



PORT OF CALL

The newsletter that keeps Port's retirees connected and informed.

**PWTA RETIRED EDUCATORS CHAPTER
PORT WASHINGTON, NEW YORK**

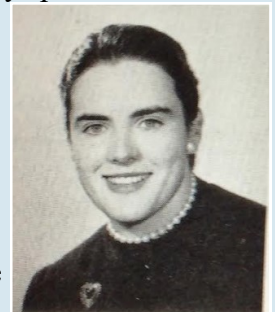
Fall/Winter 2019 VOL.29 NO.3

NYSUT NO. 19 080R Visit our website at: <http://pwretirees.org/>

The PWRE Remembers Two Significant PWTA Educators!

The Port Washington Retired Educator pays tribute to and mourn the loss of two members who made significant contributions to the schools and to the success of the Port Washington Teachers Association. They are Kay Stewart, retired social studies teacher, and Ronnie Jones, retired elementary teacher. Each made a difference as an educator and also as an active member of the Teachers Association.

Kay Stewart began her teaching career at Weber Junior High School. When Sousa Junior High opened in 1958, she moved there where she became social studies department chair. She was a brilliant person who constantly pursued her own education, earning not only a Master's Degree but also many specialized certifications. She brought her knowledge to her students and had very high expectations for them. Erlyn Madonia remembered: "Kay hired me, she was my mentor, my protector, my friend, my neighbor, and a role model for all. She was brilliant, dedicated, hardworking, a creative educator, a champion for what was right, a unionist and always a "lady." She had a fantastic sense of humor." When Sousa was closed in 1985, she became social studies department chair at Schreiber High School and held that position until her retirement.



PWTA President Joe Coppola appointed Kay to be the PWTA's chief negotiator for the Association's third full contract. She led the teachers through impasse and mediation to a new contract which was settled in the spring of 1971. This contract contained some significant provisions which continue to exist in PWTA contracts today and give teachers a significant voice in decision-making. These include teacher involvement in hiring and the delineation of the function of joint committees such as the Professional Growth Committee. These gave teachers a real voice in decision-making. After the settlement Kay reflected, "The support of teachers made one realize that negotiating a contract is a responsibility and a privilege."



Ronnie Jones was one of Port's original pre-kindergarten teachers. This was at a time when few if any districts had pre-kindergarten programs. Pre-kindergarten teachers were not members of the bargaining unit. However, this changed when, partially at Ronnie's initiative, the PWTA worked to achieve membership for them so they would have the same terms and conditions of employment as other elementary teachers. Ronnie became a very active and supportive member. She served on the Council and as PWTA secretary served on several negotiating teams.

After working in the pre-kindergarten program, Ronnie joined the Manorhaven staff as a third-year teacher. Her classroom was a happy one, one which came to life when filled with students. Her inclusive and nonjudgmental approach made all children feel accepted, valued, and loved.

Ronnie and her family lived in Port, and she raised her children here. She was a community activist and avid supporter of education for all students. She participated in many activities including marches and rallies, especially in opposition to the Vietnam War. She could be counted on to support liberal causes which reflected her belief that individuals in a democracy should stand up for their beliefs. She saw education as a means to improving our country. She brought passion and commitment to all that she did.

Both Kay and Ronnie were dedicated teachers who went beyond their classroom roles. Their work benefited not only their students but also their colleagues and the education of students. They have left a lasting legacy. To honor Kay Stewart and Ronnie Jones, you may make contributions to the PWRE Scholarship Fund. Contributions are acknowledged to families and reflect our appreciation of our colleagues.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 2019 - Bonnie Utzig

Congratulations to the PWRE! Through your generous donations to the American Cancer Society, we managed to surpass our goal of \$3,000 coming in at \$3100.00! We combine the PWTA and PWRE donations as one group, so we will share the grand total with you in a future article.

Thanks also to Fran Clark for walking at Jones Beach as a representative of the PWRE, shown here with Bridge O'Keefe-Green. Several of us had other obligations or health issues that prevented us from attending, but we were there with Fran in spirit. If we missed the name of anyone else who walked on Sunday, Oct. 20th, please let us know and we will add your name to the acknowledgements.

Your checks will be going toward more breast cancer research, the Road to Recovery Transportation Program (rides to chemo treatments), Hope Lodge (free lodging for family members), the 24/7 Cancer Helpline (20 million calls, chats, and emails), and to Patient Navigators, who help nearly 45,000 patients through the health care system. Thanks again!



