

ROBS NewsLetter



NUMBER 28

RETIRES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

NOVEMBER 1998

PROJECT HOPE GEARS UP AGAIN

It seems as if we just celebrated the new year, but here we are with Thanksgiving creeping up on the heels of Halloween. And after that, there's that buying frenzy time of year again, with 1999 breathing heavily in the wings!

The ROBS Community Liaison Committee doesn't let any dust settle, however, and they are accepting volunteers for tutoring children in the Brentwood Schools as well as at the Suburban Housing office in Bay Shore. A committed, caring volunteer can mean so much to a child who just needs an added push to do a little better in school; and a whole lot better in life. (see questionnaire below). At the November ROBS meeting at the Islip Library, the membership voted for the 3rd year to adopt a homeless family for Thanksgiving, and again, to provide some holiday cheer in the form of holiday gifts for the same needy family, two adults, four children and one grandchild. If you would like to contribute - time or money - contact Frank or Vern Spencer at 253-0355. Checks should be made out to ROBS: Project Hope.

Getting involved is very rewarding. Think of helping us wrap presents, or delivering food and gifts. It will make the holidays much more meaningful!

FOR ROBS IT'S A BANNER YEAR

Lilian Masten, an art teacher who retired from South West in 1995, has designed a banner for ROBS. With its message: STILL SERVING, and its alumni owl logo, it will accompany Brentwood Retirees to meetings, on union marches, at volunteer opportunities, and parades. I'm sure we'll come up with many more creative uses for this attractive addition to our after-teaching lives.

Frank Spencer did all the leg work in getting the banner executed. Done in school colors of green and white, it makes you want to create a homecoming parade. Thanks for the good work!



ROBS to offer HOPE

PROJECT HOPE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. NAME: _____
2. ADDRESS: _____
3. PHONE: _____
4. I WISH TO VOLUNTEER WITHIN:
 BRENTWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT CLASSROOM (MON. - FRI. 9:00 - 3:00)
 SUBURBAN SHELTER EDUCATION CENTER (MON.-THURS.: 4:00 - 6:00)
(THURS. - 10:00 - 12:00)
 BOTH
5. I AM AVAILABLE TO VOLUNTEER:
 2 HOURS PER WEEK
 2 HOURS PER MONTH
 OTHER (LIST AVAILABILITY) _____
6. MY TALENTS AND INTEREST ARE:
 ART
 TUTORIAL - READING, MATH, ECT.
 COMPUTER
 MUSIC
 MOTIVATIONAL
 ESL / BILINGUAL
 SPECIAL EDUCATION
 SPECIAL PROJECTS (CLOTHING, SCHOOL SUPPLIES, ECT.)
 OTHER

PLEASE SEND QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE ATTENTION OF:
FRANK SPENCER ROBS COMMUNITY LIAISON
3 NOTTINGHAM DR.
WHEATLY HEIGHTS, NY 11798

ARE YOU A GIFT TO SOCIETY?



A recent survey asked "Do you consider older people to be a burden or a gift to society?" As reported in *American Demographics* magazine, the survey was conducted in May by the online researcher Cyberdialogue, based in New York City. Surprisingly, in this youth culture go-go society and with all the talk of a generation gap, the response indicated that 81% viewed older people to be more of a gift than a burden. Respondents were also asked to describe "what you think 'retirement' would be like?" To that question 52% said it would be "fun", 29% said they had no idea what to expect, while 8% thought it would be "boring" and 11% expected "a health nightmare."

Well, what do you think? Are you a gift or a burden? Now that you are retired - some of you for just a few months and others for several years - how did your expectations match up with the reality? Is retirement all the fun and games you looked forward to or has it turned into a tiresome, uneventful non-happening? Have you found new and exciting ventures to pursue or has the lack of a schedule left you unsettled and unmotivated?

Send me your reactions. Share your experiences with me so that we can do our own survey of life after Brentwood! You can e-mail your message to me at "dotzee@juno.com" or send a note to me at 8 Woody Lane, Oakdale, NY 11769-1515. It will be great fun to hear from folks I haven't seen in a long time, as well as those of you who attend our meetings regularly.

In Unity,

Dot Zuckerman

CONGRATULATIONS **to our 1998 Retiree**

Claudette Benjamin

... and Welcome to ROBS!

WANTED

Drivers for some of our members who can't drive. They'd like to come to meetings and socials. Let us know, especially if you're from the Ridge area! 567-3866 or 499-1680.

