



ROBS - RETIREES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

ROBS END-OF-THE-YEAR LUNCHEON



Diana Mallon, Joan Scully, Edie Welch



Kate Corkery and Guest-of-Honor Florence Corkery



On Friday, June 1, **ROBS** held its annual end-of-the-year luncheon at Villa Olivetti's Restaurant.

The meal was delicious, the service excellent and, of course, the company exciting. The three hours set aside for the luncheon flew by. It was one of the best attended luncheons, 50+ people, we ever had and kudos go to Valerie Vismale, our program coordinator, for putting it all together.



Valerie Vismale and Phyllis Goodwin



Johanna Kane and Nancy Churchillo

One of the high points was the attendance by guest-of-honor, Florence Corkery, and her daughter, Kate.

As you may recall, Florence celebrated her 100th birthday in February. There was a special birthday cake for her and the assemblage (including the head waiter) sang "Happy Birthday" to her. She blew out all the candles and made a wish. Let's hope it comes true!



Gloria Hannemann and Marty Hochheiser



Anne Mygland, Barbara Mascaro and Sue Lanchantin



Fran Roessner, Barbara Terlecki, and Barbara DeLillo

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.

Sept 7 - Welcome New Retirees

Oct 5 - Miracle Ear

Nov 2 - TBA

Dec 7 - Holiday Luncheon

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 are being collected for the Books to Home Program at every meeting. Please donate.

OFFICERS

Nick Siciliano - President
kpnici@aol.com

Barbara Mascaro - 1st VP

Adrienne Eastman - 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

In this Issue:

Nick's Notes	2
Mentoring Program	2
It's All About Us	3
Mea Culpa/Hold the Date	3
Scholarship Awards	4
Now Showing	4
The Hubbards	5
Grace Fishenfeld	5
America's Vet Dogs	6
RC 21 Awards Luncheon	7
CPR for ROBS	7
Membership Form	8

ROBS EXECUTIVE BOARD

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 Gloria Hannemann - Webmaster
 Marty Hochheiser - BTA Liaison
 Barbara Mascaro -
 Archivist and RC 21 Liaison
 Paula Moore - Photographer
 Johanna Kane, Joanne Brown
 & Lynda Romano - Hospitality
 John Sherin - History Project
 Nick Siciliano - Web Editor
 Letty Sustrin - Project Hope
 Susana Bouza, Ellen Edelstein,
 and Jim Nanos -
 Delegates at Large
 Valerie Vismale - Programs

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 Adrienne Eastman
 Lucille Fink
 Phyllis Goodwin
 Paula Moore
 John Sherin
 Nick Siciliano

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

At our regularly scheduled **ROBS** meeting of May 4, 2018, elections were held to fill the positions of President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

There were no nominations from the floor and the election proceeded with a unanimous show of hands.

The officers of **ROBS** for the term 7/1/18-6/30/20 are as follows:

First Vice-President - Barbara Mascaro

Second Vice-President - Adrienne Eastman

Secretary - Nancy Churchillo

Treasurer - Carmen Roldan

I will continue in the position of President until someone steps forward. I sincerely hope that someone **will** step forward. If this association is to continue we must attract more people in leadership roles.

Barbara Mascaro is already our archivist and **RC21** representative. Adrienne Eastman serves as **BCA** liaison and member of the newsletter editorial board.

Nancy and Carmen have served several terms in their positions.

It was also a bittersweet moment to thank Harriet Pepine and Kathy Guleksen who have stepped down.

Kathy has served several terms as First Vice-President and Harriet Pepine has held several elected roles from the very beginnings of **ROBS**. Unfortunately neither was able to attend the end-of-the-year luncheon. **ROBS** will show appreciation by sending them gifts from all the members.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Officers, Executive Board, members of the Editorial Team and the volunteers who give of their time and make **ROBS** an effective organization.

We start a new year. Plans are being made to have interesting and informative topics at our meetings.

Again, **WE NEED YOUR HELP**. If you have any interest in a leadership role or an idea for a meeting, please contact anyone on the Executive Board. Addresses can be found in the Directory.

MENTORING PROGRAM

By Ellen Edelstein

The Brentwood School District was presented with a wonderful opportunity to partner with the New York State Mentoring Program for the 2018-2019 school year. The New York State Mentoring Program is a comprehensive program matching students with screened and trained mentors. The goals and values seemed a fit for **ROBS**. Brentwood teachers have been a source of inspiration through the years. Who better to act as role models to help our children make positive choices? It is a way to change the lives of children, one child at a time.

