



ROBS - RETIREES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

Since 1991

Still Serving

Issue 4/2016

September-December

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.

November 4 - Holistic Wellness

December 2 - Holiday Luncheon
Irish Coffee Pub
see flyer

January 6 - Breakfast - to be announced

February - no meeting

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

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



from left to right: Agatha Vitale, Nora Kirdahy, Katherine Werner

WELCOME NEW RETIREES

by Carmela Criscione

The first general meeting of the year kicked off with three of our new retirees being introduced.

They are: **Agatha Vitale** (ESL at West MS), **Nora Kirdahy** (Math Consultant at East Elementary) and **Katherine Werner** (Special Education Teacher at the High School).

The meeting was well attended and **John Sherin** led us in a group activity. That meant everyone was on their feet interacting outside of their normal seating arrangement.

We were not supposed to talk to one another until after the activity, but, of course, we did. He distributed \$1,000 bills (fake of course) and told us to select someone and give it to that person as a "pay day" gift, an acknowledgement of past good deeds that person may have done.

Several people got to explain their choice. It might have been a big or small thing, but it made an impression, and this was the time to say "thank you."

See the **ROBS** website, www.robsny.org for John's article on the activity. John's article about the activity will appear in the January-March issue of the newsletter.



EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

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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

Within a very short time we will once again be voting for the next president of the United States. It has been said in the past, but it is more important than ever this year:

THIS ELECTION IS CRUCIAL.

As in any presidential election there are a number of factors to consider in who we vote for this year. What are their proposals to deal with the many problems confronting the nation?

As you are aware, **AFT**, **NYSUT** and the **NEA** have endorsed Secretary Clinton. Who will best serve the interests of the country? **NYSUT** will be sending out its Voters Guide to all members. Study it for information on the presidential candidates, other federal and state officials. Please understand that the down ticket candidates, members of Congress and local officials are also important.

You may not agree with **NYSUT'S** and the **NEA'S** choice but carefully consider their reasons for supporting Hillary Clinton. Since our founding **ROBS** has chosen not to endorse candidates. That choice is yours.

On another topic, it is that time of the year when we once again ask your support for **Project Hope**. We hope you will make a donation in any amount to support the families we adopt for the holidays. Make your checks out to **ROBS**, and on the memo line indicate it is for **PROJECT HOPE**. You may send your checks to me at 39 Jeremy Circle, Nesconset, New York 11767 or to our treasurer, Carmen Roldan, 49 Linda Lane, North Babylon, New York 11703.

Thank you for what I know will be your generous support.

Looking forward to seeing you at the voting booth.





2016 Scholarship Fundraiser/Raffle

Ellen Edelstein, President of the Brentwood Historical Society, would like to announce that the Historical Society is holding its third annual art raffle.

They are selling a limited number of tickets for a chance to win one of Rick Mundy's giclee (a type of processing) prints, printed on handmade cotton paper from France.

Both of the prints (pictured above) are lovely.

Each picture is 22"x28", is matted and framed, and retails for \$215.

The tickets are \$10 each, and the winners will be chosen at our holiday party on December 12. Winners need not be present. Proceeds of the raffle will benefit our scholarship fund. Your check to the Brentwood Historical Society is tax deductible.

For more information, contact:

president@brentwoodhis.org

SELECTION OF DELEGATES-AT-LARGE

The delegate-at-large position is a one year term. Those who serve as delegates come to every executive board and general meeting.

They serve on committees and participate in **ROBS**-related activities.

The membership voted at its October 7 meeting to fill the three positions.

Ellen Edelstein and Jim Nanos who have served in this capacity for many years, were re-elected. A vacancy occurred when Valerie Vismale became our Programming person. Susanna Bouza was elected to fill this spot.

Susanna is a fairly new retiree. She and her friends, Amelia Moise and Orieta Blanco come to every meeting. She was willing to step into a leadership position with **ROBS**, and we are lucky to have her.

We cannot stress how important it is for our membership to get involved. Paying dues and contributing to the scholarship and Project Hope drives mean a lot, but we need people to step up for officer and executive board positions. Please consider this. For more information contact Nick Siciliano or any other officer or executive board member. You can find telephone numbers and email addresses for the officers and executive board in the directory.



REMEMBER TO VOTE 11/8



PROJECT HOPE A TIME OF GIVING

Many people ask, "What is **Project Hope**?" After **ROBS** was formed 25 years ago, the Retirees of Brentwood Schools wanted to continue to show support for the families of the district they had worked in and loved so much. Suburban Children, an organization located in Bay Shore, was contacted, and this wonderful project was begun.

