Volume 14, Issue 1

We gratefully acknowledge the support of:

- * Family Service League, Inc. (Site Sponsor)
- * national grid Foundation
- Pamela and Richard Rubinstein Foundation
- * 50+ LifeStyles
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Annual Meeting, October 28, 2013

Embracing Change - Keeping Seniors Technologically Relevant

On October 28, 2013, SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. proudly celebrated its four-teenth year of service at its Annual Meeting – and what a year it was. Our 130+ active volunteers donated 12,000 hours to present 33 computer courses and over 50 seminars to students and since inception in 1999, volunteers have taught an astounding 13,000 students who attended 957 classes, seminars and lectures.

After approval of the 2012 minutes and presentation of new officers Slava Vero, SeniorNet Director, introduced some of the over 90 guests in attendance. The impressive guest list not only included SeniorNet volunteers and friends but also many government, business and community leaders.

Michael Fairchild, famous international photographer and world traveler, provided an interesting portrait of his reluctant and amusing journey from analog to digital photography. While he spoke slides of his amazing pictures flashed behind him.

Co-coordinators Bill Baker and Bob Festa provided an overview of Senior-Net at FSL, L.I.'s impressive achievements in 2013 including new classes covering more present-day topics, the expansion of our increasingly popular free library seminars to 4 new locations, the addition of the new Brookhaven Mobile Learning Center and the creation of a Help Desk to support course lessons.

Award Presentations

The Town of Brookhaven presented a Proclamation to SeniorNet.

18th District Legislator William Spencer, presented Proclamations to Senior-Net and to Michael Fairchild, Keynote speaker, for his support of the Huntington Town community.

Jim Burke presented the new Eric Vero Technical Award to Ed Kristol who ex-

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Bill Baker, 18th District legislator William Spencer, Bob Festa, Slava Vero and Michael Fairchild

Community Outreach

"Whatever community organization, whether it's a women's organization, or fighting for racial justice ... you will get satisfaction out of doing something to give back to the community that you never get in any other way."

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

"Pomp and Circumstance" at Paumanack Village

On September 20, 2013, graduation certificates were presented to 11 deserving residents who completed a rigorous 16-week curriculum taught by SeniorNet Computer Mobile Learning Center volunteers. The proud graduates began with classes in basic computer skills and progressed to Internet, E-Mail, Digital Photography, Music and more. A very happy graduate won a SeniorNet refurbished laptop and everyone enjoyed refreshments provided by the Paumanack Village Administration.

Last year the administrators of Paumanack Village, a low-income section 8 community, decided to sponsor this educational project for the benefit of its residents. Attending the ceremony at the Paumanack Village clubhouse, were Paumanack Village Housing President Bill Davidson along with Service Coordinators Mary D'Agostino and Stephanie Edson. Leading the group of SeniorNet volunteers who attended was Slava Vero, Family Service League board member and SeniorNet Director who often



states that she is always pleased when SeniorNet's unique teaching method helps another group of senior citizens across the "Digital Divide" into the 21st Century.

Community Partnerships

In an effort to reach out to the adult community on Long Island and throughout the USA, SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. has partnered with other not-for-profit organizations to spread the word about many of the SeniorNet community outreach projects.

American Legion Post 1244 located in Greenlawn, partnered with SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. to promote SeniorNet and its upcoming winter course offerings. This made national SeniorNet news when SeniorNet Chairman, Leslie Smith wrote: "SeniorNet volunteers, take a moment to read what the Huntington Team is doing. SeniorNet volunteers are getting an outside organization to advertise our brand and the benefits of joining the Huntington Center. The cost is very little, if any. The return will be huge."

Good News Planet in Brooklyn, with a very large audience in New York City and on Long Island, invited SeniorNet's Slava Vero to provide a 60-second segment at their September Peace Rally that was viewed in Times Square and around the world. It also posted a segment of SeniorNet's video on their website and will be incorporated into a PBS presentation later in 2014.

AARP posts SeniorNet technical information in their newsletter and website. Our own volunteer Ward Deutschman acts as the SeniorNet/AARP liaison.

SeniorNet Participates

50 Plus Senior Expo

On September 29, 2013, at the Huntington Marriott, more than 700 adults 50 and over, had an opportunity to visit the SeniorNet booth where SeniorNet's new video was used to help explain SeniorNet's activities.

Women's Networking Day and Awards Ceremony

On October 7, 2013, The Huntington Town, Division of Women Services observed its 12th Annual celebration at the Melville Marriot. SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. Road Runners were invited as exhibitors to promote SeniorNet. At the event, SeniorNet raffled off three computer classes. In addition, to SeniorNet volunteers, the event was also attended by Huntington Town Supervisor Frank



Petrone, and Board Members Susan Berland, Mark Mayoka, Edward Cook and Mark Cuthbertson. Rhonda Shepardson, Director of Women's Services, organized the event attended by more than 300 women and guests. SeniorNet volunteers had an opportunity to visit and network with other exhibitors; a highlight of the event was a photo opportunity with Town of Huntington elected officials.

