

The Retiree

RETIREES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

Dorothy Zimmerman, President
Roxie Stambler, Vice President
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June, 1992

Spring Luncheon



is



Cancelled



June has always been a very busy month. When we were in the classroom there was no breathing space until all the "must do's" of June were cleared away. Now that we have put those concerns behind us, we have made room for all the other fun things we've been waiting to do in this glorious month. When we announced the luncheon, we were deluged with protests from our members. Their summer activities, vacations, and plans would have already been under way by the time we had scheduled our get-together. Since we want this to be an EVERYBODY PARTY, we are moving our plans to the fall. Those of you who forwarded money for the Spring Luncheon will receive a return check from our treasurer, Harriet Pepine.

We are now making plans for a "happening" in October. At that time, we will be able to include all our new retirees as well as those who fly south for the winter months. Look for time and date and details in our future newsletters.

'Golden Age' Teacher Passes Away

We have just received a letter which enclosed two obituaries of Max Sparer. His passing marks the end of an era which will come to be known as "The Golden Age" of teaching. I say teaching because, although Max was certainly an educator, he was even more a teacher.

He taught at Brentwood High School. His subjects were German and Latin. For Max, these were the most important subjects in the curriculum because they forced students to think, to discipline their minds, and to be logical. How could anyone hope to be well educated without knowledge of a foreign language, especially Latin. These were the gateways to culture, to civilization, to history, to a perspective on where we are in the universe. Max expected his students to learn, to be prepared, to be receptive. Max was a teacher. His students learned.

Max could be tough. He fought for what he felt was fair and right, alone if need be. Once, the language regents was scheduled late in the week, and the usual impossible deadlines were ordered by the administration. The office issued the edict that no one could leave until all the grades were turned in. Everyone knew that everything depended on Max. Where was he? Max was brewing tea in the department office; in his own way he was telling us and the administrators: "I don't play with stacked decks." Max would be ready when Max was ready.

And yet, this quiet man of principle could cry at hearing the first movement of the Mendelsohn Violin Concerto. This was not a weakness, but his strength. How many of us today who are touched by the great works of art and literature are still able to convey to students what they mean and represent? Max was a teacher.

The obituaries tell us that Max went on to San Diego, became involved in community organizations, and remained an organizer. This was a natural step for Max. He was still teaching.

Are there any Max Sparers in our schools today? I would like to think so. We need teachers like Max more than ever.

- Jack Zuckerman

In Memoriam

We have just learned of the death of June Meyer on May 17, 1992. We send our condolences to her family along with our fond memories.

We also send our heartfelt sympathies to Dick Simmons on the recent loss of his wife.

Calendar Dates

June 22

ROBS Executive Board
10:00 a.m.
NYSUT Office

September 9

CORTLI Back to School Luncheon
Noon
Eisenhower Park

September 15

E.D. 21 Retiree
General Meeting
10:00 a.m.
Connetquot Library

September 16

ROBS General Meeting
3:00 p.m.
DiPietro Center

September 23(?)

E.D. 21 Board Ride to Fire Island Light
House

Got Any Ideas?

GOT ANY GREAT IDEAS? ARE THERE ANY PROJECTS YOU'D LIKE TO SEE US START? DO YOU HAVE SPECIAL TALENTS THAT WOULD HELP ROBS TO GROW? LET US HEAR FROM YOU. COMMUNICATION WORKS BOTH WAYS.

Membership Directory Is Planned

We are planning to publish a Directory of ROBS members. Many people want to maintain contact with their retiree friends and have expressed an interest in developing such a database. We plan to begin this project during the fall. A tear-off sheet will be included in a newsletter which will ask for permission to include your name, address, and phone number in the ROBS Directory. No one will be included without prior permission.

Come Join The Crowd !

We've had an overwhelming response to our call for membership. As of May 21st, 135 Brentwood Retirees have signed up for ROBS. If you're not one of them, why not? We've got lots of plans in store for the next year. It's always fun to catch up on the adventures of those you worked with all those years. NOSTALGIA IS IN AT ROBS! Make your \$15 check payable to Retirees of Brentwood Schools (or ROBS).

TO OUR FLORIDA RETIREES: If you retired before 6/30/91 you have the option of joining either your Florida chapter or ROBS to maintain your benefits and to have NYSUT Retiree Delegate voting representation. (You may join both, but you have only one vote!) If you retired after 6/30/91, your membership must be continued through ROBS only.

TO ALL SECRETARIES AND CLERICALS: Regardless of the year in which you retired, you are eligible for membership in ROBS - and we welcome you! When your bargaining group became affiliated with BTA, you became eligible for NYSUT membership and benefits as well. Come join us!

QUIZ ANSWER

WHO WAS PRESIDENT OF BTA WHEN OUR FIRST CONTRACT WAS NEGOTIATED? We had several responses from our members, but only two people knew the right answer. We congratulate them on their remarkable memory! Our winners are:

June Dawson
Mary Bender

The answer is _____ Dave Martz!!! (Guy Di Pietro was the negotiator, but never a president of BTA).

BTA Ratifies Contract

The Brentwood Teachers Association and the Board of Education have ratified an extension of the contract with new provisions "in order to provide some degree of compensation for the dire financial circumstances the State has placed us in." The agreement is to take effect immediately:

SALARY: A salary schedule was structured through school year 1995/96, providing for projected deferred percentages each year based on the average increases in the Town of Islip. All deferred money will be paid to any teacher who leaves the District from now until June 1999.

STAFFING: All present probationary and tenured teachers are guaranteed a position through 1993/94. Teachers tenured as of September 1992 are guaranteed a position through 1995/96.

RETIREMENT INCENTIVE: An additional sliding-scale bonus will be available to any teacher who retires within the next four years.

HEALTH INSURANCE: There were no changes in the language of the contract. **HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS REMAIN THE SAME.**

Congratulations to our teaching comrades and to the negotiators who finalized the settlement. We wish them well.