

# S.S.R.A. NEWSLETTER

SMITHTOWN SCHOOLS RETIREES' ASSOCIATION

**BE SURE YOU ARE INCLUDED IN THIS YEAR'S DIRECTORY  
PAY your DUES  
By APRIL 1st  
SEE PAGE 14**

Volume 21 / Issue 3



March 2021

## *So You've been Vaccinated—NOW WHAT?*

**YOU MUST  
CONTINUE  
TO:**



WEAR A MASK



MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING



WASH YOUR HANDS



*Reprinted from  
NYSUT Website*

- **Why? It takes time for the effectiveness of both vaccines to build up.**

With the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, protection doesn't start until 12 days after the first shot and it reaches 52% effectiveness a few weeks later. A week after the second vaccination is when the effectiveness rate reaches 95%. Moderna has reported a protection rate of 51% two weeks after the first immunization and 94% two weeks after the second dose.

**Scientists are still gathering data on whether you can be asymptomatic and able to shed the virus after vaccination.**

There is the possibility that if you encounter COVID-19, after being vaccinated, you may not display symptoms but be able to shed the virus. This is because your immune system may not fight off the virus completely. It might allow some viruses to survive and reproduce and get expelled from your nose or mouth in a breath, cough or sneeze. Scientists must still collect data on whether vaccinated people can test positive for COVID-19 after being vaccinated before we can amend mitigation strategies.

(Adapted from NPR article, "Why You Should Still Wear A Mask And Avoid Crowds After Getting the Covid 19 Vaccine")

- **What is herd immunity and when will we achieve it? COVID-19 mRNA vaccines will not give you COVID-19; mRNA vaccines do not use the live virus that causes COVID-19.**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that experts do not know exactly what percentage of people would need to get vaccinated to achieve herd immunity to COVID-19. The World Health Organization's chief scientist warned that herd immunity is not likely in 2021.

"Herd immunity is a term used to describe when enough people have protection — either from previous infection or vaccination—that it is unlikely a virus or bacteria can spread and cause disease. As a result, everyone within the community is protected even if some people don't have any protection themselves. The percentage of people who need to have protection in order to achieve herd immunity varies by disease."

Until we have reached an acceptable, to be determined, level of herd immunity we must maintain our practices of mask wearing, maintaining social distance and washing our hands. These practices will protect us all.

- **I've been vaccinated but have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19.  
Do I need to quarantine?**

We have not been advised whether you'll need to quarantine after you receive both vaccine doses. Out of an abundance of caution, it would be wise to quarantine until we are given further guidance from the CDC.

**F A Q s: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>**

**NEED TO SCHEDULE A VACCINE? CALL 1-833-697-4829 or visit:**

**[am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov](http://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov) or**

**[CVS](#) or [Walgreens drugstores](#)**



## Smithtown Schools Retirees' Association

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Email: [ssraeditor@gmail.com](mailto:ssraeditor@gmail.com)

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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](http://myssra.com) and Like us on **facebook**

**Get Well Wishes !**

**John Scomilio**

*Son of George and Karen Makris  
and Principal at Great Hollow Middle School*

**Welcome Back !**

**Susan Fink**

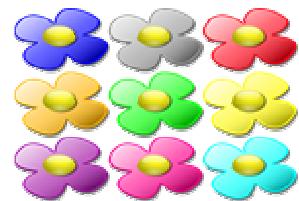
*After her illness this past year!  
Better and stronger than ever!*



**Congratulations !**

**Lou DeBole**

*On the birth of his great-grandson,  
Julian Stephen*



**WE'RE ALL IN THIS – TOGETHER.**

*Do you have something to share?*

Your SSRA Newsletter and fellow members would love to hear from you.

Share your pandemic thoughts or experiences,  
or any other observations you have.

Send them to [ssraeditor@gmail.com](mailto:ssraeditor@gmail.com) or mail them to:  
**SSRA, 26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, NY 11787**



# *Our Deepest Sympathy :*



## ♦ To Corinne and Rich Forzano and family

Rich lost his father, Charles, on New Year's Eve 2020.

