

# ROBS - RETIREES of the BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

Since 1991 - Still Serving

ssue 2/2010

April, May, June

#### **MEETINGS**

General Meetings are held at the Brentwood Public Library, 2nd Ave., & Third St., 10 a.m. the **first** Friday of the month.

April 16 NOTE this is a change of date.
Topic will be

Topic will be Identity Theft.

May 7 Election of Officers &

> History Video Presentation

June 4 Luncheon at Panama Hattie's

# ROBS CARES CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED

**Pronto,** the community action group we support, is in need of dry or canned goods, paper products and toiletries. **Please** bring your contribution to each meeting.

#### **OFFICERS**

Phyllis Goodwin, President (pbgoodwin@msn.com) Harriet Pepine, Vice President Lucille Fink - Secretary Marge Kirchner - Treasurer Dot Zuckerman - President Ermita

#### **AFFILIATIONS**

ROBS is proudly affiliated with NYSUT, AFT, NEA, AFL/CIO, RC21 & NYSARA.

## KATHY WILLIAMS-GING, WINNER, 2010 NYSUT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



Retiree Kathy Williams-Ging, a long time community volunteer has been chosen as the ROBS and RC21 recipient of the NYSUT Community Service Award for 2010. She will be honored at the ROBS luncheon on June 4th and the RC21 luncheon on June 22nd. Those who know Kathy agree that she is long overdue for recognition. Kathy was a Peace Corp Volunteer in Peru for two years before she came to Brentwood. She has served as a mentor in Brentwood Secondary Schools since retiring from the Freshman Center. She became a powerful advocate for working women when facing her own health challenges and job discrimination. She spearheaded many of the numerous drives concerning health issues such as cancer. In the true spirit of adventure, Kathy applied to NASA as a teacher astronaut for the Challenger expedition. After teaching in Brentwood's Bilingual Department for 32 years, Kathy increased her volunteer work. She has provided services for the South Huntington Library homebound clients and shared her bilingual skills with members of the Hispanic community at St. Hugh's of Lincoln Parish. In addition to her translating, she works at the food pantry at St. Hugh's. Kathy is married to Tim Ging, a massage therapist and they have a daughter, Sara, who will attend college in the Fall. The ROBS logo is "Still Serving" and Kathy is the epitome of service to Brentwood, the South Huntington Community and the world. Congratulations Kathy. We are extremely proud of you.



# ROBS NEWSLETTER

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#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Carmela Criscione, ROBS Cares Adrienne Eastman, BCA Liaison Gloria Hanneman, Web Coordinator Marty Hochheiser, BTA/RC21

Liaison
Ruth McCalla, Programs
Lynda Romano, Hospitality
John Sherin, History Project
Nick Siciliano, Web Editor
Peter Vercillo, Project Hope
Lynn Prass, Paula Moore and
Ellen Edelstein, Delegates-atLarge

#### EDITORIAL BOARD

Carmela Criscione, Acting Ed. (tecnoquuen@aol.com)
Adrienne Eastman
Lucille Fink
Phyllis Goodwin
Miriam Massucci
Paula Moore
John Sherin
Nick Siciliano

### TALK TO US

The phone numbers, addresses and e-mail addresses of all the Officers, Executive and Editorial Boards members are in the Directory should you wish to contact us.



#### PHYLL'S FORUM

Dear Colleagues,

After years of lobbying and political action, NYSUT retirees can celebrate a major legislative victory in securing the Permanent Health Insurance Moratorium. Governor David Paterson signed the moratorium into law as part of the Tier 5 pension bill, bringing a fifteen year effort by retirees to a satisfying conclusion.

There are some changes in the Medicare Part B. Most people will not have an increase in 2010 but those new to Medicare in 2010 will have to pay a higher premium if your annual income is above \$85,000 (if single) or \$170,000 (if married). The Part B deductible will be \$155 in 2010. After you have met your deductible, you pay Part B coinsurance for Medicare covered services. To learn more about next year's costs and coverage log on <a href="www.medicare">www.medicare</a> interactive.org/teachers. This service is provided AFT and NYSUT.

