

ROBS - RETIREES of BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

Since 1991 - Still Serving

Issue 1/2012-2013

September, October, November 2012

MEETINGS

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

October 5 - Speaker

October 10 High Tea 12- 3PM

Bayard Cutting Aboretum

November 2 Book Reading

And signing

December 7 - Holiday

Luncheon TBA

January 4 - Breakfast TBA

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 contributions to each meeting. The need is great.

OFFICERS

Nick Siciliano - President

kpnici1@aol.com

Kathy Guleksen - 1st VP

Harriet Pepine - 2nd VP

Lucille Fink - Secretary

Marge Kirchner - Treasurer

Dorothy Zuckerman and

Phyllis Goodwin - Presidents

Emeritus

AFFILIATIONS

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

Website: www.robsny.org

ROBS WELCOMES NEW RETIREES



Lois Hanan and Leah Huberman are the new retirees that attended our first meeting of the year. Lois is a high school Biology teacher and Leah is a Speech Therapist from West Middle School.



NEW PROJECT HOPE DIRECTORS

Sheila and Letty Sustrin

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Carmela Criscione - ROBS Cares
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Gloria Hannemann - Web Coord.
Marty Hochheiser - BTA Liaison
Barbara Mascaro - RC21 Liaison
and Archivist
Lynda Romano - Programs &
Hospitality
John Sherin - History Projects
Nick Siciliano - Web Editor
Vacancy - Project Hope
Paula Moore - Delegate-at-Large
and Photographer
Ellen Edelstein - Delegate-at Large
Vacancy - Delegate-at-Large

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tecnoqueen@aol.com
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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 Board and Editorial Board Members are in the Directory should you wish to contact us. We really want to hear from you!



Website: www.robsny.org

NICK'S NOTES by Nick Siciliano

As another presidential election approaches, I would hope that you carefully study the issues before you cast your vote for Congress and the Presidency. I do not need to elaborate on the many problems the country has been, and is facing. You are all aware of them I am sure, and some of you or your families may have been personally affected by them. Regardless of which party or candidates you favor, I urge you to vote this November.

ROBS does not only represent its retirees, but also works to give back to the community we served while working in the Brentwood School District. One of the ways we give back to the community is adopting four families and providing them with a Thanksgiving dinner and gifts for the Christmas, Hanukah and Kwanza holidays.

While we do use some of the funds from your dues to do this, we can always use additional contributions to make projects like these successful. I would like to urge all of you to give whatever you can towards these projects. If you wish to submit a donation, please make out your checks to **ROBS**, and on the memo line indicate "Project Hope". We also will be taking checks or cash donations at our general membership meetings in October and November.

As always, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support and please do contact me if you feel there are ways to better serve you and improve your retiree organization.





BRENTWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

by Ellen Edelstein

The Brentwood Historical Society is a voluntary, dues paying, association of individuals having a common interest in the history of Brentwood, New York, and its predecessor community, the City of Modern Times. It is dedicated to the preservation and marking of those sites and structures which have inherent historical value or which are associatively tied to the history and development of the community. It seeks to promote an awareness and appreciation of the history of the community and of the contributions made by all those who have settled here and made it their home. We are a 501(cX3) organization.

Our current focus is on the preservation and restoration of the original octagonal, one-room school house which was built in 1857 and remained in use until 1907. We are currently undertaking an ambitious fund-raising project that will allow us to move forward with this goal. It is our hope that, once restored, this historical building will be both a source of pride and place of learning for the community. If you want to help us with a tax-deductible donation, you may do so on our website, www.brentwoodhis.org or you can send a check made out to Brentwood Historical Society, to: Brentwood Historical Society, 34 Second Avenue, Brentwood, New York 11717.

In addition to the "school house" project, we hold regular meetings at which programs are presented that we hope will be of interest to our members and community at large. These programs have included the video "Modern Times and Early Brentwood" and a presentation on "Brentwood Graduates - Success Stories".

Our next program, on October 15 at 4 p.m. at the Brentwood Public Library, will be a slide show on the women of Brentwood and Modern Times, presented by Mary Kofert.

Please try to attend and consider joining the Brentwood Historical Society.



