



PORT OF CALL

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

PWTA RETIRED EDUCATORS CHAPTER
PORT WASHINGTON, NEW YORK
DECEMBER 2011

VOL. 21 NO. 4

NYSUT NO. 19 080R Visit our website at: www.pwta.us/Retirees AFT NO. 9591-R

Happy Hanukkah

Merry Christmas

Happy Kwanzaa

Happy Holidays



A Happy Healthy New Year Is Wished To All



AS WE SAY FAREWELL TO 2011 WE REMEMBER

The Members We Lost This Year

John Broza
Joe Carpenito
Naomi Gelfand Cook
Minam Falk
Babette Harper
Muriel Landsberg
Jeffrey Roberts
Mel Schwartzberg
Matt Scott
Margaret Seifts
Grace Sorice
Adelia Williams

The Challenges We Faced

"TRIBOROUGH" UNDER ATTACK!

Triborough requires employers to continue all the terms of an expired agreement until a new agreement is negotiated. Its opponents argue that Triborough should be repealed so that public employers and employees can be encouraged to work together to achieve labor contracts that are both 'fair and affordable'.
(MARCH 2011)



The State Legislature passed the **Property Tax Cap Bill** despite our multifold and multi-dollar efforts to defeat it. (SUMMER 2011)

The New Retirees Who Joined Us

At our annual "Back to School Breakfast," we welcomed our new retirees. In 2011, more than thirty-six staff members retired. (SEPTEMBER 2011)

Are Social Security and Medicare In Jeopardy?



Since the creation of the powerful **Super Committee** in Congress, we've heard an outpouring from people around the country who are worried that it will target **Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid** for cuts to reach its goal of \$1.5 TRILLION in deficit reduction.
(SEPTEMBER 2011)

The New York State Budget



As the New York State **2012 Budget Vote** approached, many worried that important programs would be cut. The December 7th budget news was actually better than anticipated. Read more on page 7. (IN THIS ISSUE)

We Celebrated Our Anniversary!

In 2011, PWRE was officially 20 years old. We celebrated this momentous event at our Spring Luncheon on May 12th. Andrew Pallotta, NYSUT Executive Vice-President pictured here with Elaine, was our guest speaker.
(SUMMER 2011)



As We Welcome 2012 WE HOPE

Vote COPE

That you will continue to give generously to Vote/COPE.

That We will See More of You at Our Meetings and Celebrations



That You Will Visit Our Website www.pwta.us/Retirees as often as you can. It's a great way to keep up-to-date with P.W.R.E. events.



That You Will Vote on Election Day

The only way to bring about change in our country is to vote for it. If you let others decide the fate of the nation, you may not like what you get.

GET INVOLVED! BE CONNECTED! TAKE A STAND!

Regardless of size, every organization has its small cadre of "worker bees" and its vast majority of followers - i.e. those who can be counted on to be appreciative of what is being done but who are not actively involved in action or activity. 2012 will be a leap year; and what I am proposing to all is to get personally involved on that one extra day - be it Feb. 29th or any other - to do something for your retiree organization that might not have been on your previous agenda. If you are a political "junkie" who agrees with stands taken by those organizations with whom we ally ourselves - NYSUT, ARA (LIARA), AFT etc. - find one action with which you can identify - make a phone call when asked, write a letter, attend an event ... Upcoming on May 10 will be a luncheon for ALL LI NYSUT retirees with our LI Congressmen and our two state Senators as invited guests; more on this later, but save the date, make this your "extra" leap year commitment. Come to one of our almost-monthly PWRE meetings at the P.W. Library, share your thoughts for OUR organization. Write an article for an upcoming PORT OF CALL - a trip you've undertaken, a special activity in which you are involved, an anecdotal reference to a friend or family member's special activity or interest. Come to a book club session. Volunteer to help with planning a retiree excursion. The list is endless! Be able to look back at this time NEXT year and say to yourself, "This is the 'extra' involvement which I took on for that 'extra' leap year day and of which I am proud!" As always, end-of-year thanks go out from my heart to those on whom we always count: Tessa Jordan for the tireless but time-consuming efforts that go into producing our up-to-the-minute annual retiree directory; Rita Auerbach for pursuing all of us for that current information and for reminding us to pay our annual monetary tribute to our organization; Mary Ann Cariello for relentless pursuit of the so-essential VOTE/COPE contributions, and for always being there when I am looking

for assistance of ANY kind; Don Voss for updating personal events; Penny D'Antonio for counting and keeping our monetary assets under control; Jean for the ever-demanding newsletter production, Barbara for the never-behind remarkable website, and countless others on whom your association depends. Getting back to the personal involvement suggestion with which I started, I quote from a recent column by Dot Zuckerman, NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant for Suffolk County:

