



**46/12**  
**December 2023**

## CALENDAR

**January 3, 2024.....**LIZ Board Meeting  
time & location to be emailed by Eileen

## DIRECTORY

President ..... Eileen Holmes  
Vice President ..... Valentine Stype  
Secretary ..... Alicia Winowsky  
Treasurer ..... Dominick LiCausi  
Awards Chair ..... Mary Ella Moeller  
Awards Co-Chair ..... Jo Anne Powell  
Bylaws Chair ..... Jo Anne Powell  
Community Service ..... Angelo Grande  
Finance & Budget Chair ..... Leigh Powell  
Friendly Service Chair ..... Alicia Winowsky  
Friendly Service Co-Chair ..... Dee McKinnon  
Health Advocacy Chair ..... Jo Anne Powell  
Historian ..... Valentine Stype  
Legislation Action ..... Valentine Stype  
Membership Chair ..... Ruth Doroski  
Nominations Chair ..... Kathy Grande  
Program Chair ..... Valentine Stype  
Public Relations Chair ..... Eileen Holmes  
Resolutions Chair ..... Ruth Doroski  
Newsletter Editor, Website ..... Jo Anne Powell  
EERTA President ..... Dominick LiCausi  
WERTA President ..... TBA

**Now that we have an email service,  
sending out bulletins has been facilitated.  
If you are reading this on the RENY  
website, please send your email address  
to [KCecala@nysrta.org](mailto:KCecala@nysrta.org) (and your news to  
[lizonenews@gmail.com](mailto:lizonenews@gmail.com)) in order to receive  
LIZ NEWS BULLETINS directly!**

## Featured Educator

With the hope that no news is good news, our monthly newsletter is adding an occasional feature article. In this issue, we highlight the career of a Huntington Union Free School District teacher, Dr. Garson Rockoff.

Born in the town of Slutsk in Gubernia Minsk in Czarist Russia, young Garson found his way to New York State and was granted citizenship in 1923. He attended Oswego State Normal School and earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from Teacher's College at Columbia University, then a doctorate at New York University.

Dr. Rockoff was the first man in New York State to receive a license as a special teacher. Over a 45 year career, he taught thousands of students in Rochester, South Huntington and Huntington. He trained teachers for 12 years at Oswego. Two of his Huntington High School colleagues were among the teachers he helped to train.



Known affectionately as "Doc," the veteran educator said "patience is 90% of what you need in special class teaching." A full page in the 1967 yearbook is dedicated to him with a large photo and write-up. In his interview, Dr. Rockoff said he had "ten children in my class ranging in age from 14 to 18 – children who are not able to absorb the regular curriculum. When I get them they can do second or third grade work and in the next two, three or four years that I keep them they advance another grade or two." His was a demanding job, but he stayed while others left the profession after being worn-out. "Is it rewarding? Oh, yes, or else I would not have been in it for that length of time... You are helping children who need help." When "his kids" had their money taken away by other students, Dr. Rockoff would arrange to buy lunch for them. As his travels took him past the art room displays, he once noticed a large oil painting and told the art teacher that he would like to purchase the painting – a thrill for the student!

He was a humble man, despite his standing as a giant in his field. This came through loud and clear during an end-of-career interview. "Don't give me any halos, there are thousands like me!". At the time of his retirement in June 1967, he was the president of the Suffolk County Teachers Federal Credit Union. His wife, Anne, was a teacher in Copiague and their son, Alan, was an industrial engineer.

When asked about his plans for retirement, Dr. Rockoff said he wanted to volunteer in an orphan asylum or in an institution for the blind or mentally retarded. As we lose these stars in the educational field, surely Dr. Rockoff has earned that halo! *(With express written permission from the HUFSD Public Information Office.)*

If you would like an outstanding teacher recognized, please send the information & permission to [Lizonenews@gmail.com](mailto:Lizonenews@gmail.com).