



## ROBS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2004

RETIRES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

ISSUE 56

“...with large numbers of working class white, Hispanic and black residents, ... many young people turn to the military hoping to convert stints in the armed forces into tickets to a better life.”

### CASUALTIES IN AFGHANISTAN & IRAQ HIT HOME

Three Brentwood High School graduates have lost their lives in the “war against terror.” Marine Lance Cpl. Ramon Mateo (2002), 20, was mortally wounded 9/24 while helping provide security for a convoy west of Baghdad, a week after he had returned to Iraq from a visit home.

Army Sgt Michael J. Esposito Jr. (1999), 22, was killed 3/18 when his patrol came under fire searching a mountainous region of Afghanistan that had seen a re-emergence of Taliban activity.

Cpl. Raheen Heighter (1999), 22, was killed by a 7/24/03 explosion in an ambush in Iraq.

Brentwood principal Tom O’-

Brien stated that Brentwood, a hamlet with large numbers of working class white, Hispanic and black residents, find many young people turn to the military hoping to convert stints in the armed forces into tickets to a better life.

Mateo’s aunt said, “he was death number 1,042 in this war – what will it take for it to be over, a million deaths?”

“This was supposed to be over,” his stepfather said. Then, referring to Mateo “I’m proud of him, and we support the troops 100%, but this is pointless. This is not a war, this is a slaughter.”

At the high school, student’s observed a moment of silence after the announcement of the

latest death. “There is sadness, a real sadness. A lot of kids are depressed. A lot of the teachers are depressed.” said a hall monitor.

Chris Chamberlain, an English teacher, worries about other students serving in the military “I’m proud of my time in the military, and I advocated for it to them. But now I know they are all going to Iraq, and it terrifies me. The parallels to Vietnam are unmistakable.”

As of this writing the official statistics are these: Iraq – 1,042 dead; 7,413 injured in action including 4,026 whose injuries have prevented them from returning to duty. Afghanistan – 138 deaths; 366 deaths.

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### MULTIPLE HURRICANES AFFECT ROBS MEMBERS

Since August, Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne have spread devastation over the Caribbean, Florida and areas on the Gulf.

Karen Storjohan reports that in September the new roof color on Sanibel Island was blue (as in tarp). Sewers, water, phone and cable (3 month estimate) have been out. Due to heavy tree damage, their house is no longer hidden from the road and they can now see the Gulf.

With Charley nipping at his heels, Rick Edwards took off on his motorcycle for

Maine to visit Jim Watson, meandered to Massachusetts for a motorcycle convention during Francis and Ivan, and took off for another one in Alabama. Trying to get home to Land of Lakes, FL, near Tampa, he braked in Tallahassee to ride out Jeanne. Fortunately his condo sustained no damage.

Carl Fogliano on 9/25, near Stuart, reported no AC, water, lights etc., for more than 2 weeks. Crews from as far away as Canada worked hard to restore power. On 9/27 he wrote: “...condo complex devastated by a tor-

nado spurred by the hurricane. 30 roofs were blown away & destroyed some cars. My building spared...Without AC people with medical needs are truly vulnerable. ... a man in our complex committed suicide because he was sick & could not get quick medical help.”

Grace Fishenfeld: amazingly damaged here in Boca. Huge trees down. On beautiful houses. Beautiful Boca West is war torn. Sidewalks up & services down. Others have suffered much worse losses. The expenses are unbelievable...”

#### FYI: AFT Application Process

Also: Hundreds of schools are damaged and closed as a result of the hurricanes in Florida, resulting in a significant loss of class time; still other school buildings in the most severely hit areas have been used as emergency shelters

AFT Disaster Relief Fund  
(Checks to AFT Disaster Relief Fund, c/o AFT, 555 New Jersey Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2079.) These monies are distributed to affected members through a sliding scale grant application process that the AFT oversees.

