

ROBS NEWSLETTER

Issue 37

November 2000



MAKE A NOTE:
RC 21 MEETING
TUESDAY, NOV. 28
BAY SHORE-
BRIGHTWATERS
LIBRARY

Montauk Hwy. &
 Windsor Av., Bay Shore

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
 FRIDAY, DEC. 8

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PROJECT HOPE GOES PUBLIC

On October 14th, ROBS Project HOPE was represented at the Islip Presbyterian Church's Conference on "Churches Helping Domestic Violence Victims." October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Frank Spencer joined a panel of people who administer programs to help victims heal and get their lives back together.

Since homeless people encompass many who are victims of domestic abuse, the ROBS program of tutoring and mentoring children is one in which the audience was very interested and may try to replicate.

HOPE, an outgrowth of the Community Liaison Committee chaired by Frank, is by now well known in Brentwood's schools as a positive educational tool to help children grow and learn.

Anyone wishing to sign on to help, call Frank at 631-253-0355. The rewards are great!

You can volunteer any day or time you are available; during the school day or after

school. You can do short term tutoring for students needing to bone up for the increasing number of tests mandated to meet higher standards.



And Frank reports that we have adopted two families for Thanksgiving, and two for the holidays as well. **If you wish to contribute toward our HOLIDAY GIVING,** send contributions to Frank Spencer at 3 Nottingham Dr., Wheatley Hts., N.Y. 11798-1523. Make checks out to: Suburban Children, Inc. (for tax purposes).

OUR DOT'S MOVIN' UP

We ROBS members should be very proud of our own Dorothy Zuckerman who has packed away all her other hats and donned a brand new one.

As you may have read in ON TRACK, the RC 21 newsletter, our founding ROBS president (RC 21 president & LIRC president as well) was offered, and has accepted, NYSUT's position as Suffolk Retiree Services Consultant. She will work out of the NYSUT Suffolk Regional Office in Hauppauge. There are 5 others in the state.

In this position, she will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience that few people

have. You can call her any time with problems and concerns. Dot will find a way to help.

And for those of us who have known her from the get-go, we know she'll do more than her best. She's got the will, and she'll find the way! We in R O B S know that well!



So here's hat's off to Dot Z., with many thanks for ten years of wonderful, productive work organizing retirees here on Long Island!



IN UNITY - Dot Zuckerman

Dear Friends:

The past few months have been nostalgic ones for me. As I relinquish my role in ROBS, I can't help but think back to those early days nine years ago when a handful of retirees met to develop an organization for the retirees of Brentwood schools. Our idea was to continue to meet and grow together even though we were no longer actively employed in the district. Nine years have brought many changes and tremendous development. These have been exciting and productive years and I am very honored to have played a part in it all. I want to thank all the wonderful and devoted people with whom I've worked and who have given of their

time and efforts to make ROBS the vital organization it is today. The interest and support of our members have always energized me and encouraged me to reach higher and to set new goals. Now it is time for others to set directions and lead the way. Although I have now become a staff member of NYSUT, I will always remain first and foremost a Brentwood Retiree and an interested member of ROBS. My adult life has been dedicated to helping meet the needs of others and it is to that purpose that I now widen my range by providing service to all the retirees of Suffolk County. The years have been exciting – I've loved it all – I've made a lot of friends – and I look forward to the future. Thank you for it all!

HANGING FROM THE RAFTERS AT FIRST MEETING OF ROBS

Harriet Pepine, acting president of Retirees of Brentwood Schools Chapter, opened the first fall meeting of the organization on Friday, October 13th with a moment of silence for Joe Palazzolo, who died suddenly this past July, and Bill McGinn, whose funeral was that same morning.

In the crowd of about 60, there were many new retirees, and they were recognized and welcomed warmly. And there were many we hadn't seen for a while as well. Mary Ruffino brought her very well behaved 3 year old charge who was a delight.

Ruth McCalla and her committee provided delicious refreshments enjoyed by all. And Alma Murray brought beautiful roses for Dot Zuckerman, who attended the meeting without the respon-

sibilities of agenda and protocol. Steve Levy, Democratic candidate for the Assembly seat of retiring Paul Harenberg, shared issues with the group.

Retirees were reminded that it's time for **ROBS dues of \$15 for the year 2001**. There is an application in this newsletter. Send it in as soon as you can.



Don't forget VOTE COPE, NYSUT's lobbying arm that **got us the 2000 COLA!** Make a generous contribution to ongoing efforts to affect legislation that will benefit us all. It's worth every penny.

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WORDS OF WISDOM

"The hardest years in life are those between ten and seventy."

Helen Hayes at 73

"Things are going to get a lot worse before they get worse."