Save the Date: May 14, 2020 - 1:30-3:00

Standing Where They Stood: Learning About Slavery in Oyster Bay

Raynham Hall Museum, Oyster Bay NY, \$8.00 per person

Tour led by Claire Bellerjeau, Historian and Director of Education—Discover (among other facts):

Prior to 1827 slavery was pervasive in New York State, where there were more enslaved persons than in any state north of Maryland. By the 1740s one in five residents of Manhattan Island lived in slavery. In the mid 1770s 15% of New Yorkers were African American slaves.

Why wait until May? The museum is expanding and should be done by May (!!)



Come to the PWRE Book Club

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to the host.

Date: December 11th at 11:00 am
Book: Song of Solomon - Toni Morrison
Host: Ute Johnson

Date: January 22nd at 11:00 am
Book: Say Nothing - Partick Radden Keefe
Host: Barbara Mayer

Date: March 27th at 11:00 am
Book: The Water Dancer - Ta-Nehisi Coates
Host Sondra Winder

FRIENDSHIP/ REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

Norma Ziegel

Condolences Were Sent:

To the family of John Cahill
To the family of Eileen Gallagher
To the family of Miriam Ross Hopkins
To the family of Bertha Moriarity
To the family of Jean Sellers

A \$100 contribution was sent to the PWRE Scholarship Fund in memory of:

John Cahill
Eileen Gallagher
Miriam Rose Hopkins
Bertha Moriarity
Jean Sellers

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Where Are They Now? - Merry Gilbert

Alex Boyer, His World's the Stage

"I enjoy it. I love music, and I like being on stage. The music and the drama are on an unparalleled scale. There's nothing else like it." So says former Manorhaven student and Schreiber, year of 2000, graduate, in response to my "Why opera?" question.

Alex studied music at Boston University, got a Master's in Music at the Manhattan School of Music, and then a performance diploma. In 2007 he apprenticed at the Merola Opera Program in San Francisco which involved doing opera scenes, performance work, as well as voice lessons from visiting artists, music coachings, dance/movement and acting training. He spent several seasons as part of the resident company of Opera San Jose where he performed 17 roles.

Most recently he was Captain Ahab in Jake Heggie's Moby Dick, and Mario Cavaradossi in Tosca with Hawaii Opera Theater.

The review of Tosca in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser highlights Alex's performance. Reviewer Ruth O. Bingham, who received her doctorate in musicology from Cornell University, and reviewer of musical arts for 25 years) writes:

"Alex Boyer as Cavaradossi is a sheer delight, the perfect partner for Tosca and contrast for Scarpia. His voice's naturally high placement and warm clarity make Boyer a great heroic tenor: the world may be cruel, but his character is good through and through, singing above it all. Boyer's wrenching "E lucevan le stele" ("The stars were shining"), Cavaradossi's Act III aria when he gives up life, brought the house down." Bravissimo to our home town boy!!



Book Club Wants You!

Are you a recent retiree or someone who is looking to join a book club? Then you should know that the PWRE has chosen our next three books and the dates when we will meet. All information is listed below and always is listed on page 2 of our newsletter.

Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison

Date: December 11, 2019, at 11:00 am, at Ute Johnson house, 5 Grove Place, Port Washington

Say Nothing by Patrick Radden Keefe

Date: January 22, 2020, at 11:00 am, at Barbara Mayer's house, 131 Pond View Drive, Port Washington

The Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Date: March 27, 2020, at 11:00am at Sondra Winder's house, 233 Pond View Drive, Port Washington

Yes, you might have noticed Barbara and Sondra live on the same block. They both live in the Mill Pond Community.

What's Inside Port of Call Fall/Winter 2019

PWRE Remembers Two Significant PWTA Educators.....	Page 1	Highlights From A Safari in Botswana.....	Page 4
Making Strides Against breast Cancer 2019	Page 2	Eagles Nest And Haunted Skies.....	Page 5
Friendship/Remembrance Committee	Page 2	PWRE Awards \$6000 in Scholarships.....	Page 5
Come to the PWRE Book Club.....	Page 2	Unanticipated Consequences.....	Page 6
Save The Date May14, 2020.....	Page 2	Trip Alerts by Snail Mail.....	Page 6
Where Are They Now.....	Page 3	"I don't have to go back to school" breakfast.....	Page 7
Book Club Wants You.....	Page 3		

Highlights from a Safari in Botswana - Harriet Englander

Botswana is a thriving democracy where people enjoy free education and health care. They benefit from tourism and from diamond mines that were discovered in 1972, shortly after the country gained its independence from Great Britain. Big game hunting has been abolished but not in the neighboring countries of Namibia, Angola, and Zimbabwe. So elephants, who are very smart, feel safe here, especially in the Chobe National Park, the first stop on our safari. At least thirty percent of all of Africa's elephants are in the Chobe National Park!

