



ROBS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 41

RETIRES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

OCTOBER 2001

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

ROBS GENERAL
MEETING FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 2

Volunteer Opportunities

AFT RECOVERY FUND

555 NEW JERSEY
AVENUE, N.W.,
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20001

"Opportunities to give
will continue. The
tragedy aftermath will
not disappear when the
headlines do."

Inside this issue:

Phyll's Forum	2
Vote Cope	2
Sweatfree Schools	3
Living Wage: Suffolk	3
ROBS Meeting	3
Tragedy	3
News Notes	7

AFT RECOVERY FUND ...from AFT

The following is excerpted from AFT President, Sandra Feldman's recent remarks:

Tuesday's (9/11) attack on our nation and our values has taken a terrible toll on all of us. More than 40 members of the AFT-affiliated NY Public Employees Federation (PEF) who worked in the WTC are still missing. Three Washington Teacher's Union members, along with three of their students, were aboard the airliner that was used as a missile to attack the Pentagon. Throughout N.Y. and D.C., hundreds of our members have lost spouses, partners, family members and dear friends. They need our immediate help.

We have created a special relief fund, "AFT Recovery Fund" to coordinate and expedite assistance for the families of AFT members who have been killed or injured or are missing. In addition we will support efforts that are underway to assist victims, rescue personnel (many of whom are AFT family members) and others in need. In N.Y. there are children and staff who have been evacuated from their schools and are in immediate need of equipment, supplies and books.

You will find info on our web site (www.aft.org); make checks payable to AFT Recovery Fund and send to the AFT Recovery Fund at 555 New Jersey Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. We will be coordinating this

request with the NEA and the AFL-CIO, but your help is needed right away.

The heroism of the rescue workers, and the support of so many union members who went voluntarily to help, is wonderful. The spirit of the people of N.Y. and D.C. and of America, the determination and strength in the face of the ugly, craven acts of terrorism will prevail. We have had expressions of solidarity and support from around the world. Everyone who cares about freedom and civility and tolerance knows that those values are what the United States stands for and that is what is under attack by these monstrous acts.

CHARITABLE SCAMS

The Better Business Bureau warns potential donors against fraudulent appeals that seek to use a national tragedy to take advantage of American generosity and concern. Get specific written information, don't give out your credit card number to phone or internet solicitors, review carefully offers for the sale of consumer items that claim the purchase will assist victims, don't give cash. More information available from the BBB Wise Giving Alliance at (www.give.org). Opportunities to give will continue. The tragedy aftermath will not disappear when the headlines do.

RC 21 LIAISON LOSES HIS BATTLE WITH CANCER

Walter Karp, 1998 retiree from the High School Business Department, died peacefully at home on September 6, 2001.

Walter was ROBS Liaison to the Board of RC21, and also served on the ROBS Executive Board. His laughter and good humor belied the fact that he had been fighting lung cancer since 1999. But this didn't keep him, and wife Louise Feinberg, from taking trips and enjoying life. They took a cruise just this

summer. Donations to Temple Chai or Good Shepherd Hospice.

A tax deductible WALTER KARP MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP has been set up in conjunction with Massapequa Ames Campus, where Louise is a teacher. Checks should be made out to BTA with a memo to the WKM Scholarship Fund and sent to the Brentwood Teacher's Association, 350 Motor Parkway, Hauppauge, 11788.



PHYLL'S FORUM

Greetings,

I say this guardedly because of the events of September 11, 2001. Many of us have been swept up in the events of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, either personally or just by being New Yorkers. Those of us who have had occasion to see the Manhattan skyline can attest to the fact that the city seems immeasurably smaller as the ruins of the west side still smolder into the sky above. The haze and acrid smell spread over the region for days as the fighter planes sped overhead.



