



GENERAL INFORMATION

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

REMINDER

Please bring canned or dry good, paper products or toiletries to the **NOVEMBER** meeting as your contribution to **PRONTO**.

CALENDAR

November 6 - 10 a.m.
Lower level at the Library

December 4
Holiday Luncheon
see flyer for details.

January 8
Breakfast
see flyer for details.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Carmela Criscione
Adrienne Eastman
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Phyllis Goodwin
Marge Kirchner
Miriam Massucci
Paula Moore
John Sherin
Nick Siciliano

ROBS WEBSITE
www.robsny.org

PHYLL'S FORUM

Dear Colleagues,

It's that time of year when I remind you that our membership drives ends October 31. We are trying to increase our membership to over 400 this year. Last year, we received membership dues in April and May. It is very difficult to plan our activities if we don't have the proper funding from our membership. We must do better in this regard. Our first food drive was very successful. We collected 75 lbs. of food which was delivered to Island Harvest. They were most appreciative. The Executive Board voted at our last meeting to continue the Food Drive with the proceeds going to Pronto. Also, we are continuing our drive for donations to our scholarship fund. Send your checks (made out to **ROBS**) to Marge Kirchner, 666 Hawkins Road East, Coram, New York 11727.

Laurie Kupperstein from NYSUT's Social Services will be our speaker at the November meeting. The topic will be "Health Care and the Senior Caregiver". Our December 4th Holiday Luncheon will be at Carrabba's Restaurant in Central Islip and the New Year's Breakfast will be on Friday, January 8, 2010, at the Paradise Diner on Vet's Highway in Smithtown. See the flyer for details.

There is good news for all the book lovers in our organization. Now NYSUT members can save even more when purchasing from the Barnes & Nobles.com online bookstore, but only by using the link provided by our site NYSUT Member Benefits. Members used to receive 5% off already discounted prices, but now that discount is increased to 10%.

There are some important changes to the Medicare Part D plan with regard to the "doughnut" hole. The doughnut hole gap is unique to Medicare Part D and may cost you thousands of dollars per year in out-of-pocket drug fees. For tips on how to avoid it, including Extra Help can bridge the gap. Visit www.medicarerights.org/newsroom/answers/MI-newsletter-article-0909.pdf.

In most plans the gap begins when your total drug costs reach \$2700. Then you must pay 100% (\$3600) of the cost of your drugs and still pay your drug plan's monthly premium. The coverage gap ends when the total out-of-pocket costs for covered drugs reaches \$4350. Then you have "catastrophic coverage", and will pay either 5% of the cost of each drug, or a co-pay of \$2.40 for generic or \$6 for brand names, whichever is greater. The Medicare interactive website is sponsored by NYSUT and AFT. The address is www.medicareinteractive.org/teachers. This information is provided by the Medicare Rights Center and is the largest source of health care information and assistance in the United States.

In Harmony,

Phyllis Goodwin





WHY HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM WILL WORK FOR YOU!

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Current System	Obama Health Reform Plan
Health insurance coverage delivered through: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Your employerMedicareMedicaidVeteran's AdministrationThe Military	You will be able to keep the health insurance plan that you have. You will be able to keep your doctors and health care providers
You can lose health insurance because: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Your employer changes or ends your coverage;You lose your job. You aren't eligible for, or can't afford, continuation of your policy;Your new employer doesn't offer health insurance coverage;You cannot afford individual private insurance, or no private company will sell you a policy.	You will be able to purchase health insurance through a Health Insurance Exchange: You will have a number of health plans from which to choose; If you have limited income, you then will receive assistance with the cost of your monthly premium.
Denial of insurance coverage due to a pre-existing health condition: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Health insurance companies can refuse to sell you a policy;Health insurance companies can sell you a policy, but can refuse to cover services related to your pre-existing health status.	You have a pre-existing health condition: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Insurance plans no longer able to deny you a health care policy;Health insurance plans no longer able to deny payment of claims based on pre-existing conditions.
Discrimination by Health insurance companies based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Gender (Sex);Health status. Insurance companies can charge higher premiums to selective groups.	Health insurance plans NO longer able to discriminate by charging you higher premiums based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Gender (sex)Health status
Health insurance plans can charge exorbitant out-of-pocket expenses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">High deductibles;High fees and co-pays;Limits on how much they will pay in a year and over a lifetime of coverage.	Limits insurance companies on increasing out-of-pocket costs (fees and co-payments): <ul style="list-style-type: none">No cost-sharing for preventive care;Annual out-of-pocket caps;No annual or lifetime limits on how much coverage your insurance will provide;Prescription drug discounts to help seniors falling in the "Doughnut Hole".
Escalating costs for Insurance premiums	Systems instituted to help contain costs; <ul style="list-style-type: none">A public health insurance option that competes with private plans will keep costs low as it encourages innovation and efficiency in health care.Other health system reforms, including a focus on prevention and coordination of health care, will help reduce costs.



