



Issue Number 002

Date September - October 2008

General Information

General Meetings are held at the **Brentwood Public Library** at 10 AM -the first Friday of the Month @ 2nd Ave. and Third St.

ROBS Web Address:

www.robsny.org

Calendar

October 3 '08

Bayard Cutting Arboretum
10 AM The Annex

November 07, '08

Brentwood Public Library 10AM
Lower Level

December 5, '08

Luncheon @ Sweet Waters 12-
3:30 PM Hauppauge Rt. 111

January '09 Breakfast

Paradise Diner Hauppauge
Rte. 454 Date TBA

March 6, '09

Brentwood Public Library
10 AM Lower Level

April 3, '09

Brentwood Public Library
10AM Lower Level

May 1, '09

Brentwood Public Library
10AM Lower Level
History Video.

June 5, '09 Luncheon TBA



Temporary New Look

Dear Colleagues,

Don't be shocked, this is the ROBS Newsletter. Chris was unable to produce a newsletter this month due to Bob's injury. He fell from a ladder and broke his ankle. So a few of us thought we would give it a go. Let me start by saying that I hope that you had a fun and healthy summer.

We have some very serious concerns about our membership. Last year we had a grand total of 439 members. We are 2 months into our membership drive and we only have 227 members registered. This is problematic for us. It means that we may have to curtail our scholarship program, reduce the number of newsletters that we produce each year and streamline our Directory. Postage and printing cost have gone up which, in turn, limits our production. A great deal of time and effort is put into getting this information to you. In comparison to the other chapters under the auspices of RC21, we have the second lowest dues structure. Some groups are paying \$35, \$65 or an initial fee of \$100. I would say that ROBS members get quite a bang for their buck.

Your forms for the directory must be returned to me no later than **October 31st** in order to be placed in the Directory.

We have several irons in

the fire this year. We are in dire need of new equipment. We are producing note cards, from Liz Dicce's pen and ink drawings, to raise funds for our History Project. The note cards are \$12 for a set of ten. Please notify me if you are interested in purchasing a set. I will only produce them as they are requested. You may email me or leave a message.

We are trying to start a new segment for our newsletter tentatively called "Well, Who Knew?" If you are involved in an interesting hobby, have traveled or are involved with a fascinating group, we would like to feature you in a news article. For example: I am a winemaker and I could fill you in on the winemaking process. We have so many talented people in this organization and I'm sure many of you don't have a clue as to what incredible projects some of us participate in. We will supply you with a questionnaire, so you won't have to worry about the writing. We know you're out there, so put us on your radar.

This is an election year, as you well know. RC 21 has set aside October 7 & 14 for the retiree chapters to work the phone banks at the NYSUT office at 150 Motor Parkway 3rd Fl. From 10AM-3PM. NYSUT provides you with a script to facilitate the calls. Please let me know if you are available. Lunch will be served. I hope to see you there.

In Harmony,
Phyllis Goodwin

ROBS NEWSLETTER

Officers

Phyllis Goodwin - President
Harriet Pepine - Vice President
Lucille Fink - Secretary
Marge Kirchner - Treasurer
Dot Zuckerman - President Emerita

Executive Board

Ruth McCalla - Program
Chris Veech - Newsletter
John Sherin - History Project
Peter Vercillo - Project Hope
Marty Hochheiser - BTA/RC21
Adrienne Eastman - BCA
Carmela Criscione - Good & Welfare
Kris Dougherty, Lynn Prass
And Lynn Tiscione -
At Large Delegates
Gloria Hannemann -
Web Coordinator



Trips to Consider

Dot Zuckerman is planning a trip to Hawaii. If you are interested give her a call @ 631.567.3866.

Charleen Keely has 2 trips planned for Costa Rica and Portugal. She may be reached at 631.656.6352

A Special Thanks

A special thanks goes out to Bill Heran and Frank Spencer for their Raffle gifts at our June Luncheon. Our very happy recipients won tickets to the LI Ducks and the NY Mets games, respectively.

Congratulations To

Grace Fishenfeld's grand - daughter, Jessica, on winning the Eisenhower Park Talent Contest. She will perform the National Anthem, a cappella, at the Islanders home opener.

Ellie Steffen Lipkins had an art show last week in her wonderful town of Woodstock.

Get Well Wishes

To Jeff Wolfe, Elaine Cuccinello, Virginia Datre and Marty Hochheiser.

