

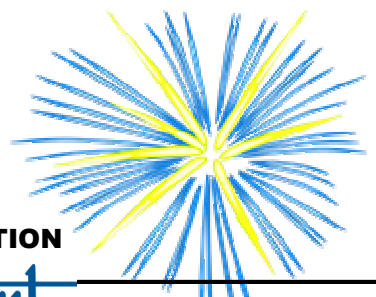
S.S.R.A. NEWSLETTER

SMITHTOWN SCHOOLS RETIREES' ASSOCIATION

Volume 21 / Issue 4



June 2021



C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

Retirees
Class of 2021

STA/SSAA:

*Cynthia Alcide
Jane Bachman
Susan Berntson
Denise Cardinal
Sheila Cavooris
Elaine Champey
Alice Cuccurullo
Barbara DiLorenzo
Jodi Gianni
Ann Marie Jacobs
Tina Mangano
Ann Naughton
Randi O'Sullivan
Seth Paster
Helene Robinson
Patricia Szabo
Denise Trifaro
Dawn Villano-Goelz*

ASPN:

*Patricia Randazzo
Josephine Whalen
Laura Wray*

SSEA:

*Josephine Brady
Claire DiBenedetto
Ann DeVito
Darlene Donlon
Kathleen Geldmacher
Susan Gioe
Robert Jones
Madelayne Katz
Christine Martucci
Barry Moskowitz
Kathleen Quinn
Mariann Ridullo
Wendy Valerioti
Victoria Weiss
Diane Widmer
Irene Zeltmann*

Our best wishes for
Happiness and Health
in your retirement!

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 |
| NYSUT Liaison | June Smith |
| Communication Liaison | Bobbi Miller |
| RC Delegate | Lou DeBole |
| Alternate RC Delegate | Donna Milgrom |
| Sunshine Committee | Winnie Snyder |
| Consultant | Larry Hohler |
| Consultant | Karen VanDover |
| Newsletter Editor | Mary Mills Desjeunes |

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
Visit our website at: myssra.com and Like us on **facebook**

SSRA Gives Back to the Smithtown Community



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
IS AWARDED TO
SSRA
Smithtown Schools Retirees' Association

↑ The SSRA Board contributed \$150 to the
High School Business Olympics
Smithtown's Industry Advisory Board
MaryPat Grafstein,
Executive Director.

The SSRA →
contributed \$150 donation to the
Smithtown Teachers' Association's
STA's Scholarship Fund,
and \$750 to each campus for **SSRA Scholarship winners**



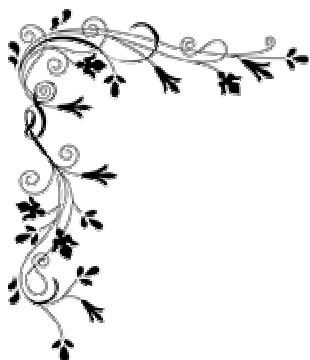
Local Food Pantries received donations from the SSRA due to the dire need during the COVID pandemic:

- Sts. Philip & James
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Smithtown Food Pantry



In addition, during our annual luncheons, we collect dollar donations from SSRA participants and send that money to the local food pantries.

Our Deepest Sympathy :



Memorial Service for Dorothy Ascoli

Saturday, June 26, 2021 at 10:30 am
St. Joseph's Church
59 Church Street, Kings Park



♦ **To Audrey Yacos**

On the loss of her husband John who passed on
March 10, 2021. They were married for 64 years.
A celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

Condolences may be sent to Audrey at:
42 Raycliffe Drive, Woodstock, NY 12498
windrockhouse@aol.com

♦ **To the Family and Friends of Phoebe Badeer**

Phoebe passed away on March 21, 2021.
She was a retired Spanish teacher at the New York Avenue building,
Accompsett, and Smithtown Middle School.



