



GENERAL INFORMATION

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

REMINDER

Please bring canned or dry goods, paper products or toiletries to the **March** meeting as your contribution to **PRONTO**.

CALENDAR

February - no meeting held

March 5 - 10 a.m.

Lower level at the Library

EDITORIAL BOARD

Carmela Criscione, Acting Ed.

Adrienne Eastman

Lucille Fink

Phyllis Goodwin

Marge Kirchner

Miriam Massucci

Paula Moore

John Sherin

Nick Siciliano

ROBS WEBSITE

www.robsny.org

PHYLL'S FORUM

Dear Colleagues;

This year has been a wonderful year for **ROBS**. We started our year with a food drive that benefited Long Island Harvest and Pronto. These organizations were so pleased to receive our donations during this catastrophic recession. Both organizations gave me a wonderful tour of their facilities and hoped that many of our members would consider volunteering to help with their programs. We will continue to collect goods at our March meeting until our last meeting in June.

I would also like to thank all of our members for increasing attendance at our meetings. Laurie Kupperstein and Gerilynn O'Reilly were flabbergasted by the number of people in attendance at our November meeting. When I met with them at the Retiree Conference, they stated that they were most impressed with our group's participation and wished that other chapters would offer more to their memberships.

Some of our members were brave enough to attend the Health Care Town Hall Meetings during the Fall. I'm sure it was an eye opener to many who were not acquainted with some of the more chaotic and aggressive behaviors of those opposing health care reform.

A very special Thank You goes out to **Project Hope**. Peter Vercillo and his Merry Elves, Kris Dougherty, Lois Morella, Letty and Sheila Sustrin, Lynn Tiscione, Charleen and Tom Keely. They bought gifts for four families, totaling 22 people. Food was bought for the Thanksgiving and Holiday meals also taking into consideration that the children were home over the school vacation. As members of **ROBS** you greatly enhanced the holidays for these families.

The Executive Board and I would like to thank you for appreciating all of our hard work. Although membership is down, your participation has made it all worthwhile. As we start the new year, I would like all of you to consider getting more involved in the process of running **ROBS**. For many years, we have worked miracles with a small band of soldiers giving above and beyond. We seriously need your time and input to continue our mission successfully.

Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!

In Harmony,

Phyllis Goodwin



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**LONG OVERDUE** by Phyllis Goodwin and Carmela Criscione

We recently received a letter from a "long time supporter of the Brentwood Athletic Program" which sought to shine a light on a long-standing but mostly ignored issue. We are reproducing this letter and **ROBS'** reaction to it.

"I would like to start this letter by mentioning how enjoyable it is to read the **ROBS NEWSLETTER** and particularly **Phyll's Forum**. In the past issue, it was nice to read about the Athletic Awards Program and to see the names of all the dedicated coaches who were honored by having an award presented in their name. I offer my congratulations to all. Unfortunately, upon examining this list of names I found it very disturbing and sad that out of the 24 coaches being honored only 2 were women. It is sad that the Brentwood Athletic Department has chosen to ignore and forget the women who have dedicated themselves to the growth and development of the Girl's JV and Varsity Sports Programs.

Before the creation of Title 9 there was for all intents and purposes no girls athletic program. Yes, there was an intramural program and honor teams for a few sports. These programs were run by the women Physical Education teachers for little compensation and was considered to be of no importance by the Athletic Department. When Title 9 came into being these women finally had the opportunity to be able to develop and promote a JV/Varsity Program. It was often a difficult struggle to procure the athletic facilities, equipment, and uniforms needed for the program but these women did overcome these obstacles and set a solid foundation for today's girls' program. These women coaches not only laid the foundation but did so by fielding very competitive teams that turned in undefeated seasons, participated in league and county championships and produced individual athletes that competed in state championships.

Who were these dedicated coaches? I am sure many will recognize their names: Pat Michalski who coached volleyball and softball; Addie Lee coached basketball, softball and tennis; Marge Friesleben coached basketball, swimming and diving; Toni DeLuca coached field hockey, basketball and volleyball; Pat Curio coached softball, field hockey and volleyball. It is unfortunate that these pioneers and "founders" have not been given the equal recognition and respect that has been extended to their male counterparts."

...continued on page 3

**LONG OVERDUE** con't

The Executive Board discussed the letter and decided to write to Donna Jones, Superintendent of the Brentwood Schools. Here follows the letter sent by Phyllis Goodwin, President of **ROBS**.