# PHYLL'S FORUM

Phyllis Goodwin, President – (631-673-2971)



*Dear Colleagues*

*Welcome back to another year of ROBS meetings. We have already scheduled two luncheons for the year and are in the midst of planning meaningful speakers for your enjoyment. We are very glad to have Mary Ruffino aboard as our new Secretary and Joe Purcell as our new 2 year At-Large delegate to the Executive Board.*

*Several reminders for the coming year: Miriam Massucci is collecting books for preschoolers through the Food and Nutrition group. Last year you responded in November and December by bringing new books to*

*support a very worthy cause and we hope that you will continue to do the same. We are also gearing up for our Project Hope Program to help needy families during the holiday season. Your donations will be greatly appreciated.*

*I would like to thank those of you who returned the ROBS survey from the August newsletter. I am very disappointed that so many of you didn't return the survey. Those who returned the survey gave us many wonderful ideas. The Executive Board will try to implement some of these suggestions in the coming year. In order to keep our newsletter current, we hope that you will feel*

*free to write an article, voice an opinion in Letters to the Editor or send a healthy favorite recipe. We are always happy to have news about our members.*

*Finally, this is a very critical election year. Please get out and vote, urge friends to do the same, car pool to the polling center, volunteer to work the booths on Election Day, whatever it takes to make sure your vote is counted. No matter who is elected, we must work to improve the Medicare Plan and improve the drug prescription benefits.*

*In Harmony,*

*Phyllis Goodwin*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ROBS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS: BRENTWOOD'S CLASS OF 2004

Perla Iglesias



Colleen Mc Enter

### ROBS NEWSLETTER

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V.PRES. Harriet Pepine

SEC'Y. Mary Ruffino

TREAS. Marge Kirchner



**It's the time  
for gathering  
in the fruits of  
the spring &  
summer &  
GIVING  
THANKS!**

### RC 21 ACTIVITIES

Lilian Kelly, 516-799-4074

10/26 Brunch  
11/23 General Meeting  
Bay Shore Library 10 AM  
12/10 Holiday Party

**Seeking: Jim Varian,** retired Guidance Counselor.  
**Cece Harishberg,** Spec. Ed retired.  
Contact **Marilyn DePlaza,**  
marilyndeplaza@aol.com

## THE M-T CORNER

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

- George Land

**NYSUT NOTES**

Dorothy Zuckerman, NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant (631-273- 8822)  
(e-mail: [dzuckerm@nysutmail.org](mailto:dzuckerm@nysutmail.org))

**Whatever Happened To The Meaning of Labor Day?**

Over 100 years ago the first Labor Day observance took place in New York City. The day was set aside to celebrate a "workingmen's holiday". By 1894 Congress established the first Monday in September to honor "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations." But this year although there were still many parades and observances the emphasis in 2004 is on the severe problems confronting American working families today. Over the past four years severe major changes have taken place in an attempt to destroy and diminish the gains made by workers in our lifetime. Almost every issue that affects us as retirees and the working people who are our families has been attacked and in many cases destroyed.

- The **Medicare** Prescription Drug Law did away with the equal health care protection for all seniors; employers are encouraged to drop their health care coverage; out-of-pocket costs for drugs could reach thousands of dollars; negotiating for lower group drug prices is prohibited; importing medications from Canada is forbidden; greater concern was given to the needs of the insurance companies than to the retiree beneficiaries.
- **Social Security** is being attacked by strong attempts to move workers away from the federal program that guarantees payments into private investment accounts controlled by the uncertainties of the stock market.
- **Retirement pensions** are in peril: plans are being promoted to repeal rules that presently safeguard pensions from being raided; many private employees are finding that their pension plans are being underfunded or eliminated.
- **Health care insurance** costs have risen by 59% since 2001; the number of uninsured people rose by nearly 4 million; a true patients' bill of rights has been opposed.
- **Education programs** have been shortchanged: "No Child Left Behind" was not fully funded as promised; proposals to cut off Head Start programs are underway; there is opposition to provide funds to repair and modernize substandard schools.
- **More jobs have been lost** over the past four years since the Great Depression of the 1930's; jobs that are being reintroduced are mostly low or minimum wage-paying; overtime pay protection has been taken away from more than 6 million working families.

