

SeniorNet

Bringing Wisdom to the Information Age
Learning Center at FSL, L.I.

Where every worker is a volunteer.

Winter 2010

Volume 11, Issue 1

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SeniorNet at FSL, L.I.

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2010

Happy New Year!



A Message from SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. Co-Coordinators

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is amazing that in today's unprecedented times SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. succeeded to make 2009 a fabulous year. The challenges we faced were met with accomplishments beyond our most daring dreams and expectations. This success is a testimony to the tireless efforts of our Coordinating Council, our dedicated volunteers and our sponsors. What has been accomplished? In addition to organizing a stupendous 10th anniversary celebration, we accomplished some amazing feats. We successfully launched two new learning centers. We set up

and opened the East Yaphank annex in record time, and held the first remote training program for the homebound. Both were complex undertakings requiring precise planning and close cooperation to accomplish and we did it! Companies with paid employees would be envious for sure.

With two Learning Centers and one Virtual Classroom to operate and promote instead of one, without complaint everybody stepped up and said "No Problem." The education staff provided the same high quality education to students in all learning centers and even held evening seminars for FSL and Huntington Town employees. The Lab Committee installed and maintained all 28 computers operational at all times. Our Roadrunners attended 12 island-wide events and the Speakers Bureau seemed to be everywhere as well. Our Publicity staff widened its focus away from Huntington and even made inroads into Newsday, which wrote a feature article about our three centers. We planned and staffed Open Houses at both Huntington and East Yaphank locations and the office staff took on more tasks than ever before again with the "no problem" attitude. All of our committees came together and did a superb job.

Nothing was sacrificed as the workload increased. We continued to hold well-attended SNUG meetings. The Intergenerational Program continued without a hitch. To the excitement of our Elves, the Computer Donation and Refurbishing Program was resurrected.

All of the above, as astounding as it is, could not have occurred without the backing and trust of our many supporters: the Family Service League (site sponsor), SeniorNet Headquarters, 9th District Assemblyman Andrew P. Raia, 17th District Legislator Lou D'Amaro, 18th District Legislator and majority leader Jon Cooper, the National Grid Foundation, Huntington Town Supervisor Frank P. Petrone, the Huntington Town Board's Councilwomen Susan Berland and Glenda Jackson plus Councilmen Mark Cuthbertson and Stuart Besen, the Cinema Arts Centre, Exxon/Mobil Foundation, IBM Community Grant Foundation, Bank of

America Foundation, all friends of SeniorNet and of course, last but not least, the invaluable support of our dedicated volunteers.

As co-coordinators of this extraordinary organization, we take nothing for granted. We want to express our heartfelt gratitude and wish all of our friends and colleagues a very Happy and Joyous Holiday Season.

Slava Vero and Moss Rawn
SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. Co-coordinators

SeniorNet's Tenth Annual Meeting



On Monday, October 26, 2009, Huntington-based SeniorNet at Family Service League celebrated ten years of service at its Annual Meeting at The Cinema Arts Centre. Karen Boorshtein, FSL President and CEO opened the meeting with an overview of SeniorNets' 10 years accomplishments and by honoring its founders especially the five who are still actively contributing their services. They are:



Top row – Nick DeFlorio, Slava Vero
Bottom row – Don Stone, Helen Morris, Eric Vero

Nick DeFlorio is a founding member and is active as a teacher and head of the speaker's bureau.

Slava Vero is a founding member who was the first historian and development coordinator. Now she is co-coordinator of the Learning Center; serves on the FSL Board of Directors and SeniorNet National Chairman's Advisory council.

Don Stone is the founding member of the membership committee and is the current chairperson.

Helen Morris is a founding member, is active as recording secretary and formerly was the publicity committee chairperson.

Eric Vero is the founding member of the lab coordinating team and nationalgrid Donation & Refurbishing Project coordinator

Overview

We are proud of the achievements of Don Weidman Computer Training Center volunteers. As the local arm of an international organization, founded over twenty years ago in San Francisco, our SeniorNet facility has gained momentum these past 10 years blossoming into a thriving organization that operates two centers – the main one in Huntington and an Annex just opened about 25 miles away in East Yaphank. It currently has over 100 active volunteers who offer 27 computer courses annually while they and their predecessors taught an astounding 5,000+ students in past decade. In addition, for the first time, homebound students will be provided LIVE instruction on their home computers via internet connection. SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. was named the #1 learning center in SeniorNet's worldwide organization receiving the 2007 Chairman Award in Excellence and it was the recipient of the Chairman 2008 Exemplary Award.

Keynote Address

Michelle Talluto of IBM delivered the Keynote Address. She posed the problem that technological advances have outpaced accessibility especially for the disabled and the aged. She said that since each successive generation of population is shrinking due to people having less children and having them later in life, it becomes more important to find ways to widen the workforce by making technology accessible to those currently left behind. She



provided examples how IBM, often in collaboration with others, seeks to facilitate accessibility through innovative means.

Award Presentations

In keeping with the Intergenerational Program, three local High School students were presented with SeniorNet's Award for Special Achievement, in recognition of technical assistance provided, their unique interpersonal skills, and their role as a much appreciated "coaches-at-large". The honorees were Northport HS students Drayke Jackson and David Lindsay and Half Hallow HS Alex Owczarek.

