

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 10

RETIRES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

April 1995

ROBS NEWSLETTER DOES IT AGAIN! WINS NYSUT AWARD!

On Saturday, March 18th, ROBS Newsletter received the Award of Merit for General Excellence in Class I (membership 200 or less) of Retiree Newsletters, for the second year in a row! ROBS President Dorothy Zuckerman accepted the plaque at the NYSUT Journalism Awards Breakfast Buffet at the Rochester Convention Center where this year's RA was held. Chris Veech is Content Editor, Mary Ruffino is Production Editor. (First Award went to Cold Spring Harbor Retired Teachers Association).

In her role as president of Retiree Council 21, Dorothy also received the Award of Merit for General Excellence for the Council's Newsletter, ON TRACK, edited by Cathy Killian, a Hauppauge retiree. Chris Veech serves as Communications Coordinator for the Retiree Council. The paper won in Class IV, (membership over 1000). It was the second year for ON TRACK as well. (First Award went to UFT/RTC Retiree Newsletter). Plaques were presented at the CORTLI luncheon.

NYSUT RA REPORT: CHANGING NEW YORK

March 16-18, 1995

by Delegate Dorothy Zuckerman

It was a quiet convention. A pall was cast over the proceedings by the pervasive realization that the world as we have known it is being turned upside down. The weather in Rochester was a preview to spring, pleasant and inviting- but the political climate throughout the state and nation is as gloomy and frigid as last year's snow.

Speaker after speaker cataloged the many educational programs and services that will disappear if the proposed cuts in spending are adopted. For three days, the delegates heard predictions of gloom and doom, but always the final message was that we must stand tall together in order to weather the storm.

Ray Skuse, Director of the NYSUT Legislation Department, announced that there will be a supplementation bill for all retirees throughout the state, or there will be "an all scale war." He also said that legislation has been introduced to extend the moratorium on

retiree health insurance changes for another year. He vehemently stated, "I am 75 years old, and I have never seen it as bad as this." He charged that the Pataki agenda is being controlled by "Change New York," a group of wealthy businessmen whose ideology is focused on having all State services and programs taken out of the public sector and put in the hands of private corporations and businesses.

The projected tax cuts Pataki has proposed to give back to the corporations will raise the deficit, and this will be made up on the backs of the public school system, including drastic cuts in SUNY and CUNY, elimination of teacher centers, mentor programs, EIT money, and aid to schools, among other cuts.

This will put the future of our children in the hands of the privileged through vouchers and privatization. We must get involved!

**BROKEN
PROMISES**

HOW DID WE DO? (ACTIONS ON OUR RESOLUTIONS)

ADOPTED

SAFEGUARDING PENSION FUNDS

RESOLVED, that NYSUT continue its efforts to safeguard public employee pension funds for the exclusive use of pension payments.

ELIMINATE THE TIER SYSTEM

RESOLVED, that NYSUT make one of its major goals legislation to achieve equalization of benefits; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this legislation be aimed at equalizing all benefits at the highest level without regard to date of membership.

PENSION SUPPLEMENTATION

RESOLVED. That NYSUT continue as one its top priorities to work diligently for pension supplementation for all New York State public sector retirees.

PERMANENT COLA

RESOLVED, that NYSUT continue as one of its top priorities to seek legislation to establish a permanent COLA to all New York State public sector retirees.

RETIREE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS TO AFT CONVENTION

RESOLVED, that NYSUT seek changes in the AFT Constitution to grant to all chartered

AFT retiree councils the right to submit resolutions to the AFT Convention.

COBRA COVERAGE

RESOLVED, that NYSUT seek and support legislation which will extend retirees' COBRA rights.

NATIONAL HEALTH CARE

RESOLVED, that a mandatory system of universal health care be established.

