

ROBS NEWSLETTER

JULY 2007

RETIRES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

ROBS SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN

The ROBS Scholarship Committee reviewed approximately 30 applications from this years' graduating seniors. The committee members were: Harriet Pepine, Adrienne Eastman, Ruth McCalla, Lynn Prass and Martin Hochheiser.

The candidates had excellent grades, GPA's and SAT scores. Every recipient is pursuing a career in education and expressed interest in returning to Brentwood after graduation. All of the students were active in community affairs and services. The awards were presented on May 22, 2007 at the Brentwood Sonderling High School. The recipients are:

Xavia Ortega – Jack Zuckerman Scholarship - \$1000.

Alyssa Rizzuto – Lilian Kelly Scholarship - \$500.

Jasmine Bermudez – ROBS Scholarship - \$500.

Trisha Ceparano – ROBS Scholarship - \$500.



- Photo: Jasmine Bermudez, Xavia Ortega, Phyllis Goodwin, ROBS President, Alyssa Rizzuto and Trisha Ceparano.

Phyllis Forum

Dear Colleagues,

Things are certainly moving right along this summer and hopefully it is to our advantage. On July 1st a law went into effect that requires hospitals to better ensure that Medicare beneficiaries know their rights before being discharged, and outlines how to object when a patient or family member feels release is medically premature. While the new rules are designed to protect patients, they will require more paperwork and hours from hospital employees, including additional administrative visits to hospital rooms, which a recovering person may find bothersome. The notification, an "Important Message from Medicare," now features a clearer explanation of patients' rights and will be provided to families both after arrival and before departure. Hospital staff delivering the information must be able to answer questions about the policy, and for the first time, patients and their legal representatives must sign the paper. If a discharge is contested, hospitals have until noon of the next day to provide detailed explanations of why a patient is ready for release and how to continue an appeal.*

In September, NYSUT retirees will see several more dollars in their monthly retirement benefits. The Cost of Living Adjustment for 2007 translates to a maximum monthly increase of \$21. This figure represents an increase of 1.4% applied to the first \$18,000 of pensions under New York's permanent automatic COLA legislation. The maximum monthly benefit has increased by \$147 since legislation took effect in 2001. The statewide union continues to seek increased benefits for older retirees whose pension benefits are still lacking and legislation that will provide greater protection from inflation for all retirees.

We hope that you have an enjoyable summer and we look forward to seeing you in the fall.

In Harmony,
Phyllis Goodwin
President

*ARA Friday Alert

ROBS SCHEDULED MEETING DATES 2007-2008

Brentwood Public Library 10 AM

September 7, 2007

October 5, 2007

November 2, 2007

December 7, 2007 Holiday Luncheon

January 28, 2008 Breakfast

March 7, 2008

April 4, 2008

May 2, 2008 History Video & Election

June 6, 2008 Luncheon



ROBS
RETIRES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS
MEMBERSHIP 2007-2008

Your \$20 dues for the year are dispensed as follows:

NEWSLETTER: Whether you remained in the area or have relocated you can stay in touch by receiving our periodic newsletter that is filled with updates on member activities, topical issues, as well as member written articles.

MONTHLY MEETINGS: You are welcome to attend our monthly general meetings. Topics such as Identity Theft, Elder Law, Hobbies, Home Repair for Seniors, Hospice Care and the History Project have been presented at our meetings. Refreshments are served. In addition, there are three social meetings: the Holiday Luncheon, a New Year's Breakfast and the End of the Year Luncheon (there is a separate charge for these events).

SCHOLARSHIPS: ROBS provides scholarship –which includes the Jack Zuckerman and Lilian Kelly Awards- money for four Brentwood graduating seniors who are pursuing a career in education. Our newsletter is printed and collated by AHRC. This is another form of scholarship to the young people who work there.

HISTORY PROJECT: You are invited to participate in an oral history where you are interviewed about your career, life and thoughts. A video (there is a minimal charge) is prepared for you. An edited composite video is also shown at a membership meeting. This is a member only activity.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: A yearly listing of all members, their addresses (including an alternate address), telephone and email address.

COMPLIMENTARY MEMBERSHIP: At age 75 and after 3 consecutive years of ROBS membership.

RETIREE COUNCIL 21: \$5 of your dues entitles you to membership in RC 21 and its' activities.

RETIREE COUNCIL 43 (TRIF): If you are a permanent resident of Florida and want to join Florida based RC. 43, you must be affiliated with ROBS. ROBS dues will be \$15.

PROJECT HOPE: Each year ROBS adopts 4-5 families for the holiday season. We chose our applicants from a list supplied by Suburban Children. We will begin accepting donations at our November meeting.

In addition to membership in ROBS, we urge you to consider a contribution to **VOTE/COPE**. Vote/Cope tackles problems and issues facing educators still working as well as those who are retired. Vote/Cope was instrumental in obtaining a permanent COLA added to the TRS and ERS pensions. We recommend a minimum donation of \$20 but please feel free to contribute as much as you can. We would like you to consider the Vote/Cope pension deduction to make our bookkeeping easier.

ROMANCING THE TRADES: TRIBUTE TO JOE CAMPO, BRENTWOOD TEACHER

A letter from a Brentwood Grad - Ray Flores, Morehead City, N.C. 2/28/06 (Thanks to Andy Book, retired in Beaufort, NC)

I routinely read *The Carteret County News-Times*. ...I always thought I would keep my comments on issues to myself... until today. I realize there has to be a line we will defend...for me it is education. The Feb. 26 front-page article on relocation plans for the Bridges Middle School is that line in the sand. First, I proudly state I am a product of an "at risk" education. I was a disposable child. The first time I was sent home, suspended, was in the 4th grade. I was suspended 17 times, expelled twice, arrested in school once and told I would never amount to anything. I was locked in classroom closets for hours, in the dark, by teachers who did not care to, or could not, reach out to me, teachers who could not recognize my needs...