Congressman Tim Bishop 's Fair

Over 120 seniors were reached at Representative Tim Bishop's Senior Expo on July 26th. SeniorNet volunteer staff had an opportunity to promote our courses, the Mobile Learning Center and help bring more seniors into the technology world of 2014.

Northport Library Volunteer Fair

On September 27 more than 80 people attended this event. It was an opportunity to recruit volunteers as well as interns for the Intergenerational Project. The interns come from high schools and volunteer from June to September.

Community Partnerships

(Continued from page 2)

RSVP and SeniorNet have partnered not only in volunteer recruitment but we also participated in their 41st Annual Tribute Day. The partnership has been very successful in

volunteer enrollment and networking with other agencies.

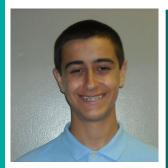
On behalf of the national Grid Foundation, Bob Keller, Foundation President accepted the 2013 United Way Award. SeniorNet Director Slava Vero was invited to attend the Annual United Way luncheon; it presented a great opportunity to promote SeniorNet and its great projects.

AFP (Association of Fundraising Professionals), courtesy of the nationalgrid Foundation, invited SeniorNet to their annual awards luncheon. This was a great opportunity for networking and meeting other not-for-profit organizations. Our volunteers were provided with a booth to disseminate SeniorNet material and information.



nationalGrid Foundation VP Jean Tesoriero, Slava Vero SeniorNet Director, Lance Reinheimer, Executive Director Vanderbilt Museum and Patrick Keeffe Director of Communications Vanderbilt Museum

Intergenerational Project



Joshua Dale Williams



Daniel Kazenoff followed in the family tradition begun by his brother who was also an Intergenerational Student at SeniorNet.

Each year since 2005 area high school students have volunteered for summer internships at SeniorNet. These interns have assisted the SeniorNet effort in a variety of ways. On a technical level, under the direction of our Lab Coordinator, they often help fine-tune computer hardware. More significantly, the student volunteers serve as coaches in the classroom.

Daniel Kazenoff and Joshua Dale Williams added to the success of SeniorNet at FSL programs during the summer of 2013. They listened to issues raised by students and either applied knowledge already possessed or showed resourcefulness and researched solutions to rapidly fix each problem thus alleviating concerns of those students experiencing technical difficulties. As part of their internship, they each performed 25 hours of community service helping as classroom coaches as well as assisting with other activities in the classroom. Their technical skills were severely tested in our recently introduced new "Apps" courses but they came through with flying colors! They worked well within the team of coaches and readily stepped up to help our senior citizen students whose skill levels often have a wide range.

As we tell our senior students, when introducing these young coaches, "They will help teach us computing, and we will help teach them patience."

Slava Vero

Huntington Town Board Recognized SeniorNet at FSL, L.I

The Huntington Town Board continues to appreciate the achievements of Senior-Net at FSL, L.I. and the positive impact the Don Weidman Computer Learning Center makes on the lives of many seniors in the community. At the last Senior-

Net annual meeting, Town Supervisor Frank Petrone and Councilwoman Susan Berland announced that the Town Board approved a grant for the Learning Center to continue its mission, which includes bringing computer technology to residents of this great Township. Through our free seminars at public libraries and mobile learning program, we reach out to communities including people in senior centers, VA residents and residents of Section 8 Housing. This grant will help us continue these efforts and develop more state-of-the-art projects.



Bill Baker, Slava Vero, Supervisor Frank Petrone, Councilwoman Susan Berland, and Bob Festa

Microsoft Training—A New Venture Outside our Labs

As a special introduction to the new Windows 8 operating system, SeniorNet National headquarters partnered with Microsoft headquarters and Que Publishing to offer a series of **FREE** workshops – a one hour, hands-on "Introduction to Windows 8". The national launch during the month of September included more than 20 SeniorNet Learning Centers throughout the United States.

In September, SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. conducted a series of workshops at the Microsoft store in the Walt Whitman Shops in Huntington. More than 145 seniors attended these workshops to familiarize themselves with the new operating system.

These workshops demonstrated Windows 8 on Surface Pro tablets provided by Microsoft and the training was led by Jim Burke, with the assistance of Microsoft employees, two SeniorNet instructors and 18 coaches. Initially sessions were planned for only two days but due to high demand they were quickly overbooked and two more days were added.

