



## R O B S NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 44

RETIRES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

APRIL 2002

### Remember the Chordettes' "Mr. Sandman"? by Chris Veech

Ever hear of the Chordettes? The name should bring back lots of musical memories for most of you retirees. The group was inducted into the Vocal Group Hall of Fame in Sharon, PA in 2001, along with the Four Aces, Four Freshmen, McGuire Sisters and the Lennon Sisters. And one of our retirees was there. She was a member of the Chordette's: 1990 retiree Lynn Evans Mand, Special Ed teacher at Hemlock Pines.

Lynn says her life took many twists & turns after college. In 1952, she worked as a social worker in Youngstown, Ohio and was singing with a Barbershop Quartet, the Belles of Harmony when the Chordettes vocal group, which had just won on the Talent Scout Show, (early B&B TV), came to town.

Dorothy, their lead, was pregnant and did not want to leave them and entertained them in their hotel. The Chordettes had published a book of their memory. They invited her to return to New York



want to continue. Lynn and her group met in a hospitality suite, where Lynn sang with them. She made arrangements and she knew them all from before. Lynn auditioned for the show with them and auditioned for the show.

This resulted in 13 years of being a Chordette. They sang on the "Arthur Godfrey" Show" until 1954, just after Julius DeRosa got fired for hiring an agent and manager. Godfrey didn't want to deal with anyone but the artist, and decided DeRosa had "lost his humility." Godfrey's show began to fall apart then, and he died friendless and alone.

Archie Bleyer had formed his own recording company by then, and had the Chordettes cut two songs that made gold: "Mr. Sandman," and "Lollipop" Other titles followed: "Eddie, My Love," "Soft Sands," "Never on Sunday," "Zorro," ....Because of their popularity, the Chordettes toured all over the world, meeting many interesting personalities.

But when the Beatles came to town in 1964, the music industry began to change. The Chordettes decided to disband, and Lynn went back to school for a Masters in Special Education. She began teaching in Westbury BOCES,; teaching the students the public schools could not accommodate.

At that time, Brentwood was looking for Special Ed teachers, and Lynn joined the staff under Gabe Simchez, who was replaced the next year by Howard Brodsky, who kept a picture of the Chordettes in his office. Lynn stayed the course for 25 years.

Then when she retired, she reformed the Chordettes from 1990-'95 and toured with Eddie Arnold. They went to Branson, Laughlin, Nevada, and other US locations. But after 5 years, the constant rehearsals and choreography practice became too much, and the group decided to hang it up.

Lynn decided to move to Elyria, Ohio to be near her brother's family which is very close. Her brother had been an Episcopal priest there for 30 years. And there she met another Episcopal priest, Jack Mand, retired and a widower, and they were married on Thanksgiving 1997.

"We had two wonderful years, but he died of a stroke in December 1999. That was a hard time, but I was blessed to have known him. He had quite an impact on my life. I wish he could have been here for the Chordette induction (into the Vocal Hall of Fame). He loved the group so... Maybe in some way he was."

Varese Saraband put out 25 hits of the Chordettes last January. They can be found on the net. [www.Google.com](http://www.Google.com) and then Chordettes CD.

Lynn still sings in the choir at St. Andrews Episcopal Church where her brother served, and her niece is now the organist and choir director. While she visits her children, Robert and Carolyn and "grands," in Port St. Lucie, Florida, her heart is in Elyria. Once an Ohioan always an Ohioan.

And her voice is as well. What a wonderful life! Leaving a legacy of music and education to the future is something to be very proud of.

Right now I'm humming "Mr. Sandman" as I write. It was one of my favorite songs. I remember singing it to my children at bedtime when they were little.



