

ROB NewsLetter



NUMBER 30

RETIREES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

APRIL 1999

SOCIAL SECURITY: AGAIN

At the February AFT executive council meeting, David Smith, director of public policy for the AFL-CIO said that as Social Security approaches its 65th birthday, it is in the fight of its life.

Critics who want to privatize and change it from a defined-benefit program to a defined-contribution program have "done a good job" of convincing Americans that Social Security is unsustainable and that individuals "could do better in the stock market," Smith said. But in fact, the problems can be fixed and don't need the drastic measures that some are advocating.

Reducing the projected shortfall of 2.2% over the next 75 year period by using 62% of budget surplus from general revenue and capping wages subject to payroll tax, as well as the president's proposed Universal Savings Accounts are some of the plans under consideration by Congress.

AFT president Sandra Feldman chairs the AFL-CIO executive council's social policy committee, which plays a key role in shaping organized labor's position in the Social Security debate. State and local AFT leaders, including our president, Dorothy Zuckerman, are being trained to conduct presentations to union members and community groups. For more information about materials, the AFT training program or Social Security training programs in your area, contact AFT coordinator Rich Klimmer at rklimmer@aft.org or phone 202-393-6323. adapted from AFT ACTION, 2/99

COALITION FOR TITLE I REAUTHORIZATION

The AFT and 13 other major religious and education organizations, facilitated through the Center On Educational Policy, have joined forces to support congressional reauthorization of Title I of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and to work against the inclusion of vouchers and block grants in the program. At a February 3rd press conference they urged remaining faithful to the original purpose of Title I: to provide educational assistance to poor children regardless of the kind of school they attend. Under the act, most of the funding goes to schools and districts serving the highest concentration of poor children.

"Title I has leveled the educational playing field for poor kids across the

country, and we must ensure that those funds continue to go where they are most needed," said AFT president Sandra Feldman. "Vouchers for a few would come at the expense of the many...and block grants have usually meant that poor children get blocked out," she added. For more details, visit the AFT Web site at www.aft.org.

AFT ACTION

PROJECT HOPE TUTORING POOL

Project Hope, which has a tutoring program in the Brentwood schools, is now looking to form a "tutoring pool," for those students who need short-term tutoring. This kind of schedule would fit nicely with those of our members who have only small blocks of time available because they are busy, travel or relocate for the winter.

Right now we have need of a math tutor for a 5th grader who is the grandchild of one of our members. Call Frank Spencer, 253-0355.

We Want *Real* Managed Care Consumer Protections

Now that the impeachment mania is over, the debate on health care is coming to the boil. You can brace yourself for all the propaganda aimed at persuading you of the righteousness of the HMO cause. The bottom line in every instance must be - how does it benefit us? The HMO industry and the Breaux-Thomas privatization plan for Medicare are aimed at undermining and destroying the traditional guaranteed Medicare coverage we have known all these years.

Last year, the HMO industry was successful in blocking managed care reform. Once again another watered down version of a Patients' Bill of Rights has been brought before Congress - introduced by the Republican leadership and heavily supported and lobbied by the HMO industry.

For years the HMO's claimed they would be more efficient and less costly than traditional Medicare. But now that the 1997 budget law reduced the percentage of payments paid by the government to the HMO's and enacted other reductions in payments, the industry is mounting a campaign to scare seniors by claiming that reduced government payments could cause them to scale back benefits or to drop out of Medicare entirely. They want to bite all sides of the apple - reduce their benefits, control who they will serve or not, but still raise their reimbursement rates from the government.

Many groups are showing their support for the *real* Patient's Bill of Rights Act - H.R.- 358(House) and S.6(Senate), including AFT and NYSUT. These members of Congress are swing votes and must be targeted for their support:

Sen. Daniel Moynihan: 212-661-5150; senator@dpm.senate.gov

Rep. Rick Lazio: 516-893-9010; lazio@mail.house.gov

Rep. Sue Kelly: 914-897-5200; dearsue@mail.house.gov

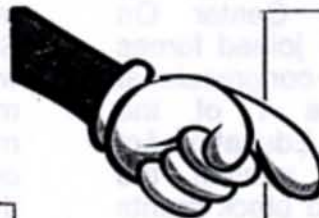
Rep. Benjamin Gilman: 914-343-6666; ben@mail.house.gov

