

**Computer Learning Center at FSL, L.I.
Where every worker is a volunteer!**

Summer 2013

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**SeniorNet at FSL, LI.
631 427-3700, Ext. 268/235**

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**HELPDESK:
631-629-5426
or Email**

seniornethelp@gmail.com

Newsletter Contributors

Editors: Slava Vero, Nick Radesca

Contributor: Russ Day

Proof Reader: Florence Staebler

National Grid Foundation Grant

SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. was awarded a grant in the amount of \$9,700 from National Grid Foundation to promote the welfare of seniors on Long Island. The Foundation's mission of creating opportunities for solutions to today's educational and environmental challenges is also included in SeniorNet's mission. Through our unique education program, SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. helps many seniors who have not yet discovered 21st century technology. We also protect the environment by recycling computers. Through our free seminars at public libraries and our mobile learning program, we reach out to communities throughout Long Island including people in senior centers, VA residents and residents of Section 8 Housing. *"With SeniorNet's help, thousands of seniors learn how to bridge the digital divide and connect with family, friends and the wider world of the information age," said Bob Keller, President, nationalGrid Foundation.*



Jean Tesoriero, nationalgrid Foundation VP, Slava Vero SeniorNet Director, Bob Keller, nationalgrid Foundation President, Bill Baker, SeniorNet co-coordinator and Karen Boorshtein Family Service League President and CEO

This generous grant is greatly appreciated and will be used for printing student manuals, printing handouts, flyers and other informational material in order to reach out to all senior communities.

Memorial for Phyllis Haber

SeniorNet at FSL, L.I Mourns the Passing of Phyllis Haber, Retired Family Service League VP of Program Development and Grants

Phyllis Haber and I met 14 years ago when SeniorNet at FSL was founded. We were all strangers embarking on a new enterprise, not knowing what to expect from each other. In the fall of 1998, Phyllis was assigned responsibility for developing senior services within FSL. With iron determination to improve the lives of seniors on Long Island and bring them into the 21st century, she met with John Bonilla, the SeniorNet representative for the Northeast. Phyllis focused on recruiting volunteers and setting up the Learning Center. The first meeting of volunteers was held on February 11, 1999 with 18 prospective volunteers. All but one signed on to become volunteers.

Right from the start it was clear that without Phyllis Haber guidance and perseverance, SeniorNet could not take off. As the liaison person between Family Service League and SeniorNet headquarters, with humor and wisdom, Phyllis let everyone know of our existence, our achievements, as well as our everyday struggles to succeed. In 2001, Phyllis recommended SeniorNet for the New York State Office for the Aging Award in the category of "Seniors and Technology". SeniorNet received first prize, which would be the first of many future awards. To honor Phyllis Haber achievements, SeniorNet named the Phyllis Y. Haber award that would be given each year at the annual meeting to a SeniorNet volunteer that has showed a unique talent and dedication to the program.

On May 28 2013, Phyllis passed away peacefully in her sleep with her family in attendance. It is with a sense of great loss that we say goodbye to Phyllis. She was a mentor, a friend and a special human being. We, the volunteers of the SeniorNet Computer Learning Center in Huntington and E. Yaphank, will always fondly remember Phyllis Haber.

Slava Vero



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

➤ Events Attended

✚ Baby Boomer and Senior Fair

In the spirit of reaching out to all seniors on Long Island, our Road Runners took part in the April 4, 2013 Baby Boomer and Senior Fair sponsored by Friends of Middle Island Country Public Library. It was a great opportunity to spread the word of SeniorNet's accomplishments and future plans. The information we gathered at this event was of great help on how to better serve the adult population on Long Island. We researched the new needs of this 50 Plus generation and it reinforced our beliefs that "Gadgets", apps, Kindles, iPad and more are in great demand. We are always pleased to be of service to the senior community and provide additional information when needed.



SeniorNet at FSL volunteers: Slava Vero, Pat Rouse, Claire Kerman, Ro Oetiker

✚ Health Fair Expo

On Monday, March 18, 2013, the Road Runners attended 18th District Legislator William Spencer's Health Fair Expo held at the Dolan Center in Greenlawn. SeniorNet at FSL volunteers concentrated on providing attendees information about our Mobile Learning Centers, the new seminars held at different libraries and new courses and seminars.



