



Bringing Wisdom to the Information Age

Learning Center at FSL, L.I.

Where every worker is a volunteer!

Winter 2011-2012

Volume 12 Issue 2

We gratefully acknowledge the support of:

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SeniorNet's new Mobile Learning Center is already impacting the lives of many seniors:

The VA Hospital in Northport

The "Senior Net Mobile Learning Center" has made a great impact on the lives of the Veterans involved with their weekly classes. These Veterans have had the opportunity to more fully engage with the computer and utilize it to enhance their lives and explore their interests. The SeniorNet volunteers have provided invaluable support and guidance through the learning process. Many Veterans stated that learning the computer has given them hope in learning a new skill to utilize in their leisure time. Others have stated that Otto and his members are patient and very helpful in taking the time to explain the classes at their pace. Many feel optimistic going home and practicing what they have learned, and in addition many of the students are telling their friends about our upcoming sessions for they, too, want to learn these skills.

On behalf of the Northport Veterans Hospital, we are truly grateful for the time and efforts Senior Net has provided our Veterans to enhance their quality of life that fulfills the mission and vision of what we stand for.

Our sincere thank you!

Sincerely,

Jinny Mullen, CTRS

Huntington Senior Center

SeniorNet classes are always filled to capacity and in demand! The caliber of instruction and support is unsurpassed. Participants leave a session not only with knowledge, but with confidence that they can learn more. How wonderful that you brought your services to our door!

Lynne Mauss, Director of Senior Division

Paumanack Village

This program has been a stimulating experience for me. The tutors under the auspices of Mr. Otto Niebler have helped in providing a confidence in working with computers. The lessons were delivered with ease and precision which enabled me to follow them without confusion. I would like to extend my gratitude to all. Furthermore, I hope to see this program at a future date.

Sincerely,

Patricia G.



Message from SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. Coordinators

Dear Friends,

Why is SeniorNet a Success Story?

Started 12 years ago with a handful of volunteers, SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. has grown into a powerhouse in the field of educating adults aged 50+ in the latest and most sophisticated computer skills.

From a humble beginning of a curriculum of just one course a week it has expanded to a 30 course curriculum, has trained over 8,700 adults, and provided computer and **educational** services to an underserved population through community outreach and **community services**. We have also helped **protect the environment** by recycling computers, thus not overloading our landfills.

SeniorNet is steeped in a rich tradition of providing exceptional computer training for the 50 Plus generation. Together, our volunteer staff of instructors, coaches, lab personnel, development and volunteer coordinators is embarking upon an exciting vision for 2012.

Why are we successful?

- *We rank as the number one SeniorNet Learning Center in the county.
- *We attract the best in volunteer staff and students from across Long Island.
- * We are at the forefront of new technology, providing each student with the latest in curriculum and “gadgets”
- * Our Huntington and East Yaphank Learning Centers are state-of-the-art facilities.
- * We provide education for individuals in need of retraining to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

These new initiatives and achievements are made possible with the generous support of our sponsors, elected officials, foundations, volunteers and most of all by our dedicated student body that helps us in the classroom and spreads the word to the communities we serve. SeniorNet will continue to reach new levels of excellence through outreach, community development and support as well as through our constantly improving educational program.

We would like to take this opportunity and thank all our supporters for a very successful 2011, a success that has brought our Learning Center recognition on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. We pledge to continue our efforts to deliver the best senior computer learning experience for the future.

Wishing you all a very Happy and Joyous Holiday Season.

Slava Vero Bill Baker

Slava Vero and Bill Baker
SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. co-coordinators

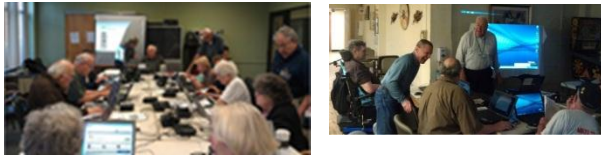
Supporting Our Community

Mobile Learning Center

Offers computer training at host sites to seniors who cannot travel to our learning centers. From temporary classrooms, SeniorNet-trained instructors provide specially designed task-oriented classes requiring no prerequisites.

Classes are in progress at the following sites:

- Senior Center in Town of Huntington
- Veterans Hospital in Northport
- Section 8 housing complex in Greenlawn



Homebound Project

SeniorNet volunteers developed a unique methodology that allows our caring instructors to provide live interactive in-home computer training via the Internet to people of all ages who are confined to home, including caregivers.

The Homebound students were selected from all over Long Island and ranged in age from early 50s to 93.

Testimonial:

"Post-stroke, using the computer was the first and strongest...indicator that I could be an active, curious and productive participant in this new, strange and disheartening physical context I found myself in. ...What a relief and a blessing it is to those of us treading the thin ice of disability and aging - a real window opened to a breath of fresh air." Jim

Intergenerational Project

Since 2005 SeniorNet has accepted local high school students as volunteer classroom coaches during their summer vacation. We have found that while they help teach us computing, we help teach them patience.

