



General Information

General Meetings are held at the Brentwood Public Library, 2nd Avenue & Third Street, at 10 a.m. on the first **Friday** of the month.

Calendar

April 3rd, 2009 - Library
10 a.m. in the lower level.

May 1st, 2009 - Library
10 a.m. in the lower level,
presentation of the **History Video**.

June 12th, 2009 - TBA
End of the Year Luncheon
Please note this is a change in date.

ROBS WEB ADDRESS

www.robsny.org

Newsletter Contributors

Carmela Criscione
Adrienne Eastman
Phyllis Goodwin
Paula Moore
Steve Rochester
John Sherin
Nick Siciliano



President's Message

Happy New Year to All. By now, all of the membership should have received their Directory for 2009-2010. We hope that this information is helpful to everyone. Please let me know if there are any changes or corrections to be made.

In this fiscal year of "gloom and doom", ROBS has had a very difficult time. With the rising costs of printing and postage, and lower membership numbers, we have found it necessary to increase our dues by \$5 as of July 1, 2009. Last year I made reference to the membership fees of the local chapters of RC21. Our organization had the second lowest dues structure, with other locals paying as much as \$75-100. At our May 1st General Meeting, a motion will be put forth to the membership to raise our dues. We hope that you will make an effort to put this date on your calendar and attend the meeting.

On a more pleasant note, Congress has passed the following bill on 12/11/08, and it was signed into law on 12/23/08, also known as H.R.7327, or the "Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act of 2008." The Required Minimum Distribution will not be required for calendar 2009. In other words, RMDs which are based on 12/31/08 plan balances and are normally required

to be made by 12/31/09 (or by 4/1/10 for those attaining age 70 1/2 in 2009) will not have to be made.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our last two newsletters. We hope that more of you will find time to put your thoughts to paper and send them to Carmela. We will have one more newsletter going out in June. Given the talent and intellect of this group, we should be able to put Newsday to shame.

Project Hope was a very successful venture this year. We adopted 15 people and had a considerable amount left over. Continuing the trend to supplement the lives of children, the ROBS Executive Board will donate money to the After School Tutoring Program for Suburban Children. Peter Vercillo has agreed to meet with the Director to establish the needs of the program. Thank you so much for your kind generosity. A special thanks to shoppers Kris Dougherty and Lynn Tiscione and wrappers Kay Dillon, Charleen Keely and Frank Roessner.

As much as I love snow, I am ready for Spring. How about you? The fact that Daylight Savings Time has started makes that much more anticipatory.

In Harmony

Phyllis Goodwin



Officers

Phyllis Goodwin - President
Harriet Pepine - Vice President
Lucille Fink - Secretary
Marge Kirchner - Treasurer
Dot Zuckerman - President
Emerita

Executive Board

Ruth McCalla - Program
Chris Veech - Newsletter
John Sherin - History Project
Peter Vercillo - Project Hope
Marty Hochheiser - BTA/RC21
Adrienne Eastman - BCA Liaison
Carmela Criscione - ROBS Cares
Kris Dougherty, Lynn Prass,
and Lynn Tiscione -
At-Large Delegates
Gloria Hanneman - Web
Coordinator
Nick Siciliano - Web Editor

Author, Author

Letty and Sheila Sustrin will be presenting the third book in their **Teacher Who Wouldn't Retire** series. It is titled "**The Teacher Who Wouldn't Retire Discovers A Planet**". Letty and Sheila will be at our **April 3rd** meeting, and there will be copies for us to purchase and have autographed. See you there.

Get Well Wishes

We send our get well wishes for speedy recoveries to Frank Mauro (Superintendent) recovering from surgery and John Galaris (Principal Northwest Center) recently hospitalized.

We are happy to report that Bernie Heller is out of the hospital and recovering at home. Ann Hutnick's husband Bill is also on the mend as is Marty Hochheiser's wife, Marcia.

Both Shirley Walker-Lloyd and her husband Bob have had recent health concerns as has Bob Merz.