REFERRED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HEALTH INSURANCE PROTECTION FOR RETIREES

RESOLVED, that NYSUT continue to promote and support legislation that would guarantee health insurance coverage for retirees that is at least the equivalent to that provided active employees in their respective school districts, but not less than the level of coverage enjoyed by said retirees at the time of their retirement; and be it further

RESOLVED, that such legislation continue to be given the high priority assigned it by past Representative Assemblies of NYSUT.

HEALTH INSURANCE MORATORIUM

RESOLVED, that NYSUT pursue legislation to maintain the moratorium that was established during the 1993-94 legislative ses-

sion that dealt with the maintenance of retiree health insurance.

NONCONCURRENCE

NYSUT STAFF ASSISTANCE

RESOLVED, that the NYSUT Board of Directors consider increasing significantly, the current staffing accorded the retiree office of NYSUT headquarters.

PROVIDING STAFF ASSISTANCE TO RETIREES

RESOLVED, that the NYSUT Board of Directors consider designating a staff member in each regional office to serve the needs of retiree councils and retiree chapters.

ELECTION OF RETIREE TO NYSUT BOARD

RESOLVED, that the NYSUT Board of Directors consider a constitutional amendment to provide for the election by the retiree delegates of a retiree member of the NYSUT Board of Directors, with full voting rights and privileges.



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Jack Zuckerman, Retiree Council 21

(This was written after a public hearing held by members of the State Assembly Standing Committee for the Aging held at SUNY Farmingdale on March 10, 1995 to ascertain the impact of the governor's budget recommendations).

This is not a good time to be concerned with political/legislative issues in New York State and the United States. It is with great sadness that many of us see the progress made in the 20th century being dismantled at such an alarming rate. Once again we see those who were elected to represent all the people driving with such dedication to lower the quality of life of those who can least protect themselves. It is a good time to have influence, power and money in our nation.

Certain assumptions have been made by those supporting the "Contract on America." One is that the budget must be balanced. This assumes that government must be run as a Ma and Pa store, or even as an ordinary family. No one in the modern world can live by a legally balanced budget. Could WW II have been fought and won with a balanced budget? Could you imagine Congress financing the war with a 2/3 or 3/4 vote? Do you know a family that is able to avoid debt and still possess a car and a house? Yet there are those who wish to put us on a pay as you go basis. This alone could destroy the Middle Class, if not those who haven't reached this status yet.

Scare words are being shouted at us day and night by those who should know better. WELFARE CHEATS is an example. Let's put all the people on welfare to work. In our area, if not all over, a majority of recipients are mothers with dependent children. Who will be punished if the mothers are forced to go out to work? Will there be more money for day care centers? GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY is another example of scare words. Would the TVA have been built without the US government? Power companies would not go into an area in which they could make no money. But now that the TVA is viable, these same companies want to privatize the operations. ELITIST PUBLIC BROADCASTING is another catchy phrase. This assumes that programs that deal with drama, the dance, and classical music are beyond the level of ordinary people like ourselves. Of course, if public broadcasting would allow the right wing fossils of our country the right to dictate the content and political orientation of programming, how much objection would there be?

A few years ago, Kentucky Fried Chicken, now mercifully defunct, tried to lobby its way into privatizing education. We can run the schools on a business basis and save everyone money, they said. If children could be processed like fried chicken, there could be merit in the idea.

WE ARE GOING TO GIVE THE MIDDLE CLASS A TAX BREAK. Yes, we would all like a tax break. But where will the money come from to pick up the garbage, maintain hospitals, run schools, maintain life guards at the public pools and beaches? From two places, my friends. If municipalities receive less money, guess what will happen to our property taxes? And we have yet to hear any of our financial gurus deny that the budget would be balanced by raiding our Social Security Trust Funds and placing our hard won checks in jeopardy.

It is time to launch our drive to remove the rascals from office. The NRA, the AMA, the Pro and Anti Choice groups, the Pro and Anti Environmentalists, have all boasted bumper stickers which read: "We Vote." Now it is our turn. "We Vote and We Taught You How."

It is time to remember that this is one nation which promised its citizens liberty and justice for all. Nowhere does it say that it applies only to those who can afford it.