♦ **To the Family and Friends of Elaine Coogan**

Elaine was living in Fort Meyers, Florida when she passed away
on March 17, 2021.
She was a retired Social Studies teacher who is survived by her husband
Paul, son Jack, and grandchildren Paul and Molly.
She was a lovely person and a consummate professional, dedicated to her
craft, her colleagues, and her students.

♦ **To the Family and Friends of Harry Colwell**

Harry was a retired High School Math teacher. He passed at the end of March 2021.
He was a kind person who embodied the word 'gentleman'.
Condolences may be sent to:
Gina Colwell
201 Waterfront Drive West, Grandy, NC 27939

♦ **To the Family and Friends of Greg Sill**

Greg was an active High School West Social Studies teacher who passed suddenly
and before his time. Donations in his honor may be made to:
charitywater.org

OFF THE CUFF

by John Pettit



LUNCHEON - One of the favored events over the years has been our Fall Luncheon and after skipping that get-together last year, we will gather again for our **FALL LUNCHEON at The Old Street Pub in Smithtown at noon on Wednesday, October 13.** This should be a great opportunity to see what your friends and former colleagues look like without masks. Watch for more details soon.

MEMBERSHIP – We are most grateful to all those members who have sent in their dues. We are in the final stages of preparing our **Membership Directory** which is sent to all members. That, along with our quarterly **Newsletter**, are just two of the benefits of membership; on-line messages of interest keep everyone in touch and that is even more meaningful in these times.

NEWSLETTER: Our fearless editor-in-chief, Mary (Mills) Desjeunes, continues to do terrific work in collecting articles and assembling our Newsletter. She is constantly seeking human-interest stories of the “adventures” of members – please consider submitting a short description of your travels, etc.

RAMBLING RUMBLES: I, like most of you, have done all the “right” things: I got both of my shots; I diligently quarantined at home like a Tibetan hermit; I have masks, both in the car and at home, and wear my mask whenever out in public places; I wash my hands as necessary as well as utilize sanitizers frequently; I “tolerate” my wife repeatedly wiping surfaces and purchased goods down with disinfectants. How come that since I have done all these things (especially, the shots), I still have to behave as if I am vulnerable to the COVID germs? When going out either my wife says to me, or I to her, “Do you have your mask?” As ever increasing numbers of people have been vaccinated, I imagined that life might return to “normal”, however, the authorities keep changing the parameters: one-mask, two-masks, six-feet or three-feet distances, small groups of 10 people or much larger gatherings are OK- often these are contradictory or defy common sense. The advice/requirements change almost daily and vary widely by locale and source. I can only imagine and regret what lasting damage this is doing to school children and the very young. As the days grow longer and warmer, I hope that the easing of restrictions enables us to enjoy the “New Normal” --- Have a Great Summer.

A THOUGHT: Any politician who can be elected only by turning Americans against Americans is too dangerous to be elected --- **Thomas Sowell**

CONGRATULATIONS:

2021 S.S.R.A. Scholarship recipients!

★ Smithtown H.S. East:

Nicholas Kaires

★ Smithtown H.S. West:

Gianna Riso

Each student will receive a \$750 scholarship, paid with dues collected from SSRA members.

2021 Anthony R. Cannone Memorial Service Award Recipient

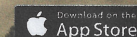
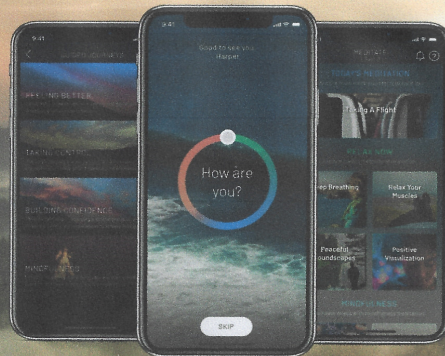
★ Jake Grinberg

Anthony was the son of our member, Theresa Cannone.

This award is lovingly given each year in his memory.

Our best wishes for a bright future!

Say hello to Sanvello



On-demand help with stress, anxiety and depression.