We as retirees were an important part of the strong labor force that helped bring America to the highest standard of living and the greatest productive force the world has ever known. It is still in our hands this year to see that our country continues to head in the right direction to protect ourselves and our working families. **November 2<sup>nd</sup> is the most crucial election choice of our lifetime.** The decisions we make this year will have immeasurable effects for generations to come. **Make sure you are registered to vote! Arrange for an absentee ballot if you won't be home! Help a friend or a neighbor to get to the polls!**

**THIS IS THE YEAR TO GET OUT THE VOTE!**

**BITS & PIECES****ARNOLD TRIP PAID FOR BY DRUG INDUSTRY LOOKING FOR A VETO**

Corporations ponied up about \$350,000 to finance Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's trip to the Republican convention, including a lavish party at Planet Hollywood (taxpayers footed the bill for his security). Many of the contributions come from large pharmaceutical companies like Pfizer, which are actively lobbying the governor to veto four bills passed by the state legislature designed to help Californians buy cheaper prescription drugs from Canada.

**MEDICARE AND HOME CARE**

If you get skilled nursing care or skilled therapy at home to help you recuperate, Medicare may also pay for home health aide services. For Medicare to pay, your doctor must justify the need for these services in your plan of care. Home health aides might help you with personal care, such as bathing, dressing, eating, getting around your home, or getting in and out of bed. Medicare does not pay for anyone to help you with grocery shopping, cleaning, laundry and cooking -- these services are often referred to as custodial care.

**GOV. PATAKI VETOED THE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE BILLS ON 9/24.**

meant to provide a moratorium for all state public employees, similar to what we have as teachers - Assembly 4962A and Senate S973A. Both Houses had passed the bills. He allowed it die after 10 days on his desk. **Contact your state representatives.**

**THOUSANDS OF COMPANIES ARE SHIPPING JOBS OVERSEAS**

encouraged by the Bush administration to export America's jobs while **8 million of us are jobless.** & working families struggle. Find out from Working America's Job Tracker which companies in your community or industry are shipping jobs overseas. [http://www.unionvoice.org/ct/Q1aV1\\_M1duLr/job\\_tracker](http://www.unionvoice.org/ct/Q1aV1_M1duLr/job_tracker)

**TAKE ACTION!**

## **BUSH-KERRY UPDATE** INDONVCT.ORG

### **Presidential Candidates Stand on Social Security and Medicare: whatever the outcome of this election, this is what is at stake for seniors!**

It is essential that older American take a closer look at where the two major candidates for President stand on Social Security and Medicare:

**Social Security**--President **George W. Bush** is committed to a plan to privatize Social Security which would allow younger workers to invest part of their Social Security payroll taxes in private investment accounts but neglects to mention that his plan would cost \$2 trillion in transition costs, and put the risk of investing on the shoulders of average Americans without the financial savvy to make wise investments. Democratic candidate **Sen. John Kerry** (D-MA) opposes any form of privatization of Social Security.

**Medicare**--President Bush pushed a Medicare bill through Congress, last year, that completely revamps the current system. The new law, which goes into effect on January 1, 2006, gives drug companies a \$139 billion payoff; forces older Americans to leave the traditional fee-for-service program and join a managed-care plan where they will pay more for doctor's visits; and allows drug companies to set higher prices by forbidding Medicare from negotiating prices and making it illegal to import safe, FDA-approved drugs from Canada. In addition, the drug benefit leaves seniors with a huge gap in coverage and jeopardizes their employer-provided health benefits. Sen. Kerry supports universal and affordable drug coverage for everyone under Medicare, a law that puts seniors first -- not drug companies and HMOs. He also supports legislation to allow Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices for seniors and to permit all Americans to buy less expensive prescription drugs from countries like Canada.