CONTENT EDITOR: CHRIS VEECH
PRODUCTION EDITOR: MARY RUFFINO

WE WELCOME LETTERS TO THE
EDITOR: 11 Yates Ave. Commack
New York 11725



MEMBERSHIP

ROBS was formed to be an inclusive, not an exclusive, organization. We call ourselves "Retirees of Brentwood Schools" because it is our intention to join together teachers, secretaries, and clericals, in one unified group as retirees.

The ROBS Constitution and By-Laws define our intent clearly!

1. Membership shall be open to retired Brentwood employees who are eligible for membership in NYSUT. (The only body which may legally determine eligibility is the Brentwood Teachers Association).

2. A category of Membership has been created for those who were retired prior to the Secretaries/Clericals affiliation with BTA. (Through this category, all retired secretaries and clericals are eligible to become members of ROBS, and to participate in social, cultural, and educational activities. Membership in this category may not include participation in any NYSUT activity, such as voting for officers).

3. A category of Membership has been created for those secretaries whose work was defined as "Confidential Secretary." (By the nature of their work, these individuals were not permitted to belong to any bargaining unit, and were therefore automatically excluded from NYSUT membership. Membership in this category may not include participation in any NYSUT activity, such as voting for officers).

In view of the above, may this editor apologize for any exclusionary language that has, or may appear in this publication. Call me on it, please. There's a great quote I saw somewhere, and remember in spite of failing memory at times: TRYING TO BE POLITICALLY CORRECT, MEANS ALWAYS HAVING TO SAY YOU'RE SORRY!



OOPS!

DATES TO REMEMBER!



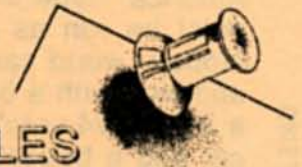
April 25th, Tues., RC 21 Meeting, Bay Shore Library, 10 A.M.

May 2, Tues., ROBS Meeting, Brentwood Library, 10 A.M. **CHANGE**

May 11, Thurs., LIRDC Conference, IBEW Hall, Motor Parkway

May 23, Tues., RC 21 Meeting, Bay Shore Library, 10 A.M.

May 31, Wed., Retiree Albany Lobby Day, Bus from NYSUT Office, 6 A.M.



RA QUOTABLES

Tom Hobart, NYSUT President: This has got to be an ongoing effort by everyone in NYSUT because, as we raise issues about spending priorities, and as our neighbors vote on school budgets, we need to make sure there is no 'us' and 'them.' NYSUT has always been a respected voice for higher standards, safer schools and meaningful education reform.

Alan Lubin, Exec. Vice President, who has been appointed co-chair of the AFL-CIO Task Force on Pensions: Legislation has already been introduced to continue the moratorium on retiree health insurance and to legislate pension supplementation; contributions to VOTE-COPE are more necessary than ever.

Thomas Sobel, NYS Commissioner of Education, who has resigned his position: (the proposed changes in government) are a recipe for educational & social disaster.

Louise Slaughter, U.S. Representative: the present times are as grim as the Dust Bowl Days. (Her hope) is that the pride and concern we've always had in our country will not allow us to let this happen.

Frank Stella, UFT: (the House of Representatives) is an organized body dedicated to the destruction of the national community.



CAMEO

by Chris Veech

This is a Cameo written with love by me for a former teacher of mine who is not a Member of ROBS. But this person affected the working lives of all of us by his work in making the climate for teachers' unions fertile for the birth of NYSUT.

CHARLES COGEN came to Bay Ridge High School in Brooklyn as Chairperson of the History Department in 1951, the year I was a senior. Since I had been instrumental in reorganizing the Book Room, I always said kiddingly that "I taught him everything he knew." Which, of course, wasn't true at all. He actually taught me so much more: about involvement during the teacher strike that year when he was head of the newly forming UFT. Some of us students got out there on the line with the teachers.