## ♦ To Mary Hoage

On the loss of her son Ronald Hoage, Jr. who passed away on January 5th. Mary worked at Smithtown Elementary teaching reading and math, in addition to Accompsett Elementary. Ronald's services were private, but you can call Mary at 631-724-8973



## ♦ To the Family and Friends of G. Holly Whitacre

G. Holly Whitacre passed away on December 1, 2020. He was a Guidance Counselor at Smithtown HS East and an Asst. Principal at Smithtown HS West. Here is the link to his obituary: <https://www.hallwynne.com/obituaries/George-Holly-Whitacre?obId=19170870#/obituaryInfo>

## ♦ To the Family and Friends of Irene Neely

Before retiring in the late 1990's, Irene taught English at Smithtown High School East and was an avid reader. After a long battle with MS, she succumbed to Covid Pneumonia.

Cards may be sent to her brother:

Bill Neely at 693 Franklin Avenue, Massapequa, NY 11758

## ♦ To the Family and Friends of Lillian Andersen Morris

A member of the Smithtown Schools family from first grade through her graduation in 1937, (and the Senior Class Secretary for the Class of 1937), Lillian passed away on November 23, 2020 at the age of 100. She was the mother-in-law of retired science teacher, John Glaessgen, and the great aunt of Nicholas and Serena Spata, (Serena is the current Editor for the Smithtown Teachers' Association's ***Faculty Focus***.)



## ♦ To the Family and Friends of Sue Mahoney

Sue passed away from Covid at Stony Brook Hospital on Saturday, January 23rd, 2021. She worked for the Math & Science Chairs at Smithtown High School West. I will remember her as a robust red-head who was really bright, had a great smile and a great sense of humor. Condolences may be sent to her family at: 50 Plymouth Street, Centereach, NY 11720

*My sincere apologies to:*

**Carole Siegel and family**

*for the typographical error in the December issue.*

~Mary Mills Desjeunes

## **AFT offering no-cost COVID-19 grief counseling & trauma coverage**

Our national affiliate, the American Federation of Teachers, is providing no-cost COVID-19 grief counseling to all active & retired AFT members and their eligible immediate family members.

**VISIT: <https://traumacoverage.com/aft/enhanced-benefits>**





## Why do we need VOTE/COPE?

By June Smith, Suffolk Vote/Cope Coordinator & former STA Political Action Chairperson

As the year 2021 begins we are facing the most difficult challenges that any of us can remember. COVID19 has impacted our health, our economy, and the whole structure of our country, state, and local communities. This has been a time that has highlighted the need for elected officials who are capable, willing to face the hard work and hard issues, and care about all of us and all of our communities. Over the last few decades NYSUT has worked to elect people who fit that description and VOTE/COPE has provided the funds to do that work.

As we approach the planning period for the new state budget, NYSUT is advocating for revenue enhancements to fill the state budget deficit and meet the added expenses of protecting all of us. It's a time when the ultra-wealthy have profited and the lower income and middle class citizens have struggled. NYSUT is urging changes in the income tax structure that will produce greater revenues from multi-millionaires and billionaires. Part of these efforts will be a media campaign to educate the public about the problem we face and the need for additional revenues. This is one of the ways VOTE/COPE dollars are used.

Other uses of VOTE/COPE include supporting the election campaigns of legislators who support our concerns about public education, pension protection (think opposition to the Constitutional Convention), health insurance, Social Security, and Medicare.

If you are retired 5 years or more you are receiving a Cost-of-living adjustment every year. While it is a small monthly adjustment (\$15 to \$18.) per month, it adds up. I retired in 2004. Over the years my pension has increased over \$2,000. per year because of the COLA. NYSUT fought for the COLA legislation 20 years ago and was able to succeed because we had elected supportive legislators. We continue to try to increase the COLA but in the meantime our pensions are a little better each year as a result of our advocacy. Not a bad investment!!

