

**SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. Mission:
Education, Protection of the Environment, Community Outreach and Development**

December 2016

Volume 16 Issue 1

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Annual Meeting

On Tuesday, November 1, 2016, award-winning SeniorNet LI at Family Service League proudly celebrated its seventeenth year of service to the senior community at its Annual Meeting at The Cinema Arts Centre in front of an audience of 103 people consisting of SeniorNet supporters, volunteers, and students.



While proud of our Center's achievements these past 17 years, SeniorNet National achieved an astonishing milestone of its own by celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2016. In 1986, when it was founded in San Francisco, critics famously predicted its quick demise. They were wrong. The tech revolution proved to be bigger and longer lasting than they foresaw. On hand for this momentous occasion were SeniorNet National Board Members: Vice-Chair Slava Vero, Treasurer Joseph Shaffery, and Public Relations Chair Paul Sladkus.

Here on Long Island, our SeniorNet facility gained momentum these past 17 years blossoming into a thriving organization that has continually expanded its approach to include new ways of providing tech education to seniors. Our comprehensive curriculum offers courses from Computer for beginners to advanced computer skills as well as all social media and "gadgets" such as the iPad, iPhone, Facebook, android phones and more.



Collage of Annual Meeting Photographs

MESSAGE FROM SENIORNET AT FSL, CO-COORDINATOR



In the two years, I have been Co-Coordinator the most impressive elements of SeniorNet here on Long Island have been the dedication and creativity of our volunteers. Enrollment may be down but volunteer performance continues to be high. As an all-volunteer organization, the rewards for our volunteers are clearly not financial but educational - seeing our students learn and progress in technology is their reward.

The survey we conducted this summer, thanks to marketing professional Kathy Cossi, showed that 86% of our students were Extremely Satisfied or Very Satisfied with SeniorNet and 90% were satisfied with the Teachers and Coaches. We are doing our job well!

Our volunteers have sought new creative ways to engage students. “Creating and Using Chromebooks”, “Password Manager”, “Amazing Things Seniors Can do with Computers”, “iPhone & iPad for Creative Minds”, and “Drawing with the iPad” are new courses on tap for next semester. The survey said that some of our students have a hard time doing at home the things they learned in class so our Education Committee is devising ways to change that.

It is an honor to work with so many talented and generous volunteers. Let’s all work to recruit more students who can benefit from this talent.

Patrick T. McAsey
Co-Coordinator

MESSAGE FROM SENIORNET NATIONAL LIAISON



To complement Patrick McAsey’s words of wisdom and appreciation, it is my pleasure and privilege on behalf of the SeniorNet National organization, its Chairman Paul DelPonte, the entire board of directors as well as its President Leslie Smith to convey our congratulations and thanks to all the volunteers that form SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. Learning Center. The many accomplishments are not going unrecognized: 2016 marked the year that the Huntington volunteer staff was recognized as the Curriculum Winners for new courses submission. Our own Nick Radesca was recognized as the National Professional Volunteer of the year. Also, our own Bill Baker, Sandie Baron and Nick Radesca received The Presidential Award for the work they performed on behalf of the SeniorNet National.

Over the last 17 years we have come a long way, from the “best little secret” on Long Island to being recognized Nationally and Internationally as a top innovator in Computer Technology. This year also marked the appointment of our own James W. Burke as National and International Ambassador with the mission to promote and encourage the international community to open more SeniorNet Learning Centers across the world.

