

S.S.R.A. NEWSLETTER

SMITHTOWN SCHOOLS RETIREES' ASSOCIATION

Volume 20 / Issue 4



June 2020

Congratulations Retiree Class of 2020!



HAPPY RETIREMENT!

STA:

Alice Cheselka
Karen Collins
Denise Davey
Janice DeAngelis
Beth Dooley-Zawacki
Debra Bristel-Farkas
Judith Hilinski
Laura Lessard
Lauretta Majuk
Catherine Massaro
Linda McCann
Elizabeth Nixon
Ellen Papadopoulos
Sharon Prokop

Joanne Rapp

June Scully

Loretta Siciliano

Karen Van Dover

Deborah Verre

SSAA:

Allyn Leeds

Mona Tobin

SSEA:

Donna Grunenber

Christian Meyer

Debra Nussbaum

Carmine Palladino

Arthur Sainthill

In order to continue participating in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs and services you must maintain membership by joining your local chapter —

"SSRA~Smithtown Schools Retirees' Association"

Smithtown Schools Retirees' Association

26 New York Avenue ♦ Smithtown, NY 11787 ♦ (631) 585-8316

Email: ssraeditor@gmail.com

President	Patty Stoddard
Vice President	John Pettit
Treasurer	Susan Fink
Recording Secretary	Donna Milgrom
Membership Coordinator/Social Committee	John Pettit
SSRA WebMaster	Richard Davis
Newsletter Editor	Mary Mills Desjeunes
Communication Liaison	Bobbi Miller
RC Delegate	Lou DeBole
Alternate RC Delegate	Donna Milgrom
Sunshine Committee	Winnie Snyder

The Smithtown School Retirees' Association is affiliated with the
Smithtown Teachers' Association,
the **New York State United Teachers,** and the **American Federation of Teachers,**
and is comprised of members from all of the bargaining units in the Smithtown Central School District.
Monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 9:30 AM at the STA office

*All members are invited to attend.
We encourage your input and newsletter submissions.*

Our Deepest Sympathy :

♦ To Friends and Family of Anton Papp

Anton was an Industrial Arts teacher at Great Hollow before moving into administration at Nesaquake and then Accomsett Middle schools. He passed away on April 30, 2020. Due to coronavirus issues, there will be no public service, but Virginia, Anton's wife, hopes to have a **Celebration of Life** gathering in the summer.

♦ To Friends and Family of Mary Staudt

Mary worked at Smithtown West for many years as a clerical aide. She always had a smile. She was a sweet, wonderful woman who was dedicated to her family. Condolences may be sent to: Joseph Staudt, 364 Woodbridge Drive, Ridge, NY 11961

♦ To Karen Legler and family

On the loss of her husband, Robert Legler. Karen taught in Nesconset, Tackan, and Accomsett Elementary schools in regular and special education. A **Celebration of Life** will be held at a later date. Condolences may be sent to Karen at 196 Lakebridge Drive N., Kings Park, NY 11754



Congratulations to
Lou Debole
on the wedding
of his granddaughter!



Continued good health
to our friend,
Anne Dragos



The End of an Era...

Farewell, **AL ALLMARAS**



By John Pettit

When Al Allmaras passed away on February 23, 2020, an era in Smithtown education ended. Al was one of the foundational contributors who guided our district from an early, small town community to the leading, large school district it is today.

Born in 1931 and raised in Queens, NY, Al attended Brooklyn Prep High School. He moved on to the University of Alabama, where his football career was cut short by an injury. Al served in the U.S. Army stationed in the Panama Canal zone during the Korean War. After his time in the military, he focused on a career in Education at Columbia University. In 1958, he was hired to teach Spanish and Social Studies in the Smithtown Central School District where he stayed for the rest of his career. Beginning in New York Avenue, Al taught in both Junior Highs/Middle Schools as well as both High Schools. His leadership was most prominent as Chairman/Lead Teacher of the Social Studies Department. Besides coaching football at High School (East), Al enjoyed following the ponies at OTB, rooting for the Crimson Tide, doing the NY Times crossword puzzle and, especially, a good cigar (which many colleagues remember).

