

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 8

RETIRES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

NOVEMBER 1994

NEXT MEETING DATE



Tuesday
December 6th
10 A.M.

BRENTWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Have you ever been intrigued with searching for your roots? Join us to hear Barbara Schnitzer, a Central Islip retiree, share how to trace your geneology farther back than immediate family. Discover how to find sources for the various phases of Ethnic Geneology!

ALSO, MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR
THE ROBS ANNUAL BREAKFAST
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1995
DETAILS WILL FOLLOW!



Thanksgiving

OCTOBER MEETING

President Dorothy Zuckerman chaired a meeting that was devoted to welcoming new retirees of the 1994 class! We saw old friends too, and shared coffee and conversation with them.

Business was dealt with quickly: constitutional changes, new membership category, voting on reduction on dues (which passed unanimously), and electing three Executive Board Delegates. The three elected were: Miriam Massucci, Addie Lee and Elinor Tepper. The latter two are new retirees!

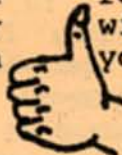
The focal point of the meeting was a program presented by John Sherrin called TALKING IT OVER! Each member of the group chose a partner they didn't know well, and then the pair teamed up with another pair to do some talking with

the help of three questions.

The conversation was animated and fun. And it was wonderful to make new friends with colleagues. The questions involved goals and hopes about retirement, and ROBS hopes to give our Program Committee input from the sincere wishes of members.

NEW MEMBERSHIP

Treasurer Harriet Pepine reported that we have 55 members as a result of our first notice in September! That is a good sign. See membership form elsewhere in this newsletter and get your dues in now and keep your newsletters and other information coming. We will be sending the next two Newsletters out to members and former members, but then we will cut back to only those of you who join!



1994 AFT REPORT

AFT CONVENTION - ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA

DOROTHY ZUCKERMAN, PRESIDENT AND DELEGATE

ED21 RETIREE COUNCIL - LOCAL 9521R

July 15-20, 1994 + + + + + Issue #1

Anaheim, California was the site of this year's AFT convention, but although we were within walking distance of Disneyland, the program was far from Mickey Mouse!

GOALS 2000: Convention delegates paid tribute to President Albert Shanker's 20th anniversary as president of AFT, noting that Shanker has "helped us become more than we ever thought we could be." In his state of the union address Shanker focused on making the new Goals 2000 work. Goals 2000 which was signed into law by President Clinton this spring creates a framework within which states will establish content and performance standards for student achievement, focus and align their educational programs around these standards, and develop strategies for helping students meet them. Shanker urged members to become involved at the state levels by meeting with local business leaders, communicating with elected representatives, and contributing "op-ed" articles in local papers. Al Shanker is recuperating from cancer therapy.

CHARTER SCHOOLS:

Many states are in the process of legislating charter schools which would give autonomy to certain designated schools within the states to operate free of many rules, regulations, and contractual provisions. Charter

schools must be carefully monitored to be sure they don't open doors for vouchers or fringe groups that may want to use public money to set up their own schools.

RETIREE CONFERENCE:

A convention within the convention, the third national AFT Retiree Conference was held during July 16-18. **The keynote speaker was Shirley Chater, Social Security Commissioner. She made it very clear that Social Security is not an entitlement, and has no impact on the deficit. Only those who have contributed to Social Security receive benefits from the fund. It pays out only money that has been paid in, and in fact is a national economic asset - it is expected there will be a balance of over \$9 trillion dollars by the next century. There will be enough money in the fund to pay benefits through the year 2029. With changing ratios between workers and retirees by that time, changes will have to be made in the way the system is funded. But there are 35 years for Congress to give it attention. The Social Security Commission will soon become an independent agency again, separated from Health and Education. **A panel discussion on health care reform included John Abraham, AFT Research Department, Greg Humphrey, AFT Executive Assistant to the President/Secretary Treasurer, and Tom Elkin, Assistant Director of the California Public Employees Retirement System. No new information was offered,

but we were assured that AFT would not hesitate to campaign against a bill that proposed inadequate coverage or taxation of benefits. ** Other speakers included Charles Champlin - "How Hollywood Sees Seniors", and Lawrence Smedley, Executive Director of the National Council of Senior Citizens. Dr. Ruth Weg, of the Andrus Gerontology Center, USC, attempted to discuss "Challenges in an America Growing Older", but somehow got off on the wrong foot and managed to alienate her audience from the start. A variety of workshops were offered, dealing with such diverse topics as Long Term Care, Financial Planning in Retirement, How to Improve Your Memory (but I can't remember what was said!!), and Intimacy, Sensuality, Sexuality... (Guess which workshops were well attended?!).