Before dawn, we motored in an electric powered boat to see a group of elephants waking up with the sunrise. They pulled themselves out of their sleep on sandy hills while baboons, zebras and impalas played on the shore and fish eagles watched from above.

Three days later, we flew to the Okavango Delta. On the first day, we got off the boat, and our guide pointed to five lions off to our right and hundreds of buffalo walking in a tight line to our left. He said, "The lions plan to race across the plains, isolate one buffalo from the herd and attack him. But the lions are shy so they won't move in front of us. See that one near you is being called back. No worry." So I allowed myself to have no worry as we walked through the grassland following a family of warthogs, the little ones lagging behind as in any family.



Our third stop was in the Moremi Game Reserve, I was sitting next to the driver when a lion approached. I wanted to tell the driver, Please drive away. But he kept smiling as the lion kept coming right to my side of the jeep. Then I was looking into the eyes of a lion. "Do not worry," whispered the driver. "You are absolutely safe. The lion is looking for his lioness so she can attack a big animal like a giraffe or a hyena. You see, the lion protects the lioness. But he is big and fat. She is lean and smaller so she can hide and surprise and then run and pounce with great speed. But without his lioness, this lion may not have eaten for two days."

But he is big and fat. She is lean and smaller so she can hide and surprise and then run and pounce with great speed. But without his lioness, this lion may not have eaten for two days."



"Yes," I said, "the lion's eyes are sad." But when he walked away, I was happy.

Before we left Moremi, the lovely staff sang us a song of goodbye.

From there, we flew to the Central Kalahari Game Reserve where I hit my head getting on the small plane and hesitated too long getting off so a man just took me by the waist, and carried me down.

We stayed at Tau (Lion) Pan in the desert. We had just settled into our lodge and climbed onto a safari jeep when we were

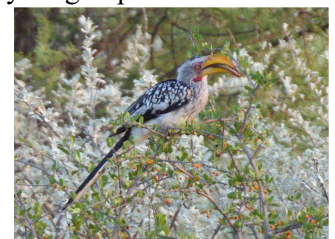
watching a leopard in a tree, eating a fox. The leopard had the fox spread out on two branches of the tree as if the poor animal were hanging from a clothesline.



I was sitting in the jeep behind the driver when this leopard, apparently taking a break from devouring the fox, came down from the tree; and, as you can see, he came right next to me. So, once more I looked into the eyes of a wild animal as he looked at me.

On another day we watched two jackals catching a young impala. The most exciting part of this jackal/impala encounter was watching the two jackals coordinating with each other to stalk, kill and take turns eating the young impala.

Other highlights included two giraffes who had apparently fought one another for territory lying dead on the grass, and a group of hippos in the water challenging us in our outboard to pass. We turned back instead. And birds, everywhere, magnificent birds of every color, shape and size. Each day we returned from our adventures to comfortable suites with mosquito netting around each bed, fresh, tasty food, and cheerful, sweet people to help us.



Eagle's Nest and Haunted Skies - Sondra Winder

On October 25th a combined group of members of the PWRE and members of the Community Synagogue Chaverim visited the Vanderbilt Estate and toured the museum, enjoyed a sumptuous luncheon, and viewed the program at the Planetarium.

The museum, home to William Vanderbilt II, is known as "Eagle's Nest." He purchased the property in the far eastern most end of Huntington, in Centerport, in 1910. It was his need to isolate himself in the largest mansion on the Long Island Gold Coast. The purchase also afforded him a deep-water port for his yachts.

William was the great grandson of Cornelius Vanderbilt, "The Commodore," who launched the family fortune via shipping and railroads. William ran the New York Central Railroad office. After a short time, he embarked upon a series of adventures around the world.

"Eagle's Nest" is an eclectic version of Spanish Revival architecture. Originally a 7-room cottage of English Arts and Crafts design, the estate expanded as each new wife built an extension with private quarters and very magnificent bathrooms.

William constructed a separate building to house his museum of quality artifacts. Several rooms display his collections of natural history specimens and ethnographic artifacts from every corner of the earth. Most unique is a letter written by President Abraham Lincoln in May 1861 in answer to William's offer to make his services available to the country.