The 109th Congress will vote on privatization and other proposals that could transform Social Security from a government-backed entitlement program guaranteeing a monthly income for retirees, workers' survivors and the disabled into an investment program. The 109th Congress will also have the power to correct the mistakes of the flawed new Medicare bill, including the confusing and unfair drug benefit. "Our job as activists is to help elect a President and enough pro-senior candidates to the House and Senate to ensure that Social Security is protected not privatized and necessary improvements are made to the Medicare bill before it goes into effect," says **Edward F. Coyle**, Executive Director of the **Alliance for Retired Americans**. Hopefully that has happened by the time you read this. If not, ...well...

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** from the NYSUT RETIREE ORGANIZER, July/August 2004

Novelist Carson McCullers endured three strokes before she was 29. While she was crippled, partially paralyzed and in constant pain, she suffered the profound shock of her husband's suicide. Others may have surrendered to such afflictions, but she settles for writing no less than a page a day. On that unrelenting schedule she turned out many distinguished novels including *Member of a Wedding*, *The Ballad of the Sad Café*, and *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*. (source: *the 4th Course of Chicken Soup for the Soul*)

### **WARNING SIGNS OF STROKE: not all signs occur in every stroke so get help immediately**

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause

### **Doctors say any bystander can recognize a stroke by asking 3 simple questions:**

- ⇒ Ask the individual to smile
- ⇒ Ask him or her to raise both arms
- ⇒ Ask the person to speak a simple sentence

**If there is trouble with any one of them, call 911 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.** (American Stroke Association)

# NEWS NOTES

**Carl Fogliano** had a big surprise the day of the first Presidential debate: "This morning I had the shock of my life when I walked out the condo door and saw a million police, FBI and a helicopter or two buzzing in the sky. The President and Jeb were in my parking lot talking to other condo residents. Traffic was at a stand still and the entire event took about a half an hour. Bush was the first President that I ever saw in the flesh. Boy do they ever have security for him." (See p. 1 for condo conditions there).

**Watercolors by Rick Mundy** (Ross '98) were on display in October in the meeting room of the Jericho Library. His extensive collection of transparent water color emphasizes Long Island's scenic beauty. More than 21 of his art work images have been published in the N.Y. Times, The Village Times, the Encyclopedia of Living Artists, to name a few. And he's self taught!

Congratulations to our own **Dot Zuckerman** (Northeast '91) who was one of 14 NYSUT members who received a Living Legacy Award from the AFT in July. These awards are given for tirelessly promoting women's rights and the trade union movement for 30, 40 or 50 years of service. **Dot** was one of two NYSUT members, and four nationwide, recognized for 50 years of service.

**Letty and Sheila Sustrin** had a booth at the Harlem Book Fair in Freeport in September. **Phyllis Goodwin** noted that there was an overwhelming response from former and retired teachers to Ms. Belle and the twins, Thomas Bone', their illustrator, had an impromptu art class with the younger members in attendance. **Francine Poppo Rich** (daughter of **Marie Poppo '99**) is the publisher for **Letty and Sheila**. They were also featured at Border's in Bohemia for Educator's Appreciation Weekend October 9, and will be at St. John the Baptist HS Holiday Fair in West Islip November 11.

Letty, Pat, Phyllis Goodwin, Sheila at the Harlem Book Fair



"Magic Moments," a PBS show featured our own ROBS retiree, **Lynn Evans Mand**, (Hemlock Pk. '89) who represented the Chordettes, sang "Lollipop." It began airing in August. It was taped in April at the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City and included all the big names of the 50's: Patti Page, Pat Boone, the McGuire Sisters, the Four Aces, Diamonds, Lads, Coins, Platters, etc. **Lynn** looked and sounded terrific!

