



R-UTN Newsletter

Volume 29 Number 3

October–December 2015

WINTER LUNCHEON

THURSDAY DECEMBER 3, 2015

11:30 AM



**843 Fort Salonga Rd
Northport, NY 11768
(631) 262-8565**



Menu

Salad and Pasta

Entree Choices: Fish, Chicken, Beef, Vegetarian

Includes Soft Drinks, Coffee, Tea and Dessert

Cash Bar

\$25 per person

**Make checks payable to R-UTN for \$25 and mail to Trudy Brewer, 20 Shelbourne Lane,
Commack, NY 11725. If bringing a guest, please send name(s) to her.**

RSVP by November 20th

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Frances La Duca

Our first event of the year was a great success. Over 100 of our members and their spouses enjoyed good food, good company and the great view at our picnic at the Vanderbilt in September. Then we took a tour of the mansion and were treated to the new planetarium show. The free Annual picnic is a benefit of membership in the R-UTN. Thank you all for coming. This year, we collected for Long Island Cares, the Harry Chapin Food Pantry. Our members generously donated over \$500 to this worthy cause. The Pantry was very grateful for our donation.

Our next event is a luncheon at Nocello's in Northport on December 3rd. Details are on the cover of this newsletter. In addition to the opportunity to meet with former colleagues, we will have good food, music and our raffle. Members donate items for the raffle and the proceeds go toward our scholarship fund. If you plan to bring a raffle item, please contact Irene (631-423-2313) before, so she can arrange for enough display space. Send in your checks to RSVP as soon as possible. The R-UTN also subsidizes the cost of the luncheon – another benefit of membership.

A third benefit of membership is the enclosed Directory of Retirees from the District. We work with the District Human Resources office to update the directory from the membership forms you submit yearly. If you move, change phone numbers or email addresses during the year, you should contact both the District and our membership Chair, Judy Bensimon (10 Ardendale Road, East Northport NY 11731) or send an email to utn-r@optonline.net.

Each year, the R-UTN awards a \$2,000 scholarship to a Northport graduate planning to enter the teaching profession. For the past twenty years we were also awarding a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduate planning a career in Business Education. That scholarship was funded by the Betty Bradley fund, which is now depleted. But, thanks to your generosity, the R-UTN will be able to continue to fund two scholarships to graduates.

By the time you get this newsletter, you should also have received the flyer for the Annual NYSUT Regional Conference November 19th at the Watermill. This conference is a valuable opportunity to learn about current issues of direct concern to Retirees. This year's workshops will deal with Long Term Care and Elder Estate Planning, Medicare and Pension updates. RSVP date is November 9th – breakfast and lunch is included – hope to see lots of you there.

An item from our VOTE/COPE chair, Frank Kondrich is included in this issue. Please use the form and send in your donation asap. NYSUT works hard to protect Retiree Benefits and needs our support.

Our Webmaster, Linda Quinn has been working diligently to keep our webpage up to date – see her article in this issue – and please send in items – we want to keep the webpage interesting and informative. Be sure to visit at retiredteachersofnorthport.org.

Another way to stay informed is to check out the NYSUT webpage at nysut.org. The Member Action Center is the easiest way to contact legislators to express your views. Give it a try.

SOCIAL SECURITY/MEDICARE UPDATES - Hank Kasven

The next time someone says to you, and they will, “We have to scrap Social Security to save it” or “The Affordable Care Act must be scrapped”, you might want to point out the following:

- **Social Security is self- sustaining.** To prevent it from running out of money, the contribution formula needs to be changed. Currently the cut off point for SS contributions is a salary of \$118,000. If you earn less than that, you pay FICA until you reach \$118,000. If you earn more than that, you stop paying when you reach \$118,000. Any salary over that is “free” of tax. Is that fair?? If all salary were taxed, the solvency problem would be solved in one year.