Upon his retirement, Al joined the newly formed Smithtown Schools Retirees Association and, in 1997, was elected President. Again, Al guided the Association through its huge growth period until he retired from the SSRA in 2015. Thereafter, he remained on call for input and advice on organizational matters.

Al Allmaras will be much missed as a teacher, a mentor, but mostly, as a friend.



My Sincerest Thanks....



As Editor of your newsletter which, for the most part, is a member-driven, informational but anecdotal publication, I struggled with how to address the incredibly unique situation in which we have found ourselves for the last 3+ months as we experienced the Covid-19 virus. I didn't know if I should acknowledge its seriousness, but not address it directly; or if I should take the "*laughter is the best medicine*" approach. People are dying. I daresay that we all know someone, no matter what age, that has passed due to Covid-19 complications. I was just not comfortable with printing 12 pages of toilet-paper shortage jokes. I fought with myself in the face of this difficult decision. I finally resolved the question by letting our members decide. I opened up a solicitation to all our members to submit their own experience during this demanding time. And what I got was gold. I have included all the submissions from members who have decided to add to this issue during this complex and incomprehensible time. See articles beginning on Page 5.

In addition, I concluded that I would be remiss if I didn't formally THANK all of those First Responders * Healthcare Workers * and Essential Service providers for allowing me, and so many others, to feel safe and secure in our homes— remaining well, and untouched by the virus. Many of NYSUT's active members are on the front line. As of this printing, Suffolk County alone has over 39,000 cases with almost 1,900 deaths.

For those who run towards the danger on our behalf, it is a THANK YOU so heartfelt that these two words just do not do it justice.

~Mary Mills Desjeunes

OFF THE CUFF

by John Pettit



I certainly hope that you and you loved ones are in good health and are keeping your "balance" in these crazy times. As the old saying goes: "Who'd have thunk it?"

Some Good News Amid the Bad: I am very disappointed that the Spring Luncheon was cancelled/postponed from April 29 – a date in the Fall will be announced. We realized that an important component of our luncheons is collecting donations for the local Food Pantries, and since there is no luncheon, the pantries, needing support greater than ever, will miss out. The SSRA Board voted to make a \$500 donation to each of the local food pantries: Smithtown Food Pantry; St. Patrick's Church Outreach; and Sts. Philip & James Food Pantry. We contacted several others, but they were either closed or directed us to those mentioned. We are most pleased to provide this much needed donation to a local cause.

Membership & Newsletter: Thank you to most members who have renewed their memberships for 2020. As you know, we work out of the STA Office (on New York Ave.) and since the office has been closed, there will be a delay in getting our mail. Accordingly, this Newsletter will go out in the email format and we will wait to print and mail paper copies. Thank you for bearing with us on this.

A Thought: Nothing profound or provocative this time. Just my sincere prayer for the good health and happiness of all. We, retirees, are in a particularly vulnerable age group for COVID-19 and we remind you to continue to be careful as there are a lot of good times ahead.

Temporary Flexibility Offered for Medicare Enrollment

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) said it will allow individuals extra time to enroll in Medicare. Typically seniors must enroll within 3 months of turning 65. This means that individuals who missed an enrollment period will not be penalized if they enroll prior to

June 17, 2020.

For more information: Visit <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Eligibility-and-Enrollment/OrigMedicarePartABEligEnrol>

Individuals who are eligible and have a valid election period between March 17, 2020, and June 17, 2020, and are not already enrolled in Medicare Part A should apply for Part A online at

<https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/>.

Health Care Heroes

NYSUT members across the state are quite literally risking their lives, serving on the front lines in hospitals and other health-care facilities throughout the Empire State during the deadly COVID-19 crisis. Since New York is the epicenter of the nation's pandemic, NYSUT wants to reassure our brave "Health Care Heroes" that fellow union members are there for them while they selflessly put themselves in harm's way.

Go to nysut.org to [donate to the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund](#). Or make your **check** payable to "**NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund**" and mail to:

NYSUT Headquarters,
Attn: Disaster Relief,
800 Troy-Schenectady Road,
Latham, New York 12110.



Proceeds will go directly toward purchasing and providing Personal Protective Equipment, food and other supplies for all of our dedicated health care workers.

Our different experiences during this unprecedented time. . . .