Slava Vero
Director National Board

GENEROUS GIVING THAT ALLOWS SENIORNET LI TO FULFILL ITS MISSION

- nationalgrid Foundation President Bob Keller presented SeniorNet, L.I with a very generous grant of \$9,800 to cover the 2016 cost of printing manuals and other documents such a brochures, posters, flyers and publicity material. An additional “gift” of \$5,000 was also provided by the nationalgrid foundation to cover additional equipment needed like laptops that bring education to underserved communities for seniors unable to come to the Huntington or Bellport Learning Centers. Thanks to these grants, students receive manuals for each class attended, giving them the opportunity to follow lessons in the classroom and study at home, and yes, we do give “homework”!
- For the second year SeniorNet LI benefited from the generosity of, The Slomo and Cindy Silvian Foundation, Inc. with a grant of \$6,000. This grant benefits our growing Mobile Learning Classrooms and improvements toward other equipment needed for running classrooms outside our center.
- Town of Huntington Councilwoman Susan Berland, with the whole-hearted approval of the Huntington Town Board, Supervisor Frank Petrone, Councilmen Mark Cuthbertson and Eugene Cook, and Councilwoman Tracey T. Edwards, provided SeniorNet L.I. with a generous grant of \$9,850 to support computer and technology education for residents of all Huntington Township Villages such as Huntington, Northport, Centerport, Melville, Dix Hills and East Northport. This grant also supports SeniorNet’s Mobile Learning Classroom (MLC) at the Senior Center in Huntington for residents that attend the day time activities of this center. Under the supervision of Human Resources Director Jillian Guthman-Abadom, this MLC seeks to provide hands-on computer skills for beginners as well as more advanced classes.
- SeniorNet LI volunteers are the true heroes of our organization. Yearly they provide over 12,000 hours of service at a generous pay (including benefits and bonus) of \$0.00. Their generous contribution makes it possible to educate hundreds of thousands of seniors each year.
- Additional funding was provided from the Pamela and Richard Rubinstein Foundation and from corporations for volunteer-hours such as Bank of America and Exxon/Mobil Corporation.
- Our thanks go to Family Service League for providing SeniorNet, LI with a home, infrastructure and support at all levels.

MISSION: EDUCATION, PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH

- **Education:**

2016 has been an exciting year for the education committee. We introduced several brand new courses including Master the Cloud, Windows 10, Movie Maker, Holiday Mailing Labels, Chromebook Conversion and Photos, Photos, Shutterfly. Because of a comprehensive survey done in 2016, the education committee, curriculum committee and the teachers held a series of meetings to explore new methods for instruction and course content. As a result, we have a very exciting course line up for 2017. The “East-End” contingent has updated most of their manuals and continues to tailor course content to their student’s needs.



Our Website greatly changed last year. It is now the “go-to” source for more information about what is happening at SeniorNet. Thank you to our webmaster, Sandra Baron.

- **Environment Protection that Helps Veterans**

An innovative new SeniorNet course devised by Otto Niebler converts otherwise obsolete, slow laptops destined for the scrap heap into fast Chromebook-like computers that students are happy to use. Taking this idea a step further, Otto decided that SeniorNet could collect unwanted laptops and convert them into Chromebook-like computers with the purpose of giving them to needy Veterans.

For the past 4 years SeniorNet LI has been conducting computer classes from a Mobile Learning Classroom at the VA Hospital in Northport. Our instructors and coaches noted that veterans often do not own a computer prompting the idea of giving them converted computers.

- **The Computer Donation Program:**

Under the direction of the 3 lab coordinators, SeniorNet LI provides a computer donation program for needy FSL clients and other nonprofit organizations. SeniorNet accepts used computers from organizations and individuals, refurbishes and delivers them to requesting caseworkers and will work with clients having issues with these computers.

In the past 8 years, approximately 396 computers have been accepted and distributed through this program.

Questions can be answered by emailing: seniornethelp@fsl-li.org or seniornet@fsl-li.org

- **Community Development and Outreach:**

SeniorNet LI brings technology to communities that are unable to travel to our Learning Centers. Each week, our traveling teams of elves load their little red wagons with laptops, projectors, connecting cords, mice, and manuals and with the finesse of a magician, they transform conference rooms and club houses into a living classroom. Some of the beneficiaries are the VA Day Care Center in Northport, Section 8 Housing in Greenlawn, 55+ Senior Communities in Ridge, The Boys and Girls Club in Bellport, plus other Senior Centers, Assisted Living sites and Independent living facilities.

Our motto is: Leave No Senior Unconnected:

As seniors age, many find themselves unable or unwilling to travel which isolates them from family and friends. Our internet classes have provided many of these otherwise secluded seniors with a new lease on life by connecting them to the outside world. With Facebook for instance, they interact with family near and far. But most of all, connected seniors can exercise their social and mental skills.