"Retirees, are you angry yet? Education is facing extraordinary challenges. Teachers are under attack because they're unable to cure all the ills of society brought into their classrooms...Teacher unions are vilified as the enemy standing in the way of progress.... Are you saying 'I'm glad I'm not there anymore,' or are you angry enough...to take action? Here are some of the things you can do:

- Let your in-service colleagues know that you support them;
- Speak up at local community meetings or in emails to counteract the negative expressions and distortions;
- Tell your local legislators how you feel about their budget cuts and tax caps (use www.nysut.org to send action letters and faxes)
- Send letters to the editor of your local newspaper (and/or PATCH.com) supporting our schools and teachers;
- Get involved with your retiree chapter (THAT'S US, FOLKS!)

And MAKE SURE YOU ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE; if you don't vote, don't complain - YOU are part of the problem."

Thanks, Dot.

SO have a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy and healthy New Year -and

LEAP INTO ACTION!

Elaine

From the Desk of Our President
Elaine reminds us that all of us, not just a few, need to be heard in these tough economic times.



Here are Some Important Phone Numbers to Keep Handy, When Asked to Make Calls to Legislators:

U.S. Capitol: 866-327-8670, 202-224-3121

U.S. Capitol through AFL/CIO: 877-327-5246

New York State through AFL/CIO: 877-255-9417



In retirement, we must still make sure our voices are heard!

If you did not sign up for VOTE/COPE pension deduction or made a cash contribution in the past, you can sign up now. If you need information or a

form, please call the PWTA office (883-6229) and one will be sent to you. Any questions about VOTE/COPE should be directed to Mary Anne Cariello.

WE REMEMBER MATT *by Mary Anne Cariello*

When Matt Scott's granddaughter spoke at his funeral in July, she stated that shortly before his death, he said that people should be more generous with others than with themselves. Judging from what we know of Matt, this was the goal he tried to achieve as a member of a family, as a teacher, as a union member, and as a church and community member.

Matt's family was very important to him. He spoke lovingly of his children and grandchildren. He was their supporter and defender. He assisted them when life was difficult for them. He was married to Dolores for 60 years, raised four children, and lived in Port for over 50 years.

We knew Matt as a fellow teacher and member of the Port Washington Teachers Association. He often spoke of his hard work as a pressman at the old Journal American and at the New York Times. He was a committed union member there. While he worked as a pressman, Matt went to college and earned a BA. This made it possible for him to do something he had wanted to do which was to help and advocate for young people. In 1971 he was hired to be a member of the district wide speech pathology department, just one of three teachers for the entire district. He traveled to Manorhaven, Salem, the instructional center and Sousa to help students develop their language abilities. He believed he could help more students in the relatively new field of special education, so he returned to school to earn a Masters Degree. In 1977 he became a special education teacher at Sousa Junior High. Between 1977 and 1991 he worked with students in self-contained classrooms and resource centers in elementary schools and the high

school. He advocated for his students and helped them achieve all they could.

During these years he was a committed and active member of the PWTA and supported its causes. When he retired in 1991, he continued his activism as a member of the Retired Educators.

He served as co-president with Betty McNally in 1995-96, as president in 1996-97, and as co-president with Lou Tremante in 1997-98. Even after he was ill and it was difficult for him to walk, he came to meetings to be with colleagues and share his experiences and expertise. In 1998-99 he served as co-president with Herricks' Sabina Brown of Retiree Council 19.

Tenure was under attack at that time so he and Sabina wrote a letter to active teacher locals explaining the need for tenure, urging its support, and pledging the support of retired teachers. Matt understood what was important for teachers and for students.

