

Retired United Teachers of Northport

Newsletter

Spring

2015

Luncheon

Northport Yacht Club

11 Bluff Point Rd, Northport, NY 11768 (631) 261-7633

Thursday May 21

Noon - 4

\$30 per person



Menu

Appetizer

Penne a la vodka

Tossed salad

Entrée Choices

Salmon with dill sauce

Chicken francese

Sliced London broil

All come with potatoes and Vegetables du jour

Coffee, Tea, and Brownie Sunday for Dessert.

Cash Bar

Please RSVP by May 10th. Make out your check to R-UTN for \$30 and mail to Trudy Brewer, 20 Shelbourne Lane, Commack, NY 11725. If bringing a guest, please send the name(s) to her. If you miss the deadline, please call Trudy Brewer (631) 499-2239.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Frances La Duca*

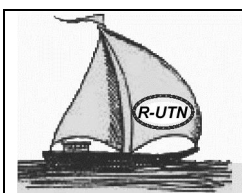
Welcome Spring – and welcome to our new name and our new website. At the September picnic we voted to change our name to ***Retired United Teachers of Northport***. That change is now in effect and our website is up and running. It can be accessed at ***Retired – United Teachers of Northport***. You will find the latest information about our activities, member news, reports from NYSUT and other items of interest. Kudos to Linda Quinn for designing and managing the website for us. See her article “Web Words” in this issue for details.

For our spring luncheon we will be returning to the beautiful Northport Yacht Club. It has been several years since we have been there. Details are on the flyer on the front of this newsletter. Hope you all can join us for a sit-down meal of great food, with great company and great raffle gifts. **Reminder to those donating raffle gifts** to call Irene Eckert at 631-423-2313, or me at 631-368-1545, attach a note describing the item and please arrive at 11:30 so all items are on display before noon sale of tickets. Donations of hand- made gifts, baked goods, and like new items are always welcome and appreciated.

We are still in need of a newsletter editor. We usually send out four issues a year – Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. Ideally, the job could be done by two people: one to collect and edit the contributed items and one to do the layout. Lots of help is available. Contact me for more information. My sincere thanks to Bobbi Scott, Judy Bensimon and Miriam Feinstein for preparing this issue of our newsletter, but they have other responsibilities and cannot keep doing this. Please, someone volunteer – we need you.

NYSUT, through VOTE/COPE has been working hard to counter Governor Cuomo’s disastrous education initiatives. The rallies and lobbying efforts are having positive effects. We need to keep up the pressure. You can help by going to the NYSUT.org website, access the MAC page, pick an issue and send a fax to your representative. It is simple and painless – the letters are already written – just add your name and address and click send. If you prefer, you can write your own letter. All of this requires funds – so please contribute to VOTE/COPE. Our V/C sign up campaign begins soon – consider Pension deduction – a few dollars a month won’t be missed and will help NYSUT fight the well-funded campaign against public education currently being waged by Charter School supporters and others. (See Frank Kondrich’s article)

Even though we are retired, we are still professional educators. We owe it to our in-service colleagues to support their efforts to protect and improve the public education system in our state. We also owe it to our grandchildren to insure that they are provided with quality educational programs and opportunities. NYSUT, and president Karen Magee, are working hard to inform legislators of the dangers in the current attacks on “Triborough” and tenure, and the dangers of a Constitutional Convention. Our support is needed. Stay informed, read *NYSUT United* monthly issue, log in to our website. In unity there is strength.



Retired United Teachers of Northport Executive Committee

President: Frances La Duca **Vice President:** Frank Kondrich

Secretary: Roseann Giovina **Treasurer:** David Hosie

Committee Members: Judy Bensimon, Trudy Brewer, Irene Eckert, Teddy Emanuel, Miriam Feinstein, Jane Flood, Bill Hall, Hank Kasven, Ed Nostrand, Larry Ryan, Bobbi Scott

WEB WORDS Linda Quinn

Please note that the *Retired – United Teachers of Northport* and the *NYSUT Retiree Council 23* have joined the digital age. Websites for both organizations went online last fall and are being updated regularly to keep members informed of member, local, regional and statewide news.