"Recently, I wrote an article about the Brentwood Athletic Awards Night and commented on the retired and deceased members who had awards named in their honor. It was a significant evening due to the long-awaited recognition of Ivy Cover-Rosenthal. Ivy was a Jamaican National Tennis Champion and was inducted into their Tennis Hall of Fame. She was the flag-bearer for her country in the 1952 Olympics. What is so ironic about this is that Ivy retired in 1984. Twenty-five years after retirement she has finally received proper recognition.

Enclosed is a copy of the letter that was written in response to this article. The writer chose to remain anonymous but did name some of the women who have been overlooked by the District for many years. Brentwood has always been one of the first to innovate programs of top caliber. I have noted, from personal experience that even with the institution of Title IX, Brentwood did not move forward as quickly as expected. I attended many girls sporting events only to find that women were not coaching these sports."

A copy of this letter was also sent to Kevin O'Reilly, Coordinator of Physical Education, Eileen Welch, President of the Brentwood Principals and Supervisors Organization, and Joe Hogan, President of the Brentwood Teachers Association. The letter was hand-delivered to the District offices on September 18th, 2009. To date there has been no reply from anyone.

We will be send a copy of this newsletter to all the above-named and hope that someone at last has the courtesy to respond. We also hope that one (or more) of our members will write an article about women coaches and the girls' athletic program. If any of our members can name other women coaches please let us know.

**BRENTWOOD TRIVIA**

by Nick Siciliano

Name the syndicated **NEWSDAY** columnist who came to the BHS in the 1960's.

Ann Landers

Who was the well-known TV host who came to the BHS in the late 1980's-early 1990's.

Montel Williams

In what year was the first HS Home Coming? **1964**

When did the annual Puerto Rican parade start? **1966**

Brentwood did not always have a mid-winter break. When did this start and why?

To save on heating bills in the 1970's.

Name 2 elementary schools that were permanently closed.

South and Village Schools. Also the first school (octagon building) and the Second School House/old Adm. Bldg.

Weather events have led to the Brentwood Schools being closed for an entire week. Name 2 such weather events.

Snow storms during the mid-1970's and Hurricane Gloria in 1985.

When Brentwood HS graduations were too big to be held on the grounds of the HS where were they held?

Commack Arena



MEMBERSHIP COUNT

As of mid-December = 335.

NYSUT SOCIAL SERVICES

NYSUT Social Services is always available to answer any questions or concerns you may have. Experienced, caring professionals are there to help you and your dependents cope with some of life's unexpected complications. Connect with these and other resources in your community if you have need.

You can contact NYSUT Social Services Monday through Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at **1 800 342-9810 ext 6206** or you can e-mail them at www.socsvcs@nysutmail.org



FIGHTING BACK AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT PART II

by Adrienne Eastman

Here is more good information. The following advice was given by an attorney in the form of an e-mail message:

When ordering or reordering checks, have only your initials (instead of your first name) and last name on them. If someone takes your checkbook, they will not know if you sign your checks with your initials or your full name, but your bank will.

When writing checks to pay your credit card bills, **DO NOT** put the complete account number on the "For" line. Just put the last four digits. The credit card company knows the rest of the number.

Put your work number on checks, or if you have a P. O. Box address, use that instead of a home address.

Never put your social security number on checks.

Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Write "Photo I.D. Required".

Make photocopies of your driver's license, credit cards, social security card, etc. and keep them in a safe place.

Make a copy of your passport information page. Carry it when traveling.

When checking out of a hotel that uses cards for keys, **DO NOT** turn the key in. Take it with you. It has your address and credit card number with expiration date on it. Destroy it. Hotel employees with a card reader can access all your information.

Be smart. Stay safe.



NEW YEAR, NEW IDEAS

What do you think about a book recommendation column letting your fellow members know about new and worthwhile books? There are so many books out there that a recommendation from a friend can uncover an otherwise overlooked gem.

Do you want to share favorite recipes? What do you think about a **ROBS** cookbook?

Give us restaurant reviews. It doesn't matter if you live in New York, Utah, Florida, etc. We visit, we eat out.

Let Carmela know what you think.



ALL ABOUT US by Carmela Criscione

I hope everyone had a great holiday season. The Holiday Luncheon held at Carrabas on December 4th was well-attended and everyone had a lot of fun. It was good to see so many members especially those who live elsewhere but were visiting family. **Ruth McCalla** and **Harriet Pepine** did a wonderful job of organizing the gathering.