Visit the Brentwood Historical Society's website at:

www.brentwoodhis.org



IT'S ALL ABOUT US - by Carmela Criscione

Well, another school year has started. Just hit the snooze alarm for another 15 minutes and the nostalgia will pass. While we can look back fondly on our careers, retirement is **a lot of fun**. At the **ROBS** meetings we always catch up on all that our members have been doing since we last got together. Anyone who had a unique or memorable event and would like to contribute to the newsletter is always welcome to do so.

Letty and Sheila Sustrin sent over a recent clipping from Newsday's "It Happened on Long Island" which featured Brentwood graduate Mitch Kupchak. Mitch was on the 1976 US Olympic basketball team, coming home with a gold medal after beating Yugoslavia. He went on to successful careers as a player and general manager of the Lakers. Congratulations to Mitch then and now!

Get well cards were sent to **Marge Kirchner, Johanna Kane, Lucille Fink and Lynda Romano** over the summer. We are glad to say they are doing well and up to speed.

Marabeth Criscione (my sister-in-law), the elementary substitute caller for over 17 years and **Carl Emanuele**, her counterpart for the secondary schools for an equally long time, have both retired. Over the years all of us have had occasion to speak to them when reporting our absences. A shout of thanks to them for all those early mornings and late nights when the weather was bad, the car wouldn't start, or the flu had you down but you knew your absence would be reported and your class covered.

Eleanor Bazata lost her husband George in July and **Gail Inzerillo-Latella** lost her father-in-law. Sad to report that we lost **Mildred Fagan** (Kindergarten teacher at Laurel, North and East), **Mary Villar** (Superintendent's Secretary under G. Guy DiPietro and Frank Mauro), and **Fanny Landro** (monitor), in July. **Eileen Kelly** (Human Resources Office Secretary) also died in early July. She was a very dear lady to both Adrienne Eastman and me...we were the original Personnel Office and we will miss her very much. **Beverly Carpenter** (Special Ed) also passed away in July after a long illness. She and her husband, John, were great friends of ROBS and will be missed. Our heartfelt condolences to all who lost someone dear to them. **Lucy Medina's** (Secretary at Register Control) mom, Calixta Gonzalez, also passed away in August. Lucy retired from .

Phyllis Goodwin is planning another formal High Tea and Finger Sandwich Social. The first social was a great success. If you missed it, **don't miss this one**. See the flyer in this issue for details.

Kathy Guleksen, likewise, is planning a theater package for late fall-early winter. Tentative plans are to see "The Christmas Carol." Last year's outing was wonderful. It would be great if both the Social Tea and the theater outing became annual events. Let Kathy and Phyllis know if you think so too.

Larry Hoppen, Brentwood graduate and co-founder of the rock band Orleans passed away in July. The band enjoyed forty years of success and was still going strong. Among their hits are "Still The One", "Forever", and "Love Takes Time." He will be missed, but we still have his music.

Just a reminder to get your dues in on time, October 31st. This year is a directory year. If you want to be included in the 2012-2013 directory, you have to get your dues in on time.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE! The 2012 election may be the most important one of our lives.



LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!

Presenting

The Teacher Who Would Not Retire

Becomes a Movie Star!



It's hard to believe that 14 years have gone by since we retired from Laurel Park Elementary School. We began our "Life After Retirement" careers as authors-to-be almost immediately after retirement. Four years later, in 2002, our dream came true, and our first children's picture storybook, **The Teacher Who Would Not Retire**, was published by Blue Marlin Publications of West Bay Shore, New York.

Teaching for 38 years, and loving every minute of our careers, led to the creation of our main character, "Mrs. Belle", a fun-loving, kid-loving teacher. This book was followed by **The Teacher Who Would Not Retire Goes To Camp** in 2005. The third book of the series, **The Teacher Who Would Not Retire Discovers A New Planet**, came next in 2009.

