

# Spotlight 21

## SERVING RETIREES FROM

Bay Shore	Brentwood	East Islip	West Islip
Bayport-Blue Point	Central Islip	Hauppauge	Sayville
	Connetquot	Islip	



Vol. 12 No. 5

An Award Winning Publication of NYSUT Retiree Council 21

May-June, 2013

## RC 21 Local Newsletters Win NYSUT Communication Awards

The editors and staffs of our Chapter newsletters have once again gained the distinction of producing award-winning publications. NYSUT depends on the local newsletters to get the word out and keep retirees informed of NYSUT actions and educational issues affecting all of us and our families.

Units compete with other units having the same membership criteria: R-I 200 or fewer members, R-II 201-500 members, R-IV over 1,1000 members. The categories in the competition are: Best Publication, Best Opinion Writing, Best Profile, Best Union News Story, and Best Website.

Islip Retired Teachers Association and Central Islip Retired Teachers Association are in the R-I class. Bay Shore Retired Teachers Association and Retirees of Brentwood Schools compete in the R-II class. Retiree Council 21 competes in the R-IV class.

Central Islip's CIRTation won for Best Opinion Writing, Best Publication, and Best Union News Story.

Islip's IRTA Newsletter won awards for Best Opinion Writing, Best Profile, and Best Publication.

Brentwood's ROBS Newsletter won for Best Publication and its Retirees of Brentwood Website won for Best Website.

RC 21's Spotlight 21 won for Best Opinion Writing and Best Profile.

Bay Shore's The 4th R won for Best Publication.

The editors are:

CIRTation—Brian Roethgen

IRTA Newsletter - Carolyn Caamano

ROBS Newsletter - Carmela Criscione

ROBS Website - Gloria Hannemann

The 4th R - Marion Skirbe

Spotlight 21 - Diana Baranec

Our winning publishers will be honored at the Annual June Awards Luncheon to be held on June 18th at the Irish Coffee Pub in East Islip.

## Annual June Awards Luncheon – NYSUT/RC21

*Honoring Marie Kanzler – Community Service Award Winner  
Journalism & Website Awards for Retired Teachers of Islip,  
Central Islip, Bay Shore, Brentwood and Retiree Council 21*

**Tuesday, June 18, 2013**

**12 noon – 2 p.m.**

Irish Coffee Pub  
131 Carlton Avenue  
East Islip NY 11730  
\$30 per person

Guest Speaker: Floyd Cameron NYSUT Retiree Services Manager

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ people (Make check out to NYSUT RC 21)

Mail to: Louisa Eiermann  
39 Linda Street  
Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776  
(631) 473 - 4055

# A Message From President

**Joan Perrini**



## IF NOT YOU, THEN WHO?

Recently while talking to a retired teacher, she told me how happy she was that the new 2% tax cap would keep her taxes from going up. This viewpoint concerns me for I fear what this teacher and others like her don't realize are the negative effects this has had on our schools and what it means for the future education of all children.

It's an illusion that the 2% tax cap is a benefit. People respond whenever they believe they will save money and this is exactly what our NY State legislators hoped for. The states where a tax cap on local taxes has worked are states that countered with an increase in state aid to schools. And though there was an increase this year, state aid to New York schools is still below where it was in 2008. With a property tax cap and less aid, there is naturally less money in the school budgets, with the result that something has to go. And that "something" turns out to be the vital programs for students which get cut without regard to consequences. Sadly many of these programs are necessary to prepare for and enter college.

Further, our legislators want to establish that New York State has a high standard of educational quality and always has. To achieve that standard but also adding to the problems mentioned, they now impose state tests as a measure of educational improvement and evaluation of teacher effectiveness.

Respected experts agree that these measures don't work and have put education in this country at risk. I recently had the privilege of hearing Diane Ravitch, education histo-

rian and Research Professor of Education at NYU, speak at the Take Action Long Island conference. She confirmed my concerns and warns us to end the pressure on teachers to teach to the test. She promotes support of teachers with creativity and passion, and warns about evaluating them on the test scores of their students. She says we must make public education better, not privatize it. And we will improve education by improving the lives of children since this country leads all advanced nations in child poverty.

By now you're probably saying, "That's terrible, but what can I do? I'm retired and have no voice in these problems." Well you couldn't be further from the truth. You do have a voice and it has power and we need you to use it at the NYSUT Rally to Fight for the Future of Public Education. That rally will be held on Saturday, June 8, 2013 at noon at the Empire State Plaza in Albany. Retiree buses will leave from the NYSUT Hauppauge Office at 7:30 a.m. Refreshments will be served and there will be special parking for retiree buses.

Richard Iannuzi, President of NYSUT, made an impassioned appeal at the Representative Assembly in Washington DC in April encouraging all educators, in-service and retired, as well as guests, PTA and concerned community members to attend the Rally. (For more inspiration you can hear his talk by visiting this website - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KDb16hXkJq8>.)

It's our responsibility to do what we can to fight back against a plan that has and will continue to hurt education on Long Island and in the State. I beseech you to sign up and come. Information on how to join us can be found at the bottom of this page.

**SAVE THE DATE & SPREAD THE WORD**



It's time to raise all our voices in unison to support public education. Educators, parents, students and community members will have the opportunity to speak as one on Saturday, June 8, at the Capitol in Albany.

Thousands of New Yorkers are expected to join together on that day in a Fight for the Future of Public Education. Their voice - your voice - needs to be heard in this era of attacks on our profession and on what's good for students.