Sad Passings

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Eleanor Burkitt who lost her husband, Frank, in July; Lois Morella, who lost her brother, Philip, in August; Elaine Levy who lost her sister, Ethel, in August.

Well, Who Knew?

By John Sherin

Fifty years ago before anyone else used the name - we were the "Playboys".

We became the Jon Sherin Quintet after several of us married.

Today we use the name of whoever among us books us to play somewhere. We're a quartet.

Our percussionist John Morena, lives in Oakdale next door to the daughter of the owner of the **Snapper Inn**.

He's arranged with them for us to play there on **Friday, Oct 24th from 6 - 10 pm**.

Ellen is telling everybody she knows it's the John Sherin Quartet that's performing.

John Morena has probably told all of Oakdale that it's the John Morena Quartet. Big deal!

We're glad to still be together after so long a friendship.

We don't play as often as we'd like - lives, family and careers continue to move us in different directions; as they have for over half this century in education, architecture, music, and business.

We play modern jazz with a distinctive Shearing sound and do many classic American melodies of the 30's, 40's, 50's and beyond

ROBS NEWSLETTER

ROBS HISTORY PROJECT

By Marge Kirchner

We, ROBS members, are fortunate to have a unique program to chronicle our history with the Brentwood School District. John Sherin has been making videotapes of members who wish to be interviewed for the History Project since 1994 and during the last several years, Carmela Criscione has ably assisted him. Both John and Carmela have invested innumerable hours, heartfelt caring and sincere dedication in developing our History Program. Through their efforts, we have accumulated over one hundred tapes in our video library.

The Executive Board is very proud of this program as it has provided an irreplaceable record of the experiences of our members and as far as we know, serves as the only program of its kind in the State.

Unfortunately, we have suffered a good deal from outdated equipment, a permanent venue for the interviews and missed appointments.

We are attempting to address these issues with the purchase of a new DVD Camcorder that will allow better sound, and color

stabilization. Presently, we are researching the best one to purchase. As I peruse the membership forms each year, many people have indicated their desires to be interviewed even if they live far away. If you live out of state, or off Long Island within the state, an interview cannot be set for you unless you plan to be in Suffolk County for a visit. Let us know if that is your situation and we will try to set a convenient time for you while you are visiting.

The interview process is very enjoyable and the stories you have to share can only help our History Project to continue to be successful. We look forward to many new interviews with new equipment this year. Think about joining the project; it's a great gift for ROBS, you and your family.



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Worrying is a useless emotion. It doesn't change anything. Wayne Dyer

Do You Know?

Who was the Georgia Peach?

Where was Edmond Dantes imprisoned?

Who wrote the article "J'Accuse"?

Who was the Swedish Nightingale?

Who was El Caudillo?

Who was the state of Virginia named after?

Who was the British soldier who negotiated with Benedict Arnold?

At what school did Knute Rockne coach?

What actor's name was Archie Leach?

Why is there no joy in Mudville?

If you have not joined ROBS by Oct. 31st, you will not receive another newsletter or Directory.

We would be interested in your impressions of this newsletter. Feedback can be sent to Phyllis Goodwin or Carmela Criscione. We are in the Directory.

ROBS NEWSLETTER

150th Anniversary

By Carmela Criscione

We live our lives one day at a time. We look forward to holidays, birthdays and anniversaries but when we look back on them, we are puzzled at how fast they came and how they are gone in a flash.

One hundred and fifty years have gone by since the concerned citizens of what would become the community of Modern Times, and even later Brentwood, met to discuss building a school for their children. It was a simple building, just one room in an octagonal shape. It still stands bravely defying the elements and human neglect on a corner of land at the Felicio Center. I believe its restoration will come later rather than sooner. Our concerned citizens started a written record of who they hired, the books and supplies

and free toothbrushes distributed to the poor children. They dealt with things with little or no mention of the great milestones in American History happening at the same time as the Civil war, World Wars I and II or the Great Depression. They were chronicling the events directly affecting the operations of the Brentwood Schools. They did not realize they were also writing history.

When the Retirees of Brentwood Schools embarked on the Honor Roll Project, the records of the Human Resources Office were opened to us and we were able to record over 3,000 names, assignments, schools and career dates of past employees. As extensive as those records were, they only brought us to the late 1940's.