Over the years, we kept in touch. He and I went different, and yet parallel, ways of activism. His presidency of the UFT took him into controversy at the AFL-CIO convention in the '60's. And I was so proud of him.

After his retirement from teaching and the UFT presidency, he and his wife, Tess, lived in Manhattan, where he remained active at the Union offices there. In 1992, after the death of his wife, he moved down to Washington D.C. to be near his family.

Last October I received a long letter from him, the first since his Parkinson's disease had made it difficult to write. Which is really why I'm writing this. Because this remarkable man, who turned 91 on October 31st, the same day my grandson Peter turned 4, is still remarkable.

He now has someone who works with him helping with his writing, a 33 year old volunteer, Robert Jenkins, whose interests mirror his: AARP, Senior Analyst; Consumer Team; Public Policy Institute. They have been touring Washington, going to movies, plays, and concerts together.

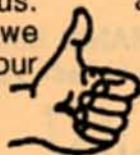
In October, **THE GEORGETOWN LETTER**, a quarterly of the retirement residence printed a column on him called: "Resident Spotlight/Charles Cogen/Teachers' Organizer," with major emphasis on his work with the AFT. It was the first time a union piece had been published in the publication. He has had much positive feedback from it.

Mr. Cogen still reads the New York Times from cover to cover, and assists the leader of The Georgetown's current events discussions. He says, "Needless to say, I am not very heartened about the course of public events, and I find especially disappointing, though not surprising, the demise of meaningful national health care reform." In contrast, he finds the news from UFT and AFT publications, much more optimistic.

Charles Cogen, teacher activist and blazer of new trails, certainly proves the axiom that life doesn't stop at retirement. We should all take a lesson from the entirety of his life. With the help of his friend he's making things happen for him, and living life to its fullest. And again, he makes me proud!

ROBS MEMBERSHIP HITS 233!

For the past three years, ROBS has tried to break the 200 member mark. One year we reached 199. But this year, 233 Brentwood Retirees have become members. We welcome you, and hope you'll get involved with us. In this politically charged time, we certainly need you, and you need your Union!



ROBS

SPRING LUNCHEON

On Tuesday, April 4th, 40 Robs members dined at Due Torre for an elegant buffet. Ruth McCalla and Harriet Pepine again did a beautiful job. Thanks. This may become an annual event!



NEWS NOTES

We were saddened to learn of the death of **STELLA NASH** of Coral Springs, Florida. She was a secretary at South Junior High School.

January 31st saw the first retiree from Brentwood for 1995. **MARIANNE E. GRUSKIN**, a Secondary Home Ec and Health teacher, celebrated by throwing a party at her home in Lloyd Neck in February for some 100 people. The very best and nicest people from Brentwood, retired and active from custodial, secretarial, clerical, teacher, and some central office people. Great party! **MARIANNE** was in Israel in March, and plans to do Europe April through the end of June. Bon Voyage and enjoy!



A little bird told me that **LEON BARSKY** visited some friends in Las Vegas during Spring Break. Actually the bird was the person he was visiting, who called me on another matter, and in chatting about people in Brentwood, she sang!

ELIZABETH CUSICK DOMENCHELLI wrote from Palm Harbor, Florida, to say thank you for being contacted to join us. She did. She began teaching in the Port Jefferson Public Schools in 1936, and retired from Brentwood in 1977. She was active in the N.Y.S.U. Teachers of Brentwood Committee, especially the Salary Committee. She married in 1978, and is well and happy in the southern climate. Nice hearing from you, **ELIZABETH!** She's in the Directory.

We had a nice thank you from **GLORIA BARBARA**, of Midlothian, Virginia, for "going out of your way" to deliver her plaque to a friend. "We both appreciate your thoughtfulness." Now if we could just hear from **EDWARD HARRIS** on his?

