. 6358, or ppecoral@nysutmail.org.



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Send your comments, suggestions, and inquiries to NYSUT RC39 Officers, 98 Rocky Point Landing Rd., Rocky Point, NY 11778 or rc39pete@optonline.net.

RC39 Newsletter is looking for comments, suggestions and articles from its members.



Send your comments, suggestions, or article to Peter Herron at rc39pete@optonline.net or mail to 98 Rocky Point Landing Road, Rocky Point, NY 11778. Your article will be published when space is available. RC39, NYSUT, and AFT news will be given priority.



Address Change

Do not let a new address keep you from receiving NYSUT RC39 newsletters. There are three ways to update your address. Contact NYSUT Member Records at 1-800-342-9810 ext. 6224. Send written changes to: NYSUT Member Records, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110, or e-mail changes to berrec@nysutmail.org. If you are a snowbird, give Member Records a few weeks notice to change its address records each way.

Have you paid your voluntary RC39 contribution for 2016?

If you have not sent in your voluntary NYSUT RC39 annual contribution, now is as good a time as ever. Just send your check along with the form below to the RC39 treasurer. It is your contributions that enable RC39 officers and delegates to represent you at NYSUT conferences and meetings.

Retiree Council 39 Voluntary 2015-16 Participation Fee form

Name _____ e-mail _____
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 City _____ State _____ Zip code _____
 College retired from _____ Year of Retirement _____
 Please check amount of your voluntary participation fee: \$25 _____ Other \$ _____
 Send your check, made out to NYSUT RC39, along with this completed form to:
 Ms. Joan Prymas, RC39 Treasurer, 141 Montgomery Street, Ilion, NY 13357