Matt was a church and community activist. He was a Eucharistic minister and usher. He used his talents to teach in the religious instruction program. He volunteered in the outreach program and in Meals on Wheels.

Matt Scott was more generous to others than to himself, and because of this he made a positive difference in the lives of many.



NYSUT's DISASTER RELIEF FUND STILL SEEKING DONATIONS

The damage done by two storms throughout 33 counties in upstate New York was beyond belief. Hundreds of homes were destroyed, people had to be dug out of toxic mud and rescued from housetops, schools were devastated and some may not reopen for years. NYSUT's Disaster Relief Fund collected and distributed more than \$155,000 to teachers and their families,

supplied books to libraries and schools. Money and books are still in need. If you have not yet helped, or can contribute a bit more during this holiday season, please send a check made out to NYSUT DISASTER RELIEF FUND to me and I will add it to what our chapter has already donated.

Thank you. *Elaine*

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Port Washington Teachers Association
99 Campus Drive

Port Washington, NY 11050

Jean Sellers, Editor
jsellers2@gmail.com
(808) 322-1499

PWRE Webmaster: Barbara Mayer
blmayer@optonline.net

CHAPTER NEWS

PWRE Goes Walking in Brooklyn Heights



The fourteen walkers take a welcome rest after walking around in Brooklyn Heights.

It was a gorgeous fall day when 14 of us went on a walking tour in Brooklyn Heights with our guide, Mike Nicoll. We not only viewed and heard the history of this beautiful section of New York City, but we partook of Polish cuisine at Teresa's Restaurant and had an unexpected narrated visit at the Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims - a National Historic Landmark, and site of New York State's Underground Railroad Heritage Trail. Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, brother of Harriet Beecher Stowe and renowned supporter of women's rights, religious diversity, Native Americans and - especially - the abolition of slavery, served as its first pastor.

This was truly a day to be remembered - and if you have not yet taken one of our Mike Nicoll tours, you don't know what you've missed!



Lou

Out of Sight ...but not out of mind.

Two of our longest involved and most active PWRE members have moved out of Port, one "flying south" with the birds and staying there, the other headed in the opposite direction. Betty McNally is now thoroughly ensconced in Florida and Lou has relocated to be near his daughter Ellen in Ithaca. Betty's new contact information was available before our latest Directory went to press, but for an address and a phone number for Lou contact Simone in the PWTA office. We will miss them both, but look forward to maintaining contact and, hopefully, seeing them at a brunch or lunch event. Best of luck!



Betty

FRIENDSHIP/ REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

Joan Gerken

Get Well Wishes Were Sent to:

Harriette Gold
Anna Murphy
Joyce Shapiro

Condolences Are Sent to:

Joan Brinkhuis on the death of her Mother
Nancy Heller on the death of her Mother
The Family of Muriel Landsberg
Virginia Uhlinger on the death of her husband

A \$50 contribution has been sent to the
PWTA Scholarship Fund in memory of :
Muriel Landsberg

A "Thinking of You" card was sent to
Judy Keller
Lou Tremante

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer



Our P.W.R.E. members
braved the cold and
winds at Jones Beach.

After the walk, P.W.T.A. and
P.W.R.E. members warmed
up over breakfast in the diner
in Glen Cove.



Port Washington Teachers, both active & retired, were represented at the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Jones Beach on October 16. Thanks go to Sue Mittelstaedt and Bonnie Utzig, who coordinate the PW effort, and Peggy Silbert. Thanks also to all who participated/donated!

Editor's Error: In both the June and September issues of **Port Of Call**, new retiree **Caroline Mongno's** name was misspelled. My apologies to Caroline. *Jean*

From Amy Webb: A thank you to all who sent messages of condolence to her on the death of her brother. Amy spends most of her time, these days, in Connecticut with her sister.

WE ASKED TO HEAR FROM YOU AND WE DID!

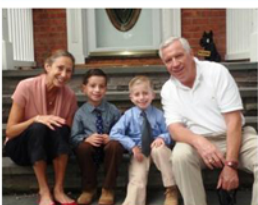
The P.W.R.E. Book Club is open to all who wish to attend. Come and join us! The atmosphere is relaxed and informal. Before a session ends, the group suggests a book for the next meeting. The title of the next book to be discussed is listed on our retiree website. The name of the host/hostess is also listed and you are asked to call and tell whether you will be attending the meeting. The address and phone number of the host or hostess are in our P.W.R.E. Member Directory.



Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery was the book discussed at the November meeting. On January 12, 2012, the book club will meet at Marian Weissman's to discuss *The Greater Journey* by David McCullough. Let Marian know if you plan to attend. Her phone number is in the PWRE Directory.



Joan Gerken, whose home is at the Amsterdam residences in Port Washington, reported at our last meeting that there is now available a rehab facility at that location, the Tuttle Center, which is open to all in need of its services. We will discuss at our Dec. Board meeting the possibility of holding our Jan. 26th meeting at that facility, we have been offered meeting space, a tour of the facilities and lunch. **Watch for confirmation on our website at a later date.**



From Lenore Ilberg: "Here's Grandma & Pops (Lenore & Noel Ilberg) with grandsons Joshua, age 6 and Ethan, age 4 1/2, ready to go pumpkin picking in Sea Cliff. They are awaiting the birth of their new brother, in December... Grandma & Pops' 5th grandchild!"



Elaine Berman shares this picture of her son, Corey "Cat in the Hat" Berman as he performed at the Chicago Halloween Cabaret Night.

From Marjorie El-Kadi: I was a teacher at Port Washington HS from 1970-88. I have written a memoir which, of course, includes Port Washington called *Baghdad Before and Beyond*. It is my story of life in Iraq under the monarchy and under a military dictatorship. Anyone who knows me as a fellow teacher and union member might be especially interested. The book is published in a Kindle edition on Amazon. It contains many illustrations. There is a free link to my video blog. Here is a link to my book: www.amazon.com/dp/B005V18DKW



Proud Grandma Carol Kratenstein with her beautiful granddaughters learning to make her delicious matzoh ball soup!

..Important PW Phone Numbers:

Check the back of the PWRE Directory for more valuable numbers.

Benefits - Jacquie Yorio
767-5039
Credit Union
-883-1227
PWTA Office
- 883-6229
School District
- 767-5000

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Senior Center in P.W. is seeking educators to provide an hour or so a week of instruction in something - be it art, or whatever your area of interest and/or expertise may be. (Volunteer) You can contact them, or Jean-Marie Posner at JMStarrbart@aol.com (Do NOT contact Don or Elaine!)

(along with Elaine Ajello as EAC chair) are looking for educational directors (\$20/hour) to host school groups and deliver programs. Retired teachers would be "ideal candidates to serve as our staff."

Contact Jean-Marie at the above email address or at 944-0163 (also 220-8209) if you are interested in helping with this program.

Also: **Jean-Marie and the Outdoor and Environmental Education program at the Sands Point Preserve**



Merry-Go-Round by Merry Gilbert



Occupying My Mind

As Merry describes the sad state of our economy, health care, and unemployment, it's no wonder that she says that it's "Occupying My Mind."

President Dwight D. Eisenhower, November 8, 1954
(from a letter to his brother)

"Should any political party attempt to abolish social security, unemployment insurance and eliminate labor laws and farm programs, you would not hear of that party again in our political history. There is a tiny splinter group, of course, that believes you can do these things. Among them are... Texas oil millionaires and an occasional politician or businessman from other areas. Their number is negligible and they are stupid." **Call it: I like Ike.**

On a recent NPR radio show, the host and guest were exploring some of the ways Germany has kept its economy going. One of the findings was that since the government had subsidized salaries of employees whose hours had been reduced, workers continued employment (and kept purchasing power) while maintaining productivity. With an improved economy, the trained workforce is in place.

Call it: "Employment insurance."

Buying goods manufactured from abroad has kept their price down for Americans, but consider the unexamined underlying negative economic consequences. We pay more for goods produced in the USA, in facilities that meet OSHA standards for working conditions, at fair wages, and meeting environmental guidelines. But the taxes paid on salaries to American workers (who brought us the 40 hour work week and the weekend), and improved buying power, instead of (deserved) government benefits (which are taken from now reduced tax revenue) might even out the real cost of the products. Call it: "Look for the union label."