If you're already a VOTE/COPE contributor--  
*Thank you!!*

But I would encourage you to think about how much you are contributing and possibly increasing that contribution. If you're not contributing, please consider adding your support to the effort. Smithtown's retiree average contribution last year was about \$15.00. Our neighboring chapters in western Suffolk mostly average between \$20 and \$30. Thirty of our members give \$5 or more per month. If you're not one of that group, how about joining us? The easiest way to contribute is through pension deduction. Contributing a few dollars a month is an easy way to do your share and invest in yourself.

For convenience, contribute online at:

[nysut.org/my-nysut](http://nysut.org/my-nysut) or

See contribution form on page 5 →

Staying safe and healthy at home  
is as easy as a push of the button.

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Complete and submit the form at  
[www.connectamerica.com/nysut](http://www.connectamerica.com/nysut)

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**Customer Care 877-903-5111 ♦ Customer Sales 844-996-9788**

**Customer Billing 866-502-2622 Option #1**



### How It Works

- ♦ When you need help, just press your button.
- Your information is sent to the emergency response center.
- ♦ An emergency response operator connects with you through the speaker on your device and decides on the proper action.



- ♦ The operator sends the appropriate responder based on your needs.



*Monthly Pension Deductions are EASY! JUST FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW.*



## 2021 SSRA VOTE COPE DRIVE



### CHOOSE ONE OF THREE WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE:

#### 1) MAIL YOUR CHECK TO THE SSRA OFFICE

(Mail check to: SSRA—26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, NY 11787)

#### 2) ONLINE at [nysut.org/](http://nysut.org/) my-nysut OR

#### 3) MONTHLY PENSION DEDUCTIONS

(Print; Fill out this form; Mail it to Latham, NY address listed below)



### VOTE-COPE PENSION DEDUCTION AUTHORIZATION CARD

*Complete and Mail to:*

**VOTE-COPE c/o NYSUT, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PENSION #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **NYSUT MEMBER ID #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**LOCAL #:** **SMITHSTOWN SCHOOLS RETIREES ASSOCIATION #23-050**

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

*The undersigned authorizes 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  \$10,  \$5, or  OTHER \$\_\_\_\_ PER MONTH and to forward that amount to:*

**VOTE-COPE, c/o NYSUT, 800 Troy-Scenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110.**

*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 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.

I hereby request monthly withholding of union deductions from my monthly benefit as permitted by Section 536 of the Education Law and Section 110-b of the Retirement and Social Security Law. NYSTRS or NYSERS is authorized to continue taking such deduction until NYSUT receives written notice from me to the contrary. I understand that NYSUT VOTE-COPE is my agent and all requests to begin, modify, or revoke deductions must be submitted through NYSUT VC.

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

*VOTE-COPE is the NYSUT political action fund. ♦ Contributions or gifts to VOTE-COPE are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.*

# OFF THE CUFF

by John Pettit



As most members know, the SSRA operates out of the STA Office, in the NYA Building. Your messages are relayed as a courtesy by Corinne, the STA secretary, who also receives and sorts our mail. Unfortunately, due to personal/health issues, Corinne was not in the office for most of December and half of January and while she has returned, we are scrambling to catch up with both phone messages and dues payments. Your understanding is much appreciated.

**MEMBERSHIP:** I recently picked up the accumulated dues payments – a huge pile of envelopes. The SSRA thanks you for your response, however, there remains several dozen members from whom we have not heard. Kindly take care of your dues as soon as possible. In spring (there will be one this year), the SSRA will publish our bi-annual **Members' Directory** which is **ONLY mailed to all dues-paid members.**

**NEWSLETTER:** Over the years it has been amazing to read members' submitted stories of their travels, adventures and interests. The arrival of Covid -19 has greatly reduced members' activities; this left us seeking material to print. We are most grateful to Mary (Mills) Desjeunes, our editor and publisher, whose efforts make this Newsletter happen. ***Great job, Mary.***



## RAMBLING RUMBLES:

In the previous issue, I sought to bring some humor into the "new normal" of distancing and quarantining. We've gotten through the Holidays and the New Year, hopefully healthy. As I sit here writing this, watching the snow fall on this Super Bowl Sunday, I am struggling to remain upbeat – even the "Big Game" is lacking the excitement of previous roman numbers. Phone calls, Facetime and texts with the grandkids are reduced to "What's new?"... "Nuthin'"... "OK, we'll talk again" – no online school news, no sports action, little socializing. That, with the exception of getting my second vaccine shot this week, is the sole interesting conversation. I sure hope that this way of living passes so that we can go out and enjoy this spring and summer.

