ROBS - RETIREES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

ROBS END-OF-THE-YEAR LUNCHEON

On Friday, June 1, ROBS held its annual end-of-the-year luncheon at Villa Olivetti’s Restaurant.

The meal was delicious, the service excellent and, of course, the company exciting. The three hours set aside for the luncheon flew by. It was one of the best attended luncheons, 50+ people, we ever had and kudos go to Valerie Vismale, our program coordinator, for putting it all together.

One of the high points was the attendance by guest-of-honor, Florence Corkery, and her daughter, Kate.

As you may recall, Florence celebrated her 100th birthday in February. There was a special birthday cake for her and the assemblage (including the head waiter) sang "Happy Birthday" to her. She blew out all the candles and made a wish. Let’s hope it comes true!

www.robsny.org
By Nick Siciliano

At our regularly scheduled ROBS meeting of May 4, 2018, elections were held to fill the positions of President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

There were no nominations from the floor and the election proceeded with a unanimous show of hands.

The officers of ROBS for the term 7/1/18-6/30/20 are as follows:

First Vice-President - Barbara Mascaro
Second Vice-President - Adrienne Eastman
Secretary - Nancy Churchillo
Treasurer - Carmen Roldan

I will continue in the position of President until someone steps forward. I sincerely hope that someone will step forward. If this association is to continue we must attract more people in leadership roles.

Barbara Mascaro is already our archivist and RC21 representative. Adrienne Eastman serves as BCA liaison and member of the newsletter editorial board. Nancy and Carmen have served several terms in their positions.

It was also a bittersweet moment to thank Harriet Pepine and Kathy Guleksen who have stepped down.

Kathy has served several terms as First Vice-President and Harriet Pepine has held several elected roles from the very beginnings of ROBS. Unfortunately neither was able to attend the end-of-the-year luncheon. ROBS will show appreciation by sending them gifts from all the members.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Officers, Executive Board, members of the Editorial Team and the volunteers who give of their time and make ROBS an effective organization.

We start a new year. Plans are being made to have interesting and informative topics at our meetings.

Again, WE NEED YOUR HELP. If you have any interest in a leadership role or an idea for a meeting, please contact anyone on the Executive Board. Addresses can be found in the Directory.

MENTORING PROGRAM

By Ellen Edelstein

The Brentwood School District was presented with a wonderful opportunity to partner with the New York State Mentoring Program for the 2018-2019 school year. The New York State Mentoring Program is a comprehensive program matching students with screened and trained mentors. The goals and values seemed a fit for ROBS. Brentwood teachers have been a source of inspiration through the years. Who better to act as role models to help our children make positive choices? It is a way to change the lives of children, one child at a time.

If you are interested, please contact Ann Palmer, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary, at 631-434-2497.
IT'S ALL ABOUT US

By Carmela Criscione

It’s taken a while and if you blinked, you missed Spring. It’s been a long, hot summer.

I am sorry to report that our Treasurer, Carmen Roldan, lost her husband, Jose “Charlie” Tirado, in late May and that Bob Locher (Phys Ed) lost his wife, Kathy, in May.

Retiree Council 21’s co-presidents, Louisa and Michael Eiermann, have reached out to editors, co-editors, web masters and editors acknowledging them for their creative and hard work on their individual newsletters. As we informed you in our last newsletter, NYSUT, for many reasons, has discontinued the Journalism Competition. RC21 however, honored us at their June 19 Luncheon at the Timberpoint Country Club. We hope that they also take the further step and create a journalism project for their collective locals. We would be very happy to work with them in structuring the competition where categories more meaningful and relative to retirees can be included.

Congratulations to Jim Nanos (Science-HS) who welcomed his second grandchild, Mackenzie Anne, (8lbs 15 oz!) on August 14th. Parents, Janelle and Tim, and big brother are all elated!

Mazel Tov to Ronda Brooks (Social Work-NMS) who received the Woman of Achievement Award from the Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island Branch of the Women’s League for Conservative Judaism for her Mah Jongg Tournament fundraising efforts that help to support her Sisterhood as well as the Social Action Committee at the Dix Hills Jewish Center.

The May meeting was, I think, spectacular with a discussion and power point presentation on America’s Vet Dogs. Please see the article on page 6.

We are sad to see Harriet Pepine and Kathy Guleksen step down from their leadership roles in ROBS. They both did a great deal for this association. Harriet was involved from the very beginnings of ROBS. We wish them every good wish.

Thanks to Valerie Vismale for another great luncheon. It was one of best attended gatherings all year.

If you have any news you’d like to share, or if you’ve accomplished a life goal, please let us know.

Remember…

IT’S ALL ABOUT US!!

OOPS, SORRY ABOUT THAT, MEA CULPA

by Carmela Criscione

There were several mistakes or omissions in the last newsletter that need correcting.

