

Spotlight 21

Bay Shore
Bayport-Blue Point

SERVING RETIREES FROM

Brentwood
Central Islip
Connetquot

East Islip
Islip

West Islip
Sayville



Vol. 14 No. 3

An Award Winning Publication of NYSUT Retiree Council 21

July-August, 2014

RC 21 Celebrates Its Annual Awards Luncheon

- **Community Service Awards - Journalism Awards**

- **Guest Speakers:**

Florence McCue, At-Large Retiree Director

June Smith, Suffolk County Vote/Cope Coordinator & PAC Member

More than 120 members enjoyed the afternoon at RC21's Annual Awards Luncheon which was held at the West Sayville Country Club on June 17.

President Joan Perrini extended a warm welcome and quickly got the program started by introducing Florence McCue, NYSUT's newly elected At Large Retiree Director. Florence spoke briefly about her career in teaching which began in Yonkers and led to her serving on the Ex-

ecutive Board of the Yonkers Federation of Teachers and later as Secretary/Treasurer of the Labor Council in Westchester/Putnam.

Florence voiced her concerns for the future of education and the important role that retirees play in the process. She pointed out that while retiree members are 200,000 strong, they have disproportionate votes in NYSUT. In contrast to the in-service (*Continued on page 3*)



Community Service Award Winners

Gail Rogals & Ellen Edelstein

This year's recipients of The NYSUT Community Service Award were Gail Rogals of Bay Shore (pictured on the left) and Ellen Edelstein of Brentwood who were each presented with individual plaques from NYSUT and flowers from RC21. Both recipients have been active members of their community while in-service teachers and as retirees. Their activism in many groups servicing their communities are so many in number that only several can be mentioned here. RC21 members are proud of Ellen and Gail and hope that their unselfish work will inspire more retirees to join in volunteering in their own communities.

Phyllis Goodwin and Barbara Mascaro from ROBS (Retirees of Brentwood Schools) presented Ellen with flowers and cited some of the many programs she serves in her community. Among them are the Brentwood Public Library, Temple Beth Am, and Bay Shore Interfaith Council. She also initiated the re-establishment of the Brentwood Historical Society which has already grown to 76 members and has been

instrumental in the restoration of the Brentwood one-room school house.



Joe Dantoni, President of the Bay Shore Retired Teachers Association, presented the NYSUT's Community Service Award to Gail Rogals. He introduced Gail Rogals and said that Gail had taught in Bay Shore for 33 ½ years. Despite her modesty she has accomplished much in her community during her retirement. She serves on the Bay Shore Chamber of Commerce, the Bay Shore Historical Society, and the Post Partum Depression Unit. In addition, every summer she vacations in Maine and volunteers for the Annual Lobster Festival. She extended an invitation to everyone to attend this year's Lobster Festival the first weekend in August.



Newsletter and Website Awards of Distinction from NYSUT were awarded to the following RC 21 Chapters:



Retirees of Brentwood Schools - *ROBS Newsletter* - Editor: Carmela Criscione
Ronda Brooks – Best Article on Social Justice - “People to People Ambassador”
Adrienne Eastman – Best Graphic Design - “...and let me play among the stars - Remembering the 60’s”
Ellen Edelstein – Best Creative Writing - “A stubborn little building”
Marge Kirchner – Best Article on Local or Chapter Issues - “Tooting our own horn - a round of applause”

Website Award: Most user friendly Website
***ROBS Website* - URL: www.robsny.org**
Gloria Hannermann - Webmaster and Carmela Criscione



ISLIP - *Islip Connections* - Editor Carolyn B. Caamano
Carolyn Caamano – Best Creative Writing -
“So you want to learn Mahjongg?”
Marilyn Gutierrez – Best Column/Blog by a Leader -
“From the President”
Revelle Schaper – Best Article About Local or Chapter Issues -
”Great Southbay Quilting Guild”