- After teaching a 93-year-old great grandmother how to Skype, she told us of the wonderful experience she had seeing and talking to her overseas U.S. Marine great grandson
- After taking one of our internet classes, a Veteran told us that he finally obtained needed services unavailable by phone

Graduation Day at our Bellport Annex:

SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. is very pleased to present the Bellport Annex June 2016 graduating class. The graduating students began by taking basic introductory computer classes and continued on to increasingly advanced classes in subjects such as the iPad, iPhone, File Management, Photograph Editing, The Internet, YouTube, iTunes and more. While they all wanted a better understanding of technology, they wanted it for different reasons. Some were seeking individual growth, while others wanted it for job improvement or new job opportunities.

Kudos goes to the Project Manager, Evelyn Mattal and her dedicated teaching and coaching staff who showed up every Wednesday with laptops, projector and all sorts of teaching aids to make their classes come alive. Congratulations to all!!



Bellport 2016 Graduates

The Road Runners:

Each year our dedicated volunteers attend a series of senior fairs and expos informing seniors of the wonders of computers, social media as well as all forms of new tech “gadgets”. In 2016, SeniorNet road runner volunteers attended more than 14 events including Legislator William Spencer’s Senior Health Expo and the prestigious 50+ Senior Expo at the Melville Marriott where we had the opportunity to conduct a free seminar to introduce seniors to the wonders of Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Texting and more. Attending this expo allowed us to develop new resources of student recruitment in underserved communities.



18th District Leg. William Doc Spencer, SeniorNet volunteers Slava Vero and Ro Oetiker



2016 Women’s Networking Day SeniorNet Volunteers Claire Kerman and Diane Asser



SeniorNet Volunteer Peter Cardillo and the youngest student “to be”

The Intergenerational Project:

In keeping with the Intergenerational Project, Northport HS students Patrick Gibbons and Nick Conrey and Nesconset HS student, Michael Inguanta were awarded Certificate of Achievements for the volunteer hours as interns during the summer for 2016. Michael Inguanta, student at the Nesconset HS plans to return for the 2017 summer to complete his internship.

Michael’s comments: Excellent and friendly instructors and other coaches; loved working with seniors by helping them learn more about computers; I didn’t know how much I was able to help seniors with computers until SeniorNet and I used the same teachings to help my own grandmother.

Nick’s comments: The experience definitely affected my ability and understanding to teach people. I learned that you can’t just do things for people and expect them to retain it. You have to give guidance and let them do it themselves, as that’s the best way for them to learn. And that is something that will be valuable to me throughout my lifetime



Our Speaker’s Bureau:

SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. Celebrated Grandparents and Senior Day at the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Huntington on Sunday, September 11, 2016. SeniorNet volunteers Slava Vero and Roe Oetiker were invited to make a presentation introducing SeniorNet’s program to the NAACP Huntington Chapter.

Attending church services starting at 11 am, SeniorNet volunteers participated in celebrating this special day together with the congregation at the Bethel church in Huntington, which is the oldest African American church in Huntington Township. Slava Vero introduced the group to highlights of SeniorNet’s program and focused on the concept of “Bridging the Generation Gap” between seniors/grandparents and grandchildren.



Lunch after Presentation at Bethel Church in Huntington

To the warm reception that we received, we also had the pleasure and the privilege of being invited to the after services luncheon where we met many members of the congregation.



Ro Oetiker, Slava Vero and Yvette Stone

OUR PARTNERSHIPS

- **Microsoft Store Seminars:**

At the request of the Microsoft store at the Walt Whitman Shops in Huntington, SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. conducted a series of seminars on Window 10. The Microsoft store provided publicity and equipment, space to conduct classes and gifts for the attending seniors. SeniorNet provided the teaching staff.

- **Fountaingate Senior Independent Living:**

By invitation of the Fountaingate administration, SeniorNet conducted a series of computer instructional classes to seniors making the transition from home ownership to independent living.

- **Federation of Organization:**

We partnered with this very prestigious organization to provide instruction and computer skills to caregivers who attend to so many homebound seniors. Computer skills not only helps caregivers serve seniors in their care with routine tasks but it also allows caregivers to access services they needed and to teach the homebound how to survive in today's technological world. In this capacity, we are truly Training the Trainer.

- **Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP):**

During a long and continuous partnership with RSVP, SeniorNet provided refurbished computers to residents in Section 8 housing as an added benefit to learning computers and social media.

