



ROBS NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2009

RETIREES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

ISSUE 78

ROBS WEB ADDRESS

www.robsny.org

ROBS

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

September 11 - Library
10 a.m. in the lower level.

October 2 - Library
10 a.m. in the lower level.

November 6 - Library
10 a.m. in the lower level.

Other dates to be announced.

IRS GLITCH MAY RESULT IN OWED TAXES

The National Education Association, one of NYSUT's national affiliates, is working to remedy an unintended consequence of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that could cause financial hardship for retirees.

New tax withholding tables were issued by the IRS to reflect the Making Work Pay credit on

earned income that was contained in the ARRA.

While pension benefits are not considered earned income and not subject to the Making Work Pay credit, the IRS nevertheless instructed the payers of retirement benefits to use the new federal withholding tables.

This likely will result

in under-withholding on pension income, and retirees, most of whom are on a fixed income, may find themselves unexpectedly owing taxes at the end of the year.

Find more details on this at www.nysut.org and in the April 23 *New York Teacher*.

(4/24/09 NYSUT LEADER)

OWL'S ELDER ABUSE REPORT

Older Women's League Released Elder Abuse Report on Mother's Day

Anywhere from 500,000 to 5 million individuals suffer from the effects of abuse, neglect or financial exploitation in a given year, and women are two-thirds of the victims. This past Mother's Day, OWL - The Voice of Midlife and Older Women - highlighted the atrocity of elder abuse by releasing a report entitled, "Elder Abuse: A

Women's Issue." OWL also hosted a Capitol Hill policy briefing on the issue.

The report covers issues ranging from elder abuse from a feminist perspective to the role of over-medication in elder abuse. "This Mother's Day, OWL's goals are to first, heighten awareness about the abomination that we call elder abuse, and second, to ignite the feminist and aging advocacy grassroots to push together for comprehen-

sive federal abuse protections," stated **Ashley Carson**, Executive Director of OWL.

Women have fought to pass adequate legislative abuse protections for children and for the victims and survivors of domestic violence, and OWL believes that women can fight to pass elder abuse protections in 2009. For more information, go to <http://www.owl-national.org/Welcome.html>.

PHYLL'S FORUM

Phyllis Goodwin, President – (631-673-2971)

Dear Colleagues,

Recently the House passed two bills designed to aid senior citizens. Quoting from the NYSUT Organizer, H.R.632 creates a national "Silver Alert" for missing seniors similar to the "Amber Alert" used to find missing children. The bill, introduced by Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX), would authorize grants to states and public or nonprofit groups to develop the program and maintain a national list of missing adults. Secondly, H.R.908 was introduced by Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA) to authorize funding for the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program. The third bill to aid seniors passed in a Roll Call vote 397-25. H.R.448, introduced by Rep. Joe Sestak (D-PA), would create positions in local prosecutors' and courts' offices to handle cases involving elder abuse or neglect and establish a new national organization to aid those offices. The bill calls for the Justice Department and the Department of Health and Human Services to issue a report to Congress after studying state laws regarding exploitation of seniors, and would allow state and local law enforcement to receive training and other support.

On a brighter note, the Scholarship committee chose the following High School Seniors to receive scholarship awards: The Jack Zuckerman Award will go to Esther DeFournoy. The Lilian Kelly Award will go to Andres Martinez. The two ROBS Scholarships

will go to Jessica Beltran and Edward Watson. All of the students will enter the field of education in September. As an aside, we would like to ask all of our members to make a small donation to our ROBS Scholarship Fund. We were able to give 4 scholarships due to a very generous donation to the fund and an additional grant from Retiree Council 21. However, we cannot always count on such donations and so we are asking you to make an additional contribution to the scholarship fund. We are a very important part of these students' entrance to college and we would like to continue to ease their way. Your checks can be made out to ROBS/Scholarship and sent to Marge Kirchner, 666 Hawkins Road, East Coram, New York 11727.

At the May General Meeting it was voted on and approved to increase ROBS dues to \$25 for the 2009-2010 membership year. Given the rising costs of supplies, declining enrollment and increasing postage, it has become increasingly difficult for us to provide the same services we have had over the past years. This is the first dues increase we have had in over five years. We hope you will continue to support our efforts and join us in our activities.