Central Islip Retired Teachers Association - *CIRTation* -
Editor Brian Roethgen
Charles Corcoran – Best Creative Writing - “Voices of a Generation”
Michael Roethgen – Best Photo - CITA June 8th Albany photo

Political Action Committee Chairperson Steps Down

The last award of the afternoon was presented by Joan Perrini to Tim Wood who has been an active member of RC21 and the Chairman of the Political Action Committee for many years. Tim and his wife, Pat, have sold their home here and are moving to North Carolina very soon. Though Tim’s shoes will be tough to fill, Joan asked the members to consider stepping into his role on the RC21 Board. If you are interested, please contact Joan at the RC 21 office by calling (631) 587 - 1151 or email her at wita777@verizon.net.



(From page 1 Awards Luncheon)



Florence McCue

delegates who get to vote their entire membership, each retiree delegate to the RA has only 1 vote. It's clear that we do not have sufficient representation. We need to find ways to get more money for the retiree councils to help us energize more people. She closed with praise for RC21 as a premier council and wished more councils would follow their lead.

Next Joan asked for a moment of silence to remember Dorothy Zuckerman who passed away recently after a long illness. Dotty was a leader in the formation of the retiree councils and the first President of RC21.

Joan then reminded members to continue to pay dues to their chapters and RC21 so that they could continue to lobby with legislators on a state and national level. She encouraged them to increase their contributions to VOTE/COPE as she introduced the second speaker for the day, June Smith who is Suffolk County Vote/COPE Coordinator and



Joan Smith

PAC Member.

June started by cautioning members to pay attention to the fact that private interests are investing lots of

money to gain control of education in this state and in this country. Further, she said, in California the court is considering that tenure is unconstitutional and prevents kids from getting a fair education. It should be noted that tenure in California requires less time than New York and once tenured, it is more difficult to remove a teacher.

Another major concern here in New York State is the pending Educational Investment Tax Credit Act which states that if you make a donation to a private school you can get a credit of 75% on your taxes. NYSUT explains this as follows:

"The bill is a thinly disguised private voucher scheme that would divert hundreds of millions of dollars from the state budget at a time when 70 percent of districts are below 2008-09 state funding levels and public schools are coping with the loss of tens of thousands of educators' jobs, loss of vital instructional programs and increased class sizes." What is so baffling is that we don't have enough money now and yet we expect to reward people with tax deductions. Again, more evidence of interference from the private sector and we can be certain that only the wealthy will benefit.

On the campaign news, June spoke about Zephyr Teachout, representing the Working Families Party, in her bid for the Primary against Governor Cuomo. She is raising money and needs more than 15,000 signatures to get on the ballot. NYSUT is not getting involved but we know that our members would be happy to put her on the ballot. Registered Democrats can sign a petition in her favor. Both speakers gave the group lots to think about.

After a delicious lunch, it was time for the awards. This year's recipients of The Community Service Award were Ellen Edelstein of Brentwood and Gail Rogals of Bay Shore who were each presented with individual plaques from NYSUT and RC21.

Next, the NYSUT Journalism Awards were presented by Joan. (See details on pages one and two.)

Winners of the door prize and Chinese Auction were selected. Joan thanked the Benefits Committee and Louise Eiermann for the

work that was done to produce the Awards Luncheon.

Joan reminded everyone to come out to let our state union know that although we are retired, we are very active, and to let our legislators know that we are aware of how they vote and will remember it when we vote.

Joan announced that the brunch to welcome new retirees will be held on October 28 at the West Lake Inn in Patchogue. New retirees can learn more about remaining active with their own retiree chapter and RC21.

She also reminded the crowd about the great events that RC21 will sponsor this year. On October 16, there will be a bus trip to the Essex Connecticut Steam Train and Boat Ride. From December 3-5 there is a bus trip to Woodloch Pines in Hawley, Pennsylvania. This trip will include an Olde Fashioned Holiday, a special dinner at the Heritage Night



Joan Perrini

Club and an optional casino trip and/or shopping. More trips will be announced in the near future.

