



Pathways to Graduation



Dear Sarah,

I want to start by celebrating some great news. The proposal on a state constitutional convention was soundly defeated on Election Day. As I have expressed to you before, a constitutional convention might have endangered public-employee pensions and other cherished rights and benefits.

Six months ago, polls looked bleak but UFT members like you helped turn it around with good old-fashioned organizing work through chapter meetings; phone banks; engaging friends and family; leafleting outside schools and door-knocking; sharing Vote NO graphics and videos on social media; wearing Vote NO buttons on coats; displaying Vote NO magnets on cars; and putting Vote NO signs on our lawns and in our windows.

The Vote NO campaign demonstrated how engaged and informed union members can mobilize to protect their rights and benefits. **We are stronger when we stand united.**

In other happy news, I'm proud to share the Oct. 29 wedding photo below of my son, Murray, and my new daughter-in-law, Nicole. It was such a wonderful, joyous day and none of us cared about the terrible weather.

I'm not as happy about how the Yankees' season ended. But they went further than anyone expected — and at least Houston got a boost after the hurricane.

It was great seeing all of you on Election Day on Nov. 7 for Chancellor's Conference Day for staff development. We honored the veterans in our community on Veterans Day on Nov. 11.

November is an important month in which we celebrate our democracy by voting, recognize our veterans for their service and end the month by giving thanks for all we have. I hope you and your family have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Michael Friedman

Pathways to Graduation UFT Chapter Leader

If you need to reach me:

Home: 1-718-796-3533

Cell: 1-917-513-7872

Fax: 1-718-796-3533

Email: michaeloes@att.net



My son, Murray, and daughter-in-law, Nicole, were married in Westchester on Oct. 29.

Learning walks

The first round of learning walks is over. Although they were largely successful, some issues arose.

At the consultative council, Deputy Superintendent Robert Zweig said the district would like to hear more discussion in classes than observed during the walks. This recommendation goes back to the Chancellor's Day in September, when facilitators said the focus for the year would be reading, writing and discussion, and using the Rubicon Atlas to achieve this goal. I would like to hear your thoughts on these district priorities at both the September and November Chancellor's Days. The learning walk teams are examining the pedagogical use of the Rubicon Atlas in Pathways to Graduation classrooms.

One of the difficulties was that some of the learning walks did not have any teachers as part of the committee. In addition, the learning walk committees' reports included various teacher objectives displayed in the classroom. It's true, the teachers were not identified. However, these walks are meant to produce data from the feedback the committee gathers, and this information is not data. I believe these anonymous comments should not have been included in the reports.

I do realize that this is the first time these learning walks were done districtwide; overall the reports have been well received.

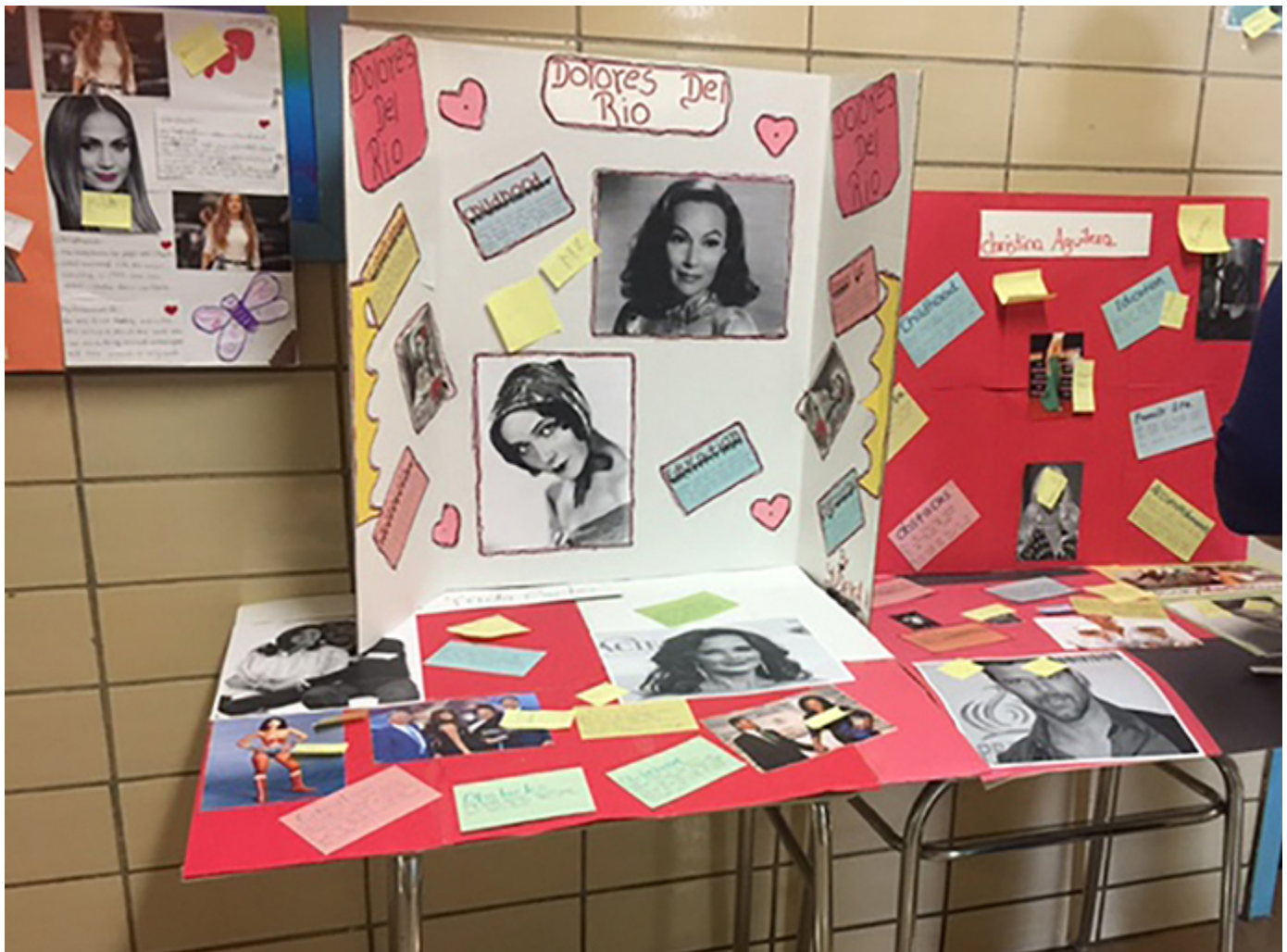
Again, I need your feedback, so email me at michaeloes@att.net. You can also be part of the professional development committee and give your ideas. It meets once a month and per session is paid for your time. If you are interested, email me. I will pass on your name to the committee chairs, Michelle Robinson and Jordan Yarwood.