Lily Tomlin

"Laugh and the world laughs with you. Cry and you cry with your girlfriends." Laurie Kuslansky

"Old age ain't no place for sissies." Bette Davis

"Every time I close the door on reality it comes in through the windows." Jennifer Unlimited

"If you can't be a good example, then you'll just have to be a horrible warning." Catherine Aird

MS SENIOR AMERICA PAGEANT: SEASONED STEPPERS PERFORM!

October 19th was the date for the National Ms. Senior America Pageant, a five day event at the Peppermill Resort in the heart of Reno, Nevada. Marguerite Murtagh represented New York State. ROBS retirees participated as Seasoned Steppers!

All the women who participate in this elegant competition are 60 and over. They have fun and do community service as well.

"All of our contestants are a true inspiration to young women and girls," says Ethel Bennet, the 78 year old National Pageant Director, who was N.Y State Queen in 1985-'86. "We are role models and a true model of what seniors are all about. All of the women who are involved in Ms. Senior America in some way, whether nationally or locally, have truly reached the 'age of elegance.'"

The Seasoned Steppers, Long Island's own dance troupe, performed during the five day event. They were born five years ago with 5 dancers and now number 16. These leggy beauties provide a stunning sight when they perform. They've



been honed to perfection by a former Rockette.

When not performing at Ms. Senior events, they entertain at Senior Assisted Care facilities, Nursing Homes, and other facilities.

According to **Esther "Kitty" Hayes** and **Dorothy Schaller**, both retired Brentwood teachers and Seasoned Steppers, "we learn so much from the people we entertain, and have lots of fun dancing for them."

Both **Dorothy** and **Kitty** high stepped it to Reno on the 19th. Many of you may have seen them on "Good Morning America" last spring, and the Oct. 2000 50 + SENIOR NEWS.

Kitty wants you to think about attending the New York Senior America pageant on November 18th at the Sagtikos Theatre at Suffolk Community College in Brentwood. She'll have tickets at our November 10th meeting. Think about getting involved with these elegant women.

SOCIAL SECURITY IS 65



On August 14, 2000, the Social Security Act had a birthday party of sorts at Hyde Park, New York, the home of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt who signed the Act into law in 1935.

Social Security Commissioner Kenneth S. Apfel remarked: "As we commemorate the 65th anniversary of Social Security, we celebrate more than a milestone in time. We celebrate a program that has brought peace of mind and financial security to generations of Americans. We celebrate the vision and courage of President Roosevelt whose legacy lives on everyday through this important program. Social Security is a part of the fabric of American Society. Let us celebrate its accom-

plishments and ensure its continued success for future generations of Americans."

As Roosevelt said in his Message to Congress in June 1934:

"Security was attained in the earlier days through the interdependence of members of families within a small community upon each other. The complexities of great communities and of organized industry make less real these simple means of security. Therefore, we are compelled to employ the active interest of the Nation as a whole through government in order to encourage a greater security for each individual who composes it....This seeking for a greater measure of welfare and happiness does not indicate a change in values. It is rather a return to values lost in the course of our economic development and expansion..." HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US ALL!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



To all my friends in ROBS and RC 21:

As many of you know, the past months have not been easy. Colon cancer and a severe reaction to chemotherapy have kept me from attending meetings and from being able to go places (Italy) and seeing all our friends. Fortunately, I believe the worst is over. I will be on chemotherapy for some time, but I am now able to get around more and resume many activities.

A very large number of you have sent get well cards, made phone calls and many have even sent me gifts to express your concern. I want you all to know that I appreciate your concern

and there is no question you were able to lift my spirits when I needed it the most. I wish I could say thank you to all of you, but I am not yet up to this. Please accept this "Thank You" as a personal message. I will (I hope) begin again to attend meetings on a regular basis and I hope to see many of you there.

Sincerely,
Jack Zuckerman



NEWS NOTES

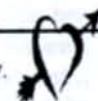
The Jamaica Sports Hall of Fame made a tennis nomination in 1999. To none other than Ivy Cover-Ramsey! That's **Ivy Rosenthal**, who retired from North in 1984, after years of coaching. She came here to the U.S. as a tennis pro after playing with distinction on that island nation. She was the only woman nominated. Congratulations, **Ivy**. Her granddaughter, **Angela Ramsey**, a graduate of Brentwood is now a speech teacher in the district. Makes **Ivy** very proud. And this editor as well. Had **Angela** for English. She was an excellent student and a wonderful person. Much luck!



Claudete Benjamin, Sonderling English, reports that daughter **Natalie Sylman** was married on June 18th in Vienna, VA. "Her wedding was absolutely beautiful. We all delighted in the day."

And wedding bells rang in November for **Walter Karp** and **Louise Feinberg**. They had a small wedding in their home in Hauppauge with immediate family in attendance. We wish you all the best!

