

ROBS-RETIREES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

Since 1991

Still Serving

Issue 4/2015

September-December 2015

MEETINGS

General Meetings are held at the Brentwood Public Library, 2nd Avenue and Third Street at 10:00 a.m. on the **first** Friday of the month unless otherwise noted.

September 11 - we welcomed new retirees

October 2 - Musical Presentation in the Auditorium

November 6 - Paul Pecorelli, VP of NYSUT

December 4 - Holiday Luncheon at San Marco

January 8 - Breakfast at the Candlelight Diner

ROBS CARES CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED

Pronto, the community action group we support, is in need of dry and canned goods, paper products and toiletries. **Please** bring your contributions to **every** meeting. Thank you.

New and/or **gently** used children's books collected for the **Books to Home Program**.

OFFICERS

Nick Siciliano - President
kpnici1@aol.com

Kathy Guleksen - 1st VP

Harriet Pepine - 2nd VP

Nancy Churchillo - Secretary

Carmen Roldan - Treasurer

Phyllis Goodwin - President Emerita

Dot Zuckerman - Founder

AFFILIATIONS

ROBS is proudly affiliated with **NYSUT, AFT, NEA, AFL-CIO, RC21 & NYSARA.**

www.robsny.org



Left to right: Ellen Bresloff, Louise Pagels, Barbara Rhein, Terry Kolker, Debbie Warsaw-Curley and Yvonne Bohm. Photo by Phyllis Goodwin

WELCOME NEW RETIREES

by Carmela Criscione

It's funny even though we are retired we still think in terms of the new school year.

We don't have meetings in July and August because that's summer break, and the same thing is true in February for the Winter Recess. And we end our year with the End-Of-The-Year Luncheon in June.

It took a long time for me to realize that I didn't have to schedule oil changes for my car around the school calendar. And, I could sleep through the alarm!

Our first **ROBS** meeting was held on 9/11, and we started with a moment of silence in remembrance of that day.

Nick then introduced this year's new retirees. Forty-four people retired with 37 of them being teachers. Attending their first **ROBS** meeting were Debbie Warsaw-Curley (Special Education), Barbara Rhein (Special Education), Louise Pagels (Special Education), Yvonne Bohm (Secretary), Ellen Bresloff (Special Education) and Terry Kolker (Math).

John Sherin kicked things into high gear with a thought-provoking, group participation activity called **One Step At A Time**. See page 10 for Susana Bouza's article about this activity.

ROBS will be celebrating its **25th** anniversary in 2016. We are asking that everyone think about this and suggest special activities or meeting presentations to commemorate this anniversary.

I hope you are looking forward to another interesting, informative and entertaining 2015-2016 **ROBS** year.



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TALK TO US

The phone numbers, home addresses, and e-mail addresses of all the Officers and Executive Board Members are in the Directory should you wish to contact us.

Stories, ideas for stories or columns and news items are always welcome.

This newsletter is all about us.

www.robsny.org



NICK'S NOTES by Nick Siciliano

HELPING OUT OTHERS IN THE COMMUNITY

ROBS over the years, indeed since its inception, has reached out to help the community in which we have worked for so many years. We have helped in a number of ways: scholarships for students entering the field of education, food for the **Pronto** Pantry, and recently we have become involved in providing books for children to enjoy during the summer break.

Every year at this time we ask your support to provide three needy families with Thanksgiving Dinner and gifts for Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanza. We are now arranging to adopt three families for this year's upcoming holidays.

You can help by contributing any amount to this worthwhile activity. Any donation would be greatly appreciated. You can give us a donation at the next general meeting or send a check in any amount made out to **ROBS**. On the memo line write "**Project Hope**" and send it to me.

Nick Siciliano
39 Jeremy Circle
Nesconset, New York 11767

Thank you for your continued support of this worthwhile project.

The families are very grateful for what we do for them each year.

Happy Holidays!





STEPPING BACK IN TIME

A VISIT TO THE BRENTWOOD CEMETERY

By Adrienne Eastman

On September 21st a group of 34 history buffs from the Brentwood Historical Society were treated to a fascinating tour of the Brentwood Cemetery on Madison Avenue and Jackson Street, a residential area near Twin Pines School in Brentwood.

