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NYSUT Retiree Council 39

SAL PARADISE

by Lou Rupnick, Professor of Sociology and Psychology (Retired), Suffolk County Community College

Editor's Note: *Lou's story,* ***A dog – "I could call him Wolf,"*** *appeared in the January/February NYSUT RC39 Newsletter and Spring/Summer 2017 issue of the SUNY Retirees Newsletter*

I was captivated by the name the first time I read it – *SAL PARADISE*. I mean, is that a cool name, or not, especially when one has been christened with an unimposing name? Really. Think about it. SAL PARADISE is so catchy, so romantic, so special and out of the ordinary — so cool! It kinda sings a beautiful melody. Nope. I'm not gonna tell you what my real name is. NO WAY!

Lou Rupnick with his dog, Nick

In 1962 I was a junior in high school. George Costigan was my English teacher. I really liked him. He always made the class fun and interesting, and he motivated us. One day he mentioned a book that some of us might like to read. He mentioned it was a bit old (1951), but by a guy who was a pioneer of what was emerging as the *Beat Generation*. "Try ON THE ROAD by Jack Kerouac," he said. Well, I did just that. I didn't need much prodding if Mr. C suggested something to read. I met the story's protagonist, SAL PARADISE, right off. He, his buddies and his adventures just mesmerized me.

A couple of years earlier my parents divorced. My mom was making a life with her new husband, and both of my sisters had lives of their own. They were four years older than I. One was married, and the other had an apartment in Hempstead that I shared with her. I didn't have a good relationship with my father. Oh, he was my father, but he wasn't a *DAD*. Anyway, I graduated in 1963 with no real-life plan like some of my other classmates had. I sure didn't feel like I was college material, or even that I could get accepted to a college, much less survive it. I was toying with the idea of joining the Navy, but not very seriously. So, I just lived day-to-day and kept working at the gas station — Park Hill Esso in New Hyde Park. My boss, Larry, liked me and filled that *DAD* role, which I needed. He took me under his wing and started teaching me about mechanics and cars, and life too. Turns out I eventually became a darn good auto mechanic.

It was February of 1964. A music group of four guys from England was shocking the world with their music and becoming very famous, very fast. They were the sensation not seen since the likes of Elvis Presley. Continued on page 3.

RC39 Elections this Spring

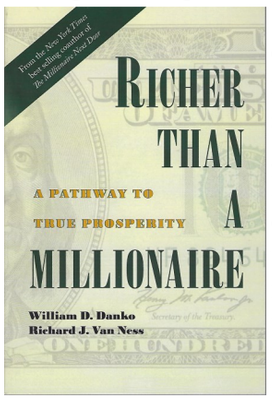
RC39 will have elections this June for all board of director positions: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and two directors-a-large. The president's position is also first NYSUT and AFT delegate, the vice president and secretary are NYSUT and AFT delegates, and the treasurer is NYSUT and AFT alternate delegate. All these positions are for three-year terms. Currently four members of the board of directors are from Suffolk Community College, one each from Herkimer Community College and Rockland Community College. Three officers have held their positions since the formation of RC39 in 2006. RC39 has never had any one from the southern tier or the north country on the board. Every election an appeal has gone out for members to step forward to serve. No one has ever volunteered to serve from these unrepresented areas.

If you think you or someone you know may be interested in running for a RC39 position now is the time to consider running for office. RC39 board of directors has never had a meeting where all board of directors were able to attend. The board of directors does all its discussions and votes by email. RC39 members have been and are still encouraged to participate in board of directors' discussions. Only board of directors can vote. Only delegates can vote at AFT and NYSUT meetings. All members of the board of directors are encouraged to attend NYSUT meetings. All travel expenses are paid by NYSUT or RC39.

Are you interested? Do you know someone who would be an excellent candidate? Do you want more information? Contact Pete Herron, RC39 President, at rc39pete@optonline.net, or (631) 744-5534. If there are not sufficient members coming forward it is highly likely there will be fewer candidates than the six positions up for election

Teachers, grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, and friends… The Millionaire Next Door has moved!

William D. Danko, UUP member and Richard J. Van Ness, NEA member, have written a sequel to Danko's NY Times bestseller, *The Millionaire Next Door*. The new book, ***Richer Than A Millionaire ~ A Pathway to True Prosperity***, is research based (primary and secondary) and written for all age groups from high school through accomplished professional retiree.



