

# R-UTN Newsletter

[www.retiredteachersofnorthport.org](http://www.retiredteachersofnorthport.org)

August 2022

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# Annual Picnic

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022  
11:30 AM**

## BUFFET PICNIC

WITH WRAPS & HOT AND COLD DISHES

*Water, soft drinks and beer will be served*

**FREE FOR PAID UP R-UTN MEMBERS**

Guests: \$10 per guest



## VANDERBILT MUSEUM

180 Little Neck Rd,  
Centerport, NY 11721  
(631) 854-5579



**MUST RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 ON MEMBERSHIP FORM**

(Available on the Website)

**RENEW FRIENDSHIPS & WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**



Just an FYI – RUTN members should be extremely proud of themselves ~ thanks to your ongoing generosity, not only were nine students presented with scholarships, but donations in your name totaling over \$5,000 were made between 2020 and 2022 to many organizations, e.g. Island Harvest, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Northport and East Northport food pantries; families in need in the community; Bike to the Beach, ALS Ride For Life. A big hooray and thank-you for all your support ~ the RUTN organization has a big heart!

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The View Restaurant at Crab Meadow Golf Course was the perfect spot on a lovely June afternoon to present scholarships sponsored by the RUTN to deserving children of UTN members (and grand children of the RUTN!):



•Declan Motherway, son of Kelly Motherway (NMS) and grandson of Cliff Bishop; headed to Purdue

•Emily Vitevitch, daughter of Kathleen Vitevitch (Elem.Music), will attend University of South Florida



•Jack Bisson, son of Jen Bisson (OAS) and grandson of Nancy Armbruster; bound for Siena College

•Jonathon Wolfgang, son of Madeleine Mart (NAS), headed to Hofstra

*Did Not Attend*



•Lily Tener, daughter of Alan Tener (NAS), returning to Binghamton

•Emme Terranova, daughter of Michele Terranova (NMS) and granddaughter of Patti Terranova, bound for Penn State



***Congratulations and good luck to all these wonderful students ~ reach for the stars!!***

\* \* \* \* \*

At the 50<sup>th</sup> Senior Awards Ceremony, three students stepped up to the stage to accept Memorial Scholarships in the names of deceased RUTN educators. Each was given \$2,000, and all three exemplified character, integrity, leadership, a love of learning, and academic accomplishment:

*Irene Eckert Memorial:* **Kailey Maloney**

*Hank Kasven Memorial:* **Olivia DeFeo**

*Elementary Teachers Memorial (who passed away in the past year):* **Isabella Ingraldi**

***So talented and deserving! Good luck to all of you!***

## PENSION COLA NEWS FROM NYSTRS WEBSITE

Eligible retirees will receive an extra \$45 monthly beginning with the September 30 pension payment under New York's legislated cost-of-living adjustment (COLA).

The 3% COLA for 2022-23 is applied to the first \$18,000 of the maximum retirement benefit. Therefore, a retired member with an eligible annual benefit of \$18,000 or more will receive an increase of \$45 per month. This is the largest percentage increase since the law establishing the COLA was enacted by the state Legislature in 2000.

Eligible retirees receiving an annual benefit less than \$18,000 will receive a smaller monthly increase. Retirees who become eligible for the COLA after September will receive their adjustment when they are first eligible.

The permanent, automatic COLA is designed to help offset the adverse effects of inflation on the fixed retirement benefits of the state's public retirees. The cumulative maximum cost-of-living increase since 2001 now totals \$444 a month, or \$5,328 annually.

To be eligible for a COLA, you must be one of the following:

- At least 62 and retired at least five years.
- At least 55 and retired at least 10 years.
- A retiree receiving a NYSTRS disability benefit for at least five years regardless of age.
- The surviving spouse of an eligible retiree receiving a lifetime benefit. (By law, the spouse receives an increase equal to one-half the COLA the retiree would have received.)

The COLA is calculated by taking 50% of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase from one March to the next and rounding up to the nearest tenth. By law, the COLA can be no less than 1% and no more than 3% annually and can be applied only to the first \$18,000 of the maximum retirement benefit. The CPI increased 8.54% from March 2021 to March 2022.

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### IN MEMORIAM

*Please see our website for more details*

- ◆ **DAVID CHRISTOPHER, retired Northport High School Chemistry Teacher**, passed away on Saturday, June 25. A Memorial Service was held on Saturday July 16.
- ◆ **CHARLOTTE KOONS, retired elementary teacher**, passed away on March 16 at Hospice House in East Northport at the age of 87. Charlotte taught in Northport for 43 years, both at Norwood Avenue and in the gifted program at Fifth Avenue.
- ◆ **NILS PARMA, German and PhysEd teacher at both Northport and East Northport Junior High Schools**, passed early in March at the age of 88. He was predeceased by two of his children.
- ◆ **JOEL WEIDENBAUM, Joel retired District Chairperson of Science**, passed away on Monday, June 13 – thirteen days short of his 87th birthday.



**RETIRED TEACHERS OF NORTHPORT**

10 Ardenale Road  
East Northport, NY 11731  
[www.retiredteachersofnorthport.org](http://www.retiredteachersofnorthport.org)  
[UTN-R@optonline.net](mailto:UTN-R@optonline.net)

**First Class Mail**

**TO**



**Retired - United Teachers of Northport**

Dear NYSUT Member:

These unsettling times have shone a light on a fact that we have always known:  
**Public Schools Unite Us.**

Educators, school-related professionals, and health care heroes have all come together to support our public schools and the students they serve. We need your help today to make sure our schools, colleges, and hospitals have the resources they need to navigate our future. Since no local dues dollars are used to support political parties, candidates or campaigns, your voluntary contribution to VOTE-COPE is the only way to ensure elected leaders in Albany and Washington DC stand up for public education, hear our voices and understand our needs.

You will soon receive a donation request letter in the mail – please respond to it!