Sanvello is an app that offers clinical techniques to help dial down the symptoms of stress, anxiety and depression — anytime. Connect with powerful tools that are there for you right as symptoms come up. Stay engaged each day for benefits you can feel. Escape to Sanvello whenever you need to, track your progress and stay until you feel better.

Download the app today.
More information on [Sanvello.com](https://www.sanvello.com).

The Sanvello app is available to you at no extra cost as part of your plan's behavioral health benefits.



Daily mood tracking

Answer simple questions each day to capture your current mood, identify patterns and self-assess your progress.



Coping tools

Reach for just the right tool to relax, be in the moment or manage stressful situations, like test-taking, public speaking or morning dread.



Guided journeys

Designed by experts for a range of needs, journeys use clinical techniques to help you feel more in control and build long-term life skills.



Personalized progress

Through weekly check-ins, Sanvello creates a roadmap for improvement. Track where you are, set goals and make strides week by week.



Community support

Connect with one of the largest peer communities in the field and share advice, stories and insights — anonymously, anytime.



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The Sanvello mobile application should not be used for urgent care needs. If you are experiencing a crisis or need emergency care, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room. The information contained in the Sanvello mobile application is for educational purposes only; it is not intended to diagnose problems or provide treatment and should not be used as a substitute for your provider's care. Please discuss with your doctor how the information provided may be right for you. Available to all UnitedHealthcare members at no additional cost as part of their benefit plan. Participation in the program is voluntary and subject to the terms of use contained in the application.

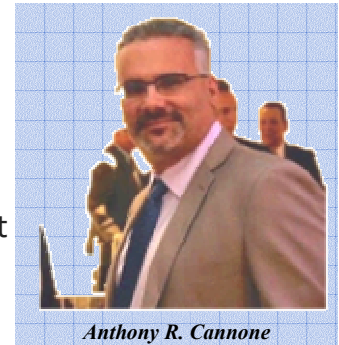
Insurance coverage provided by or through UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company or its affiliates. Administrative services provided by United HealthCare Services, Inc. or their affiliates.

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On the minds of our members.....

♦ The Anthony R. Cannone Memorial Service Award

This award was established by his mother, Smithtown Schools retiree, Theresa Cannone, at Smithtown High School West after his sudden passing at the age of 51. The 2021 recipient is **JAKE GRINBERG**. He has been described as resilient and giving his heart and dedication to the task at hand. Jake will receive the most difficult diploma offered at High School West, an Advanced Regents Diploma with Honors with a Mastery in both Math and Science. He hopes to be a doctor one day and wants to be able to make a difference in the world. Jake is considered a role model for his peers and is both valued and revered by his teachers.



Anthony R. Cannone



Joseph Kirima & Larry Hohler

♦ The 2021 NYSUT Community Service Award

This year's award will be bestowed upon **Mr. Larry Hohler**. Larry is a man who has taken the phrase "*Think globally, Act locally*," to a whole other level. In 1975, Larry and his wife Yvette spent a sabbatical leave in Meru, Kenya that changed their lives.

While teaching history and English, Larry met Joseph Kirima, a student who was 18 years old at the time. When the Hohlers returned to the US, they exchanged addresses with Joseph. As the years passed, their friendship grew. Larry and Yvette subsequently paid Joseph's tuition at Embu Teachers

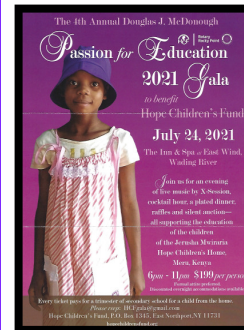
Training College.

After graduation, Joseph began teaching at an elementary school in Meru town. Later he became the headmaster of a failing school, and turned it around. He was also elected President of the Meru branch of the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) - a position he held for more than 10 years.

