



ROBS - RETIREES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

ROBS SCHOLARSHIPS 2017

by Nick Siciliano and Harriet Pepine

ROBS is pleased to announce the names of our 2017 scholarship awardees. As an organization and through your generous contributions, we have given out scholarships for almost our entire 25 years.

Jim Nanos represented **ROBS** at the May 26th Scholarship Ceremony.

Our awardees are: Gabriella Cruz for the Lilian Kelly \$750 scholarship. Gabriella is a graduate of the Sonderling Building and attended North Elementary and North Middle Schools.

Kyle Niehr is award the \$1,000 Jack Zuckerman award. He is a

Sonderling graduate and attended Southwest Elementary and West Middle School.

Katherine Orellana has received the \$1,000 Dorothy Zuckerman scholarship. She is a Sonderling graduate and attended Hemlock Park Elementary School and West Middle School.

Yelinda Leniohan has received the \$500 Sheila Sustrin scholarship that Letty has created in her sister's name. She is a Ross Building graduate and attended Hemlock Park Elementary and East Middle School.

Congratulations to our graduates and our best wishes in their future endeavors.



Jim Nanos presenting **ROBS** scholarships to the awardees.

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 8 - new retirees and activity

October 6 - TBA

November 3 - TBA

December 1 - 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
kpnict@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

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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

ANOTHER YEAR FOR ROBS

By Nick Siciliano

A new year for **ROBS** and we hope you will help to keep this organization active. The number of retirees is not as large as they were before but we still hope they will join **ROBS**. If you know of any retirees who are not members of **ROBS** please encourage them to join our organization.

As most of you are aware, in the upcoming November election there will be an item on the ballot to call for the convening of a Constitutional Convention. Some of you have received information from **NYSUT**, **RC21**, and from **ROBS** regarding this item.

It is important that we all vote to **NOT** allow this convention to take place next year. While it may sound very democratic to have such a convention, you should be aware that it can do more harm than good. With regard to educators, a constitutional convention could call for the

elimination of tenure, lower pay, etc.

Please follow what is going on with this proposal in the coming months. **NYSUT**, **RC21**, and **ROBS** will keep you updated on this issue.

On a more positive note, as we move on toward the end of the year, we will, as we have done every year, give back to the Brentwood community by adopting four or five families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Once again we are asking for donations in any amount to provide these families with a Happy Thanksgiving and Christmas. All of you have been generous in the past and I hope you will continue your generosity this year.

As always, we welcome your suggestions to make **ROBS** an even more effective organization for its members.



IT'S ALL ABOUT US

By Carmela Criscione

Happy summer. It got off to a misty, rainy, damp Memorial Day but we're starting to see sun every day. Of course, we will soon be complaining about heat and humidity, nevertheless summer is very welcome.

Phyllis Goodwin attended a family reunion in the Bahamas in June.

She planned to go down the waterslide at the Atlantis Resort and take in the aquarium walk with all the creatures swimming around you while you walk through a glass corridor.

Adventurous soul that she is, she wanted to take a hand at parasailing. Her pictures should be spectacular, and I hope she shares them with us.

Adrienne Eastman's youngest grandson, Phil,

and his wife, Jennifer, are expecting their first child in the fall. They've also bought a new house and will be in it before the baby arrives.

Adrienne is the mother of two boys, grandmother to three boys, and great-grandmother of two boys.

This new great-grandchild will be the first girl in three generations.

I'm sure we can give her hints on how to spoil the new arrival, but I think she has experience already.

Susanna Bouza just returned from a trip to Israel and Greece. She will be writing an article about her experiences.

Amalia Moise is the proud grandmother of Alex who is on the 10th grade Silver Honor Roll and has been inducted into the World Language

Honor Society, Laure who is in the 5th grade gifted program, is a member of the National Honor Society and a recipient of the Presidential Honor Award and Nicholas who is cited for academic excellence, has received the President Honor Award and is a great soccer player. Congratulations to all.

Ronda Brooks will be chaperoning a group of high school students this summer with People to People International. They'll be visiting Italy, France, Monaco and Spain. Looking forward to great travel photos.

Please let me know if you have any news items you would like mentioned in the newsletter.