Having taught thousands of students, Danko and Van Ness were inspired to summarize their research findings about career growth and life satisfaction for a larger audience. The authors rely on tried-and-true social science research methods of personal interviews and largescale structured surveys. In other words, they have much more than their personal opinions to offer.

Do you know…

2/3 of millionaires inherit nothing?
What it takes to "feel" rich?
Whether or not you will ever have enough?
The significant mutual benefits of giving?
What's in your value system?
The essential proactive behaviors to reach true prosperity?

Answers to these questions and many more may be found in the new book, *Richer Than A Millionaire ~ A Pathway to True Prosperity*. Also, there are numerous self-tests which provide immediate feedback of overall wellbeing status. Further, there is a complimentary instructor's guide available for teachers who adopt the book for their classes. Just contact the authors directly after your book order is placed.

A few editorial reviews follow.

Richer than a Millionaire is an authentic, well researched, and insightful book on creating true wealth and happiness in life. Relevant and packed full of powerful anecdotes, it should serve as a guide for anyone seeking to create a life of freedom, service, and significance. Lt. Col. Rob "Waldo" Waldman author of the *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* bestseller *Never Fly Solo*

The authors correctly (and scientifically) conclude that money is a tool to be used to improve the quality of our lives, much like a craftsman uses a tool to perfect a piece of furniture. If we spend so much time acquiring tools that we have no time to perfect our project, what have we really earned?

The balance is to strive for enough wealth to satisfy our needs, and spend the rest of our efforts enjoying our creations (our relationships, our families, our service to others).

Cheers to the authors for writing a "textbook" worthy of teaching to everyone! R. Stephen Whiting

…This book is a must-read for the most accomplished professional, "up and comers," and all college students. As a matter of fact, this book should be a high school graduation requirement! W. Ralph Sommers

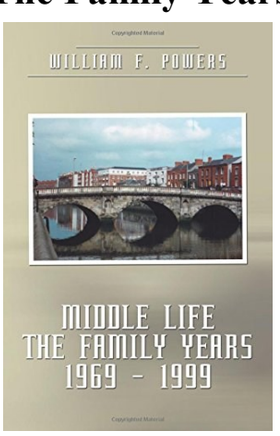
"*Richer* is a fun read and a nice update/companion to *The Millionaire Next Door.* The new volume is a rich meditation on – and lively discussion of – the ingredients for achieving prosperity and true contentment. The book is filled with practical wisdom and fascinating insights from two renowned experts. I highly recommend it." David M. Smith, Ph.D., CFA Director, Center for Institutional Investment Management
University at Albany, State University of New York

"*Richer Than A Millionaire* is a blueprint for all who are looking for true prosperity. It offers a roadmap for living a rich life of happiness and provides the tools for financial well-being." Michael O. Laddin Senior Vice President EBSCO *Information Services*

Richer Than A Millionaire ~ A Pathway to True Prosperity, is available at Amazon.com and bookstores. If you are a teacher, please contact the authors by email after you adopt the book to request your complimentary Instructor's Guide. DocVN@nycap.rr.com

Middle Life: The Family Years: 1969-1999

In 2008, William Powers published *Shaping a Life: Reconstructing my First Thirty -Five Years.* That book recounted his early life, including the ten years that he served as a Catholic priest in Brooklyn, New York. *Middle Life* continues the story, unwrapping features of the life of a man who made an abrupt change of direction. That "middle" life included marriage, family, and a new career as Professor of Sociology at Suffolk Community College. Readers will be able to identify the joys, setbacks, and challenges of the author. Much of his naivete and many of the tensions and missteps related might be attributed to his early clerical life. On the other hand, he derives strength and direction from the faith and discipline which had fostered and which has continued to impact his life. This book is available on Amazon.



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.

Continued from page 1. **SAL PARADISE**

An Ed Sullivan show appearance even! My girlfriend, Marie, just broke off with me. I was feeling very lonely, not to mention very sorry for myself. As I said, my mother was remarried, one sister was the one I shared a life with was planning to marry. I guess you can see why an eighteen-year-old guy was feeling sorry for himself, huh? Woe was me. The only things/possessions I had were: my dog (a German Sheppard I named DOG), my '56 two-door gray primed Chevy sedan (named RAUNCHY after the Bill Justice instrumental), my collection of auto mechanic's tools, and some clothes. *Uniform for the day* consisted usually of Levis, a white T-shirt, a black Garrison belt (buckle on the side) and Engineer boots. And I had no real anchors.