Last summer's participants:

- ⇒ Robert Timpa & Robert Carson:
Introduction to Computers 1 & 3,
Facebook, 21st Century Jobs Skills
- ⇒ Michael Stewart: File Management and
Exploring Windows

Environmental Protection

Instead of discarding their old laptop computers, The Friends Academy donated 80 to SeniorNet for refurbishing. These were then given by Family Service League case managers to needy clients.



Ken Ambach, Friends Academy Director of Technology, Adam Weber, Friends Academy Tech Support Specialist, and Jim Burke, SeniorNet Lab Co-coordinator.

Community Development

Roadrunner Events

In 2011 our Roadrunners set up displays at the following events to provide information about SeniorNet to interested seniors:

April 13	Long Island Senior Expo
April 14	Boomers & Seniors
May 2	Longwood Public Library
May 19	Suffolk County Office of the Aging
June 9	Town of Huntington
June 17	Congressman Tim Bishop
July 19	Suffolk County Office of the Aging
September 25	50 Plus Senior fair
October 1	Huntington Fall Festival
October 26	Women's Networking Day



Nina Saporito, Vaughn Spillsbury, Roe Oetiker,
Slava Vero and Elvira Lubrano

Onsite Seminars/Speakers Bureau

In an effort to make SeniorNet information available to a diverse population, our volunteers conducted onsite seminars at such locations as the senior development at "the Leisure Glen", Huntington Women's Christian Club, and a Facebook seminar at the 50 plus Seniors Expo.



SeniorNet volunteers
Bob Kohler and Jeri
Usbay



Slava Vero and Pat Janoff
of the Huntington Women's
Christian Club

Our Students

"I am a student in the beginning digital camera class and love it! Finally after the class and reading the course book I was able to import the photos from my digital camera to my computer." - Blessings, Carol

"I have participated in numerous SeniorNet courses from computer workings to digital photography. The knowledge, presentation of and by the instructors is remarkable. This is complemented by the enthusiasm of the coaches, and the small classes make for a very rewarding and fun experience." - Dorothy

"I have always felt that SeniorNet was a hidden treasure in our community, and I'm happy to be able to use the services." - Sue



John Grayson's *Introduction to Computers 2* class

Special Events

Throughout the year our volunteers host various events that include registration open houses, parties, picnics, luncheons and training meetings. These volunteer events are part of an overall effort to increase volunteer participation, meet and greet other volunteers, and provide opportunities for networking with each other.



Volunteers attending annual
training session



Volunteer Spring
Luncheon

Education

2011 in Review . . .

In 2011 we provided training in our computer lab for 563 students, making it one of our most successful years ever.

We also introduced two new education modules – *Computer Lite* and *Gadgets*. These single-session workshops provide an overview of key topics (Security, Social Networks) and consumer electronic devices (iPad, iPhone and iTunes). These proved very popular, with each of the workshops selling out.

Every instructor with whom I took a class taught me a great deal. I loved the small group setting; the coaches practically provided one-on-one help and guidance; and the dedicated, tireless, volunteer teachers who would even give “extra help”. They are just terrific!

- Linda

. . . and a Preview of 2012

The *Computer Lite* and *Gadgets* workshops were so popular in Huntington that we will offer them in both Huntington and East Yaphank in the winter semester.

Content for two of our digital photography workshops – *Introduction to Digital Photo Editing* and *Creative Slideshows* – has been updated. These two-session workshops will be offered in the winter semester.

In all, we will be offering 18 courses in Huntington and 12 courses in East Yaphank. Visit our web site (see below) for complete information.

Do you have suggestions for new courses? Please let us know – we value your feedback.

Free Seminar Series

Each month SeniorNet volunteers offer free seminars to the general public at our SeniorNet User Group (SNUG) meetings. These cover a wide range of computer and technology oriented topics. To accommodate the ever growing audiences, these seminars were recently moved to a large room at the Harborfields Public Library.

Topics covered in recent seminars include:

- ⇒ Planning day trips on the Internet
- ⇒ The iPad
- ⇒ Using Skype for phone calls and web chats

The next seminar is on January 17 at 3:30. This seminar is free and open to the public, so feel free to bring a friend.

Our Web Site

Our web site includes detailed information about all of our programs. You can see what will be covered in each session of every course that will be offered in the winter semester, download a course application form, read about upcoming free seminars, and even purchase a gift certificate.

Visit us at
seniornetli.org or
[Facebook.com/seniornetli](https://www.facebook.com/seniornetli)
to find out more about our organization and our programs.