Last but not least, we have a slate of nominees for our May 7th election. We are thrilled to have **Nick Siciliano** as President, **Kathleen Guleksen** as First Vice President, **Harriet Pepine** as Second Vice President, **Lucille Fink** as Secretary and **Marge Kirchner** as Treasurer. I believe that we have an extraordinary group of candidates who will continue to give us important information and guidance through the next generation of **ROBS**.

In Harmony,

Phyllis Goodwin, President





# ROBS NEWSLETTER

#### ONE WOMAN'S OPINION

#### A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I've read and re-read your article in the 1/2010 ROBS Newsletter, titled "Long Overdue". I couldn't agree more! There are so many women who gave so much to nascent girls' teams. Parity still hasn't been reached, but not from lack of trying by these dedicated women. I often wonder, do we really need to spend so much money on football? It's a sport in which half the student body cannot participate (our female students) and most young men can't either (not being big enough). But there are these teams, in school after school, sucking up the money and resources. I've always been a bigger fan of intramurals which let more kids have fun together. Sports such as fencing and soccer which are co-ed are excellent, too.

Thank heavens (and the feminists) for Title IX or things wouldn't have changed at all. Those Phys. Ed. teachers in the 60's and 70's were the driving force in getting increased opportunities for their students. You asked for names. Shirley Brown of East Middle springs to mind. She was amazing at setting up tournaments and other events. And what a free throw she had in basketball! Lil Thompson was very dedicated to equal opportunity in sport. I know there are other teachers at the three High School buildings whose names have escaped me. Perhaps some people who were there longer than I might recall them? Those pioneers deserve to be remembered.

I half envision a scene such as the one at the end of "A League Of Their Own". There was a Women's Baseball display in Cooperstown being dedicated. Pretty sweet. Brentwood has had some outstanding Phys. Ed. teachers and Coaches of girls/women's sports, and we would do well to remember and honor them.

#### Claudia DeBellis

We appreciate Claudia's passion regarding this subject. Student participation in any activity is worthwhile and the dedication of those teachers, advisors and coaches, whether male or female, is to be lauded. We have not heard from Donna Jones, Superintendent, or Kevin O'Reilly, Coordinator of Physical Education, regarding our letters or article. Ed.

## BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT

#### **BRENTWOOD TRIVIA**

by Nick Siciliano

Who created the cereal icon "Toucan Sam" that appeared on Kellogg's Fruit Loops since the 1960's? Manuel R. Vega.

Recently, Kerry Kennedy visited West Middle School. What connection did her family have with Brentwood? Her father, Robert F. Kennedy, NY Senator and presidential candidate, addressed the student body at the High School in 1968.

In what year was Long Island declared to be the nation's most populated island? 2000 and it also ranks 17th in the world...

During the weekend of President Kennedy's assassination a famous conductor was to be in Brentwood. The event was cancelled. Who was the conductor? **Arthur Fiedler of the Boston Pops.** 

In the 1970's Brentwood had an Alternative High School. Its official name? **Maslow-Toffler.** 

Can you name all of the Superintendents Brentwood has had? Louis V. Nannini, G. Guy DiPietro, Frank A. Mauro, Les Black, Michael Cohen and, currently, Donna Jones.



# That Which Is Lost Is Found Again

#### A Brentwood Story

by John Sherin

This remarkable little story began to take shape in May of 2009. A shopper, who in all likelihood will remain forever anonymous, had decided to visit the Nike retail store in the Tanger Mall in Deer Park. Although we will never know if that goal was achieved, other circumstances that day did take an unexpected turn.

Jeremy Kahn, a student and parttime salesperson, bent down to pick up a box of sneakers to return them to the display. He stopped short as he was replacing the cover when he caught sight of a shiny gold object rolling along the bottom. It was a ring and it appeared to be new. He placed it in his pocket, returned the sneakers to the display and went about his routine.

