

Spotlight 21

SERVING RETIREES FROM

Bay Shore
Bayport-Blue Point

Brentwood
Central Islip
Connetquot

East Islip
Islip

West Islip
Sayville



Vol. 16 No. 3

An Award Winning Publication of NYSUT Retiree Council 21

July, 2016

Communication is Key

The June Awards Luncheon for RC 21 honored the people who get information out to our members. In this more than interesting election cycle it is imperative that we remain informed and vote for our own interests. The following people were recognized by NYSUT for their part in keeping the lines of communication open.

[Central Islip Retired Teachers Association](#)

Publication: CIRTation - Brian Roethgen, Editor

Best Writing 1 - Award of Distinction for
“Time For Militant Action” by Philip Griffith

Best Writing 2 - First Place for
“Justice?” by James Nohe

[Retirees of Brentwood Schools](#)

Publication: ROBS Newsletter - Carmela Criscione, Editor
Won the following awards:

Best Writing 1 - First Place for
“Walking With Han Yu” by Marie Poppo

Best Writing 4 - First Place for
“A Bridge to Tomorrow” by John Sherin

Best Writing 5 - First Place for
“War Poems: Ada Tessibel & Ethel Paulin Peters,
Forgotten Voices of World War I” by Valerie Vismale

General Excellence - First Place
Editor - Carmela Criscione

Best Website - ROBS Website
Award of Distinction - Webmaster Gloria Hannemann

[Bay Shore Retired Teachers’ Association](#)

Publication: 4th R Marion Skirbe Editor

Best Writing 1 - Award of Distinctions for
“Pumpkin Project” by Bonnie Hardman-Friedman

Best Writing 2 Award of Distinction for
“Remembering the Fifties” by Tom Bernagozzi

Best Writing 3 First Place for
“The Core Curriculum” by Harold Anderson

Best Writing 5 First Place for
“Summer Memories” by Tom Bernagozzi

General Excellence Award of Distinction
Marion Skirbe Editor

[Retiree Council 21](#)

Publication: Spotlight 21- Diana Baranec Editor

Best Writing 3 - Award of Distinction for
A Message From Co-President Michael Eiermann:
“Will we Learn from History?”

Best Social Justice Article
A Message from Co-President Michael Eiermann:
“Entitlements”



Barry Kaufmann is a retired teacher who taught in Poughkeepsie for thirty-four years. After many years of union-related positions in his school district and in NYSUT, he was elected President of NYSARA in 2015. As President, he is committed to keeping all retirees informed about the policy and voting issues affecting their daily lives.

At RC 21’s June luncheon, Barry spoke about the attacks on Social Security and Medicare. He emphasized that while some people are calling SS an entitlement, it really is an earned benefit paid for throughout our careers. He pointed out that the same people in power who would sell America to corporations are also using their influence to restrict the vote, to pit one group against another, to push for individual savings accounts instead of Social Security, to use means testing for SS benefits, and to push for a voucher program to privatize Medicare.

Those who would repeal SS promote the myth that the system is going bankrupt soon and are pitting the young against the retirees. The truth about the financial status of SS is that if Congress does nothing legislatively, *(Continued on page 2)*

(From page 1 Awards Luncheon) the SS system will be able to pay 100% of benefits through 2034 and 75% of benefits thereafter. One common-sense solution to help make the fund stronger is to set the cap for wages on which FICA is collected at \$300,000. As to Medicare, allowing the program to negotiate drug prices, which is prohibited now, could save the system \$140 billion over ten years. One of the reasons for the extraordinarily high prices of drugs is the ability of drug companies to re-patent drugs by making minor changes in dosage, ingredients or shape, something allowed by the TPP. Remedial actions on these issues could reduce the costs of programs that are now under attack.

Barry urges us to be active members of NYSARA. This organization works for all retirees, not just unionized people. He asked that we remain vigilant and spread the information we receive through NYSARA to our fellow retirees.



Rosemary Catanzariti, the Director of ED 52, spoke briefly about the importance of voting against the referendum on the Constitutional Convention which will appear on the ballot in November 2017. Remember that the Constitution currently protects our pensions. It is not necessary to open the entire body in order to make changes. Changes can be made by amendment, if necessary.