#### Inside this issue:

Phyll's Forum	2
Job Opportunities	2
Florida Reports	3
News Notes	4
Letters: A Light Goes On	5
AFT/Women's Issues	5
NYSUT Notes	6

## PHYLL'S FORUM



Dear Colleagues:

I recently visited the Florida contingency of ROBS for their annual luncheon in Boca Raton. It was a pleasure to meet and renew past acquaintances from 30 years ago. Time definitely moves too quickly for some of us. I have developed a whole new outlook on life in Florida. The luncheon was attended by 41 people, and was planned by the very capable Marilyn DePlaza. Our members are so busy writing, [painting, traveling, it's a miracle that they have time for our "sit down." Thank you so much for your time and energy.

Several items came to light during our conversations. For those of you who are reaching the golden plateau of 65, the district will need a copy of your Medicare card so that you will receive proper Medicare reimbursement. Please send it to BUFSD, 52 Third Avenue, Brentwood NY, 11717, attention: Cathy Browman. Cathy stated that she is the only person working on health benefits and tries to send out payments quarterly.

For those Florida members: if you are a full-time resident of Florida, you may have changed your Retiree Council membership to Retiree Council #43 (TRIF). Please keep in mind that regardless of where you are located, **you must maintain affiliation with the Long Island union local from which you retire** in order to receive benefits.

On the local level, ROBS will be joining RC 21 in changing our calendar to a July 1 to June 30 fiscal year. What this means is, our membership drive will start in July and be completed by the end of October. This will help us send out our Directory by the 1st of the year. Jack Zuckerman has worked very hard to put this together, but we need more cooperation from our members. **Membership not sent in by October 31 will not be placed in the Directory.** We do not keep stats on when you will turn 75. The data sheets must be returned to us even if you are 75. At this late date, we are still receiving dues.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with programming, our newsletter, and the Project Hope mentoring program.

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

## NEWS FROM RC 21: job opportunities — Shirley Walker Lloyd



Mr. Manny Calado of Parker Tours (they did the Cape May trip) is looking to hire retired teachers to act as tour escorts for multi-day tours throughout the U.S. Contact him at: Parker Tours, 1-800-833-9600.

Gayle Haines, a retiree from West Islip, runs Lighthouse Safaris. She is also looking for retirees to act as tour guides – mostly for one day trips on Long Island, but some overnights, starting May 2002. "The impact of the World Trade disaster has increased the number of visitors from the tri-state area and other parts of the



domestic and international markets to discover Long Island.

If you're interested in having some fun and making some extra money in the "Tourism Industry," call Gayle toll free at 1-888-281-7071 for more information. A free morning workshop will be held at a designated hotel on April 22 with retiree Art Maynard (W. Islip retiree), and a host of others in the business to get you started.

### ROBS NEWSLETTER STAFF

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(chrisevech@aol.com)

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Goodwin (pbgoodwin@msn.com)

### ROBS OFFICER

PRES. Phyllis Goodwin

V.PRES. Harriet Pepine

SEC'Y. Lynn Prass

TREAS. Lilian Kelly



### LAUGHS FOR ALL

- He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
- Everyone has a photographic memory. Some don't have film.
- A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
- I just got lost in thought. It was unfamiliar territory.
- Seen it all, done it all, can't remember most of it.
- I feel like I'm diagonally parked in a parallel universe.
- Despite the cost of living, have you noticed how it remains so popular?

## Brentwood Boca Luncheon: Florida Reports

by Marilyn DePlaza

Well, just to let you know that it was a fantastic gathering (February 20), We all enjoyed the food, the company and mostly, seeing people we hasn't seen in so many years. There was lots of reminiscing as each guest stood up and told about former colleagues who were not there. We caught up on almost everyone, since we asked the group about people we hadn't heard from in years.

We stayed at the restaurant for the whole three hours, and no one was in a hurry to leave. Some came back to my house to see John Sherin's wonderful video with interviews from other retirees. That was so enjoyable.