The Phyllis Y. Haber award, bestowed annually to the person showing outstanding dedication and providing service to the senior community, was presented by Fred Atkin, Coordinator Emeritus to Helen Morris.

Guest List

The impressive guest list not only included our SeniorNet volunteers but also many friends, elected officials and their representatives at the state, county and town level: also in attendance were friends, business and community leaders as well as member of the Family Service League Board of Directors and Administration, SeniorNet National and member of the press.

PHOTO GALLERY



**Bob Keller, National
Grid Foundation
Executive Director**



**Dick Rubinstein,
SeniorNet founding
member**

PHOTO GALLERY CONTINUED



**John Andrew Kay,
Senior Aide to Senator
Flanagan**



**Slava Vero, Co-coordinator
John Alger, SeniorNet HQ
Interim Executive Director**



**Frank Petrone
Huntington Town
Supervisor**



**Bilal Milak,
Congressional Aide to
US Representative
Tim Bishop**



**Barbara Page, FSL
Chairwoman Elect**



**Karen Klafter, Senior Aide
to Legislator Lou D'Amaro
and Karen Boorshtein, FSL
President & CEO**



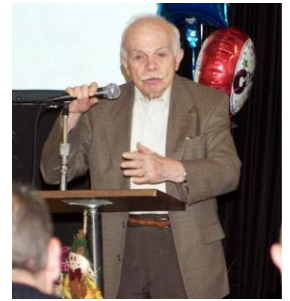
**Barbara LoMoriello Deputy
Clerk to Presiding Officer
William Lindsay**



**Susan Berland,
Huntington
Copouncilwoman**



**Claire Kerman, Volunteer
Coordinator**



**Moss Rawn, Co-
ordinator**



**Andrew Raia, 9th District
Assemblyman**



**Kerry Dolan, Junior Aide
to 1st District Assemblyman
Marc Allessi**



**Fred Atkin, Co-coordinator
Emeritus**



**Bill Baker, Co-coordinator
Elect**



nationalgrid Donation Project

Suffolk County Legislator Honors Center's 10 Years of Service

On December 3, 2009, 18th District Legislator and Majority leader Jon Cooper officiated over the presentation of a special Suffolk County proclamation celebrating the Don Weidman SeniorNet Computer Learning Center at the Family Service League's 10th anniversary of exemplary service.



In attendance and pictured above were (from the left): Nina Saporito, Jon Cooper, Slava Vero, Phyllis Pappas, and Bill Baker

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER EVENTS IN 2009

Volunteers from SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. participated in the following additional events in 2009 with positive results for SeniorNet:

Women's Networking Day and Awards Ceremony – October 8, 2009

In 2008, SeniorNet's own Slava Vero was honored as the Woman of the Year by the Huntington Town - Division of Women Services. In 2009 for the first time SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. Road runners were invited to attend as exhibitor and help promote SeniorNet. The volunteers attending this event were Slava Vero, Nina Saporito, Sharon Spark, Florence Staebler, Mary Clark, Roe Oetiker and Elvira Lubrano Rhonda Shepardson, Director of Women's Service organized the event that was attended by more than 300 women and guests.



Top row: Mary Clark, Slava Vero, Councilwoman Susan Berland, Nina Saporito and Roe Oetiker
Bottom row: Florence Staebler and Elvira Lubrano

Huntington Fall Festival – October 10, 2009

For the tenth year in a row, SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. Roadrunners participated in the Huntington Fall Festival at Heckscher Park. We are grateful to all volunteers for their efforts and cooperation especially SeniorNet's Roadrunners who continue a tradition started ten years ago, to participate in different events, to promote SeniorNet, bring in new students and let people know of the great work the organization is doing. During 2009, our Roadrunners attended an impressive 12 events. Good going Roadrunners!



From left to right – front row: Fred Atkin and Slava Vero
Back row: Sharon Spark, John Nordin, Newt Kerman, Claire Kerman, and Roe Oetiker

Check Scheduled Events Calendar and remember to volunteer and/or attend. Remember Snug Meeting 3rd Tuesday of every month at 3:30PM! Except December.

Next Snug Meeting January 19th 2010

**COMPUTER CLASSES FOR SENIORS
WINTER 2010 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

SENIORNET AT FSL, L.I., ONCE AGAIN ANNOUNCES ITS REGISTRATION FOR EXCITING COMPUTER COURSES AND WORKSHOPS FOR SENIORS. HUNTINGTON WINTER CLASSES BEGIN MONDAY January 11, 2010. E. YAPHANK ANNEX WINTER CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 6TH, 2010

SENIORS TEACHING SENIORS" IS OUR MOTTO. COME JOIN OTHER SENIORS AS LEARNING TAKES PLACE IN A RELAXED, FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE FEATURING SMALL CLASSES AND VERY LOW COST.

CLASSES FILL UP PRETTY QUICKLY SO TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT REGISTER EARLY.

Next Newsletter deadline, March 1st 2010

Funding for this newsletter provided by the Huntington Town Board

Supervisor Frank P. Petrone, Councilwomen Susan Berland and Glenda Jackson, Councilmen Stuart Besen and Mark Cuthbertson