But this is just the beginning of the story. Economic issues, terrorism, and the AIDS pandemic plagued Kenya, leaving a country of exploited orphans who were living on the streets. Joseph reached out to the Hohlers to ask for their help. He needed funding to maintain a safe haven for some of these children that would provide food, clothing, shelter, and most important, the chance for an education. Hope Children's Fund, Ltd. was born in 2002 with a board of directors on which some of Larry's fellow teachers and former students served. The organization became a New York State registered not-for-profit with tax exempt 501c3 status. The Home's motto, "**Education is the Key**" has been the basis for their philosophy, asserting that education is the route to self-sufficiency.

Sadly, his co-founder and friend, Joseph Kirima Rwito, died of cancer in January, 2020. He embodied a world of good a world away. Larry and Yvette continue their labor of love in their friend's absence.

The CSA Award will be bestowed upon Larry at a fall luncheon on October 18 at the Three Village Inn. More information to follow.



Passion for Education **2021 Gala**

to benefit
Hope Children's Fund
JULY 24, 2021
6pm-10pm

**The Inn & Spa at East Wind,
Wading River**

**Join us for an evening of live music,
cocktail hour, a plated dinner, raffles, and
silent auction. Every ticket pays for a
trimester of secondary school for a child
from the Home.**

\$199 per person

Formal attire preferred

RSVP: HCFgala@gmail.com

P.O. Box 1315, East Northport, NY 11731
hopechildrensfund.org

♦ **A Spiritual Moment in West Texas** by Bill Benzinger

Several years ago I made a comment that I like returning to National Parks that I have been to before.

So.... here we go again.

I left Tampa Airport on the morning of April 8th. I had my two Covid shots in January and February, so I felt ready. I booked economy class tickets with American Airlines, but I upgraded to Business with air miles. I flew Tampa to Dallas-Fort Worth then a puddle jumper to Midland 1 hour away. I flew into Midland in 1997, 2007, and 2017. The last time I was in Midland, I reserved an economy car through Enterprise Car Rental. I walked out to my spot and saw a Ford F-150, 4 door, crew cab, 4 wheel drive pick-up truck. Not what I expected, but I guess this was what they had left. I thought I would fit in with half the drivers in Texas, even if I didn't have a gun rack on the back window. So what did I rent this time?? Instead of an economy car, I got a 2020 "55 Year Anniversary" Ford Mustang Convertible. Black with Black interior. (It was either this or a minivan and I have owned enough of those!) Driving this car was like driving the "Bat Mobile!" There were several driving modes—normal, sport, manual with paddles, and Dragstrip. Every mode produced noticeable changes. Deeper exhaust tone, lowered suspension, more sensitive throttle response. The turbo eco-sport 4 cylinder engine produced 310 horsepower. It was FUN!!.



I'm not sure which was more fun-- the National Parks, the car or my hotels and food. The night before my kayak trip on the Rio Grande I stayed at the Holland Hotel in Alpine, Texas, 70 miles north of Big Bend National Park. It's been said that if you want company and to a chat with local folks, head to a BAR. So, that's exactly what I did. After a shave, shower, and a change of clothes I went to the Happy Hour at my hotel. Here I met a couple who recently purchased a Bed & Breakfast Inn. We had a wonderful chat especially since I was also an Innkeeper for 28 years. They asked me to explain the most outrageous experience I ever had as an Innkeeper. Well—one weekend we had a booking for the entire Inn. There was a wedding party with the bride and groom sharing the Inn's best room. A bachelor party was held for the groom on Friday night and he returned to the Inn late and totally "plastered"! This was bad enough, but he was obnoxious and extremely rude to his future bride. He also "puked" everywhere! I thought to myself, can this get any worse? Yes—It Got Worse!! After the wedding reception the next day, it was Deja Vu. He was drunk again and insisted on driving back to the Inn. On the way back, he ran off the road, went through a fence, and hit a COW!!! At 4:00 AM the State Police woke everyone, placed the groom in handcuffs, and off to jail he went. They were supposed to stay another night, but I had had enough and politely "kicked them out".