- **Cinema Arts Centre:**

Cinema Arts Centre of Huntington partnered with SeniorNet LI to host a special website training session for its patrons. On the rainy, very windy and cold morning of Monday, March 14, 2016, SeniorNet held this free training seminar in the Cinema Arts Centre Sky Room Café. The 20 attendees who defied the morning's stormy weather were treated to refreshments and a presentation. We attempted to provide the same program on September 12, but unfortunately, the weather again proved most unaccommodating. SeniorNet and Cinema Arts are taking a new approach for 2017. We look forward to a successful partnership.



Cinema Arts Centre Training Session

SENIORNET AT FSL, L.I. CELEBRATES ITS VOLUNTEERS

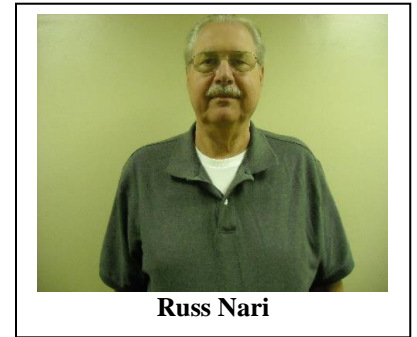
Volunteers are our treasure. As Mahatma Gandhi once said “Be the change that you wish to see in the world.” SeniorNet’s life blood is derived from its dedicated volunteers. Each is special with a unique life journey that somehow finds him or her contributing to SeniorNet Huntington. We therefore thought it would be fitting to periodically feature a few “hero” volunteers.

Patricia Rouse is a SeniorNet volunteer that never sleeps. For the last four years, Pat has been instrumental in encouraging seniors residing in a Greenlawn section 8 housing community to attend the SeniorNet Mobile Classroom provided on site there. With her iPad in hand, she calls students to remind them to come to class, keeps records and serves as liaison between SeniorNet and the section 8 housing administration. Thank you, Pat.



Pat Rouse

Russ Nardi joined SeniorNet in 2014. Since then he has coached both in Huntington and out East usually twice a week as well as at Fountaingate in Commack. When Russ is not helping at SeniorNet, he is an active volunteer at his church. At the beginning of each year, he helps seniors with their income tax through AARP. Russ’ patience and respect for others is obvious in all he does. The students enjoy working with him and constantly sing his praises. He is a real class act.



Russ Nari

Nick Radesca was named Professional Volunteer of the Year for the many hours of accounting assistance he provided to SeniorNet National over the past two years. In addition, SeniorNet National honored him with the 2016 President’s Award. During his 10-years at SeniorNet LI, Nick has worked in several capacities including classroom coach, publicity chair, Facebook page administrator, newsletter editor and finance chair. He’s also been drafted to work on several decision-making committees. For his dedication, he was this year’s recipient of the prestigious Phyllis Y. Haber Award. Thank You, Nick.



**Nick Radesca holding his 2016
President’s Award and the Phyllis
Y. Haber Award**

Martha Hitchcock joined SeniorNet in 2009. She was one of the first volunteer coaches out east. She now teaches as well as coaches. She has served on curriculum committees and has helped revise classroom manuals. When not volunteering at SeniorNet, Martha supports her home community. A former Special Ed teacher, Martha believes that learning should be fun. She gets to know each of her students and personalizes their learning experience. The students constantly give her an A++ review. Her fellow teachers and coaches agree.



Martha Hitchcock

2016 Curriculum Contest Winners and Participants:

Please join us in congratulating this outstanding team! SeniorNet at FSL, L.I.’s outstanding volunteers participated in the 2016 Chairman Curriculum contest and without a doubt or hesitation “They Won”. 25 Learning Centers competed the curriculum contest. The competition was fierce and submissions were many. However, our volunteers were ready for the competition. Diane Asser and Evelyn Mattal won the Shutterfly contest. Sandie Baron received an honorable mention for her 5 workshops submissions and we congratulate Richie Levittan and Otto Niebler for their submissions. Otto for his innovative “Chromebook Conversion” course and Richie for his “Google More than Just a Search Engine” and “Outlook” courses.

Thank you, team Huntington, you make us proud!