Although this project entailed a tremendous amount of time and effort Jim Burke stated, "This event was a task worth doing – for the experience, service and a better understanding of our own mission. Additionally, the knowledge of Windows 8 and the hardware associated with it was amplified to our benefit."



SeniorNet Instructor Jim Burke and students attending Windows 8 workshop



Town of Huntington Supervisor Frank Petrone visited the Windows 8 workshop to congratulate SeniorNet LI

Huntington Town Board Recognized SeniorNet at FSL, L.I

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In 2001, when Councilwoman Susan Berland was newly elected to the Town Board, she attended the first SeniorNet annual meeting and since then has been a champion of our program. Together with all members of the Town Board, she has promoted the idea that seniors need to stay connected and learn technology's new communication methods. While "old telephones", notepads and knocking on neighbors' doors are available, seniors lives can be further enhanced with computers, smartphones, tablets, Skype and more which are today's ways of staying in touch and SeniorNet is the place to learn how.

At the 2013 annual meeting Supervisor Frank Petrone and Councilwoman Susan Berland congratulated SeniorNet for making the Town of Huntington proud. We the volunteers that form SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. in Huntington are forever appreciative of their unwavering support.

2013—A Year of Innovative Course Offerings

We pride ourselves on offering courses that are relevant and important to our students' lives. With the growing interest in mobile devices came the need to develop courses about these devices. We expanded our series of iPad and iPhone workshops to four each, and introduced a four-session Android smartphone workshop and a single-session Kindle Reader workshop. Each of these enjoyed strong attendance and positive responses from our students.

We also offered a Genealogy course for the first time in four years. The previous course was based on a computer application, while the new course focuses on Internet resources for research.

Desktop and laptop computers are still important. Microsoft introduced Windows 8 in 2013, and we responded by offering free seminars at the Microsoft Store at the Walt Whitman Shops as well as a four-session Windows 8 course in our classroom.

SeniorNet Free Seminars

Our free seminar series enjoyed dramatic growth in 2013, with seminars presented at 8 public libraries: Babylon, Bayport, Harborfields, Hauppauge, Huntington, Northport, Sachem and West Islip. The total attendance of 1,466 was a 79% increase over 2012, which itself had been a record year.

These seminars fill an important continuing education need on Long Island. At the seminars, we provide demonstrations of various technology topics. These are lectures with extended audience Q&A. The idea is to show *what* can be done with the technology. This is complementary to our classes, where we show students *how* to use the technology.

In 2013 we expanded the series to include eight libraries. In 2014 we are already scheduled at 14 libraries. We promote the seminars through each library's newsletter, email alerts, distribution of flyers to all Suffolk County libraries, and press releases.



On September 17, Bobbi Zorn became the 1,000th person to attend one of this years free seminars.

We're always looking for new topics of interest, so if you have a suggestion for a seminar please contact Bill Baker at wkbaker@yahoo.com.

Please come to our FREE Spring Semester Open House

Friday, March 21, 2014 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

SeniorNet at FSL, L.I.

Family Service League Building, 790 Park Avenue, Huntington, NY

631-427-3700 Ext. 268/235



Classes start April 7, 2014

Holiday Volunteer Party

On November 22, more than 60 SeniorNet volunteers and guests had an early start to celebrate the Winter Holiday season with a luncheon at Orlando's Italian restaurant in Commack. Volunteers who usually see each other only in different classrooms had the chance to socialize and SeniorNet had the opportunity to thank all volunteers for their dedication and hard work.

SeniorNet volunteers contributed toys, gift cards and other gifts for the Family Service League's TOY (Treasure our Youth) drive, which provides needy children additional gifts for the holidays and helps parents during difficult times.

Not to be outdone, our Eastern Long Island volunteers had a celebration closer to home. Their venue was Caruso Italian Restaurant in Rocky Point. Both locations provided all of us a time to celebrate a year of service and success.



Roe Oetiker, Phyllis Pappas, Slava Vero, Nina Smith



Jeri Usbay, Bob Kohler, Pat Rouse

SeniorNet Volunteers Celebrate Summer 2013

On August 16, 2013, SeniorNet volunteers celebrated summer with the annual picnic at the Town of Huntington beach in Centerport. The leadership applauded their hardworking volunteers who certainly deserved a day at the beach away from the "salt mines" called SeniorNet. The event was a great success with more than fifty-five guests attending including "Special Guests" Samantha (age 2) and Alex (age 10) bringing the average age way down. As always, the event went like clockwork, no glitches and the theme "Have a glorious time" was very well received. Everyone left looking forward to the next event.



