



# The Sentinel

VOLUME 5, NO. 3

UUP—ONEONTA

March 2005

*"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give"*  
-Sir Winston Churchill

## UUP and Social Justice: A Commitment

*by Bill Simons, Chapter President*



President Simons

Neither wealth, status, or education provide immunity from loss and grief. As chapter president, I have sent out too many leave donation appeals and condolence cards to members of our extended UUP family of late to harbor illusions about the human condition. UUPers bravely battle cancer, tirelessly meet the needs of children with special needs, assist aged parents in the twilight of life, and comfort the grieving. And it is this compassion that is the noblest of human attributes. UUP advocates strongly for its members, but unionism also mandates a commitment to a larger social justice.

Special thanks to Rob Compton, Tom Horvath, Norm Payne, Ed Wesnofske, Fred Miller, V.N. Shastri, Nancy Cannon, Janie Forrest-Glotzer, Linda Randall, Dennis Selzner, and others, who joined me to challenge the slippery roads and poor visibility of the New York winter for important SUNY advocacy and/or training activities. The Legislative Office Building was a frequent destination for UUPers engaging members of the State of New York Assembly and Senate in dialogue on the need for strong funding for SUNY. In the crucible of American democracy, UUPers encountered podiatrists, priests, plumbers, and professors also waiting their turn at legislative offices. And UUPers who could not travel to Albany mastered details of issues related to the supplementary budget, tuition proposals, EOP, TAP, and campus specific items (including renovation of our Fine Arts Building) and urged legislators by e-mail, snail mail, fax, and telephone to pass a budget that protects SUNY jobs and programs, enabling higher education to remain accessible so that it not atrophy into a preserve for the scions of privilege.

As this article is composed, it is not clear if New York will have its first on-time budget in a generation. **If *The Sentinel* goes to press sans budget passage**, I respectfully call upon each and every one of you to call the NYSUT-UUP toll free phone bank at **1-877-255-9417** to advocate for strong SUNY funding. Tell the voice that answers your **877** call that you wish to be connected to one or more of the following: Governor George Pataki, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Assembly Higher Education Committee Chair Ronald Canestrari, Senate Higher Education Committee Chair Kenneth LaValle, Assemblyman William Magee (whose 111<sup>th</sup> District includes Oneonta) and Senator James Seward (whose 51<sup>st</sup> District also embraces Oneonta). Should the officeholder not be available at the time of your call, do not neglect the opportunity to present your case to a senior staffer: be assured that your advocacy conversation, whether with staffer or officeholder, will count.

UUP Oneonta further encourages members to oppose attempts to privatize any portion of Social Security. Since its inception in 1935, Social Security, despite its imperfections, has over time dramatically diminished poverty amongst older Americans. The program, has, as President Franklin Roosevelt promised, provided some "security against the hazards and vicissitudes of life." The AFL-CIO, the labor federation to which UUP's lines of affiliation



FDR signing the Social Security Act

*(continued on p. 2)*

## UUP and Social Justice (continued)

run, maintains a web site at [www.socialsecuritypledge.org](http://www.socialsecuritypledge.org) that provides instructions for informing the U.S. Congress that you oppose attempts to privatize Social Security. The controversy over Social Security is about ideology, not economics: the current system is in no danger of imminent collapse. Proponents of a Social Security system guaranteed by the Federal government recognize that a vital democracy respects the social contract between the people and the state. Advocates of privatization would begin with a weakening of Social Security and move on to an assault on other post-New Deal programs designed to provide fundamental protections to the most vulnerable amongst us. The late Senator Hubert Humphrey, an upholder of native decencies and a great friend of the labor movement, noted that a just government is generous to those in the dawn of life, the shadows of life, and the twilight of life.

Many Professional members of UUP Oneonta have generously responded to the several appeals that I have made for Leave Donations on behalf of members of the SUNY Oneonta community who have, due to illness, exhausted their medical accruals. These donations have facilitated several of our colleagues maintaining a paid status during a medical absence. Fighting serious illness is difficult, but leave donations by UUPers have ameliorated the economic consequences of such ordeals.