**Audrey Kutin** (Sp. Ed. Ross '03), moved to Boca Raton in October. She plans on returning in the spring and renting an apartment in the Oakdale/Sayville/Islip area. Good Luck on finding things ship shape there. **Audrey**, We'll miss you.

In a recent visit to Virginia Beach with family friends, **Phyllis Goodwin** attended a Traditional Naval Retirement ceremony complete with pipes and claxons, color guard upper echelon Officers. While in Virginia, **Phyllis** visited with **Barbara Hubbard** ('98) and her husband in Suffolk. **Barbara** is busy with her grandchildren and works as a church organist. **Bill** was his usual charming self, enjoying the pleasures of his "new" old sports car. Heading North, **Phyll** visited with **Noreen LoConte** ('99) and her husband Gene. **Noreen** is working with pre K students, visits from grandchildren and continues her fabulous work with crafts.



Our thoughts & prayers are with **Pat Landry**, **Marge Kirchner's** (No. Middle '01) partner as she faces radiation treatment. And feeling better wishes to **Bernie Heller** (Ross '90) who spent some time in the hospital this summer. Wife Amy is his helpmate and joy! Glad to hear **Jim Watson** is better too.



**Jean Geraci** lost her husband Jim in July. They have a son, Nick, 32 Revelyn Ct., Sayville 11782. Winter address is: 6090 SW 99th Place, Ocala FL 34476.

**Tanya Radgowski** died in August of lung cancer. She was an aide at Loretta Park. Her children, John, Kim & Pam, can be contacted at 339 Knollwood Lane, Woodstock, GA 30188.

**Bob & Shirley Walker Lloyd's** nephew, Sgt. Dale Lloyd, Wilkesbarre, PA, 22, was killed in Iraq in the end of July. He had been scheduled to return home in September. He joined the army after graduation from HS in 2000 and wanted to be a history teacher. The *Times-Leader* of Wilkes-Barre quoted his father, Richard, as saying: "I lost my son. Please don't give up on this war." At least 900 service members had been killed in Iraq at that point.

**THE BRENTWOOD VARSITY AND JV GOLF TEAMS ARE IN NEED OF ANY USED GOLF EQUIPMENT -- CLUBS, GOLF BALLS, ETC.**

## ROBS PET PROFILES BY SHEILA & LETTY SUSTRIN



This new feature column will be devoted to stories and tales about the pets that our ROBS members consider "part of their families. This premier profile will tell about the life of Belle, a little female Scottish Terrier, who has enriched the lives of Sheila and Letty Sustrin.

After having "Scotties" for 37 years, most very feisty male Scotties, the twins decided to take their veterinarian's advice and get a female, as they were supposed to be more docile. So off to North Carolina they went to meet and bring home their new pet. They returned to New York with a 4 pound bundle of black fur, which they named "Twinnies' Miss Belle, after the teacher character in their book, "The Teacher Who Would Not Retire."

Then the fun began. When she's in trouble she's called "Miss Belle," and when she's being her usual sweet self she's just plain "Belle." Training a dog when you're in the prime of life is one thing BUT when you've entered the Medicare era, "WOW!" It's a whole new ball game.

You're up at 5 AM to take the dog out, or you play tug-of-war with a 17 pound dog (of course you never win) or you're looking for lost toys that are under the furniture. You must find them as Belle is screeching at the top of her lungs that she needs you to retrieve the ball, bone, etc. that is under the sofa. Luckily, the floors are all tile so the furniture moves easily.

NOW, being identical twin sisters, Sheila and Letty were able to fool their friends, co-workers, students and yes, sometimes even their parents. NO, they cannot fool Belle. She knows the difference all the time and she knows who to take advantage of. Dogs identify people and objects by their scent, and Belle definitely has their two scents down pat. That does not mean that all you humans can now come up to the twins, sniff them, and be able to always identify the right one.

Belle has identified Letty as the "Pushover," and Sheila as the "Disciplinarian." In training school, Sheila is the one doing the lessons with Belle and Letty sits on the bench observing. If Belle feels she's had enough of her training session, she pulls away from the group and ends up whining to Letty who gives her comfort, a kiss and sends her back to the lesson.