**A THOUGHT:** *I have never understood why it is "greed" to want to keep the money you've earned, but not greed to want to take someone else's money.* ~Thomas Sowell

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## *You know you are living in 2021 when....*

- (1) You accidentally enter your PIN on the microwave.
- (2) You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
- (3) You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.
- (4) You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you
- (5) Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.
- (6) You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the groceries.
- (7) Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't even have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.
- (8) You get up in the morning and go online before getting your coffee
- (9) You start tilting your head sideways to smile. :)
- (10) You're reading this and nodding and laughing.
- (11) You are too busy to notice there was no #9 on this list.
- (12) You actually look back to see that there wasn't a #9 on this list!



Submitted by Lou DeBole

# *On the minds of our members.....*



## **• Down the Garden Path with the Rest of the Fairies**

**By Victoria Windisch-Templeton**

If there is a teenager in America who actually likes to help their parents garden (code for pull weeds), I have yet to meet one including myself as a teen. My mother loved to have my father transplant shrubs to the point that my dad would often say that the azaleas would shake every time he walked pass them with a shovel. With a cigarette (it was the 1960's), and a cold drink in one hand, and steering a ride on lawn mower with the other hand, my dad would set off "a mowing" while us girls would be given the chore of weeding the flower beds. My older sister, Valerie, was a good daughter, and took the job with determination and pride. My younger sister, Gina, who we called the baby (probably until she was 12) is not in this weeding memory, and I the middle girl hated, hated, the task at hand.

When we three sisters all grew up and had our own homes and gardens, our parent's insistence that we be weed proficient, was at last appreciated. My older sister cultivated a beautiful perennial garden on her property in Maine and over the years has provided us with Christmas presents that consisted of gardening tools, fancy gloves and magnificent dahlia bulbs.

My "baby" sister sends me pictures of her exquisite Long Island garden filled with flowering shrubs and artistic stone work. She often reminds me about an enchanting rose bush that I once gave her years ago that still blooms to this day like something out of Snow White.

When I bought my first home, I spent endless summers planting, weeding, watering and digging shrub holes. I drew the line at mowing and to this day I am proud to say I have yet to mow a lawn! When I had my son, Christian, the first play garden tool I bought for him was a bubble mower. He loved that mower and mowed for miles. Miles! He practically mowed until he was actually old enough to use a real mower (slight exaggeration) then he took a summer job and that was the end of my gardening help. As my grandmother Sadie would say, "Life is stranger than fiction!" Once the boy grew into a man and moved into said house, he took control of the landscaping, and weeding, planting and hole digging skills moved on to the next generation. The results of his garden are pleasing, picturesque and simply charming. And best of all is that his sweet toddler son, Morison, has begun to push his miles on the new generation of bubble mowers.

As for my garden here in Michigan, my husband the farmer surprised me 10 years ago by planting the beds around the patio and around the house as a gift for our impending wedding at the farm. Over the years, I have added to those plantings with flowering perennials, roses, a variety of colorful hydrangeas, and aromatic herbs.

This year I decided to build my own water garden in an ugly alcove that houses a rusty old antenna tower. To achieve this, I ordered from my new friend Amazon, two bamboo water spouts that recycle water into an old vintage wash tub. I planted flowering shrubs, vines, and perennials, and dragged out some lawn furniture to make the spot inviting and cozy.