Triggered by a powerful earthquake, a massive tsunami emerged from the Indian Ocean on December 26, 2004. The devastation in Southeast Asia was of biblical proportions. The tally of deaths, injuries, and destruction were staggering. UUP, along with a plethora of global organizations and individuals, has contributed significant sums of money to relief efforts. Upon returning from the ravaged region, Tom Hobart, president of NYSUT, UUP's parent union, reflected, "No picture of shattered buildings can capture the human side of the devastation: Parents who had to watch as their children were literally washed away, thousands of children orphaned...The best anti-terrorism weapon is to replace desperation with hope and possibility." As the tsunami retreats from media attention, however, it is important that we continue our relief efforts over the coming days, months, and years. Recovery from the tsunami catastrophe will entail much time and effort. Life-saving medical care, food, housing, counseling, schools, transportation, and infrastructure are desperately needed, and, at this point, monetary donations are the most significant contribution that you can make. Below are the names and accompanying websites of reputable organization through which you can make contributions to aid tsunami victims:



**American Red Cross** [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

**Oxfam America** [www.oxfamamerica.org](http://www.oxfamamerica.org)

**International Rescue Committee** [www.theirc.org](http://www.theirc.org)

**Save the Children** [www.savethechildren.org](http://www.savethechildren.org)

**Care USA** [www.careusa.org](http://www.careusa.org)

**World Vision** [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org)

Your generosity to Tsunami relief is appreciated. Whatever the size of your contribution, it will make a difference.



Mona Hughes, formerly UUP's Treasurer and Benefits Officer, known for her warmth and understanding, and Su Hartley, like Mona, part of the outstanding Instructional Resources Center team, have organized a collection donation campaign on behalf of the troops in Iraq, to ameliorate the stress, discomfort, and boredom of those in harm's way. Mona and Su explain that the donation of goods in useable condition that can withstand a 6,000 mile trip by parcel post would be welcome. Suggested items include: chess and checker sets, packs of cards, craft kits, balls of

all sorts, crossword puzzle books and dictionaries, power bars, individual packs of cookies, non-meltable hard candy, powdered Kool-Aid, dried soup, and **NEW** unopened packages of personal care products like shampoo, razors, shaving cream, deodorant, talcum powder, skin cream, lip balm, sun block lotion, and the extremely popular Baby Wipes (much appreciated after long hours under a relentless sun). Due to security concerns, however, **NO** homemade food can be sent. As access to showers may be circumscribed, men and women's underwear and socks will also be welcome. Although donations should not be gift wrapped, you may, if you wish, stick a label with your name and good wishes on your contributions. Loneliness is a problem for those stationed in Iraq, and Mona and Su note that, while restrictions preclude the release of the names and addresses of personnel, "if you want a pen pal, send a note with your donation or just bring in a separate letter which we will pack along with the parcels." Please leave your donations for those stationed far from home (some of whom are family members of UUPers) with Mona Hughes in IRC 120C or Su Hartley IRC 114.



Think globally and act locally: UUPer Suzanne Miller, Education Department, has, over the past generation, epitomized active idealism. Her enthusiasm and expertise has animated teacher education and, through her students, many of whom are now teachers, enriched the experiences of thousands of young learners. With conviction and courage, Suzanne has provided witness at many peace vigils. Her communal experiences in the 1960s helped shape a belief in the efficacy of cooperation. As a Peace Corps volunteer, Suzanne provided impetus to the genesis of Head Start in Chuuk, Micronesia. In recent years, Suzanne and her partner, Psychology Professor Walter vom Saal, have helped the people of Chuuk establish a cooperative and plan to continue their collaborative relationship with the inhabitants of this Micronesia island. As Adlai Stevenson said of Eleanor Roosevelt, so it might be said of Suzanne Miller: "She would rather light a candle than curse the darkness."