Rep. John Sweeney: 518-587-9800; e-mail NA

Rep. Amory Houghton: 607-937-3333; e-mail NA

Don't limit your contact to these members of congress only. Make sure you take part in ensuring your future! Contact all your representatives, write letters to the editor, talk up the need for a *real* Patients' Bill of Rights - and above all - **STAY INFORMED!**

In Unity, Dot Zuckerman



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ROBS MEETING
Wednesday, May 5
10 A.M.
Islip Library

STATE OF THE UNION

JOE HOGAN
PRESIDENT
Brentwood teacher's Association



NEWS NOTES

CONGRATULATIONS

We are pleased to announce that in June when we watch Channel 12, we will see Judi Hearst Weissman teaching her English classes at the high school. Judi was chosen Teacher of the Month by Hofstra School of Education and News 12. She was feted at a ceremony in March and presented with a plaque and recognition by the school and the Board of Education. Principal Tom O'Brien beamed when he saw Ed Hannon and Chris Veech in the audience and welcomed them and called them "part of the Brentwood Family." Retirees have made their mark!

On the culture side: **Rick Mundy** was the featured artist at an exhibit, "Heart & Soul," February 16-March 14. **Lilian Masten** was featured at an exhibit called "Spring Fever," March 16-April 11. Both are at the Bellport Lane Art Gallery in Bellport permanently with 10 other artists. **Rick** will also be showing his watercolors at the Harborside Festival in Port Jefferson on May 30, and at the LI Art League's show in Hecksher Park, Huntington on June 19-20. Stop by the Gallery and the festivals and say hello to two of our "ageless" artists!

Got a surprize e-mail from **Anthony Capitelli** who has been in South Carolina for 6 years after leaving the Brentwood schools where he was a shop teacher in Ross. Now he has a construction company in Myrtle Beach, serves as a Deacon in his church, and took 18 teens for a month long mission trip to Scotland last year. He is also an avid golfer. **Tony** was the most helpful guy in the world especially with flat tires.



Oneida S. Lee, Southwest, will travel to Florida's A&M University in Tallahassee April 28th to participate in her 50th reunion. **Oneida** and husband John have funded the Reginald Jerome Lee Endowed Scholarship at A&M U in memory of their son.

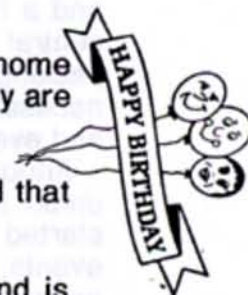
Janet Carrol writes from New Port Richey, Florida that she is very active in her community and tutors reading to Special Ed students at the vocational high school. She too is on the journey of computer literacy, as all new computer owners are! **Grace Ausili** spent time with **Janet** and **Jim**, they saw **Art** and **Peg Bloom** in October, and see **Joe** and **Lillian Padilla** at least once a week since they only live a few minutes away. This editor is pleased to note that **Janet** enjoys this newsletter....



Our road runner, **Richard Edwards**, has two grandsons. He reports: "Both are magnificent. Two year old Nicholas calls me Gwampa, and three week old Max still refuses to speak to me."

Breckenridge, Colorado, a lovely town as well as a world class ski resort, is the home of Rich and **Sandra Adams**. They love living in the mountains. They feel like they are on vacation every day.

HAPPY 75th BIRTHDAY to **Bill Lane**, Ross Social Studies and poet, who turned that glorious number on February 21st. Such a youngster for a great grandparent!



And **Jim Watson**, Sonderling English '95, just completed a trip to Bangkok, and is looking forward to an Elder Hostel to Alaska in June. Between the two trips, RV/biker **Rich Edwards** visited him in Phoenix and they enjoyed a lovely lunch with former Ross English chairs, **Gilda Martin** and **Shirley Seiden Smith**.



And from Williston, Vermont comes news of **Betty (Newton) Packer**. Besides traveling to Williamsburg, Va, and North Carolina in 1998, **Betty** went on an Elder Hostel trip



to Finland's waterways which she enjoyed immensely. She also won a ribbon for a crib quilt she stitched. She's recovering from a total knee replacement in September.

We received a letter from **Fran Forman**, who retired from Special Ed in 1978, thanking "all friends and family for support, gifts, flowers and prayers. You all made a difficult time in my life much easier to bear. I appreciate you all."