BIRTHDAYS
Judi Weissman - 3/4
Rose O’Connor - 7/9
Peter Ferrante - 7/10
Carmela Criscione - 7/11
John Rohatsch - 7/13
Grace Tuffin - 7/13
Carol Comerford - 7/15
Audrey Competello - 7/15
Grace Fishenfeld - 7/31
Florence Briggs - 10/5
Kathleen Williams-Ging - 9/14
Christine Visconti - 11/28

EMAIL CORRECTION
The correct email for Johanna Kane is jaymkay51@aol.com

NAME CORRECTIONS
Please use: Susan Arzillo and JoAnn Brown

HOLD THE DATE

Here are the meeting dates for the 2018-2019 year. Unless otherwise stated, the meetings are held at the Brentwood Public Library on the first Friday of each month at 10 a.m.

September 7 - Welcome new retirees
October 5 - Representative from Miracle Ear
November 2 - *
December 7 - Holiday Luncheon TBA
January 4 - Breakfast TBA
February - no meeting
March 1 - TBA
April 5 - TBA
May 3 - TBA
June 7 - Luncheon TBA

*Teaser Alert: we are in the process of scheduling some very interesting meetings this year. Please mark your calendars because you will not want to miss them.

If you have any suggestions for meeting topics, please contact our program coordinator, Valerie Vismale, at bdggg@verizon.net.
ROBS 2018 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

By Harriet Pepine and Jim Nanos

May 31, 2018 was a brilliant and starlit night. The stars were members of Brentwood High School’s senior class of 2018. So many outstanding young women and men were in attendance to receive recognition for their accomplishments through their academic careers.

With both pride and pleasure, Jim Nanos was in attendance to present the ROBS scholarships. The Sonderling auditorium was filled with the evening’s stars, their families, friends and faculty. The Brentwood community was represented by scholarship contributors and admirers of these wonderful students.

ROBS was elated to award four scholarships that evening.

Crystal Benavides has been accepted at St. Johns and Cortland. Her GPA was 92.46 and her class ranking was 29 out of 635. She wants to become an elementary teacher. She has been an honor student since the 8th grade, was yearbook editor, was on the varsity track and lacrosse teams in addition to other extra-curricular activities. Crystal was awarded the $1,000 Dorothy Zuckerman Scholarship.

Karen Carcamo was a member of the Medical Society, Leadership Club, ROTC, and was on the honor roll. She plans to become a bilingual teacher. She will be attending Stony Brook University. Her GPA was 90.17 and her rank 39 of 635. She is hardworking, intelligent and thoughtful. She participated in many other extra-curricular activities. She has received the Jack Zuckerman Scholarship of $1,000.

Lauren Gutierrez will major in Elementary Education and will be attending Suffolk Community College. She has participated in SEPA Music, the yearbook and has an advanced Regents diploma. Her GPA was 90.33. She received the Lillian Kelly $750 scholarship.

Laeticia Petion will major in childhood/elementary education. She has been involved in many clubs and activities including the math team, Italian Club, Kitty Hawk and NYSSA. She works hard, is a solid and disciplined student with a GPA of 87.09 and class rank of 38/635. She received the Sheila Sustrin $500 scholarship.

These excellent students will pursue higher education that will allow them to continue to make positive contributions within their community and society.

ROBS maintains our commitment to Brentwood’s academic and social community. Please keep our organization strong. Join us to carry on our work.

NOW SHOWING

As you all know, John Sherin has spent 20 years doing video interviews of our fellow retirees. There are approximately 150. Copies of the interviews have been given to Hofstra University and the Brentwood Library. In addition, our web master, Gloria Hannemann, has put many on the ROBS website (robsny.org)

Here is just a sampling of those recently on the website.

2017:
Eli Acosta - Science
Carole Bruno - Business
Cheryl Castano - Math

Maddi Dwyer - Elementary and BTA activist
Chuck Goehring - Athletic Director
Kitty Hayes - Elementary
Estelle Hoyt - Social Worker
Ruth McCalla - Elementary & ESL
Kevin McNicholas - Administration
Kathy Williams-Ging - ESL

2018:
Les Black - Superintendent
Ed Franchi - Administration
Ross Herzog - Administration
Marty Hochheiser - Guidance
Louis Lotito - Administration
Louis V. Nannini - Superintendent
George Klein - Administration

Up-Coming:
Steve Rochester - English
- September
Moe Greene - Administration
- October
Rose Marie Brousseau - Elementary
- November
Paula Moore - Administration - December

Contact John, Gloria or Carmela (email addresses in the directory) if there is a video you would like to have scheduled.

www.robsny.org
HANGING WITH THE HUBBARD S

by Phyllis Goodwin

During the latter part of the winter, I was pleasantly surprised to receive an invitation to attend the 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration of Barbara and Bill Hubbard. I was thrilled to be able to accept their invitation. They are two of the most generous, thoughtful and kindest people on the face of the earth. My classic line is "When I grow up, I want to be just like them." Barbara and Bill met when they attended Columbia University. I met Barbara in September of 1967 at the music faculty meeting with George Catandella (Music Coordinator) and Beula Vincent (MGIS - music general instruction supervisor -- Brentwood loves acronyms.) Barbara was based at Northwest Elementary School with Louis Lotito as Principal and I was teaching in Village School with Joseph Karszan as Principal. Bill taught in Central Islip School District before moving on to the Business Department at Nassau Community College where he had an impressive career.

