

ROBS NEWSLETTER

Issue 36

SEPTEMBER 2000

- AFT president Sandra Feldman opened her keynote address with a moment of silence for Lakeworth, Florida middle school teacher Barry Grunow, who was shot and killed by a student the last day of the 99-'00 school year.
- At the same time, the NEA annual Representative Assembly in Chicago also observed a moment of silence. Grunow was a member of the newly merged AFT/NEA Florida affiliate.

JOE PALAZZOLO DIES SUDDENLY

On July 29th, Joe Palazzolo, who retired as a language teacher in 1999, passed away quietly at his home in Smithtown. He had had a triple by-pass two weeks earlier. He was 56.

Joe was looking forward to returning to the many things he did: volunteering at the Nesconset Nursing Home, ushering at every 5 P.M. Saturday Mass at St. Patrick's RC Church in Smithtown, learning Chinese, teaching Tai Chi.

His career in Brentwood spanned some 30 years. It included union work as Financial Secretary, member of the Negotiating Committee, BTA Executive Committee, Sonderling Chief Delegate, as well as NYSUT Delegate. All unionists saw in Joe someone who cared about what was essentially the union's business...its members!

Besides teaching Brentwood students,

Brentwood staff sat in on his classes in Sonderling. He taught in-service language courses at the Teacher's Center. He served as BTA liaison on ROBS Executive Board. He was planning a Tai Chi course for ROBS in the Fall.

Joe leaves his wife, Marian, and daughters Gina and Claudia, who teaches in Brentwood, and a grandson.

BTA has set up a Joseph Palazzolo Scholarship Fund "in memory of Joe's dedication to educating students in the Brentwood community..."

To a Brentwood High School Senior who has excelled in a foreign language." Donations should be sent to the Joseph Palazzolo Scholarship Fund, c/o BTA, 350 Motor Pkwy., Suite LL5, Hauppauge, N.Y. 11788.



**MAKE A NOTE
MEETING CHANGES:
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13
FRIDAY, NOV. 10
NEW PLACE:
BAY SHORE-
BRIGHTWATERS
LIBRARY
Montauk Hwy. &
Windsor Av., Bay Shore**

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HISTORIC DAY FOR NYSUT

On July 11th, there was a smaller crowd than the 6000 that flooded the Empire State Plaza in Albany on May 9th for the COLA Rally. But the reason for being there had everything to do with that historic rally. **The COLA Bill was signed by Governor Pataki.**

The bill provides a two-pronged approach to enhance and protect retirement benefits of all current and future retirees by: 1) adjusting the current base pensions of older retirees who have been lagging behind inflation since their year of retirement; and 2) providing a permanent,

automatic and annual adjustment of benefits based upon the actual increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Those eligible pre-1997 retirees will receive a catch up amount equal to 1/2 the increase in CPI from year of retirement based on a maximum retirement benefit of \$18,000 and will begin September 2000.

For all present and future eligible retirees, the permanent and automatic COLA will begin in September 2001.

IN UNITY *Dot Zuckerman*

Joe Palazzolo was a dear friend. He was a concerned and caring human being. There was nothing devious about Joe. With a brief conversation you knew who he was and what he stood for. Joe and I met about thirty years ago through the Brentwood Teachers Association. We worked together for many years on the Executive Council and on the negotiating team. We shared many wonderful experiences. When there were decisions to be made Joe was always eager to discuss the details in order to understand them better before making up his mind.

Joe was very proud of his heritage. He never missed an opportunity to throw in a few Italian phrases to liven up a conversation. He loved language - in fact he was in the process of studying Chinese, probably as an outgrowth of his great interest in Tai Chi.

Above all, Joe was a union man. He believed in strengthening work conditions and stood up for the rights of his fellow teachers as a chief delegate and as a member of the BTA grievance committee. He was involved in union activities on the local and state level. Before he retired a year ago he made me promise to find an active role for him in ROBS - and of course, I did. One of our last conversations a few days before he died was about the upcoming elections and how important it was for us to get the message across to our members.