Congratulations

Spring is in the air and so is romance.

Adrienne Eastman's grandson, Philip, recently tied the knot with Jennifer.

Eileen Kelly's grandson Ryan Talley will be walking down the aisle soon as well.

It's News To Us

If you have any news you would like to share please contact Phyllis or Carmela.

Sadly...

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to June Dawson and Mary Pat Lyons on the loss of their mothers and to Joanne and Richard Cartak-Kaufman on the loss of their son.

Joyce Turner (Assistant Principal at South JHS in the 1980's) recently lost her husband, an early Civil Rights activist.

We also note the passing of Warren Dolbeer and Rich Berry (Foreman at Buildings and Grounds) in January and Charles Herman in early March.

Who Said That?

1. We are always the same age inside.
2. You want a friend in Washington? Get a dog.
3. Line up alphabetically by height.
4. I used to be snow white but then I drifted.
5. Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men?
6. Old soldiers never die, they just fade away.
7. Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn.
8. If you have to ask what jazz is, you'll never know.

**NYSUT NOTES**

Dorothy Zuckerman, NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant
631-273-8822; e-mail: dzuckerm@nysutmail.org

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

If you had to make major cuts in your household budget, what would your priorities be? As a result of the Wall Street disasters, Governor Paterson has called for drastic measures to overcome a potential \$15 billion deficit in the state's budget. While sacrifices must inevitably be made, too many of the projected cuts are focused on all areas of public education – from Pre K through grade 12 school programs to higher education.

- ☐ School districts will be faced with cuts from 3% to 13%
- ☐ The neediest students will be severely affected if the Foundation Aid Formula is reduced by 12% (Campaign for Fiscal Equality lawsuit)
- ☐ Funds for Universal Pre-Kindergarten programs will be frozen at present levels
- ☐ Teacher centers and the Mentor Teacher-Internship Program will be eliminated
- ☐ School districts will be required to pick up 15% of the cost for preschool special education programs
- ☐ Aid to community colleges will be cut by 10%; undergraduate tuition will be raised to 15% at CUNY and 14% at SUNY schools
- ☐ SUNY hospitals will lose \$24 million
- ☐ Proposals are ready to open contracts, force wage freezes and stagger paychecks

In his inaugural address, President Obama emphasized responsibility – responsibility of government and of its citizens. Investment in public education is one of the greatest responsibilities we must continue to uphold – it is a major investment in the future of our children, our state and our country. The challenge of our time is to continue to develop creative minds, encourage educational progress and close the achievement gap. We cannot afford to lose a generation of students who will soon be called upon to lead our country and to help grow the state economy.

Make your voice heard now, loud and often – phone, write, fax or email your state legislators. Let them know how urgent it is to preserve the public education achievements we have worked so many years to accomplish. Tell your New York State senators and congressional representatives that it is urgent and essential that they support the federal economic-stimulus package. Federal education aid could inject over \$5 billion – a major boost to help reduce the state deficits and the threatened losses.

The enthusiasm of these historic inauguration days is still with us. We must keep that glow of hope and opportunity alive. We must join together to continue to fulfill the promise of the future we all worked so hard to achieve.



Tea With The Queen

by Paula Moore

I have taken many memorable and exciting trips, but my most recent trip to Egypt with the National Association of Black Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. has to be the most memorable. Cruising the Nile River, visiting the pyramids of Giza, the Sphinx, the Valley of the Kings, and Abu Simbel were sights of immeasurable greatness, mastery and achievement. What made this trip a life changing experience for me was the side trip we made to a Nubian village in Southern Egypt near the Sudan border.

Our leader on this trip was Dr. Beryl Dorsett, a retired educator and International Governor of the sponsoring group, a non-governmental organization affiliated with the United Nations.

Our organization seeks ways to help women and children cope with issues of health, education and economic development both nationally as well as internationally. In the past, my club sisters have traveled to remote villages in Ethiopia and Ghana to donate farm equipment and clothing, and help build water wells. A part of our Club's

charter is to do humanitarian work on each trip. That is how I came to have tea with a Queen.

