

R-UTN Newsletter

www.retiredteachersofnorthport.org

August 2023



Annual Picnic

VANDERBILT MUSEUM

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



Scenes from our Spring Luncheon
at Jackson's!



**Thursday
September 21, 2023
11:30AM**

BUFFET PICNIC
WITH WRAPS &
HOT AND COLD DISHES

Water, soft drinks and beer will be served

Raffles available to benefit RUTN scholarships!

FREE FOR PAID-UP R-UTN MEMBERS

Guests: \$10 per guest

**MUST RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2023
ON MEMBERSHIP FORM**

(Available on the Website)

RENEW FRIENDSHIPS & WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Spring 2023:

Very deserving children (and grandchildren) of RUTN members were presented with scholarships at the Annual luncheon this year.

RUTN members



2023 scholarship recipients -L to R:
Brian Zarnitz with mom Krista (NHS), Aiden Bisson with dad and mom Jen (OAS), Fiona Turner with dad Paul (WJB)

Not pictured are Carly Gaddis- mom Janis (NAS), Marryn Gruhn - mom Marybeth (NHS), Ally Karkota - mom Kristen (ENMS)

Also celebrated was our "Class of '23" new retirees! Congratulations and welcome to the RUTN!!

*Antoinette Blanck
Glenn Buscareno
Suzanne Dickinson
Erin Eagers
Laurel Fee
Barbara Ferolito
Kerry Hager
Cathryn Hlinka
Kathleen Joseph
Mary Kenney
Sandra Leddy
Deirdre Levine
Gretchen Manzo
Karen Maritato
Kathleen McCormick
Christine McDonagh*



*Irene Meekins-Wolfe
Carol Mirabella
Brian Sundbergh
Michele Terranova*

A Time of Giving and Celebration

The view from the windows of Captain Bill's Restaurant in Bay Shore was hazy and smoke-filled due to the Canadian wildfires, but the atmosphere inside a roomful of retirees was spirited and happy. Retiree Council 23 (RC 23) held its spring luncheon there June 7. Much was discussed and brought to our attention, including: NYSHIP changes (recently published and distributed in the Empire Plan Special Report), Medicare, the need for continued VOTE-COPE donations, the state of Tier 6 employees in terms of pension and contributions, and how far we have progressed as a union over the years. A special guest was recognized as well, as the RC 23 COMMUNITY SERVICES award-winner ~ Christine Pendergast, wife of our deceased member, Chris Pendergast. She offered us words of wisdom and much gratitude for supporting Chris's legacy, the ALS Ride for Life. It was an informative, enjoyable couple of hours! The next one will be held in October, and the Retiree Conference will also take place that month at the Marriott on Route 110. Stay tuned for details later in the summer.



Later that evening, RUTN members attended as a stage filled with deserving seniors seated and excitedly awaiting their names to be called to receive one (or more!) scholarships - this was the setting for the NHS Senior Scholarship Ceremony which took place on the evening of June 7, 2023. Seventy one scholarships were awarded, among them three from the RUTN, each in the amount of \$2,000. The following students were applauded by a very proud audience in the HS auditorium:

- **Ashly Lopez-Lopez** will be seeking a degree in Education at SUNY Westbury.
- **Dessa Kavrakis** will be attending Harvard and majoring in both science and music.
- **Sam Rosenfeld-McMahon** will be off to American University to study Political Science.

We are so very proud of all these students, and wish them good luck and much success in all they do!

Even More From Spring 2023



A former UTN President and foreign language instructor for over thirty years, **Antoinette Blanck** was celebrated at a lovely affair at The View at Crab Meadow the evening of June 13. Over one hundred guests attended a very spirited celebration decorated a la Hawaii, and many RUTN members attended, including Maria D'Amore, Maria Scarpinito, Fran Killilea, Sharon Wolpert, Glenda and Jerry McNemey, Gloria Hall, Teddy Emanuel, Jeanet Conroy-Terri, Jane Flood, and others! Suffice it to say, a good time was had by all!! We wish Antoinette much happiness in this new chapter, and hope she lends her talents to our RUTN organization!



The 2023 Brownstein-Nicaise Scholarship was awarded by the West Islip Retired Teacher Association to **Victoria Cimmino**, daughter of our own Vickie Newell.

Having completed degrees in Architecture and Construction Management from Farmingdale State College; Victoria has recently passed the six very difficult licensing exams and has received her NYS Registered Architect license. Way to go, a chip off the old block, Grandpa Al would be so proud.



Victoria Cimmino



The RUTN congratulates and celebrates all our June honorees. Please know that none of this is possible without your generous support and participation in fundraisers throughout the year, so “hats off” to all of us!



“Bits and Pieces”

What's new with RUTN members

Vickie Newell

A Day in the Life of a Retiree ~ Epic in Epcot! Monday, May 8, was a beautiful day to spend in Disney's Epcot with five of your close friends. Vickie Newell hosted those friends at her timeshare in Kissimmee, and, as planned, they all went to Epcot to enjoy the day without crowds. It turned out to be EPIC!! The weather was a perfect 78 degrees, no humidity, and the lines for the rides and attractions were less than twenty minutes ~ just like when Disney first opened in the mid-1970s! The gang, or as we decided to call ourselves, DRD MVPs (Dennis, Roxanne, Donna, Mike, Vickie, Peter), were at the park at 9AM when it opened, until 9 PM, for the fireworks and closing! This group of 67+ years in age were willing and able to go on eleven rides! The special treat was going on the newest roller coaster, Guardians of the Galaxy, a very smooth indoor coaster whose individual cars turned as it went through its track! The crowning glory of the day was the concert with Peter Noone of Herman's Hermits. He performed on the International Stage, sounded great, and was very warm and friendly towards his audience. The day served as a sort of mini-NMS reunion for Mike Friess and Vickie Newell who were team teachers “way back when”.