Thank you Chris Veech

In August, Chris Veech, Executive Board Member and Editor of the Newsletter, stepped down from her duties. As Editor she was responsible for 79 issues of the Newsletter. During that time she received well-deserved accolades and awards for her efforts. We thank her for her hard work and wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

Scholarship Fund Up-date

Candace Crawford is the recipient of the Jack Zuckerman Scholarship. Candace is attending Ithaca College and is majoring in Music.

From its very beginning ROBS has been active in scholarships for Brentwood graduates pursuing careers in education. Members have generously donated an additional \$475 so far to the Scholarship Fund. It is very much appreciated. We will report on scholarship-related fund raising efforts in future issues.



How Well Do You Know Your BTA/Brentwood History ?

by Nick Siciliano

1. What was one of the original names for Brentwood?
2. Brentwood is named after?
3. In the early 1960's a HS Music teacher's father became poet laureate of England. Who was the teacher and who was his father?
4. The 2 buildings making up the High School are named "Ross" and "Sonderling". Who were these two individuals?
5. Name 3 landmarks in Brentwood.
6. Who was the first President of the Brentwood Teachers Assn.?
7. What NYS law allowed public employees to bargain collectively?
8. What foundation gave a grant to Brentwood in the early 1960's to improve the education in the district?

Answers are found on page 6

Do you have any questions we can add to future issues? If so, pass them on to Nick.

Holiday Book Drive

Miriam Massucci (Math/HS) has for many years worked with FAN (Food and Nutrition Program) collecting new books for nursery-early childhood aged children. Please bring new unwrapped books to our meetings for Miriam. The books are included in baskets for less fortunate families during the holidays. Thank you.

It's Starting To Add Up

As of September 16th we had 259 members. Remember October 31st is the deadline for submitting your renewal membership application. Don't let the Great Pumpkin find you forgetting to join. ROBS has a great membership, a super scholarship program and, of course, a wonderfully informative newsletter.

WANTED

We are looking for someone to write an article on the safe disposal of household hazards such as curly light bulbs, batteries, paints and solvents, etc. If interested, please contact Carmela Criscione.



Note: If you have not turned in your membership form,
This will be your last newsletter

**NEWS NOTES** by Carmela Criscione

Suzanne Gusterson (Spec Ed/NMS) lives in North Carolina, but has a unique way of thinking about her Brentwood friends and colleagues. She watches the Weather Channel. Long Island weather is reported using Islip as a base. Whenever she hears the forecast she remembers all of us.

Eileen Kelly (Human Resources) is recovering from surgery. Knowing her, she will be up and about attending Homemakers and Brentwood Seniors meetings with her good friend **Adrienne Eastman**. Feel better wishes are also sent to **Tom O'Connor** (SS/HS) making a good recovery from a stroke.

Congratulations to **Lynn Prass** (SNT/NMS) on her son Frank's recent marriage.