Remember...

IT'S ALL ABOUT US!



WHY DID THE TURTLE CROSS THE ROAD?



To meet Phyllis Goodwin of course! Phyllis was out and about, running errands on Pulaski Road, when she spotted a turtle walking along the side of the road. Not knowing the turtle's sex we will call it "it" and not knowing the difference between a turtle and a tortoise, we will call it a turtle. The turtle was about 12 inches wide and long. Is that round, oblong? Let's

call it turtle-shaped. It did not weigh much. No way to know how long it had been traveling and if there was anything along the way to eat.

Being a kind soul, she stopped her car but no one was paying any attention. The man nearby, mowing his lawn, had his own problems being a single dad with two kids. He denied knowing the turtle. She could not, in good conscience leave it to face traffic so she picked it up and put in the back seat of her car.

Every time she turned a corner, she worried that the turtle had rolled over on its back. If it did, it rolled over on its stomach the next turn. She spoke reassuringly to it.

When she got home, she put out a dish of water and placed the turtle in a cool, dry, shady spot. A turtle could do worse than to end up in Phyllis' beautiful backyard.

When she checked again, the turtle was nowhere to be found. It is either nibbling on the leaves of her

heritage peony bush, hiding and making a nest, or it hit the street, aiming for Pulaski Road. In any case, Phyllis wins the St. Francis of Assisi award for kindness to a turtle in need.



Phyllis calls him O'Hare!

DECEMBER 21, 2012 (aka THE END OF THE WORLD) DIDN'T HAPPEN, BUT?

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is that time of the year when **ROBS** has completed another successful year. The year is just starting for the Executive Board. We must attend to our scholarship winners, plan our programs, set up luncheons, and keep you entertained with our wonderful newsletter.

Last year we tried something new with our membership form and I must say that we were disappointed in your lack of response. We will, however, try again and hope for a better response this year.

Since we are starting a new year, it is imperative that you fully comprehend the changes that will be taking place in our organization in another year. When this chapter was founded in 1991, retired teachers formed this political organization. Several years later, **BCA** was asked to join us. With the lack of involvement by our teachers, we are in danger of losing out on a very important segment of retirement. It would be a disservice to those who formed **ROBS** to see how complacent we've become. We are the only chapter in **RC 21** that actually partici-

pates in relaying new information, interesting programming and helping their community and we do it all with the lowest dues rate of the ten Islip towns. I am so proud of how much we accomplish for our members and the Brentwood community and doubly proud of those who always step up to the plate. Take some Geritol, B12 Complex, Prevagen, whatever it takes to stoke your participation. **Join Us!**

In Harmony,

Phyllis Goodwin

ROBS MEMBERSHIP CARD 2017-2018

(PLEASE PRINT)

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address 1 _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Address 2 _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Building _____ Department _____

Retirement Yr. _____ Birthday (MM/DD/YYYY) _____

Directory (Y or N) _____

Checks should be made out to **ROBS** and sent to:
Carmen Roldan, 49 Linda Lane, Babylon NY 11703.
The dues are \$25 and October 31 is the deadline.
Please Do Not Staple Your Check to this form.
Thank you for your prompt return.

CONFESSIONS OF A RECOVERING NEWS JUNKIE

By Carmela Criscione

I've always watched the news, read the news, discussed the news. My dad, who was an immigrant, did not read *Il Progresso*, the Italian-American daily, but came home every night with at least two newspapers, the News, Post, Mirror or the Herald Tribune. We had dinner every evening with news anchor Douglas Edwards and watched the Sunday morning news programs after going through the big Sunday newspaper edition. I always got 100% on my current events test.

I was a total Watergate devotee. I spent the summer painting the inside of the house with the Watergate Hearings on a TV that was covered with a tarp. If I was working, I watched the replay of the Hearings on PBS until 1 a.m. I scheduled my vacation so I could watch live. I knew all the cast of characters, wrote letters of encouragement to Peter Rodino and Sam Ervin, thought Woodward and Bernstein were super heroes and had erotic thoughts about Sam Dash, Ervin's chief counsel.