In Harmony,

Phyllis Goodwin



ROBS Officers

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

OOPS:

We want to take this opportunity to apologize for the errors in Cell Phone article that appeared in the last Newsletter. Even though we received it from what we thought was a reliable source it was error ridden. This was brought to our attention by eagle-eyed member readers. We regret the error.

THE M-T CORNER

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.



NYSUT NOTES

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

SPEAKING TO THE GENERATIONS

Do you know the difference between a raspberry and a blackberry? Would you rather handle an I-Pod or a pea pod? Have you started to twitter yet? Many seniors express outrage at people who "play" with their hand held computers during a meeting or a speech. They are taken aback by people on the street who appear to be talking to themselves over their cell phones. Over the past few years there has been a growing disconnect between today's youth and older adults. Each generation has shaped our world in a different way because of the world they were born into and responded to. These intergenerational differences often lead to stereotypes and prejudicial attitudes. The relationships we develop with our children and our grandchildren are essential to maintain genuine and lasting open communication.

As seniors we read about the Boomers, Generation X and Generation Y and we are confused about who and what they represent. Rapid changes in technology have left many seniors behind. As a result, older people often find it difficult to find a comfortable place in this changing environment. In order to remain useful and vital, it has become extremely important for seniors to become more involved in intergenerational activities. Sharing interests and experiences, breaking down language barriers, learning new technology – these are ways to bring the generations together. Dowling College in Oakdale has recently established the Center for Intergenerational Policy and Practice, the first of its kind on Long Island. For more information, contact Dowling College at www.dowling.edu/news.

See how techno savvy you are – Can you translate the following cyber symbols?

AFAIK.....	LD.....
BBL.....	LOL.....
BWL.....	P911.....
DIKU.....	PA.....
GAL.....	PMFJIB.....
HHIS.....	TCOB.....
IHA.....	TILII.....
IIRC.....	VBG.....
JTLYK.....	LLTA.....

AFAIK: as far as I know; BBL: be back later; BWL: bursting with laughter; DIKU: do I know you; GAL: get a life; HHIS: hanging head in shame; IHA: I have acronyms; IIRC: If I remember correctly; JTLYK: just to let you know; LD: later, dude; LOL: laughing out loud; PA: parent alert; P911: my parents are coming; PMFMJIB: pardon me for jumping in but; TCOB: taking care of business; TILII: tell it like it is; VBG: very big grin; LLTA: lots & lots of thunderous applause

SIGHTINGS

We are happy to announce a new regular feature for our Newsletter called "Sightings". We have all had instances where we make a "Brentwood Connection" in some out of the way place or under unusual circumstances.

The inspiration for this feature was an e-mail that Phyllis Goodwin received from Phyllis and George Bauman who now live in upstate New York. Phyllis was a Home Economics/Career teacher at the High School.

"My husband George and I were having breakfast at our local diner as usual. A gentleman was sitting opposite us. We were having an animated conversation with others and talked about trying new foods. This gentleman chimed in stating 'as a retired Music teacher in Bedford, the Home Economics teacher would send food to the teachers' dining room.' His name was Alan Hirschorn from Deer Park. When he was 19, he played piano in a group from Wheatley Heights with a man named John Sherin. Of course, I stated that I knew John and that I had taught with him. Alan was able to connect with John and they have made arrangements to reunite in the Spring. John called to thank me and we had a very nice chat. The best thing is that George and I have found a new friend."

If you have had a similar "sighting" please let any of the Newsletter Contributors know.

WHO KNEW II by Adrienne Eastman

The list of successful Brentwood graduates was so long that we did not have room for the entire article in the last newsletter. This is the second half.

One of our 1982 grads, **Buddy McGirt**, made a name for himself in the boxing world. He won the Welterweight and Lightweight championships and is currently training his son, Buddy, Jr., to be a champion too. Buddy Sr. has also appeared as a trainer on the TV show, "The Contender".

The world of politics appealed to **Linda Angello**, a 1970 graduate. She worked with Senator Caesar Trunzo for a time and was Commissioner of Labor for New York State under Governor Pataki.