JOHN SHERIN is mending nicely after a fall that injured his ribs. So much for hilly driveways, icy conditions, and denial, right **JOHN?**

We received a note from **RUTH CUMMINGS** about her doings, which are considerable. In 1994, she attended the Lillehammar Winter Olympics, where she observed that "the absurd media hype over the Tanya-Nancy affair created a very unfair atmosphere in which the lady figure skaters were forced to compete; far too much nervous tension for them to endure." She also visited Stockholm, St. Petersburg and Copenhagen. Then, after doing her laundry at home, she was off to Tokyo for the World Figure Skating Championships. From there she journeyed to Hong Kong and Honolulu, putting her in 19 of the 24 time zones in 1994. March 1995 saw her in England, for the Skating Championships, Wales and through the Chunnel to Germany where she will visit her pen pal of almost 50 years. In April **RUTH** will be attending the New England Historic Society's Genealogy Conference in Salem, Ma., where her "7 greats grandfather Robert Morgan...landed in 1636." Her camp on Eagle Lake in the Adirondacks is another frequent travel stop. She offers this advice: "Who says that life has to be dull after 32 years in Kindergarten?" Well done, **RUTH!** The Travel Award is yours!

CONGRATULATIONS

MARION CARROLL and husband took a Photo Safari tour last September to Kenya and Tanzania. This March they traveled to the Panama Canal. When I spoke to her on a political call from NYSUT, they had just returned and she was out of breath, but ecstatic! They're off for a 22 day tour of the British Isles in April!

We recently learned that **LILLIAN NEWMAN'S** husband is quite ill. **LIL** retired from the Science Department at the High School last year. She'd probably enjoy hearing from colleagues now.

Smile!

MORE NEWS NOTES



ANNA and **Ed MATTAUSCH** celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary in April, and part of the celebration was at the ROBS luncheon. **ANNA** has been retired for 23 years! **CONGRATULATIONS!**

DAVID BROWN, was just named Record Reviewer for the Journal of the American Viola Society. He is also a classical music record collector. He says if anyone has any records they would like to part with, he will be only too happy to pick them up. Obviously he taught music!

As this paper went to press, we learned of the illness of one of our active teachers, **RACHEL BARR**, who was always urging us to make phone calls and lobby for BTA and Vote Cope. She is doing well after the implantation of a Pacemaker. By this time she's probably back to work! Stay well, **RACHEL!**

CORRECTION: February's News Notes reported that Sandy, **EDY FILOSA'S** son, and a Brentwood graduate was teaching in Merrick. **WRONG!** He's teaching in Wyandanch.



**LEGISLATION IN ACTION:
CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVES**

Safeguarding Retirees Health
Insurance (The Moratorium):
S (Senate) 2728 - Farley
A (Assembly) 4591 - Vitaliano

Supplemental Pension:
S (Senate) 604 - Trunzo, et al.
A (Assembly) 929 - Vitaliano



ROBS MAY MEETING ON A TUESDAY

Come to our Tuesday, May 2nd General Meeting, and learn some **TRAVEL TIPS** from our speakers. We also have good coffee and snacks, and the company is refreshing!

10 A.M. at the Brentwood Public Library in the downstairs meeting room. **NOTE THE DAY CHANGE.**

ATTENTION THOSE OVER 65



Stony Brook Hospital is looking for volunteers to participate in a study testing a new medication (a protein) that may improve muscle strength by increasing muscle mass.

Volunteers must have some muscle and/or skeletal impairment, such as difficulty walking, getting out of a chair, or fear of falling.

Transportation to and from the hospital will be provided, and participants will be paid. It is a ten week study, with six visits to Stony Brook, only two of them 3 hours. If interested, call Dr. Marie Gelato at 444-1175, or Nancy at 444- 1036.

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BITS AND PIECES

Empire Plan enrollees will see a name change in April from Metropolitan to MetraHealth, as a result of the joining of Metropolitan and Travelers.