The tour was led by Mary Kofurl from the Brentwood Library who told us about the founders of Brentwood when it was called Modern Times in the 1950's and showed us where they were buried.

One of the more well-known residents was Charles Codman, born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1828, who, according to the 1850 census, was a painter. He was also listed as a box maker, sign maker and cabinet maker in the 1860 census, and a bookkeeper in the 1880 census.

Codman purchased two acre lots of land on 2nd and 3rd Avenues in Modern Times in 1852. While living there he painted landscapes. Four of the paintings are owned by the Library. He became active in community improvements as a trustee on the school board. Codman died February of 1911.

Dr. William H. Ross, a long-time resident of Brentwood, was born in August, 1862 in Sparta, New York. He received his undergraduate degree from Teachers College in Geneseo, New York, and his medical degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1888. After completing his internship at Presbyterian Hospital, he took the position of Resident Physician at the fashionable Austral Hotel in Brentwood for the summer of 1890. He liked the village so much that he decided to stay. Until 1901 Dr. Ross relied on a horse and buggy to visit his patients, but that year he bought a Northern motor car and was the first resident to own an automobile. His patients often paid him in farm produce.

Dr. Ross opened a nursing home that later became the Ross Sanitarium or Ross Health Resort located on Suffolk Avenue. Established in 1898, Ross served as Director for 45 years. He dedicated many hours to the Brentwood community by serving on committees and organizations. He was a member of the School Board, helped with the incorporation of the Fire District and Brentwood Cemetery Association, trustee of the Presbyterian Church, organized the Brentwood Civic Association and the Central Islip National Bank.

As a well-known figure in the medical profession, Dr. Ross assisted in the establishment of the Suffolk County Tuberculosis Sanitarium and served as president of the Suffolk County Medical Association. He was also a Fellow of the American Medical Association and served as president of the Medical Society of the State of New York in 1931 and was a member since 1900. He died on May 9, 1955 at his home. He was survived by his wife and two daughters.

He is remembered today by the school named after him: Ross Building of the Brentwood High School.

One of the original pioneers, William Upham Dame, was born in 1815 in Maine. In the 1960 census he was listed as a box builder in Modern Times. He and his wife, Mary, had two daughters, Emily and Stella. In the 1960 census William Dame was listed as a cabinet maker.

Dame was known for building the first well in town as well as an octagon house. The well became the social meeting spot for residents of Modern Times as well as a landmark. It was located on the corner of Third Avenue and Brentwood Road. His octagonal home's second floor was made into a hall where many community events took place during those years. The hall was known as Archimedeian Hall. The house was built to conserve space according to Dame. William Dame died on November 2, 1896 and his wife died on September 15, 1911. The house still stands and there is a plaque on the road with details about its construction and owner.

John McCleary moved to Brentwood in 1897. He was an architect and builder and owned the general store. On December 23, 1899 he installed a 20 line switchboard, thus providing the first telephone service to Brentwood.

Theodore Henry Freund was born on October 22, 1876 in Germany. He immigrated to America in 1881 and moved to Brentwood when he was 12 years old. Freund married Anna, also born in Germany in 1884. He built the Brentwood Hotel which is still standing today. He later became the first Fire Chief of the Brentwood Fire Department and served on the school board and Brentwood Cemetery Association. Freund was a gardener and worked for Mrs. Mary B. Lee's estate for 43 years and then for the Sisters of St. Joseph. He died on July 27, 1958 at the age of 82.



History buffs visiting the Brentwood Cemetery. Photo by Ellen Edelstein, President of the Historical Society of Brentwood

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Han Yu and Marie Poppo at the Sons of Italy Education Gala in Washington D.C.

WALKING WITH HAN YU

by Marie Poppo

Han Yu walked into my kitchen for the first time one Friday night almost two years ago. He's been walking in and out of my kitchen ever since.

My grandson, Jude Tucker, was coming to visit me that night because my older sister was visiting from Staten Island. Jude Tucker had been friends with Han Yu, a high school exchange student from China, for some time. We wanted Han Yu to meet his grandmother and his great-aunt. Han Yu did not hesitate. "Yes," he said. "I will come."