Carl Adams, a 1968 graduate is well-known in college wrestling circles. He was a 2-time NCAA champion while he attended college, and for 25 years he was the Head Wrestling Coach at Boston U. During that time he won 10 Conference championships and was inducted into 5 different Wrestling Halls of Fame. Carl also invented the wrestling take-down machine.

Ralph Perez, a 1969 grad and Ray Perez's brother, has also made a name for himself in the field of soccer. He has coached soccer at several California colleges after graduating from Oneonta in New York. Ralph presently is coaching at Redlands College in California and is considered one of the biggest names in soccer in the United States.

We can indeed be proud to say these fine people have graduated from the Brentwood Public Schools!

Note: We are sorry to report that **Jef Raskin** of Macintosh computer fame died a couple of years ago.

TAKE A BOW

We are proud to announce at the April NYSUT Journalism Competition Luncheon in Buffalo, ROBS won awards for Best Web Site in Class R-II and Best News Story in Class R-II. Kudos to Gloria Hanneman, ROBS Web Coordinator, and Chris Veech, ROBS Newsletter Editor. Plaques will be presented at our luncheon on June 12 and again at the RC21 Luncheon on June 22 at the West Sayville Country Club.



ROBS CARES

Island Harvest is a Long Island based organization that collects non-perishable food and personal care items for the needy and homeless in our communities. At the ROBS May meeting a vote was taken to participate in their efforts by members bringing non-perishable food items to our meetings. This drive will start with the September meeting.

The next Newsletter will have an article about Island Harvest and how we can participate as individuals and as an organization.

If you no longer live on Long Island check your local papers and telephone book for similar organizations if you wish to donate food or personal items.

Newsletter Contributors

Carmela Criscione
Adrienne Eastman
Lucille Fink
Phyllis Goodwin
Paula Moore
Steve Rochester
John Sherin
Nick Siciliano
Chris Veech, Editor

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, Lynn Tiscione - At-Large Delegates
Gloria Hanneman - Web Coordinator
Nick Siciliano - Web Editor

HISTORY PROJECT NEWS

We are happy to announce that the History Project has started the process of converting the 103+ VHS tapes into DVDs. Three interviews were converted into that format: Chico Frankel, Chris Thorpe and Jim Nanos.

Anyone interested in participating in this very worthwhile project should contact John Sherin or Carmela Criscione to arrange an interview date.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I'm glad there isn't a substitute here for YOU!"

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
Reprinted with permission of Bill Keane

ADDRESS CHANGE

As of May 18, Linda and Marty Riger's new address will be:
302 Elton Court North
St. James, NY 11780.

NEWS NOTES

On May 1-2, the Mission Fencing Center in Rocky Point hosted the USFA National Circuit Fencing event. They decided to call it the **Jeff Wolfe L. I. Challenge**. It attracts fencers from all over the U.S.



And on June 10, our **Ivy Rosenthal** (left) will be feted by the Brentwood Athletic Department. She has been honored by having a Most Valuable Player Award named after her, and she will be awarding the first one! Way to go **Ivy** and **Jeff**!

Gloria Hanneman and family are celebrating the birth of their first grandchild, a girl, named Brook Marie. Jan & **Jeff Goldschmidt** also had their first in April: Hanna Quinn Golden. Congratulations, and there's lots more joy to come!



And hearty congratulations to **Phyllis Goodwin** who is celebrating the 30th anniversary of being cancer free! And to **Tom O'Brien** who was named 2009's High School Principal of the Year!

ROBS is thinking of **Tom** and **Kay Dillon**. Kay retired as an elementary teacher from Twin Pines. Our thoughts are also with **Polly Lane**, who has been in Southside hospital, **Jim Watson**, recuperating at home in Phoenix, and **Gilda Mantin** as she adjusts to assisted living, also in Phoenix. Let **Carmela Cris-cione** know of anyone who needs a thinking of you card.