For inquiries about the quality of Medicare-covered services you received or are receiving in a Hospital, Nursing Facility, Out-Patient Department, Home Health Agency or HMO: call Island Peer Review Organization Beneficiary Outreach Hotline, 1-800-331-PROS (7767). For Non-coverage for continued stay in hospital, call 1-800-446-2447

Look for TAPROOT notices in local papers and libraries. It is a community of older writers which is now beginning its Spring series of writing workshops. The 20 year old group brings together men and women over 60 to learn and practice the craft of writing. Over 100 selected samples of writing are published in a semi-annual Journal. Contact the Executive Director, Enid Graf, at 632-6635 for more information.

Though there is lots of bad news from Albany, the good news is that although the cost of living increases for the Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP) were canceled, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has been maintained at \$14.520M. Both programs are under the Office For the Aging (SOFA).

NYSUT RETIREE INTERACTION CONFERENCE

On Thursday, May 11th the L.I. Retiree Delegate Council is hosting a conference at the IBEW Hall in Hauppauge from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. Look for the flyer in the mail, and join us for the day. Alan Lubin, NYSUT Executive Vice President, will be the Keynote speaker. There will be five Workshops. LIRDC represents the Retiree Councils of ED 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23.



SNEAK PREVIEW AT MARCH ROBS MEETING

At the March 18th ROBS meeting, about 40 retirees gathered at the Brentwood Library to view the first retiree interview for the History Project. While the audience reminisced after the showing of the Florence Koehler film, John Sherin, chair of the Project filmed away for inclusion in upcoming interviews. Not to be out done, Jack Zuckerman, a member of the Project, filmed as well. The results will be state of the art.

Florence Koehler was presented with a copy of her film. She was a delightful subject. Suggestions for upcoming interviews are always welcome. The committee would delight in your involvement. Call John. He's in the Directory.

By this time you should all have received your ROBS Directory, listed by name, and by state. Also cartoons to keep you chuckling. Our thanks to Jack Zuckerman, Mary Ruffino, Chris Veech, and the Executive Board for help in getting it out.



UPCOMING CONFERENCES

- ☉ Coney Island Walking Tour; Saturday, June 3, 1995
Tour Coney Island and Brighton Beach, Brooklyn; \$20
 - ☉ State Park Walking Tour; Saturday, September 23, 1995
Caumsett State Park, Marshall Field Estate, LLOYD Neck, \$15
 - ☉ Lady Liberty Boat Conference; Saturday, October 14, 1995
Four hours from Manhasset/NYC & return. Lunch, open bar, \$60
 - ☉ Tour Lower Manhattan; Saturday, November 4, 1995
Lower Manhattan & Governor's Island; \$25
 - ☉ Holiday Walking Tour & Show; Saturday, December 9, 1995
Walk only, \$20. Walk & show, \$50
- NYSUT Long Island Conference: 516-266-0534, 2:30- 4:30, school days

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



HANK MULLER
WINDY GAP ARABIANS
ROUTE 2 BOX 250
MARS HILL, NC 28754

Dear Friends and Fellow Retirees,

Thought it was about time to drop a note off it being the fifth year of my retirement! After leaving Loretta Park School I moved here to the mountains of Western North Carolina. We started our herd of Arabian horses with two. At this point we are up to twelve. We have a mini-boo. Besides the twelve Arabians we have six dogs and umpteen cats. Our farm is 16 acres (and the taxes are what we paid on Long Island 40 years ago!) The pace of life here is quite different. At first it was quite a cultural shock as we are in the midst of mountain people, mostly tobacco growers. The people may not be well educated, but they are far from ignorant. Unfortunately the school system here is very poor and "not with it."

Have tried my hand at volunteer work and part time work at the Biltmore Estate in Asheville which is about 30 miles, and a continent away. Asheville is quite cosmopolitan. I edited the OA Newsletter for four years and now I am the editor of "A Lot of Bunkum", the journal of the Old Buncombe County Genealogical Society. That job combines my interests in genealogy and computers, especially desk-top publishing.

