



UFT

Pathways to Graduation



Dear Sarah,

I hope you enjoyed your winter break and had plenty of time with family and friends. We began 2018 with a week of temperatures that never broke 30 degrees. One day, New York City had significantly lower temperatures than Anchorage, Alaska! Many of us got an extra day because of the snowstorm, and that helped ease us back after our holiday break. I hope you enjoyed the surprise day off. I know I did.

On Monday, Jan. 15, we commemorated the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and we

remember what he said: "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character — that is the goal of education."

We not only teach our students to pass a test, to learn English or to improve skills, but we help our students build character, the mental and moral qualities that are distinctive to an individual.

Yours in Solidarity,

Michael Friedman
Pathways to Graduation UFT Chapter Leader

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Looking for feedback on PD events

Teachers and counselors have been given extra professional development opportunities. Counselors have had districtwide events. Teachers have had PD in content areas as well as citywide events within the Pathways to Graduation program. I sit on the Pathways to Graduation professional development committee and support professional development when it is meaningful. The committee strives to see that the PD opportunities you attend provide a valuable experience. We do need feedback from those who attended, however. Counselors: Are the days helping you in your sessions with students? Teachers: Were the content days spent in lower Manhattan helpful for your lessons with students? Email me at michaeloes@att.net. If you prefer to contact me anonymously, send me a note at the Pathways to Graduation main office:

90-01 Sutphin Blvd., 2nd floor, Jamaica, NY 11435

Rubicon Atlas update

On the Rubicon Atlas, I think the staff members who worked on this did a terrific job. However, I do not believe that means teachers should be limited to the objectives included in the Rubicon. I do not believe it is possible that every objective could have been thought of by the authors of the Rubicon, such as for ELL students. A lesson's goal must always be to advance the gains of a student. In most cases, the Rubicon achieves that. But flexibility must also be valued. Discuss this with your supervisor if you feel it is warranted. Do what your supervisor directs you to do, and keep me in the loop. Also, please keep in mind that, as I wrote in the last newsletter, you can use the objectives and change the wording to suit the level of the students in your classroom.

Teacher's Choice submission deadline is Jan. 19

You have until Friday, Jan. 19, to submit your [Teacher's Choice Accountability Form](#) detailing your purchases to School Secretary Krystal Holloman at the Pathways to Graduation main office at Sutphin Boulevard. Staff who received Teacher's Choice funds and do not file an accountability form with the required receipts by the deadline must pay back the money to the Department of Education. Eligible UFT members received their Teacher's Choice allotments (\$250 for teachers and other amounts for other eligible titles) in their Nov. 30 paychecks. The City Council increased its funding for the program by 63 percent following lobbying last spring by the UFT and its members to demonstrate the impact Teacher's Choice funds have on classroom learning. For more detailed information about the Teacher's Choice program, go to the [Teacher's Choice section](#) of the UFT website.

Organizing as we await a decision in Janus v. AFSCME

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear oral arguments in Janus v. AFSCME on Feb. 26. The plaintiff, Mark Janus, a member of AFSCME Council 31, and his anti-union billionaire backers seek

to undermine how public employee unions are funded.

The Court is expected to rule against unions later this spring but we, obviously, don't know yet how far-ranging that ruling will be. The UFT is a strong union because of its members and has successfully fought for job security, teacher tenure, preparation periods, maximum teaching loads, premium-free health care and much more. Our enemies want to take all of this away from us.

At Pathways to Graduation, we will not go quietly into that good night. We have formed a membership committee to educate our colleagues as to why they should stick to the union. I want to thank those who have agreed to sit on this committee: Marjorie Stamberg from the Manhattan Hub who is also one of the UFT Teacher Delegates; Theo Figueroa from the Bronx Hub; Polly Spain from the Marcy Hub in Brooklyn; Lorraine Casesa from the Jamaica Learning Center in Queens; and Dalia Schwartz from the St. George Hub on Staten Island. All of them serve on the Consultative Council and the Safety Committee and are the Pathways to Graduation UFT Borough Representatives.

To [learn more about the Janus case](#) and its impact, read the collection of articles on the UFT website.

Join the UFT's paid parental leave campaign

UFT members spend their days nurturing children, yet the city's current parental leave policy forces members to choose between their own children and their profession.