*Sentinel* editor Nancy Cannon is a knowledgeable and energetic conservationist, tireless in her efforts on behalf of the good earth. She serves as Co-Program Chair of the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society, along with the Writing Center's Stephen Rice. Nancy's Audubon programs have featured various members of the SUCO community, including Tom Horvath, Tracy Allen, Dan Payne, Achim Koedermann, and Jim Mills. Protection of land, water, air, and endangered species requires action. To participate in environmental education programs sponsored by Audubon, contact Nancy (telephone: 2160; e-mail: [cannonns@oneonta.edu](mailto:cannonns@oneonta.edu)).



View from Franklin Mt. sanctuary

Mathematician Rich Tyler invests the office of UUP Oneonta Treasurer with a meticulous professionalism. He also serves, with distinction, as Treasurer of Habitat for Humanity of Otsego County. A number of families in this region, and others, acquire good housing due to the selfless efforts of Habitat volunteers. Rich is one of several UUPers who give of their time and energy to Habitat. The next time you see Rich at a chapter meeting ask him about volunteering for Habitat for Humanity: construction skills are not required.

As UUP Oneonta's Grievance Officer, Political Scientist Paul Conway listens to and evaluates the problems of members of our bargaining unit with compassion, discretion, and competence. It is a stressful and demanding position, yet familiar to him. Through the years, Paul has consistently participated in multiple endeavors on behalf of social justice, including Amnesty International, Mediation Services, and a course that creates connecting links between students and prisoners. Paul continues, by his example, to provide a role model for social activism.

On Saturday, April 30, 2005, UUP Oneonta will again staff *Saturday's Bread*, a community kitchen that dispenses hot meals and good cheer. UUP's Linda Drake will, as previously, co-ordinate our chapter's participation in this worthwhile community service. Although *Saturday's Bread* is housed at the First United Methodist Church, 66 Chestnut Street, the program is a non-denominational and humanitarian service open to all. To be

(continued on p. 4)

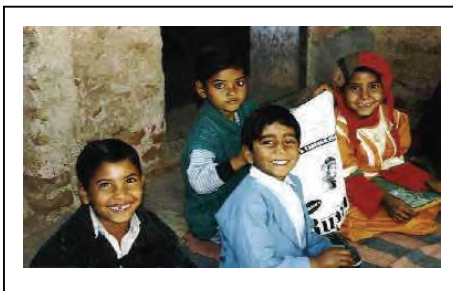
---

### UUP and Social Justice (continued)

---

part of the UUP Oneonta volunteer group at *Saturday's Bread* on April 30<sup>th</sup>, you must be willing to work from 9 AM to 2 PM. As we need an exact list of the names and numbers of participants for April 30<sup>th</sup>, please either e-mail (drakelm@oneonta.edu) or telephone Linda Drake (436-2633) to volunteer. When you contact Linda, please provide her with your full name, e-mail, and telephone number.

Indeed, as the Executive Director of the Center for Social Responsibility, Linda continues to facilitate the involvement of chapter members and others in a variety of benevolent enterprises. The programs and activities that Linda has created, sustained, supervised, and supported on campus and in the larger Oneonta community are legion, encompassing initiatives that teach people to read, provide vocational training, grant opportunities for recreation, comfort the ill, share companionship with the lonely, and grant respite to caretakers.

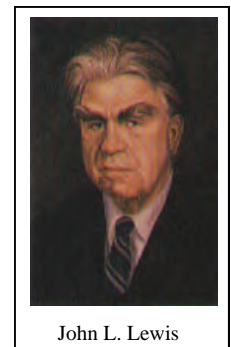


Linda's partner, Ashok Malhotra, Distinguished Teaching Professor of Philosophy, is the founder of the Ninash Foundation, which builds and maintains elementary schools in India. Ashok is central to every aspect of this endeavor, including fundraising, recruitment of personnel, supervision, and networking. His persuasive ability has prompted many members of our community to participate in this campaign to better lives in India through the gift of education. To learn more about providing the children of India with the tools to fashion a better life, contact

Ashok (telephone: 3220; e-mail: malhotak@oneonta.edu).