With the help of Michele Beecher of Suburban Children, who incidentally, is a product of the Brentwood School System, **ROBS** has been able to adopt local families and give them **"HOPE"** during the Holiday Season. Our organization's Supermarket Shopping Wizard **Phyllis Goodwin** assisted by **Adrienne Eastman**, (thanks so much for always doing this), provide the food for Thanksgiving, and our shopaholic. Elves (**Letty Sustrin**, **Lois Morella**, **Loretta Ellington** and **Kris Dougherty**) shop for gifts for the members of the families at Christmas time.

When shopping is completed we will have a **"WRAPPING PARTY"** at the Brentwood Library. We would love some more **ROBS** Elves to attend this event to help wrap and deliver presents to the families. It's a rewarding and fun time, and you also get to eat some delicious goodies and socialize!

We have been fortunate that our **ROBS** members have been so generous each year when "giving" time has come. With your wonderful support, **ROBS** has been able to adopt up to four families each year. We hope we can do this again.

PROJECT HOPE has touched the lives of many, not only the families that we make happy, but also those of you involved in trying to fulfill some of the dreams of people who are less fortunate. .

Nick Siciliano (in his column on page 2) speaks about this very subject asking for your generous monetary donations. Let's continue to support this worthy tradition.

After my co-chair (twin sister **Sheila**) passed away, I made a vow that I would always continue to chair this committee with pride in what **ROBS** does for this community.

Please make you check out to: **ROBS** and put **"Project Hope"** in the memo area. All donations can be given to Nick at meetings, or mailed to our **ROBS** Treasurer:

Mrs. Carmen Roldan
49 Linda Lane
North Babylon, New York 11703

Thank you once again for all your support. I'm looking forward to another successful year for **Project Hope**.

Happy Holidays,

Letty Sustrin





NYSARA CONFERENCE

September 19, 2016

by Adrienne Eastman

On September 19, I attended the Fall Conference of the Long Island Chapter of the New York State Alliance for Retired Americans in Hauppauge on the health and maintenance of the Social Security system. In attendance were Joan Perrini, former RC21 president and now retiree consultant; Louisa and Mike Eierman, current co-presidents of RC21; Eric Kingston, founding co-director of Social Security Works and professor at the Syracuse University School of Social Work; and Barry Kaufmann, president of NYSARA and program moderator.

Professor Kingston discussed the roots and development of Social Security and illustrated the strength of the system and its continued viability. He has also written a book on Social Security and said it is time to expand it. We can afford to do that. Although the deficit hawks will still fight for cuts, Social Security is the safest and most reliable way for Americans to guarantee their savings. Private investments are risky. Social Security is **NOT** in crisis. There is widespread support, and it is conservatively financed. Some 59.5 million people received benefits in 2015. Social Security has a surplus and a reserve of \$2.8 trillion.

There is a strong, growing opposition to benefit cuts. A growing number of congress people are becoming champions for expansion bills. Professor Kingston urged the audience to continue to block destructive proposals and fight Medicare cuts and privatization. We can finance the system by scrapping the cap on wages after ten years.

The bottom line is, will Hillary keep her promises if elected? The issue has to be taken to the public and a consensus built for expansion.

Barry Kaufman talked about increases in Medicare premiums and Social Security disability cuts that didn't happen because spending was increased and the debt ceiling was extended to 2017.

Republicans want to raise the retirement age to 70, have means testing and start the chained Consumer Price Index. Clinton and Bernie Sanders support expansion of Social Security. The SAFE Act, sponsored by Senator Brian Schatz, institutes the CPI-E, increases benefits by \$65 a month, extends solvency to 2034 and lifts the payroll cap. The "Strengthening Social Security" bill does the same. Other bills made cuts in Medicare and Medicaid but did not pass. The Alliance supports the Medicare Drug Savings Act and supports delivery system reforms.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement is bad news. It could require Medicare to pay more for drugs and medical devices, endangers future drug negotiations under Medicare and locks in patent protections. Say **NO** to this! Clinton wants to expand and protect Social Security, defend healthcare for seniors and lower prescription costs. Donald Trump is against all three.

New York legislators will be rated on paid family and medical leave, collective bargaining protection for health insurance, and notice of changes in retiree health insurance providing 90 days notice regarding changes in contracts regarding retirees. Phil Ramos scored 100% on these issues.

NYSARA will make a list of things at risk if a Constitutional Convention is held in NY State and inform members. Kaufman stressed the importance of the upcoming critical election. **SO DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!**

ED: **ROBS** does not endorse any candidate. This article just states the position NYSARA has taken.