Over the years, news stories came and went that caught my attention and sometimes obsession. Then came the Comey firing. Commentators were comparing it to the firing of Archibald Cox, Special Prosecutor in the Watergate investigation. Not so. Nixon told the attorney general to fire Cox, he refused and resigned on principle. Nixon told the assistant attorney general to fire Cox, he refused and resigned on principle. Nixon then went to the next name, Robert Bork. Bork fired Cox. He did what the

commander-in-chief ordered him to do and it would have long-lasting consequences. When Bork was being considered for a Supreme Court appointment, it was dredged up and he was denied. So much for following orders.

This was not the case in the Comey firing. Ready? It was Julius LaRosa being fired on live TV for not being humble enough, being pushy on stage and disrespecting the authority of Arthur Godfrey. Whoa! At that moment I knew my imagination was in hyper-drive. I was in the deep end of the pool without my water wings and going down for the third time. All the cable news channels were wall-to-wall on the story. I switched off the set.

I turned to my extensive video collection for help. On the shelf, unwrapped, was Season One of the original **Hawaii Five-O** series. Six discs with four episodes on each. Watching them, my shattered nerves were slowly calmed by one the most iconic themes on TV and the introduction shots with the jet, the little boy, the beautiful girl tossing back her hair and running in the surf, and then the zoom shot of the hi-rise with Jack Lord standing on the balcony.

That night I ordered Season Two and Three. Six discs with four episodes each. I was in "Book 'em, Dano" mode. There was at least one exploding car scene on each disc, I recognized guest stars that I hadn't seen in forty years. The cars were old, the slang dated and the sideburns on some of the actors laughable. I read the Roman numerals at the end of each

episode confirming the dates as the 1970s.

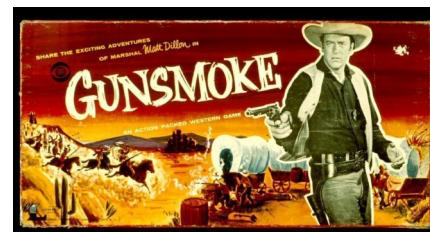
I tried watching limited news but the trauma was too great. In the end, I ordered all 12 seasons of **Hawaii Five-O**. There were 281 episodes with Jack Lord in each and every one. At the start of each episode, when they zoomed in on his face, I said the same thing, "What a gorgeous man." At the end, I could write the definitive biography on the character. He drank a lot of black coffee, had beautifully tailored suits, his big car had under-inflated tires that squealed when he raced to the scene of a crime, he played golf, tennis, handball and sailed. He had a sister, had polio as a child and a nemesis with the marvelous name of Wo Fat.

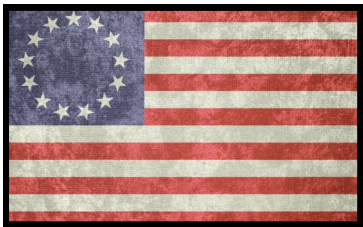
Eventually, 281 episodes came to an end but the Comey/Russian influence/hacking stories did not end. What could I do? I ordered 11 seasons of **Columbo**, every **Perry Mason** TV movie, the entire black and white **Perry Mason** series from the 1950s and the entire color collection of **Wagon Train**.

I had to buy a new DVD player because 281 episodes were too much of a strain for the old one. I'm much calmer now and should be for a while. I can fall back on all the **Star Trek** shows, **Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea**, and **The Man from U.N.C.L.E.** I shudder to think what the news will be when all my DVDs are played. It is comforting to know that **Gunsmoke** was on for 20 years if I need it.



"I was in the deep end of the pool without my water wings and going down for the third time."





OUR AMERICAN FLAG

by Carmela Criscione

The flag has been a symbol of our country since the Revolutionary War.

Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Election Day and Veteran's Day are times when many flags are shown by private citizens.

It is waved from flag poles in front of public buildings, schools, stores and more. Streets are lined with them before parades. Military cemeteries display them, and on Veterans' Day little

flags are placed on graves. You may have a flag flying at your home.

But weather, the sun and wind take their toll and the flag sometimes becomes tattered, torn or just worn. I have a bag in my garage with at least six flags that are too weary to be flown. I didn't know where to bring them to honorably dispose of them.

