

ROBS NewsLetter

NUMBER 29

RETIRES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

FEBRUARY 1999

WE'VE GOT A NEW LOOK FOR THE NEW YEAR

ROBS has a new publisher! NYSUT has taken over our publishing needs. Up to this point, BTA has been doing our production, and we extend our thank you to the BTA staff, Rose and Kathy, for all their good work. Wish us well!

PROJECT HOPE ENDS '98 ON HIGH NOTE!

Community Liaison Chairperson Frank Spencer is proud of the fact that ROBS has enlarged its giving and involvement in the Project Hope project. ROBS adopted one family for Thanksgiving, and two for Christmas, and spent over \$1000 on the homeless families. ROBS made 15 children and 3 adults very happy.

Vern Spencer shopped for the Thanksgiving family, and the Sustrin twins donated a turkey and other goodies. Frank and Vern shopped for one family for Christmas, and Letty and Sheila Sustrin shopped for our other family. It was amazing how far the dollars, all collected at ROBS meeting, were stretched..

Working like Santa's elves, Harriet Pepine, Ruth McCalla, Bob and Shirley Walker Lloyd, and the Spencers wrapped and sorted gifts on December 22nd in preparation for Frank's delivery on December 23rd. (See Letters to the Editor).

On the educational front - we are retired teachers after all - the Community Liaison Committee reports that our Tutorial and Mentoring Assistance Program is going well. Tom and Barbara O'Connor, as well as Frank Spencer, are volunteering at Southwest Elementary. Ruth McCalla at Northeast, Vern Spencer at Hemlock Park, Shirley Walker Lloyd at Pine Park, and Beverly Fischer at Suburban Children Inc.

The Liaison Committee wishes to thank all for their support, with very special thanks to the Sustrin twins. To volunteer, call Frank at 253-0355.

JANUARY ROBS BREAKFAST

Some 50 people crowded into the Forum Diner in Bay Shore on January 6, 1999 to welcome the New Year with yet another Breakfast Get-Together. Florence Kohler made it all the way from Ridge with Addie Lee.

There were new retirees, and those who have been around awhile. And our erstwhile president fresh from eye

surgery and doing extremely well.

The conversations were lively, the laughter infectious, apropos to DC events: "Impeach the Reprehensibles," or a new Grand Old Party name - "Repulsicans."

(And from the newly issued Ambrose Bierce 1906 Devil's Dictionary: Senate, a body of elderly gentlemen charged with high duties & misdemeanors).

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It's important to stay informed. We'll continue to keep you in touch with the latest happenings.

In Unity, Dot Zuckerman

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NEWS NOTES



As we went to press, we received the sad news that **Beryl Nott**, 91, passed away on January 23rd. She fell and broke her hip the day after Christmas, and was in a rehab center after surgery. **Beryl** was a teacher, then an assistant to the principal, and finally principal in Brentwood before retiring in the 1980s. She lived in Liesure Villiage in Ridge. She will be cremated, and interred in the Brentwood cemetery with her husband sometime in the spring. Cards can be sent to her daughter & family: Al & Erma Jean Becker, 10208A Quilla Dr., Lakeside, CA 92040. **Beryl** was pleased about our Newsletter wishing her well on her move to California last year. Her family wanted her many friends to know about her death.

We were also saddened to hear of the following deaths: Art Freed's wife Marlene passed away in November. His address is 69 Sycamore Circle, Stony Brook 11790; **Joyce Rosenberg's** sister Norma died suddenly also in November; Chuck O'Neil, 55, brother of **Beverly Carpenter** in November; and **Edna Schettini** in the spring of 1998. Our thoughts are with the families.

Gloria Miller, who retired from Sonderling Guidance, is ill. Hang in there, **Gloria!**

And on the proud grandparent front, grandma **Jeanne Bader** is bragging to anyone who will listen about Marla Rose Bader born to Warren & Julie on April 20, 1998. They live in Atlantic City. And **Bob & Sue Wiener** have sent colored announcements via e-mail to any and everyone that they are going to be grandparents **IN JUNE!**



And now we are pleased to announce a **WEDDING!** **Lynn Evans Mand**, who retired from Hemlock Pines in 1989, resumed her singing career with the Chordettes (Gold recordings of "Mr. Sandman" & Lollipop") for five years and then really retired to Elyria, Ohio. There she met retired Episcopal Rector, the Rev. Jack Mand, and they were married on Thanksgiving 1997! Not only that, but she's still singing in the choir, cutting demos for angels to hear for a new Broadway type musical based on the life of Jackie Kennedy, and seriously wondering how she ever had time to work. Sends her regards to all.

Retirement continues to mean renewal to **Ellie Steffen** in Woodstock. She's working on her goal to be a medical advisor and advocate for people with Lou Gehrig disease. She's studying biology, still painting, drumming, tai-chi, daughter & grandson and her first dog! She says these things "make this the best time of my life ever!"

And **Florence Briggs**, secretary at East 10th grade center, surfaced from the warm in Fairfield Harbor, NC, where she and Larry moved when they retired in 1991. The New Yorkers in their development are mainly from West Islip. They even have a 516 Club! Larry's shooting clay pigeons and volunteering at the regional hospital. **Florence** is in the Ladies Investment Club, the Yacht Club and a dozen others. Their house is on the waterway and their boat is at their own dock. Sounds pretty nifty!

Marty Ross, Special Ed at Sonderling, lives in Florida, has 3 grandchildren with 2 on the way. He says: "What fun it is to love them, spoil them and give them back to their parents." He also can't believe how fast the time goes. (Because you're having fun!) ed.