The R-UTN website, which can be found at www.retiredteachersofnorthport.org, is set up in the style of a blog, with each new post being dated and appearing in chronological order; most recent post always on top. A full archive of all posts can be accessed through the sidebar on the right side of the **HOME** page. Also appearing in the sidebar is an **In Memoriam** section and a listing of upcoming events. The events sidebar links directly to the **EVENTS** page of the website, featuring complete information about each activity, in addition to any materials that need to be downloaded, such as membership and reservation forms.

The website also features information **ABOUT** the R-UTN, **LINKS** to informational websites, and downloads of **NEWSLETTERS**. It is anticipated that by 2016 members will be able to choose to receive printed or electronic copies of the newsletter.

Members are invited to send comments, suggestions and technical problems to the webmaster, Linda Quinn, at r-utn2@optonline.net. Members wishing to post items to the website should send their requests to R-UTN president, Fran LaDuca at laduca@aol.com. Items submitted for posting should be brief and timely announcements of information or activities of interest or concern to our retirees. A complete *Editorial Policy* can be found under the website **ABOUT** menu. The website is being graciously hosted by the *United Teachers of Northport*.

The RC 23 website was created in cooperation with *NYSUT* and the *American Federation of Teachers*, which provided the design template for the website and hosts the RC 23 website free of charge. *R-UTN's* Linda Quinn also serves as webmaster for RC 23, with support from the RC 23 Board of Directors. Featured is information on RC 23 sponsored activities as well as political action updates from *NYSUT*. The website can be accessed directly at rc23.ny.aft.org or through the *NYSUT* website at NYSUT.org. If anyone has news or updates they would like to see posted, contact RC 23 board member Ellen Burke at eurke63@optonline.net.

DOC IN A BOX? Henry Kasven

Something we have noticed in recent months is the opening of Medical Boxes all over the place. Pro Health, Nu Health, North Shore Health are just a sample of the ones in my neighborhood. Why? Shouldn't the Affordable Care Act cut back on the need to keep finding a new medical source? That's the point. The ACA wants you to use these facilities to help save money in the long run. While we as a group have very good health insurance, a large minority of people do not. They still have large co-pays when they go to the doctor and have very large deductibles. In the past, these people went to hospitals and emergency rooms. The costs to government were very high. How to prevent this? Use the most cost efficient method to treat emergencies. Have a Primary Physician treat an emergency and refer the patient to a specialist if needed. Med Boxes treat everything from simple fractures, ear infections and minor suture work, saving lots of money for the government and for patients. My source for this information: North Shore- LIJ Medical center and Medicare. "And now you know the rest of the story." Hank

IN MEMORIAM

William Perilli (submitted by Peter White)

Bill taught social studies in the Northport schools for 29 years, from September 1962 until his retirement in July 1991. For 20 of those years he was in Middleville Junior High School. In the early 1980's he transferred to Northport High School. While at Middleville, he and Pete Stachecki advised a large and successful bike club, taking hundreds of students on interesting rides all over Long Island. Pete remembered him as a "terrific, energetic role model for the kids, inside the classroom and out." High School Law Program Director Tom O'Donnell remembered Bill as one who loved kids. "He had a gift with kids, especially the disaffected ones that some considered tough to teach. He understood and respected all the kids and they respected him." Fellow law teacher Pete White said, "Bill was inexperienced with law-related education when he began, but he grabbed hold of every law book he could and poured over it until he mastered the necessary concepts... and he did a masterful job." In addition to his successful work in the classroom, Bill was a devoted union leader and teacher rights advocate. He served as UTN Vice President for several years and was a stalwart on the contract negotiating team.