In closing, Joan encouraged everyone to vote for Tom DiNapoli, reminding them that Tom has always been an advocate for education and protects the teacher pension in favor of defined benefits pension. She thanked everyone for coming. It was an amazing afternoon.

By Connie Garone



RC 21 Benefits Committee

Presents

Essex Steam Train & Boat Ride Thursday, October 16, 2014

“The Perfect Small American town,” Essex Conn.
Lunch at the oldest continuously operated inn,
Griswald Inn

Essex Steam Train & Boat Ride - 2 1/2 hr. narrated
excursion through the Connecticut River Valley

Enjoy fall foliage and Historic landmarks.

7:00 AM depart from NYSUT Suffolk Office
150 Motor Parkway

7:30 AM depart from NYSUT Nassau Office
1000 Woodbury Road

Non-Refundable Participation Fee:

\$5 members \$10 non-members

Check made out to Retiree Council 21 - Due ASAP

Cost: \$98 - Separate Check payable to
Fantastic Tours

Send both checks to:

Jean Economos (631) 804 - 4040
25 Durham Lane
Bayport, NY 11705

Olde Fashioned Holiday @ Woodloch December 3 - 5, 2014

Trip Includes: Hampton Jitney
Complimentary coffee & baked goods on arrival
Spectacular dinners & breakfasts
Entertainment in the Heritage Night Club
Fitness Center & Sports equipment
Indoor Pools Movies

Trip to local casino and/or optional day trips
Country Store - fresh baked goods & unique gifts
Possible additional fees for: Cooking classes, mini
golf, trivia contest, spa

9:45 AM depart from NYSUT Suffolk Office

10:15 AM depart from NYSUT Nassau Office

Reservation Fee: \$200 members \$220 non-members

Balance due to resort prior to check out

\$202 per Adult with 2 sharing a room

\$187.30 per Adult with 3 sharing a room

\$222.40 per Adult single occupancy

Check made out to Joan Perini - Due ASAP

Send Check to:

Jean Economos (631) 804 - 4040
25 Durham Lane
Bayport, NY 11705

Save the Date

October 28, 2014

Annual Welcome Brunch for New Retirees

West Lake
322 West Main Street
Patchogue, NY 11772

Guest Speakers:
Paul Pecorale, NYSUT VP
Kyle Belokopitsky, NYSUT
Legislative Representative

Cost: \$35 for Present Members
Complimentary to New Retirees - Year 2014

Get registration form at our September General Meeting or on this website: ny.aft.org/rc21

Get the official registration forms for these trips and Brunch from
this website by going to home page and clicking on EVENTS.

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A Publication of NYSUT Retiree Council 21

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ny.aft.org/rc21

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

Israel, Jordan and the Holy Land
May 16 - 26, 2014



Continuing Education Grants

RC 21 Chapters are awarded grants according to the size of their membership. Most chapters add these grants to their own scholarship funds. Scholarships awarded by our Local Chapters are listed below. Congratulations to all winners.

Connetquot Retired Teachers Association

Liam Manley will attend Oregon State University and Linn-Benton Community College studying business transferring to Berlee College of Music in Boston to study music business and performance.

Emma Gordon will be attending Hofstra to major in photo-journalism.

Retirees of Brentwood Schools

Amanda Nadvornik was awarded the \$1,000 Jack Zuckerman award. She plans to become an elementary school teacher. She has been accepted to three colleges.

Estafany Gutierrez received the Lillian Kelly award. She intends to become a Music Education teacher and has been accepted to three colleges.

Ashley Fisher has been accepted into two colleges. Her goal is to become an Spanish ESL teacher.

Tiffany Hernandez plans to major in Education and English. She has been accepted to Manhattan College.

Ana Argusta wants to become an early childhood/Bilingual teacher. She has been accepted into St. Joseph's and Dowling College.