Joy, Realization, Insight, and One Really Stupid Sign

By Joanne McEnroy

At the point at which I thought I was about 48 hours away from a Covid meltdown, I took a deep breath and stopped to reflect on the past several weeks and the changes I'd been forced to make. I'll admit we were about three days behind full acquiescence despite the daily calls from my son to "shelter in place". Perhaps it was a particular facetime call that we received one Friday night, shortly after being seated at our table for 6, that caused us to reassess. When I saw the call coming through, I said to my husband,

"Damn, we're busted! I told you we should have called the kids before leaving the house!" and, my granddaughter's face filled the screen, her blonde hair in its perpetual disarray and her golden smile, lighting. But I didn't get a chance to enjoy any of that before my son's voice boomed from the background.

"Go ahead, Callie. Ask Grandma and Pop where they are because clearly, they are not in their living room!"

We had to guiltily admit that yes, we did promise the night before that we would stay home and that no, it would not happen again. Then we ended the call wondering out loud when this parent-child table had, so drastically turned.

That was our last social outing. March 13, 2020.

As it turns out my reflection stemmed the onset of the claustrophobia I was on the verge of feeling and in its place, I found something akin to peace. While there is much to be concerned about, I'm controlling what I can and have decided to reign-in my ever-growing concentric circle of worry and focus instead, on its center. There, I've found some silver linings.

I now talk to my granddaughter every day on our Echo Show and we have expanded our 'visits' to something straight out of Romper Room. We sing songs and have tea parties. We do finger stories. I've even crafted puppets and storyboards to enhance our time together. I don't think this would have happened so dramatically, or frequently, without this forced incarceration, and I don't think my children would be developing the kind of appreciation they seem to be, for my child-centered skills. Joy.

Then there is my retirement, after which I thought I had finally slowed down. Turns out I just did a sputtering downshift into third gear. Before several weeks ago my calendar was filled with all sorts of indulge myself commitments and even time restraints. The pool by 11. The beach by 10. Writing, painting and stained-glass classes. Online learning and volunteer teaching. Tickets for this, dinner for that. My leisure was constantly being intruded upon, by my leisure! But time is different now. My world is spinning ever more slowly and yet, it remains on its axis. Realization.

My husband and I ride our bikes a lot but in recent weeks I've ridden so much more and, since he has been unable to join me, I've unearthed an ugly truth; I like captaining this particular ship by myself. I seem to have found a new rhythm which is, no rhythm at all. I set my own pace, plan my own stops and manage my own meanderings. Our rides always seemed to be preludes or overtures to other commitments. Now, they are the entire song. Along my route I've watched cranes fish their breakfast from the shallow ends of ponds and cormorants who push against the grasses along its edge, seeking camouflage. None of this is new but now, I stop and watch now until they are done, not I. Longer moments, not long enough but, I'm learning. Insight.

Some changes have been tools of necessity but my rumination afforded me the realization that they may be changes with real potential to better our world. Drive-up Confessionals and medical testing, doorstep Purim prayers, drive-by birthday parades, virtual Nascar racing, live-streamed doctors' visits and trainer-led meditation and exercise workouts. I could be upset at the impetus for these changes but instead, I am in awe of what they might inspire and, to whom these inspirations might afford more safety, more joy, and more access. Innovation.

I also reflected on pampering and other "necessities", mine as well as others. While my hair looks like something out of a prairie living magazine, my gel manicure seems to have taken a page from the Loaves and Fishes parable; it is lasting well beyond its expiration date. But the biggest surprise for me is, I don't care when it implodes.

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I like my head-band, I look forward to my soon-to-be naked fingertips, and I revel in my 'unmasked' eyes. I'm surprised too, by my friend Diane who has taken to cleaning her own house "for the first time in my life", she says. This prompted a flurry of texts when she sought cleaning advice from within our chat group. Diane holds a dual doctorate and runs not one but, several successful businesses. But she wanted to know if she needed that "mister duty stuff" to wash her floor. "Do you mean Mr. Clean?" queried another of us, while simultaneously PM'ing me, "Do you even know anybody who does not know this?" to which I responded, "This text stream has made me realize that in the event of Armageddon, the intelligentsia will perish while we, the peasants, survive," Kathy said she laughed so hard, she tripped over her Bona mop. And then, on day ten, there was this surprise from me to my husband. "Cooking really doesn't take that long. Why haven't we done it more often?" Revelations. And, a husband smart enough to know he shouldn't answer me.