Sadly, we report that **John Rappelt** (Librarian/SMS) died in January. **Eliasura "Ellie" Bischoffberger** (Bilingual/HP) and **Pauline "Polly" Lane** (Home Ec/EMS) passed away in September. Also, **Lillian Yedwabnick** (Spec Ed) lost her husband Bernie in August. There was a memorial service in Florida and another in early September at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in East Islip. **Marge Kirchner** lost her aunt and **Jean Fisher** (Elem/TP) her daughter Hollis in August. **Loretta Ellington** (Elem/Laurel) lost her brother, Richard DiTucci, in September and **Gilda Mantin** (English/HS) her son Steve in September. **Clara Cannavo** (Elem/Laurel) lost her husband Jack in September. Jack had a long and distinguished career as a New York State Supreme Court Judge.

Going Green! **Mike Fasullo** (Assoc. Supt) and his wife Jane were featured in the Saturday, September 19th Act 2 section of Newsday. Their house in Setauket, which they helped design, was specifically built to reduce their carbon foot print, and they have, over the years, added additional energy efficient improvements. Have you done any "green" improvements? Let us know.

Music in the air. **Phyllis Goodwin** and her daughter, Traci, went to the Saratoga Jazz Festival's George Benson tribute to Nat King Cole in late June and kept beat with the great Dave Brubeck (he's 89 and still at it). **Dot Zuckerman** and family members went to CITI Field (the new Mets Stadium) in July to hear Paul McCartney in concert. He was on stage for two hours and gave a amazing performance. **Ruth Teich's** (Elem/NE) son, Gary, and grandson, Matt, went in August to the Jones Beach concert of Jimmy Buffet and had a great time.

Sighting Bulletin: **Barbara Britt** (SS/HS) tells us that her sister was recently in Virginia visiting a friend when her next door neighbor mentioned he was a former student of Barbara's. He remembers her giving him a copy of **Dune** which he still has in his library.

Please let me know of any news items you would like to see mentioned in future issues.

**HOLD THAT DATE!**

NYSUT'S 9TH ANNUAL RETIREE CONFERENCE
"LANDSCAPING YOUR RETIREMENT"

Tuesday, November 10th, 2009, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

The Watermill, 700 Smithtown Bypass/Route 347, Smithtown

Contact Dot Zuckerman, 631 273-8822 for specifics
dzuckerm@ansutmail.org





by John Marius Sherin

My story begins in the fall of 1956. I was starting my senior year at Hicksville HS. The semester had barely begun when the Cold War heated up in Europe. The world would shortly learn of events unfolding in Hungary through newspaper articles, magazines and on radio and television. The Voice of America was beaming through the "Iron Curtain" carrying free world news to the peoples of Soviet occupied territories in Eastern Europe. It wasn't until October that sparks triggered an escalation unleashing unimaginable brutality, murder and mayhem in Budapest, Hungary.

As a young man I was captivated by accounts of incremental foothold gains by the "Hungarian Freedom Fighters". Defying the odds they challenged the political will of the Soviet Union. Outgunned and outnumbered rebels succeeded in "liberating" the capital, initially driving Russians out of and back to the outskirts of Budapest. The world held its collective breath, as in vain those gallant revolutionaries manned the barricades. All this occurred while the US and USSR were engaged in back room diplomacy to avert a Third World War.

Through December I collected and date-stamped every line of print and photographic coverage of events in Budapest that I could find, following the gains and losses of freedom fighters and the Soviet response with all of the tragic consequences for that oppressed nation so far removed from our Long Island of the 1950's.

Fast forward 55 years when my wife Ellen and I decided to thin out our shelves of no-longer-wanted books. I came across my scrapbook. Giving it to someone didn't seem an option. Who would want a 55-year-old collection of newspaper clippings? Selling also did not seem a viable idea. For some reason I went on-line and researched the *Hungarian Revolution of 1956*. There I read about the Grand Celebration at Carnegie Hall in 2006 where Gov. George Pataki was an honored guest and Henry Kissinger, a speaker. I came upon the name of the Anniversary Committee President, George Loewy Lovas. I called and left a message describing what I had and indicating my desire to give it to the Committee if they were interested. His call came the next day.