Later at home Jeremy took a closer look at the ring. He saw that it was a high school ring of bright gold with a green gem and numbers on either side. On the left he could clearly make out "19" and on the right "54". The face was inscribed with the title "Brentwood High School" and prominently displayed the profile of a Native American in full feathered headdress. Inside was "EG Hoyt" and "Sup Prin".



Jeremy Kahn is a responsible young man. He thought about the person who lost the ring. He decided to call the Brentwood Schools to see if anyone could help him. After being transferred several times he had the good luck to speak to Joann Brown, a secretary in the Human Resources Office. While she couldn't help him she thought Carmela Criscione could. She knew everyone. Well, she remembered Eugene G. Hoyt. He was called Supervising Principal before we had the position of Superintendent. She also knew that Dr. Hoyt had died years before but she knew someone who knew the family - me. I called his son.

After a rocky start, Stephen continued in the educational footsteps of his father and mother. He is now a professor of English in the state of Washington.

After speaking to Joann and Jeremy, Stephen filled me in on a couple of missing pieces to the story. It seems that in the 50's ring companies would provide the chief administrator of a school district with a complimentary ring in hopes of securing a contract to provide all seniors with rings. In 1954, however, Brentwood seniors were graduating from Bay Shore because we did not have a high school until 1957. Stephen also said that neither he nor his father ever wore jewelry of any kind.

How it got lost is unknown. The ring was sent to Stephen, and he has decided to wear it himself. He now proudly wears the Brentwood insignia every day. He says he receives comments like, "Oh, that's a nice ring. Where did you get it?" He asks the question in return, "How much time do you have?"

So where, you might be thinking has the ring been all this time, and how did it get to be in a box of sneakers fifty-five years later? Well, we'll leave that to your imagination. Stephen will pass the ring to Eugene Hoyt's only grandson, Carsten G. Hoyt, currently a US Army Reserve Captain and NCIS Special Agent, with four children of his own. Like some memories, the ring has been lost, forgotten, found and reworn, just like some memories that shaped us in Brentwood. Ask those of us who are "still serving" and you'll hear how, like Brentwood itself, it has become a metaphor for that circle within a circle, the Brentwood connection a gift that keeps on giving.

John's full article can be read on the ROBS website. We are also trying to get trees planted in memory of many past innovators in Brentwood, Dr. Hoyt being one. Jeremy Kahn and Stephen Hoyt will be there when that happens. Hopefully we can do this in the very near future. Ed.

## **GREETINGS** FROM THE LANDS DOWN **UNDER**

#### G'day from Australia, Kaiora from New Zealand, and Bulla from the Fiji Islands

The intrepid ROBS Rovers, Dot Zuckerman, Edie Filosa, Joan Scully, Lois Morella, Paula Moore, Carmela Criscione, and her nephew, Vincent, have recently returned from a whirlwind 25 day trip requiring 14 plane rides, numerous buses, camels, boats, gondolas suspended 1800 feet above the rain forest floor and a hot air balloon. These are some of their impressions of memorable sights and sites.

# Solemn, Solitary, Sacred Uluru The Outback, Australia by Lois Morella

My reaction when I first sighted Uluru (Ayers Rock) looming on the horizon is difficult to describe. It was awesome, spiritual, mysterious, and overwhelming. The iconic photographs that we all have seen really do not do it justice.

The "Rock", the Red Centre of the Outback, has been sacred to the Aborigines for tens of thousands of years. Sunrises and sunsets are magnificent. Uluru's hues can be orange, pink, red, wine, and purple, depending on the time of day, the sun's intensity and the viewing angle. Our tour group enjoyed the customary champagne soiree as we waited for the spectacular sunset. Even the swarms of tenacious black flies didn't put a damper on the majestic ever-changing tableau. After all, we had donned our "fashionable" fly nets for the occasion!



Lois Morella and Paula Moore with Uluru in the background.



The ROBS Rovers (left to right) Joan Scully, Paula Moore, Dot Zuckerman, Carmela Criscione, Edie Filosa and (in front) Lois Morella.