I can get angry at some of my friends and family who refuse to practice the "15 Days to Stop the Spread" but then I see signs such as this one, spied during one of my recent bike rides and, I have to stop and wonder. There was a board-of-something or other that assembled to discuss and vote on its necessity. And the fact that they decided it was has forced to reconsider whether I have been grossly over-estimating what I should expect from mankind. Acceptance.

We have, in our little two-person nucleus, resigned ourselves to staying put for at least the foreseeable future. I will observe social distance protocol and pound pedal and keyboard alone. I will be thankful that despite the space and miles between us, technology has allowed me to stay close to friends and the people I love. I look toward continued health and discovering more of the little joys and unexpected outcomes, humorous, speculative or innovative, that have changed the world we've suddenly been handed, and maybe the one that we build going forward. Hope.

Playland

By Bill Steo



A new quarantine recreation park has opened in central Virginia, called the "Rock-Ur-Way Playland", (For you Long Islanders and other New Yorkers it's better than Rockaway Playland of the 50's and 60's). Set on 61 breath taking acres surrounded by majestic mountain views. This oasis from the ravages of the hustle bustle world provides you with all sorts of entertainment and activities.

You can choose from:

- Forested hiking trails through the woods, play pick up sticks along the way.
- Observe animals in the field, (The Angus herd).
- Kayaking in your own private stream (Only available at flood stage).
- Gardening and weed pulling competition.
- Painting and staining workshops.
- Engine repair and carpentry remediation classes.

Your choice of rides:

- John Deere 2210 tractor
- John Deere 728X tractor
- John Deere 4600 Tractor
- Arctic Cat ATV.
- John Deere 5510 AKA, "Big John".
- Model 6500 Manure Spreader



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We also have Zip Ties, sorry no zip lines available at this time.

If you love the night life then sit on the front porch with a glass of wine and watch the foxes, coyotes, skunks, opossums and owls in their native habitat.

Therapy animals available on request, kiss a cow get some antibodies.

Because of the Virginia Governor's executive order #53, ½ guest capacity is limited to two people.

Make your reservations now at "Pull my leg #.

Notice --- Sorry, we are sold out until Hell freezes over, but we will keep you posted.

Stay safe and stay away.

~The Management RUWP

Alexander Avenue Pot Banging Band By Susan Fink

After 3 weeks of being self-quarantined, looking at the same 4 walls, and feeling there was little to distinguish any hour of the day, I put the following note in my immediate neighbors' mailboxes:



Thursday, April 2, 2020

To All of My Neighbors on Alexander Avenue,

In this time of Coronavirus,

I hope you are all well and not going too crazy with Cabin Fever.

I know WHERE you all are each day at 5:30 PM.

I have no idea WHAT you are doing but I hope to change that!

How about joining together in Neighborly Fun? - with responsible social distancing!

I invite you to join the Alexander Avenue Pot Banging Band.

Let's all walk out to the lower edge of our own driveway and make some noise! Bring a pot and wooden spoon and "play" your heart out.....

.....I thought of blaring music, and calling for dancing in place, but that is a bit harder to organize, so I settled for loud, chaotic, pot banging.....

Chairs, Umbrellas, Singing - all optional

When this daily block party really takes off, you can introduce any finer touches you'd like, but loud chaos seems like a fine beginning.

Hope you see/hear you - rain or shine each night - starting tonight, 4/2/20.

Your neighbor, Susan

And so, the cacophony began. As of now, we have completed 6 full weeks of energetic band of pot bangers who come out every evening and bang the heck out of their kitchen appliances. We will be well into another 4 weeks of chaos by the time the newsletter comes out!

For about 10 minutes, we wave and yell to each other, laugh a lot, acknowledge the positive responses from passing drivers - and then, as fast as it began it's over, until the next day. We come out of anywhere from 6 to 10 houses, number anywhere from 10 to 15 musicians, and are making the best of an exceptional circumstance!