It is only July and I am garden weary and exhausted. My non-existent nails are ragged, dirty

*Continued on page 8*

(Continued from page 7)

and a bit bloody from pulling farm size weeds through stone flower beds. My back aches each night and my fingers and hands have permanent dirt and grass stains embedded into the skin. However, my arms are getting quite toned from dragging 100 feet of hose around the patio and house. Who needs a gym?



But the best part in all this endless labor, is that every morning I can go outside and open the patio umbrella's, water the flowering pots and plants, and check for new buds or blooms about to enfold. I can sit in the water garden with a cup of coffee while my dog Paige naps on a bench in the sun that filters through the surrounding plants, and thank my parents for having the good sense to torture the sulky teen into appreciating and cultivating a passion that would see her through the latter years of her somewhat subdued country life.



### • **Brenda Mwendwa by Larry Hohler**

Things are looking up in Kenya. Because of the quick action of the Kenyan government last March, closing schools and churches, and limiting domestic travel, the pandemic appears to be under control; churches have reopened and the kids went back to school at the beginning of January.

One of our most beloved children, Brenda Mwendwa, was to have joined her classmates in their last year of Primary School. Brenda came to us when she was four after her parents died. In what seemed to me like all of a sudden, she had become a teenager. She was slow to develop because of a pre-existing condition, but became the pint-sized life of the party from almost the time of her arrival. When folks came to visit from New York, she was the most photographed of our orphans because she was very cute and always smiling. Brenda was a great entertainer who loved to dance, and, with her sparkling personality, endeared herself to visitors, the rest of our kids, and our staff.

Last fall, when she was 16, she suddenly became anemic, and was in and out of the hospital for several months. Two of our older boys donated blood to help in her recovery, but Brenda's condition continued to worsen. She died on January 25th, almost a year after the passing of Joe Kirima, our Home's founder.

Brenda is greatly missed. The Kenyans we know are better at dealing with death than most of us, but not used to dealing with the loss of a youngster who came to represent the heart and soul of the Home. Rest in Peace, Brenda.

**Editor's Note:** *Larry and Yvette Hohler, with other dedicated volunteers, run Hope Children's Fund. It helps provide food, clothing, shelter, education, and medical care for AIDS affected orphans at the school in Meru, Kenya, to help them become productive adults.*

**For more information about this endeavor, or to donate, please visit [hopechildrensfund.org](http://hopechildrensfund.org)**

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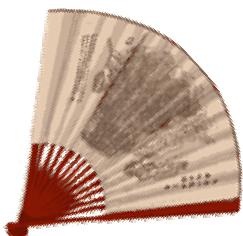
## • **Being Snowbirds By Bill Benzinger**

As Educators and Scientists, we have been following the development of the virus Covid 19 and the promised vaccines in the past year. The government has pushed virus research and emergency approval has been given to several pharmaceutical companies. (I knew I shouldn't have sold my Pfizer stock!) Since the beginning of 2021, Covid 19 vaccines have become available to the public on a rationing system based on priorities and age. I'm sure we can thank the Trump Administration for "Operation WARP SPEED" designed to acquire adequate vaccine supplies and rapid protocols for its distribution!

My wife Debby and I have found it almost impossible to acquire the vaccinations quickly or at a close location. We finally came up with a solution. Our daughter Vicky and her husband Andrew live in Burlington, Vermont, a stone's throw from the Eastern Shore of New York on Lake Champlain. After spending some time on the NYS Covid Site, we got Covid Reservations on January 26th and the 27th. A second shot on February 16th and 17th at Plattsburgh Airport -- 413 miles from Long Island. We had 2 travel options: fly or drive. Being a Private Pilot for 30 years, I love to fly private or commercial. The problem is that Debby does not like to fly. This is why I don't own an Aircraft. So we drove. An hour and a half on the Port Jefferson-Bridgeport Ferry, and another 5 hours driving northbound. Then 5 days later we reversed this. The same thing again in February. At least we have our Covid Vaccinations and we had great visits with our family. Now we can get back to what we like best at this time of the year; being Snowbirds!