All GOP candidates want a new Affordable Care Act program but admit that they will use parts of the existing ACA. Trump, Rubio, Cruz, Bush and Kasich have all admitted that they use the ACA as the template for their plans. In fact, the Ohio health plan is a mirror of the ACA. The truth is, if it were not called Obamacare, the program would be implemented like all other major plans and amended as necessary over time. That’s my opinion for what it is worth.

When has any major program been allowed to exist without changes? IRS rules change every year, Medicare and Medicaid change rules every year and still the basic ideas of the programs remain.

REMINDER – In November, all of you will be receiving your SS and Medicare statements indicating your 2016 anticipated payments. Don’t throw it out. Some of you will need it to be reimbursed for Medicare over payments.

Stay healthy – stay informed.

On the Lighter Side – Joe Burton

Yogi Berra, considered one of the best catchers in major league history, died at the age of 90. The Yankees legend and Hall of Famer may be better known for the way he creatively butchered the English language with what became known as Yogi-isms.

Here are some of them:

1. “It ain’t over till it’s over.”
2. “It’s deja vu all over again.”
3. “I usually take a two-hour nap from 1 to 4.”
4. “Never answer an anonymous letter.”
5. “We made too many wrong mistakes.”
6. “You can observe a lot by watching.”
7. “The future ain’t what it used to be.”
8. “If you don’t know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else.”
9. “It gets late early out here.”
10. “If the people don’t want to come out to the ballpark, nobody’s going to stop them.”

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

Processing the membership renewal forms sent in this time of year is just that – data processing. That's not generally an entertaining task but gets brightened by the greetings, thanks and even news notes that many people include. So hot off the membership forms, here are a few items to share:

Rosemarie and **Jim Dunphy** were headed to Spain for their son's wedding and also planning a month-long visit to Italy.

Olga Welsh reports that she has been a southerner for 22 years “and like all Southern ladies, I play a lot of bridge,”

John Kobel and his wife Phyllis missed the picnic but for a very good reason. They went to Vancouver, CA for the birth of their granddaughter – the first child for their daughter who lives there.

Grandchildren motivated a move by **Debbie Tuite** and husband Larry from Kings Park to Temecula, California. She writes that they love their new home and being around their “little gems”.

If you're looking for **Barbara DeGere** and can't find her, try **Barbara VanBourgondien** in Bay Shore -- new name, new address, same Barbara.

Lois Elsinger sold her house in East Northport and is temporarily in Florida until she closes on her condo in Melville.

Along with his membership form, **Don Corie** sent a page from the St. Catherine of Siena Community newsletter about their Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. Among those honored was R-UTN's **Anne Crandall** with an amazing 141,861 hours of service.

Peter Laspina is currently living in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. He was relieved to hear that Hurricane Joaquin spared Long Island. He wrote, “We are in Springtime, ready to go into summer in a couple of months - southern hemisphere, switching seasons - and it has been HOT! Thankfully, however, without that lovely Long Island humidity that I had grown up with. In another month or so, we should be entering the rainy season and, if we can get a break from the drought that Brazil has been experiencing for the past 3 years, we will hopefully be inundated with rain.”

Ellen Moscou has been doing some interesting work for the new TV show “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert”

Charlotte Koons was honored as a WOMAN of the YEAR by the Town of Huntington at their 14th Annual Women's Networking Day, "La Vie est Belle," Tuesday October 20, 2015 at the LARKFIELD in East Northport. She represented The Northport Arts Coalition and Bare Bones Theater Company.

Pete White is running a trip to Nicaragua, Dec. 1-8, 2015. There are three spots available. “We will be constructing two new houses for homeless families, and working on furthering a 12 acre park that we're building for children who've never had any recreational opportunities. “ Contact Pete at pedro831@optonline.net. His website is www.fs60k.org.

VOTE/COPE UPDATE Frank Kondrich

Many thanks to those who brought donation checks with them to the picnic. If you did not attend the picnic, this is your last chance to donate to **VOTE/COPE** for this year. Remember, folks, we are outspent 15 to 1 by corporate interests. Vote/Cope needs our help after a grueling fight in the spring against Gov. Cuomo and his Wall Street friends. It takes money to lobby for retirement security and to beat back those who seek to drastically change your defined benefit pension. If we are honest, a donation of \$25 a year will not alter your lifestyle for the worse. However, losing pension protection or bargaining rights will change everyone's life for the worse. We all benefit from NYSUT's efforts, yet only 25% of our members give to VOTE/COPE. Any amount is welcome.