So though I want to welcome our new Brentwood retirees, and urge you to join ROBS as members, that pales in comparison to the realization of the heavy losses all of us have taken. Many of us, and our families, have been involved in helping in the small and large ways available. The AFT Recovery Fund is one way we can all help our Union family, and I hope you will consider donating.

I also want to say that our thoughts, our hearts, are with the many victims here, outside Pittsburgh, and in Washington D.C. Our heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers and rescue/recovery workers who work long and hard to beat the clock and show the world that America is strong and proud of who and what we are, and our unity will keep us that way!

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

VOTE-COPE by Harriet Pepine

I just want to say a few words about Vote-Cope, NYSUT's voluntary political action fund. Vote-Cope has been responsible for getting a permanent COLA for retirees as well as other pension improvements. One of these is a full year's pension credit for 10 months of employment. A large portion of Vote-Cope funds go toward getting school budgets passed, supporting worker's rights, as well as tier reinstatement for those still working. It has also been instrumental in eliminating the 3% contribution made by working employees.

Funds go toward supporting pro-education causes. Vote-Cope is non-partisan, and has made contributions to both Republican and Democratic candidates.

IT IS NECESSARY FOR US, AS RETIREES, TO SUPPORT THIS ORGANIZATION SO THAT IT CAN CONTINUE ITS VERY IMPORTANT WORK.

Remember to make out a separate check for your Vote-Cope contribution when you send in your membership, and include your Social Security number on your check.

FROM DOROTHY ZUCKERMAN, RETIREE SERVICES CONSULTANT

Retirees are rapidly growing in numbers within the N.Y. State United Teachers organization. We presently make up 1/4 of the total NYSUT membership. For 9 years there was one staff member located in Albany who served all retirees throughout the state. Last year, union services were expanded to meet the needs of this viable retiree force. Eight Retiree Services Consultants were appointed to function on a regional basis around the state and Florida. I was selected to serve as RSC for all Suffolk County NYSUT retirees. I am based in the Suffolk Regional Office in Hauppauge, but most of the time I'm traveling around the county meeting members at their meetings and functions. I'm here to provide assistance to retirees and to function as a resource person on any matters of concern you may have pertaining to your retirement. I've received calls about a variety of issues: NYSUT member benefits, Social Security, Medicare, COLA, pending legislation, change of address. If I don't have the answers I will try to find them for you or refer you to the appropriate source. I'm there if you need me. 631-273-8822 or email (dzuckerman@nysutmail.org).

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UNIONS WORLDWIDE SEND CONDOLENCES

Among many messages received by the American Federation of Teachers, the Secretary General of Education International, Fred van Leeuwen wrote: "the terrorist attack against the USA is an attack against the ideals which constitute the basis of our open and democratic societies." Excerpts of messages are posted at the AFT Web site at (<http://www.aft.org>).

SWEATFREE SCHOOLS LEGISLATION: NYSUT Press Release

STATEMENT BY NYSUT ON SIGNING OF SWEAT-FREE SCHOOLS LEGISLATION, 9/4/01

"Our schools should not just strive to help students learn. They should, whenever possible, look for ways to instill in students a sense of what is responsible, right and just.

"In signing the Sweatfree Schools Bill, the governor deserves credit for recognizing that our schools have an obligation to set a positive example for our children in the fight against illegal sweatshops and labor. By giving school districts flexibility to consider labor standards in purchasing school uniforms and apparel, New York moves closer to the day when no high school football player, for example, wears a jersey made in an illegal sweatshop, or by a child working 15 hour days for pennies.

"NYSUT and the NYS Labor-Religion Coalition have made the Sweatfree Schools Campaign a top priority. We have seen thousands of schoolchildren learn about the evils of child labor and the horrors of sweatshops, and become motivated to work with their school administrators and school boards to stop the purchase of uniforms and other apparel made under suspect conditions. Along with the governor, we thank Sen. Nicholas Spano, Assemblyman John McEneny – and others in the Senate and the Assembly – for making it easier for school districts to stake out the moral and ethical high ground and

refuse to purchase school apparel made by children, or under abhorrent, sweatshop conditions in New York State and abroad."