Joe had just come through quadruple bypass surgery. He was anxious to get out and moving again - even threatened to steal the car keys. He was looking forward to the ROBS meetings and our plans for the coming year. Two days after he died a thank you card from him arrived, addressed to the ROBS Executive Board. "I cannot thank you all enough for your calls, cards, prayers and that beautiful plant that you sent me. ... I'm looking forward to seeing you all in October so we can continue the noble battle to improve life for all unionists and all people. As Pietro Nenni, the Italian Socialist said 'Avanti!'"

Joe - we'll miss you - but you'll always be a part of us.

BIG CHANGES FOR ROBS MEETINGS

Instead of the usual first Wednesday of the month, ROBS meetings have been moved to the 2nd Friday of the month! Meetings have also been moved from the Islip Library to the Bay Shore-Brightwaters Library in Bay Shore, just across (south) Montauk Hywy. from the Forum Diner.

The Islip Library is undergoing a building program, and could not accommodate group meetings at this time. In order to fit into the Bay Shore Library's schedule, we needed to change

our meeting dates.

Our October 13th meeting will be our Welcome to Retirement Social for our new and "old" retirees. Also, Steve Levy, (D, Suff. Leg., Holbrook) running for Harenberg's Assembly seat. Paul Harenberg is retiring.

November 10th: Nancy Burner, Trust & Estate Planning.

MAKE FRIDAY MORNINGS
ROBS MORNINGS ONCE A
MONTH IN BAY SHORE!
STILL 10 a.m.

ROBS NEWSLETTER STAFF

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SEC'Y. Lynn Prass

TREAS. Lilian Kelly

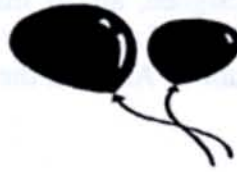


GETTING WHAT'S DUE YOU

From a clipping sent us by Millie O'Neill in which Sol Friedman, ("Gray Matters," NEWSDAY, 5/00) wrote: "Medicare enrollees are entitled to home health coverage if: 1. A doctor has signed a care plan as part of his/her discharge orders; 2 the patient is mostly homebound; 3. The patient needs intermittent skilled nursing care - from as often as every day to only once every two months; and 4. the care is provided through a Medicare-certified provider. There is no legal limit to the duration of Medicare home health benefits unless ordered by the doctor. Call Center for Medicare Advocacy: 800-262-4414."

HAPPY '00 - '01 LOOMS FOR 31

Heartfelt best wishes to our new Brentwood retirees. Come and meet them at our first meeting on Friday, October 13 at the Bay Shore Library, 10 AM.



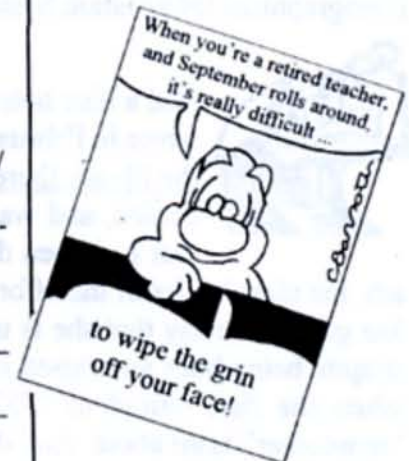
BTA

Michael Bannon, Sci.
June Cardenas, P.E./Lang.
Vicent Carnevale, S.S.
Marguerite DelBene, S.S.
Antoinette DeLuca, P.E.
Maureen Doyle, Art
Robert Emmerich, Elem.
Arlene Finkelstein, S.S.
Arthur Freed, S.S.
Marjorie Friesleben, P.E.
Clifford Giles, Sci.
Harry Haden, Math

Emery Hajduk, Sci.
Walter Hickey, Math
Vivian Kemp, Sp. Ed.
Patricia Leap, Lang.
Roberta Littman, Elem.
Beverly Lovings, Elem.
Mildred McHaffie, MathLab
Janice Oehler, Elem.
Mark Rabin, Math
Beverly Ruggiero, Careers
Claire Sullivan, Elem.
Matthew Tillman, Elem.
Francine Yaloff, Math
Alma Murray,

BCA

Rosemarie Concannon, Clerk/
Typist - Sonderling Center
Adrienne Eastman, Clerk, Human Resources, Felicio Center
Rose Ann Pupillo, Clerk/
Typist - North Middle
Gloria Ascitutto, Clerk/Typist -
Ross Center
Eleanor Signor, Clerk/Typist -
North Middle



PROJECT HOPE GEARS UP

In the 5 years since Frank Spencer's retirement from Special Services, Project Hope has been a program of the Community Liaison Committee which he chairs.