# If I Could Talk To The Animals -Kuranda Village - Australia By Joan Scully

The trip to Australia and New Zealand was spectacular in, and of, itself. Every day we had a memorable experience of one kind or another. I would have to say that the trip to the Wildlife Park stands out as one of many. Both countries have very unique animals, some not found anywhere else in the world.

We had the thrill of hand-feeding the Wallabies and Kangaroos and holding a Koala Bear. Next to riding an elephant in Thailand and a camel in Egypt holding a Koala was an experience not to be missed.

Watching the diminutive Fairy Penguins come home to Philip Island after days of hunting for food and exhausted but braving the beach where gulls and other birds were waiting for them gave one a new perspective on survival and courage.



Joan Scully and friend



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Dot Zuckerman with the Opera House behind her.

## One of the New Seven Wonders The Opera House - Sydney, Australia

by Dot Zuckerman

The magnificent Sydney Opera House overlooking Sydney Harbor sparkles brightly. It is an architectural masterpiece, truly one of the great buildings of the world. Its three-dimensional form reminds many of a Gothic cathedral but I see a series of clam shells (not unlike Botticelli's "The Birth of Venus") opening to catch the air and beauty of the harbor. It's a source of wonder today that the set of brief freehand sketches submitted by Danish architect Jorn Utzon won the 1957 competition for an opera house. It wasn't until many years later and a lot of experimentation with pre-cast concrete that a solution was finally found on how to construct the roofs. It finally opened in 1973, six-teen years after its conception!

I was overwhelmed by the dynamic interactions of glass, plywood and concrete -- a futuristic vision inviting you to come be part of art and music and culture. In addition to the opera theater there are concert halls, drama stages, and many studios. My great disappointment was that, although "Tosca" and Mahler's "First Symphony" were being performed that week, our schedule prevented me from becoming truly immersed in this icon.

## Austere Grandeur Milford Sound, New Zealand

by Paula Moore

New Zealand was absolutely wondrous. The beauty of that country is breathtaking. I hate to use the cliché breathtaking, but the landscape literally took my breath away.

On day 19 of our trip, we motor-coached to Milford Sound. We drove through the sheep farming region and around the shores of TeAnau Lake and into fjord country. Upon arrival we boarded a boat for the cruise around the Sound. Created during the Ice Age, the fiord knifes out into the breach between the forest and sheer cliffs.

Milford Sound, or Fjordland, lies next to a dramatic fracture in the earth's crust - the boundary of the Pacific and Australian plates. Two million years ago, ice developed as the earth's climate cooled. Snow built up across the landscape and turned to ice.

As our day started the rain began as mist, but by the time we boarded the boat it was raining. When we reached the Sound the rain and wind was so strong that most everyone stayed below deck. Dot Zuckerman, Joan Scully, Lois Morella and I decided we weren't going to let the torrential rainfall and gale force wind stop us from viewing the granite cliffs or seeing the fur seals resting on the rocks. The wind and rain was so fierce that we literally had to hold on to the railing in order to steady ourselves. At one point, the wind was so strong I thought I was going to get blown away.

#### Tell Us All About Your Vacation

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Have a story to tell? Pictures to share? Let us know. Members are going on two different trips to the western national parks in June and one member is going to China in the Fall. We'd love to hear all about it.

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#### Click Go The Shears Queensland, New Zealand

by Carmela Criscione

At the harbor we boarded the steamship TSS Earnslaw (commissioned in 1912 and a close cousin to the "African Queen") and cruised down Lake Wakatipu to the Walter Peak Farm Station. At a beautiful sprawling house we enjoyed a scrumptious 4 course buffet dinner which included lamb, curried chicken, local veggies, green shelled mussels and a variety of sweets including the national favorite, Pavlova (a meringue with custard and about one million calories).