The once proud Nubian people were displaced during the building of the Aswan Dam approximately forty years ago. The village was located along the banks of one of the rivers formed by the Aswan Dam.

We traveled in groups of eight in four small sailboats. As we approached the village we realized that there was no dock or easy way to get off the boats. Each boat was tied to the next boat. Those not in the first boat had to climb from boat to boat and then step onto a narrow plank to get to shore. The villagers lined the way with outstretched hands to prevent us from tipping over into the water.

We were then led to the school which we toured and distributed school supplies to the children. We had refreshments with them, sang songs and had lots of laughs trying to do their native dances. We were amazed at how well everyone spoke English.

The Nubian people are Muslim and the women wear the traditional black galabayya robes. Both women and girls cover their hair. I was amazed at how some of

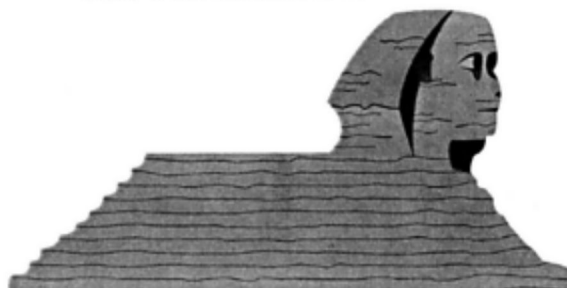
them balance large clay water jars or baskets of laundry on their heads as they go about their daily chores.

I noticed that there weren't many teenagers, especially young male adults, in the village. We were told that many of the young people leave to find work in Cairo or Alexandria.

Each person in our group was assigned to distribute five-pound sacks of rice and oil to each of four families. As we walked through the village we noticed that the poorer families lived further up the hill in mud-brick homes with dirt floors. We trekked up the hill over rocky, sandy soil and distributed our sacks of rice and oil, going to them rather than the other way around.

Even though their homes had dirt floors, they were clean and the women were proud to show off their colorful designs of blue artwork on the walls. The women also decorated our hands and arms with delicate designs in henna paint.

It was when I first visited the families that I felt an emotion that totally overwhelmed me. The men and women in the village addressed me as "my sister" or "my cousin" and wanted me to address them in the same manner.





We were invited to have an audience with the Queen Mother.

The Queen Mother's house was the only one in the village with electricity. As her sons gave us a tour of her house, I noticed that she had a washing machine, television and even a satellite dish. They watch CNN. Her house was painted in blue on the inside and outside walls alike.

We were served a delicious warm anise tea as we talked about our lives and customs. We realized the strong kinship we felt towards one another was not just because our Club was supporting them but because of a shared ancestry and life experiences.

It was a trip I shall never forget!

Who Said That?

1. Gertrude Stein
2. Harry S Truman
3. Casey Stengel
4. Mae West
5. The Shadow
6. Douglas MacArthur
7. Rhett Butler
8. Louis Armstrong



Who Knew?

by Adrienne Eastman

Who knew Brentwood had so many talented and successful graduates? At our March 6th ROBS meeting, Steve Rochester presented a great slide show of some of our most well-known alumni with pictures of them when they graduated and what they look like today.

A lot of us have heard of **Mitch Kupchak**, a star basketball player for Brentwood, who went on to be a member of the 1976 Olympics Gold Medal basketball team, voted all-American, ACC Player of the Year, an NBA player, and who is now the General Manager of the Los Angeles Lakers pro basketball team. Mitch has not forgotten his Brentwood roots, having donated over \$100,000. to our students in the form of scholarships.

Jef Raskin, a 1960 graduate, is best known for having invented, and named, the Macintosh computer! He is a man of many talents who is also conductor of the San Francisco Chamber Music Opera Society and has a patent for an airplane wing.

The actor **Jack Scalia**, a 1969 graduate, has also had a varied and famous career. In his early years after high school, he was a baseball pitcher who was drafted by

Triple A, the step before the major leagues. Not making the majors, he turned to modeling and appeared on a 1990 cover of Playgirl magazine and also modeled for Jordache jeans.