More happy news: **Walter Karp's** granddaughter, **Emma Karp**, made her appearance on October 12th in New Jersey. Congratulations to all!



This summer was filled with visitors from Brentwood for **Greg & Carole Bruno** up in Saratoga Springs. **Richard & Pat Huckle** were there for the Travers, the biggest race of the season. According to **Carole**, "the Huckes and two other couples attended the race; the **Bruno's** opted to stay home (they moved upstate to avoid crowds) and prepare a delicious Italian meal. A good time was had by all!"

Retirees **Mike Campanile**, **John Durant**, and **Mike Lambert** were in Saratoga for a weekend of racing in August. **Carole Bruno** met them at a restaurant near the track for half an hour before their "handicapping seminar" one morning, and they caught up on a little Brentwood/Saratoga stuff. She reports "it was great to see some familiar faces up here."

Paula Freedman has sold her house in East Meadow and has located permanently in Florida. Enjoy the sun, **Paula!**

And from New Prt Richey, Fl., **Janet Carrol**, Spec. Services '91, who is president of the local Friends of the Library, also does a weekly "Mommy and Me" story and craft hour for toddlers and caregivers. "I've had some very good local press and been on local access TV, always focusing on children, parents and reading. I'm having fun and filling a need at the library." Her advice for parents is to "play with your kids! It develops fine motor skills." **Janet** keeps in touch with **Joe & Lillian Padilla**, and **Art & Peg Bloom** visited in the spring. **Grace Ausili** visits often, and **Janet** was in NY recently to help **Drew Robinson** celebrate his 50th!

The Geographic Info Systems' (GIS) Geography Awareness Week was held November 12-18 at Suffolk Community College Tech Center in Hauppauge. On Wednesday, November 15th **John Sherin** participated and gave away copies of his MAPZZLES, "A City of Neighborhoods" to all visitors. There was lots of free stuff going on that day. Way to go, **John!**

We understand that **Marge Friesleben**, who retired in June, underwent extensive medical treatment after her return from Italy (where she injured her leg) this September. Hope you're improving quickly, **Marge**.

And a funny thing happened when **Ray Cunneen** went to the NYC Hospital for Special Services to prep for his upcoming hip replacement. They discovered he had walking pneumonia. So, the operation was postponed until October 17th. We hope you're doing well, **Ray**, and that soon you'll be back on the golf course.



This editor was surprised to hear that **Betty DeLong (Sond. Lib. '89)** had a stroke last fall. But when I saw her this summer, she had returned to full activity. It was good to see **Betty** looking and doing so well.

And we hope this finds **Florence Kohler** feeling a little less sore after a recent fall.



FABLES OF ANCIENT GREECE: October 8 - 24, 2001

Start thinking about a 16 day trip that includes a 3 day cruise in the Aegean to Mykinos, Rhodes, and the buried city of Ephesus; then Meteora, Korfu, Delhi, Olympia, Mycenae, Athens and the Parthenon! **Carmen Pittinaro** (631-363-2198) is leading our Go Ahead annual tour for 2001! Cost = \$2330 - \$2405.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Miriam Couch**, who retired after our last issue went to press. She retired from South Middle School where she taught Special Ed.



William McGinn, a Sonderling science teacher who retired in 1985, passed away suddenly on October 9th. He had returned to his home in Farmingdale that day from the hospital after elective surgery, and was having difficulty breathing. He died of a massive heart attack in the ambulance. Before entering teaching, **Bill** had been a pharmacist. He turned 78 in September, and leaves two daughters and a son. He also leaves some very good friends, among them **Bill Mullady**. Our sympathies.

Had a note from **Addie Lee**. Her mother passed away in August. **Addie** was her principle caregiver for 6 years, and regarded it "a privilege to care for her." Now she's ready to get involved with us again, and we look forward to that.

And our sympathies are also extended to **Carole Fradin**, North 1985, whose husband passed away. She lives in California.

Claudette Benjamin Writes from Florida: "Your news of Joe's (Palazzolo) death saddened me greatly. How he will be missed. I will be prayerful of his family."

A donation was made by ROBS to the Joseph Palazzolo Scholarship Fund in August. Anyone wishing to make a donation can send it to the **Joseph Palazzolo Scholarship Fund, c/o BTA, 350 Motor Parkway, Suite LL 5, Hauppauge, N.Y. 11788.**

December 1st is Reading Day at Laurel Park
Contact **Phyllis Goodwin** if you wish to participate.
631-673-2971 or Pbgoodwin@msn.com

Miriam Massucci is involved with the Catholic Charities Food & Nutrition Program (FAN). One of their projects involves giving children, - who may never have had one before, - a book for the holidays!