As for me, I do it for my grandchildren. I want them to have the same educational experience that I provided to the students of Northport for all those years. What about you?

Send the form below with your check made out to **VOTE/COPE** to:

Frank Kondrich
146 Northfield Road
Hauppauge, NY 11788

In unity there is strength

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Amount

Vanderbilt Picnic



Thanks to Gloria and Bill for a great day!

Anyone who wishes to help them work on the grounds of this lovely place should contact Gloria at glhall46@gmail.com.



Identity theft protection available for NYSUT members



TRUE IDENTITY PROTECTION™

NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to announce that its newest endorsed program -- ID Watchdog -- is now available to all NYSUT members & their families looking for protection against the growing threat of identity and credit theft.

What Do I Get When I Sign Up for ID Watchdog?

- Credit & Cyber Monitoring
- Monthly Credit Score Tracker
- Credit Reports & Scores
- High Risk Monitoring
- Individual, Individual/Spouse or Family Coverage Available

According to Javelin Strategy & Research, an estimated 13.1 million Americans fall victim to identity theft each year. These individuals are hit with approximately \$7,000 in fraudulent charges per person and spend about 330 hours each trying to recover from the effects of identity theft.

ID Watchdog (founded in 2005 as a theft protection service) uses proprietary monitoring technology that alerts members as soon as new or updated information associated with their identity is detected -- allowing them to catch fraudulent activity immediately.

To learn more about ID Watchdog, call toll-free 866-513-0823
or visit memberbenefits.nysut.org.



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.

Sept/Oct '11

POINT OF VIEW Jerry (Reinhold-)Shor

In that too many mainline Democratic politicians, like Andrew Cuomo and Barack Obama, have given "aid and comfort" to the charter school movement's attack on public education, I think it behooves us public school retirees to support a true anti-corporatist for our next president.

The only two potential candidates who are proven fighters for the public interest are Liz Warren and Bernie Sanders, with only the latter currently contending for the Democratic nomination.

My wife Sue, a retiree from the Three Village School District, and I have been working with local Bernie groups in the Port Jefferson/Three Village and Northport/East Northport areas to support the Vermont senator's candidacy.

These local Bernie groups need and, I believe, deserve our help. If any of our fellow retired teachers would like to join this most important effort, please feel free to e-mail me at shorport02@hotmail.com. Hope to hear from many of my former colleagues.

HELP NEEDED

We are still looking for an **Editor** for the newsletter. This job entails doing the layout for the newsletter three times a year. Articles are submitted to, and edited by, members of the executive board. **You will not be alone in this endeavor!**

WEBSITE

The R-UTN Website, retiredteachersofnorthport.org, now features a **Member News** page. Share what's happening in your life with your fellow retirees. Items for the website should be emailed to utn-r@optonline.net, and specify that the information is for posting on the website.

EDITORIAL POLICY FOR THE R-UTN

Our *newsletter* welcomes letters and articles from our members. Items submitted should address issues of interest and concern to our retirees. Articles must be limited to 250 words and should address a single issue. All points of view will be accepted as long as the article is not derogatory of any other point of view or group and is factually accurate. The editorial board reserves the right to edit for space and to determine the appropriateness of items submitted. Authors will be consulted about decisions of the editorial board prior to publication.

Items submitted for posting on the *website* should be brief and timely announcements of interest or concern to our retirees. Informational items must be factual and cite source of the data. Activity items will be accepted for free and open- to- the- public events. Postings for events sponsored by not- for-profit groups will also be accepted. The editorial board reserves the right to edit for space and to determine the appropriateness of items.

No ads or items of a commercial nature will be accepted for the newsletter or for the website.