When the boys arrived with my daughter that night, we all sat around the table, and we taught Han Yu to play a dice game called, "Left-Right-Center." Han Yu caught on quickly, and I could tell he was enjoying the closeness of our family. When he said goodbye, I gave him a hug and said, "All my grandchildren call me Rha Rha. Just call me Rha Rha." And that is how my 12th grandchild entered my life.

Soon after that night, my daughter was concerned because Han Yu would be entering his senior year at St. John the Baptist the following Fall, and his host mother at the time was cold and anything **but** motherly toward him. She treated him as a boarder, and they hardly ever spoke. He spent most of his time alone in his room. Han Yu was lonely and was facing the same housing situation for all of his senior year. By now, he had joined us for Palm Sunday, Easter, and other family get-togethers. I was worried about him, and wanted to help.

One day I said to my daughter, "You know I have an extra room. I'm a good cook. I really like Han Yu. He could come live with me." Han Yu loved using his new American phrase, "I can't wait, Rha Rha! **I can't wait!**"

Han Yu joined me August in 2014 and lived with me until he graduated from high school this past June. I knew I was offering him a happier home (and better food!), but I had no idea how much he was offering me. Han Yu is a true gentleman. We really and truly took care of each other. While I cooked, shopped, and drove to the bus stop, he vacuumed, took out the garbage, lifted heavy items, stood on chairs to dust up high, played Rummikub with me, and waited up for me when I had late chorus rehearsals. When he nt home to China for Chinese New Year, he returned with lavish gifts for me.

In October, only two months after Han Yu moved in, I was set to go on a ten-day vacation. Han Yu was going to stay with my daughter's family during the trip. Just as I was packing to leave, I tripped over my suitcase and ended up with fractured ribs and a sprained shoulder. My trip was canceled. For the next several months I had very limited use of my whole right arm. Han Yu followed me around the house, taking care of everything from laundry, to cleaning, to watering my plants. At Christmas time, he helped me shop for all my grandchildren. He was a godsend. One thing Han Yu never wanted to do with me, though, was walk. I walk my two miles on the track every day after dropping him at the bus stop. I grew accustomed to doing this by myself. He never really saw it as good exercise. I didn't mind.

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Han Yu con't from page 4

Han Yu and I developed such a special relationship that when it came time for him to graduate and move to college, I knew I was truly going to miss his smiling and helpful presence, and for a time I was very sad that he was gone. However, I'm enjoying hearing about his new adventures as a student living on campus at St. John's University.

After just one week on his college campus, Han Yu came to stay with me for the Labor Day Weekend. It was wonderful to have him back for a few days and to catch up on so many things in both our lives. It was just like old time except this time, Han Yu took me out for breakfast, and he treated me to a very expensive, giant yogurt (which he pronounced *yuugut*). And this time, he awoke at 7 a.m. and said, "Rha Rha, I'd like to walk with you."

And so we walked together. Thank you, Han Yu, for continuing to walk with me on this portion of my life's journey. It has been a true pleasure knowing you and welcoming you as my 12th grandchild.



Han Yu, Rha Rha with grandsons R. J. and Jude Tucker.
All three graduated from St. John the Baptist in June, 2015
(photo provided by Marie Poppo)

DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S IN YOUR WALLET?

We see them every day. Handle them with every transaction at restaurants and stores. But do we really look at them?

Paper currency has been changing in recent days but the faces remain the same. There has been talk about putting a woman on the \$10 bill.

Can you name all the presidents on our paper money?

Can you name all the presidents on our coinage?

See the answer on page 7.

ROBS 25th ANNIVERSARY

2016-2017

Hard to believe but **ROBS** will be celebrating its **Silver Anniversary** next year. We're asking for suggestions to make our **25th** year special and memorable.

For our 20th anniversary we had a theater outing, garden event and high tea. All these activities were outside our regular meetings. Would you like a hobby meeting, craft activity, a specific speaker?

Please let us know.

Also, we see our **Owl** on the corner of every newsletter page, but he/she doesn't seem to have a name. Help us out by suggesting a name. Please send your entry to me at tecnoquuen@aol.com with the reason why it is the perfect name for our **OWL**.