If you are interested, please contact Ann Palmer, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary, at 631-434-2497.



IT'S ALL ABOUT US

By Carmela Criscione

It's taken a while and if you blinked, you missed Spring. It's been a long, hot summer.

I am sorry to report that our Treasurer, **Carmen Roldan**, lost her husband, Jose "Charlie" Tirado, in late May and that **Bob Locherer** (Phys Ed) lost his wife, Kathy, in May.

Retiree Council 21's co-presidents, Louisa and Michael Eiermann, have reached out to editors, co-editors, web masters and editors acknowledging them for their creative and hard work on their individual newsletters. As we informed you in our last newsletter, **NYSUT**, for many reasons, has discontinued the Journalism Competition. **RC21** however, honored us at their June 19 Luncheon at the Timberpoint Country Club. We hope that they also take the

further step and create a journalism project for their collective locals. We would be very happy to work with them in structuring the competition where categories more meaningful and relative to retirees can be included.

Congratulations to **Jim Nanos** (Science-HS) who welcomed his second grandchild, Mackenzie Anne, (8lbs 15oz!) on August 14th. Parents, Janelle and Tim, and big brother are all elated!

Mazel Tov to **Ronda Brooks** (Social Work-NMS) who received the Woman of Achievement Award from the Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island Branch of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism for her Mah Jongg Tournament fundraising efforts that help to support her Sisterhood as well as the Social Action Committee at the Dix Hills Jewish Center.

The May meeting was, I think, spectacular with a discussion and power point presentation on America's Vet Dogs. Please see the article on page 6.

We are sad to see **Harriet Pepine** and **Kathy Guleksen** step down from their leadership roles in **ROBS**. They both did a great deal for this association. Harriet was involved from the very beginnings of **ROBS**. We wish them every good wish.

Thanks to **Valerie Vismale** for another great luncheon. It was one of best attended gatherings all year.

If you have any news you'd like to share, or if you've accomplished a life goal, please let us know.

Remember...

IT'S ALL ABOUT US!!

OOPS, SORRY ABOUT THAT, MEA CULPA

by Carmela Criscione

There were several mistakes or omissions in the last newsletter that need correcting.

BIRTHDAYS

Judi Weissman - 3/4
Rose O'Connor - 7/9
Peter Ferrante - 7/10
Carmela Criscione - 7/11
John Rohatsch - 7/13
Grace Tuffin - 7/13
Carol Comerford - 7/15
Audrey Competello - 7/15
Grace Fishenfeld - 7/31
Florence Briggs - 10/5
Kathleen Williams-Ging - 9/14
Christine Visconti - 11/28

EMAIL CORRECTION

The correct email for Johanna Kane is jaymkay51@aol.com

NAME CORRECTIONS

Please use: **Susan** Arzillo and **JoAnn** Brown

HOLD THE DATE

Here are the meeting dates for the 2018-2019 year. Unless otherwise stated, the meetings are held at the Brentwood Public Library on the first Friday of each month at 10 a.m.

September 7 - Welcome new retirees
October 5 - Representative from Miracle Ear
November 2 - *
December 7 - Holiday Luncheon TBA
January 4 - Breakfast TBA
February - no meeting
March 1 - TBA
April 5 - TBA
May 3 - TBA
June 7 - Luncheon TBA

*Teaser Alert: we are in the process of scheduling some very interesting meetings this year. Please mark your calendars because you will not want to miss them.

If you have any suggestions for meeting topics, please contact our program coordinator, Valerie Vismale, at bdoggg@verizon.net.

ROBS 2018 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

By Harriet Pepine and Jim Nanos

May 31, 2018 was a brilliant and starlit night. The stars were members of Brentwood High School's senior class of 2018. So many outstanding young women and men were in attendance to receive recognition for their accomplishments through their academic careers.

With both pride and pleasure, Jim Nanos was in attendance to present the **ROBS** scholarships. The Sonderling auditorium was filled with the evening's stars, their families, friends and faculty. The Brentwood community was represented by scholarship contributors and admirers of these wonderful students.

ROBS was elated to award four scholarships that evening.