UUP Oneonta's commitment to social justice is not a decision but a process. Socially, economically, culturally, and politically much needs to be done to eradicate the ancient foes of humanity--- discrimination, exploitation, violence, want, disease, disaster, and despair. Let us resolve, in solidarity, to be part of the solution, not part of the problem. From its inception, the union movement, of which UUP is a part, has garnered strength in the belief that individuals united for the common good are the emancipators. John L. Lewis, the departed President of the UMW and CIO, intoned the resolve that animates all true unionists:

**"I will not join you in a policy of anxious inertia. Candidly, I am temperamentally incapable of sitting with you in sackcloth and ashes, endlessly intoning 'O tempora! O mores!'"**



---

## UUP's Mike Shea: Oneonta's New Superintendent of Schools

*By Bill Simons, Chapter President*

---

UUP's Michael P. Shea was recently named Oneonta's new Superintendent of Schools. Mike is a SUNY Oneonta adjunct instructor and a member of United University Professions. His background underscores the talents and contributions that our adjuncts make.

UUP and SUNY are central to the Shea story. Mike's father, and my dear friend, Denny Shea, Political Science Professor Emeritus, was the first President of UUP Oneonta. When I was History Department Chair, I had the privilege of recruiting Mike (as well as his brothers --and my former students-- Brian and Matt) to teach sections of the United States History survey.

Although I made the offer based on the success Mike had previously had in the classroom, his knowledge of the discipline, and his facility with curricular innovations, I wondered whether his time commitments and responsibilities (serving, at that time, as Superintendent of the Franklin Central School) would lead him to decline. I was pleased that Mike accepted, indicating that returning to the classroom would make him a better Superintendent. Mike said, "The manager of a garage should know what goes on under the hood of a car, and a Superintendent should know what goes on in the classroom." That assertion told me that Mike was a teacher's Superintendent and a student's Superintendent. He did not want to let position separate him for the actual classroom experience.

From the very beginning, Mike proved to be a capable college instructor. He still continues to teach one course per semester for the SUNY Oneonta History Department. To accommodate Mike's schedule, his course at SUNY Oneonta meets once a week for three hours and Michael holds an office hour on that same night.

Mike's experience at SUNY Oneonta is emblematic of his background. He is an administrator who rose through the ranks and never ceased to identify with the realities of the classroom interaction between students and teachers. For fourteen years, he was a classroom teacher, serving as a Social Studies teacher at both the Middle School and the High School at Tri-Valley Central School. In addition, he was the Curriculum Coordinator (K-12 Social Studies) and coached (head varsity coach of baseball and football) at Tri-Valley Central School. During the Tri-Valley years, he was also a member of the Middle School Assessment Task Force, Chair of the Negotiating Team, and Chair of the Middle School Building Leadership team.

When Mike entered the administrative ranks, first as Middle School Principal at the Delhi Central School and then as Superintendent of Schools at the Franklin Central School, he never forgot that that education begins with the student and the teacher. As an administrator, he has effectively dealt with teachers, students, parents, community, school board members, and administrators, and Mike recognizes the importance of unions.

Mike is ready for new challenges, and his background, ability, and character will make him a great Oneonta Superintendent. Congratulations to Mike and to the tradition of service that the Shea family embodies.

Mike Shea's story helps to put a face on adjuncts. *The Sentinel* hopes to feature additional adjunct profiles in subsequent issues. Adjuncts render significant contributions to the college despite encountering a myriad of obstacles. And each has a distinctive story.