One day I was on my way to work in New Hyde Park when SAL PARADISE suddenly and unexpectedly hopped back into my mind. That got me thinking…. ON THE ROAD! Damn! Could I do it? Should I? Is this crazy? What do I have to lose? SAL went "on the road" with his buddy, Dean. My best buddy was Jon. I would have gone cross-country with him, but he was in the Navy. Other than him, I didn't have a buddy I felt confident would be suited for what I was thinking. If I did it, it would be solo. Feeling so lonely and so sorry for myself I rationalized no one would give a hoot if I just took off.

I didn't have a lot of money because I just spent my savings on Chevrolet's new engine – a 327 cubic inch short block. I already had a set of 283 engine reconditioned cylinder heads. My '56 Chevy was what we called then a sleeper. It didn't look fast, but I could blow the doors off a lot of rods on the road then. Point? RAUNCHY was in excellent mechanical shape for a road trip. How would I survive? Hell, why not just play it by ear; stop along the way and see what I could find. Pump gas. Fix tires. Wash dishes. I wasn't too proud to do just about anything as long as it was legal. I'd work from town-to-town along the way when I needed gas or food money. I'd sleep in RAUNCHY most of the time & treat myself to a bed in a motel once in a while.

I worked up the entire plan on the way to work that morning. "Today! Now! It's GOT to be now!" I said out loud to no one except me. Just before getting to the gas station, I did a quick U-turn and headed back to my apartment to pick up some clothes, a few canned goods, and left a note to my sister. Oh yeah, I had to pick up DOG too. Larry would be pissed, but I felt someday in the future I'd see him again. I'd explain everything & he'd understand.

I was damn scared.

Once I felt I had everything we (DOG & me) needed, I topped off RAUNCHY'S gas tank and headed for the Long Island Expressway. New Hyde Park Road is exit 34 on the LIE. That's where I got on it to begin my journey; my quest! I was feeling more and more like SAL PARADISE. If I had the courage, this was gonna be my personal ON THE ROAD. I still wasn't sure I could pull this off, but I was feeling more confident talking with myself. I damn sure was gonna give it a good try. New Hyde Park isn't far from New York City. I was getting closer and closer to the Midtown Tunnel under the East River leading to midtown Manhattan.

My heart was hammering in my chest. My hands were trembling. My knuckles were white from holding RAUNCHY's steering wheel so tightly. I even remember the feeling of the white HURST floor shift ball vibrating against my right knee and thigh. The tunnel was getting closer. It was the boundary line between the life I knew, and a new uncertain world of learning I was rolling toward. I told myself "If I can get through this tunnel and get on 34th street heading west, cross-town…. I WILL DO THIS. I WILL BE SAL, AND I WILL BE …. ON THE ROAD!" Suddenly I was in the dark tunnel. I could hear the car's tires humming on the tunnel's Belgian brick-like pavement. No turning back now. Seconds passed and then I saw the proverbial "light at the end of the tunnel" as I got closer to the exit of the tunnel.

Suddenly I was on 34th Street! I was heading west toward the Lincoln Tunnel!

I actually felt liberated; a sense of relief. I felt like a millstone was lifted off me by making this commitment to myself. I vividly remember rolling down the driver's side window cruising on 34th Street. I was squinting from that sunny, bright winter day. I felt the bitter cold February air rush into & swirl around RAUNCHY's inside. Only then did I realize I was crying. As the cold air hit me, I could feel the tracks of my tears on my cheeks. Only then did I realize that I was beginning my adventure. I was embarking on my personal version of SAL PARADISE's journey. I was ON THE ROAD!

Perhaps you've heard that expression, or old wisdom. It goes something like. *sometimes the journey can be more important than the destination*. I certainly wasn't Sal, but I was *on the road.* Well, I can tell you for sure. My road adventure as a wanna be SAL PARADISE was an incredible life altering experience.

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Send your comments, suggestions, and inquiries to NYSUT RC39 Officers, 98 Rocky Point Landing Rd., Rocky Point, NY

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 memberec@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 2018?

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 2018 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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