Crystal Benavides has been accepted at St. Johns and Cortland. Her

GPA was 92.46 and her class ranking was 29 out of 635. She wants to become an elementary teacher. She has been an honor student since the 8th grade, was yearbook editor, was on the varsity track and lacrosse teams in addition to other extra-curricular activities. Crystal was awarded the \$1,000 Dorothy Zuckerman Scholarship.

Karen Carcamo was a member of the Medical Society, Leadership Club, ROTC, and was on the honor roll. She plans to become a bilingual teacher. She will be attending Stony Brook University. Her GPA was 90.17 and her rank 39 of 635. She is hardworking, intelligent and thoughtful. She participated in many other extra-curricular activities. She has received the Jack Zuckerman Scholarship of \$1,000.

Lauren Gutierrez will be majoring in Elementary Education and will be attending Suffolk Community

College. She has participated in SEPA Music, the yearbook and has an advanced Regents diploma. Her GPA was 90.33. She received the Lillian Kelly \$750 scholarship.

Laeticia Petion will major in childhood/elementary education. She has been involved in many clubs and activities including the math team, Italian Club, Kitty Hawk and NYSSA. She works hard, is a solid and disciplined student with a GPA of 87.09 and class rank of 38/635. She received the Sheila Sustrin \$500 scholarship.

These excellent students will pursue higher education that will allow them to continue to make positive contributions within their community and society.

ROBS maintains our commitment to Brentwood's academic and social community. Please keep our organization strong. Join us to carry on our work.

Jim Nanos presenting ROBS scholarship awards to...



Crystal Benavides



Karen Carcamo



Lauren Gutierrez



Laeticia Petion

NOW SHOWING

As you all know, John Sherin has spent 20 years doing video interviews of our fellow retirees. There are approximately 150. Copies of the interviews have been given to Hofstra University and the Brentwood Library. In addition, our web master, Gloria Hannemann, has put many on the **ROBS** website (robsny.org)

Here is just a sampling of those recently on the website.

2017:

- Eli Acosta - Science
- Carole Bruno - Business
- Cheryl Castano - Math

- Maddi Dwyer - Elementary and BTA activist
- Chuck Goehring - Athletic Director
- Kitty Hayes - Elementary
- Estelle Hoyt - Social Worker
- Ruth McCalla - Elementary & ESL
- Kevin McNicholas - Administration
- Kathy Williams-Ging - ESL

2018:

- Les Black - Superintendent
- Ed Franchi - Administration
- Ross Herzog - Administration
- Marty Hochheiser - Guidance
- Louis Lotito - Administration
- Louis V. Nannini - Superintendent
- George Klein - Administration

Up-Coming:

- Steve Rochester - English - September
- Moe Greene - Administration - October
- Rose Marie Brousseau - Elementary - November
- Paula Moore - Administration - December

Contact John, Gloria or Carmela (email addresses in the directory) if there is a video you would like to have scheduled.



HANGING WITH THE HUBBARDS

by Phyllis Goodwin

During the latter part of the winter, I was pleasantly surprised to receive an invitation to attend the 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration of Barbara and Bill Hubbard. I was thrilled to be able to accept their invitation. They are two of the most generous, thoughtful and kindest people on the face of the earth. My classic line is "When I grow up, I want to be just like them." Barbara and Bill met when they attended Columbia University. I met Barbara in September of 1967 at the music faculty meeting with George Catandella (Music Coordinator) and Beula Vincent (MGIS - music general instruction supervisor -- Brentwood loves acronyms.) Barbara was based at Northwest Elementary School with Louis Lotito as Principal and I was teaching in Village School with Joseph Karszan as Principal. Bill taught in Central Islip School District before moving on to the Business Department at Nassau Community College where he had an impressive career.

I decided to make this journey into a road trip since Barbara and Bill had moved to Eastern Shores, Maryland. I recently learned that my Great-Grandfather was born in Denton and thought it might be a good idea to familiarize myself with the area. My side trips includ-



ed the home of Frederick Douglass, the Rural American and Civil War Museum in Denton, the Underground Railroad Tour and the Harriet Tubman Nation Museum. Did you know that she rescued 300 people, starting with family members and not the 700 as stated by a New York newspaper? Now that I had improved my

education by 50% it was time to see Barbara and Bill.