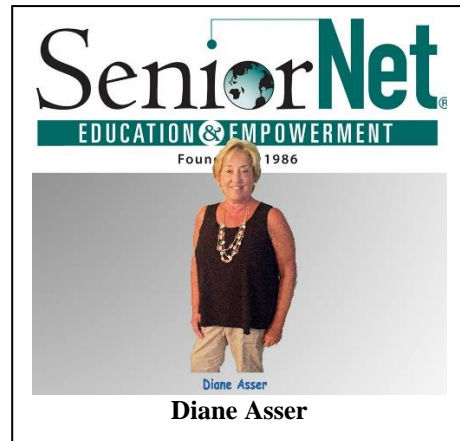
Sandie Baron, Otto Niebler, and Richie Levittan



Huntington Team



Evelyn Mattal



Diane Asser

- **SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. Volunteer Orientation and Training**

On Friday, May 20, 2016, the large auditorium of the Harborfields Public Library overflowed with 60 volunteers from SeniorNet at FSL, L.I.'s Huntington, Bellport and the Mobile Learning Centers.

In a disperse organization like ours, where volunteers work at several locations across Long Island, the need for training and procedural updates is essential and in many cases mandated by grant providers. The meeting was called to order by center Co-Coordinator Pat McAsey. Moss Rawn, Education committee co-chair, gave a short introduction of "why are we here" and set a humorous tone for the meeting. Slava Vero, Director provided an overview of our relationship with SeniorNet National and our site sponsor Family Service League.



- **Spring Luncheon**

On Friday April 15, 2016, SeniorNet LI held its annual Spring luncheon at the Precious Restaurant to honor its volunteers during National Volunteer Week. 25 chatty volunteers and guests enjoyed a delicious meal on a bright Spring day.



SeniorNet Volunteers Nina Saporito and Claire Kerman

- **SeniorNet Volunteers Celebrate the 2016 Holiday Season**

Following the completion of a long and successful year SeniorNet volunteers assembled, as they did for the past 16 years, for a relaxed holiday luncheon. This year the Special Events committee under the supervision of Chair Nina Smith, chose to have it at the Orlando Italian Restaurant.



WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT SENIORNET

- ✓ Thank you very much for spending your time teaching the Introduction to Computers class. I have found this class so informative. I can't believe how relaxed I now am when using the computer. It used to be such a source of great stress, as I didn't know what I was doing, and when I did something wrong, I didn't know how to get out of it and became so frustrated and stressed. I'm so excited now to actually be able to figure out what I did wrong, and am now capable of correcting the error. And how wonderful to now be capable of actually using the computer for the many varied tasks the computer is capable of performing. It's a beautiful thing!!!! Thank you so much for sharing your time and expertise. The class was great, the teacher superb, and the coaches terrific. And I love that I have a book to bring home for when I get stuck again, I'll now be able to figure my way out of a "jam." Have a most Joyous Holiday Season, and wishing you Happiness in the coming year.
 - ✓ My sincerest "thanks" to all of those involved in allowing me to have the opportunity to receive one-on-one coaching from Stephanie Jacobs on the premises of SeniorNet in Huntington. Stephanie was very patient and knowledgeable in her instruction with Photoshop. As I mentioned to her, there is an overlap of skills, so although she tutored me on a PC, I can still use this information on a MAC, not only within Photoshop, but for my understanding of newly learned general skills. I'm grateful for her time as it has provided me with a wonderful knowledge base and the confidence to move forward! Thanks again for providing this service.
-



Mobile Classroom at the VA Hospital



Microsoft store Windows 10 workshop



Roadrunners: Slava Vero, Ro Oetiker
and Claire Kerman



Bellport students and staff

Senior Net Learning Center
Family Service League
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Huntington, NY 11743

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Please mark your calendar:

Events	Dates
Open House for student registration Huntington	March 17, 2017
Volunteer Lunch & Volunteer Recognition Day	April 21, 2017
SeniorNet Volunteer Training	May 12, 2017
Legislator William Spencer Women's Health Fair Dolan Family Health Center	TBA
Open House for student registration Huntington	June 23, 2017
Volunteer Summer Beach Party	August 2017
Open House for student registration Huntington	September 15, 2017
Annual Meeting	October 31, 2017
SeniorNet Volunteer Holiday Party	December 1 2017
Open House for student registration Huntington	December 8, 2017

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