

# Breast Cancer: Education and Support

reprinted from the AFT web site

[http://www.aft.org/pubs-reports/american\\_teacher/dec03\\_jan04/spec\\_report2.html](http://www.aft.org/pubs-reports/american_teacher/dec03_jan04/spec_report2.html)

Studies show that teachers are one of the groups hardest hit by breast cancer. Fortunately, there are a number of organizations dedicated to educating Americans about this form of cancer and supporting people who have it.

One leading organization is the American Cancer Society, which has a wealth of resources designed to help women with breast cancer, including a national hotline (**800/227-2345**) and a cancer survivors network (**877/333-4673**). The American Cancer Society also offers educational classes for people with cancer, a one-to-one peer support group for survivors and a web site ([www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)) that includes questions and answers about breast

cancer prevention, detection, and treatment.

Other good sources of information include:

- ◆ The National Breast Cancer Foundation is an organization dedicated to increasing breast cancer awareness and providing mammograms for those in need ([www.nationalbreastcancer.org](http://www.nationalbreastcancer.org)).

- ◆ The National Breast Cancer Coalition, which includes more than 600 organizations, is an advocate for increasing federal support for breast cancer research ([www.natlbcc.org](http://www.natlbcc.org)).

- ◆ The National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations seeks to educate the public on breast health and breast cancer, and advocates for legislation that benefits patients, survivors and women at risk ([www.nabco.org](http://www.nabco.org)).



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## UPCOMING '05-'06 BOARD MEETINGS

October: 11th & 24th  
 November: 14th & 28th  
 December: 5th & 19th  
 January: 9th & 23rd

# An Open Letter to All WCT Members

I am writing this letter to ask for your help. I was saddened to read in the September 8<sup>th</sup> issue of the *New York Teacher* about a local teacher who was killed in Iraq. His name was Lou Allen and he was an officer with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division. He was a science teacher and had only been in Iraq for 10 days when his death occurred. He leaves behind a wife and four children, who range in age from 1 to 6.

Suddenly, the stress of my first day of school seemed insignificant, compared to the tragedy that this young wife and mother must be experiencing. That is why I am asking for your help. I am urging all WCT members, both active and retired, to contribute to a fund set up for his family. We could certainly make a difference for this young family.

Please send a check made out to the WCT, so we can

consolidate the checks and send one large check to the family. Just write "Lou Allen Fund" in the memo space. You can send it through inter-school mail. Thank you for considering this worthwhile cause. If you have any questions, please call the WCT office at 227-5065.

In Solidarity,

*Mike Lyons*

Mike Lyons

V.P. Negotiations

## Are You Prepared for Life's Emergencies?

By Mirkin & Gordon, P.C.

### BE PREPARED:

Many people do not understand the problems that can arise for themselves or their families in the event of a catastrophic event that makes them unable to function as they normally do. Catastrophic events come in all shapes and sizes, including natural disasters (floods, fire, etc.) that can damage or destroy your home; theft of personal belongings that can occur in an instant; sudden illness that leaves you incapacitated; and terrorist attacks.

During events such as these, access to critical information is essential, and a lack of access can cause tremendous financial loss,

significant legal problems, and immeasurable emotional turmoil for loved ones. Whether it is a life insurance claim that is not filed because nobody knew about the policy, an attending physician who could not be consulted by an adult child in another city, or a sale of stock that can not be performed because a person is traveling out of town or overseas, the need to access personal information is of vital importance.

### THE SOLUTION:

Life's emergency situations require advance preparation and planning. The first step is to take an

inventory of and organize your important documents. Check the WCT web site for a checklist that can be used to help you accomplish that task and assist in dealing with any emergency that may arise.



# Former AFT President Sandra Feldman Dies at 65

Former AFT president Sandra Feldman, a lifelong advocate and activist for civil and trade union rights, died Sept. 18 at her home in New York City after a three-year battle with breast cancer. She was 65.

“Sandy’s death is a great loss for the AFT personally and professionally,” said AFT president Edward J. McElroy in a statement. “She was a leader without comparison.” (AFT leaders and staff are invited to post remembrances of Sandy Feldman on LeaderNet.)

When Feldman was elected AFT president in 1997 after the death of Albert Shanker, she became the first female president of the union since the 1930s. Her election to the AFT’s top post followed a distinguished 30-year career with the United Federation of Teachers in New York City, including 11 years as UFT president.

Feldman’s roots in a working-class neighborhood in Brooklyn, N.Y. shaped her lifelong commitment to expanding educational opportunity, serving the needs of disadvantaged youngsters and fighting for more resources in urban schools. She was widely recognized as an authority on urban education, and her long-standing commitment to social justice dates back to her involvement with the early civil rights movement, both in New York and nationally, when she was arrested during the Freedom Rides and other protests in the 1960s.

During Feldman’s tenure as president, the AFT grew by more than 365,000 new members, or 38.6 percent—the largest growth in a seven-year period in the union’s history—passing the 1 million mark in 1998, as the AFT adopted new initiatives to foster a “culture of organizing” within the union. As AFT president, she also served on the AFL-CIO’s executive council, chairing the AFL-CIO’s Committee on Social Policy and serving on numerous other committees of the council.

Among her key initiatives as AFT president was a call for universal access to preschool for children, which she championed at the AFT’s QuEST conference in 2001. A year later, at the union’s 2002 convention, she outlined the first step toward achieving this, urging Congress to provide funding for a “Kindergarten-Plus” initiative that would help schools offer an extended year of kindergarten for disadvantaged youngsters, to help close the achievement gap.

Feldman was also a strong advocate for the rights and concerns of nurses and health professionals, working to bring public attention to the national nursing shortage, patient rights, and adequate staffing levels in healthcare facilities.