## SPRING 2005 UUP Meeting Schedule

**Food for Thought/Chapter Meetings** start at 12 noon and will be in Le Café, Morris on **April 12**.

**Pre-Labor-Management Meetings** start at 2:30 PM on the following Mondays: April 4, May 2, and June 6. On April 4 and May 2 the pre-Labor-Management Meeting will be in Netzer 310. On June 6, the pre-Labor-Management Meeting will be in Netzer 133.

**Labor-Management Meetings** start at 3 PM and are in the President's Conference Room on the following Mondays: April 4, May 2, and June 6.

**Executive Board Meetings** start at 2 PM and are in the UUP Office (Human Ecology 206) on the following Mondays: April 11 and May 9.

### Tuesday April 12: Food For Thought/Chapter Meeting

The next *Food for Thought* chapter meeting will be at Le Café, Morris Hall on Tuesday, April 12 at noon. Our guest speakers will be Darryl Wood, UUP Chapter President at Binghamton University and Dr. James Dix, UUP Chapter Vice President for Academics at Binghamton University. Binghamton is one of UUP's strongest chapters, and Darryl and Jim will provide insight as to how their chapter has dealt with academic and professional issues and advocacy. Darryl, who also serves as a member of UUP's Statewide Board of Directors, will also discuss the relationship between the chapter and the statewide organization. This presentation is an important step toward future collaboration between the UUP chapters at Oneonta and Binghamton, and represents a commitment toward a current of strong unionism sweeping down the I-88 corridor. Darryl and Jim are informative and engaging speakers.



Although *Food for Thought* has important content, it is also an occasion for respite from the workweek, relaxed collegiality, and fine food. Join your colleagues for a convivial gathering and an expression of solidarity. *Food for Thought* is an occasion to renew old ties and to forge new ones. Your union looks forward to greeting you.



### RIDE THE WINDS OF MARCH

By Sheila Serbay, VOTE/COPE Coordinator

As Winter moves out and Spring moves in, we generally have to deal with those blustery winds of March during the transition. Many of us make changes in our homes or daily routines signaling not only the period of transition, but anticipation of more pleasant days and temperatures ahead. Have you considered joining **VOTE/COPE** as another means to seeing brighter days?

The UUP through **VOTE/COPE**, the political action arm of NYSUT, is our political voice. Voluntary contributions from NYSUT members are encouraged throughout the state through payroll deduction. **VOTE/COPE** works to support representatives at all levels of government who understand the needs of members and their families while remaining non-partisan. Simultaneously, **VOTE/COPE** works to ensure that employees and their families receive the best possible information, representation and support in the workplace.

I ask that you contribute one dollar per paycheck to **VOTE/COPE** by simply authorizing this through payroll deduction. Contributions to **VOTE/COPE** are kept completely separate from all other union finances.

Please support **VOTE/COPE** efforts and sign up today! Contact **Sheila A. Serbay** at [serbaysa@oneonta.edu](mailto:serbaysa@oneonta.edu) or at Ext. 2062 for forms or information.

---

## UUPers at Food For Thought, Workshops

---



---

## Congratulations to Rob and Joyce Compton



Kathryn Alicia Compton

Congratulations to UUP Academic VP Rob and Joyce Compton and to their entire family! At 8:35 AM on Friday, March 18th, a healthy and beautiful baby girl joined the Compton family. Her name is Kathryn Alicia, and she was 20" and 8 pounds prior to her first feeding. The Compton household is a vibrant one: Kathryn Alicia joins four older siblings. This is an exciting and busy time for the Comptons, and the all their many friends at UUP send their very wishes upon Kathryn Alicia's birth.

---

## Training for those writing Performance Programs

A workshop for those writing Performance Programs for UUP Professionals was held on March 30, 2005, in Craven Lounge, Morris. Ray Haines, Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Employee Relations, SUNY System Administration, was the main presenter. Lunch was provided. Special thanks to SUNY Oneonta Associate Vice President Lisa Wenck, UUP Oneonta Vice President for Professionals Norm Payne, and NYSUT/UUP Labor Relations Specialist Dennis Selzner for organizing the workshop. For those writing Performance Programs who were not able to attend the March 30th workshop, a second workshop will be held in April. Then, subsequent workshops will be held for those UUPers receiving Performance Programs.