We were reminded about the October 6th Legislative Conference by Joan Perini. This is a joint Suffolk and Nassau event where we can hear our representatives in government speak to our issues. Forms and information are included in this issue on page 4. Become an informed voter: learn who is working for you.

Dates for RC 21 2016 - 2017 General Meetings

**West Islip
Public Library
10:15 am**

September 13, 2016
October 25, 2016 - Annual Welcome Brunch
November 11, 2016
December 13, 2016
March 21, 2017
April 18, 2017
May 9, 2017
June 20, 2017 - Annual Awards Luncheon



Upcoming Events



September 21, 2016 Defensive Driving Course @ West Islip Library

September 22, 2016 RC 21 East End Culture, Arts & Dining Trip

October 6, 2016 NYSUT Regional Conference - Election Year Legislative Session

October 25, 2016 - RC 21 Annual Brunch Welcoming New Retirees

All information and reservation forms are contained in this issue.

NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 21

is sponsoring a...

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

9:30 am – 4:30 pm

West Islip Public Library

Corner of Higbie Lane & Montauk Highway, West Islip, New York 11795

Continental Breakfast & Lunch *provided*

Benefits of Course Completion

- 10% reduction on liability & collision insurance premiums (three year duration)
- Up to 4 points removed from driving record, if applicable.

Questions: Contact Simonne Harkavy at 631.661.4446

To enroll, complete the tear-off at the bottom of this page and mail it to...

Simonne Harkavy
104 Raleigh Lane
West Islip, New York 11795

**Include check made out to RETIREE COUNCIL 21:
FEE...**

- \$40.00 – members of RC 21
- \$45.00 – non-members/guest

RSVP ASAP due to limited enrollment!

YOU MUST BRING YOUR DRIVERS LICENSE TO THE CLASS!

-----**TEAR OFF**-----

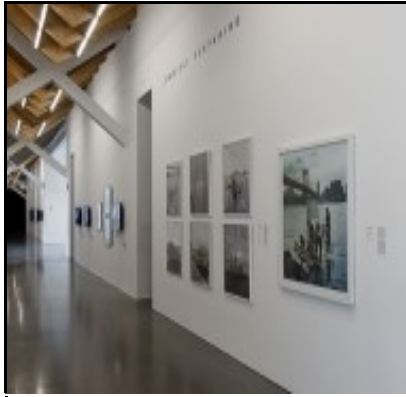
NAME _____

RETIREE CHAPTER/DISTRICT _____

CHECK: _____ RC 21 Member (\$40.00 pp) _____ Guest (\$45.00 pp)

Name(s) of Guests: _____

Enclosed is check *payable to NYSUT Retiree Council 21*) for \$ _____



East End Culture, Arts & Dining Thursday, September 22, 2016

Docent Tour of the LongHouse Reserve
Visit the Duck Walk Vineyard
Luncheon at the airy Tuscan House
Finish with visit to Parrish Art Museum



Bus will depart @ 7:45 am from
NYSUT Suffolk Office (Citibank building)
150 Motor Parkway
Hauppauge, New York

**Deadline:
September 1, 2016**

Fee: Member \$154.00 Guests \$159.00

Trip Insurance: \$17.00 pp

Make checks payable to: Retiree Council 21

**Make insurance checks payable to
Prime Time Travel**

Mail checks & reservation form to:

Include insurance payment with reservation form.

Ms. Jennifer Olsen
6 Shaker Hollow Road
East Setauket, New York 11733
631 751 - 4238

East End Culture, Arts & Dining Reservation Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Guest _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Mail checks & reservation form to:

Ms. Jennifer Olsen
6 Shaker Hollow Road
East Setauket, New York 11733
631 751 - 4238

NYSUT Regional Conference for Retiree Councils
17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23



Election Year Legislative Session

Join NYSUT for a unique regional conference.
Meet NYSUT endorsed candidates, Democratic and Republican, seeking to represent your interests in state and federal government!