We walked to a penned enclosure and watched a demonstration of sheep herding by a Welsh Border Collie. He took subtle cues from the handler to bring a small group of sheep to us. Of course they've done this hundreds of time, but it was impressive nonetheless. We entered the shearing shed and watched the shearer put on a humorous but informative demonstration. First he donned protective overalls (the oils and lanolin from the animals can be messy) and held the sheep firmly but gently which he used electric shears to take the entire fleece off in 90 or so seconds talking all the time. The farm raises mostly Merino and Romney sheep which are sheared twice a year.

We were all so engrossed in the demonstration that we almost missed the spectacular sunset. Boarding the Earnslaw we received booklets with lyrics to songs like "Waltzing Matilda", "Click Go The Shears", "It's A Long Way To Tipperary" and other ditties from long ago. We all sang. It was a lot of fun. Remember singing along to Mitch Miller?

# Finding Nemo - Or At Least His Cousins The Reef, Fiji Islands by Lois Morella

We all were extremely disappointed when Cyclone Olga caused the cancellation of our trip to the Great Barrier Reef. However, Edie Filosa and I did have the opportunity to snorkel in Fiji. We took a motorized catamaran to a private uninhabited island where we could swim and snorkel from the beach. After a lavish barbecue lunch and Fijian folkloric program, we went off the boat into deeper water which was a crystal clear turquoise, and ideal for viewing the amazing marine line.

The various species of coral, colorful array of fish, indigo starfish and graceful manta rays were beautiful. The perfect day ended with a ride beneath the waves in a "vellow submarine". As to snorkeling in the Great Barrier Reef, it gives me a reason to return to Australia.



#### Up, Up And Away In A Beautiful Balloon The Outback, Australia

by Edie Filosa & Carmela Criscione

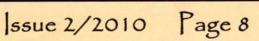
We arrived at the launch site shortly before dawn. We all stared at the indigo night sky because most of us had never seen the Southern Cross constellation before.

We launched just before the first colors of dawn appeared. We were a total of 9 passengers and the pilot who periodically manipulated the heater as the balloon lifted and soared over the Outback. Up there the pesky flies were not our constant companions. As we glided through the warm air we hardly spoke, not wanting to break the moment, just gesturing when we spotted groups of kangaroos in the wild.

After about 40 minutes we landed with a soft thud and everyone on board had to help fold up the balloon. We drove to a small park-like area and enjoyed the traditional balloonist breakfast of chicken drumsticks, quiche and champagne. This has been a tradition since the first adventuresome aerialists in balloons took to the skies. Afterwards, we all received documentation certifying us real balloonists!



(left to right) Carmela Criscione, Dot Zuckerman, Edie Filosa, Lois Morella and Paula Moore.





## My Garage Can Hold Only So Much

#### SAFE DISPOSAL OF HOUSEHOLD MATERIALS

by Harriet Pepine

Sooner or later everyone is faced with the questions of how to properly dispose of particular household items. Surprisingly, each town has their own unique guidelines and programs. Furthermore, individual states have varying rules on how to dispose of these materials. While searching on the Internet to find helpful answers on what could easily be recycled, I found that, generally speaking newspapers, corrugated cardboard, magazines, metal cans, glass bottles, plastics #1&2 can be left at the curb.

Disposition of paint cans, spray cans, car and boat batteries, motor oil, antifreeze, gasoline, drain cleaners and any substance that can make its way into the groundwater, may need to be dropped off at a recycling center.



Home Depot accepts fluorescent bulbs in their stores. Look for containers as you enter.

Hewlett-Packard has a recycling program for any product or brand. They accept donations and will send you a tax receipt for your donation. Many office supply stores also accept used ink cartridges.

If you call the recycling hot line for your town, they can provide you with more information.

Listed below are telephone numbers for some of the recycling centers in Suffolk County.

Babylon 631 249-9346 Brookhaven 631 451-6950 Huntington 631 754-4990 Islip 631 224-5640 Riverhead 631 727-3200 extn 391 Smithtown 631 269-6600

Disposal of over-the-counter and prescription medication is a big problem.