Marge Jones, a retired Science teacher from South Junior has been relocated to Broadlawn Nursing Home, 399 County Line Rd., Amityville. She is in Dogwood Unit 259-2, an Alzheimer Unit; her telephone is 264-0222x4055. Her caretaker, Pearl Manning, reports this is the result of the impact of several strokes. **Marge** was also vice president of BTA many years ago. Visitors, cards & calls are welcome.

Paula Freedman, who retired from South East in 1985, contacted us about the death of her husband of almost 58 years. Phil died suddenly on December 17th.

Helen Kelly, retired secretary at Village School, wanted us to know that her husband, John, passed away on January 20th. Many of our members will remember him. He was the custodian at Half Hollow Hills High School where many of our NYSUT conferences were held.



And **Shirley Stamm**, retired for 2 years from the Administration Building, called from Las Vegas to let us know the sad news that **Judy Kempler's** husband, Harvey died in March after a long illness. **Judy**, lives in St. George, Utah just an hour or so from **Shirley**. Our thoughts are with **Paula, Helen** and **Judy** and their families.

UNION NOSTALGIA

by Roy Horne

Again, nostalgia prevails. I remember during the late 50's or early 60's traveling to a NYC union meeting one Saturday morning with **Bob Casey, Ralph Schneider, Hiawatha Harris** and several other charter members of Brentwood's first union. We arrived shortly after the meeting began. Al Shanker stopped the meeting, introduced our Brentwood group to the NY membership as another courageous L.I. union group. The entire NY membership rose in concert to give our newly formed charter group a standing ovation. Needless to say we experienced a catharsis of union solidarity that day. An infusion sorely needed at that time....

We were initially locked out of classrooms for meetings, denied mailbox usage, and a host of road blocks intended to railroad our union into oblivion were set up by central and building administrators.... The rest is history; our first president was sent packing to the west coast, we rented outside meeting facilities, and did all those necessary things which enabled our Brentwood union (initially 7 members) to survive and eventually prosper.

Although many of our younger unionists are unaware of the painful and difficult union beginning in Brentwood, a reminder of where and how the union movement started should be an annual rite....The greater the linear distance between actual events, and the recall by younger generations years later seems to diminish their awareness of how movements start.

Jack Goldstein was an active member initially, but pressures were a bit much and he dropped out. Charter members were: **Bob Casey, Ray Schenk, Hiawatha Harris, Ralph Schneider, Arnie Spinner, Ed Polycwzk, Roy Horne**. The first 3 members are deceased. I haven't heard anything about **Arnie Spinner**, dean at NYU and eventually Chancellor for many years. Other members: **Julio Rodriquez, Greta Morine, Sally Schneider**; I can see faces of others, but not the names. Another senior moment.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



On the second day of our tour on Hawaii, a young man comes over to me and says, "I know you. You're Mr. Purcell who taught English at Brentwood H.S. about 1961." I must admit I was a little worried as to where it would go from there, but he wrapped his arms around me and began exclaiming to the world that I was the greatest.

His wife stood open mouthed, because he's an executive with Orbital Systems (successor of Grumman) and she had never seen him act so enthusiastically out of control. It was a great scene and broke the ice for everyone on the trip. Don Manfre is a Brentwood success story.

The other teacher he kept praising as being a great teacher but a hard marker was none other than Jack Zuckerman. He wanted to know if Jack remembered him, and particularly a D-Day paper he was supposed to double space, but which he wrote in alternating green and blue ink to save space. Now he shakes his head, but at the time he couldn't understand why Jack was upset with him.

Joe Purcell, Huntington

I wanted to tell you some good things that were said to me about ROBS. A friend of mine whose husband is a retired teacher from Islip and also a trustee at the Islip Library, had lunch with us in January, and both said that our organization was exceptional in keeping their retirees informed on the local, state and federal levels. He also

praised the good deeds we were doing through Project Hope.

My friend teaches in Twin Pines and she knows I tutor over in Pine Park a couple of hours a week. "Why can't we have a tutor over at Twin Pines?" she said. I said there weren't enough retirees volunteering. Kudos to you. God Bless. Keep up the good work.