Thursday, October 6, 2016

8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Woodbury Country Club, Woodbury, NY 11797

Cost: \$37 per person

Conference Registration Form

Complete the information below and return with a check payable to NYSUT in the amount of \$37 per person and mail to:

**Joan Perrini, RSC
c/o NYSUT, 150 Motor Pkwy, Suite 310, Hauppauge, NY 11788**

Reminder: The fee is non-refundable. There will be NO registration at the door.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ District Retired From _____

() As per the Americans with Disabilities Act, I am in need of an accommodation in order to fully participate in this program. For further information contact Joan Perrini at (631) 273 - 8822.

RETIREE COUNCIL 21

Welcomes New Retirees to Our Annual Brunch

Tuesday, October 25th, 2016

11:30 am – 3:00 pm

Villa Lombardi's

Holbrook, NY (631) 471-6609

Guest Speaker*

Floyd Cameron

NYSUT Manager of Retiree and Social Services

*availability may be impacted due to yet to be confirmed dates for AFT/Hillary campaign volunteer service

Cost: \$40.00 for Current Members
Complimentary for New Retirees 2016

- Fabulous Buffet Brunch including Mimosas
- Distribution of folders with important information regarding retiree benefits & RC 21 programs
- Door Prize & Raffles
- Fair Trade items available for purchase
- Benefits Display

Please join us in welcoming our New Retirees!

To ensure seating with your Chapter, please return your reservation form and check (payable to NYSUT RC 21) ASAP.

RSVP by October 11th, 2016

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Retiree Chapter _____

Amount Enclosed _____ for _____ people

(Check One) and Mail to:

<p><u>New Retiree 2015:</u> Complimentary (Our Guest)</p> <p>Marie Kanzler 204 Piney Street Islip Terrace, New York 11752 (631) 581 – 5981</p>	<p><u>Current Member:</u> \$40.00 Check (Payable to NYSUT RC 21)</p> <p>Simonne Harkavy 104 Raleigh Lane West Islip, New York 11795 (631) 661 – 4446</p>
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Spotlight 21

A Publication of NYSUT Retiree Council 21

Louisa Eiermann, Co-President
Mike Eiermann, Co-President
Simonne Harkavy, 1st VP
Marilyn Gutierrez, 2nd VP
Fred Schaefer, Treasurer
Julia Arena, Co-Secretary
Linda Brookshire, Co-Secretary

Diana Baranec Editor
spot21editor@optonline.net

Contact/ us at:
(631) 587 - 1151

And visit us at:

ny.aft.org/rc21

Mike Eiermann - Webmaster

Forward changes in addresses/names to NYSUT and/or your local President

RC 21 June Awards Luncheon
 At
 Villa Lombardi
 June 21, 2016

**Retired Teachers of Brentwood Schools
 Publication: ROBS Newsletter**



Gloria Hannemann Webmaster
 Best Website



Marie Poppo First Place Best Writing 1
 "Walking with Han Yu"
 Phyllis Goodwin accepting for
 Carmela Criscione and Valerie Vismale "



John Sherin First Place Best Writing 4
 "Abridge to Tomorrow"

**Central Islip Retired Teachers Association
 Publication: CIRTAtion**

Phillip Griffith Award of Distinction
 Best Writing 1
 "Time for Militant Action"



James Nohe First Place Best Writing 2
 "Justice"

**Bay Shore Retired Teachers' Association
 Publication: 4th R**

Jean Soule accepting for
 Tom Benrnagozzi and Harold Anderson



Bonnie Hardman-Friedman Best Writing 1
 Award of Distinction
 "Pumpkin Project"

RC 21
Publication: Spotlight 21



Mike Eiermann Award of Distinction Best Writing 3
A Message From Co-President Michael Eiermann
“Will we Learn from History?”
and
Best Social Justice Article
“Entitlements”

2016 NYSUT Community Service Award
Linda Brookshire
East Islip Retired Teachers’ Association



Linda was honored at the June Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, June 21st at Villa Lombardi’s. She has been a strong union activist throughout her career and in retirement. To quote one of her nominators: “This reliable, knowledgeable and empathetic lady is a remarkable person. She is so organized that she makes transitioning from one task to another look easy.”

She has been serving her church, The First Presbyterian Church of Levittown, for the last four decades with the utmost dedication and commitment.

We all appreciate Linda’s dedication and work ethic. We know the best is yet to come.