Emma Lewis in the middle of the top row,
Florence Paffe Corkery left front row.

A GRACIOUS LADY

FLORENCE PAFFE CORKERY

by Marge Kirchner

Florence A. Paffe Corkery was born on February 1, 1918 at St. John's Hospital in Brooklyn to Anna Mullan and Otto Paffe. She was an only child, the apple of her father's eye, and the beloved niece of Kathryn Paffe. A very shy child, she attended PS 137 in Brooklyn's Bushwick section. She was an excellent student and skipped a couple of grades. It was then that my mother met Florence at PS 137 when they were both in 8B. My Mom took her new classmate under her wing, showing her all the ins and outs of being an 8th grader. A friendship soon blossomed.

They both graduated from grammar school on January 30, 1931. Both of them were listed as students with "A" averages, and their teacher was Miss Schuster. They took the challenging test for Girls' High School and both passed and were anxious to attend the prestigious school on Nostrand Avenue in Brooklyn.

They didn't live too far from each other and traveled together. Flo sometimes stopped to pick up Emma at her house, but my grandmother was said to be very stern and not too friendly. Florence really preferred walking "up the hill" to my loving great-grandmother's house to meet her friend.

Flo was more surprised when my mother, Emma Lewis, told her she would not be returning to Girls' High for the tenth grade because she was getting married. That didn't happen, and neither Flo nor I know about what she did before marrying my

neither Flo nor I know about what did happen before marrying my Dad in 1936.

Flo graduated from Girls' High in 1935 and was admitted to St. John's University that same year where she paid \$8 per credit. Florence excelled in her studies at St. John's, became a member of Delta Psi Gamma sorority and graduated Summa Cum Laude in 1938 with a Business Degree that was printed on actual sheepskin.

Her first job was in Manhattan where she was a legal secretary to a Maritime lawyer. She loved her job, her boss was very kind, and it was a great experience for her.

During that time, Flo met the love of her life, John Corkery, a sweet, funny and kind man who stole her heart. In 1940 they eloped. Although Florence was raised a Catholic, she and John began attending Grace Gospel Church, a non-denominational Protestant Church in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn where my family were also members.

John was a very loving man who, like her father, provided a lot of fun. They welcomed three children: Florence in 1943, Kate in 1948 and John in 1952. They lived in Woodhaven, Queens until 1954 when they moved to Bayport.

Florence was a very "hands on" mom who was known to design and make incredibly beautiful costumes and sets for all the plays her children were in. She reveled in her children's accomplishments and took them to dancing lessons, had them participate in the Sparklers and promoted their love of reading. She and John also took advantage of living very close to the Great South Bay and encouraged their children to catch all manner of sea life. They also had a boat and traveled those same waters to Fire Island for fun-filled family outings. They also took family vacations to the Caribbean. The family had a wonderful life together, and the kids were well-loved and appreciated.

As Flo, Kate and John got older, the ever-determined Florence decided she wanted to go back to school for a teaching certificate. She adored being with little children and thought being a primary teacher would be perfect for her. Therefore, Florence attended Adelphi University for her teaching certification and began work at her beloved Pine Park School in 1963 when she was 45 years old.

Florence was hired by Dorothy Grimm and was assigned to second grade in Room 12. She loved her job and for the next twenty years made a profound impression upon students, parents, teachers and the staff.

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**A GRACIOUS LADY** continued from Page 6

Florence always says that teaching at Pine Park was a family affair. Her husband and children were also involved in Pine Park activities, everything from icing cupcakes to building sets for school plays. Florence feels she was very fortunate to have been a part of the Pine Park family. Actually, the Brentwood School District was very fortunate to have had Florence Corkery as one of their teachers.

And me? Her daughter Kate taught in the room next door to me at Loretta Park, and we became fast friends. One day her Mom picked her up from work and I waved to her as they were leaving. The next morning Kate asked me what my mother's maiden name was. I told her "Emma Lewis" and that answer forever enriched my life.

