

Strangers Taking Control of Your Life

This is not about aliens taking over the world, this is much more frightening. According to The New York Times the practice of nursing homes gaining guardianship over its residents has become routine. If granted by the court, guardianship can give a nursing home complete control of a resident's money. Guardianship transfers a person's legal rights to make some or all decisions to someone appointed by the court, usually a lawyer, paid by the ward's money. Guardianship was designed to protect people who are unable to manage their affairs because of incapacity and who lack effective help without court action. Legally, it can supplant a power of attorney and a health care proxy.

We all have encountered confusing health insurance coverage, copayments, in and out of service health providers, procedures covered, not covered or partially covered, in hospital/out hospital, etc. All of this is very difficult for most of us when we are basically healthy. All of this quickly becomes overwhelming when you are very ill and do not have a friend or family members serving as your advocate. With the frequent changes in long term care insurance, the sudden changes in pricing and what is covered or not can result in increases of what nursing homes claim are the responsibility of the resident. Often residents are not aware of or not able to understand these changes, resulting in billing disputes in the tens of thousands of dollars.

Guardianship cases usually involve family disputes, embezzlement, or the absence of a family advocate to obtain Medicaid coverage. Guardianship legislation was never intended to be used by nursing homes as a means for bill collection. Nursing homes are using guardianship just to bring in money. Even if a family successfully fights the nursing home's attempt to gain guardianship, it can cost the family tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees.

Many cases in which judges grant nursing home guardianship petitions never come to light. There is no transparency, and unfortunately, it is often too late when people find out it is happening to a family member.

Retired

In 1903, the first box of Crayola crayons contained 8 colors and cost 5 cents: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, brown, violet, black. The box grew to 64 colors by 1958 and included a sharpener, till 1990 when the company "retired" 8 colors: lemon yellow, orange yellow, orange red, violet blue, green blue, blue gray, raw umber, and even the lovely maize.

In the 1982 film "Blade Runner," set in 2019, the authorities "retired" renegade replicants (meaning they "destroyed" them) after the almost-human robots they created had served 4 years of slavery.

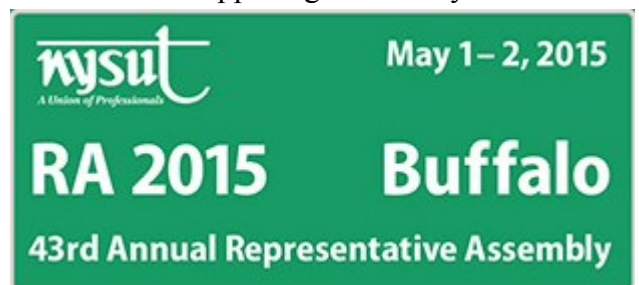
My dog sleeps when she's tired
wakes when she's rested
eats when she's hungry
plays when she's bored
snuggles when she wants to be stroked.

That's retired.

Patti Tana, Professor Emerita of English
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This is one of seventy-five poems in Patti Tana's ninth collection, *All I Can Gather & Give* (JB Stillwater Publishing, 2014), which was nominated for The Pushcart Prize.

For a real treat go to <http://www.pattitana.com> where you can hear Patti read some of her poems. At this site you will also be able to learn about other collections of poems by Patti Tana.



NYSUT RC39 President Herron will be attending the Local Presidents Conference and representing RC39 at the 43rd Annual Representative Assembly. See page 3.



MOVIES NOW AND THEN

By Ann Fey



GRAND HOTEL BUDAPEST, set in the 1930's, may require more than one viewing, not because it's so great but because it's so zany, fast moving, noisy and chronologically disorganized that it's hard on an initial viewing to fully catch the quirky, outrageously politically incorrect, sexist and ageist, unkind, infantile, often extremely funny wit and clownishness. It appeals to our inner adolescent. It's directed by Wes Anderson, as were MOONRISE KINGDOM and ROYAL TENENBAUM.

The film's writing credits are conspicuously touted as "inspired by the writings of Stefan Zweig," the highly respected outstanding Austrian novelist, one of the greatest European writers and intellectuals in the 30's. That kind of inspiring connection sounds like something Royal Tenenbaum—the Gene Hackman character—would claim.

In this work, images slide across the screen like pages swiped on a Kindle. Centered images linger to demand attention. Candy-like colors dazzle. Clanging carnival music is piped and pumped and interspersed with big volume classical concert sounds, and insistently synchronized with footsteps and falls.

Early animated films had anonymous voice tracks. Then came famous professional actors doing the voice-overs and billed as playing the animated characters. Now here we have professional actors doing their own voices and affecting the style of animated figures. Anderson's cinematic design style trumps the story here, a tale told with quick starts, stops, and flashbacks within flashbacks.