The Town of Islip recently ran a small article in their senior newsletter on this very subject. You may dispose of

worn flags at many libraries (including Brentwood Library, so bring your own flags to a meeting), also Town Halls, senior centers and sometimes unlikely places like the Gull Haven Golf Course, Hauppauge landfill and the rifle range. Although not mentioned, I would also think American Legion halls could be contacted.

So when your flag can't be honorably displayed, you can retire it with the dignity and respect it deserves.

WANT TO SEE A GOOD SHOW?

The summer is full of bad programming and re-runs. If you want to see something special, tune into the **ROBS** website, www.robsny.org. and view the Esther "Kitty" Hayes history project interview. Kitty was an elementary teacher at Hemlock Park and a beauty queen.

Coming soon after will be interviews with Ruth McCalla, Eli Acosta, Carole Bruno and Estelle Hoyt.

John Sherin, who has worked on this project for many years, is in need of someone who can give a short (one or two paragraphs) bio as an introduction to the video. Please contact him if you can be of help or want more information.

His email is jmsherin@optonline.net



IT'S FOR THE BIRDS

by Barbara Terlecki

Ronda Brooks, a retired social worker, gave an excellent presentation at our last **ROBS** meeting on her bird watching hobby.

She frequently visits Wakodahatchee Wetlands in Delray Beach, Florida, and took some amazing photographs of spoonbills, which is probably the rarest bird she has recently seen. She has pictures of an-hingas, flamingoes, doves, gulls, pelicans, owls, herons, egrets and many more. She reports that recently, wood storks have taken over the park.

In her backyard, she has taken beautiful pictures of redwing blackbirds, robins, cardinals, grackles, starlings, and wrens. She started this hobby after she retired six years ago. But upon reminiscing she enjoyed birding even as a little girls growing up. She said, "All you need is a camera, and a pair of binoculars." Bird feeders in the back yard draw a

variety of birds and are an asset as well. She also suggested several books to get you started so that you can identify what you are seeing: *Genius of Birds*, *Birds of South-east Florida*, and *Sibley Guide to Birds* to name just a few.

There are parks locally that you can walk through and the birds will come to eat out of your hand. Sagamore Hill also has many birds that you can view as well as the New York Botanical Gardens.

Ronda has traveled the world for her summer job as a travel guide with students. During those excursions she has seen many birds outside the country such Australian pelicans, which are the largest pelicans in the world.

After the slide presentation of pictures with accompanying music of bird songs, another of Ronda's hobbies, the audience was invited to participate in a conversation on back yard birding. Gloria Hanne-

mann told a story about her African Grey parrot who imitates her family members. We all laughed because we could see how a bird could mimic someone perfectly and put a smile on your face. Phyllis Goodwin suggested putting a slinky on the bottom of a bird feeling pole to deter squirrels from getting at the bird feeder.

Paula Moore told us about her husband who didn't particularly like seagulls. But one day, there was a seagull in their yard who was injured and he called a shelter to find out how he could help the little fellow they named "Sam". He got the seagull into a box and brought to the vet so they could take care of his injury. He now has a good feeling for seagulls.

After hearing Ronda's love of watching birds, it has inspired me to think that this is something I would enjoy also. Thank you, Ronda, for putting a spark in me.



Presenter Ronda Brooks and some of her bird guides



"All you need is a camera and a pair of binoculars."



Australian Pelican



Roseate Spoonbill



Anhinga

ROBS LUNCHEON

ROBS held its annual end-of-the-year luncheon at The View on the water in Oakdale. It was a beautiful day.

Valerie Vismale, our program director, made, as always, a great choice in our meeting place. Everyone attending had a wonderful time.



(Left to right) Gloria Hannemann, Ann Mygland, Marge Kirchner, Tony Gennaro, Connie Gennaro, Mary Ruffino, Barbara Mascaro and Marty Hochheiser



(Left to right) Edie Filosa, Ellen Edelstein, Susanna Bouza, Amalia Moise, Orieta Blanco, Adrienne Eastman and Carmela Criscione



(Left to right) Carol Comerford, Phyllis Goodwin and Vernell Spencer