

because it's the wrong time of the month?" What we would never accept from students has become the de rigueur behavior of Trumpist politics. For some, it is not just accepted, it is welcomed and applauded.

The midterm elections for the House proved the Democrats right. Those economic issues that they emphasized won them a majority. But no doubt Trump's ethical lapses and misogyny also worked for the Democrats. The numbers of women who ran for office on the Democratic Party line and won cannot be discounted for what they represent.

Some wags argue that the greatest accomplishment of the new House of Representatives could be a subpoena of Trump's tax returns. More serious commentators, including some House Democrats, have spoken about finally pushing ahead with infrastructure legislation and maybe even some immigration reform. It depends on whether Trump has the ability to be the dealmaker that he touted himself to be. It was easy to make deals with people in the same party. Deal-making as a skill really comes when you are talking with people with contrary viewpoints.

For seniors and retirees: The new House will, hopefully, stymie any talk about cutting health care and "entitlements." Do not be surprised, however, when the Republican majority in the Senate takes up those issues if only for the political point of the national deficit for the 2020 elections.

The New York Times, Oct. 28: "Mr. Trump's top economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, said in a recent

interview that the administration had to be tougher on spending and would begin to consider 'the larger entitlements' — Social Security and Medicare are the two biggest social insurance programs — 'probably next year.' "

Medicaid would be the likeliest target. Medicaid is important to retirees. Sixty-two percent of assisted living and nursing home facilities have depended on Medicaid supplements. It pays for health care after we have exhausted our Medicare and supplemental benefits, which is all too frequent.

The New York Times, Oct. 26: " ... Republicans' myriad efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act provide a guide. The bill, which ultimately failed, would have turned Medicaid, the health care program for the poor, into block grants to the states while slowly rolling back its expansion under the Affordable Care Act and squeezing overall spending on the program. This would be their easiest play, especially if the Republican majority expands in the Senate."

The Republican majority expanded in the U.S. Senate, even in Florida, with the election of Rick Scott who was the CEO of a health care company that defrauded Medicare, Medicaid and other federal programs. Sort of like putting the fox to guard the chicken coop! Hopefully, the new House will reject whatever the Senate tries to accomplish. But the enormous deficit and lawmakers' efforts to resolve it on the backs of retirees and the poor will not go away.



Retiree **Linda Friedman** was honored with a proclamation on Oct. 26 at the Jacob Schiff Manhattan school where she taught a district-wide intellectually gifted class. Some of her former students including Rapper Curtis Blow (real name Curtis Walker) were there to congratulate her.

Retirees did you know that there are **over 50 vendors** offering discounts to UFT members, you can find them on the **UFT mobile app** under Member Discounts or call UFT Member Services at **(212) 598-9512** for a list of participating vendors.



UFT RETIREE

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RETIREE



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THE UNITED FEDERATION OF TEACHERS RETIRED TEACHERS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Congress watch



Two weeks before the midterm elections of 2018, conservative opinion columnist David Brooks wrote a prescient op-ed in The New York Times which concluded:

"If you think voting behavior is primarily motivated by material appeals, the Democratic strategy is fine. But if you think it's motivated by cultural identity, a desire for respect, a sense of what's right, loyalty to a common story, the Democratic strategy leaves a lot to be desired. These days, culture is more important than economics."

Brooks decried the fact that Democrats did not grab hold of the nation's misgivings about President Donald Trump and his behaviors and attitudes but campaigned primarily on the issue of maintaining health care, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

Let's be blunt. Brooks makes a good point. Trump's ethical lapses would never have been condoned nor overlooked in any classroom in which we taught. How many of us would have consented to, "The dog ate the homework last night" and the day after, "I never said my mother threw it in the garbage," or, "You're a horse face, Mr. Smith," or, "Hey, Ms. Wilson, did you fail me

Message from UFT President Michael Mulgrew:



Dear Retiree,

I just want to say thanks — for voting and for volunteering on behalf of candidates who support our union's values and priorities.