ROBS NEWSLETTER STAFF

CONTENT EDITOR: Christin Veech
PRODUCTION: Don Kubicko
Mary Ruffino

ROBS OFFICERS

PRES. - Dorothy Zuckerman
V.PRES. - Harriet Pepine
SEC'Y. - Lynn Prass
TREAS. - Lillian Kelly

The M-T Corner

"Our duty is clear here. We must understand love; we must be able to teach it, to create it, to predict it, or else the world is lost to hostility and to suspicion."

Motivation and Personality
Abraham H. Maslow
1970



THREE NEW RETIREES ON BOARD

Rosalie Semente, Irene Spano and Walter Karp were elected as at-large delegates to the ROBS Executive Board at the October General Meeting. They were warmly welcomed at the October 22nd Executive Board Meeting.



ROBS HOLIDAY NOSH

On December 2nd 10A.M., at the Islip Public Library, we again usher in the holidays with a little NOSH. Everyone is welcome, but if you are coming, please let Lilian Kelly know by Monday, Nov. 23 so we can order the right amount of food. Her number is 799-4074. Cost is \$3. Join us!

OPEN TO SPOUSES AND FRIENDS

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership drive starts in September and continues until year's end. Last year ROBS had over 300 members. They wanted to continue their association with their in-service colleagues and be part of an organization which would represent them in their state and national organizations (NYSUT & AFT), in Albany when the legislative process was in progress, and be a clearing house for requests for help, advice, and information.

This year 175 people responded to the first membership request, an all time high. We take this as a vote of confidence.

If you have not as yet joined us, fill out the membership form on page 7 and mail now!

Jack Zuckerman

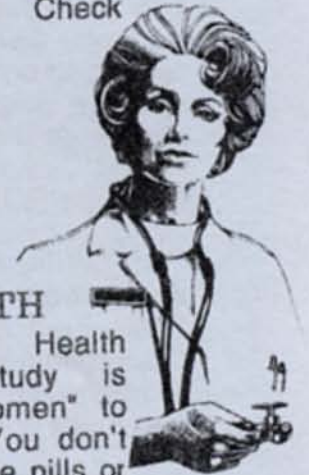


ROBS BULLETIN BOARD STARTS UP

What if you could post messages on a bulletin board for ROBS members as if it were a faculty room? You could let everyone know you have a car for sale, are ready to sublease your home, or moving to Virginia. You might find an ongoing discussion about HMOs and want to add your 2¢. Now the bulletin board is available to you on line at no extra cost.

First tell Jack Zuckerman (bookworm@li.net) you want to join up and send your E-mail address. He will send you the address (URL) of the home page for the bulletin board. Any problems call Jack at 516-567-3866, his E-mail, or the message board.

If you have already received an invitation, jump right in. Check messages at least weekly.



WOMEN'S HEALTH

The National Women's Health Initiative Observational Study is looking for a "few good women" to participate at Stony Brook. You don't have to change your diet take pills or change your lifestyle! Only 2 visits to Stony Brook Clinic, one now and another in 3 years for a non-invasive check up. Yearly follow-up is by mail.

Minority women between 50-79 are especially needed and should call & leave a message at 516-444-3905. All others call 516-444-8280. Please respond before December 31st.

NEWS NOTES



We just heard that June '98 retiree **Phyllis Goodwin** lost her husband Fred on September 9th. Our deepest sympathies, **Phyllis**.

Former assistant principal under **Fred Weaver**, and acting principal of South East, 91 year old **Beryl Nott** has been seriously ill. She is now living with her daughter at 10208 -A, Quilla Dr., Lakeside, CA. 92040. Drop her a note.

Joyce Shapiro reports from Florida that after 3 1/2 months in a wheelchair as the result of a staph infection after having a bunion removed, she is doing much better. She shares her E-mail with **Fran** and **Joe Graf**.

Glad to hear **Bill Mullady** has recuperated nicely from shoulder surgery. Watch that heavy lifting, **Bill!** And **Ruth McCalla** is doing nicely after cataract surgery.

Tony DeMarco is home after a serious car crash. Get well!

Happy news! **Elmon Kazandjian** and husband George became grandparents for the second time in April. Daughter Kristine presented them with Julia Ruth on April 30th! Congrats!



Miriam Friedman of Boca Raton reports she and hubby have been doing a good deal of traveling inside the old 48. All the Florida people keep saying they are looking forward to another reunion luncheon with fellow ROBS people. They appreciate all our efforts on their behalf.

And out of Wellington, Florida comes news from **Bernie Heller**, who retired as guidance counselor in Ross in 1990. For health reasons, his activity is limited. But nothing to do is not his problem. Besides the racetrack, cards and reading, he and his wife are doing a lot of cruising. Alaska and two West Indies trips in '97, and this December it's Indonesia and Australia. In April '99 the Panama Canal Transit awaits, and in July it's a Scandinavian/St. Petersburg cruise! Great, Bernie; and glad you enjoy the ROBS Newsletter! Stay well and obviously active!