The basic story is told by the character Mr. Moustafa, the current owner of the hotel, who agrees to share history with a curious and questioning young writer played by Jude Law. Moustafa is played by F. Murray Abraham, looking as deep and mysterious as in any of his recent appearances as Dar Adal, the secret CIA agent in HOMELAND. Moustafa's story is rendered on screen. It flashes decades back in time and centers on the Grand Budapest's concierge, M. Gustave. Gustave is played by Ralph Fiennes, of Schindler fame, managing the elegant hillside Hotel Budapest before the start of WWII. In the course of his adventures, Gustave selects his young lobby boy named Zero, an orphaned eastern refugee, as sidekick, played by Tony Revolori.

Gustave is an aesthete, a run-around, an egotistical bisexual, preferring old women, all blonde. He loves to wear perfume: "L'Air de Panache." He travels to the funeral of one of his elderly lovers, Madame D, played by Tilda Swinton, who is styled with foot high rippled white hair, pasted with crispy wrinkled makeup and shot mostly in close-up. Her promised inheritance to him is cancelled by a false will maneuver by her ugly villainous family. Gustave takes a valuable painting, "Boy with Apple," from her home, is threatened with arrest, and takes off on a cross-country escape punctuated with adventures, cliff hangers, and group attacks by police.

Edward Norton plays Henckels, the lead policeman. The film's too-crazy-to-be-true atmosphere softens the image of the staunch, tall, uniformed commander surrounded by his men. The dominant authoritarianism is not shown as Nazi; it's anonymous, and it's presented not as frightening but funny. Willem Dafoe, playing the evil brass knuckled gangster Jopling, strides through the story aiding the villainous family, chopping off innocent fingers, ultimately severing heads. Deputy Kovacs, the official who will resolve the conflict over the will, is played by Jeff Goldblum. He discovers and deals with the severed head respectfully, wrapping it and carrying it--that is, until he sees a public waste basket and plops it in.

Gustave is jailed, joins a gang, and digs his way out aided by the little pastry-making kitchen tools smuggled to him by Agatha, Zero's plain and placid girlfriend. Ultimately, helped by members of an amorphous alliance of continent-wide "key club" connections, the three wind up back at the Grand Budapest, climb and jump through a wild shoot out, and through a series of chance discoveries ultimately uncover the real prevailing will. Gustave inherits the estate of the late Madame D.

Time jumps decades ahead, to the storyteller Moustafa and the young writer. We learn Gustave died and left his estate to Zero, who continued to maintain the Grand Hotel Budapest through many years since he inherited it from Gustave, now with less glitter to the clientele and less cash all around. And there he is: It's Zero himself, now old, now called Mr. Moustafa. We overlook the obvious question of resemblance in exchange for Anderson's characteristic somewhat happy ending.

The writers are Anderson himself and Hugo Guinness, a graphic designer who creates cartoons and designs t-shirts sold at J Crew. Coach sells a collection of his purse designs. Anderson had "Boy with Apple" painted by Michael Taylor, and in poster form is selling it on the net. He had a French company called "Nose" make a perfume to be called "L'Air de Panache," which we learn has "top notes which traditionally appeal to older women," and which contains a bit of green apple, and is also for sale. The cadre of actors is familiar in Anderson's films, and the cinematic style is consistent. GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL could require more than one viewing, or maybe not. His MOONRISE KINGDOM comes with less effort and more reward. (and souvenirs for sale.)

It's Time to Step Up to the Plate.

The three—year terms of all the RC39 officers and members-at-large positions expire this spring. Because RC39 needs “new blood” in its leadership, now is the time for you to start thinking about running for an open position or encouraging a friend to run. RC39 can only be effective if its members are willing to serve. Our rights and benefits of retirement are constantly under attack. Without constant vigilance our retirement benefits can be taken from us. This can be prevented only if there are those willing to defend our well earned retirement benefits. Who will be our defenders? If not you, then who?

If you have any questions, would like to run for an office, or to serve on the nominating committee, please contact Pete Herron, rc39pete@optonline.net or (631) 744-5534.



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RC39 President Herron Will Attend the Local Presidents Conference and Representative Assembly 2015

NYSUT RC39 President Peter Herron will join other NYSUT officers and presidents for the 2015 NYSUT Local and Retiree Council Presidents Conference, to be held Thursday and Friday, April 30 & May 1, at the Adam's Mark Hotel, Buffalo, New York. The conference is designed to give attendees the tools they need to strengthen their local or retiree council, build and maintain solidarity, and mobilize for the many battles we face today and in our future. In addition to the workshops that will allow a long, hard look at the issues affecting our members, the 2015 conference will allow time for attendees to speak directly with the NYSUT officers.

President Herron will also attend the 43rd Annual NYSUT Representative Assembly which will convene at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center in Buffalo, NY, on Friday, May 1, 2015. This year's RA is on a shortened, two-day format, which is expected to become a comprehensive and fast-paced weekend. The RA is your annual opportunity to directly impact the policies of NYSUT.

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Send your comments, suggestions, and inquiries to NYSUT RC39Officers, 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 memberrec@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 2015?

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 Participation Fee form

Name _____ e-mail _____
Address _____ Phone (____) _____
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:
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