HEALTH CARE REFORM:

Delegates were encouraged to complete and mail letters to their Congresspeople; each delegate was given a packet containing letters addressed to his/her Senator and Representative along with stamped envelopes; all that remained was for us to sign the letters, add a personal postscript, and drop them into boxes located in the lobby of the convention hall. By the second day of the convention, more than 3400 letters on health care reform had been mailed!

VICE-PRESIDENT AL

GORE: The Vice-President thanked AFT delegates for their early and enthusiastic support of the Clinton-Gore team. He stressed accomplishments of the Clinton administration in just 18 months: Motor Voter bill, Family and Medical Leave Act, National and Community Service Trust Act, school-to-work legislation, increased funding for Head Start, new Elementary and Secondary Act, and Goals 2000. He also spoke of the amazing advances of the "digital revolution" and the "information superhighway" while 22% of the nation's classrooms don't even have telephone lines running to them. He urged support for welfare reform and continued support for health care reform. In an obviously relaxed mood, the Vice-President shared some of the many jokes that have been made about him: "Al Gore is so stiff, racks buy their suits off him", "Al Gore is so boring, his Secret Service code name is ... Al Gore."

SPEAKERS: Richard Riley, Secretary of Education: spoke about Goals 2000 and other Clinton education legislation; need to reach out to the middle of American society to unite them behind the schools and goals; Kathleen Brown, California Democratic Gubernatorial candidate: endorsed by California Federation of Teachers; Peter Umberg, candidate for California state attorney general; Delaine Eastin, member of California state assembly; John F. Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of California Labor Federation; Mary Hatwood Futrell, president Education International, former president NEA; John Cooke, president of Disney Channel, in place of Michael Eisner who underwent quadruple bypass surgery that Friday.

MERGER TALKS:

Productive talks between AFT and NEA have been held since last spring and will continue for another year. Both groups have agreed to encourage no-raid agreements and to explore working together on political action. Critical issues still to be resolved are AFL-CIO affiliation and the role of health care and public employees.

DUES INCREASE: Effective Sept. 1, 1994, per-capita monthly dues will increase 25¢, and another 30¢ by Sept. 1, 1995. NOT TO WORRY - Retirees still maintain free lifetime membership!

ELECTIONS: President Al Shanker and Secretary-Treasurer Edward McElroy, running on the Progressive Caucus slate, were re-elected. 38 other AFT Vice Presidents were elected, along with 14 AFL-CIO delegates.

PIZZA HUT WON'T SHARE A PIECE OF THE PIE:

Pizza Hut pays no health insurance for many of its hourly restaurant employees. It asks employees to pay their own basic insurance, sign onto a spouse's plan, or go without. Parent company Pepsi-Cola is lobbying Congress to discourage an employer mandate for health care coverage. On July 19, Pizza Hut was picketed across the country by concerned unionists, including the AFT delegates who marched up the street from the Convention Center to the local Pizza Hut.

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AFT



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

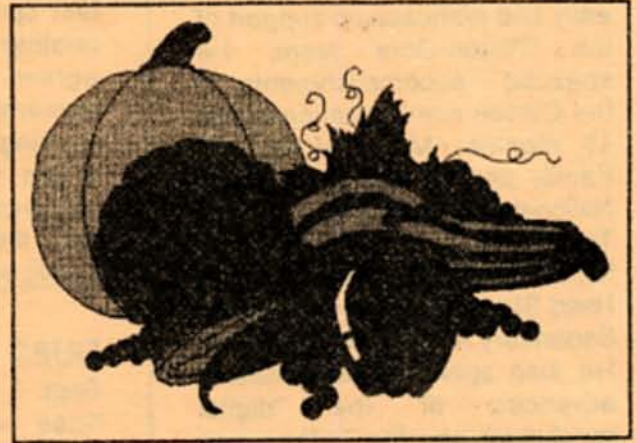
WASHINGTON: THE social Security Administration will become an independent agency on March 31, 1995. It should give it more visibility, accountability, & insulate it from politics.

ALBANY: The amount doctors can charge Medicare patients has been reduced from 10% to 5% over approved amount.

\$4 Mil. approved for mental health services for residents in Adult Homes.

Manufacture or sale of crayons containing lead has been prohibited.