Betty Hoffman (submitted by Linda Dickman, librarian, Norwood Ave. School)

I first came to know Betty in January of 1978 when I attended my first library department meeting. Betty was a consummate professional, a sparkling vibrant colleague and an amazing teacher. Betty took on every challenge with a smile, excitement and lots of questions. Betty's sense of humor enlivened many department and committee meetings. Her giggle was infectious and often made it difficult not to misbehave when meetings got too dull. Betty and husband Russ, a love match from their first meeting, were intrepid travelers, making a yearly trip to their favorite vacation spot in Virginia. Her love of literature, learning and libraries had an immeasurable impact on her students. In retirement, she was always available when I needed advice, a quick story or a smile. I can still picture her in classic plaid skirt, angora sweater, topped with a scarf tied just so, her blonde hair always coiffed and with a twinkle in her eye. This gracious lady was a super star in my book. I always wanted to be just like her.

Patricia Flood (submitted by Els Welch)

One of the disadvantages of being away on a long vacation is to return to find that a friend has passed away. That was the case with Pat Flood. During our shared work days, Pat had an office directly across from mine. I would occasionally cross the hall to unload personal or professional issues that were troubling me. She was a good and patient listener. Pat did the same for others on the staff. It was like having an on the staff counselor. Whenever I sensed a too serious expression on her face, I would sneak into her office when she was elsewhere in the building and scotch tape everything in sight to her desk. She would break up laughing and I felt that I had, for a moment, made her day less serious. She earned her "Angel's Wings" here on earth. Pat was one of people about whom I could write pages. It is enough to say, "Thank you, Pat, for being there so many times, whether it was for a band-aid, some sympathy, or for the serious moment when you saved a life by quick action and expertise." I owe you so much. The staff, parents and children of the school feel the same. God bless you.

CONDOLENCES

R-UTN extends heartfelt sympathy to Aime and **Nils Parma** who are in deep mourning following the sudden death of their son Erik on March 3, 2015.

Miriam Feinstein wishes to thank everyone who sent such kind word and thoughts after the passing of her husband, Marvin, in January.

Cecelia Stuchin's husband Sid passed away in January and she, too, extends her thanks to all who offered words of comfort and healing.

Bernice Dresher and her husband Gerald wish to thank all of you who offered condolences, prayers, support and sympathy following the death of their son, Steven, in February.

MEMBER NEWS

Howard Blue is curating a local History Museum exhibit. For the past eight months, he has been supervising preparation of an exciting exhibit for the Roelliff Jansen Historical Society. It will have scores of photos and signage about children's and other types of camps in Columbia County. You'll be amazed by many of the camp stories which feature familiar names such as LOU GEHRIG. Find out why a 1920's Ancram YMCA camp pulled up stakes and moved to Massachusetts. And why sheriff's deputies twice handcuffed a camp owner and hauled him away. Camps were a magic time in the childhoods of so many young people. Howard has gathered more than 250 camp photos from which the Society is culling the old (and some rare) ones for the display. The exhibit, in the RJHS's Copake Falls, NY museum (off Rte. 22,) will run from the July 4th weekend through the summer, Sat.-Sun. from 2:00 - 4:00 PM. It's near Bash Bish Falls, a fascinating Iron Works Museum and Great Barrington, MA. For more information contact Howard: Memrevs@Gmail.com

Larry Ryan has issued the following VOLUNTEER ALERTS:

The Fire Island Lighthouse needs volunteers for 4th graders in its three-pronged school program of tower tours, nature walks and the history of life saving squads.

Contact: Lynn Dunlop, (631)321-7028.

The Stony Brook Long Island Museum needs volunteers for 4th graders in its *Wagons West* program, a simulated cross-country trip on the Oregon Trail, using museum artifacts including an authentic stagecoach, prairie wagon and other 19th century objects.

Contact: Lisa Unander, (631)751-0066, Ext. 214

Pete White (Ret. Npt. HS 2005) still conducts working trips to Nicaragua once or twice a year through the not for profit corporation he formed, Friends of Students for 60000. His next trip is first week of July 2015. During the week-long trip, the group will work on construction of two houses for homeless families and help further completion of a much needed park which will have two baseball fields, a soccer field and a kiddie playground. The youth of the Chacraseca community have no recreational opportunities so this park is of great importance. So far, eight are aboard and there's room for 12. Any R-UTN folks who are interested, please contact Pete at 631- 757- 6150 or pedro831@optonline.net.