Books donated must be new, unwrapped, and geared for pre-school or early elementary ages. They should be ethnically and culturally diverse as well. **Call Miriam (631-665-3541) or bring books to a ROBS meeting and she will deliver them to the appropriate office in Suffolk.**



The hope is that this project will begin the process of parents and children getting involved with each other, having quality time, and beginning a life long connection with all the joys and information a book can bring!

Newly retired **Alma Murray** is active with the **Horticultural Society of the Bayard Cutting Arboretum in Oakdale**. The Fall Educational Program lists many delightful options. Among them: Gatsby's Long Island, 11/ 11; Putting the Garden to Bed, 11/18; Yuletide at Longwood Gardens, 12/2; The Cloisters & E.J. Wagner's Mysterious Tales of Medieval World, 12/9; Holiday Arrangements. 12/16; Winter Identification' 1/6; Ageless Visions from Soul to Canvass-On the Wing- All About Angels, 2/10; Oriental Vegetables, 3/7; Low Water Gardening, 3/24; Gardening in China, 3/31. **Call 631-589-8680 for more information. Or write BCAHS at P.O. Box 114, Oakdale, N.Y. 11769** There are also art shows and other events. Ask about them when you call or write.



Retiree Council 21 will have as its speaker on **Tuesday, November 28th**, Laurie Kupperstein who is Director of Gerontology Services for NYSUT. This is a new program for retirees. Services include help in finding senior or retirement living communities; short term counseling; intervention with hospital social workers and discharge planners; referrals to geriatricians and service providers in the community; coaching on how to deal with Medicare; referrals to home health agencies; and even help with retiree's concerns about their adult children. Services are confidential and available to retired members, who may also ask questions on behalf of their domestic partners, spouses, parents, or parents-in-law. **Bay Shore Library, Montauk Highway, 10 A.M.**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2000

NOON TO 4



ROBS HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

IRISH COFFEE PUB ★

131 Carlton Ave., East Islip

ROBS Members: \$17; Non-Members : \$18.50

(Tax & Tips Included)

Clip and return checks made out to: ROBS by November 27, 2000

Ruth McCalla, 100 Columbus Ave., Central Islip, N.Y. 11722.

Phone: 631-234-8013

NAME _____ No. Attending _____

ADDRESS _____ Amt. Enclosed _____

PHONE _____



- **APPETIZER:** *Soup de Jour*
- **GARDEN SALAD:** *with creamy dill dressing*
- **ENTRÉE CHOICE:** *Sliced Steak Forsestiere; Chicken Champari; Filet of Salmon*
- **DESSERT:** *Warm Apple Crumb ala Mode*
- *Coffee, Tea, Soda*
- **CASH BAR**

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

**HOLIDAY GIFT / STOCKING
STUFFER SUGGESTION!**

Why not give copies of your very own
ROBS interview to family and
friends? Professional Quality Tapes
@ \$10 each

Contact John Sherin at 516-931-
2971; jmsherin@aol.com



" MEDICAL ALERT "
FOR ALL THOSE ON MEDICARE

In the **Medicare and You 2000** handbook, page 7,
and in the more recent **Medicare and You 2001**
handbook, page 9, you will find the following state-
ment:

"Pap Smear, Pelvic Exam and clinical breast exam –
ONCE EVERY 36 MONTHS. Once a year if you are
at high risk for cervical or vaginal cancer or if you are
of child bearing age and have had an abnormal Pap
smear in the preceding years."

This shows a blatant disregard for women's health
and, once again, women are being discriminated
against. It is urgent for you to write your member of
congress and senators about this policy. Women need
to have their gynecological examinations every year.
Write to the newspapers. Spread the word. It is urgent
to get this policy reversed.

(Huntington Association of Retired Teachers & Employees)



The annual Southern **Retirees of
Brentwood Schools Luncheon** will
be held this year on Wednesday,
February 21, 2001. If you are
interested in attending this event in
or around Boca Raton, Florida,
contact **ROBS retiree Marilyn
DePlaza at 561-488-1267**.

The M-T Corner

"We often think that when we have
completed the study of one we know
all about two; that 'two' is 'one' and
'one'. We forget that we still have to
make a study of 'and'. The study of
that 'and' is the study of the process
of growth."

George T. Lock Land
"Grow or Die"
1973

RETIRES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

C/O Phyllis Goodwin
P.O. Box 2709
Huntington Sta., N.Y. 11746

Pgoodwin@msn.com

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Holiday Luncheon
Dec. 8; 12-4
Irish Coffee Pub
(See flyer)

Save the date:
ROBS Annual
Breakfast, Friday,
January 19, 2001

YOU WILL FIND YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD INSIDE IF YOU'VE JOINED!!