Leg. William Spencer with SeniorNet volunteers Nina Saporito and Elvira Lubrano

✚ Suffolk County Office for the Aging

On May 8, 2013, we were invited to take part in the Suffolk County Office for the Aging "Older Americans Month Celebration". The event was held at the Villa Lombardi in Holbrook. This was a joint event with other Family Service League senior programs such as Ombudsman Program, Elderlink and Home Share of L.I. Close to 500 seniors visited the exhibits.

✚ HandinHand

May 30, 2013 we participated in the HandinHand senior Expo. HandinHand is an organization that helps seniors live independent lives. The event was attended by many other not-for-profit organizations and was attended by a number of seniors interested in these programs.



Claire Kerman and Slava Vero
SeniorNet Volunteers

➤ Intergenerational Project

Each year during their summer break, a few students from High Schools, which include Northport HS, Commack HS, Harborfields HS, Syosset HS and Cold Spring Harbor HS, volunteer their time doing an internship at our Huntington Learning Center as classroom coaches or assisting with the Helpdesk and special projects. Over the 8 years that the Project has been in existence, 19 students performed many hours of community volunteering. The experiences from both seniors and students have been remarkable.

Their IT director said that” *SeniorNet is well regarded among the interns and an internship with SeniorNet looks fantastic on their college applications.*” For SeniorNet, while these youngsters help teach us what’s new in computing, we help teach them patience, or in today’s terms, “they teach us social networking and we teach them social norms.”



2012 Northport HS intern students receiving Certificates of Appreciation from SeniorNet

➤ Program Presentation

In an effort to reach out to various senior communities, SeniorNet volunteers make free presentations to senior centers, retirement communities, fraternal organizations and social clubs. These PowerPoint presentations consist of a short description of SeniorNet activities and services, which are then followed by a specific topic of interest to the audience. Topics include iPad, iPhone, Kindle, Skype and more. Presentations were made at Brookhaven Town Senior Advisory Council, Leisure Glen retirement community, Bristol Assisted Living’s, Homemakers groups in Bayport, Eaton’s Neck and Setauket, BOCE’s Retired Teachers Association & Home and HandinHand, an organization that helps seniors live independent lives.

➤ Free seminars at Public Libraries

Our free seminar series has proven enormously popular. We now give free monthly seminars at four public libraries – Harborfields, Hauppauge, Sachem and beginning in September at Bayport-Blue Point. In addition, seminars have been held at the Babylon and Northport libraries. The seminars are meant to educate attendees about a technology topic, encourage attendance at our Learning Center, and raise overall awareness of SeniorNet. Topics covered this year have included Windows 8, smartphone apps, iPad apps, and iTunes. The seminars are complementary to our classes – at the seminars we show attendees *what* can be done, and in our classes we show students *how* to do it.

In 2012, we had 819 attendees, a 25% increase over the prior year. Through the first six months of 2013, we’ve had 769 attendees, a 66% increase over the same period last year. This popularity shows how our seminar series has proven to be an extremely effective way of attaining our education mission.



VOLUNTEER EVENTS

➤ Training Session

On Friday, May 3, 2013, SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. held its annual volunteer orientation and training meeting at the Harborfield Public library. A total of 77 volunteers from Huntington and E. Yaphank Learning Centers attended this training. The purpose of the meeting is to meet each other, exchange experiences, understand proper procedures and learn of new projects as well as review old ones.



This training is especially important since it provides key data for future coordinators.

Topics covered were:

- Relationships with Family Service League, SeniorNet headquarters, sponsors, students and friends
- Use of free seminars and the Mobile Learning Centers to reach out to communities
- Revised teaching ideas in accordance with the new and fast developing technology
- Publicity and Public Relations
- Extension of our mission statement to include Education, Environment Protection and Community Outreach
- Treating others professionally

The meeting concluded at 12:30 p.m. with the taking of the above group picture.

➤ Social Events

SeniorNet held its annual luncheon at the Precious Chinese restaurant in E. Northport for volunteers and guests on Friday, April 19, 2013. The festivities included “Volunteer Month” that is celebrated all over the United States. The growing number of volunteers attending is testimony to the dedication and involvement of all our volunteers. In addition to working hard as volunteers, they are happy to gather in a social setting and just meet some new people and enjoy a delicious luncheon.