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(Member News continued)

Charlotte Koons reminds us that the Northport Arts Coalition sponsors many programs that are free, senior friendly and local. To find out more about special events as well as ongoing programs such as NAC Second Wednesdays or Doing Music, visit their website www.northportarts.org or go to nacnewsletter@gmail.com.

Chuck Perretti is a member of the North Shore Peace Group and invites others to join him who would be interested in opportunities for Peace and Justice conversations, events planning, literature development, etc. For more information contact Chuck at Calp1@verizon.net or peaceandjusticeonline.org

VOTE COPE - INVEST IN YOURSELF Frank Kondrich

Last week, Fran and I attended a Vote - Cope workshop here on Long Island. The message from the Albany representative and the regional coordinator was grim. VC nearly emptied its coffers in order to blunt the recent attacks by Governor Cuomo on public education. (TV, radio, and other media ads are not cheap, folks. A one minute TV ad in the downstate market costs a million. That is why there weren't many.) Teacher certification, tenure, testing, and teacher evaluation do not directly affect us, but the Triboro Amendment does. It's our pensions people! We were told that one out of every three NYSUT member does not give to VC. The numbers for the R-UTN are worse than that. Only 117 of some 430 members gave to VC last year. Those who give are footing the bill for those who don't. An extra \$1 a month will not change your lifestyle, but losing Triboro will. (More on that issue in the coming months.) As for me, I do it for my grandchildren. I want them to have the same educational atmosphere that I was able to provide to the students of Northport for all those years. What about you?

Send your checks made out to the "Call Out Cuomo Fund" to :
Frank Kondrich 146 Northfield Rd. Hauppauge, NY 11788

BIG CHANGES IN OUR DISTRICT Miriam Feinstein

At the April 1st Board of Education meeting, the Board unanimously approved the Budget. This was no April fools' joke and included - for the first time in the history of our district- a full-day kindergarten program. Our own Bill Hall, with support from the R-UTN board, played an important part in getting the community to back this through his campaign of distributing information flyers and "Full Day K" buttons.

Another big change coming to the Northport-East Northport School district is our new Superintendent. Some of you may know him. He is Robert Banzer, a 1984 graduate of Northport High school. After his contract was approved, he said, "Returning to the place I grew up in to work with students, parents, staff and all residents is truly a privilege. July 1st is highlighted and circled on my calendar and I can't wait to get started." He was raised in East Northport where his family still owns a home. In high school he was captain of the football and baseball teams and was voted homecoming king in his senior year. He began his career in education as a social studies teacher and coach and moved up through administration ranks from principal, Assistant Superintendent for instruction in Brockport Central School District in New York and Director of Human Resources in Wayne Central School District in New York. One of our own has returned in good standing.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to launch its newly created online Financial Planning Center to assist NYSUT members & their families with making a variety of important financial decisions.



Whether you have questions about retirement planning, saving for college or considering purchasing a home, the Financial Planning Center offers valuable tools & resources to assist you. Take the time to check out everything this new section of our website has to offer and remember to bookmark it as we will continue to offer new items on a regular basis.

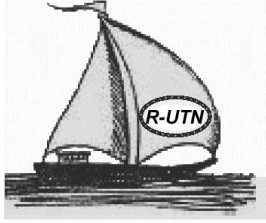
**This unique resource provides
NYSUT members with free access to the following:**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial calculators• An interactive planning module• Customized Kiplinger's retirement newsletter | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kiplinger's Annual Retirement Guide• 403(b) Field Guide• Preventive Law Guides• And more to come |
|---|---|

To access the NYSUT Member Benefits Financial Planning Center, visit the Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org and click on "Financial Planning Center."



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.



Retired United Teachers of Northport

R-UTN
45 Garfield Place
East Northport , NY 11731

FIRST CLASS MAIL

TO

Reminder: the raffles at our luncheons add to the fun and to our scholarship fund. Donations of hand- made gifts, baked goods, and like new items are always welcome and appreciated. Those donating raffle gifts are asked to please call Irene Eckert at 631-423-2313, or Fran at 631-368-1545, attach a note describing the item and please arrive at 11:30 so all items are on display before noon sale of tickets.