George Lovas was 23 when he participated in the Revolution. He emigrated to the US (with 40,000 others) where he declined a full scholarship to Columbia University. He gave speeches to groups in Hungarian using a translator since he had also declined English lessons to pursue his desire to

spread the news. He never gave thought to document his speeches because he and the others were too busy making history than to save the newspaper and magazine accounts. After many years he retired from his successful furniture business and at age 78 rededicated himself to his unfinished life's goal: to see the dedication of a statue in NYC to honor Hungarian Freedom Fighters. Ours is the only major city in the US still not having such a statue. Now in discussions with the Bloomberg Administration, former Gov. Pataki is negotiating to receive a locale for the memorial. The scrapbook I offered George he described as "pure gold". He was particularly thrilled that the scrapbook included a paperback with a picture of a much younger George holding a rifle in the back of a truck in Budapest. A meeting of the entire Committee was planned to examine the contents of the scrapbook. Imagine my reaction when he joyfully reported that what I gave him comprised more material than had been saved over the years by the entire Celebratory Committee. Expressing his gratitude in an unmistakable Hungarian accent, he followed up his promise to send me a Memorial Celebration Album 1956-2006 which arrived with a dedication and autographed "to a Real Friend of our Revolution with friendship", George Lovas.

continued on page 6



Revolution con't

Lest we forget -- everything old is new again. Teachers become students and students become our teachers. Each of us is a historian in our own way providing shoulders upon which current and succeeding generations stand. Our lives beyond awareness are filled full with the small details that become "history" to other generations. Our story is far from complete. It grows even as we learn there's more to tell than we imagined. The ROBS History Project is still documenting Brentwood's *Educational Revolution 1853-2009*. What was your role in that revolution?

Have you been interviewed yet?

Note: John's unedited article is available on the website, www.robsny.org.

Apache Blessing

May the sun bring you new energy by day.

May the moon softly restore you by night.

May the rain wash away your worries.

May the breeze blow new strength to your being.

May you walk gently through the world and know its beauty all the days of your life.

PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

This year, 2009, we celebrated the 200th birthday of one of our greatest presidents, Abraham Lincoln.

In honor of his birthday the US Mint issued four new designs for the penny. This is the third time for the Lincoln penny and the first time for multiple designs. The first penny (with the wheat design on the back) was in circulation from 1909 to 1959, the successor penny from 1959-2009 had the Lincoln Memorial on the back.

The 2009 pennies were issued at three month intervals, the last design coming out about now. The designs were the Log Cabin where he was born and spent his youth, Lincoln sitting on a log reading a book representing his formative years, as a grown man standing in front of the Statehouse in Illinois and, finally, the Capitol under construction.

Lincoln's portrait on all pennies faces right while all other coin portraits face left. This is because the design is based on a Matthew Brady Civil War photograph of the President.

Look for the 2009 pennies in your change.



ANSWERS TO BTA/BRENTWOOD QUIZ

1. Brentwood in the Pines or Modern Times.
2. Burntwood in England. It was recently in the news for the discovery of a cache of Anglo-Saxon weapons and jewelry found in a newly plowed field by a weekend metal detector enthusiast.
3. The teacher was Paul Betjeman. His father was Sir John Betjeman. He was appointed Poet Laureate in 1972, succeeding C. S. Lewis.
4. Dr. William Ross was a Board Member and President for over 50 years. Ed Sonderling was also a Board Member and President during the 1960's.
5. The old railroad station, the Central School/Village School/Felicio Adm. Bldg., the front two rooms (on 3rd Ave) of the Library (the old Adm. Bldg), Thompson's Station, the Dame House, and more.
6. Charles Gray who was an English teacher at the junior high school level from 1959-1968.
7. The Taylor Law 1968
8. The Ford Foundation. Ray Scheele wrote the grant proposal.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Our September 11th Meeting was very well attended (we like to see a full room of happy retirees). In addition to the regular business meeting we welcomed six of the 2009 retirees.

Pictured above in the back row are Kerri Orzechowski, Drew Robinson, Marge Leonard and in the front row, Midge Demers, Sandra Chase and Madeleine Mazella.