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My Quarantine Journal Submitted by Donna Milgrom



• Cleaning with alcohol is plain nonsense. Nothing gets done after the first bottle. • I just asked a 6 year old if he understands why there is no school. He said yes, because there is no toilet paper. • Half of us are going to come out of this quarantine as amazing cooks. The other half will come out with a drinking problem. • I used to spin that toilet paper like I was on Wheel of Fortune. Now I turn it like I'm cracking a safe. • Home-schooling is going well. 2 students suspended for fighting and 1 teacher fired for drinking on the job. • You think it's bad now? Wait! In twenty years the country will be run by people who were home-schooled. • This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog..... we laughed a lot. • Quarantine Day 15: Went to this restaurant called THE KITCHEN. You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business. • My body has absorbed so much soap and disinfectant lately that when I pee it cleans the toilet. • I'm so excited --- it's time to take out the garbage. What should I wear? • I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to Puerto Backyarda. I'm getting tired of Los Livingroom. • Day 6 of Home-schooling: My child just said, & I quote; I hope I don't have the same teacher next year.... I'm offended!! • When quarantine is over, *let's not tell some people.*

Oak Hammock by Joe Gilkey

I am sure that everyone has some experiences to share as a result of being locked down for so many weeks. Living here at Oak Hammock has been quite comfortable so I thought I would pass this along. The dining staff shifted into overdrive. Instead of eating in our fine dining room we have had to pick up a menu each day for the following day. Our food is then delivered to us right at our apartment door. If we don't care for the menu items we can go to our ice cream shop at lunch time and get a sandwich or perhaps one of the specials that might be available there. This is all in the same building we live in. We are not going out anywhere. So, getting food has not been a problem. Sometimes we take the lunch acquired at the ice cream shop outside in our Duckworth Gardens and have lunch listening to the fountain trickling away during the meal. The weather has been in the low 80's for months now so dining outside is wonderful!



Oak Hammock is also blessed with beautiful grounds with cement walkways even through the oak forest that surrounds the main building. That walkway runs past a small pond with a waterfall. All along the way are park benches to stop and rest or to admire the scene before you. Heather and I have made long walks each day that we have been confined.

As a retirement community with a skilled nursing, assistant living, and memory support units we are susceptible to infection and it has occurred. It occurred in one of our memory units. 6 staff and 6 residents with the virus confined to that unit. They are completely isolated from us, but we know the danger is always just around the corner and at our age, it isn't something we want to have happen.

Hope all is well with our membership.

Ya Gotta Laugh Submitted by Lou DeBole

- I was so bored I called Jake from State Farm just to talk to someone.

He asked me what I was wearing...

- **2019:** Stay away from negative people. **2020:** Stay away from positive people.

- The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house, and their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!

- Do not call the police on suspicious people in your neighborhood! Those are your neighbors without makeup and hair extensions!

- Day 7 at home and the dog is looking at me like, "See? This is why I chew the furniture!"

- **Me:** Alexa what's the weather this weekend? **Alexa:** It doesn't matter – you're not going anywhere.

- Quarantine has turned us into dogs. We roam the house all day looking for food. We are told "no" if we get too close to strangers, and we get really excited about car rides.

- I just tried to make my own hand sanitizer and it came out as a rum & coke!



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How to make a face mask *(NO SEWING!)*

Submitted by Mavis Chaskin Mott (from *Inside Edition*)

Cut and paste this link into your browser:

<https://youtu.be/tPx1yqvJgf4>

Dr Jerome Adams, US Surgeon General, demonstrates how to create your own face mask—without sewing—by using cloth such as t-shirt material and two rubber bands!



Adventure before Dementia

Submitted by John Pettit

A balding, white haired man walked into a jewelry store this past Friday evening with a beautiful much younger gal at his side. He told the jeweler he was looking for a special ring for his girlfriend. The jeweler looked through his stock and brought out a \$15,000 ring

The man said, *'No, I'd like to see something more special. Price is immaterial.'*

At that statement, the jeweler went to his special stock and brought another ring over. *'Here's a stunning ring at only \$140,000'* the jeweler said. "It's the famous Azure Blue which belonged to a Maharajah."