SeniorNet's 12th Annual Meeting: New Challenges and New Solutions

On Monday, October 24, 2011, SeniorNet at Family Service League celebrated its twelfth year of service at its Annual Meeting at The Cinema Arts Centre.

Overview

We are proud of again being honored as the #1 learning center among all of those in SeniorNet's worldwide organization. This of course resulted from the extraordinary achievements of our 130+ volunteers who operate two centers, offer dozens of computer courses annually, and since inception can be credited with teaching an astounding 8,700+ students.

New Challenges and New Solutions

During its 12-year success story SeniorNet at FSL, L.I. overcame many obstacles to reach previously underserved seniors while ensuring it adapted to the ever-changing world of technology. 2011 was no different.

CHALLENGE: For various reasons, some interested seniors find it difficult to come to our centers for training.

—> **SOLUTION:** *The Mobile Learning Center*

CHALLENGE: We came to the realization that traditional computer training which focuses on basic skills does not work for everyone.

—> **SOLUTION:** *Computer Lite classes*

CHALLENGE: In this poor economy, there are 50+ year olds who want to return to or remain in the workforce but find their computer skills outdated, or cannot properly navigate the 21st century job search maze.

—> **SOLUTION:** *21st Century Job Skills Workshops.*

CHALLENGE: Today there are many expensive new gadgets (which come with huge instruction manuals) that seniors own and need help using.

—> **SOLUTION:** *In 2011 we made gadget classes a regular part of our curriculum.*

CHALLENGE: Many seniors are unable to come to our very popular free monthly SeniorNet User Group (SNUG) meetings.

—> **SOLUTION:** *We now offer some of our most important SNUG seminars off-site, bringing the seminars to the host group's location.*



A highlight of the event was presentations by the following volunteers:

- Moss Rawn, Education Committee Co-Chair, provided a curriculum update.
- Otto Niebler, who developed The Mobile Learning Center, led everyone through a PowerPoint presentation explaining its workings.
- Bill Baker explained the SNUG seminars and the growth we have experienced, from an average of 20 attendees several years ago to an average of 60 this year, including a record 115 attendees at a single seminar.

Award Presentations

- Don Stone presented Certificates of Recognition to those students who completed the Computer Essentials for Seniors program.
- 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 Phyllis Y. Haber Award is bestowed annually to the person showing outstanding dedication and providing service to the senior community. Last year's recipient Jim Burke made the presentation to Bill Baker.
- Bill Baker presented a Special Recognition Award to Slava Vero for her dedication, leadership and hard work over the last 12 years.
- A special award was presented to guest honoree 18th District Legislator Jon Cooper for his support and contribution to the development and growth of SeniorNet at FSL, L.I.

Guests

We had a showing of over 80 guests. The impressive guest list not only included our SeniorNet volunteers but also many friends, government, business and community leaders, Family Service League management, and members of the Board of Directors.

Photo Gallery



Alex Kushnir, Legislative Aide to Assemblyman Andrew Raia, Nick DeFlorio, SeniorNet volunteer, and 17th District Legislator Lou D'Amaro



17th District Legislator Lou D'Amaro, SeniorNet volunteers Hank Bungart, Newt Kerman and Ed Schoenfeld



Barbara Page, FSL Chairwoman of the Board, and 18th District Legislator Jon Cooper



SeniorNet student Richard and volunteers Nina Saporito and Elvira Lubrano



FSL board members: Vaughn Spilsbury, Judith Sonfield, Slava Vero, Vivian Cann and Phyllis Haber, FSL VP, (retired)



SeniorNet volunteers



SeniorNet volunteers



SeniorNet's Marty Kushnick and Bob Keller, nationalgrid Executive Director



Town of Huntington Councilwoman Susan Berland



Karen Boorshtein, FSL President and CEO, and Slava Vero, SeniorNet Co-Coordinator



18th District Legislator Jon Cooper



Jillian Guthman Abadom, Esq., Director of Human Services, Town of Huntington

Check our web site for upcoming events and remember to volunteer and/or attend. Plan to attend SNUG free seminar held the 3rd Tuesday of every month (except December) at 3:30 PM

New location: Harborfields Public Library
Next SNUG Seminar is January 17th, 2012

**COMPUTER CLASSES FOR SENIORS
WINTER 2012 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Classes start January 9, 2012

SENIORNET AT FSL, L.I., ONCE AGAIN ANNOUNCES REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR EXCITING COMPUTER COURSES AND WORKSHOPS FOR SENIORS. HUNTINGTON AND E. YAPHANK WINTER CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 9TH, 2012. NEW COURSES ARE ADDED EACH SEMESTER, SUCH AS FACEBOOK, iTUNES, SOCIAL NETWORKS, iPad, iPhone AND MORE.

"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.

Funding for this newsletter provided by the Huntington Town Board

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