We always have the choice to stop and enjoy the present.



EDITORIAL COMMENT

Lars-Erik Nelson columnist of NEWSDAY, has a way of saying things about health care that really hit the mark. Some bits from October 6th:

He cited the fact that scores of members of congress choose Walter Reed, a taxpayer-financed U.S. Government hospital when they need medical care. Yet they have denounced President Clinton's now dormant health-care plan as "government run medicine." The Republicans have fought Clinton's plan to require big employers to subsidize health insurance premiums for their workers-- while requiring little employers, you and me, to pay for 75 percent of Congress' health insurance premiums.

Comprehensive, taxpayer subsidized, low cost health insurance is such a natural right to members of congress that some, like Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) are even unaware who pays their bills. In a TV appearance earlier this year, Gingrich claimed that he paid \$400 a month for his own health insurance. He had no idea that \$300 of that was picked up by the taxpayers. Health care crisis? Not for Newt.

Nelson also reports that Sen. Harris Wofford (D.Pa.) has made this modest proposal: Cut off

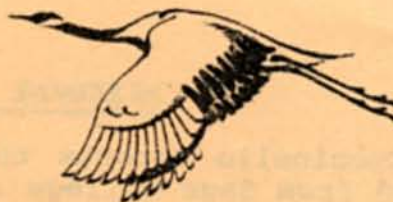
all taxpayer financed insurance for members of Congress until they make health coverage available to the rest of America.

Wofford's idea would cost our representatives \$300 a month, which for many of them-- especially the score of millionaire senators-- is less of a nuisance than raising the hatcheck fees at the country club. But it just might focus more attention on what life is like for ordinary citizens.

But they would still have access to the top quality care at Walter Reed and Bethesda Naval Hospitals when they fall ill....

RESOURCES FOR CAREGIVERS

A free fact sheet on community resources for caregivers and a list of national organizations that offer free or low cost resources is available by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: First Line of Defense, Older Women's League, 666 Eleventh St. NW, Suite 700, Washington, D>C> 20001. An eldercare hotline is also in service to provide caregivers with local telephone numbers for resources and services: (800)677-1116.



GETTING THE FACTS ON ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

The National Institute of Mental Health is concerned about clearing up some of the misconceptions people have about this disease which generally progresses slowly taking years to develop fully. Because it can't be identified by lab tests, it is difficult to diagnose. For this reason, MHI warns people to be wary about an early diagnosis, and to make sure all the necessary exams and tests are performed to positively eliminate other possibilities.

For more information contact the Alzheimer's Related Disease and Disorders, Inc. Health experts are available to answer questions and inform callers about free booklets on various aspects of the disease. Call 1-800-272-3900.

BITS AND PIECES

Like B&B's? Educator's Bed and Breakfast Network is offering a free booklet, Fact Sheets. Call 1-800-377-0301.

Airfare Discounts for Seniors. Anyone 62 or over, and a companion regardless of age, is eligible for a 10% discount on any published roundtrip, advance-purchase excursion fare. Airlines also sell four and eight coupon booklets for travel at even greater discounts.

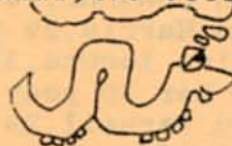
Choosing a Financial Planner. The NYS Attorney General's Office offers a booklet, What You Should Know About Financial Planners. For a free copy, write NYS Dept. of Law, Public Information Office, 120 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10271.

They say people who volunteer after retirement live longer. A Guide to Volunteering for Older Americans, a 24 page booklet from ACTION, the volunteer-service corps, and the Center on Aging at the Univ. of Maryland, tells how to get involved. Lists volunteer agencies in every state. For a free copy send name and address to: Consumer Information Center, Dept. 82, Pueblo, Co. 81009.

RSVP, the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Nassau County can be contacted for further information on opportunities with human service agencies. For further information, or to join, call 516-572-0800.

Ombudservice Program of Suffolk County invites you to become a Volunteer Advocate for nursing home residents and their families. Volunteers will receive ongoing education and training by professionals and also certification by the N.Y. State Office for the Aging. Contact Ruth Berger, Program Director, 1014 Pulaski Road, East Northport, N.Y. 11731, 516-757-4667 for further information.

FOR TRAINING TO HELP
BRENTWOOD STUDENTS
WITH HOMEWORK: CALL
BRENTWOOD PUBLIC
LIBRARY, 273-7883.