We were a group of forty, and hope that next year, more will join us. It will again be during the week of February vacation from the Brentwood schools, usually the Wednesday of President's week. Please try to be there - you'll enjoy yourself again. If it's your first reunion, you'll enjoy even more, I promise. Hoping to see you next year!



By Oneida S. Lee

Oneida S. Lee was reunited with her car pool friends, Ruth Abel, Eleanor Klein, and Selma Friedman on February 20th at the ROBS Luncheon in Boca Raton, Florida. They all retired from Southwest school in 1985. They had lots of fun reminiscing about old times and inquiring about other teachers and friends.

Charlie Brown, Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Cooper, Marie DeTucci, and Audrey Competello, as well as many other ROBS retirees were at the luncheon.

It was great to see everyone looking so well. We all had a great time.

## ROBS TRIPPER'S: summer in the west

Two of our ROBS retirees are traveling; meaning they are organizing small groups for interesting, fun trips with Brentwood folks.


Lynn Tiscione, (Twin Pines '01) has a few Twin Pines teacher's going on a trip to the National Parks for 14 days, starting and ending in Las Vegas. They are leaving August 11., and returning August 25. \$1,925 includes 21 meals and all tours to Grand Canyon National Park, Yellowstone, Bryce Canyon and much more. If interested, call Lynn at 516-752-7132.




And not to be left in the dust, Lilian Kelly and Irene Spano are doing a Canadian Rockies trip with Go-Ahead Vacations. They leave August 21 and return August 31. The 9 day tour includes Vancouver, Rocky Mountaineer Train to Kamloops, Jasper National Park, Columbia Icefields, Kootenay & Yahoo National Parks, Calgary, Lake Louise, Banff. \$2,259 with a 2 day extension in Vancouver for \$435. Call Lilian at 516-799-4074 or email: Malta1933@aol.com


**HAPPY TRIPPING GUYS!**

# NEWS NOTES

ROBS president, **Phyllis Goodwin** and **Frank Spencer** represented ROBS at the Brentwood American Legion St. Patrick's Day parade. They drove, with other retirees, behind our Retiree banner. It was a very pretty sight! 

This editor was invited to a jewelry party of Brentwood staff in March. Saw lots of fun people, and the hand made jewelry was the work of Brentwood teacher (retiring in June 2002), **Esther Klein** of East. **Karen Storjohann** is a big fan of her work, and so is this editor. We'll have a Brentwood retiree jewelry party in the Fall. Saw **Robert (Chico) Frankel** (Sonderling Guidance) and wife **Bobbe** at **Judi Hearst Weissman's** 50th birthday party. He looks great. Loves retirement.

 **Jim Watson's** daughter, **Carolyn Watson Dubisch** will be on Long Island in the middle of April for book signings at the Northport and Brentwood libraries. She has now published three children's books. Way to go, Watson's!

And proud as peacocks are **Bob Lloyd** and **Shirley Walker Lloyd** on the birth of their second grandchild **Kyle Brandon Walker** was born on Valentine's Day, and weighed in at 9 lbs. 3 oz. He joins 4 year old brother **Ian James** in Brightwaters. 

**Dave Brown** and his lovely wife are off to Germany and environs in May. I found this out initially when I met him in the liquor store where he was engaged in easy banter with the saleswoman. Have a good trip, **Dave!**

**Fran Graff** (Northeast) has a new computer. In developing her typing skills, she developed carpal tunnel syndrome, but in spite of the pain (and some of us know it well...) she is in good spirits. What's your email, **Fran?** Mine is on page 2.


Continuing "feel better" wishes to **Anita (Rubenstein) Silverman**, (Sonderling Guidance Sec'y.) who had a quadruple by-pass; and to **Edith Erder**, who is undergoing many surgical trials with her hips.

Get well wishes to **Eleanor Roode** and **Carole Soldinger** (Twin Pines, '01), who are both recovering from surgery.

 We heard from **Rita Shevach's** (Northeast 1986) husband in Boynton Beach, Florida, that **Rita** passed away in October 2001 after a lengthy illness.