Shirley Walker-Lloyd, West Islip

EDITOR'S NOTE: This editor takes full responsibility for the quotes and reporting in the last issue concerning the political landscape surrounding the impeachment trial of President Clinton. Quite frankly, I viewed what was written as a bit of levity in a very troubling and touchy situation. Only one member was brave enough to write how he felt, and I commend him for his caring enough to do so. I would also like to say, that now that Monica has had her moment in the klieg lights, and we are about the business of governing again, I hope we can feel free enough to dialog with each other through our letters column about how we feel about the political swirl around us. As well as the strengths. And that's quite bipartisan....

WE WELCOME LETTERS:

Chris Veech, 11 Yates Ave., Commack, N.Y. 11725
e-mail: chrisveech@aol.com

1959 REUNION

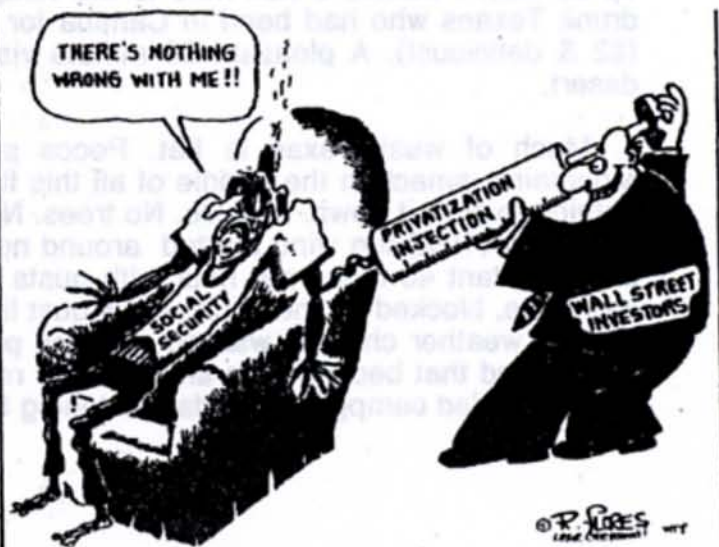
Any retired faculty or staff member from Brentwood Ross H. S. who is interested in joining former students at a reunion of the class of 1959 in the fall of this year (time and date not yet set) is invited to call: JERI ZAHAREK at 516-728-7628. Any assistance in locating staff of that time would be warmly welcomed by the class organizers.

John Sherin

M-T Corner

"We open our door only to someone who knocks; we find only what we're looking for."

Louis Evely
That's Man Is You
Translation by
Edmond Eonin





ON THE ROAD AGAIN

by Rich Edwards, '98 HS retiree touring U.S. by RV/motorcycle

Just Like the Westerns. Today (1/16) was Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, John Wayne Day. I finally saw the **WEST!** Route 90 from Del Rio, Texas to Alpine, Texas is what you see in a western movie. Canyons, cactus, weathered brown mountains. Incredible vastness. The front gate of the John V. Daly Ranch said "9 miles to the ranch house." The trucks approaching you are visible 10 miles away.

I crossed the Pecos River and then stopped in Langtry, the home of Judge Roy Bean's courtroom bar. Since he was the owner, he often fined "criminals" \$10 and a round of drinks for the jury. Then in Marathon, Texas, I found a real ice cream parlor with all of its 1950's decor intact. The strawberry ice cream soda was delicious.

Alpine, Texas is my stopover before descending south 90 miles to Big Bend National Park. This N.Y. boy is unprepared for the colors here. This part of Texas is dry. The colors are muted olive green, pale brown, grey. The canyons, which in the spring splash with water, are empty, silent and white, the ground washed and bleached. During midday it's almost a black and white photograph, but in the early morning and just before sunset, the warm light paints the landscape a rich gold. Spectacular.

I never knew the desert, except on TV or the movies. Lawrence of Arabia rode through it. Just sand and an occasional oasis.

Now I know more. Big Bend National Park takes up a big chunk of the bottom of Texas and the greatest part of it is the Chihuahuan Desert. This desert is filled with ash and rock soil of every color. The variety of tough plant life is unbelievable. Cactus in all shades of green and pink. Rugged brush, able to live for months with no moisture. Even flowers of yellow and red, baking under the relentless sun. Butterflies and falcons share the sky. Roadrunners dash across the roads looking like serious businessmen on the way to important meetings.

The Chisos Mountains fit snugly and entirely into this huge park. They are ancient, worn and dry. They rise in multicolored splendor. Black and red and yellow. Green and silver and pure white. The park roads weave through the mountains and dive into canyons, giving the traveler an endless series of surprises.