Central Islip Retired Teachers Association

Rachael Saltus was awarded this years scholarship. She will be attending SUNY Cobleskill studying animal science.

East Islip Retired Teachers

Troy Revello who will be attending Cornell University in the Fall studying Environmental Science.

West Islip Retired Teachers

Gave out eight scholarships. The students who received the scholarships were nominated by WIRTA members and were grandchildren or nieces of members. All are extremely gifted in academics and community service. The winners were: Steven Alonso, Maura Fennessey, Victoria Ippolito, Kyle Lorey, Paul Mangels, Lauren Miller, Daniel O'Connell, and Nicholas Pulaski.

Islip Retired Teachers Association

Nicholas Czelatka was awarded IRTA's scholarship. He will be attending Suffolk Community College to start working on a major in Math and or Physics Education.

Bay Shore Retired Teachers Association

Asia Stewart was awarded the service scholarship in honor of Betty Siegel. Asia will study International Affairs in Harvard in the Fall.

Austin Funk will be attending Boston University to study Wildlife Biology.

Luke Linden will study international studies / political science in Middlebury College in Vermont in the fall.

Paul Mangels will be studying mechanical engineering at Notre Dame this fall.

Haleigh Rock will study biomedical engineering at Stony Brook University this fall.

Qian Lovettwill will study Criminology at SUNY at Old Westbury in the Fall.



In Memory of Dorothy Zuckerman

NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant

Dot passed away on June 3, 2014 after a brave battle with a long illness. Dot was a leader in the formation of the retiree councils and the first President of RC21. She worked tirelessly to keep our members informed of issues important to us as retirees and educators. She contributed articles to Spotlight 21 and gave her support to all causes affecting union members. Dot also shared her love of travel by planning many trips for us to places exotic as well as close to home.

Dot inspired us all with her knowledge and willingness to help whenever she was asked. She always signed off her notes with the following: "Those who would sacrifice liberty for security deserve neither" - Ben Franklin Dot truly deserved both. She will be sorely missed.

The Retiree Services Department of the New York State United Teachers collected donations and was able to make a donation for one hundred trees to be planted and cared for throughout the land of Israel in memory of Dorothy Zuckerman. May this serve as a living tribute to her memory.

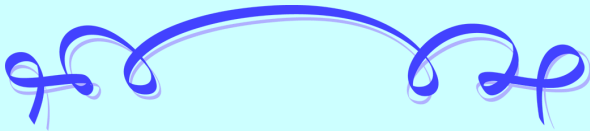
**RC 21 Meeting Dates
2014 - 2015**

**General Membership
West Islip Public Library
Higbie Lane/Montauk Hwy.
10:15 a.m. - 12 noon**

September 30, 2014	March 24, 2015
October 28th Welcome New Retiree Brunch	April 28, 2015
November 18	May 19, 2015
December 9	June 23, 2015 Awards Luncheon
No Meeting January and February	

**Executive Board Meetings
NYSUT Office
150 Motor Pkwy, Hauppauge
(Citibank Building)
10:15 a.m. - 12 noon**

August 26	February 3, 2015
September 9	March 3, 2015
October 14	April 7, 2015
November 4	May 5, 2015
December 9	June 2, 2015
No Meeting January	



**RC 21 Calendar
2014**

Upcoming Events

**General Meeting
West Islip Public Library
10:15 a.m.
September 30th**

**Executive Board Meeting
NYSUT Office - Hauppauge
10:15
August 26th**

Trips and Luncheons

**October 16th
Essex Steam Train & Boat Ride**

**October 28th
Welcome New Retirees Brunch
West Lake - Patchogue**

**December 3rd - 5th
Olde Fashioned Holiday at Woodloch**

**Get details & registration forms online at
our website:**

<http://rc21.ny.aft.org>

**and at General Membership Meetings.
Reservations accepted on a first-come basis.**