Twenty-five holiday greeting cards went out to members who are on our "Thinking of You" list. If you know of anyone who could benefit from a card that shows our concern please let me know.

Get well wishes to **Chris Veech** who is recuperating from hip surgery and **Vinnie DeRiggi** recovering from a stroke. **Italia Pirro** sends greetings from Las Vegas where she enjoyed a few (profitable we hope) days. She spent the holidays with her nephew and his family in Texas.

We are sorry to report the passing of **Patty Monsen's** (HS English) father, Lew Pagano. Our condolences and thoughts of concern go out to the Pagano and Monsen families. Sadly **Linda Eckert** lost her husband Jim as well. Ellen Edelstein posted on our website the following tribute to him. "Jim Eckert, Linda's (Sonderling retiree 2003) husband of 37 years, died suddenly on October 18, following a massive stroke. A graduate of Penn State University, Jim served in the Air Force from 1960-1965, achieving the rank of Captain. He went on to have a 35 year career with Grumman while earning Masters degrees in both Electrical Engineering and Business Administration. Jim and Linda built their dream home in Mattituck and Jim became an active member of the North Fork community. In addition to serving on the Conservation Advisory Council of Southold, his love of the French Horn led him to join various community bands. In addition to Linda, Jim is survived by a sister, three children and their spouses and six grandchildren." Our sincere sympathies to all them.

Sadly we also note the passing of **Elizabeth "Betty" DeLong**, Library Clerk at the High School for many years on December 30th. We have also received word that **George Blackshire**, Art Teacher at South MS, has passed away but we do not have a date.

Paula Moore's (Human Resources) grandsons James, Myles and Julius, had a personal tour of the White House in November. While they did not get to meet the President or any member of the First Family it was an awesome experience. **Shirley Stamm's** (Secretary/Funded Programs) son Richard is now a high school science teacher and his wife, Sheila, is the new Dean of Education at Hamline University in St Paul, Minnesota.

Brentwood grad Vinny DeGirolamo has written a fictionalized account about Brentwood High School's six year undefeated wrestling record during the 1970's titled **The 99th Match**. It is a message of hope, determination, endurance, courage and personal achievement. Vinny, a committed Mormon, has published over 10 inspirational/motivational books. Vinny has been invited by the High School to participate in their Career Day on February 9. He will also be meeting with the student literary club.



TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

What if the brilliant, twinkling stars that bring the dark night sky to life are windows looking out of heaven?

And at the very moment when we're wishing on those stars, hoping that the loved ones we have lost are happy, safe and free..maybe they are looking at those same stars from the other side, making the same wish for us...sending us all their love.

I'm wishing you the comfort of loving memories and the feeling that you'll always be connected to one so close to your heart.

Sharon Valleau

To all who lost someone dear to them this past year our sincerest condolences and heartfelt sympathies. Please know that the **ROBS** family thinks and cares about you.



JANUARY, 2009

John Rappelt - Librarian South MS

MARCH

Warren Dolbeer - English HS

Charles A. Herman - Math HS

APRIL

Bernie Heller - Guidance HS

Bob "Chico" Frankel - Guidance HS

Frank A. Mauro - Superintendent

MAY

Mary Pat Lyons - Math Lab TP

Bill Lane - SS HS

Ambrose "Bob" Hickey - Language HS

JUNE

Angela "Jean" Geraci - Supt Secretary

JULY

Bob Merz - Reading Consultant - NE

Shirley McCoy Brown - Phys Ed - E MS

SEPTEMBER

Ellie Bischoffberger - ESL Elem.

Polly Lane - Home Ec - E MS

Kay Aveni - HS Secretary

OCTOBER

Arlene Dargan - Secretary Human Resources

Ed Harris - Elem North School

DECEMBER

Elizabeth "Betty" DeLong -

Library Clerk-HS



ANTIQUE ROADSHOW -- ROBS STYLE

by Lucille Fink

Our October meeting could have been a dud -- the guest speaker did not show up but the **ROBS** membership rose to the occasion as Lucille tells us.