May the good times continue to roll!



Larry Ryan is presently an R-UTN Executive Board member, and has volunteered for 24 years at the Fire Island Lighthouse. Both he and his wife, Anne, have also been docents at The Long Island Museum at Stony Brook. They have been on over 35 Road Scholar trips, as well as many independent ones in the United States and Europe.

(Larry and Anne are pictured at the recent RUTN Happy Hour with Sharon Wolpert, Jane Flood, Judy Bensimon and MaryEllen Mack



A Happy Hour indeed...

As a kickoff to a new social function for our members, a few RUTN friends gathered at Napper Tandy's on Thursday, June 7, to share stories, have an afternoon snack and drink ~ lots of laughter and chatter could be heard!

Many thanks to Nancy and Jane M. for making the arrangements. Watch for announcements about our next gathering and make plans to join us!



(Megan Albin, Nicole Barbier,
Denise Lardi, Nancy Wine,
Jane McNamara)



(Sharon Wolpert, Larry Ryan,
Jane McNamara, Judy Bensimon
Mary Ellen Mack)



(Gloria Hall and friend Rocco)



Letter from the Editor

Hello friends and a special welcome to our newest members. Spring was a busy time and there was a lot to share with you. In the upcoming months, I hope to have more “Bits and Pieces” of retiree life... from YOU!

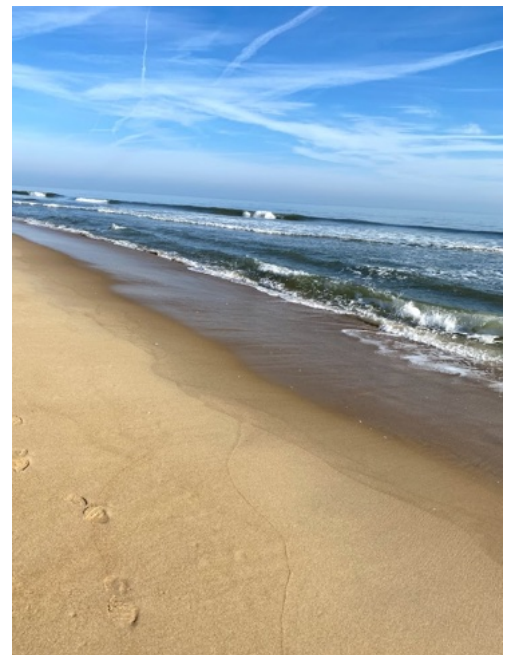
Please send any submissions to us a

retiredutn@gmail.com or directly to me,

denise.lardi@gmail.com. Please keep an eye out for

more Happy Hours and other social events. It's wonderful to share and participate in this vibrant community of educators. In the meantime, it's back to the beach for me! (Ocean City, MD, my happy place to visit)

Denise Lardi



News for You

Summary of Changes in the Empire Plan

Compiled by Barbara Hafner and Ken Ulric, chair and vice chair of the LIRDC, the Long Island Retiree Delegates Council. All they did was repeat and highlight items in the report. It is up to each member to read the NYSHIP booklet and draw his/her own conclusions. The list is not complete but references some important benefits.

There are a few **POSITIVE** changes/listed items:

Single Co-pay: Effective July 1, 2023, a single \$25 copayment will be charged for all covered services provided under the Medical/Surgical Program (office visit, office surgery, radiology, diagnostic test or laboratory service) by a participating provider for a single medical visit.

In-Network Maximum Out-of-Pocket Expenses: Effective July 1, 2023, the maximum out-of-pocket limit for covered, in-network services under the Empire Plan will be reduced from \$9100 to \$4000 for individual coverage and from \$18,200 to \$8000 for Family coverage.

New Center of Excellence For Substance Use Disorder: In connection with the Betty Ford foundation. Available for in-service members.

Acupuncture services: Services with a participating provider are subject to a single copayment with no annual visit limit; this benefit is not changing.

There are many **NEGATIVE** changes:

New Center of Excellence For Substance Use Disorder: In connection with the Betty Ford foundation. Retirees are NOT covered by this program.

Limit for massage therapy: Effective July 1, 2023, there will be a maximum of 20 visits per calendar year allowed by the plan.

even if the service is provided by an in-network provider.

Limit for Acupuncture Services: Acupuncture services from a non-participating provider will be subject to a maximum of 20 visits per calendar year and the deductible and 20 percent coinsurance will apply.

Reimbursement for Non-Network Claims:

If you choose an out-of-network provider, you may have higher out-of-pocket costs.

Your provider may choose to bill you their full charges beyond your deductible and coinsurance (balance billing.)

An out-of-network provider can bill you for the difference between their billed amount and the amount allowed the Empire Plan

Non-Emergency Services: It is your responsibility to know whether a provider you choose is in the Empire Plan network. A separate deductible and co-insurance apply for any out-of-network services that you, your spouse, or your dependents receive.

Appeals: You cannot appeal a bill from an out-of-network provider unless you believe the services should be considered under surprise billing rules.



****** A documentary by Colleen Callan called "Hot Water on Long Island" is available on iTunes. It discusses the issues of three "hot" (sick) schools on LI, one of which is Northport Middle School.

****** Please keep an eye on communication/articles from the Townline Civic Association. The Rail Terminal project is a project of great concern. Keep informed of all the issues affecting our lives here on Long Island.

In Memoriam (Please see our website for full details)

The RUTN mourns the loss of **Fred Rowe**, High School science teacher and husband of High School Art teacher Doris Rowe.



RETIRED TEACHERS OF NORTHPORT

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retiredutn@gmail.com

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!