If you haven't already done so, please join our [paid parental leave campaign](#). Together we can win this fight. It's time for the city to grant UFT members the paid parental leave they deserve. But we need your help to get it done.

The UFT has continued to try to negotiate a fair and reasonable paid parental leave policy with the city ever since Mayor Bill de Blasio in December 2015 imposed a paid parental leave program on the city's nonunion, managerial employees. That program included givebacks from the managerial employees that we won't accept for our members. We want any new parental leave policy to cover both adoption and foster care.

A UFT member, Emily James, put it eloquently at a recent union meeting: "We dedicate our lives to taking care of other people's children and we become their second mothers. And when we have our own, the system seems to have forgotten us."

We hope you'll join our fight.

Operation Agua raising funds for water filters for Puerto Rican families

Since Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico last September, most Puerto Ricans still lack access

to safe drinking water. (One third of the population – more than 1 million people – still does not have electricity.) Many are siphoning water from contaminated streams or from toxic Superfund sites. Water treatment plants are only partially operational since power fails regularly resulting in tainted tap water.

The UFT is asking for donations to the UFT Disaster Relief Fund to support Operation Agua, an AFT initiative providing Puerto Rican families with in-home water filters. A \$30 donation pays for one filter, which can process 24 liters of water per day.

If you wish to fundraise as a team at your site, you can make one donation by check once you've gathered the money. Each site or school that participates will receive an Operation Agua certificate to display. Just \$150 provides in-home purifiers for five families in need; \$5,000 pays for a disinfectant generator that processes 150,000 gallons of water per day — enough for hundreds of people in local communities.

You may make a [credit card donation](#) or send a check payable to the UFT Disaster Relief Fund and put Operation Agua in the memo line. Mail your check to UFT Disaster Relief Fund, 52 Broadway, New York, NY 10004.

Shanker Scholarship deadline is Jan. 31

Each year, the UFT Albert Shanker College Scholarship Fund awards \$1 million in scholarships to academically excellent and financially eligible New York City public high school seniors and those who pass the high school equivalency. Those selected to receive a \$5,000 scholarship must be accepted to a full-time, matriculated, degree-granting program at an accredited college or university. The application deadline for the Shanker College Scholarship is Wednesday, Jan. 31. You can get more information on the scholarship and download application materials on the [UFT Scholarship Fund page](#) of the UFT website.

Deadline for full-tuition labor studies scholarship is Feb. 20

UFT members who are interested in pursuing labor studies at the Murphy Institute of the City University of New York are invited to apply for a Diversity Scholarship to promote under-represented groups in the labor movement and in labor studies. Recipients of this scholarship will receive up to \$30,000. The application deadline is Tuesday, Feb. 20. Read the details about the [Diversity Scholarship](#) and learn more about the [Murphy Institute](#) on the CUNY website. If you have questions, please contact Laurie Kellogg at 718-440-1550 or email her at Laurie.Kellogg@cuny.edu.

Delegate Assembly Resolution

Delegates voted unanimously to oppose the tax legislation later passed by Congress and signed

into law by President Trump; the resolution said the law unfairly targets “those who need help most, including senior citizens, those who earn the least, children, the poor and the destitute.”

UFT hangs up telephone hotline

The UFT telephone hotline, (212) 777-0190, is shutting down after decades of providing information. I can remember how helpful this line was when I first became chapter leader in 1994 before the Internet. With the availability of information through websites run by the UFT, TRS, the DOE and others, as well as the ease of communication via email, the need for a telephone hotline has passed. Of course, I will still be gathering news for this chapter and sending this regular Pathways to Graduation newsletter.

Next chapter meeting

The next chapter meeting will be after school on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at the Bronx Hub, 1010 Rev James Polite Ave. This will be an informal meeting to discuss and exchange ideas.

December Unit Values

Diversified Equity	Stable Value	International Equity	Inflation Protection	Socially Responsive Equity
95.100	16.505	11.302	10.274	17.125



United Federation of Teachers
A Union of Professionals
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 (212) 777-7500 • UFT.org

sherman@uft.org is currently subscribed to the UFT email list. If you would like to stop receiving emails from the UFT, you can unsubscribe at any time.

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