I decided to make this journey into a road trip since Barbara and Bill had moved to Eastern Shores, Maryland. I recently learned that my Great-Grandfather was born in Denton and thought it might be a good idea to familiarize myself with the area. My side trips included the home of Frederick Douglass, the Rural American and Civil War Museum in Denton, the Underground Railroad Tour and the Harriet Tubman Nation Museum. Did you know that she rescued 300 people, starting with family members and not the 700 as stated by a New York newspaper? Now that I had improved my education by 50% it was time to see Barbara and Bill.

The evening proceeded with incidental music and the Hubbard’s renewing their wedding vows. Readings by their grandsons, a dance performed by their granddaughters, a poem by their daughter, Joya, and inspiring commentary by their son, David, on life in the Hubbard family, made for an enjoyable evening for everyone. The highlight of the evening was when Bill expressed his love and admiration for Barbara. During dinner, I reconnected with people from Huntington that I had not seen since I retired 22 years ago.

True to form, Barb and Bill hosted an after-party/party and a brunch for all those who traveled long distance. Thank you Barb and Bill for a wonderful experience.

Congratulations and Best Wishes for the next 50 years!

ARTIST RECOGNIZED

Judi Weissman has forwarded an email about our fellow retiree Grace Fishenfeld from Brentwood High School. In retirement, Grace has earned many accolades and awards for her talent. The latest is the WITVA Distinguished Artist Award.

The Nathan D. Rosen Gallery voted to award you the Distinguished Artist Award for your collage "Anagram."

As they state in their letter, “Grace has had a distinguished career as an artist exploring human nature from both a global and personal perspective. Her collages draw together a variety of mediums to challenge the eye and mind of the viewer. Anagram is thought-provoking and elegant, fusing new elements with classic design and arrangement. The Nathan D. Rosen Gallery applauds her accomplishments by honoring her with WITVA Distinguished Artist Award”.

WITVA is an acronym for Women in the Visual Arts. They are located in South Florida and run shows and exhibitions in the Delray Beach area.

Well done, Grace.
FRIENDS OF AMERICA'S VET DOGS

by Adrienne Eastman and Connie Gennaro

It has often been said, "A dog is man's best friend."

On May 4th we had a great presentation by Cliff Miller, co-founder of ROBS - RETIREES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS. He gave us an informative and knowledgeable insight on what this organization does for returning veterans who are in need of assistance.

In 2003 the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind created America’s Vet Dogs to expand their service to those who have served in our armed forces. The assistance dog program enhances the lives of veterans from all years of war.

The dogs that are bred and raised are mostly white, black and golden retrievers and standard poodles. The training dogs also go to prison. They work with a select group of prisoners from Monday to Friday being trained on sidewalks, cutaways, uneven surfaces and obstacles. They get to go home to their host families for the weekend. At the end of training they are sent back to headquarters in Smithtown where they learn to bond with a veteran and work as a unit.

A veteran who graduates from Vet Dogs receives a lifetime of aftercare, in-home visits and refresher training as required, all at no cost to the veteran.

Some of the conditions the dogs help with are seizures, balance issues, stairway assistance, putting lights on, opening doors, PTSD nightmares, getting in and out of chairs, retrieving dropped items, detecting low blood sugar, and help with wheelchairs. The dogs are matched to the disabilities of the veteran and have to obey 100% of the time.

Cliff gave a power point presentation of the training center. The cost to train a dog is $60,000.

There are several guidelines to follow when in the presence of a guide dog and its handler:
- Don't touch, talk, feed or otherwise distract the dog while it is wearing its harness.
- Don't treat the dog as a pet. Give him the respect of a working dog.
- Speak to the handler and not the dog.
- Do not give the dog commands.
- Guide dogs have the right of way.
- Don't try to take control in situations unfamiliar to the dog or handler.
- When walking with a guide dog and team you should not walk on the dog’s left side. Ask the handler where you should walk.

Most importantly, guide dog teams are allowed, by state law, at any place the public is allowed, including offices, restaurants, libraries, hospitals, hotels, supermarkets, shopping malls, concerts and movies.

The motto of the Friends of American Vet Dogs is: Restoring Dignity and Independence.