The lady's eyes sparkled and her whole body trembled with excitement. Seeing this, the old man said, *'We'll take it.'* The jeweler asked how payment would be made and the man stated, *'By check. I know you need to make sure my check is good, so I'll write it now and you can call the bank Monday to verify the funds; I'll pick the ring up Monday afternoon.'*



On Monday morning, the jeweler angrily phoned the old man and said,

'Sir...There's no money in that account!'

'I know, said the old man...'But let me tell you about my weekend.'

Not All Seniors Are Senile...



SSRA 2020 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

WINNERS are:

High School East:

Isabella Morales Bonilla

High School West:

Jack Daley

Winners are to be congratulated in a virtual ceremony this year and mailed their award of **\$750** each.

Our sincere best wishes for a bright future!

SSRA proudly announces

the contribution of

\$500 each

to the following

local food pantries

during this time

of great need

in our community:



-St. Patrick's Outreach Program

-Sts. Philip and James

-Smithtown Food Pantry

NEWS FROM YOUR NYS RETIREMENT SYSTEM

As Reported By Lou DeBole, From Retiree Council 23

NYSTRS is the second largest public retirement system in the state and one of the 10-largest public pension funds in the nation. They administer a defined benefit plan. Over the past 30 years, earnings on investments and member contributions produced the bulk of NYSTRS' income. The result of this shared commitment is a well-funded plan. 87¢ of each dollar is investment earnings and member contributions. The remaining 13¢ is employer contributions. The same reassurances and stability are extended to Employee Retirement System members, providing members with a secure pension.

Questions have arisen regarding our pensions.

Please read the statement below from

Tom DiNapoli, New York State Comptroller

Know Your Retirement Benefits if You Get Sick

The unfortunate reality is that some public workers may become seriously ill or die from this virus. If tragedy befalls them before their retirement becomes effective their beneficiaries could lose out. I applaud Governor Cuomo's [Executive Order that waives the standard waiting period](#) after filing for service retirement benefits to ensure their families will get the benefits meant for them. I want to make sure that we're fulfilling our promises to public workers.

Have Peace of Mind that Your Pension Benefits are Secure

Like all investors, the state's pension fund has faced challenges this year. Fortunately, we're well-funded and the benefits of public workers are secure. We want to assure the more than one million men and women who rely on the state pension fund for retirement security that we are well-positioned to weather the ongoing volatility. To our retirees, your pensions are safe and we will continue to pay your benefits as scheduled each and every month as promised. For some time, we've been making adjustments in expectation of a downturn in the economy. We're actively managing through these difficult times and are confident the markets will ultimately recover.

**Complete your
2020 Census today!**



nysutcounts.org

or

My2020census.gov



2020 SSRA VOTE COPE DRIVE

CHOOSE ONE of THREE WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE:



- 1) SEND CHECK TO SSRA OFFICE**
(mail check to: 26 New York Ave., Smithtown, NY 11787)
- 2) ONLINE** at nysut.org/my-nysut **OR**
- 3) MONTHLY PENSION DEDUCTIONS**
(print; fill out form below, and mail to Albany) ↓



VOTE-COPE PENSION DEDUCTION AUTHORIZATION CARD

Complete and Mail to:

VOTE COPE Post Office Box 5190 Albany, New York 12205-0190

Name: _____

Pension or Member ID #: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Local: Smithtown Schools Retirees' Association #23-050

CHECK ONE: I belong to: **NYSTRS** I belong to: **NYSERS**

The undersigned authorizes the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS) or the New York State Employees' Retirement System (NYSERS) to deduct from each of my regular defined-benefit pension payments the sum of (CHECK ONE)

\$10 or \$5 or Other \$_____ PER MONTH and to forward that amount to VOTE COPE, PO BOX 5190, ALBANY, NY 12205-0190. I understand that this monthly amount will continue to be deducted until revoked by me in writing.

Such guidelines are merely suggestions. NYSUT members are free to contribute more or less than the guidelines suggest, and NYSUT will not disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount of their contribution or decision not to contribute. Contributing to VOTE COPE is voluntary, and NYSUT members may refuse to contribute to VOTE COPE without reprisal. Contributing to VOTE COPE is not a condition of membership in any labor organization. VOTE COPE may use the money it receives to make political contributions and expenditures in connection with federal, state and local elections.