Through the tutoring volunteers who work with Brentwood classroom teachers, ROBS' Project Hope has indeed brought hope and accomplishment to many children who might have languished unnoticed.

Instead, teachers like Diane Spagnuolo, 2nd grade at Southwest Elementary write: that (their) presence "ignited each child into being excited about learning and believing in themselves."



Again, Project Hope is seeking willing volunteers to share some of life's blessings with those who need it. The Community Liaison Committee also works with homeless children at Suburban Housing in Bay Shore, tutoring after school, as well as adopting families for Thanksgiving and the holidays.

As those of us who have offered our time to this worthy endeavor know, it isn't just those children we help who are the beneficiaries of this program. It is also the givers who are richly blessed by the giving.

Special thanks to: Tom & Barbara O'Connor, Vern & Frank Spencer, Beverly Fisher, Alex Salmin and all the "pinch hitters" who helped too!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Dear Dot,

Just wanted you to know I do read the ROBS Newsletter and particularly enjoy hearing about former friends...You're doing an outstanding job in political action.

Your last editorial (2/00) highlighting the COLA rally finally motivated me. We live in Heritage Hills, a very active retirement community in Northern Westchester and many of our friends are teachers. I decided to try and get a bus to leave from here for Albany.... NYSUT agreed if we could get 40 people. As of now we have 78 retirees and spouses... and

have a second bus.

I've been in touch with Westchester NYSUT leaders ...and must tell you that they wish they could match L.I.'s ability to maintain retiree's interest and effectiveness in political action programs. I didn't defect!

Regards to Jack. Both of your continued efforts on our behalf are very much appreciated. Hope we'll see you on May 9th, or maybe I should hope it will be so crowded that I'll never find you.

Maxine Berlin, Ross Special Ed.

NEWS NOTES

John Sherin, who taught Social Studies at Ross H. S., continues in that field through his company, Learning Systems Institute. He has designed, and is manufacturing, puzzle maps of local areas for children. He and his company exhibited at the May 6-7 Maporama 2000 celebration of "Panorama Month" in the Queens Museum of Art, and the 10th anniversary of GISMO (Geographical Information System User Group).



Had a nice note from **Marion Gray**, Laurel Park, who lives in Montpelier, Vermont. We wrote in February's newsletter that **Marion** "spearheaded a drive for a children's wing on the library there." **Marion** corrects us and says: "I am on the Montpelier Library Board, a trustee, and was the final vote needed to push the board into doing the building project that had been discussed for 6 years. So my being on the board was crucial.... I was, and am, the cheerleader of the effort... I've enjoyed this project but hardly spearheaded the campaign." **Marion** goes on to say that she is unable to do fund raising from the community since she is a "newcomer" despite being born and raised in Lyndon, VT, 35 miles from Montpelier, and living 6 years in Barre, VT when she first retired in 1982. This editor, as a part time Vermonter herself, knows what being a "newcomer" is all about. And if I could vote for Bernie I would too. But I contribute from afar.

Among the many spring ROBS travelers was **Millie Eisenberg**. She and her husband traveled with Elder Hostel to the British Isles. And **Frank and Vern Spencer** took a

Millie O'Neill, a retired Ross H.S. Aide, wrote saying: "Thanks so much for using my article (Do You Know Who I Am?, May 2000) and sending it to me. It does such wonders for lifting the spirit." **Millie** lives with emphysema and an ever present oxygen tank. She reports happy news, however, her 8th grandchild, **Jacob**, arrived on April 1st, at 11 PM, weighing in at 8 lbs, 1 oz. Congratulations **Millie & Don!**

Bumped into retired Ross aide, **Grace Fata** ('97) and husband. They were off to Paris and environs. They now live in Manorville. **Grace** filled us in on fellow retired Ross aide **Phyl Tulipano**, who just turned 80! **Grace** also reports that **Yvette Zimmerman**, retired department secretary, is doing well in Florida.

Phyllis Baumann, Sonderling, reports that husband **George** had a heart attack in May, but tests found no blockage. So he is doing well.