EDUCATION

➤ Learning Center Classes

In the first two semesters this year, we offered classes on 24 separate topics. Some of the courses have been so popular that we scheduled multiple sessions in the same semester. Our state-of-the-art computer lab has 13 student computers, each of which has the latest version of the most popular computer programs.



As the world of computing increasingly turns to mobile devices, we've strived to meet our students' changing needs by expanding our curriculum. In 2011, we began to offer single-session workshops for the iPhone and iPad, which were subsequently offered every semester thereafter and sold out in every instance. This coming summer semester, we also offer expanded (four-session) courses for the iPhone, iPad and Android phones.

➤ On Site Classes (Mobile Learning Center)

With two mobile units each consisting of a projector, laptop computers and printers, SeniorNet volunteers venture out into the community to provide our special brand of computer training to seniors who cannot travel to our Huntington Learning Center. Classes were recently held at the VA Hospital, Huntington Senior Center and section 8 housing at Paumanack Village. To reach out to the east end community, the Mobile Learning Center has plans to expand in the Town of Brookhaven and beyond.



SeniorNet students at Paumanack Village, teachers and coaches

➤ Computer Lab Management and Development

Under the supervision of lab co-coordinators Jim Burke and Emily Strenhell, our state of the art computer lab consisting of 13 desktop computers and 36 laptop computers is maintained to the highest standards and recognized "best performer in the country."



Publicity and Public Relations

- SeniorNet maintains two monthly columns in local media. The first is in Huntington's Village Connection magazine, which covers a variety of senior oriented topics. The second called Tech Talk is in 50+ Lifestyles newspaper that circulates throughout all of Long Island and provides answers to technical questions. Digital editions of these articles can be found on the publications' websites at www.villageconnectionmagazine.com and www.50plusny.com/documents. In addition, tech oriented articles will be posted on SeniorNet's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SeniorNetLI.
- On May 26, 2013, Newsday featured SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. and some of its volunteers in a lengthy article in its Volunteer Nation series.



- We produced a video that gives a great overview of our organization and the various programs we offer. This will allow us to provide a consistent message to organizations and political leaders who want to know more about SeniorNet. You can view the video by visiting our web site: www.seniornetli.org. The stars of this video are SeniorNet volunteers, students and supporter; it shows a short history explaining our development from humble beginnings to achieving national recognition as the #1 Learning Center in the country. In a congratulatory letter, SeniorNet Chairman Leslie Smith said:

*Thank You Huntington and Yaphank !!!
Your outreach to veterans, the underserved, homebound, and those impaired adds tremendous value to our mission and our country as a whole. Again, a clear demonstration of dedication, group leadership, understanding those who you serve, and fulfilling the SeniorNet mission. We thank you for your efforts and congratulate you on your success.*

Leslie M. Smith
Chairman

COMPUTER CLASSES FOR SENIORS

"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.

Senior Net Learning Center
 Family Service League
 790 Park Avenue
 Huntington, NY 11743

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Please mark your calendar:

Events	Dates
SeniorNet Volunteers Summer Picnic	August 16, 2013
SeniorNet/Microsoft Free Windows 8 Seminars	September 16 & 17
SeniorNet Open House for student registration Huntington	September 20, 2013
50 Plus Senior Expo @ Melville Marriott	September 29, 2013
Women's Networking Day – Town of Huntington	October 7, 2013
Huntington Fall Festival – Town of Huntington	October 12, 2013
SeniorNet Annual Meeting @Cinema Arts Centre	October 28, 2013
SeniorNet Volunteer Holiday Party	November 22, 2013
Free Seminars: Harborfields Public Library in Greenlawn	August 20, September 17, October 15 and November 19, 2013
Free Seminars: Sachem Public Library in Holtsville	August 14, September 11, October 9, and November 13, 2013
Free Seminars: Hauppauge Public Library	August 19, September 16, October 21 and November 18, 2013
Free Seminars: Northport Public Library	September 23 and October 17, 2013
Free Seminars: Babylon Public Library	September 19 and November 14, 2013
Free Seminars: Bayport-Blue Point Public Library	September 24., October 22 and November 12, 2013
Family Service League Great Chefs	December 8, 2013

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Supervisor Frank P. Petrone, Councilwoman Susan Berland, Councilmen Mark Mayoka Eugene Cook and Mark Cuthbertson.