Here we go again; driving for 3 days, but the outcome will be rewarding!

## • **Tai Chi Fan**



**By Joanne Goldwasser**

Several years ago I began taking a tai chi class at the Unitarian Fellowship on Nicolls Road in Stony Brook. I've stuck with it and continued from learning and practicing Yang 24 to Tai Chi with Sword and Tai Chi with Fan. Tai chi is a martial art, but it looks more like a ballet. The forms are excellent breathing and balancing exercises.

Our Tai chi Sword class uses a flexible long sword, harmless but intimidating to anyone who see us carrying it around in its sheath. My youngest granddaughter thinks it's great for action play-acting!

Tai chi Fan has taken years to learn, and much to my amazement I've learned and am trying to perfect the form.

In addition, I've developed new friendships with people I probably would have never met!

I joined on a whim; but continue in an activity that's become very important to me. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate at whatever level feels pain free. When we can congregate again, think about observing or joining a class free of charge to see if it's right for you.

**REMEMBER!** This is a Directory 'printing year'. If your dues are not paid by April 1st, you will **NOT** be included in the 2021-22 Directory.

If you send a duplicate check, we will consider it a contribution to be included in our charitable donations which funds Scholarships, Food Pantries, and local Smithtown issues.



# Getting Old is not for sissies.....

*Submitted by Lou DeBole*



- When I was a kid I wanted to be older...this is not what I expected.....
- My memory's not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.
- It's weird being the same age as old people.
- Having plans sounds like a good idea until you have to put on clothes and leave the house.
- It's probably my age that tricks people into thinking I'm an adult.
- I see people about my age mountain climbing; I feel good getting my leg through my underwear without losing my balance.
- If you can't think of a word say "I forgot the English word for it." That way people will think you're bilingual instead of an idiot.
- I'm at a place in my life where errands are starting to count as going out.
- I'm at that age where my mind still thinks I'm 29, my humor suggests I'm 12, while my body mostly keeps asking if I'm sure I'm not dead yet.
- It is my feeling that chocolate is God's way of telling us he likes us a little bit chubby.
- You don't realize how old you are until you sit on the floor and then try to get back up.
- We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story, and I'm sticking to it.

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## **Do you remember the game show *Hollywood Squares*?**

It ran from 1965-2004. It was a tic-tac-toe game of bluffs and zingers.  
Even today, the answers provided by the celebrities are timeless.

*Submitted by John Pettit &  
Lou Debole*

**Q. If you're going to make a parachute jump, at least how high should you be?**

A. **Charley Weaver:** Three days of steady drinking should do it.

**Q Paul, what is a good reason for pounding meat?**

A. **Paul Lynde:** Loneliness! (The audience laughed so long it took up almost 15 minutes of the show!)

**Q. You've been having trouble going to sleep. Are you probably a man or a woman?**

A. **Don Knotts:** That's what's been keeping me awake.

**Q. According to Cosmopolitan, if you meet a stranger at a party and you think that he is attractive, is it okay to come out and ask him if he's married?**

A. **Rose Marie:** No, wait until morning.

**Q. Which of your five senses tends to diminish as you get older?**

A. **Charley Weaver:** My sense of decency.

**Q. Paul, why do Hell's Angels wear leather?**

A. **Paul Lynde:** Because chiffon wrinkles too easily.

**Q. You've want to grow strawberries. Are you going to get any during the first year?**

A. **Charley Weaver:** Of course not, I'm too busy growing strawberries.

**Q. Can boys join the Camp Fire Girls?**

A. **Marty Allen:** Only after lights out.

**Q According to Ann Landers, is there anything wrong with getting into the habit of kissing a lot of people?**

A. **Charley Weaver:** It got me out of the army.

**Q According to Ann Landers, what are two things you should never do in bed?**

A. **Paul Lynde:** Point and laugh



# 1099 TAX FORM INFORMATION

## from NYSTRS/NYSLRS

Your 1099-R tax statement for calendar year 2020 pension earnings is being mailed to you and is expected to arrive in your mailbox by early February.