YOU CAN IF YOU
BELIEVE YOU CAN.

NEWS NOTES

Elaine Cuccinello reports that granddaughter Juanita Cucciniello graduated from Sage College in June of this year with a Physical Education Teaching Degree. She is now employed as a part-time assistant coach in a high school in Alpha, New Jersey. Grandson Jeffrey Cucciniello enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and is stationed at Twenty-Nine Palms, California. Good luck to both!

Verne and Frank Spenser moved from Brentwood to Wheatley Hills a few months ago. We hope the move was smooth, and they're enjoying the Jacuzzi in their enlarged quarters. The way to go!

Dot and Jack Zuckerman are travelling in England with their daughter and son-in-law. Jack was not feeling well before they left, and we hope all went well. A two week driving trip is no fun if you're not well.

Rhoda Stamler warns ROBS members to be very careful about telephoning Empire when illness strikes. Empire did not cover her husband's rehab care because his doctor transferred him to a Geriatric facility. Empire will not cover Nursing Home care. Also watch definitions of "durable medical equipment." Keep those phone numbers handy!

Winnie Firman needs a buyer for her Florida home in Palm Coast. Listing price is \$98,000 for a 3 bedroom that has been updated with a reserve area in back. Call agent: 904-445-5880 if interested.

Chris Veech won Honorable Mention in the St. John's Hospital Smithtown juried Photo Contest in September. Her photo was of her granddaughter, Kaari at 6 months, sitting in the stuffed animals at the Disney Store in Huntington. The 20x30 photo called "Laughter is the Best Medicine" now hangs in the Pediatric Ward.

UNSOLVED MYSTERIES 2

These teachers never picked up their retirement plaques. If you know any of them, tell them to contact Chris Veech at 499-1680. Their shelf life is disappearing!

Gloria Barbara, 26 years
Evelyn Bonanno, 18 years
Edward Harris, 29 years
Madeline Iacono, 31 years
(also her 30 year award)
Edward Parnell, 28 years
Leon Seidner, 29 years
Martin Ross, 30 years
Richard Zuck, 29 years



JOIN US AGAIN
TODAY!

WE WANT YOU



!!MEMBERSHIP DUES REDUCTION!!

After a very careful review of our revenues and expenses for the past three years, the ROBS Executive Board is pleased to recommend a reduction in our dues for the 1994-95 year.

DUES HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO \$10 A YEAR: - \$5 to remain in the ROBS treasury and \$5 to be forwarded to the ED21 Retiree Council for the per member assessment. In the past, we have charged \$15: - \$10 for the ROBS treasury and \$5 for ED21 Retiree Council.

We wish to thank all our members for their past support which has made ROBS an active and viable organization. We look forward to your continued participation.

CLIP AND RETURN

_____ I am enclosing \$10 for my 1994-95 Robs dues.

_____ I am enclosing a separate check for \$_____ made out to NYSUT Vote-Cope in order to support legislative efforts on my behalf.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

_____ **DO NOT INCLUDE MY NAME IN THE ROBS DIRECTORY.**

SCHOOL RETIRED FROM _____



MAIL TO: TREASURER HARRIET PEPINE
82 GLORIA BOULEVARD
HAUPPAUGE, N.Y. 11788

**OVER THE HILL AND LOSING IT?
NOT NECESSARILY**

It appears that people who stay mentally sharp as they get older have certain characteristics in common: a flexible attitude, a willingness to adapt to change, and an adventurous spirit about learning new things and going to new places. Continued intellectual activity was also found to be a major contributor to preventing mental decline, as well as strenuous exercise on a regular basis.

If all this seems too high a price to pay just to fend off senility, here's another approach: One study found that simply living with someone helps. According to some psychologists, it helps to have a high-functioning spouse or companion.

National Council Retired
Citizens Retirement
Newsletter

**Retirees of Brentwood Schools
c/o Zuckerman
8 Woody Lane
Oakdale, NY 11769**

QUOTABLE

In her address at the Older American's Act Celebration held on May 10, 1994 in Washington D.C., Secretary Donna Shalala remarked: " I'm happy to be celebrating 'Older American Month,' but I'm troubled that, as a nation, we don't carry out this spirit for the entire year.

My family is of Lebanese descent. In my community, age brings honor, respect, and a new status. As we get older, there is nothing wrong with looking our age--no, being old is nothing to hide. Not something to avoid. It is a time to celebrate both the wisdom and the peace of a life well lived-- and a life worth living."



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