RC 21 members can sign up for a seat on the retiree bus at your local retiree chapter meetings or contact Joan Perrini at:

**(631) 587 - 1151**

**rc21@wita777.com**

**The rally is from noon to 2 p.m.**

The bus will leave from the NYSUT Office  
150 Motor Parkway  
Hauppauge, NY 11788  
@ 7:30 a.m. sharp

# Bits and Pieces

## Note to Chapter Delegates

If you have not applied for your Chapter's

### RC 21 Continuing Education Grant for 2013,

please contact: Simonne Harkavy  
104 Raleigh Lane  
West Islip, NY 11795  
(631) 661 - 4446

*As soon as possible!*

## California Rail Discovery/Lake Tahoe 7 Days / Departing October 9, 2013

Cost \$2,100 per person double  
\$650 single supplement

*\$80 deposit to Joan Perrini by May 31st.  
(Check made out to Joan.)*

*\$300 due by June 3, 2013*

*(Check made out to Premier World Discovery)*

*Final payment due by or before July 8, 2013*

Contact Joan Perrini:

(516) 680 - 6163 or (516) 799 - 0303

Or contact Cathy/Linda:

(631) 587 - 1151

Email: rc21@wita777.com

*This trip is not sanctioned by NYSUT.*

## RC 21 Constitutional Revisions

Marilyn Gutierrez, Chairperson of the Constitutional Revision Committee, has brought several minor changes to the present constitutional document. These changes will be presented to the Executive Board at their May meeting. Once approved by the board, the changes will be presented to the general membership for a vote at the September, 2013 meeting.



## EMAIL SIGN-UP: Retirees get organized for November and beyond

"This is part of an ongoing effort to organize and mobilize for the upcoming elections, for the 2013 legislative session and beyond," said NYSUT Vice President Kathleen Donahue. "Our retirees are one of our union's greatest assets."

You can sign up on line at nysut.org by following the prompts for email sign-up.

All retirees who submit their information will be entered in monthly drawings to win NYSUT-branded items.

The plan will allow the union and retiree council presidents to communicate with retirees faster and more efficiently. NYSUT will collect, maintain and safeguard the actual data. A Listserv will be established for retiree council presidents to use to communicate directly with members, as well as to provide training and guidelines outlining best practices.

You can sign up at our RC 21 meetings or at your local chapter meetings. This will be used sparingly and only by Joan Perrini to keep our members aware of activities which affect our retiree interests here on Long Island and New York State.



## Florida Residents NYSUT Members

There are 11 active Units in the state of Florida. Most units have meetings once a month in the winter months. These units do not take the place of your home local or RC. You must maintain your membership with your NY local, however you can attend meetings of one of these Florida units. To get the location of a unit nearest you please contact:

**Maxine Knisley**

701 Rose Avenue

Sebastian, FL 32958

(772) 581 - 1022

mxknisley@aol.com

## NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund How You Can Help

You may donate online by going to nysut.org or send your check payable to "NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund" to

**NYSUT Headquarters, Attn: Jeff Lockwood  
Accounting Department  
800 Troy-Schenectady Road  
Latham, NY 12110**

### Spotlight 21

A Publication of NYSUT Retiree Council 21

**Joan Perrini, President**  
**Marilyn Aitken, 1st VP**  
**Simonne Harkavy, 2nd VP**  
**Louisa Eiermann, 3rd VP**  
**Richard Walters, Treasurer**  
**Julia Arena, Secretary**  
**Sharon Eckhaus, Assistant Secretary**

**Diana Baranec, Editor** spot21editor@optonline.net  
**Mike Eiermann, Webmaster** lmeiermann@optonline.net

Contact/visit us at:

(631) 587 - 1151

rc21@wita777.com

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

**Dorothy Zuckerman, NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant**  
631-273-8822; e-mail: dzuckerm@nysutmail.org



**RC 21 Calendar  
2012 - 2013**

**Executive Board Meetings  
NYSUT Office 10:15 a.m.  
June 4**

**General Membership Meeting  
West Islip Library 10:15 a.m.  
May 21**

**Upcoming Events**

**June 18 - Awards Luncheon  
@  
Irish Coffee Pub  
East Islip**

**June 13, 2013  
Museum of Moving Images  
& Queens Tour**

**Flyers will be available  
At General Meetings**

**August 1, 2013  
Theatre Trip - \$75  
Singing In The Rain  
Lunch at Parabell at 11:30 a.m.  
Forms at General Meetings  
Contact: Marie Kanzler (631) 581 - 5981**

**Get details & registration forms on line at our website:**

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

**Reservations accepted on a first-come basis.**



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***Museum of Moving Image and Queens Tour - June 13th***

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I will meet the bus at: \_\_\_\_\_ Suffolk \_\_\_\_\_ Nassau  
7:30 a.m. 8:00 a.m.

Mail form to: **Simonne Harkavy  
104 Raleigh Lane  
West Islip, NY 11795**

Participation Fee \$5 member, \$10 non-member  
Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (Make check out to RC 21)

Tour Fee \$95 - Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (Make check out to Fantastic Tour)

Total No. of People \_\_\_\_\_

**Next General Membership Meetings:  
May 21st 10:15 a.m.. @ WI Library  
June 18 - Awards Luncheon  
@  
Irish Coffee Pub - East Islip**

**NELSON MANDELA:**

*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.*





**“Most of us end up with no more than five or six people who remember us. Teachers have thousands of people who remember them for the rest of their lives.”**

**Andy Rooney**