Most people would not openly share this type of information about themselves.... but I tell you this because I am proud of the path that defines me as a man today. You see my life was changed not by events I caused and was held responsible, for but by the action of one man, one day, one minute. That man was a teacher. That teacher's name was Joe Campo and I attended the Brentwood School System in Long Island, N.Y.

The school system I attended did not, I repeat, did not separate, isolate, and confine the "problem" kids. We were kept in "general population." ...mainstreamed. Mr. Campo, the teacher, realized it was a challenge to teach those of us who were NOT the brightest or the best behaved. He realized that every child was deserving and worthy of effort. Mr. Campo did not shy away from the challenge that calls every teacher to teach, not just the easily teachable, but the difficult gifted children (as I prefer to call them)... Mr. Campo was able to figure out what motivated me and used my motivator to inspire a change that to this day defines me. Isn't every child worthy of that effort? ...



I have a surprise for you, these throw-away children we are giving up on today will grow up to be members of this community tomorrow, not having the opportunity, privilege, education, time and money to go to college. They are the future employee base of Carteret County. What does it say about our community when we fail to realize that **the tallest a man can ever stand is when he first kneels to help a child?** Instead of working ...to separate and isolate, we should be working to integrate and mainstream...My soapbox is this: This great county has a unique opportunity to establish programs that romance the trades to these young children and to teach them how to use their hands. We have already given up on them using their minds. Let's teach them how to use their hands.

I am a contractor ... I believe we do a disservice to our children if we only introduce them to college and a "professional career." There is a big gap between the big box employer and having a college degree and a profession. The trades fill that gap, and we fail to teach the trades ...to our children. These throwaway children some residents don't want near their privileged children, are the very employees their children will someday have to hire.

The community college is...starting a program that will allow business and community leaders such as myself...to have direct input and participation with our upper class students... This program will be a great bridge for [those] not able to obtain a college degree. On top of that program we need to romance the trades to our children at the middle school level and start to teach them simple things like using a hammer and reading a ruler. As business leaders, as concerned parents (grandparent for me), as neighbors, I challenge everyone, and the concerned parents of the Newport Middle School, to spend a day with the children of the Bridges school and see if they can find any part of themselves in those children, or any part of their own children in these children for that matter. See if their hopes and dreams are any different than the hopes and dreams of the children they are trying to protect....

I challenge every business person to give of their time and money, to build programs and schools that romance the trades and teach our young children that we have two hands and 10 fingers and everything in the world is accomplished by these two very simple God-given tools. It's not rocket science...[it has] an easy solution. Elect politicians that support education... Empower those in the education trade to educate...Seek and reach out to the least of us and transform them into the best of us. I was an at-risk child... My life is not defined by those failures but by the success of that fact. Education...Without it, what do we really have? And who are we to say which children are worthy and which are not?

Carteret County has a great opportunity to change the course of the lives of our most valued possessions, our children. Work to support programs and efforts that enable that change. Any effort whose goal is to separate and isolate needs to be reviewed ... [Children] are not disposable. Their lives can be an asset, and all it will take is **one man, one day, one minute.**

Thank you Mr. Campo.

ROBS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS 07-01-07

PRESIDENT

Phyllis Goodwin
114 E. Rogues Path
Huntington Station NY 11746 631-673-2971
Email: pbgoodwin@msn.com
Fax: 631-351-0915

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Harriet Helman
70 Juniper Avenue
Ronkonkoma NY 11779 631-471-2274
Email: ainthair2@aol.com

RECORDING SECRETARY

Lucille Fink
40 New Mill Road.
Smithtown NY 11787 631-265-9429

PROGRAM/SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Ruth McCalla
100 Columbus Avenue
Central Islip NY 11722 631-234-8013
Email: srrdrunr@optonline.net

NEWSLETTER

Christin Veech
11 Yates Avenue
Commack NY 11725 631-499-1680
Email: chrisveech@aol.com

GOOD & WELFARE

Carmela Criscione
11 Ithaca Street
Bay Shore NY 11706 631-666-
Email: tecnouquen@aol.com

BTA LIAISON/ RC21 REPRESENTATIVE

Martin Hochheiser
5 Thorpe Lane
East Islip NY 11730 631-581-8572

AT LARGE DELEGATES

Lynn Prass
208 Elton Court West
St. James NY 11780 631-265-9750

Joseph Purcell
25 E 15th Street
Huntington Station NY 11746 631-421-1501
Email: jpurcell@sufflok.lib.ny.us

VICE-PRESIDENT

Harriet Pepine
2 Gloria Boulevard
Hauppauge NY 11785 631-234-1247
Email: hpepine28@optonline.net
Fax: 631-582-2168

TREASURER

Marge Kirchner
666 Hawkins Road East
Coram NY 11727 631-698-9345
Email: emmasmhk@aol.com

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Dot Zuckerman
8 Woody Lane
Oakdale NY 11769 631-567-3866
Email: dotzcc@optonline.net

SECRETARY/CLERICAL LIAISON

Adrienne Eastman
700 Broadway
Brentwood NY 11717 631-273-3716
Email: supersec@optonline.net

HISTORIAN

John Sherin
356 Dawson Lane
Jericho NY 11753 516-931-2971
Email: jmsherin@optonline.net

COMMUNITY LIAISON / PROJECT HOPE

Peter Vercillo
17 Willoughby Street.
Brentwood NY 11717
Email: itaught34@optonline.net

ARCHIVIST

Donna-Marie Ragonese
10 Trails End Road
Kerhonkson NY 12446 845-626-3013
Email: donna-mariरणगणसे@msn.com