If you have a MyNYSTRS account, you can access your statement earlier by viewing it online in your secure account. Log in to **MyNYSTRS** and click 1099 Forms under the **My Retirement** tab.

While you're there, e-subscribe to get your future 1099-R statements earlier online. If you don't have a MyNYSTRS account, we encourage you to register for one today.

**Please note:** High volumes of mail being handled by the U.S. Postal Service this year could result in some delivery delays. Having a **MyNYSTRS** account will allow you to access your statement now.

The 1099-R shows your gross benefit amount, the taxable amount and any federal tax withheld. Tax statements from previous years are also available online in **MyNYSTRS**. If you want to change your withholding amount on future payments, visit the W-4P Withholding Election page in the Tools tab of **MyNYSTRS**. You can also change your withholding by submitting a completed *W-4P Withholding Election and Certificate* (FIN-149) form to us.

If you have questions about your 1099-R or if you don't receive your form by early February, contact **NYSTRS at (800) 348-7298, Ext. 6120**.

### **FOR NON-CERTIFIED MEMBERS:**

**1099 Forms for NYSL.R.S. should be mailed to you by January 31st.**

**NYSL.R.S. questions can be answered at <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/retirement>**  
**Or by calling Toll-free:[1-866-805-0990](tel:1-866-805-0990)**

**Please Note:** Questions about individual tax liabilities should be directed to a certified tax professional or the IRS.



**Remember to send your Social Security Statement for reimbursement of your Medicare payments to:**

**Smithtown School District  
ATTN: Employee Benefits  
26 New York Avenue  
Smithtown, NY 11787**

**Your SSRA dues helps us contribute to keep benefits such as these in place.**

**Thank you for your membership!**

Submitted by Lou DeBole

### ***Just a Heads-Up....***

As of this date, the **Annual Spring Luncheon** will be on hold again this year because of Covid-19 concerns. However, the SSRA will be announcing an online **ZOOM Social Date** in the near future. We will email blast the website, link, date and time to log on. It's not even close to how wonderful our luncheons are, but you can hook up with old friends and make plans of your own!!



# Legal or financial concerns?

## NYSUT Member Benefits can help

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.

### MEMBER BENEFITS



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

**Legal Service Plan:** For a low annual price, our Legal Service Plan provides unlimited toll-free legal advice; a simple will, health care proxy, living will and power of attorney; and guaranteed maximum fees for many legal matters. If a NYSUT member who is a current participant in the Legal Service Plan passes away due to COVID-19, the law firm of Feldman, Kramer & Monaco has offered to extend a number of services at no cost to the member's family.



SCAN ME

### Financial Learning Center:

We recently contracted with popular financial publisher Kiplinger's Personal Finance for our new Financial Learning Center. This interactive microsite offers numerous articles on a wide variety of financial topics, including selecting the best value in tax planning software and more. No matter your point in life or financial situation, you are sure to find something of interest.



SCAN ME

**Mid-Island Mortgage:** With our UnionDirect Mortgage Discount Program presented by Mid-Island Mortgage, NYSUT members receive special purchase and refinancing mortgage discounts for a variety of home-related needs. Whether you're looking to buy a home, lower your mortgage payment or planning a home improvement project, Mid-Island Mortgage can help you save up to \$2,700 on lender fees and closing costs.



SCAN ME

### Cambridge Credit Counseling:

Our program with Cambridge Credit Counseling can assist NYSUT members with better understanding their student loan re-payment and debt consolidation options. NYSUT members can receive a no-cost, no-obligation, consultation with a Cambridge certified counselor. Cambridge is also the provider of NYSUT's Student Loan Debt Webinars.



SCAN ME

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](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org), call 800-626-8101 or scan the QR codes above.