Bob "Chico" Frankel (Guidance/HS) passed away after a valiant three year battle with cancer. He was loved by many in the Brentwood family, most of whom turned out for his life celebration on April 7. ROBS showed his History video on June 3. He

leaves his wife, Bobbe (also Guidance), daughter **Jen** (Gabe) **Torres** (Guidance) and granddaughter Skylar. He touched so many lives from Cuba to Brentwood, and his wit and caring are

missed by so many of us. He will be forever in our hearts... As will Bill Lane who died as we went to press.

We also lost **Bernie Heller** (Guidance/HS), pictured to the left, in Florida. Both **Marilyn DePlaza** and **Marv Davis** attended the graveside services at the end of March.



Mary Pat Lyons, 64, (NW, Twin Pines, Loretta Park), and **Frank A. Mauro** (former Superintendent) died in May as well. Our heartfelt condolences go out to families and friends.



ALERT: No matter how much you like them....DON'T EAT SCAB COOKIES!

Delegates at the recent NYSUT RA moved overwhelmingly to support a boycott of **Stella D'oro** products due to the new owner's demand that Bronx Local 50 of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers &

Grain Millers International Union agree to slashing wages & pensions, as well as elimination of all holidays, vacation and sick days. Workers have been on strike since August. Not one worker has crossed the picket line since then, though scabs have been hired. Support rallies have been held, the latest on May 30th. This Local has worked in solidarity with NYSUT to save state funding for education.

BOYCOTT STELLA D'ORO PRODUCTS.

RETIREES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

Welcome to ROBS. Dues for the 2009-2010 membership years will be \$25. This includes a \$5 participation fee for RC21 activities. **Please make your check out to ROBS. It's a great bargain.**

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY AND COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION. THANK YOU!

Please complete the form in its' entirety as we will need **all** pertinent information for our Directory. Return the form by 10/31/09 so the Directory can be updated and mailed in a timely fashion. Dues are required by 10/31/09 and before 12/31/09. Any member forms received after the October date will not appear in the Directory.

Name _____

Address #1 _____

Street

City State Zip

Dates*

Phone #1 _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

- **Many of you have second homes. If you do, please list the effective dates for each address.**

Address #2 _____

Street

City State Zip

Dates*

Phone #2 _____

Retirement Year _____ Building Retired from _____

Your Birthday is: Month _____ Day _____

() I **DO NOT** want to be included in the Directory.

() I am 75 years or older, a ROBS member for 3 consecutive years and entitled to free lifetime Membership. However, a fee of \$5 is necessary, if you wish to participate in RC 21 activities.

() **If you have not filled out a Vote/Cope Pension deduction form**, one will be provided in our next issue. **It would be appreciated if you would make your contribution through pension deduction.** We don't get membership credit if you send a check to Vote Cope. If you choose not to use pension deduction, make your check out to **VOTE/COPE** and send it with your dues to Marge Kirchner.

() I would like to be interviewed for the History Project. **Please do not sign up unless you intend to follow through with the interview.**

() I prefer to receive my newsletter only through the ROBS website (www.robsny.org).

Your check, made out to **ROBS**, **should not be stapled** to the membership form and both should be sent to:

Marge Kirchner

666 Hawkins Road East

Coram NY 11727

RETIREES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

ROBS MEMBERSHIP 2009-2010

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

Your dues for the year are dispensed as follows:

NEWSLETTER: Whether you remain in the area or have relocated, you can stay in touch by receiving our award winning 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, 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 gatherings: the Holiday Luncheon, a New Year Breakfast and the End of the Year luncheon. There is a separate charge for these events.

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

ROBS WEBSITE: www.robsny.org. We have launched our wonderful website which gives you access to all things concerning the Brentwood School District. There are yearbooks, ROBS pictures, our newsletters, a calendar of events, links to other Brentwood organizations and historical information.

PROJECT HOPE: Each year ROBS adopts 3-5 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.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP: Associate membership is available to those members who retired before the BTA/BCA merger, or administrators, operational supervisors, and confidential secretaries. These members will have all of the rights of ROBS membership with the exceptions of holding office and voting privileges.

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 RC21 and all of its' activities.

RETIREE COUNCIL 43(TRIF): If you are a permanent resident of Florida and want to join Florida based RC43, you must be affiliated with ROBS. RC 43 is a NYSUT organization. ROBS dues will be \$20.

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 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.