Alan B. Lubin, Executive Vice President, New York State United Teachers



LABOR, RELIGION ACTIVISTS WIN LIVING WAGE LAW IN SUFFOLK COUNTY:

The predominantly Republican legislature voted 16-2 to override the county executive's veto and passed a strong living wage law effective July 2002. This victory is the result of a spirited campaign spearheaded by the NYS Labor-Religion Coalition co-chaired by Tom Hobart and Albany Catholic Diocese Bishop Howard Hubbard. (www.livingwagecampaign.org).

The law requires companies receiving county contracts or economic development assistance to pay workers at least \$9 per hour with health benefits, or \$10.25 without.

ROBS MEETING: A Human Family

The first meeting of ROBS was held on Friday, September 14 at 10 A.M. at the Bay Shore Library. About 50 retirees attended the new retirees social. Though people were glad to see each other, the events of the week clouded the gathering.

Appropriately, the meeting was opened by President Phyllis Goodwin with the Pledge of Allegiance, after which a moment of silence was observed for victims of the violence in New York City, outside Pittsburgh and Washington D.C.

John Sherin eloquently summed up the feelings in the room by saying that: a man is every man, a woman is every woman, and a child, every child. We are all part of the human family.

President Goodwin went on to say that we must be about restoring our country to the point where we can again be concerned with issues like Social Security and the Patients Bill of Rights. It is a monumental task... but we shall overcome any and all obstacles placed in our path!

It was announced that the Golf Day has been cancelled due to insufficient response. Addie Lee will revisit it for another time. The AFT Retiree Leadership conference in D.C. for 9/14 was also cancelled.

You should all have received a mailing concerning the October 5th meeting which will have been held at the Bayard Cutting Arboretum by the time you receive this newsletter. A tour of the gardens and facilities is planned.

THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING OF ROBS WILL BE ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2 AT THE BAY SHORE LIBRARY AT 10 A.M. JOIN us for a program on Volunteerism

WHEN TRAGEDY STRIKES: nysut 9/14

How do we help our students cope with a world that is a far more frightening place than it was a week ago?

... New York City schools dismissed children in an orderly fashion September 11th; many UFT members stayed late with children who could not locate parents – in some cases, parents who were dead or missing in the World Trade Center collapses....

At Stuyvesant High near the World Trade Center, students and staff watched the explosions from classroom windows, and then evacuated as the crisis deepened. At the Borough of Manhattan Community College, where Professional Staff Congress members work, school buildings were used as shelters and an emergency center for police and fire response....

Many schools were used as shelters, including Southside Senior High in Rockville Centre and Plainedge High in North Maspeth.

NYSUT leaders expressed shock and sadness at the monstrous acts in New York City and Washington D.C. on September 11th.

In a joint statement signed by the NYSUT officers, it was affirmed that: "We will be there to support our students and our communities in every way possible as all of us attempt to cope with the aftermath of this tragedy. Our affiliates in NYC – the UFT and the Professional Staff Congress at CUNY – have opened their buildings to shelter those in need. Our members will mobilize to help with blood drives and disaster relief. More importantly we will reach out to support our students as they try to cope with a world that is a far scarier place than it was yesterday."

NEWS NOTES

We just heard that **Beverly Fisher** moved to California. **Rich Edwards** wrote that he had goofed and made a mistake on the address change zip code. Correct is: Richard Edwards, 3206 Banyon Hill Lane, Land O' Lakes, FL. **34639**.

And **Sheila & Letty Sustrin's** email address needs to be corrected. It is (twinniesis@aol.com). Another correction: the children's book they've written will be out in the late spring or early summer of 2002.

Nancy Ben-Dror, a new retiree, left for South Carolina in July. Their new phone number is: 864-895-4025. Horses, cats and dogs are going too. Lots of luck!