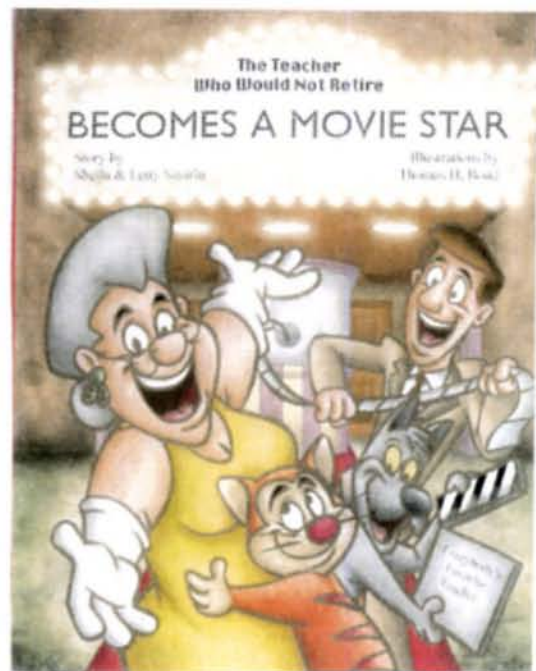
Now, in 2012, Mrs. Belle is celebrating her 10th year of retirement, BUT she still loves those students and remains part of their lives. To commemorate this milestone, the fourth book, **The Teacher Who Would Not Retire Becomes a Movie Star**, has Mrs. Belle winning a contest as "Everybody's Favorite Teacher." Naturally all her former pupils have nominated her for this great honor.

Kids! Teachers! Retirees! They are the backbone of our organization. That is why we always choose to have our first public appearance with each of our books at ROBS. It is so meaningful to us. On November 2, 2012, at the ROBS meeting, we will be reading and signing this new book. There will be a drawing for one copy of the book, and each person present will receive a souvenir to celebrate the event. Please join us for this happy occasion, and you'll see why the children will always love Mrs. Belle.

We are also happy to announce that on Sunday, November 18th, we will be doing a special reading/signing at the YMCA Boulton Center, in Bay Shore. If you have grandchildren or young children in your family, please feel free to bring them that day. The doors open at 12:30 p.m., and we will begin the presentation at 1:00 p.m. Admission is free, and our publisher, Blue Martin Publications, will be providing the refreshments! For further information we can be contacted at: 631 586-8150 or by e-mail at: twinniesls@optonline.net.

SEE YOU THEN!

SHEILA AND LETTY SUSTRIN





MY SUMMER VACATION

by Ronda Brooks



This was my third summer traveling as a leader with the People to People Program, an organization that sends student ambassadors all over the world to promote world peace and understanding. This summer I traveled with thirty-five 5th and 6th graders to England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland for nineteen days. And although it rained for eighteen of those days, we still had an unforgettable adventure. Here's a glimpse at part of our journey.

London was electrified with Olympic fever. We witnessed the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace; we rode the London Eye, the 443-foot tall Ferris wheel offering views of the entire city, we visited the Tower of London and saw the magnificent crown jewels. We stopped by at Shakespeare's home, Stratford-upon-Avon, and walked through the quaint village. We wandered through Oxford, home of one of the world's most prestigious universities. We honed our warrior skills at Warwick Castle and watched a trebuchet launch a fireball.

In Wales we visited a farm that gave us a representational view of life a hundred years ago.

A ferry brought us to Ireland where we kissed the Blarney Stone, traveled by motor boat and horse-and-cart through the breathtaking Gap of Dunloe, and walked among the stalagmites and stalactites of the Ailwee Cave.

After another ferry ride we arrived in Scotland. We visited several castles there, most notably Stirling and Edinburgh Castles. We were entranced by the tales of a kilt-clad storyteller. We performed community service by clearing out overgrown brush at a neighborhood center. We hiked upstream on a ravine walk. We boarded a boat and searched for the Loch Ness Monster, who sadly eluded us. If I had to choose an activity which most of the delegates enjoyed the best, it probably was observing border collies being trained to herd sheep. We were allowed to play with the collie puppies after the demonstration and everyone wanted to take one home.

For me, it was a fantastic trip and another opportunity to work with an amazing group of students.

I wonder where I'm going next summer....



NYSUT 12TH ANNUAL RETIREE CONFERENCE

Reclaim The Dream



Wednesday, November 14, 2012

The Watermill

711 Smithtown Bypass

Smithtown, NY 11787

Continental Breakfast, Sit-Down Lunch

Guest speakers, Workshops

\$32

(REGISTRATION FORMS TO FOLLOW)

Contact Dot Zuckerman

631-273-8822 or email dzuckerm@nysutmail.org