We then asked and received the written records which had been kept continuously

by District Clerks since 1857. The first 100 years are handwritten journals in which we found names of the very first teachers. We learned that women voted in school district elections in the 1880's and that there was a woman School Board member in the 1910's. The first elementary school to be built specifically to accommodate the special needs of children was our own Southeast (Frank Cannon) Elementary School built in the 1950's. Brentwood was selected by IBM and the NY State Education Department as the site for the movie "The Challenge for Change: the Case for Counseling" about The Guidance program. It was filmed at the High School in 1962 starring Stan Yankowski and Gilda Mantin, as the very concerned

ROBS NEWSLETTER

150 Anniversary (cont.)

parents of a troubled teenager. Martin Estevez (now known as Martin Sheen... yes that Martin Sheen) played the troubled teenager. Brentwood student Eli Acosta, a retired Brentwood Teacher and ROBS member, also appeared in the film. This movie had its black tie premiere in Brentwood and Washington D.C. In 1968 presidential candidate Senator Robert Kennedy came to Brentwood High School and addressed a packed assembly. Kennedy was only one of many distinguished visitors to come to the Brentwood Schools over the years.

On April 4, 2008, a very special ROBS meeting spoke about the rich history of the Brentwood Schools. The meeting room at the Brentwood Library was

crowded with ROBS members, the School Superintendent Donna Jones, members from Central Administration, Tom Tarantowicz, Director of the Library and School Board President, George Talley. The ROBS Chorale performed the Brentwood song "Brentwood in the Pines" which had been used for all special occasions. Liz Dicce discussed how she drew her pen and ink reproductions of historic buildings in Brentwood. Vintage lantern slides of the School District in the 1930's were given to the Library, as were bound copies of the essays by the Brentwood Teachers Writer's Group. Selections of the Board Minutes, and the Honor Roll were distributed to everyone. After the speakers, everyone stayed to reminisce. We lingered for a long time, just telling stories of a very special place and a very special time

One hundred and fifty years is both a long time as well as a short time in the grand sweep of history but it was **OUR** time. The story of the Brentwood Schools is our story too. We hope to present more about our shared history at future meetings through writing more articles. We hope you enjoy them. Feel free to contribute your special stories, pictures and memories.



Congratulations to Our New Retirees

**Aida Borges
Margaret Cameron
Nancy Clench
Vincent DeRosa
Barbara Festa
Marilyn Fuchs
Nicholas Geraci
Lorraine Hein
Jaclyn Logue
Kathryn Malsam Corkery
Robert Marcus
Lucy Medina
Patricia Pagan Monsen
Ann Sanders
Karen Scharf
Evelyn Sekac
Margaret Tusinski
Christine Mosher Visconti**

Well, Who Knew? II

My name is Ruth Teich and I'd like to tell everyone why my daughter calls herself an Internet Orphan. At least twice a day I spend time on my new-found, dearly loved website www.paperbackswap.com. There I am known as Ruth T, nickname RegencyBelle, email address: thegrandophie@hotmail.com. People all over the country have sent books I've selected from the PBS list of available titles. I've paid nothing for this service. When I have mailed items to Club members who request my books, I've paid for the postage -around \$2. I even print my own book wrapper from the screen. Some club members print their postage that way too. Once you join, I recommend that you decide on a nickname and perhaps, an email address dedicated to books. Before you do so, you will have the opportunity to list 10 books you would like to trade. For this, you will get 2 credits to enable you to select 2 books. Once other members, and there are thousands across the country select a book from your shelf, mail it and receive another credit. I could go on for hours,

writing about the over 2,500,000 books from categories such as Mystery, SciFi, Cooking, Romance, Westerns, History, Religion and Children's Literature and many more too numerous to mention. Instead, why don't you log on the website. You'll have your own personal tour guide who will explain things a lot better than I can.

If you would like to contact me, my phone number and email address are listed in the ROBS Directory and send your phone number to me. If you decide to join the PBS group, I would appreciate it if you used my nickname and or email address when they ask you how you found out about PBS. I think I get credit for this. There's always that extra book on my Wish List. That reminds me.....

Happy Reading,
Ruth Teich
Northeast Elementary
Teacher



DOT'S NEWS

Rick Zuckerman has been inducted into the prestigious National College of Labor and Employment Lawyers. This organization recognizes those who have distinguished themselves by long and outstanding service as leaders in their field. A black tie affair was held in Denver, Colorado last week.

Do You Know (cont.)

Ty Cobb
Chateau D'If
Emile Zola
Jenny Lind
Francisco Franco
Elizabeth I
Major John Andre
Notre Dame
Cary Grant
Mighty Casey has struck out.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!