We were saddened to learn that former ROBS Executive Board member **Carmen Crespo Hill** (1999, Oak Park) passed away on February 9 after a long, valiant battle with cancer. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the **Carmen Crespo Hill Memorial Scholarship Fund**. Checks should be made out to the BTA, with the **Carmen Crespo Hill MSF** notation at the bottom of the check, and mailed to BTA, 350 Motor Parkway, Hauppauge, NY 11788. The first scholarship will be given to a Brentwood ESL student this June.

And condolences go to **Joan Byrnes** (sec'y. South Junior High School, 1991) upon the death of her husband in February. **Ivy Rosenthal** lost her husband on February 7. Our thoughts are with you both.

On March 15th, after a long and happy life, **Letty and Sheila Sustrin's** mother **Estelle** passed away. Burial was private. For those who wish to send a donation in her memory, send one to the charity of your choice. The twins are at: 39 Greenmeadow Court, Deer Park, 11729. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all these families. 

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS & JOIN US

**Friday, May 3 – General Meeting: History Video Project "Revue of years - Member Interviews"**  
*All General Meetings are held at the Bay Shore Library, Montauk Hwy., 10 A.M.*

## MADE IN AMERICA

**A WEB SITE DEVOTED TO UNION-MADE PRODUCTS: [www.buyunionnow.com](http://www.buyunionnow.com)**

The site, launched last spring sells about 1000 products and lists the name of the union that organizes the production facility. (You may call 1-800-289-8646). You are invited to offer product suggestions by emailing: [products@buyunionnow.com](mailto:products@buyunionnow.com)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Chris:

I'm enclosing my writing for you to use at your discretion:

### A LIGHT GOES ON

The tragedy of the World Trade Center has brought to our attention more knowledge of the many religions; and while rites may differ, the basic rules are similar. While Atheists do not believe in God, many of them follow moral boundaries or guidelines.

The rules familiar to me are those of the Ten Commandments. If you look at the word commandment, some interpret it as an order. The Commandments are, in fact, directions given to enhance one's way of life. A parent will teach a child the danger of playing in the road, or crossing the street, out of concern for his/her safety. So too the commandments instruct us how to travel on the straight and narrow road to avoid the pitfalls of life. You might say we are given a road map that leads directly to love and self respect.

While we don't always see eye to eye with each other regarding beliefs, it was through a tragedy that we have been able to see heart to heart!

Love, Millie O'Neill

Retired Ross High School Aide



## Coalition Project: More Women in Unions

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (CFTU), the AFL-CIO, and the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) have launched a global campaign to help women organize under the slogan "Unions for Women, Women for Unions." The campaign's long-term goal is to double the number of women union members and to improve working conditions for women in the trade union movement. The drive to attract more women to the movement is based largely on the results of the 2001 "Ask Working Women" survey sponsored by the ICFTU Women's Committee. The campaign was announced in conjunction with **International Women's Day (March 8th)**.

The Bureau of Labor statistics reports that in 2001, women union members is at an all time high of 6.77 million. Union membership increased by 93,000 among all women, and there were 42,000 more Hispanic union women in 2001 than in 2000.

Meanwhile, Public Service International and affiliates (including AFT) representing some 20 million employees worldwide, has released an international pay equity survey finding that public sector wages around the world are between 10% and 50% lower for women than for men.