My mother, who died at age 53, was a fairly quiet woman who didn't share much about her life, but Florence filled me in on the person I never knew. She told me about the girl who helped her adjust to her new class in 8B, who had many friends, but always had time for someone in need and who rewrote the play "Little Women" so it could be performed at school. There were costumes and sets, and I could barely imagine my Mom doing something so "public".

Florence also had told me many times about my Mom being bright, being President of their graduating class and capable in whatever she undertook. Flo also tells me she could have seen my Mom as an early Bella Abzug.

These are treasured stories for me and I am ever grateful for all the circumstances that have made Florence Corkery my friend. She is a kind, precious woman who is a blessing to my life and who I love deeply.



Kate Corkery, Florence Corkery and Marge Kirchner
at a recent **ROBS** Luncheon.

**Answers to "Do You Know What's In Your Wallet?"**

- \$ 1 = George Washington
- \$ 2 = Thomas Jefferson - issued twice but not popular
- \$ 5 = Abraham Lincoln
- \$20 = Andrew Jackson
- \$50 = Ulysses S. Grant

Sorry - \$10 is Alexander Hamilton, Founding Father and Secretary of the Treasury, and \$100 is Ben Franklin another Founding Father and all around genius. Neither were presidents.

Coins

Penny-Lincoln, Nickel-Jefferson, Dime-FDR, Quarter-Washington, Half Dollar-JFK, Dollar-Eisenhower and various presidents minted in limited numbers. Other dollar coins include Susan B. Anthony (women's activist) and Sacajawea (guide to Lewis and Clark) who were important women in our history.

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS****2015-2016 MEETING
DATES**

November - 6	March - r
December - 4 -Luncheon	April - 1
January 8, 2016 - Breakfast	May - 6
February - no meeting	June - 3 - Luncheon

July & August - Summer Break



IT'S ALL ABOUT US - by Carmela Criscione

Goodbye summer and hello autumn. Is it just me or did Mother Nature throw a switch and suddenly we fell into cooler temperatures, coloring leaves and 90 days to Christmas? Am I getting older or is time speeding up? In any case, let's enjoy the season because the winter will be arriving all too soon.

Marge Kirchner has agreed to continue to sit on and serve as an all-around advisor to the **ROBS** Executive Board.

Sadly, I have to report that my sister-in-law, **Marabeth Criscione** (Elementary Sub Caller) passed away in late August after a long illness. Her daughter, T'Rea, son, Vincent, and I appreciate the many expressions of condolence that were sent to us. **Paula Moore** and **Gloria Hannemann** also lost brothers-in-law in August. Also, **Marie Cohen** (secretary) passed away in late September. Marie's husband **Paul Cohen** was a sixth grade teacher at South Middle School. **Doug Walters** (current Coordinator of Health, Psychologists and Social Work Services) passed away in October after a illness. Condolences to all the families on their loss.

Jim Nanos is proud to announce a new member to the Nanos clan. Leo James Corsi was born on August 10 to Jim's daughter, Janelle, and her husband, Tom. They live in Boston, and we know there will be many happy visits back and forth. Also, Jim's home has finally been completed and they've moved in. The house was very seriously damaged during last winter's horrific weather. Congratulations and many happy years in your "new" home.

Former student and CISCO executive Gerard P. Devine would like to reconnect with several of his high school teachers. If **Chris Shea**, **Elmon Kazandjian**, **William Mullady** or **Ellen Edelstein** would like to contact him, his email is gdevine@ciscoco.com. If any of you have heard from a former student, please let us know. We will write it up as a "They Never Forget" article.

Mark Nizewitz (Assistant Superintendent) recently suffered a stroke. He is at a rehab center in Glen Cove and slowly recovering. All our good wishes and thoughts of concern are with him, his wife, Barbara, and his family.

Lynda Romano, her husband and son, **Marie Poppo**, **Lois Morella** and **Carol Comerford** are off to Switzerland with the RC21 travel group. I'm sure we all envy them (in a good way) and hope they have a wonderful time.

Sheila Sustrin passed away on October 6th after a valiant fight. **Letty** and **Sheila** are among **ROBS'** favorite authors and their children's book have delighted many, including my two great-nieces. Our thoughts and prayers go out to **Letty**. They ask that any donations anyone wishes to make in Sheila's name be sent to: Bide-A-Wee, North Shore Animal League or the Little Shelter.