Dogs are named after actual veterans or people who have contributed to the sponsoring of dogs. The first dog was "Sarge" who serves in the veteran's facility in Stony Brook. They have been named for service men and women from all wars and there is even one named Navajo after the Native American code talkers of World War II.

Spread the word about their services. In April, they hold a Chinese Auction. Notification goes out around January and the 300 tickets are gone almost immediately. If you are interested, please contact Connie Gennaro about reserving a spot.

Many thanks to Cliff Miller for a very interesting and informative presentation.

ED note: Connie Gennaro suggested the Friends of America's Vet Dogs as a presentation to ROBS. Cliff Miller was able to collect over $500 from our generous ROBS members. It was a wonderful program.

The Vet Dog Foundation is located at 371 East Jericho Turnpike, Smithtown, NY 11787. You can visit VetDogs.org or call 866-838-3647. They train dogs for people with all types of disabilities.

FRIENDS OF AMERICA'S VET DOGS
Cliff Miller
P. O. Box 18
Bohemia, New York 11716-0018

www.robsny.org
RC21 AWARDS LUNCHEON

By Barbara Mascaro

Retiree Council 21 held its annual Awards Luncheon on June 19, 2018 at the Timber Point Country Club. We were welcomed by Retiree Council 21 Co-Presidents Louisa and Michael Eiermann who then introduced Jean Freeman, a retired teacher from the West Islip school district who was honored as the NYSUT Community Service Award recipient for 2018. RC 21 gave out recognition certificates to the editors of our local chapter retiree newsletters as well as web editors of our local chapter websites. ROBS had a full table of attendees to honor Carmela Criscione as the Editor of our ROBS newsletter, Ronda Brooks as the Graphic Designer of our ROBS newsletter, and Gloria Hannemann as the Web Coordinator of our ROBS website. We now express our appreciation for all that you do to keep us informed! The guest speaker for this luncheon was Paul Pecorale, NYSUT Second Vice-President. Paul also has the added responsibility to represent NYSUT retirees and advocate for the concerns of NYSUT retirees. As he stated “I encourage you to explore the many opportunities available to you as a NYSUT retiree. I encourage you to stay active, informed and to participate in your union on many levels.” We also heard from June Smith who reminded us that “elections have consequences”. She also stressed the importance of giving to VOTE-COPE. As in-service NYSUT members we benefited economically and professionally from the collective strength of the union. As retired NYSUT members we help to build the union’s collective strength through activism and community service. Retirees have been referred to as “the day time army” and we are being strongly encouraged to participate in our NYSUT Retiree Council (RC 21) and to stay informed about the issues that will affect us all in retirement. Have a wonderful summer! Be well and stay safe! We look forward to seeing you in September and for your active participation in ROBS and RC21!

CPR FOR ROBS

By Phyllis Goodwin

Everyone knows how important CPR is to a person having a cardiac event. Without it, a major catastrophe may happen. As I sat down to write my annual article for membership participation, I realized that I feel like the Grim Reaper, spreading gloom and doom everywhere or maybe the person who cried “Wolf” too many times. Unfortunately, the numbers will bear this out. Our membership roster for last June had 452 people listed as participating. This year, the number has dropped significantly to 349, including those who were “grandfathered” in 2010. That’s 103 people who did not return their membership form for one reason or another. Our programs have been well attended, so we must be doing something right. It was brought to the attention of the BTA that NYSUT is concerned about the drop in our membership. The Janus case will only make sustaining membership more difficult. In-service staff will reap the benefits on the backs of hard-working union members with no participation or agency fee. What will be your excuse?

Given the progressive drop in membership, we may need to increase our dues in the near future in order to maintain our scholarships, community outreach, and newsletter. As usual, when we asked people to “step up,” almost no one volunteered. Only 2 people out of 349 complied. If you have friends who are currently not members, please urge them to support ROBS by joining.

Here is our annual and usual spiel. Remind your friends and ask them to send their information to Carmen Roldan. Help us avoid CPR!

See form on back cover.
ROBS MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR 2018-19

PLEASE PRINT

Last Name_________________________ First Name___________________________

Address 1 _____________________________________________________________

City_______________________________ ST____________ Zip Code_____________

Home Phone________________________Cell Phone___________________________

Email____________________________________Directory (Y or N)_______________

Address 2 _____________________________________________________________

City_______________________________ ST_____________ Zip Code____________

Building__________________________Department___________________________

Retirement Year__________________Birthday (Month and day)_______________

*Checks should be made out to ROBS with “Dues” written on the memo line and sent to:

Carmen Roldan
49 Linda Lane
N. Babylon, NY 11703

Dues are $25 and the deadline is October 31.

Please Do Not Staple Your Check To This Form.

Thank you for your prompt return.

www.robsny.org