I expressly acknowledge and understand that the deduction, as specified above, be withheld monthly and that NYSUT will transmit this authorization to the appropriate retirement system. I hereby certify to NYSTRS and NYSERS that I am a member of NYSUT, an employee organization entitled to receive union deduction payments as provided by law.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Contributions to VOTE COPE are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.



Thank You

During these unprecedented times and in the face of incredible adversity, each of you continue to sacrifice and dedicate yourselves to our children, our families and our communities.

We thank all of the educators, school-related professionals, nurses and other health care workers who continue to demonstrate their unwavering compassion, dedication and commitment to our communities on a daily basis.

memberbenefits.nysut.org | 800-626-8101



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.

May/June '20

Classified Ads

Rental- St. Lucia, One Bedroom Duplex Villa. Accommodates up to 4 people, Full Kitchen, Covered Decks, A/C and Ceiling Fans. Beautiful hillside water view of Marigot Bay. Community pool. Go to Oaisimarigot.com, then click on Vacation Villas. Available 9/12/to 9/19/20 & 10/10/ to 10/17/20. Partial week rental possible. \$80 per night. Contact Bill Benzinger at nkepr@optonline.net.

Rental- Lake Rescue, Ludlow Vt. 3 level home sleeps 10 with loft, 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 2 kitchens, 2 fireplaces, 2 decks, gas and charcoal BBQ, Internet service, 2 tvs. Fishing, Swimming, 3 kayaks and canoe available, private dock and float for summer fun. Fire pit on side of house. Okemo Mountain/Golf 5 min from house, Restaurants and shopping 10 min. SUMMER-Weekly rentals June 21-Sept 9. For more info on surrounding activities, **Call 516 971 5101** MJ Casey

Submitted by Bobbi Miller & Lou DeBole
— FOR SUFFOLK COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY —

FREE MASK for any individual over 60 years of age

To receive a mask from Suffolk County, simply:

- Dial 311. No Area Code required, just the 311.
- There are several choices that will be mentioned, but wait until the end of the options for personal assistance.
- You should say that you are calling to obtain a FREE mask, or if married, two masks.
- The person will ask for the year you were born and your mailing address in order to qualify.

That's it and they will send your mask(s) to you.

SUFFOLK COUNTY LIBRARY
55 VANDERBILT PARKWAY • DIX HILLS, NEW YORK 11746 • 631-421-4530
510 SWEET HOLLOW ROAD • MELVILLE, NEW YORK 11747 • 631-421-4535
hhlibrary.org

Additions/Changes to Directory

Deborah Boyce	add cell: 631-553-6605
Edward Condon	add cell: 516-313-4968
William Hamilton	whamilton4@optonline.net
Rosanne Lazarus	add cell: 631-368-9263
Florence Martin	add cell: 516-815-0635
Cynthia McCready	add cell: 516-799-9390
Anton Papp	Deceased 4/29/20
Katharine Rehn	add cell: 631-921-2108
Carol Schepers	add cell: 631-626-5301
Carole Siegel	922 Edge Water Circle, Chapel Hill, NC 27516
Kathleen Simon-McDonald	36 Browns River Road 3 Bayport, NY 11705-2023
Rosemary Solomon	add cell: 718-362-0107
Mary Staudt	Deceased 5/18/20
Lucy Young	add cell: 631-873-6781

"The best part of life is not just surviving, but thriving with passion and compassion and humor and style and generosity and kindness."

~Maya Angelou

Thank you to the SSRA Board and Webmaster, Rich Davis, and to all of those who contributed to this publication for 2019-2020.

Your additions, and submissions; your suggestions and expressions helped us get through some very tough losses, but also, made us think more, act more, and be more generous.

Your contributions made this newsletter more interesting, and more diverse.

Your SSRA Board and I are always open to your questions, concerns and suggestions.

Continued joy in your well-deserved retirement, and if you know any of this year's retirees, encourage them to join us, too! ~MMD

KEEP CALM and CARRY ON





Best Wishes for a
Safe, Healthy,
and Happy Summer.
BE WELL—

STAY STRONG.

Your SSRA Executive Board,
Patty Stoddard, President



*You never know
How strong you are,
Until being strong
Is your only choice.
~ Bob Marley*



S.S.R.A.

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