The evening proceeded with incidental music and the Hubbard's renewing their wedding vows. Readings by their grandsons, a dance performed by their granddaughters, a poem by their daughter, Joya, and inspiring commentary by their son, David, on life in the Hubbard family, made for an enjoyable evening for everyone. The highlight of the evening was when Bill expressed his love and admiration for Barbara. During dinner, I reconnected with people from Huntington that I had not seen since I retired 22 years ago.

True to form, Barb and Bill hosted an after-party/party and a brunch for all those who traveled long distance. Thank you Barb and Bill for a wonderful experience.

Congratulations and Best Wishes for the next 50 years!

ARTIST RECOGNIZED

Judi Weissman has forwarded an email about our fellow retiree Grace Fishenfeld from Brentwood High School. In retirement, Grace has earned many accolades and awards for her talent. The latest is the WITVA Distinguished Artist Award.

The Nathan D. Rosen Gallery voted to award you the Distinguished Artist Award for your collage "Anagram."

As they state in their letter, "Grace has had a distinguished career as an artist exploring human nature from both a global and personal perspective. Her collages draw together a variety of mediums to challenge the eye and mind of the viewer. *Anagram* is thought-provoking and elegant, fusing new elements with classic design and arrangement. The Nathan D. Rosen Gallery applauds her accomplishments by honoring her with WITVA Distinguished Artist Award".

WITVA is an acronym for Women in the Visual Arts. They are located in South Florida and run shows and exhibitions in the Delray Beach area.

Well done, Grace.



FRIENDS OF AMERICA'S VET DOGS

by **Adrienne Eastman and Connie Gennaro**

It has often been said, "A dog is man's best friend."

On May 4th we had a great presentation by Cliff Miller, co-founder of Friends of America's Vet Dogs. He gave us an informative and knowledgeable insight on what this organization does for returning veterans who are in need of assistance.

In 2003 the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind created America's Vet Dogs to expand their service to those who have served in our armed forces. The assistance dog program enhances the lives of veterans from all years of war.

The dogs that are bred and raised are mostly white, black and golden retrievers and standard poodles. The training dogs also go to prison. They work with a select group of prisoners from Monday to Friday being trained on sidewalks, cut-aways, uneven surfaces and obstacles. They get to go home to their host families for the weekend. At the end of training they are sent back to headquarters in Smithtown where they learn to bond with a veteran and work as a unit.

A veteran who graduates from Vet Dogs receives a lifetime of after-care, in-home visits and refresher training as required, all at no cost to the veteran.

Some of the conditions the dogs help with are seizures, balance issues, stairway assistance, putting lights on, opening doors, PTSD nightmares, getting in and out of chairs, retrieving dropped items, detecting low blood sugar, and help with wheelchairs. The dogs are matched to the disabilities of the veteran and have to obey 100% of the time.

Cliff gave a power point presentation of the training center. The cost

to train a dog is \$60,000.

There are several guidelines to follow when in the presence of a guide dog and its handler:

- Don't touch, talk, feed or otherwise distract the dog while it is wearing its harness.
- Don't treat the dog as a pet. Give him the respect of a working dog.
- Speak to the handler and not the dog.
- Do not give the dog commands.
- Guide dogs have the right of way.
- Don't try to take control in situations unfamiliar to the dog or handler.
- When walking with a guide dog and team you should not walk on the dog's left side. Ask the handler where you should walk.

Most importantly, guide dog teams are allowed, by state law, at any place the public is allowed, including offices, restaurants, libraries, hospitals, hotels, supermarkets, shopping malls, concerts and movies.

The motto of the Friends of American Vet Dogs is: *Restoring Dignity and Independence.*

Dogs are named after actual veterans or people who have contributed to the sponsoring of dogs. The first dog was "Sarge" who serves in the veteran's facility in Stony Brook. They have been named for service men and women from all wars and there is even one named Navajo after the Native American code talkers of World War II.

Spread the word about their services. In April, they hold a Chinese Auction. Notification goes out around January and the 300 tickets are gone almost immediately. If you are interested, please contact Connie Gennaro about reserving a spot.



Many thanks to Cliff Miller for a very interesting and informative presentation.

ED note: Connie Gennaro suggested the Friends of America's Vet Dogs as a presentation to **ROBS**. Cliff Miller was able to collect over \$500 from our generous **ROBS** members. It was a wonderful program.

The Vet Dog Foundation is located at 371 East Jericho Turnpike, Smithtown, NY 11787. You can visit VetDogs.org or call 866-838-3647. They train dogs for people with all types of disabilities.