The kayak trip was fun. There were about 14 people and we traveled downstream for about 2 miles. The water level was low due to water usage upriver. I had to suspend my hiking plans at Big Bend because a camping couple did not extinguish their campfire properly. A wildfire started which consumed 250 acres before it was brought under control. I had a memorable dinner at the "Starlight Theater Restaurant" in Terlingua-- "Chicken Fried Antelope". They also served boar and quail. These animals that we consider wild are farm-raised. The antelope tasted like chicken.

From here I traveled to Van Horn which was about 60 miles south of the Guadalupe Mountains National Park. Halfway to the park is Jeff Bezos company "Blue Origin." They have recently been involved in launching experimental spacecraft designed for civilian tours to near space. I was here 2 years ago hiking the Guadalupe Peak Trail. This leads to the highest mountain in Texas, Guadalupe Peak with an altitude of 8,751 feet. But let's not leave out the night sky. The Milky Way and our Galaxy in the Texas desert night is something to behold. Add a wood fire in a fire

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pit, a little wine, coyotes howling and you have yourself a spiritual moment. West Texas is an incredible part of the state to visit. Go see for yourself!

♦ **Your Baby Makes My Brown Eyes Blue**

By Victoria Windisch-Templeton



I am of Italian (pronounced with a short 'I' please, as in Italy) decent. This explains my dark brown eyes and naturally dark brown (ok —laced with grey) hair. I am also petite in height, still standing at 5'2 and we will not discuss or even consider my current weight. I strongly resemble my mother, Regina, who is also dark haired, and dark eyed, as well as my two sisters and even my father, who all share the same Mediterranean coloring. And so, when I had my son, Christian, I naturally expected those strong family genes to produce a dark, curly haired baby with big brown eyes. My son was born blonde with blue eyes. He toddled around the house with straight platinum blonde hair, and had an adorable face with blue green eyes. In about a minute, he grew into a 6'2 adult with dark blonde hair and hazel eyes. His beloved godmother, Jeanine, my life long friend (code for we've begun to grow old but still remain friends) being of Polish descent, with blonde hair and hazel eyes, looked more like his mother than I did. If she pushed his stroller in the mall, everyone assumed he was her son. I guess that was partially due to the fact that they were both so beautiful and oh so blonde. When I would take Christian to family reunions in New York, he would look around and say "Mom, are you sure I'm related to these people?" Bless my families hearts, they would always tell me he had the shape of my eyes, or my mouth or my ability to dance (they were searching)!

I always read to my child, even before he was born. I could recite ***Good Night Moon*** by Margaret Wise Brown in my sleep. However, Christian had reached the second grade, and was not a fan of reading. Being a high energy and very social child, he simply had a more important school agenda. His teacher decided to arrange for a 6th grade tutor to come to the classroom each day to read with him. I met her once, she was tall, pretty, and well, blonde. His reading improved significantly. Reaching the mature age of ten, my son met his first crush. I know this because I delivered him, along with a rose, to the young lady's door on Valentine's Day. She answered the door, and as I stretched my neck to get a glimpse of her from the car, she was of course tall, cute and blonde.

High school brought his first love, a blonde. College years brought a small acquaintance of blonde coeds. They say that a daughter will often look for a spouse that resembles her father. My son went in the complete opposite direction than his mother to chose the women that will forever hold his heart. My daughter-in-law, Kristen, is as lovely looking as her name. She is of medium stature, with big blue eyes, beautiful, and of course, it goes without saying, blonde. Her mother an attractive woman, resembles me in coloring. Her father is tall, and handsome and with big blue eyes. And with my son, she created a beautiful blonde, big, huge blue-eyed baby that world has never before seen (spoken like a true grand!)!