Tom Smith, a 30 year teacher at South East Elementary getting close to "grazing" time, wrote to fill us in on his mom, **Betty Smith**, who retired after 40 years from South East and East. She is raising a grandson and dividing her time between her Uniondale and Yaphank homes. She has fully recovered from a recent operation, and is wondering about her colleagues who taught with her under Mr.(s) Mitchell, Harney and Black?? Her phone #'s are: 924-1851 and 481-3418.

Ann Mattausch is very happy about her supplementation since she retired from pounding the typewriter at Brentwood H.S. in 1972. She'd like to be 20 years younger so she could help out more, but she's doing well in Riverhead! And the handwriting is just fine, Ann!

CONGRATULATIONS

Our retired artists are very prolific. **Grace Fishenfeld** is working on a 2 person art show for June '99 at the Great Neck Center for the Arts. She says it was a "reward for a National Art Competition judged by ART NEWS" in which she won 1st prize!

Roland Horne, (**Roy**) who retired from Ross, and lives in Hicksville, still does various concert series with wife Flo, as well as volunteer computer work for the L.I. Coalition



for a National Health Plan. Then there's 5 grandchildren, working with son Andrew's swimming pool business, travel and theatre. Sounds like a full life to me!

Milt Gersh, a North Junior High music teacher visited the **Horne's** for 2 weeks last spring. He lives in Sarasota, subs locally and spends summers in Europe following and playing the senior tennis circuit.... Not too shabby!

And **Roy** and **Flo** saw **Ed** and **Marian Robles** in San Diego last winter. **Ed** looks great, is working out and claims to be pressing his own body weight. **Roy** says that's a miracle of sorts.

Tom McDonough sends his hello's to all and would love to hear from folks. He has an E-mail address: TMeval1253@aol.com. He's in the Daytona area.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN



Rich Edwards, who retired from the English Department of the high school this past June, will be submitting occasional pieces for the Newsletter. This is the introduction for the series....

I am writing you from **Jim Watson's** place in Maine, an early stop on my cross country tour. I started on September 1st in Gettysburg with a tour of the battlefields (and a side trip to York, Pa. to visit the Harley-Davidson factory). Next I went to Harrisburg, Pa. for a 4 day course on maintaining your recreational vehicle. Then it was up to Maine.

You see, I am touring the country in an RV, towing my motorcycle behind in an enclosed trailer. I feel that the best way to see this country is on the seat of a motorcycle. So my plan is to go to our nation's beautiful and interesting spots, park the RV for a week, and tour on the motorcycle. It's working well so far. It's a bit scary since the RV is my only home. I gave up my condo at the end of August and will be on the road for at least one year, probably two.

(By September 29th, Rich was on his way to a golf outing at Mountain Manor, near the Delaware Water Gap where a group of Brentwood teachers, administrators and retirees met. Then it was on to Virginia Beach, and south to Florida and to Louisiana for Thanksgiving with his brother. After that it's Texas until December 15th and home for Christmas with his new granddaughter. But after that he heads back to Texas to begin his tour of the southwest and Baja, Mexico. We're looking forward to his descriptions of people and places).

MEET THE TEACHERS ON VIDEO

At the November 4 ROBS general meeting, **John Sherin** presented 30 hours of interviews of 18 of "us," in an hour video. It was a Herculean task, and wonderful. We remembered farm life, the suburban black experience, immigrant memories, civil war ancestors, moving to the white suburbs of Long Island in the '50's, radio programs, and being a student in Brentwood and becoming a teacher because of a teacher.

There is such a wealth of experience among us that the History Project is tapping so well. Thanks to John, and thanks to us, too!

The M-T Corner

"Nothing in life
is ever finished;
it is only
interrupted."

George T. Lock Land
"Grow or Die"
1973



Thanksgiving

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Hi Dot!

Greetings from sunny & hot Florida. I love it! The Disney thing is going great and I'm really enjoying my boat and leisure time! Thank you for all your help and encouragement. It made a BIG difference in my transition. Hi to everyone, especially Lil Kelly. Thank her for all her valuable advice.

Dean DePoy

Dot & Jack-

Thanks so much for all your work & for caring so much about all us retirees. Every time I get a newsletter I feel I am still part of a large family of old friends. None of this would be possible without your energy and true dedication to helping others.

Betty Cascone, Boca Raton

It is always a pleasure to receive the ROBS Newsletter. Give my best to the retirees. I miss those monthly meetings.