Don Kubicko, Sonderling, is feeling much better after surgery, and is off on a cruise with his wife, **Barbara**, to the Bahamas!

And a big FEEL BETTER to our Membership Chair, **Jack Zuckerman**, who had chemo this summer before he took off with RC 21's "The Magic of Italy" tour, (September) which he leads with wife **Dot**.

Saw so many retirees at **Joe Palazzolo's** funeral. All agreed that our October meeting should be in honor of **Joe**, for the wonderful person and friend that he was. When a staff member was in trouble, she/he could count on **Joe** to be there every step of the way! He will be sorely missed by us all!



Sympathy is extended to **John Sherin** upon the death of his mother, **Elizabeth D. Sherin**, on July 24th. She died of late stage Alzheimer's Disease. Memorials to: **AWARE** (Alzheimer's Women's Auxiliary for Research & Education) c/o **Eliz. Schwayder-Kelly**, 5275 East Sanford Circle, Cherry Hills Village, CO 80111.

MEMBERSHIP 2000 - 2001

With enactment of the COLA law we have just witnessed what the voice of many can do to bring about results. Our future security and financial stability must not be left dependent on the whim of Congress and the State Legislature. Your support is essential for us to continue to act on your behalf.



-
1. I am enclosing \$15 for my 2000 - 2001 ROBS dues.
 - I am 75 or older and am now a free life time member.
-

2. NAME: _____

3. ADDRESS: _____

Alternate Address: (Dates) _____

4. Social Security #: _____

5. PHONE #: _____ FAX #: _____ E-MAIL: _____

6. Retirement Year: _____ Building last served in: _____

7. I DO NOT WISH TO BE INCLUDED IN THE DIRECTORY.

NYSUT VOTE-COPE

Enclosed is my VOTE-COPE contribution of \$ _____
in a separate check made out to NYSUT VOTE-COPE. *Be sure to include your Social Security number.*

(Suggested contribution [but not limited to] \$20)

MAIL TO: Jack Zuckerman, Membership Chairperson
8 Woody Lane
Oakdale, New York 11769-1515

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

by Rich Edwards, touring the U.S. by RV/ Motorcycle



I've been so busy seeing wonderful things this summer that I thought it would be best to summarize my travels and mark them with my own rating system. Each destination will be graded from 1 to 10 motorcycles (with 1 being a waste of time and 10 being spectacular). I was surprised at the beauty of South Dakota. It was well worth the visit, especially the Black Hills area.

- Mt. Rushmore (9 M) It's quite an emotional experience to see in person a memorial seen in pictures so many times. Visitor center provides a good explanation of the work that went into carving a mountain into the faces of four presidents.
- Needles Highway and the Custer State Park Wildlife Road (10 M) The ride to get to Mt. Rushmore is spectacular. It passes through rolling prairies and grasslands, home to one of the largest buffalo herds in the U.S., then dives into hills that feature winding hairpin curves and narrow tunnels. The first view of Rushmore comes at the end of such a tunnel.
- Crazy Horse Memorial (9 M) About 20 miles from Mt. Rushmore is a work in progress, the memorial to America's natives. The head of Crazy Horse is finished and a visitor arriving at the right time can watch workers use dynamite to "liberate" other parts of this huge sculpture.
- Wall Drug Store (5 M) Started in 1931, the owner of this ordinary drug store drew visitors to the Badlands into his emporium by offering free ice water. Today Wall Drugs attracts 1000's to its huge building that houses every imaginable souvenir, a café, clothing stores, game rooms, and animated figures (human & animal, including a full size Tyrannosaurus Rex).
- The Badlands (9 M) This is a great ride through a multi-colored landscape that has been etched by wind & water. I was lucky to visit on a cool day. The temperature often rises to over 100 degrees.
- Sturgis (5 M) This is a sleepy town for 51 weeks of the year. The first week in August it hosts over 500,000 bikers from all over the world. I was glad to miss that.
- Black Hills National Forest Scenic Ride (10 M) Just beyond the famous town of Deadwood, this road is one of the most beautiful in the country.

RETIRES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

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Next Meetings: Friday, Oct. 13
Friday, November 10

**Important ROBS
Meeting Changes
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