Do **not** flush meds down the toilet or sink drain. A local King Kullen Pharmacy had the following solution:

Mix meds with something undesirable such as coffee grinds, dirt, or kitty litter. Tape up the container. Toss in the garbage. Simple but it works.

## WHAT'S IN YOUR WALLET?

Can you name the presidents on our commonly circulated paper money?



\$ 1 = George Washington

\$ 5 = Abraham Lincoln

\$20 = Andrew Jackson

\$50 = Ulysses S. Grant

\$2 = Thomas Jefferson. This bill was reissued in the 1980's but never caught on.

Sorry, but \$10 is Alexander Hamilton and \$100 is Benjamin Franklin, great men but not presidents.

## HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

We're always on the look out for interesting articles (around 300 words). Would you be interested in writing one, or better yet, a regular column? Let us know. Ed.

## ALL ABOUT US by Carmela Criscione

**Grace Fishenfeld** had an exhibition of her work "**The Three Graces**", a twig construction, at the Nathan D. Rosen Museum Gallery, located on the JCC Campus in Boca Raton, Florida. The exhibition ran from February 28-March 26. Congratulations.

We are sorry to report the passing of **Florence "Flo" Worysz**, long-time front office secretary at Pine Park School on January 27, 2010. We are also sorry to report that **Jim Watson**, teacher of English at the Sonderling Building for many, years died on March 13. **Ann Hutnick** (Kdgtn/East Kdgtn Center) lost her husband, Bill on March 16. Our sincere condolences to their families and many friends.

Chris Veech's daughter, Rondi Casey, was a contributor to an art show titled "The Body Altered" which ran from March 6 to April 18 at Art Sites, a gallery in Riverhead, New York. Her submitted works were suspended sculptures in the thought provoking exhibit of art and poetry.

**Bobbe Frankel** and **Patti Monsen** would like to announce that a very special memorial bronze plaque honoring **Chico Frankel** has been placed near his guidance office door in the Sonderling Building on April 6. This special plaque was installed during what would have been the week of Chico's 64th birthday.

Congratulations to **Cindy Fleming** (Human Resources Officer) on her retirement at the end of March. She is looking forward to spending more time with her beautiful granddaughter, traveling to exotic places and, of course, joining **ROBS**. More good wishes and an invitation to join us goes to **Janet Schierman**, Library Clerk at East Middle School, who retired on February 27th.

Birthday greetings to **Marty Hochheiser** on, as he said, achieving 3/4 of a century on January 23rd. and also to **Ivy Rosenthal** who celebrated being 89 years young on March 7th.

Charlotte Gross (Reading/North MS) called me recently to thank ROBS for the "thinking of you" card we send regularly. She's doing fine other than eyesight problems but has a Zoom Tec machine which helps a lot. She keeps active by volunteering, walking water aerobics and line dancing. Way to go!

Get well wishes to Marty Hochheiser's wife, Marcia, recently in the hospital undergoing tests.

We welcome **Lynda Romano** who will be supervising our delicious monthly meetings hospitality table. **Ruth McCalla**, who has been doing this as well as organizing our Holiday and End-of-the-Year Luncheons and arranging for guest speakers at our meetings, will be relocating to Maryland in a few months. She will be greatly missed, but we are sure that Lynda will shine as she takes over the duties.

Nick Siciliano, Ellen Edelstein and Adrienne Eastman are exploring establishing an Outreach Program to see into the needs of our membership. If you are interested in joining their efforts, please contact Nick.

**Dot Zuckerman** is planning a trip to the National Parks out west. If you are interested (several ROBS members have signed on) please contact her.



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#### GRIEF TAPS ON OUR DOOR

#### A UNIQUE VIEW ON THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE

by Marge Kirchner

I look at my eight-year old Shih Tzu named Suki and I wish I could magically impose myself into her thoughts so I could know what exactly she is thinking. She is especially thoughtful these days, even staring into space for long moments.