It all started with an exotic doll that Barbara Terlecki's father brought back to her from Brazil during World War II. Then Marge Kirchner related a story about her father, a railroad worker, who found a lovely sapphire filigree bracelet, and was allowed to keep it when it went unclaimed. He presented it to Marge's mother on a special night when she wore a blue dress. Dot Zuckerman showed us a sapphire and diamond bracelet that Jack's father gave to his mother and Teri Piombo displayed a cocktail ring that she purchased for her mother to give to her when her mom expressed sorrow that she didn't have any jewelry to leave her. I was starting to get **Antique Roadshow** vibes.

Letty and Sheila Sustrin displayed a very heavy, ornate French porcelain clock with floral design and raspberry-colored accents that their parents received as a wedding present. Lois Morella's mother's friend and neighbor presented Lois with a beautiful French bronze art deco ballerina and a Finnish silver calla lily necklace because she knew that Lois would appreciate them. Maureen Finnegan displayed a metal Asian incense burner that she received from a friend and Harriet Pepine displayed two lovely floral pitchers from the 1920's.

This was better than watching the **Antique Roadshow**. ROBS members were getting a look into the personal lives of people that many of us have known only in their professional capacities. The individual stories related about the items displayed were interesting, entertaining and as

unique as the individuals relating them.

Some of the objects displayed were genuine antiques. Teri Piombo displayed an ivory pin/pendant brought back in the 1840's as a gift from a sea captain to his wife. Adrienne Eastman displayed a Union box made of sawdust, lacquer, and varnish, which dated from the mid-1800's. It contained a daguerreotype of her father's grandparents or great-grandparents and a lock of hair. She also displayed a mourning ring, containing human hair, that belonged to her father's mother. Edie Filosa did not have her great-grandmother's pin but she had a picture of her wearing it. On the **Antique Roadshow** they would be excited about the provenance of the pieces. Jackie Logue brought in a picture of a multigraph machine that she purchased about thirty years ago at an antique show in Huntington. The set of original typesetting letters are still intact. Sue Lanchantin's cut-glass pitcher is 100 years old and she still has two of the eight glasses that originally accompanied the set.

Many of the items displayed returned us to our childhoods. Evelyn Sekac brought in her *Sewhandy* mini-Singer sewing machine and she even had its original box. Ruth McCalla displayed a yellow Dutch girl cookie jar from Red Wing Pottery and Ellen Edelstein brought a Bakelite covered casserole dish.

As the items were presented, members commented on them, asked questions, and provided additional information about many of them. Jackie Logue aptly referred to this meeting as "show and tell" for adults. It was obvious that those present enjoyed it as much, if not more, than they did when they were "showing and telling" back in elementary school.





IS IT JUST ME?

by Carmela Criscione

Around this time every year I resolve to keep the few resolutions I make. Maybe I should resolve not to make any resolutions...I would have a better chance succeeding.

So this year I decided instead to make a list of the things that tick me off.

See if this strikes a chord or maybe it is just me.

Finding out that your car is between two SUVs and you can't see anything while backing out.

Hitting every red light when you're running late.

Hitting every green light when you need to read the directions.

Ice cream truck music.

Setting off the smoke alarm while taking a shower.

That Tina Turner looks better after 60 than you did when you were 30.

Magazine subscription cards that fall out all over the floor.

Waiters who appear when you have a mouthful and disappear when you want the check.

Endless fund-raising pledge breaks on public TV.

Trying to remember why you opened the refrigerator.

Sales clerks who continue talking to their air-head co-workers while you are waiting at the register.

Finding that the "trunk open" light is lit after you've buckled up.

Mail order catalogs full of things you want but can't afford. Mail order catalogs full of things you want but don't need. Mail order catalogs full of things you'll never want or need.

The feel of Novocain at the dentist's office. The sound of the drill. Having the rinse water dribble out of your mouth because you're numb.

Finding out in a blackout that your flashlight's batteries are dead.

Nutrisystem commercials.

Forgetting where you parked your car.

Signs that say "Back in 15 minutes".

People who want to ban books they haven't read.

White packing peanuts.

Non-profit organizations that send you solicitation letters and/or address labels every four weeks.

Sealing the envelope with the bill inside backwards so no address shows through the window.

No handbag hook in the bathroom stall.

Getting directions to roads using their names and finding that the road signs only show route numbers.

People who pass you on the escalator.

60 Minutes being delayed because the last 2 minutes of the football game took 43 minutes to play.

Neighbors who never bring in their garbage pails.

Well thank you, I feel better already.

Happy New Year!