The corona virus has kept me on the farm, and I have been unable to visit my family, and especially my precious grandson, Morrison James. He is walking now, running actually, and in the process of finding his voice. I cannot wait to hold him in my arms and push him in a stroller where I know I will be asked, "What a beautiful little boy. *Are you the nanny?*"

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♦ **The Love Diet** By Amy J. Mannarino

An idea came to me while lying in bed one morning and contemplating getting up. I will go on a "Love Diet"! What is a "Love Diet" you may be wondering? I surmised that it would be interesting and often quite challenging to look at every situation that happened through the "eyes of love" rather than through the "eyes of fear, judgment, hatred, sadness etc."



I jumped out of bed feeling excited about my new idea and was looking forward to experiencing a new way to view the world. This concept was immediately put to the test as I stepped out of bed and landed in dog vomit. **Ugh!** ...I immediately voiced, in addition to some other not-so-nice phrases! As I hobbled over to get a paper towel, I remembered my intention of starting "The Love Diet" today. I started to laugh and thought "Ok universe, you are challenging me already!" My mind immediately shifted, and I asked myself, "How can I look at this situation through the eyes of love?" As I took a deep breath, I thought, "Well it is only dog vomit and at least my dog is still alive". You see, it was my 16-year-old Maltese named Penny who became ill. She was dealing with heart issues, arthritis of her legs and back as well as other health issues. "The Love Diet" reminded me to be grateful for her being with me for so long, and my perception changed in an instant. Rather than cleaning up, I immediately attended to my sweet dog. Wow, I thought being on this "Love Diet" is going to take conscious effort and awareness each moment of my day. Although it seemed daunting, I knew I could do this if I made the commitment.

I have been on the "Love Diet" for several weeks and it has made my life so much better!! I challenge each of you to join me on this path to experience how your own world will change for the better. All it takes is a shift in perception and the willingness to look at all situations, whether labeled good or bad, through a different lens. All of us desire that our life experiences be free of suffering; we want experiences that are sweeter, kinder, enjoyable, and more loving.

Come on board and join me in the "Love Diet" and you will experience the miracle of "love" each and every day. *Be well and enjoy life!*

♦ **Congratulations!** Carmelina and Sal Trifiletti are proud to announce that their son Paul Trifiletti qualified for Championships on ***Jeopardy!*** and was on the TV show on May 19th, 2021. Paul was one of 15 contestants in the last 12 to 18 months that were the highest earners. He was on ***Jeopardy!*** and played for five nights back in March 2020 earning almost \$107, 000!



♦ **In Praise of Being Old Enough** by Joanne McEnroy

I have never felt as young as I do since moving into our 55+ community, where my husband and I qualify to live by at least a decade. Citing a famous line from the Seinfeld sitcom, my sons refer to our new home as "Del Boca Vista II" or college, day camp, and permanent vacation, depending on their sarcasm quotient that day. They call our beautiful townhome 'the dorm' and our friends, 'dorm mates'. When the winter season in FL ends and we prepare to head north, they call it the end of our semester.

"But don't worry, Mom. It's not senior year, so you'll get to see all the kids again real soon."

I laugh because there is a lot of truth in their humor. We are, it seems, in our second childhood, and that is not such a bad place to be after five decades of a commitment-filled existence. To make use of another quote from Prime Time, we "deserve a break today."

So, when I meet people afraid of retirement, I admit that I am a bit confounded. "I have no idea what I'd do all day," they lament. And to that, I quip, "Of course you don't!"

Since retirement, yes, I have done the proverbial travel. But I have also written and presented a four-course curriculum to graduate and post-graduate students and presented professional development

(Continued from page 9)

workshops to teachers across Long Island. I ran for and was elected to a public position that I held for seven years. I write daily, run a book club, experiment with my Nikon, take online classes, and take and teach in-person writing classes. I have learned the art of stained glass making and occasionally I pull out the acrylics or, sometimes, the watercolors. I learned to play pickleball, and ironically, having no natural athleticism of my own, teach a pickleball clinic in my community to other active sexagenarians. And I didn't have a clue that I would be doing any one of these things after handing back the keys to my classroom door.