I see her go from one room to another in order to find a place to lay and sleep. I see her going from being an avid eater, we called her our "Oreck", to one who is happy to be called to eat, but who takes a very long time to finish her twice-a-day meals.

She, who followed me as if attached to my leg, now often continues to lie on her bed as I go from room to room. When I leave the house, I either take her with me or leave her home with the sounds of music or television to keep her company. She greets me enthusiastically when I return.

Initially, she enjoyed the visits of canine friends, but as time goes by, and I take her to visit other little dogs, I notice that initial play begins, but then she finds a place to go in order to be by herself.

Suki's half-sister, Snuggles, died on November 8th, and we were devastated by her loss due to Hepatic Subcutaneous Syndrome. This terminal disease, which can also affect humans, is exceedingly rare; after more than 30 years of practice our Vet had only seen one other case. This Syndrome causes the liver to shrivel up so that it cannot process the body's impurities. Instead, those wastes go to the mucous membranes and feet where sores and ulcerations form.

Snuggles was diagnosed in late July. Suki endured her illness, slowly seeing her playmate lose hair, sleep very long hours and have twelve different things done to her each day to quiet the symptoms a bit. Instead of "Alpha Dog", Suki finds herself in no contest.

Now she seems to have adopted what was her sister's ailing behavior. Maybe Suki feels closer to her. Maybe she wants to heal in a way we humans try to escape as we put on our bold faces after a loss and run into people we know. And perhaps Suki is letting us see that grieving takes a long time. We certainly know that her grieving allows us to continue ours.

### **CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS**

#### We the people...

On March 5, 2010, the Membership of **ROBS** overwhelmingly voted to accept the revised and amended Constitution and By-Laws.

The Constitutional Review Committee, Phyllis Goodwin, Marge Kirchner, Dot Zuckerman, Nick Siciliano, Carmela Criscione and especially Ellen Edelstein, who took notes and put everything in coherent order, are to be commended for all their hard work.

The Executive Board would like to also thank all the members who came to the meeting and voted.





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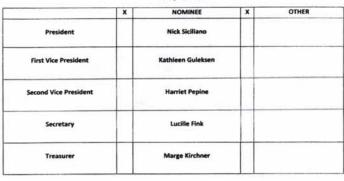
#### RETIREES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

#### SAMPLE BALLOT

May 7, 2010







- 1 The election shall be by secret hallot
- Only members in good standing may vote.
- 3. Additional pominations can be made from the floor.
- The Secretary shall preserve all election records, including ballot for a period Of one (1) year.

#### NYSUT JOURNALISM AWARDS

#### **Drum Roll Please**

by Phyllis Goodwin

Our **ROBS** Newsletter has become a source of pride for members of the Editorial Board which was acknowledged by it receiving two awards, one certificate of merit and a special mention at the NYSUT Journalism Award Celebration and Conference hold on March 27, in Troy, New York.

The competition was judged by professional journalists. We received an award of First Place for Best Feature Story. Lucille Fink wrote about the beginnings of her love of antiques. "This story is a fine interweaving of a hobby of collectibles with their connection to different cultures. Well done." Special mention was made of Adrienne Eastman's article on Identity Theft. "Lots of valuable tips on avoiding identity theft. Good coverage of the identity theft threat and how members can take steps to prevent being victimized." We received an Award of Merit for an opinion article on Barack Obama and his road to the White House. "A welcome perspective on the often unstated but ever present issue of racism surrounding the election of Barack Obama."

For the second year in a row, our website was chosen for First Place as the best in R Class II. "A beautiful site. Easy to navigate, current and historic information and lots of photos!" Congratulations to Gloria Hanneman for a wonderful job. NYSUT stated that our newsletter had "a very clean design with nice white space. A very readable layout. Nice profiles on members and their activities." A very special thanks to Carmela Criscione for her diligence in putting the newsletter together. Now all we need is to have more members submit articles.

We can only get better!



Maria Neira, NYSUT VP, Carmela Criscione, Lee Cutler, NYSUT Secretary-Treasurer