Ardelle Baer is in Franklin, NC and Sue Gunderson is not far away. We even have at least one set of parents - George and Marilyn Kell, formerly of Brentwood in Fletcher, NC. It has been great to have some visitors from Brentwood and we always look forward to more. I do hear from Gloria Barbara on occasion and correspond with several active Brentwood teachers, so I do hear what's going on. In that vein, I can say I am glad to be retired. One of the best moves I ever made was to take early retirement at 55.

Do enjoy the ROBS Newsletter and being kept posted even though I am so far away. Maybe someday I'll make one of the events or meetings.

With a warm hello to all,

Hank Muller
Loretta Park School Retiree

HEALTH REFORM: 1995 STYLE a.s.a.p., Families USA



Unwilling to support comprehensive health care reform to bring down all health care costs, Republicans are preparing to make deep cuts in Medicare and Medicaid.

Sen. Bob Packwood (R-OR), chair of the Finance Committee, has said that the two programs would have to be cut by \$250 billion over 5 years, and another \$150 billion in the two following years, to balance the federal budget.

The Republicans say these cuts will be painless, that they aren't even cuts, just reductions in future increases in spending. But, if funding doesn't keep up with inflation, it's a cut!

AARP points out that the proposed Medicare cuts would be 3 times larger than any cuts made in the program in previous budget bills. They would cost beneficiaries an average of \$575 a year, probably in the form of higher co-payments and deductibles, or increased premiums.

To those who see managed care as a panacea, the Families USA report points out that, even under the best of circumstances, it could only realize savings of \$25 billion- one third of the total savings needed. There are fears that some managed care plans may put cost-cutting concerns ahead of patient care.

Added note: Many insurance companies, it turns out, are denying coverage to women who are victims of domestic violence. Last year, Congress found that half of the largest insurers would deny coverage to a woman who had a history of being battered.

One small part of the Contract, passed by the House as part of welfare "reform," reduces eligibility for SSI, a 20 year old program that guarantees a minimal level of income for the aged, blind and disabled. Qualifying for Medicaid and food stamps is often tied to SSI eligibility.

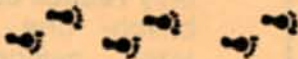


TRAGIC UPDATE

On February 14th, two of our active staff members, **Christian** and **Joan Thorpe** were the victims of a car accident on the way home from school. **Joan**, an English teacher at East Middle School, was killed, and **Chris**, a Guidance Counselor at Ross High School, seriously injured. After a Rehabilitation Program, he is now home. Both had attended the Ready Or Not class this past Fall, and were planning for their future retirement. A Memorial Service is planned for **Joan** in April. Our thoughts are with **Chris** as he mends, and deals with his profound loss.

From: a POEM DEDICATED TO JOAN THORPE
by Kimberly Marrero, a former student

Like a comet blazing
Across the evening sky
You faded from our eyes
In just seconds
But you remain in our hearts...



FLOYD ESTATE TOUR GUIDE OPPORTUNITY

Guides are needed for Summer and Fall. Call Kathy Gilliam, volunteer coordinator, or Richard Stavdal, Fire Island National Seashore District Ranger at 399-2030.

SUPPLEMENTATION STILL HOT !

Mathew J. Shebar, Director of NYS and Local Retirement Systems for Comptroller Carl McCall's Office was the Keynote speaker at the March 30th CORTLI Luncheon at LaGrange.

Shebar strongly outlined the Comptroller's support of holding the line on Governor Pataki's attempts to raid the Pension Fund to the tune of 230 million dollars to balance his budget.

The line has been drawn. Government has no right to take from our Pension Fund. **"Should the budget pass in its present form, there will be litigation,"** Shebar stated.

RETIREES OF BRENTWOOD
SCHOOLS
c/o Zuckerman
8 Woody Lane
Oakdale, N.Y. 11769



NOTE DATE CHANGE

**NEXT ROBS GENERAL MEETING:
TUESDAY, MAY 2, "TRAVEL TIPS"
BRENTWOOD LIBRARY, 10 A.M.**