Herb Laub sent this in about a very favorite person of his: Why we need more **Ivy Cover Ramsey Rosenthals** in the world. Ivy is a great teacher who **teaches**. Her positive behavior to her students whether in her classes or on the tennis court at Brentwood High School. She teaches children how to think positively and not hurt people. Ivy is a deeply religious person who I have known since 1964 when I met and married Carol Taylor, who was also born in Jamaica, West Indies. When Carol and I divorced after 10 years together and 2 children, Larry and David, it was Ivy that helped me deal with my depression and told me that time would help me heal my wounds. Ivy was right, as she has been with her other inter-personal relationships with family, friends and students. *Ed note: Well Herb, you are certainly right, Ivy is an exceptional person and we are glad to have her in our lives too.*



AHRC - AN APPRECIATION

PART II

by Phyllis Goodwin

AHRC's Mission is to "support and advocate for individuals of all ages with unique abilities and challenges. Our commitment is to provide individualized high quality service utilizing a person-centered approach to discover and define their quality of life."

In 1949, the parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities decided to start a program which met the specific needs of their children. The Association is run by a Board of Directors who must be related to people with developmental problems. A team of specialists are on board to assist in setting up each person's IEP. AHRC services approximately 2,500 people and their families. A staff of 501-1,000 employees are there to facilitate the client's needs.

The most amazing aspect of AHRC is the number of programs available. To name a few: early childhood intervention, pre-school and educational services, adult and senior day program, community services such as respite care, residential living, Medicaid service coordination, and finally, on as well as off-premises employment opportunities.

Last year, AHRC celebrated its 65th anniversary with the Candlelight Ball. There is a complete sense of family when activities such as Run for a Reason and the Family Fun Day and BBQ are held with everyone engaged. Every year, the Polar Bear Splash is held.

Several programs are implemented to supplement basic programs like the Seiff Center. By signing up for the Target Red Card Take Charge of Education or the Stop and Shop Rewards programs a percentage of each sale is collected and returned to AHRC.

The Girl Scouts cookie sales are sponsored to send cookies to our US Troops. Clothing is collected for the homeless.

The last items are the businesses that AHRC runs to administer the training and work initiative. eWorks is an electronics recycling program located in Bohemia and West Hampton Beach - think cable boxes and remotes.

Flowerfield Gardens is a flower shop and nursery on Portion Road in Holtsville. If you have a chance, try to avail yourself of these services.

I do know that **ROBS** is eternally grateful to **Chris Shock** and **Ed Cody** for reproducing our newsletter for the past ten years.

If you have any free time, AHRC could use some volunteers. AHRC is located at 2900 Vets Highway in Bohemia. The telephone number is 631 585-0100.



Ed Cody and Chris Shock



ONE STEP AT A TIME

By Susana Bouza

It was great to see everyone again after our summer break. There were a few new retirees that came to our September 11th meeting.

As usual, John Sherin had prepared an activity for us to enjoy and to break the ice. It was titled: **One Step At A Time**.

He divided our room into two halves. Half of the room had tables and chairs lined up making a big square. The other half was empty. If we wanted we could go in the center or we could get next to the wall. Wherever we chose was good.

Most of the group, we were approximately 50, stood next to each other making a big square. After we had all chosen where to stand, he mentioned that we will all be taking a **step at a time**. We could move back, forth, or to the side, but only **one step at a time**.

We listened to his directions. We could choose to touch, hug or not to touch the persons close to us. **We just could not talk at all.**

As we began taking steps, you could see that at the beginning there was a move to the center. Some people were touching, holding hands, some kind of interaction. Some avoided closeness. Some were making different choices, some were following others.

Then he mentioned to us that we were going to have only **five more steps**. So there was a switch. Everyone now had a purpose in mind on how to use **those last five steps!**

After the last step, we moved to the side of the room that had the chairs all around and sat down.

We enjoyed the activity, and it was decided that it seemed to reflect our lives -- the different paths that we have taken, how we were trying to connect as we took our steps and how some people either stepped away or got closer to each other and how we reacted.