After lunch, we regrouped at the Planetarium and viewed "Haunted Skies." We began our travel 3000 years in the past amongst a group of stars to Halloween's Keltic beginnings. We were shown how quarterly dates on the calendar coincide with celebrations such as Halloween, Ground Hog Day and May Day; derived through the meeting of the seasons through the constellations.

The day was made complete by the views and history of acquired artifacts and the viewing of asteroids and constellations.

We look forward to another enlightening day together.



PWRE AWARDS \$6000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS



At the Schreiber Senior Awards Assembly in June, Marilyn Gilbert presented three \$2000 scholarships from the Port Washington Retired Educators to Schreiber students. Daniela Caseres was awarded a scholarship in memory of George Williams; Yessica Castillo was awarded a scholarship in honor of Norma Ziegel; and Gregory Pierrri was awarded a scholarship in honor of Barbara Mayer. The scholarships are funded by PWRE dues and by contributions, most of them made in memory of members of the PWRE.



Merry-Go-Round by Merry Gilbert

Unanticipated Consequences

After an initially tepid acceptance over time the automobile became regarded as a wonderful, modern innovation. (At the very least, it led to less horse dung on city streets!)

We now know where that invention and its ubiquitous adoption led: dependence on foreign oil, traffic, pollution, etc. It has taken quite a while to begin to deal with these consequences, with solutions evolving over time: lead free gasoline, increased mileage capacity per gallon, electric cars, HOV lanes, and congestion pricing (on the horizon), among other things.

Remember rush hour? Now we have rush day. Who knew?

I use this as an example of an evolution that also happened in fashion. This innovation started small, revolutionized department stores, and also has had unanticipated consequences which now affect how we all shop. The revolution began in a small but, as it turns out, significant way, in the 1950s with Henri Bendel, a fusty, old line, high end department store on West 57th Street. This image began to change with the hiring of a new president of Henri Bendel, Geraldine Stutz, who had a long history in the fashion industry and a different vision for a shopping experience.

Her first innovation was to turn the main floor corridor into a “Street of Shops.” She created different boutiques for elegant accessories, makeup, watches, stationery, tabletop, and more to give the shopper the feeling of meandering along an elegant boulevard. The next step was the establishment of separate departments elsewhere in the store, for designers such as Stephen Burrows, Ralph Lauren, and Sonia Rykiel, among others, designed to appeal to the New York fashionista. Both Street of Shops and the “shop in shop” concepts were highly successful. By 1964 Bendel’s had a 10% increase in sales, and by 1967 it had doubled its sales.

Can you see where this went? The concept seemed so profitable to other stores. Recall, if you will, in the old days, a department store having a sweater department, a blouse department, a skirt and pants department, and so on. You’d want an item, you’d go the department and find what you wanted.

Contrast that with shopping today: if you want a sweater, say, you now need to browse (or search) every individual manufacturer’s department to find the sweater you’d like. Unlike the boutiques at Bendel’s however, the currently-offered merchandise in each “shop” is not that fashionable and not that unique, an idea that didn’t make it into the current shop in shop configuration. Shopping, once an enjoyable experience, now becomes a slog through merchandise, much of which, except for the label inside (if there is still a label), is not really that different from any other “brand.”

What is the unintended consequence of this “innovation?” Department stores are closing, as on-line shopping becomes more and more popular. Malls, too, are feeling the pinch. E-tail anyone?

Trip Alerts by Snail Mail

No email? Want to go on trips but lack access to notifications?

Please let Harriet Englander
10 Crescent Rd
Port Washington
NY 11050

or

Merry Gilbert put you on the list for mailed notices.
133 Reid Avenue
Port Washington,
NY 11050

"I don't have to go back to school" breakfast



Thank You,
Sally
Reinhardt



Port Washington Retired Educators Chapter

Meetings will be held at the Port Washington Library on the dates and times listed, **unless otherwise notified.**

Please check your email or the website: <http://pwretirees.org/> for any meeting changes.

2020 Meeting Dates

Happy New Year to All!

Please check our website for future meeting dates

<http://www.pwta.info/PWRE/index.shtml>

PLEASE NOTE: Checks for contributions to the PWRE Scholarship Fund should be made out to the PWRE. Put the name of the honoree on the memo line or in a note.

Please mail to:

PWTA

99 Campus Drive

Port Washington, New York 11050

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