UFT-backed candidates swept into office in yesterday's election, including Attorney General-elect Tish James, the first African-American female to hold statewide office in New York, and Democratic challengers for state Senate seats who will give that body a solid Democratic majority.

You made phone calls, you passed out leaflets, you knocked on doors, and you and your family members went to the polls. UFT members played a key role in the defeat of longtime Republican Marty Golden by Democrat Andrew Gounardes in Brooklyn, as well as in the state Senate victories of John Liu in Queens and two pro-choice, Democratic women, Monica Martinez and Anna Kaplan, both on Long Island.

Democratic victories in close congressional races in Brooklyn/Staten Island and the Hudson Valley — districts with large numbers of UFT voters — helped ensure a new Democratic majority in the U.S House of Representatives.

Public schools were often a key — and winning — issue nationally. Arizona voters turned back a state proposal that would have supercharged vouchers in that state. Two state governors who have targeted teachers unions were also defeated yesterday: Wisconsin's Scott Walker, who lost to an early childhood advocate; and Illinois' Bruce Rauner, who was an important backer of the union-busting Janus case. Public school educators played an important role in all these contests.

The expected Democratic majority in the state Senate — led by Andrea Stewart-Cousins, the first African-American female to lead either house of the Legislature — should result in initiatives important to New York City families and schools, including significant additional state aid. For years, state Senate Republicans have been dancing to the tune called by big-money charter school donors. We look forward to new and active oversight of charter schools, including which students they admit, which students they suspend, which students they force out and who benefits from the millions of dollars the charters raise in private donations.

We have many battles before us, particularly on a national level. But

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your efforts have helped build new support for New York City public schools and have positioned New York State to lead the way to a better democracy.

Thank you for all your efforts in this election and for the work you do every day.

Sincerely,

Michael Mulgrew

Michael Mulgrew
UFT President



Chaitram Aklu (left), Anne Rosen, Marvin Reiskin and Winston Silvera with New York State D-22 Senator-elect Andrew Gournardes (middle).

Photo credit: Chaitram Aklu.



The UFT and AFT joined New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy and Rep. Frank Pallone in Wall Township, Monmouth County, for IBEW 400's Labor Walk. Walks were held throughout the fall by the New Jersey State AFL-CIO and state central labor councils to show support for endorsed candidates running for office. From left, Pallone; Kay Schechter, AFTNJ chair of the Committee On Political Education (COPE); UFT retiree Joyce Magnus; Murphy; and UFT retiree Barbara Waldmann.



NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio with Ken Goodfriend (right), UFT Florida Coordinator of sections and services, and Karen and Clarence Reynolds, were in Broward County, Florida, supporting Democratic candidate Andrew Gillum for governor.



Susan Collender (left), Lynne Winderbaum, Tampa Bay Coordinator (second from left), and Stewart Cohen, Florida West Coast Coordinator, joined AFT President Randi Weingarten in Tampa campaigning for Andrew Gillum.

MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER

Thank you to those UFT retirees nationwide who raised \$10,000 for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer during the annual fundraising drive in October.



The Staten Island crocheting and knitting classes created items for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk.



RTC Chapter Leader Tom Murphy (right) and Donna Coppola, S.I. Political Action Coordinator (left) congratulate Congressman-elect Max Rose (Staten Island and parts of south Brooklyn) at his victory party.



At October's Atlanta annual meeting, **Lenora Ann Cordell** was vocal in her support for the UFT and the RTC. She told the following story: "I was a student at Central Commercial High School on 42nd Street and I used to take notes and type them up for Al Shanker and the Committee when they met to start the UFT." With the upcoming March 16 anniversary of the UFT, it's great to hear from an eye witness of the union's creation.



Nina Tribble, Nassau Section Coordinator (second from left), and Eric Metzger (second from right), with volunteers supporting Arizona U.S. Democratic candidate Sharon Girard (middle).