ARBOR DAY

By Phyllis Goodwin

Many years ago, the Brentwood Union Free School District celebrated Arbor Day. The Tulipwood tree, which was planted in front of the original school on Third avenue still stands. Maple Trees were planted and named after famous people of the era; William Cullen Bryant, James Fenimore Cooper and Abraham Lincoln. The Bryant and Cooper trees were placed to the left of building and continue to live while the Lincoln failed to survive.

ROBS would like to re-introduce this practice of planting trees near our schools. With the lack of shade and global warming to consider, now seems to be the perfect time to institute this idea. Our intention is to plant four trees this Fall at Ross, Sonderling, the Felicio Building and Southeast.

Ross Building of the Brentwood High School was named in honor of **Dr. William H. Ross**. He was a Board member and Chairman of the Brentwood Board of Education for the better part of 50 years. He was a leading citizen, doctor and operator of the Ross Sanitarium.

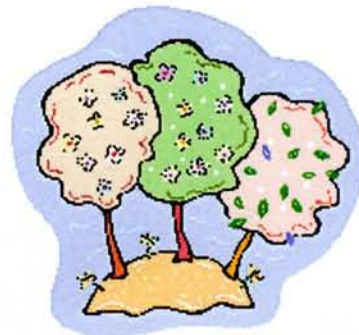
The Sonderling Building was named in honor of **Edward Sonderling** who served

the Board of Education as a member and later President from the 1940's -1960's.

Leigh P. Stuart was the first Principal of Village School when it opened in 1939. Village school was closed in 1980 and became Central Administration. It was later named for Anthony Felicio , prominent board member and Board President.

Southeast (Frank Cannon) Elementary School was the first school in the United States to be built for physically challenged special education students. **Eleanor Crosby** was the lead Special Education teacher in that building from 1955 until her retirement in 1980. She was physically handicapped.

Although Arbor Day is celebrated in the Spring, Autumn is the time most conducive to planting . There is enough history in each building to carry on this tradition. It is our hope that each school will continue the practice.



HOW TO SAVE \$5 BILLS

A Savings Strategy in 12 Steps

By **MARY CRISCIONE**

Welcome to the wonderful world of saving \$5. It's easy. It's fun, it adds up, you can do it the comfort of your own home and you can do all kinds of things with the money.

1. Dedicate the \$5 to a purpose i.e. a vacation, car, jewelry, anything special that you want to do or buy.

2. **NEVER** pass up an opportunity to get a \$5 bill. If your purchase is \$15.50 **always** give \$20.50 If your purchase is \$4.50 give \$10. Take the initiative and ask for a \$5 bill in change.

3. **NEVER** turn down a \$5 bill if offered. In turn, **always** offer to accept fives instead of \$10 or \$20. You are doing a service and one hand washes another.

4. **NEVER** give a \$5 bill away. Five crisp singles are just as good as a bedraggled \$5 bill to a stranger.

5. If you spend (God forbid) a \$5 **you must pay a penalty.** The penalty doubles the number of fives you gave away. Spend \$5 and you owe \$10; spend two \$5's and you owe \$20. **We are very, very serious about this.**

6. Place uncounted bills in a brandy snifter. It works for piano players; it will work for you.

7. **Don't touch the glass until it is full.**

8. Count the money and clip every \$100 together. Put a sticky note on any incomplete bundles until you complete the \$100. Put any clipped bundles in a security box for safe keeping.

9. Note all dates and balances in your special passbook.

10. When you have five \$100 packs, deposit them in a special savings account. If you don't have a special account put them under the mattress. First, change the bundles into \$50 or \$100 bills. There's no sense in having a lumpy bed. It is our responsibility to make sure there are enough \$5 in circulation.

11. Only spend the bills for a dedicated purpose. If a loan is necessary, pay it back as soon as possible **with a hefty interest payment.**

12. Abraham Lincoln was a **great** President.



FYI

Les Black, our former Superintendent, was chosen as the new Superintendent of the Quogue School District. Congratulations from ROBS.

Kate Corkery Malsam and her mother Florence Corkery are our first ever Mother and Daughter members. Hurray for Us.

HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU

Persons of Interest to the FBI

Sinclair Lewis	author
Pearl S. Buck	author
Ernest Hemingway	author
Dorothy Parker	author
Lillian Hellman	author
Tennessee Williams	author
Allen Ginsberg	poet
Daniel Schorr	journalist
Martin Luther King	peace activist