Belle loves to be brushed. However, if Letty brushed her, the brush would become a toy for Belle to play with and you would hear Letty pleading, "Belle, please give me the brush. Do you want a cookie? Of course then Belle gets the cookie and Letty gets the brush back, gives it to Sheila and the job gets done properly.

What a fun time the twins had shopping in Party Time for the perfect hat and decorations for Belle's first birthday party. It took 30 minutes to find the perfect "Princess Crown" for her to wear. Belle's best friend, Bailey (Mary Pat Lyon's Pug), came to the party. They feasted on Dog Biscuits and Treats and happily they both slept well that night while dreaming of the next occasion they would share together.

At night time, as Belle sleeps on the sofa and her owners watch TV, you can see them both looking at her with adoration. There's lots of fun in the Sustrin house. But most importantly, there's lots of love. It doesn't matter if you're a "Pushover" or a "Disciplinarian." What matters is that a pet enriches your life and makes you a better person.

**WE'D LOVE TO KNOW IF ANY OTHER ROBS MEMBERS HAVE SCOTTISH TERRIERS. PLEASE EMAIL US**

**AT:**

**TWINNIESLS@AOL.COM**

**Want your pet profiled in this new column? Contact Letty and Sheila.  
They're in the ROBS' Directory.**

### WANTED

- If you have a camcorder, live in Florida for all or part of the year, and would like to conduct ROBS interviews for our History Project, contact John Sherin at 516-931-2971 or [jmsherin2optonline.net](mailto:jmsherin2optonline.net) for particulars.
- Anyone interested in servng on an editorial board for the ROBS Newsletter, contact Chris Veech at 631-499-1680 or [chrisevech@aol.com](mailto:chrisevech@aol.com)
- Miriam Massucci will collect **NEW UNWRAPPED** books, ages 5 to 7, for FAN, run through Catholic Charities. They will be distributed in Christmas baskets.

## A Letter for ROBS & Project hope



Dear ROBS members,

The time has come again to appeal to you for donations for the holidays. This year our funding has been cut drastically. This means many of the programs that we delivered to our homeless children have been cut. It saddens us that we need the help of our communities and past supporters this year more than ever before. Our cuts include a minimum of paid tutors for our tutoring program. We will have to rely on more volunteers this year. Our Reading Program has been downsized. The number of children has not decreased much, although it is down by about 10%. So this year we have approx. 220 children in 78 families so far.

I am anticipating a drop in the amount of donations this year. This includes Thanksgiving and the holidays. In the past, you have been generous in donating Thanksgiving baskets for approx. 4 or 5 families AND adopting those families for the holidays. I don't know if you realize it, but this is a major donation on your part and a huge help to us, not to mention the 20 + smiles and the glimmer of hope in their eyes that we get to see.

I am hoping that you will continue your wonderful work as in the past. I understand all the work that goes into this project, and please know that we appreciate all of it. I hope to hear from you very soon and wish each member a wonderful, happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Diane Gustaw



### **TO CONTRIBUTE OR VOLUNTEER, CONTACT:**

Frank Spencer, ROBS Community Liaison Committee  
3 Nottingham Drive, Wheatley Heights, N.Y. 11798-1593. Phone: 631-253-0355