His good looks caught the attention of TV soap opera programs where he appeared in "Dallas" and won a daytime Emmy for his role in "All My Children". He went on to play Joey Buttafuoco in "Long Island Lolita", and appeared in "Remington Steele" and "End Game".

Three graduates from the same Brentwood family, **Larry, Lane** and **Lance Hoppen**, have been successfully performing as the musical group "Orleans" for 37 years. Some of their hit songs are "Still the One" and "Dance With Me". They received a special award from the Long Island Music Hall of Fame. If you like to catch them in action, they will be performing at the Boulton Theater in Bay Shore on June 13, 2009.

And that's not all, there will be a second installment in our next Newsletter of more fine people who have graduated from the Brentwood Public Schools.





Fighting Back Against Identity Theft

by Adrienne Eastman

Practically everyone has heard of the dangers of identity theft in this modern electronic age, and some have already been unknowing victims of unseen predators. It can destroy your credit and your good name.

So what can we do about? **FIGHT BACK** by using the following tactics:

Deter thieves by safeguarding your information.

Shred financial documents and paperwork with personal information such as Social Security numbers, bank account numbers and statements, and old income tax returns, before you discard them.

Protect your Social Security Number. Don't carry your Social Security card in your wallet or write your number on a check.

Don't give out personal information on the phone or through the mail or over the internet unless you know who you are dealing with.

Be careful on your computer.

Use firewalls, anti-spy ware and anti-virus software to keep viruses and hackers out. Visit:

OnGuardOnline.gov for more information.

Don't use obvious passwords like your birthdate, mother's maiden name or last four digits of your Social Security number. Create a strong password by using a combination of words and numbers, upper case and lower case and other keyboard symbols such as \$, & or #. Use different passwords for financial accounts.

Keep personal information in a safe place when you employ outside help or have work done in your house.

Detect. Routinely monitor your financial accounts and billing statements. Be alert for bills that don't come when expected, denials of credit for no apparent reasons or calls or letters about purchases you did not make.

Inspect your credit report once a year by requesting free copies from Equifax, Experian and TransUnion.

You can log on to:
www.AnnualCreditReport.com or call 1-877-322-8228 to order the free copies. You can also write to Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O.Box 105281, Atlanta, Georgia 30348-5281.

Defend yourself. As soon as you suspect ID theft, place a "Fraud Alert" on your credit reports and review the reports carefully. The three consumer reporting companies have toll-free numbers for placing an initial 90-day fraud alert. A call to one company is sufficient.

TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289
Equifax: 1-800-525-6285
Experian: 1-888-397-3742

Close any accounts that have been tampered with. Call the security or fraud department of each company where you have an account and follow up in writing with copies of supporting documents. Ask for verification that the account has been closed and fraudulent charges erased. Keep copies of documents and a record of phone conversations about the theft.

File a police report, and report the theft to the Federal Trade Commission by phone at 1-877-438-4338 or by mail to Identity Theft Clearing House, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D. C. 20580.

Take control. If an identity thief has stolen your mail for access to new credit cards, bank and credit card statements, pre-approved credit card offers or tax information, it is a crime which should be reported to your local Postal Inspector.



If you suspect a thief has accessed your bank accounts or used your ATM card, close the accounts **IMMEDIATELY**. If checks have been stolen, stop payment. If your Social Security number is your driver's license number, ask the Dept. of Motor Vehicles to substitute another number.

Other helpful hints:

Don't carry a lot of credit cards in your wallet or purse. Only carry the ones you need for the day or particular item you plan to purchase.

Be aware of who is around you at all banks and stores.

Watch the waiter, waitress or cashier in restaurants when they take your credit card for payment. They can easily copy your account number if they are out of your viewing range.

STAY ALERT folks so **YOU** don't become the next victim!

Run out of coffee filters? Use a folded paper towel.