Mobile Learning Center (MLC) Continues to Grow

Until Otto Niebler, founded the first SeniorNet Mobile Learning Center two years ago, it was up to students to travel to a SeniorNet computer lab to take a class. Those who couldn't get there were out of luck. MLC

changed all that. Because of the huge success and overbooked schedule of the first portable classroom, now designated "MLC1" which provided on location training at the Town of Huntington Senior Center, the VA Hospital and Paumanack Village in Greenlawn, "MLC2" was assembled in the summer of 2013. MCL2 has set up a classroom at Leisure Glen, a senior community in the Town of Brookhaven.

In 2013, during the months of June and December, MLC classrooms taught a variety of topics including basic to advanced computers, iPad, iPhone, file management, digital photography and more. Graduating students are now eagerly awaiting the start of the 2014 semester with some new and



Students working in a MLC setting

exciting courses. It is important to note that the idea and implementation of MLCs could not be possible without the support and collaboration of the hosting organizations, the team of teachers and coaches and the support system that keeps all equipment ready "to go".

The success of the Mobile Learning Center can best be expressed through the faces of satisfied students and the eager SeniorNet volunteer staff.

Annual Meeting, October 28, 2013

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emplifies the award's criteria demonstrated by its namesake. Ed is an exceptional volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to the technical needs of SeniorNet. He has demonstrated a commitment to excellence by the quantity and quality of work performed and is the ultimate team player who "makes a difference" by reaching beyond the responsibilities of his position to enhance the lives of other volunteers, students and seniors in the community. He champions and promotes the SeniorNet mission of education, protection of environment and community outreach.

Each year, the volunteer demonstrating outstanding dedication and service to the senior community is pre-

sented the prestigious Phyllis Y. Haber Award. Last year's recipient, Otto Niebler, bestowed the well-deserved 2013 award to Bob Festa. Bob is the elected Learning Center's co-coordinator and a pioneer in developing new teaching methods. He is active in community development and a successful manager.

Intergenerational Program Certificates of achievement were presented to Joshua Dale Williams, a Northport High School student and Daniel Kazenoff, a Cold Spring High School student for their volunteer hours as interns during the summer of 2013.



Slava Vero introducing The Phyllis Y. Haber & Eric Vero Technical Awards

Calendar of Events		
Open House Student Registration	Huntington Learning Center	Friday, March 21 10:00 AM—2:00 PM
Legislator William Spencer Women's Health Fair	Dolan Family Health Center 284 Pulaski Road, Greenlawn, NY	Thursday, March 20 3:00 PM—8:00 PM
Volunteer Lunch & Volunteer Recognition Day For All SeniorNet Volunteers	Precious Chinese Restaurant East Northport, NY	Friday, April 25 1:00 PM
SeniorNet Volunteer Training	Harborfileds Public Library Greenlawn, NY	Friday, May 2 9:30 AM—1:30 PM
Free Seminars @ Public Libraries		
Harborfields Public Library	3:30 PM Tuesdays	January 21 February 18 March 18
Sachem Public Library	3:30 PM Wednesdays	January 8 February 12 March 12
West Islip Public Library	7:00 PM	January 9 February 18 March 12
Hauppauge Public Library	3:30 PM Mondays	January 13 February 10 March 10
Smithtown Public Library	2:00 PM	January 15 February 13 March 13
Babylon Public Library	3:30 PM	January 23
Northport Public Library	4:00 PM	January 23 February 27 March 19
Jericho Public Library	2:00 PM	January 24
Huntington Public Library	2:00 PM	March 20
Half Hollow Hills Public Library	3:00 PM	March 26
Council Meeting — First Friday of the Month 10:00 AM FSL Boardroom		

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We're on the Web
www.seniornetli.org and
www.facebook.com/
seniornetli

Town of Huntington Employees Learn at SeniorNet

As a show of appreciation for their ongoing support, last June, **SeniorNet** provided the Town of Huntington with two, two-session courses, one basic and one advanced on using Microsoft Publisher. Presented to Town employees from the Huntington Town Senior Center, Publisher allows the creation of professional looking publications quickly and easily. Publisher can design and publish professional marketing and com-



Town of Huntington employees working with Microsoft Publisher

munication materials for print, and for mail or e-mail merges. Examples are name badges, brochures, invitations, menus, flyers, greeting cards, post cards and for these employees, newsletters. Diane Asser, taught the Publisher class, assisted by Joe Malone, Warren Macek and Joe Horch as coaches; because the program was so well received, additional training for Town employees is planned in 2014. This is what one of the "students" described during the exit interview: "Publisher was a great class! I learned so much. I use the knowledge gained in your class <u>daily</u> in the creation of my work load. The pages are more creative and more attractive. I have a new found confidence. I give the class instructors ratings of a 5! Great classes!" Suzanne