IT'S ALL ABOUT US by Carmela Criscione

It's hard to believe another school year has started. We start this one with heavy hearts over the loss of young lives so senselessly taken. Our hearts go out to their families and their friends and teachers. We hope they can find peace and that this scourge can be eliminated from our community.

Get-well wishes are sent to **Maria Canale** who had surgery this summer. She is home recuperating and we hope she can come to our meetings (with or without her wonderful cakes) soon. We also send get well-wishes to **Harriet Pepine** (ROBS Vice President) who has been under the weather. It's true we miss you at the meetings but we just miss you.

Condolences to **Barbara McNicholas** (Reading consultant at the Center) on the loss of her father in September and to **Mary Beth Lynch** (Physical Education at North Middle) on the loss of her sister, Peggy Lynch. **Janet Thorkelson** (Music at Southwest) passed away in early October. Our thoughts are with their families.

Adrienne Eastman is very proud of her grandson Philip who has gotten a lead man management position at Zebra Technology for all of North and Latin America. **Paula Moore** is also proud of her son-in-law, Jeremiah Fox who has just earned his Ph. D. in Business. Jeremiah's education was interrupted by two active service tours in Iraq. Congratulations and thank you for your service.

Letty Sustrin has given me a teaser scoop on the next book in the **The Teacher Who Would Not Retire** series. She says it will be the best (that's saying a lot because all of them were so good). She's not giving away the plot but says she's planning a very special launch September, 2017. As soon as she releases more information you will be sure to have it.

Kris Dougherty was in grammy babysitter mode for her teenage grandchildren when her daughter and son-in-law went to Ireland this summer. She was able to have lots of time with them, and it was in Colorado. I'm sure she had a great time.

Barbara Terlecki was very happy to say that they've finally put Hurricane Sandy to rest. She had a lot of damage, but finally things are back to normal. Many of us sustained no or little damage, but to have your home and belongings so impacted is devastating. We are so glad that she and her family can finally feel things are normal.

My niece T'Rea gave her brother, Vincent a very special birthday present. She, her husband, two little girls, Vincent and I went to the Star Trek Experience located at the Intrepid Museum site in the city. My whole family are big Star Trek fans, and we loved being able to join the interactive displays for navigation, science, medical and engineering. There were lots of uniforms, models of ships, and we learned to speak Klingon. The tribbles were kept under glass so they would not overrun the exhibit. If you are a Trekkie or a Trekker you know what I mean. It was a lot of fun.

If you have any news notes that you would like to see included in "It's All About Us" please send it along to me because **it is all about us**.



ROBS MEMBERS **SHAKE A LEG**

by Valerie Vismale

The retirees of Brentwood are active, energized, and enjoying life!

At our October 7 meeting the attendees participated in an Enhanced Fitness demonstration sponsored by the Great South Bay YMCA.

A great time was had by all!



**THIS MAY BE
YOUR LAST
NEWSLETTER
IF YOU HAVE
NOT RETURNED
THE RENEWAL
FORM WITH
YOUR CHECK.**

**PLEASE DO NOT
LET THIS
HAPPEN!**



ISLIP CHAMBER OF **COMMERCE** **HONOREE**



Bruce Fabrizio and Ellen Edelstein

Our own Ellen Edelstein was honored by the Chamber of Commerce at their GALA held on September 16.

She received the Distinguished Member of the Year Award. It was presented by Bruce Fabrizio, the Chamber of Commerce President.

Congratulations, Ellen!

ROBS HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
IRISH COFFEE PUB
131 CARLETON AVE. EAST ISLIP NY
DECEMBER 2, 2016 12-4 PM

MENU

CREAM OF POTATO SOUP
CLASSIC PUB SALAD WITH CREAMY DILL DRESSING
FRESH BAKED BREAD & ROLLS

ENTREE

ROASTED TENDERLOIN OF PORK
CHICKEN FRANCAISE
FILET OF SALMON WITH CITRUS HERB CRUST
ALL ENTREES SERVED WITH ROASTED POTATOES
AND STEAMED GARDEN VEGETABLES

DESSERT

PEACH MELBA

COFFEE, TEA, UNLIMITED SODA AND CASH BAR.
COST PER PERSON: \$35. DEADLINE NOVEMBER 24, 2016

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ROBS WITH
"LUNCHEON" WRITTEN ON THE MEMO LINE.

SEND CHECKS TO:
VALERIE VISMALÉ
1586 LINCOLN BLVD.
BAY SHORE NY 11706
631-680-4730