Place a box of chalk (we all do remember chalk don't we?) on a shelf in your closet to absorb dampness.

We All Count!

As mandated in our Constitution, every ten years we count ourselves. It is a way to study a myriad of subjects: age, race, family structure, health, crime statistics...you name it...they count it. A very important head count determines how many congressional districts there are and the number of representatives to which each state is entitled.

Which brings us to: who counts those being counted?

The United State Census Bureau is charged with that task, and they are looking to hire Census Takers. The hourly wage is \$18.

Anyone interested should apply to the US Census Bureau or link to **www.census.gov** and then connect to the jobs tab.

Pass the word whether you are interested or know of someone needing work. Many people are need and jobs are available now.

Mark Your Calendar

April 16th is National Pretzel Day. The average person consumes approximately 2 pounds of them per year. May 11th is "Eat What You Want Day" and all of June is set aside as Candy Month.

Sports by Steve

by Steve Rochester

Winter Sports Report

Brentwood had a very successful winter season. The Boys Basketball team finished the season tied for first place and entered the playoffs as the #2 seed in the county. Unfortunately they were defeated by Deer Park in double overtime. Jonathan (JJ) Moore led the Indians in scoring and rebounding. Other key contributors were Alex Usera, Jamie Jennings, Jean Chery, and Cliff Murat.

The Girls Basketball team also had a great season, finishing with a 17 and 5 record. They won their first playoff game and were eventually eliminated by undefeated Sachem East; Brianna Harris and Jasmine Burwell led the Indians and were named to the All League Team. Erica Edwards, Ruth Vargas and Melani Lewis were important contributors.

The Wrestling team finished a very successful season and Josue Mendez won the County championship in his weight class. He went on to finish fourth in the New York State Championships in early March.



THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW YOUR CELL PHONE COULD DO!

There are a few things that can be done with cell phones in times of emergencies that you may not know about. Your cell phone can actually be a life saver or an emergency tool for survival.

Check out the things that you can do with it.

EMERGENCY

The worldwide emergency number for cell phone is 112. If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your mobile network and there is an emergency, dial 112 and the mobile will search any existing network to establish the emergency number for you. Interestingly, 112 can be dialed even if the keypad is locked. Try it out.

KEYS LOCKED IN THE CAR

Does your car have a remote keyless entry? If you lock your keys in the car and the spares are at home call someone at home, on their cell phone from your cell phone. Hold your cell phone about a foot from your car door and have the person at your home press the "unlock" button, holding it near the mobile phone on their end. Your car will unlock. Saves someone from having to drive

Distance is no object. You can be hundreds of miles away. If you can reach someone who has the other remote for your car, you can unlock the doors or the trunk.

HIDDEN BATTERY POWER

Image your cell battery is very low. To activate, press the keys *3370# and your cell will start with reserve power. The instrument will show a 50% increase in battery. This reserve will get charged again when you charge your cell phone next time.

DISABLING A STOLEN MOBILE PHONE

To check your mobile phone's serial number, key in the following digits on your phone: * 6 # ! and a 15 digit code will appear on the screen. This number is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. If your phone is stolen you can phone your service provider and give them this code. They will then be able to block your handset so even if the thief changes the SIMS card your phone will be totally useless.

You will probably never get your phone back but you will know that whoever stole it can't use/sell it either.

CALLING 411

Cell phone companies are charging \$1-\$1.75 or more for 411 information calls. Most of us don't carry a telephone directory so we do sometimes need to call Information. When this happens dial: 800 FREE 411 or 1 800 373-3411 without incurring any charge at all. Program this into your cell phone.

Directory Corrections

E-Mail Corrections:

Bob Cresko

cookbookchemist@yahoo.com

Bill Eagen

beagen@optonline.net

John Leeman

jleeman@webtv.net

Serenity for Retirement

Grant me:

Serenity to look on the past with pride, satisfaction and a sense of accomplishment.

Courage to look to the future with energy, optimism and countless possibilities and

Wisdom to live every moment of every day to the fullest.

compliments of Abbey Press