Lil Masten is exhibiting her art work in the Gallery on Main Street in Sayville, as is **Rick Mundy**. Lil became a partner in Bellport Lane Gallery in Bellport in January.

CONGRATULATIONS



ON THE ROAD AGAIN

by Rich Edwards '98 retiree from the high school, touring the U.S. by RV/motorcycle
(edited with permission of author)



It was Jekyll Island Ga. beginning of November and it's going on my list for places to spend winters. Good golf, no commercial development, beautiful beaches. Had dinner in Jacksonville, Florida, with Dineen Pashoukos, a former Brentwood High newspaper editor and now a lawyer. Stopped at World Golf Hall of Fame in St. Augustine. Enjoyed traveling along Rt. 98 on the Florida Panhandle. Visited Apalachicola, a beautiful, historic town filled with colonial era buildings with shrimp boats docked on the shore. **NOTE:** If you ever get a chance to go to Panama City -**SKIP IT!** It's just like Hempstead Turnpike.

Spent Thanksgiving in Louisiana, the place where they fry turkey! New Orleans was spectacular, especially the street musicians. Interesting to visit a place that is 6 feet below sea level!

Eunice, Louisiana is in the heart of Cajun Country and the location of the unique Jean LaFitte National Historical Park and Preserve, built on one square block in the small town of Eunice. On one side is the museum and kitchen. That's right, kitchen. I arrived in time to watch the preparation of sausage and chicken gumbo, then sample it. Next to the museum is the Liberty Theater, a restored movie house built in 1927. Every Saturday night it's the home of a NPR live broadcast of Cajun music. A \$3 admission charge offered two groups, one slow and mellow and the other outrageously alive and joyous. During the show, the mayor, dressed in a canary yellow sports jacket, visited everyone in the audience with a friendly greeting. The M.C. sprinkled corn meal on the floor in front of the stage so couples could dance. He narrated in both French and English and my brother, a French teacher, translated for me. I ended this wonderful night with a catfish dinner at Joni's Cajun Connection Restaurant. Delicious.

Livingston, Texas is the home of the Escapees RV Club, about 50 miles north of Houston in country similar to Long Island --- pine trees, oaks, fairly flat. Played golf here in early December (\$10 for all day) and was invited for lunch to the home of a retired Texas oil executive. He was admiring my motorcycle and wanted to show it to his wife (the "little wife" he called her). She made soybean burgers, strange food for cattle country, but remarkably tasty. I played golf with him the next day. (To LI for Xmas).

January 12 back on the road. I took a tour of San Antonio. It began with a drive around the city (the Alamodome, etc.), then on to the IMax theatre to see an outrageous production of the Alamo. Then a boat tour of the Riverwalk. The San Antonio River weaves through the city and the banks of the river are filled with shops and restaurants. Very beautifully landscaped. Quite a ride! After a Mexican lunch we went to the Alamo, located in the center of the city, and to the other Mission churches around the city, all built in the 1700's. **IMPRESSIVE CITY!**

January 15: The first I ever heard of Del Rio, Texas was on the "Imus in the Morning" radio show. One of the characters Imus created, Rev. Billy Sol Hargus, would call in with a sermon from Del Rio. "Take your hands off the wheel and put them on the radio and pray with me!" he would say. Now that I'm in Del Rio, some of the magic is gone. It is, however, an interesting place. A short walk over the International Bridge brought me to Ciudad Acuna, Mexico. (Better Mexican food in San Antonio). I wandered the streets to buy a pair of boots, but most of the good shoe stores were closed for siesta. I walked back to Texas where I motorcycled over to the Amistad National Recreation Area. Central feature here is a huge man-made lake created by the Amistad Dam which stretches 22 miles from the U.S. to Mexico and delays the waters of the Rio Grande. The water and electricity are shared by both countries. The ride over the dam was my bike's first trip out of the country.

(Only 60° here today but that was OK after seeing N.Y.'s snow and ice storm on TV).





NEXT ROBS MEETING

WEDNESDAY
March 3, 1999
10 A.M.

ISLIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

BESIDES REFRESHMENTS AND UPDATES ON BUSINESS THAT CONCERNS US RETIREES, AT THIS MEETING WE ARE

CALLING ALL COLLECTORS & HOBBYISTS

We've already got folks who have agreed to share their sewing, art work, decoupage, and collectibles. If you would like to share something you are doing with the rest of us, CALL RUTH McCALLA at 234-8013.

OPEN TO SPOUSES AND FRIENDS

Also: Mark your calendars for the rest of this "semester"

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7 LONG TERM CARE -Henry Montag

WEDNESDAY, May 5

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2 - Luncheon at the Bonwit Inn



A modest proposal: Next time they have an impeachment, it should be on "Judge Judy." That way there could be a trial, and it would be over in a half hour.
Marvin Kitman, NEWSDAY

LOOKING BACK

by June Shear Farbman (Hemlock Park , 1985)

It was 1958 and the Brentwood Public School District was on the brink of enormous change. Its school population was expanding rapidly and new schools had to be built to accommodate the onrush. New teachers had to be hired, new curricula had to be set in place, and cohesion had to occur. The baby boomers were ready for school and Brentwood, like all suburban communities, was beginning to feel the urgency to expand.

I was one of those teachers hired. I came out of the Masters Program called ITTP (Intensive Teacher Training Program) which was devised by the state to train and certify teachers quickly but completely. Many of the women in the program were parents of baby boomers themselves. Many of the men had already had careers but

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