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

Mar./Apr.'21

## Classified Ads

**REIKI IS A BEAUTIFUL ENERGY** that helps to turn on the light of healing, relaxation and wellness that exists in all of us. To inquire about Reiki sessions and upcoming classes for Level I & II Reiki, please contact **Jeanmarie Wilson** **631.834.9503** or [www.jeanmariewilson.com](http://www.jeanmariewilson.com)

### **FOR SALE: BRAND NEW Weber BBQ**

Spirit II E-310 with cover. Purchased in June, used once. Paid \$600. Best Offer over \$400.



I have original paperwork  
and receipts.  
Call Mary at **631.245.3056**

## Additions/Changes to Directory

### **New/Returning Members:**

**Bruce Bethel** 6 Louden Loop,  
Mount Sinai, NY  
11766-3410

**Jeffrey Cohn** 1250 S.Washington Street  
Apt. 404,  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
516-524-0710  
[jrc0317@hotmail.com](mailto:jrc0317@hotmail.com)

**John Storch** 317 South Country Rd.,  
Brookhaven, NY 11719  
631-286-0185  
cell: 631-258-7445  
[storchjr@hotmail.com](mailto:storchjr@hotmail.com)

**Gloria Grynkorn**

add cell: 516-381-6675

**Elizabeth Jean**

add: 518-788-5762

**Libby Kahn**

add cell: 516-857-3794

**Rosanne Lazarus**

[rlazitaly@gmail.com](mailto:r lazitaly@gmail.com)

**Berenice Liberta**

add cell: 561-827-3835

**Susan Mahoney**

Deceased 1/23/21

**Joyce McCann**

add cell: 631-553-8415

**Irene Neely**

Deceased 1/22/21

**Lynn Oill**

175 Sutton Court,  
Mt. Sinai, NY 11766

**Tracy Rinker**

add cell: 631-806-8761

**Caroline Russ**

14 Windham Crescent,  
Kings Park, NY 11754

**Paul Schlesier**

add cell: 631-384-1269

**Henry Shatz**

add cell: 403-661-8775

**Theresa Shepard**

add cell: 631-793-6574

**Walter Skretch**

add cell: 214-422-1330

**June Smith**

add cell: 516-848-9372

**Joann L. Spinella**

add cell: 631-219-7414

**Mollie Stanford**

add cell: 631-553-7482

**Evelyn Swart**

add cell: 516-297-1438

**Ann Wallace**

11 First Street,  
Farmingville, NY 11738

### **Changes, Additions, etc.:**

**Hal Anastasia** add cell: 516-707-1401

**Jeanne & Bernie Artzt** add cell: 631-949-7694

**Nancy Bennett** 2961 NE Heather Court,  
Jensen Beach, FL 34957

**Thomas DeBello** 156 Harbor South,  
Amityville, NY 11701

**Edward Dobres** add cell: 516-983-3399

**Lizbeth Dooley-Zawacki**  
859 Island Circle West,  
Saint Helena Island,  
S.C. 29920 T: 843-541-9215  
cell: 516-443-4213  
[bethdzslp@gmail.com](mailto:bethdzslp@gmail.com)

**Jane Feller** 2144 West San Tan Hills Dr.,  
Queen Creek, AZ 85142

### **Correction:**

**Caryn Iorio-Fichtelman**

350 Greens Farms Road  
Westport, CT 06880  
631-901-7230

**DUES are  
DUE!**



**Be Sure You are Included in 2021 Directory!**

Complete the form below and mail it with your dues check for **\$15** made payable to the **Smithtown Schools Retirees' Association** by **APRIL 1, 2021**. We operate on a calendar year and these dues are independent of the STA.



**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

If you purchase any endorsed programs & services from NYSUT (not including a pension), you are required by law to belong to your local retiree Association – SSRA.



Kindly cut out this coupon and mail it with your check to:

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

*(For those with more than one address please list your PRIMARY one only)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Retired : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. #: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email : \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: Circle one:  STA  SSEA  SSAA

**Security Guard** **Nurses**

***Special Circumstance***

regarding **ELECTRONIC DELIVERY ?**

Call **John Pettit** at **631-584-7564** or email him at  
**grumpyof@optonline.net**

**S.S.R.A.**

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

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on:  
facebook*