Phyllis Ramjattansingh, Brooksville, Fl.

I didn't feel old until I read "Bits & Pieces," low cost funerals & caskets. (September 1998).

Ed O'Neill, Yardley, Pa.

In March I was in Sicily for a week.... One of the real advantages of living in a small state is the close relationship you have with the "powers that be." I enjoy going to the State House and following a bill and knowing I had input into the law. I also know enough to only concern myself about things that are important to women, elders and children - let the men fight their own battles.... My issues have narrowed: health issues and housing. Because we are a small state and we do have a large consumer protection group that works together, we have some laws on the books that are copied by other states. The one we passed this year is a Consumer Protection in Health Care - somewhere to turn when nothing seems to be working with the hospital, doctors, Insurance Companies -.

So we grow old and find out what it means. One thing it means - keep up the good work because maybe no one else will do it.

Marion Gray, Montpelier, Vt.

(Ed.'s note: Montpelier is the capitol of Vermont, a gracious state that boasts Sen. Patrick Leahy and Congressman Bernie Sanders, and where I have a house too)!

HURRY, HURRY!

FOR ONLY \$2195 YOU CAN JOIN US ON A TOUR TO THE LANDS OF THE VIKINGS, HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSON AND HAMLET - a 14 day tour of Scandinavian Heritage - from September 23, 1999 through October 6, 1999. Optional excursions are available and an extended 3 night stay in St. Petersburg for an additional \$545. CALL DOT AND JACK AT 516-547-3866. The trip is filling up rapidly!

It's fun to travel with folks you know!



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no comment

**WHAT HAPPENS IN WASHINGTON AND ALBANY AFFECTS US ALL!
WHEREVER WE LIVE, WHATEVER WE'RE DOING NOW!**

Social Security is under attack by the financial leaders of our nation. They want to put the surplus of Social Security into the stock market. Bills in both Houses of Congress, if passed, will erode our benefits further. Who will protect us? Only by collective action can we have any hope of turning things around. Now is not the time to stand idly by.

GET ON OUR MAILING LIST! JOIN US NOW!

Please check:

1. I am enclosing \$10 for my 1998-1999 ROBS dues.*
 I am 75 or older. (Please return this form so that we include you as a member.)
 I am enclosing a separate check for \$_____ made out to NYSUT VOTE-COPE to support legislative efforts made on my behalf. (Include SS# on the check)

See other side for information:

2. Name: _____

3. Address: _____

4. Phone #: _____ Fax # _____ E-mail _____

5. Building you retired from: _____

Year of retirement: _____

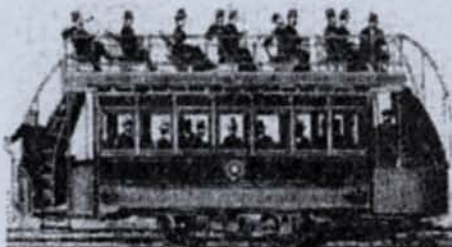
Please remember that if you do not want to be in the Directory no information about you will appear. **But do fill out the form because then we will be able to contact you should the need arise.** We also will be able to verify NYSUT records as well.

I do not wish to be in the Directory.

Mail to: Jack Zuckerman
8 Woody Lane
Oakdale, NY 11769-1515



We Want You Now!



**STILL TIME
TO CLIMB
ON BOARD**

1. *ROBS retains \$5 and forwards \$5 to our NYSUT Retiree Council which represents us at the NYSUT Representative Assembly, AFT Convention, conferences and other activities. Should you belong to another Council (TRIF), send only the \$5 ROBS portion of the dues. The other Council will handle its own.

REMEMBER!!! As a ROBS member benefit, if you are 75 and over you do not have to pay any dues.

2. If your name has changed since you retired please indicate current and previous name.

3. Please print your name and address clearly. We want you to receive your ROBS mail. If you know your nine digit ZIP code please enter it.

If you want more than one address listed in the Directory please give both addresses. Write the addresses clearly with the ZIP codes included. If you travel from one home to another during the year, give the dates you will be in each. (October to March, for example). Don't forget phone numbers!

4. Remember, if your phone is unlisted but you want ROBS members to have it, this will be indicated in the Directory. If you wish, you may omit it altogether. This is also true for E-mail and fax information.

5. If you wish, you might use the building you are most associated with. If you have been in a dozen buildings during your career, please try to limit yourself to two buildings. You may use "District-wide".

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

NON-PROFIT ORGAN.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 355
BAY SHORE, N.Y. 11706



Wednesday

December 2, 1998

A HOLIDAY NOSH