Kerrie Orzechowski was a Speech Teacher at East MS.
Drew Robinson was a School Psychologist at the High School.
Marge Leonard was an Elementary Teacher at Northeast Elementary.
Midge (Margaret) Demers was a Speech Teacher at Hemlock Park.
Sandy Chase was a Special Education Teacher at the Freshman Center.
Madeleine Mazella was an Elementary Teacher at Northeast.

Congratulations to all of you, and we hope to see you at many more meetings!



AGE OF INNOCENCE THINGS TO TELL MY GRANDCHILDREN

by Paula Moore

My eleven-year old grandson asked if he could interview me for a class project about what it was like growing up during the late 1950's and 1960's. A week later I was invited to give a presentation to his class based on their class project. The next thing I knew I was in my car driving south on the NJ Turnpike headed to King of Prussia, Pennsylvania -- the things we do for our grandchildren.

I arrived at his middle school armed with my arsenal of "show and tell" items; a black rotary telephone circa 1964 (I wish I had my pink princess telephone), a 33 1/3 high fidelity long-playing record album (we used to call them LP's), a 78 rpm and a 45 rpm record, a Kodak Land Camera circa 1961, and a Zenith Transatlantic Radio. I discussed and compared items such as the rotary telephone to my cell phone; the records lasted minutes and I explained that I had 14 hours of music and a 2 1/2 hour movie stored in my I-Pod.

As a result of my grandson's class project, and the students' curiosity I decided to tell my grandchildren what it was like growing up in Brooklyn and Queens, New York. I hope you enjoy my trip down memory lane also.

Do you remember listening to Ozzie and Harriet and Jack Benny on AM radio? We watched TV television

on a 9-inch black and white screen with a rabbit-ear antenna and tin foil wrapped on the tips in order to get good reception...ordering my younger sister to change the channel because I didn't want to get up from the couch to turn the dial (remote control devices were something you read about in Popular Science Magazine). The only key my friends and I had was a skate key because we didn't have to lock our doors. We walked to school in the morning, walking back and forth for lunch and then home again at the end of the school day.

We had air raid drills where we had to get under our desks to cover our heads with our hands in case we were attacked by the Russians. We wore school-issued dog tags around our necks for identification in case of an atom bomb attack. On weekends we listened to the Dodgers baseball games with my father, and the announcer, Mel Allen would advertise Ballantine and Rheingold beer. The iceman delivered ice by carrying it on his shoulder in a burlap bag with the ice pick in his other hand. The day our Frigidaire refrigerator arrived replacing our "ice box" was a day of celebration. I recall having to put on my "Sunday" clothes to take the subway to downtown Brooklyn to shop at A&S. Boys played stickball in the street and marbles on the sidewalk. I remember playing with paper dolls and jacks. We made mud pies in the back yard and ate them! I recall buying penny squirrel nut candy at the corner candy store.

We grocery shopped at the A&P which had wooden floors and smelled of 8 O'Clock coffee...the butcher store had sawdust on the floor.

I remember the day when our Kenmore wringer washing machine was delivered from Sears and Roebuck. I collected and read "Archie" and "Brenda Starr" comic books. We collected soda bottles to get candy money for the movies. We spent all day Saturday at the movies watching 25 cartoons, a serial, a newsreel, the main feature and a B-movie all for 25 cents. Once my mother cleaned out our closet and threw out our comic books while we were at the movies.

We went to the Valencia Theatre on Jamaica Avenue. It had an ornate decor that looked like a castle with clouds and stars on the ceiling. We took short family car outings on Sundays to Howard Johnson's where they advertised 28 ice cream flavors. We played outside with friends -- there were no such things as "play dates". We played hide and seek and I got my hair caught in the bedspring coils while hiding under the bed one time.

I got caught smoking by my father in the oil burner room. He asked me if I was smoking and as I answered "no" the smoke flowed out of my mouth. Needless to say my father was upset. Smoking was considered glamorous and chic. It was even advertised as healthy...what was I thinking?

And I remember the end of the age of innocence. It was November 22nd, 1963...John F. Kennedy's assassination, and then came the Civil Rights struggle, the church bombings, the dogs, the fire hoses and Viet Nam.

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