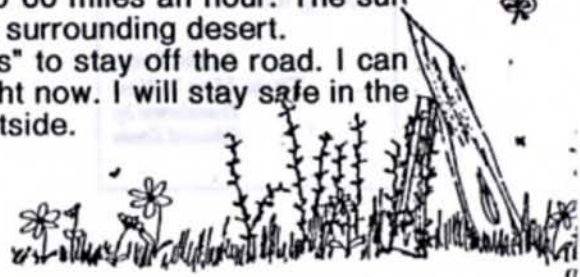
The brown-green Rio Grande River marks the border of the park. On the other side of the river lies Mexico, looking exactly the same as the American side. The constant presence of U.S. Border Patrol trucks is the best hint that both sides are not the same.

I took the short boat ride across the Rio Grande to Boquillas, Mexico. A 13 year old boy did the paddling. He spends the whole day on the opposite shore waiting for a passenger who pays \$2 for the round trip ride and is reminded that he is expected to tip as well. I walked a half mile to the village and sat with three friendly and mildly drunk Texans who had been in Cantina for a while. I had a Corona and three tacos (\$2 & delicious!). A pleasant 90 minute visit to Mexico. Can't wait to see my next desert.

Much of west Texas is flat. Pecos sits about 50 miles north of the Davis Mountains, smack in the middle of all this flatness. When a wind starts here, there is nothing to slow it down. No hills. No trees. Nothing.

Today (1/22) the wind started around noon under a clear sky. By 3 it was blowing at a constant 40 miles per hour with gusts surging up to 60 miles an hour. The sun was gone, blocked by the thick yellow dust lifted from the surrounding desert.

The weather channel warned all "high profile vehicles" to stay off the road. I can understand that because I'm sitting in my rocking RV right now. I will stay safe in the dust shrouded campground today, listening to the roar outside.



ROBS LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 1999
12 - 4P.M.



BONWIT INN

Commack Road & Vanderbilt Motor Parkway
Commack
499-2068

ROBS MEMBERS: \$21 (tax & gratuities paid by ROBS)
NON-MEMBERS: \$25

MENU

Chicken Francaise
Sauteed with Lemon & white wine

Broiled Filet of Sole
Dusted in Fresh Bread Crumbs & baked with a tangy lemon herb sauce

Roast Prime Rib
English Cut served with Au Jus & fresh Horseradish

Dessert
Ice Cream Sundae

Unlimited soft drinks
CASH BAR



YOU ARE INVITED!

ADVANCE REGISTRATION NECESSARY DUE TO LIMITED SEATING.....

clip & return with check made out to ROBS by Saturday, May 15, 1999. Mail to:

LILIAN KELLY, 204 Biltmore Road, Massapequa, N.Y. 11758
516-799-4074

NAME _____ NO.OF PEOPLE _____

ADDRESS _____ AMT.ENCLOSED _____

PHONE _____

ARE YOUR AUTO INSURANCE RATES HIGH?
DO YOU HAVE POINTS ON YOUR LICENSE?

RETIREE COUNCIL 21 DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 1999
2:30 - 8:30 P.M.

(Bring a brown bag supper and sodas).

DiPietro Center, Brentwood High School

COST FOR COURSE IS \$23 PER PERSON

(Friends and family are welcome).



THIS IS A 6 HOUR MULTI-MEDIA COURSE WHICH ENTITLES THE PRIMARY DRIVER OF A CAR A 10% INSURANCE DISCOUNT, OR REMOVAL OF POINTS ON A DRIVER'S LICENSE. NO FORMAL EXAM.

MAIL YOUR CHECK FOR \$23.00 PER PERSON PAYABLE TO NYSUT E.D. 21 R.C.
A.S.A.P. TO: Ruth McCalla, 100 Columbus Ave., Central Islip, N.Y. 11722; or
phone: 516-567-3866.

Return with Check:

NAME _____ NO. OF PEOPLE _____
ADDRESS _____ AMT. ENCLOSED _____
PHONE _____

RETIRES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS
8 Woody Lane
Oakdale, N.Y. 11769-1515



ROBS MEETING

Wednesday, May 5
10 A.M.
Islip Library

STATE OF THE UNION

JOE HOGAN
PRESIDENT
Brentwood teacher's Association