## **PART B PREMIUMS TO RISE 17.5 PERCENT in 2005 (AFT 9/04)**

Monthly premiums for Medicare Part B -- covers doctor services, outpatient hospital care, some home health services and durable medical equipment -- will increase 17.5 percent to \$78.20 in 2005, HHS officials announced Sept. 3. The rise of \$11.60 per month is the single largest dollar increase in Medicare's history. Officials from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services acknowledged that 15 percent of the premium increase will go directly from seniors' pocketbooks to HMOs every year. Medicare premiums have risen 56 percent in the last four years. The Bush administration claims the major factor behind increased premiums is higher spending under traditional, fee-for-service Medicare, particularly in higher payments to doctors. Under the new Medicare law, payments to doctors in 2005 will rise by 1.5 percent instead of decreasing by 4.5 percent as was planned initially. The new Medicare law also calls for increased payments to private Medicare plans, which also contributed to the premium increase. HHS also announced the deductible for Medicare Part A -- inpatient hospital care, skilled nursing facilities and some home healthcare -- will increase by \$36 to \$912 in 2005. In his acceptance speech at the Republican convention, the night before the record increase was announced, President Bush said, "We have a moral responsibility to honor America's seniors. Now seniors are getting immediate help."

White House and Republican leaders in Congress have consistently blocked efforts to allow Medicare to use its bulk purchasing power to negotiate lower drug prices, a major contributor to soaring Medicare costs. A recent Johns Hopkins report found that if Medicare could negotiate drug prices similar to those in Canada and other nations, where they often are 34 % to 59 % cheaper, Congress could eliminate the entire coverage gap in the Medicare drug benefit. Critics charge the administration moved up announcement of the record-breaking Medicare premiums from its traditional date in mid-October to distance the bad news from the election.

**The AFL-CIO Union Label and Service Trades Department** has launched a new Web site offering shoppers an array of union-made gifts, from clothing and chocolates to computers and greeting cards. The site, <http://www.shopunionmade.org>, is up and running in time for the fall and winter holidays. The AFL-CIO will target the peak of the holiday shopping season by promoting "Buy Union Week" Nov. 26-Dec. 5 with the new shopping site as the cornerstone of its campaign.

**UNION BOOKSTORE OFFERS SAVINGS TO AFT MEMBERS** Powell's Bookstore offers an extensive selection of new and used books for everyone in the family. Powell's is the only online union bookstore offering new and used children's books, e-books, textbooks and more. Orders of \$50 or more receive free shipping. For details, visit the AFT PLUS Web site, <http://www.aftplus.org>, click on discounts, then books.

# Looking to save money?

These discount programs from New York State United Teachers Member Benefits will save you money!

## Simply Certificates

Perfect for gift giving! Gift certificates purchased from Simply Certificates on-line or by phone are discounted 10 percent for NYSUT members and agency fee payers. You must identify yourself as a NYSUT member to receive the discount. Note: This discount is not valid at Simply Certificates retail locations.



Certificates are accepted at hundreds of participating restaurants, day spas, resorts, golf courses and ski areas. Merchants are located in many areas within New York, as well as in 14 other states and D.C. Participation in the downstate area will be expanded in the near future. Request a merchant listing from NYSUT Member Benefits.



## Working Advantage

If you like to save money on entertainment, then this program will interest you. Purchase discounted tickets for movie theaters, video rentals, theme/amusement parks, skiing, Broadway shows, museums and special family events through Working Advantage.

You can order tickets through the mail, Internet or phone. You must identify yourself as a NYSUT member and use the special NYSUT identification number.

## Lifeline

If you have an older relative living at home, Lifeline can give both of you peace of mind. It's an easy-to-use personal response service that ensures older adults living at home get quick assistance whenever it is needed, 24 hours every day.

A push of a button dials a monitoring center and establishes two-way voice communication. A Lifeline representative communicates with the individual, assesses the situation, summons appropriate help and follows up to ensure help arrived. Lifeline also allows the user to answer the phone without rushing and risking a fall. Additionally, it can give reminders about medications, appointments, etc.



NYSUT members receive discounted pricing. Note: Some communities may offer Lifeline through hospitals or service agencies. You should check with these facilities for availability and pricing.

## How to Access

For information and ID numbers for these programs, contact NYSUT Member Benefits: 1-800-626-8101, e-mail: [benefits@nysutmail.org](mailto:benefits@nysutmail.org), or on-line: [www.memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://www.memberbenefits.nysut.org).