But when the **last five steps** were mentioned, most of us had a purpose. It was to get to a certain place or decide to stay where we were.

A decision was made. Life is short, let's all enjoy and choose where we want to be!

We had a great time with lots of conversations going!

Come and join us!

Let's see what the next meeting will bring!



HIGH TEA AT WESTBURY GARDENS

Phyllis Goodwin presents the fourth annual **ROBS High Tea**. It will be held in mid-December at the Westbury Gardens.

The price will be \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. The tea will be scrumptious with finger sandwiches, tea biscuits, cakes, clotted cream and, of course, a wide selection of tea.

A tour of the Gardens and main building are also scheduled.

A flyer is attached. Let Phyllis know as soon as possible if you are interested because seating will be limited.



R.O.M.E.O.

by Jim Nanos

Just a group of guys enjoying their retirement and company. The topics for discussion vary: family, friends, fishing, sports, "Do these shorts make my butt look fat?"

The number of attendees also changes. Some are **ROBS** members and some are not.

The scope of our activities alters, perhaps a Green Belt Trail hike, mediation class or a walk on the beach. Here is a contact:

Retired Old Men Eating Out - the ROMEO group!

Yes, us old guys get-together at a cafe, restaurant, deli or diner and toss around a lot of our life "stuff". There are always connections in the group of Retirees of Brentwood Schools relating memories of our decades in the district, and stories of our children and/or grandchildren are equally shared. Sometimes plans for travel or projects around the house are a focus. There is always humor, tall tales and camaraderie to be shared.

Our unity in being retired, being old (but not necessarily wise) and friends makes eating out together a fun social activity. Catching up and keeping up with the guys finds us looking forward to the next **ROMEO** event.

STEPPING BACK INTO TIME con't from page 3

As we walked around the cemetery, I saw a marker with many names on it but no dates. Mary Kofurl said the names were of people known to be buried there but no information was available as far as dates were concerned. I was surprised to see the name Grace Eastman Studley on the marker. Since I married an Eastman and several of my husband's ancestors were buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Bay Shore, I was excited to see if this name was another possible connection. Mary Kofurl was kind enough to research the name for me the following day, but it was determined that Grace Eastman Studley was not part of our family tree.

There are many more interesting stories to be told about the pioneers buried in the Brentwood Cemetery which can be revealed in Verne Dyson's book entitled "A Century of Brentwood" available to the Brentwood Library.

As you can see from some of the names listed these people were active in their community. There are streets named after them. Some of their homes or stores still exist. Several worked on the Cemetery Association. It was very prestigious for a community to have a section set aside for a cemetery. They rest there today.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

What Your Email Sign On Says About You!

by Carmela Criscione

Looking through the ROBS directory recently I was struck by some of the unique email names our members have.

I've always enjoyed trying to puzzle out vanity plates on cars and now email. I know, get a life!

My email address is tecnouquen@aol.com because I made a typo while creating it and did not know how to correct it!

I asked the members of the Executive Board and others for their emails and some of the answers were very entertaining.

Nancy Churchillo: **tearose78** because I like tea, my middle name is Rose and my birthday is July 8.

Lynda Romano: **CRLYJO** because my husband picked this email address. CR for our son, Chris, LY first two letters of my first name and JO are the first two letters of my husband's name.

Marge Kirchner: **emmasmhk@aol.com**. Emma was my mother's name, "s" is the possessive and mhk are my initials.

Barbara Mascaro: **mombm2@gmail.com**. Because I am a mom and bm are my first and last name initials and I have 2 sons.

Ellen Edelstein: **moochie914@gmail.com** because Moochie was my cat and 9/14 is my birthday.

Paula Moore: **PAJ713@aol.com**. P for Paula, A and J for my two grandsons, Avery and James, and 713 commemorates birthdays.

Adrienne Eastman: **supersec@optonline.net**. Tish Foissett told me I was the "quintessential" secretary hence supersec.

Ronda Brooks: **gumby5@optonline**. Her husband collected Gumby figures and they had a Gumby bride and groom atop their wedding cake.

If you have a unique email address please pass it on to me.

Always stay in touch and remember this Newsletter is about you, **ROBS** members.