Citywide Leadership Team

The Citywide Leadership Team had its first meeting of the school year on Oct. 23. We discussed the success that we had last year with the citywide field day. [The New York Teacher newspaper recognized us with a full page photo op](#). We discussed other possible citywide events such as an awards festival or boroughwide activities including chess meets or math bees. We could use a successful activity in one borough as a model for an activity in other boroughs. We need support from the whole school community to make these events a success. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact me at michaeloes@att.net.

The Bronx Hub gallery walk

The Bronx Hub's bulletins boards showcased the terrific work of our students at a gallery walk on Nov. 2, where students admired their fellow students' work. Encouragingly, the data reflects the tremendous improvements our students have made, and Superintendent Timothy Lisante highlights this progress in his weekly newsletter. While the benefits of this gallery walk cannot be quantified, this activity offers a different insight into the work we do.



The Bronx Hub gallery walk on Nov. 2 highlighted our students' personal achievements and growth.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk

We did a great job supporting research, information and services for people with breast cancer. Pathways to Graduation donated \$3,421 for this important, lifesaving cause. I am so proud of our school community's generosity.

Our team once again participated in the annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer fundraising walk on Oct. 15 by walking in Central Park. As usual, it was a great walk, and the weather was very warm, which enhanced the experience. I was also fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet many breast cancer survivors on the walk. There has been so much progress in conquering this terrible disease, which makes me hopeful for the future.

The threat to unions

As we face the biggest threat to unions we've faced in decades, we're looking for UFT members to educate their fellow members about the value of the UFT. To do that work, the UFT has begun a massive door-knocking campaign to reach every member in the city. We need your help to make it a success!

The threat comes in the form of a case the Supreme Court has agreed to hear: [Janus v. AFSCME](#). Public employees in New York do not have to belong to a union, but they do have to pay fair share fees to cover the costs unions incur negotiating contracts and providing representation. If the Supreme Court rules against AFSCME, unions may lose a lot of the funding they need to provide services to members.

We must pledge to remain union members, pay union dues and persuade our colleagues to do the same. Join me in knocking on doors after school and on weekends. I am proud to be one of the door-knockers. I visit members in their homes to educate them about this threat to unions and the value of the UFT.

If you are interested in joining us, please fill out the [online application form](#). You will receive a stipend for your efforts. The door-knocking will take place where you live or where you work. The next citywide training is the weekend of Dec. 9 at the UFT's Bronx borough office at 2500 Halsey St.

Elevating ELLs

More than 1,000 educators attended the Oct. 14 conference at UFT headquarters for educators of English language learners. The conference was organized by the UFT in collaboration with the NYC Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network at Fordham University. Conference participants selected three 90-minute workshops from among 28 choices, with the opportunity to earn 4.5 CTLE hours. The topics included aligning state learning standards to the bilingual classroom, strategies for integrating language and content, recognizing the different stages of second language acquisition and the special needs of English language learners with Individualized Education Programs. For more information about the conference, [see the New York Teacher article »](#)

Relief for Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands

Want to make a dedicated donation to disaster relief efforts in Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands? [Use this separate online form to help victims of Hurricane Maria »](#)

If you prefer to donate via check, please make your check payable to UFT Disaster Relief Fund. Mail your check to UFT Disaster Relief Fund, 52 Broadway, New York, NY 10004. These Caribbean islands need our help. I encourage you to donate to this fund.

Toy donations

The UFT, in collaboration with the Coalition for the Homeless, is asking you to donate an unwrapped, brand-new toy for children — newborn to 16 years of age. Donations can be dropped off at a [UFT borough office](#). We will accept donations until Wednesday, Dec. 6. For details, including who to contact in each borough office, see the [Share in the Season of Joy flier](#).

Delegate Assembly Resolutions

The Delegate Assembly unanimously passed three resolutions at the Oct. 18 meeting:

- 1. To fight the Trump administration’s elimination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program: I spoke strongly in favor of this resolution and shared an anecdote about one of my students to boost my argument.
- 2. To support aid to hurricane and wildfire victims.
- 3. To support the Oct. 28 New York City March for Climate Justice.

Next chapter meeting

The next chapter meeting will be after school on Thursday, Nov. 16, at the Jamaica Learning Center, 162-02 Hillside Ave. in Queens. This will be an informal meeting to discuss and exchange ideas.

October Unit Values

Diversified Equity	Stable Value	International Equity	Inflation Protection	Socially Responsive Equity
91.800	16.663	11.083	10.238	16.596