In August, **Ellie Steffens** and her dog Sasha, from Woodstock, N.Y. made the trip to visit **Bob & Chris Veech** in Vermont, where her goal was getting to Woodstock, Vermont. She did. And we had a lovely, but too short, visit....

Ross retirees **Mike Lambert**, **Mike Campanile**, and **Paul Koretsky**, plus "retiree-in-training," Ken Geraghty, were up in Saratoga Springs for their annual three days of horse racing fun in August. The four "mathletes" were dinner guests of **Greg and Carole Bruno** (Ross retiree) of Saratoga Springs. The six enjoyed an evening of good conversation, along with "Pasta ala Bruno." **Carole** reports that Saratoga was hopping with Brentwood people this summer. She and husband Greg went to the track once, and met **Mike Campanile** with his family, as well as Robin Courtney, the same day! And shopping downtown in Saratoga Springs one day, who should she run into but Joyce and **Jerry McCarthy**! **Carole** has also met a former Brentwood student (they go to the same beauty salon) who teaches in Saratoga Springs and a retired teacher who did his first year of teaching in Brentwood many years ago. "The Evergreen Mountain News" is a newsletter started by **Carole** and two neighbors for their housing development.



Grace Fishenfeld of Great Neck and Boca Raton is probably ecstatic. Her daughter, Randi, deserted Buffalo, NY and the legal profession (she ran her own practice for 6 years specializing in bankruptcy cases) for Florida and music a few years ago. Now she is packing the jazz clubs in Broward and Palm Beach counties. Her red hair and dance orientation is something different with an electronic violin. She's teaming up with the likes of Clarence Clemons, sax player from Bruce Springstein's band, and has played B.B. Kings in Manhattan, and the Stone Pony in New Jersey. Her dad, Bernie, a jazz trumpeter, and former music director for the NYC School system, loves what she does! Mom, an award winning artist, likes seeing her daughter find out who she really is. Randi does go over contracts for the band though. And this can be a good thing in the long run!



The holidays are coming, and there is always a need for candles. **Irene Spano's** ('98 Administration Bldg.) daughter, Chrissy and husband Doug have a candle business and invite all to visit them for custom made candles or ordinary ones. Any color, size, or scent for all occasions. They make favors and baskets. Support our extended Brentwood family! **Curiously Creative Candles Ltd.** is a Candle Factory open to the public. They are located at 1067 Long Island Avenue, Deer Park, 11729. Phone 631-586-1700, email (curiouscandles@aol.com)

Cheery wishes to **John Sherin** (Ross) who beat the odds this summer! And best wishes to **Jim Howard** of Holbrook ('99 Sonderling) who starts medical treatment soon. And it is good to hear **Jim Watson** is feeling better and planning a trip to Mexico. He spent the summer in Maine, but is now back in Phoenix.



Our deepest sympathies go to **Joyce Shapiro** ('80 Hemlock Pines) who lost her husband Chester this summer. **Joyce** is in Boynton Beach, FL.



And **Ruth Cummings** ('93 East K Center) passed away at her cabin in Ticonderoga on September 15th. She was having difficulty breathing, called 911, but died before the ambulance reached her. She was buried in Hudson Falls. Condolences to her first cousin: John Layden, 54 Williams St., Whitehall, NY 12887.

ROBS Community Liaison Committee's Program, PROJECT HOPE, is up and running again! Tutoring has begun in the Brentwood schools and at Suburban Children. If you are interested in helping, contact **Frank Spencer**, at 631-253-0355. Our **Thanksgiving and Holiday** fund raising is also underway. We adopt one or two homeless families for both holidays, provide them with turkey and trimmings and brighten their gift giving time. **Make checks out to ROBS - Project Hope** (or to Suburban Children Inc., for tax deduction). Send to **Frank Spencer, 3 Nottingham Drive, Wheatley Hts., NY 11798-1593**.