



AFT Retirees of New Jersey

NEWSLINE

Affiliated with American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO
and AFT-NJ State Federation of Teachers

Autumn 2019 Vol 17, No. 2

AFTR of NJ Executive Board



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Please send articles for the newsletter to:
norigall@aol.com
Deadline for Winter Issue: Nov. 8



One more farewell

We bid farewell to our treasurer Lois Savage.

Lois was elected to the Executive Board as Treasurer of the AFTR of NJ in June 2015. Regretfully, she has resigned as of June 2019. She has been instrumental in making certain our memberships are up to date and reservations are recorded as well as watching over our bank balance. Job well done Lois!! We thank her for her dedication to this position, wish her happiness and good health, and certainly hope to see her at our luncheons.

In One Man's Opinion

Hamilton The Musical

by Bill Lipkin

My wife and I may be the only people on the universe that did not think Hamilton the Musical was one of the best Broadway musicals ever. For the past few years my friends, relatives, and colleagues were amazed that I, an American Historian with a concentration on the colonial and early national periods, had no interest in seeing the musical.

We usually see 5 or 6 musicals a year on Broadway and prefer the shows with a big chorus and loud production numbers, although, we have seen others like 'The Band's Visit'. We had seen and heard excerpts from 'Hamilton' and were not impressed with the hip-hop type of music that seemed to be the base of the show. We opted for shows like 'Anastasia' and 'The Cher Show' with big casts and rousing dance numbers. Not only did we have no interest in seeing the show, but for the price of those tickets we were able to see at least 2 other shows.

A few months ago, our younger son surprised us with a special anniversary and birthday present. Yes, it was tickets to 'Hamilton'. The seats were great, toward the front in the Orchestra (but with a railing in front of us), and I can only imagine that we probably could have eaten for a full year for the price he paid for the tickets. He had taken his family to see the show and they thought it was fantastic.

So, with optimism we entered the theater and took our very uncomfortable, but close up, seats. For the next two hours and forty-five minutes we strained our ears to try to understand what the cast was singing. I had to keep whispering to my wife what the storyline was for her to keep up. The cast was extremely talented, and the production seemed flawless, but with the exception of the songs associated with King George III, the music seemed loud, the words were hard to understand, and some of the action was confusing. The couples sitting on either side of us had a similar impression (we spoke to them during Intermission and after the show) and wanted to know why the show had such a great reputation. They were of our generation. The Gen-Xers behind us could not stop raving about the show. That should tell us something.

Give me an up-roaring Ziegfeld type of musical any day of the week and leave 'Hamilton' for the younger generation. It would be great if theater-goers got a history lesson out of the show, but after questioning many people who saw the show most said they were more interested in the music than the story. I guess that shows what an "old fart" I have turned into!!

**** Senior Property Tax Freeze ****

<https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ptr/eligibility.shtml>

Access this site to obtain information on freezing your current property taxes. Everything you need to know and do is available on this website. Applications must be submitted by October so do not procrastinate (as I always do!!).

Helpline phone number: 1-800-882-6597
(this is NOT the Homestead Rebate program)

Recently signed into law:

* A1048(Houghtaling, Downey, Mukherji, Holley /Turner, Stack):
Requires property tax bills to contain eligibility information on State tax relief programs.

* S692 (sponsored by Ruiz, Sarlo):
Prohibits the DOE from regulating maximum salaries school districts may pay school superintendents and codifies standards for contract review.

*S3899 (sponsored by Ruiz, Burzichelli):
Allows TPAF retirees to be employed without TPAF reenrollment by school district as certificated superintendents or administrators for more than 2 years when in the best interests of the school district.

Three Centuries of Music at The Proprietary House

149 Kearny Ave., Perth Amboy, NJ

Featuring: Anne & Ridley Enslow

Sunday, September 22nd ~ 2 p.m.

Reservations required: 732-826-5527

\$25/Members \$20/ 12 & under \$10

Luncheon Form

Monday, September 16, 2019
Stage House Tavern
1099 Route 22 East
Mountainside, NJ (908-731-0366)

10:30 AM -Meet and Greet
11:00 AM - Business Meeting

11:30 AM - Program
12:15 PM - Luncheon

Please return this form with your check made payable to **AFTR of NJ** by **Sept. 4, 2019** to:

Sylvia Borne
709 First Street
Westfield, NJ 07090
908-233-6854

Check # _____ Amount \$ _____

_____ will attend the September 16, 2019 luncheon of the
Name AFTR of NJ.

Circle appropriate amount:

\$25 for full member

\$28 for associate member

\$30 for guests



Donations for September will be school supplies for our annual contribution to returning students.

Don't forget our Book Swap....



Save the Date
Winter luncheon
December 10, 2019
Duetscher Club
Clark, NJ