---



## UUP-Oneonta

UUP Office  
206 Human Ecology

Phone: 436-2135  
FAX: 436-2295  
Email: ONEONTA@UUPMAIL.ORG

### QUIZ:



He was an author, orator, warrior, statesman. According to legend, his entrance to this world was unusual (a medical procedure is named after him). He had an affair with an ambitious Egyptian royal. An astrologer told him to beware of March 15; he ignored the warning and met an

untimely death on that day. After he died, a great comet appeared in the sky over Rome. The first person from one building (for a total of **three** winners) to email Nancy Cannon ([cannonns@oneonta.edu](mailto:cannonns@oneonta.edu)) with the correct answer will receive either a TIAA-CREF water bottle or a NYSUT yoyo (no choice).

The answer to last month's quiz was **George Washington Carver**, who not only developed hundreds of uses for the peanut, but turned down a \$100,000/year job offer in order to continue his agricultural research.

The first three people to answer correctly were **Amy Crouse-Powers, Adam Ryburn,** and **Betty Tirado**.

### Editor's Note:

*Statements made in The Sentinel do not necessarily reflect the opinion of UUP or any of its statewide representatives. Please send ideas for stories, comments, etc. to Nancy Cannon, Editor*

### Executive Board Contact Info

|   |                 |                     |                   |
|---|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>President (d)</b>                              | Bill Simons     | SIMONSWM*           | 436-3498 (office) |
| <b>VP for Academics (d)</b>                       | Rob Compton     | COMPTORW            | 436-3048 (o)      |
| <b>VP for Professionals (d)</b>                   | Norm Payne      | PAYNENE             | 436-2021 (o)      |
| <b>Secretary</b>                                  | Nina Persi      | PERSIN              | 436-3427 (o)      |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                                  | Rich Tyler      | TYLERRF             | 436-3648 (o)      |
| <b>Grievance Officer</b>                          | Paul Conway     | CONWAYPG            | 436-3923 (o)      |
| <b>Benefits Officer</b>                           | Ricky O'Donnell | ODONERA             | 436-3572 (o)      |
| <b>Director, Special Events</b>                   | Loraine Tyler   | TYLERLL             | 436-3390 (o)      |
| <b>Health &amp; Safety Officer</b>                | Tom Horvath     | HORVATTG            | 436-3899 (o)      |
| <b>Membership Director (alternate d)</b>          | John Carney     | CARNEYJJ            | 432-5360 (h)      |
| <b>Newsletter Editor, Design</b>                  | Nancy Cannon    | CANNONNS            | 436-2160 (o)      |
| <b>VOTE/COPE Director</b>                         | Sheila Serbay   | SERBAYSA            | 436-2062 (o)      |
| <b>Part-Time Concerns</b>                         | J. McDermott    | MCDERMJ             | 436-3034 (o)      |
| <b>Administrative Assistant</b>                   | Peg Carney      | ONEONTA@UUPMAIL.ORG | 436-2135 (o)      |
| <b>Other Delegates &amp; Alternates:</b>          |                 |                     |                   |
| Janet Nepkie                                      | NEPKIEJ         | Tom DeMeo           | DEMEOT            |
|   | 436-3425 (o)    |                     | 436-2188 (o)      |
| Andy Van Benschoten                               | VANBENAK        | Fred Miller         | MILLEREW          |
|   | 436-2461 (o)    |                     | 988-9323 (h)      |
| Joe Baldwin                                       | BALDWIJC        | Chris Bulson        | BULSONCE          |
|   | 436-3517 (o)    |                     | 397-9345 (h)      |
| Richie Lee  | LEERE           |                     |                   |
|   | 436-2493 (o)    |                     |                   |
| *e-mail addresses are @oneonta.edu (d = delegate) |                 |                     |                   |