A strong proponent of civic education and democracy in the




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## *the WCT COMMENTATOR*

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*COMMENTATOR* deadline for the next issue is the Monday after the pay-check. Send all information for the October 21st issue to **WCTINK@HOTMAIL.COM**, or to the WCT Office by Monday, October 10th.

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*(Continued on page 4)*

## Sandra Feldman (continued from page 3)

international arena, Feldman served as a vice president of Education International. She frequently spoke out on human rights issues abroad, condemning terrorism and repression of human and worker rights around the world—from China to Colombia, from the Soviet Union to Sudan.

Sandra Feldman was born in New York City and educated in its public schools, including James Madison High School and Brooklyn College. She earned a master's degree in English literature from New York University. A former teacher and UFT chapter leader at P.S. 34 in Manhattan, Feldman rose through the ranks of the union to executive director, a post in which she supervised all aspects of the union's work. In 1983, she was elected secretary of the UFT, the union's second highest office, and was elected president in 1986, succeeding her longtime mentor and friend Albert Shanker.

Prior to becoming AFT president, Feldman also was a vice president and member of the national union's executive committee.

In 2004, Feldman decided for health reasons not to run for reelection as AFT president and stepped down at the union's convention that year. She was named AFT president emeritus and continued to serve on the boards of numerous organizations, including the Child Labor Coalition, the Albert Shanker Institute, the Council on Competitiveness, the International Rescue Committee, and the A. Philip Randolph Institute.

Feldman was remembered on Monday at an impromptu gathering of AFT staffers at the union's headquarters, where secretary-treasurer Nat LaCour, executive vice president Antonia Cortese, and others paid tribute to her. (President McElroy is currently traveling on AFT business). LaCour, who

announced that a memorial service will be held at a later date, described Feldman as an "outstanding" unionist and leader who was "truly respected by all the people she came in contact with, both nationally and internationally." Cortese, who first met Feldman in 1971 during the New York merger of the AFT and NEA, said, "Sandy had a wicked sense of humor and selflessness about her." She praised Feldman's "commitment and optimism," her belief in public service and "her love for the UFT and AFT."

Feldman is survived by her husband, Arthur Barnes; a brother, Larry Abramowitz of New York City; a sister, Helen Berliner, of Wylie, Texas; and two children and two grandchildren of Mr. Barnes. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family in care of the AFT, President's Office, 555 New Jersey Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20001.

September 19, 2005

Reprinted from AFT LeaderNet web site



## Test Samplers

Go to the NYSUT website ([http://nysut.org/standards/students\\_test\\_sampler.html](http://nysut.org/standards/students_test_sampler.html)) and preview and download questions for the upcoming statewide math and ELA tests in 3rd through 8th grade.

## NOT ON THE BESTSELLER LIST: Educational Reading Suggestions

- When you've finished reading Your Best Life Now: 7 Steps to Living at Your Full Potential by Joel Osteen, pick up Your Best Year Now: 7 Steps to Surviving Your Worst Class Ever by Ty Lenol.
- Although The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference by Malcolm Gladwell is on the bestseller list, try reading The Boiling Point: How So Much Paper Work Drives You Mad by Dr. Kelvin C. Fahrenheit.
- Bestseller, Blink: The Power of Thinking without Thinking by Malcolm Gladwell, comes highly recommended; however, Smile and Nod Appropriately: The Power of Attending a Meeting without Mentally Being There by A. Day-Dream may come in handy.
- The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown is being turned into a movie. Until the movie comes out, keep busy by reading The Educational Jargon Code by Zed Alpha, a new and controversial look that State Ed won't want you to read.
- Remains Silent by Michael Baden is now on sale for only \$16.06. For a real bargain, pick up the audio book of Won't Stop Talking by the Association of Cafeteria Volume. Only \$5.99, including ear plugs.

## Good News!

- Good news from Vassar Road School. Congratulations to proud grandparents, Greta & Eddie Woo, on the birth of their grandson, Russell Leung. Russell was born to daughter Sue-Lynn and husband Michael Leung on August 19th.

## 2005-2006 Pay Dates:

October 21st  
 November 4th  
 November 18th  
 December 2nd  
 December 16th  
 December 30th  
 January 13th  
 January 27th  
 February 10th  
 February 24th  
 March 10th  
 March 24th  
 April 7th  
 April 21st  
 May 5th  
 May 19th  
 June 2nd  
 June 16th  
 June 23rd

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10/05

## WCSD Factoid:

- Becker Business was bought out by Toshiba, who now leases and maintains our copy machines. Their contract is up soon.

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**FOR SALE:** Oldtown Discovery Sport 13 ft. Canoe \$700 OBO  
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**\*Special 15% discount to WCT  
Members**

**LOOKING FOR WINTER  
WARMTH** - DCSPCA needs bedding blankets, sheets, towels, linens, etc. Located 9G & St. Andrews Road, Hyde Park. Drop-offs accepted anytime. Questions - call 452-7722.

Free-beer brewing equipment including brown glass bottles that can be capped-11 650mL. bottles and 23 400mL. bottles. My son's interest in this hobby was short-lived. Contact Sandy or Lee at 845 452-2436.

**DOO-WOP OLDIES SHOW** sponsored by the Towns of East Fishkill and Wappingers Recreation Departments. October 9th from 5 - 8 p.m. at Van Wyck JHS - featuring (former VW student) Johnny Dell & Nite Life & Cherished Memories (a cappella) singing all the great hits from the 50's and 60's. Fee: \$1.00 donation to the VW Music Department. Call 226-8395 for additional information.

**FOR SALE:** 1996 Jeep Grand Cherokee 4 WD Orvis Edition, 139,667 mi., loaded, no rust, runs good, well maintained, \$4,500. Call Cheryl or Stan - 896-7664.

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