I wonder if they called it "Restructuring" instead of "Retiring" if the paradigm would change?

The unique part about living in a community of like-aged persons is that I have also found like-minded (and 'like-attituded') individuals. We inspire each other to explore the previously unexplored. To take part in a journey toward the **Undiscovered Self**, which is the stage I've named myself being in, unearthing adventures, hobbies, interests, and entertainments that were obscured and burdened by a lifetime of obligation. Work can be rewarding, but discoveries are exhilarating! It is a blessing, I know, to have such freedom and the resources to do this, but it is not a blessing bestowed as much as sought. "Doing," I am convinced, is not something that comes to you as much as it is something you go out and find. And a 55+ community makes the finding that much more accessible.

A quick internet search revealed the following areas essential to childhood development. I've added italicized proof that my kids may be right! I am having a second go-around at childhood!

- Personal, social and emotional development-*Living with new and exciting people that force me to keep an open mind and heart, at times a challenge but it helps me to grow toward acceptance and new understandings*
- Communication and language- *New doors opened, new people met, new ideas shared, new horizons breached.*
- Physical development-*I can never claim "no time for the gym." And pickleball? Who would ever have thought? Plus, I can get most broken parts fixed or replaced.*
- Literacy-*I have all the time in the world to read. And read. And read. So, I do.*
- Mathematics-*OK, this one has me stumped unless you count "How can I budget for THIS many excursions?"*
- Understanding the world-*Who does?*
- Expressive arts and design-*My only problem now is what to do with it all? Anyone want a water-color painting of a pineapple?*

New doors opened, new people met, new ideas shared, new horizons breached. I am not aging! I am simply restructuring! And the kids are right. I'm happy to be old enough to live in my dorm at "Del Boca Vista II", counting my time in semesters. And, lucky for me, it 'ain't' senior year!

WooHoo!



Sincere Thanks.....

....to everyone who shared a story, an experience, a joke, informed or enlightened us this year.

Your contributions to this publication helped tremendously during this year of Covid quarantining. I couldn't have completed this year's issues without you. Also— My thanks to the SSRA Board, under the leadership of Patty Stoddard. Like most, we suffered through our own illnesses and loss, but their unending dedication and support for this organization was so greatly appreciated.

~mmd

Not sure where to start with your summer to-do list?

Whether it's assisting NYSUT members with everyday essentials, important choices about insurance needs, or making prudent decisions about financial and legal concerns, NYSUT Member Benefits can help.



Scan the QR code below to learn more about the following endorsed programs and services.

Saving you money: MB Discounts & Deals

With the Member Benefits Discounts & Deals program, NYSUT members can save up to 50% at more than 700,000 merchants nationwide (including thousands throughout New York State). Save on groceries and food delivery; restaurant dine-in or takeout; gasoline, oil changes and vehicle maintenance; clothing and shoes; and much more. You can even request that your favorite merchant join the network.

Saving you money: Every \$\$\$ counts

Whether your summer plans include home renovations, replacing or upgrading appliances, getting a new car, stocking up for the return to school, or even just hanging out and enjoying some time off, Member Benefits has a variety of endorsed programs -- Purchasing Power, Buyer's Edge Inc., Office Depot/OfficeMax, Bose, Powell's Books -- that might be able to minimize the impact on your wallet and maximize your enjoyment of the all-too-fleeting summer months.



Protecting your family: Insuring yourself and your family

Member Benefits endorses a number of competitive insurance programs that are available to NYSUT members. These include auto/home/renters, life, disability, long term care, dental, vision, and even pet insurance. Some of these programs are also available to or cover spouses/domestic partners of members, dependent children, dependent parents, and grandparents. Most offer payroll & pension deduction as payment options.

Planning for the future: Have a plan for wherever life takes you

It's never too early or too late to make a plan. Just starting a career or looking at retirement? Beginning to pay off loans or building a nest egg? Looking to buy a new home or refinance the one you're in? Welcoming a new child or adopting? Now would be a good time to look into the ways to put a plan in place or make adjustments to your existing one. Explore the Member Benefits Financial Learning Center for assistance; while you're there, check out our Legal Service Plan and Financial Counseling Program.

NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of programs and services that are available to NYSUT members and their families, including the following options:



DINING & SHOPPING DISCOUNTS



TRAVEL & TOURS



CAR & TRUCK RENTALS



LIFE INSURANCE



AUTO & HOME



LONG-TERM CARE & DISABILITY

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org, call 800-626-8101 or scan the QR code above.

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

May/June '21

Additions/Changes to Directory

♦ New / Returning Members:

Karolin Acunto 2 Avenue A,
Kings Park, NY 11754
631-747-2105

Bert Bloch 21 Caroline Ave.,
Setauket, NY 11733
631-751-4381
Cell: 631-375- 8200
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Mary Talamo-Geiger add cell: 631-835-9912

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Classified Ads

Certified Life Coach: Summer is here and what a wonderful season to “love what is now”. Sessions each week with a life coach allows you to spend time on yourself to discover who you are, what makes you happy and what brings you joy each day. To initiate change in your life, ask yourself: “If I do not love what is now, what needs to change and how do I get there?” Contact Amy, certified life coach, at **631-576-7189** or **amy.mannarino@yahoo.com** to schedule a session.

Reiki Sessions & Classes! Jeanmarie Wilson, Reiki Master offers outdoor and distant sessions to facilitate physical and personal healing, help manifest your goals and increase relaxation and wellness. Spring and summer classes will help you to assist yourself and others through the healing art of Reiki. Are you ready for a change? If so, contact me!

Further information can be found here: **jeanmariewilson.com** or call **631-834-9503**

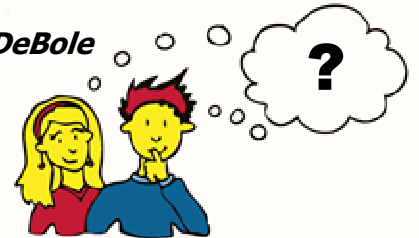
For Rent: Vermont home on beautiful Lake Rescue! Sleeps 10. 4 BRs, 2 1/2 baths, 2 kitchens, 2 fireplaces, outdoor fire pit, gas bbq. Kayaks and rowboat. A few weeks still available in August. For more information, call **516-971-5101**



Oh no, you didn't

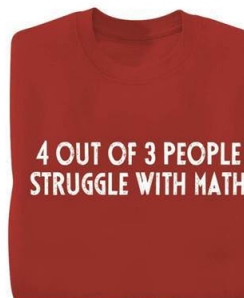
Submitted by Lou DeBole

- Dad, are we pyromaniacs? Yes, we arson.
- A commander walks into a bar and orders everyone around.
- I lost my job as a stage designer. I left without making a scene.
- My friends and I have named our band 'Duvet'. It's a cover band.
- When I told my contractor I didn't want carpeted steps, he gave me a blank stare.
- Bono and The Edge walk into a Dublin bar and the bartender says, "Oh no, not U2 again."
- Scientists got together to study the effects of alcohol on a person's walk, and the result was staggering
- I got over my addiction to chocolate, marshmallows, and nuts. I won't lie, it was a rocky road.
- What do you say to comfort a friend who's struggling with grammar? There, their, they're.
- I went to the toy store and asked the assistant where the Schwarznegger dolls are and he replied, "Aisle B, back."
- What did the surgeon say to the patient who insisted on closing up their own incision? Suture self.



T-SHIRTS for SENIORS!

Submitted by
Lou DeBole





Best Wishes

for a happy and safe summer!

*Have a care with
your summer plans.*

Covid may be better, but its not over yet.

*~The SSRA
Executive Committee
Patty Stoddard,
President*



S.S.R.A.

Smithtown Schools Retirees' Association
c/o STA Office
26 New York Avenue
Smithtown, NY 11787

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