Keynoting the Women's Issues Conference 2 days before the 6 month anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks, AFT president, Sandra Feldman called for continuing the fight for the things that make America a great nation, and against the forces that would diminish it. "Our nation is learning lessons that are strengthening its values. First, we've seen that America is more than an economy - it's a community." The changes and improvements the union fights for "always mean better services for the public we work for." Feldman went on to call for universal pre-school education, noting that 60% of mothers with children under 3 are working outside their homes. (Inside AFT 3/15)

### **PROJECT HOPE STILL NEEDS TUTORS FOR BRENTWOOD'S HOMELESS CHILDREN TO HELP AS THEY FACE HARDSHIP. PLEASE, PLEASE JOIN US, EVEN FOR SHORT TERM HELP.**

#### **ROBS TO OFFER HOPE**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I am available to volunteer:

\_\_\_\_ Brentwood Classroom \_\_\_\_ Suburban Educational Center \_\_\_\_ Both

\_\_\_\_ 2 hours a week \_\_\_\_ 2 hours a month \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Mon. \_\_\_\_ Tues. \_\_\_\_ Wed. \_\_\_\_ Thurs. \_\_\_\_ Fri.

My talents & interests are:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Frank Spencer, ROBS Community Liaison Committee  
3 Nottingham Dr., Wheatley Heights, N.Y. 11798-1593. Phone: 631-253-0355

**THESE FOLKS RETIRED****LAST JUNE: better late than never! Congratulations!**

Donald Andwood  
Nancy Ben-Dror  
Rosemarie Brousseau  
Judith Factor  
Elfrieda Frick  
Ruth Greco  
Peter Hoegel  
Marilyn Key  
Carol Kwitkin  
Noreen Loconte  
Rosemary Moriarty  
Helaine Petroff

John Rohatsch  
Peter Schultheiss  
Gerard Solner  
Sandra Vigo  
Carmela Criscione  
Elda Murphy  
Barbara Sergei  
Frank Bartley  
Susan Black  
Sherry Calderaro  
Robert Frankel  
Michael Garramone  
Eileen Grogan  
Ann Hutnick  
Stephen Krakehl



Sharon Letsch  
Mary Jean Mento  
Joan Nagle  
Theresa Piombo  
Eleanor Roode  
June Schwabish  
Linda Tiscione  
Mercedes Wharton  
Elaine Levy  
Jean Icart  
Ann Manno  
Richard Belvin  
Karen Bloomfield  
Mary Kay Dillon  
Edwin Frick

Jeffrey Goldschmidt  
Noreen Hayes  
Paula Jackson  
Valerie Kujawski  
Vicki Lipkowitz  
Lois Morella  
Elizabeth Pascarella  
Marie Poppo  
Stephen Schiff  
Carol Soldingier  
Michael Troise  
Gail Young-Smith  
Florence Hashley  
Ann Hyde  
Irene Mortenson

**NYSUT NOTES**

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

I have recently been in conversation with some retiree members who expressed confusion about their retiree affiliation and about organizations which claim to represent them. With retirees rapidly growing in number and in strength it is not surprising that private groups are reaching out to solicit membership.

So who does speak for you? There is only one organization that officially represents you and provides for your benefits ..... and that organization is the **New York State United Teachers, known as NYSUT**. While you were employed in the school districts, your union local was your exclusive and official representative. Through the local's affiliation with NYSUT and AFT, you were eligible for all the benefits these organizations offered ... the *New York Teacher*, insurance plans, legal services, financial benefits, legislative programs, and various discounts.

As a NYSUT retiree you are still eligible for all these benefits because you are entitled to **FREE LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP IN NYSUT AND AFT** as long as you maintain your association with your union local either through an affiliated retiree chapter or where there is no chapter, as an at-large member. **NYSUT DOES NOT CHARGE YOU ANY MONEY TO RECEIVE THESE CONTINUED BENEFITS.** (There may be a separate dues structure by the retiree chapter in order for it to function on your behalf.) Other organizations that solicit your membership require a dues payment for their services. In our democratic society you are entitled to join as many organizations as you wish, but keep in mind that, free of any charges, NYSUT is the only organization that continues to effectively represent you in retirement as it did while you were in-service. Legislative achievements such as COLA, health insurance moratorium, tier equalization, and pension improvements have been gained through the vigorous and dynamic efforts of our state organization. While other retiree organizations may claim credit for effecting legislation, they have often supported bills that undermine the more successful NYSUT legislative program.