FRIENDS OF AMERICA'S VET DOGS
 Cliff Miller
 P. O. Box 18
 Bohemia, New York 11716-0018

RC21 AWARDS LUNCHEON

By Barbara Mascaro

Retiree Council 21 held its annual Awards Luncheon on June 19, 2018 at the Timber Point Country Club. We were welcomed by **Retiree Council 21** Co-Presidents Louisa and Michael Eiermann who then introduced Jean Freeman, a retired teacher from the West Islip school district who was honored as the **NYSUT** Community Service Award recipient for 2018. **RC 21** gave out recognition certificates to the editors of our local chapter retiree newsletters as well as web editors of our local chapter websites. **ROBS** had a full table of attendees to honor Carmela Criscione as the Editor of our **ROBS** newsletter, Ronda Brooks as the Graphic Designer of our **ROBS** newsletter, and Gloria Hannemann as the Web Coordinator of our **ROBS** website. We now express our appreciation for all that you do to keep us informed! The guest speaker for this luncheon was Paul Pecorale, **NYSUT** Second Vice-President. Paul also has the added responsibility to represent

NYSUT retirees and advocate for the concerns of **NYSUT** retirees. As he stated “I encourage you to explore the many opportunities available to you as a **NYSUT** retiree. I encourage you to stay active, informed and to participate in your union on many levels.” We also heard from June Smith who reminded us that “elections have consequences”. She also stressed the importance of giving to VOTE-COPE. As in-service **NYSUT** members we benefited economically and professionally from the collective strength of the union. As retired **NYSUT** members we help to build the union’s collective strength through activism and community service. Retirees have been referred to as “the day time army” and we are being strongly encouraged to participate in our **NYSUT Retiree Council (RC 21)** and to stay informed about the issues that will affect us all in retirement. Have a wonderful summer! Be well and stay safe! We look forward to seeing you in September and for your active participation in **ROBS** and **RC21!**



Back (l. to r.) Nicki DiPietro, Susana Bouza, Carmela Criscione, Harriet Helman, Ronda Brooks
Front (l. to r.) Amalia Moise, Orieta Blanco, Barbara Mascaro, Marty Hochheiser, Marvin Cooper, June Cardenas



(L. to r.) Michael Eiermann, Ronda Brooks, Carmela Criscione, Louisa Eiermann

CPR FOR ROBS

By Phyllis Goodwin

Everyone knows how important CPR is to a person having a cardiac event. Without it, a major catastrophe may happen. As I sat down to write my annual article for membership participation, I realized that I feel like the Grim Reaper, spreading gloom and doom everywhere or maybe the person who cried “Wolf” too many times. Unfortunately, the numbers will bear this out. Our membership roster for last June had 452 people listed as participating. This year, the number has dropped significantly to 349, including those who were “grandfathered” in 2010. That’s 103 people who did not return their membership form for one reason or another. Our programs have been well attended, so we must be doing something right. It was brought to the attention of the **BTA** that **NYSUT** is concerned about the drop in our membership. The Janus case

will only make sustaining membership more difficult. In-service staff will reap the benefits on the backs of hard-working union members with no participation or agency fee. What will be your excuse?

Given the progressive drop in membership, we may need to increase our dues in the near future in order to maintain our scholarships, community outreach, and newsletter. As usual, when we asked people to “step up,” almost no one volunteered. Only 2 people out of 349 complied. If you have friends who are currently not members, please urge them to support **ROBS** by joining.

Here is our annual and usual spiel. Remind your friends and ask them to send their information to Carmen Roldan. Help us avoid CPR!

See form on back cover.



ROBS
114 E. Rogues Path
Huntington Station, NY 11746

PRESORT STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
HUNTINGTON STA, NY
11746
PERMIT 101



ROBS MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR 2018-19

PLEASE PRINT

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address 1 _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____ Directory (Y or N) _____

Address 2 _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip Code _____

Building _____ Department _____

Retirement Year _____ Birthday (Month and day) _____

*Checks should be made out to **ROBS** with "Dues" written on the memo line and sent to:

**Carmen Roldan
49 Linda Lane
N. Babylon, NY 11703**

Dues are \$25 and the deadline is October 31.

Please Do Not Staple Your Check To This Form.

Thank you for your prompt return.