If you have questions or want further discussion please feel free to call me.

# Be Calm *After* The Storm

**W**hat if your home were ravaged by fire, storm, or some other disaster? Try to be calm. If your property sustains major damage, your first priority should be to ensure that you and your family are safe. But remember, even if you have sufficient insurance coverage, you'll still need to initiate the claim process with a phone call to your insurance company.

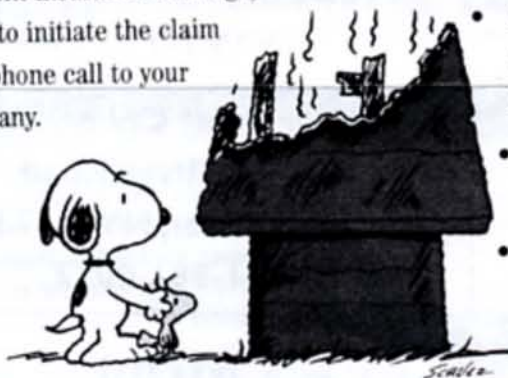
Call your insurance company immediately from a safe location. Some

insurers, like the NYSUT Benefit Trust-endorsed MetLife® Auto & Home, can refer you to reputable contractors to guarantee timely repairs in the event of a crisis. Be sure to document emergency repair expenses and purchases related to the claim, such as plastic, tarps, and plywood to cover broken windows, doors, and holes, and rental car receipts, if your vehicle were rendered undrivable. You may be reimbursed for such expenses.

Simple proactive measures can help ensure your claim will be processed in a timely fashion and you'll be fairly compensated for your loss. Before a tragedy occurs, walk from room to room in your home itemizing and videotaping or photographing your property. Keep the list and photos or videotape safely off the premises, along with receipts or owner's manuals. Being prepared before a catastrophe strikes is easier than trying to compile a complete list in the midst of ruins.

Other proactive measures to take once you have purchased the protection you need:

- Always thoroughly read your policy to determine and understand what it covers.
- Clarify any coverage questions you have with your insurance company.
- Store a copy of your policy off the premises, such as in your office or in a bank safe-deposit box.
- Keep a list of policy and insurer phone numbers in your wallet.
- Update your policy coverage as you make changes to your property or new purchases.



For more information about  
MetLife Auto & Home  
and free, no-obligation quotes, call  
**1 800 GET-MET 1**  
(1-800-438-6381).

It's helpful to have copies of your current policies  
handy when you call.

## MetLife® Auto & Home

MetLife Auto & Home is a brand of Metropolitan Property and Casualty Insurance Company and its Affiliates, Warwick, RI.

METPAY®, underwritten by MetLife® Auto & Home, is available in most states to those who qualify. In Texas, some policies are provided by Metropolitan Lloyds Insurance Company of Texas. In some instances, special arrangements for coverage have been made with other carriers.



# ROBS LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2002

NOON TO 4 P.M.



**Timber Point Country Club**  
**Great River Road**  
**Great River, NY 11739**  
**631-581-0022**

## Menu

Appetizer – Seasonal Melon with Proscuitto

Salad – Caesar Salad with garlic Croutons

Entrée's – Choose one

Chicken Florentine in a Puffed Pastry

Broiled Filet of Sole

Sliced Sirloin of Beef with Burgundy Mushroom Sauce

Dessert – Hot Apple Crisp a la Mode

Coffee/Tea/Soda - **Cash Bar**

Members: \$24

Non-Members:

\$26

**CLIP & RETURN CHECKS MADE OUT TO: ROBS no later than June 8, 2002 to:**

Ruth McCalla, 100 Columbus Ave.

Central Islip, N.Y. 11722; phone: 631-234-8013

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **No. Attending** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Amt. Encl.** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ Entrée Choice \_\_\_\_\_