In an article printed on 9/11/11 (9/11 Tally \$3.3 Billion by Amanda Cox), the New York Times reported that the true cost of the attacks, figuring in toll and physical damage, economic impact, homeland security related costs, war funding and related costs, future war funding (2012 to 2016) and related costs, and future health care and disability for veterans of the Iraq and Afghan wars totals \$3.3 trillion dollars, or one fifth of the national debt: call it "Hey that's my money--how about spending it at home on education, housing and health care."

On 11/23 Dr. Oz aired his TV show about his participation in a "Carenow" sponsored free health clinic in California. In addition to volunteering his time, Dr. Oz wanted to put a face on the 50 million uninsured Americans. About 4,000 people, some of whom had never been seen by a doctor, some with serious conditions such as cancer, waited in line to be seen by a volunteer doctor. One person, like many he highlighted, had lost her job, and her health care along with it. She had a grapefruit sized tumor which was malignant. Because this clinic had aftercare, she was operated on by an oncologist, Dr. Patrick Dowling, who said, "The wealthiest country in the world fails to care for all of its people." **Call it "Universal health care now."**

PORT-POURRI

You May Have Wondered Who Makes
Our Newsletter Look So Good

Thanks to our wonderful printer, Bruce Frey, who prints the paper versions of our [Port Of Call](#) newsletter and our **Member Directory**, the newsletter that is sent to our members looks just the way it does on the computer that composed it.. (That was not the case in the years before Merrick Printing began producing the printed copies of [Port Of Call](#).) Bruce is a pleasure to work with and very efficient. He usually has the newsletter printed and delivered to Port to our mailing volunteers, Sue Mittelstaedt and crew, within a day of receiving it.



PWRE knitters, under the leadership of Gail Fernmel, created and donated a quilt to Native American women.

ITEMS OF INTEREST THAT AFFECT US

NEW YORK STATE BUDGET NEWS - BETTER THAN ANTICIPATED!

"This agreement provides the revenue that will make it possible for New York State to begin restoring cuts that have so burdened our schools and campuses. Clearly, more is needed and we look forward to a state budget that reflects how revenue is allocated." Taxes will be cut for 4.4 million middle-class New Yorkers, and rates tweaked for the highest earners (i.e. over \$1,000,000 for individuals) so that they would pay slightly less than they do under the so-called "millionaire's tax" which was set to expire at the end

of this month. Although the \$2 billion in net income is still far short of what is needed to fully fund schools, higher education and health care, the Governor has promised to raise the school and Medicaid spending which had been cut nine months ago by 4 percent in the coming year. Said NYSUT Executive Vice-President Andy Pallotta, "We know we are on the right track and we will keep telling our state leaders what our students needs to succeed."

NYSUT Applauds State's Measures to Boost Funding

The statewide union lauded this week's state legislative action to stimulate the economy and provide much needed funding for crucial programs in education and health care. Union leaders offered kudos to Gov. Cuomo, Assembly Speaker Silver and Senate Majority Leader Skelos for following through and passing the three-way tax reform agreement that nets an additional \$2 billion.

Restored funding for education and higher education in particular is a crucial investment for economic development and jobs growth, said NYSUT President Dick Iannuzzi.



NYS Capital in Albany

"We thank the leaders in Albany for recognizing the need for the revenue to adequately support education," he said, "and we thank NYSUT members who answered the call to action. Public education is the engine that drives the economy and will create the New York we all want and deserve. We await a budget that reflects that commitment."

In addition to the main components of the agreement, NYSUT lobbyists succeeded in adding language to the agreement that ensures BOCES, 4201 and Special Act schools in the eight-county New York City metro region will gain from an easement of the MTA tax. Also, schools will now be eligible for part of the flood relief funding that was included.



Dick Iannuzzi speaking to WCNY's Susan Arbetter about education funding, teacher evaluations and more on the Nov. 30 edition of Capitol Pressroom.

From: NYSUT Leader Briefing for Dec. 9

One Nation Working Together Rally

Mary Anne, Elaine, Eryln Madonia and Louise (co-president of RC 19) joined Port in-service teachers Christine Vasilev, Arthur Clark, Kim Rosenbaum and daughter, Kendy, as they all joined thousands of NYSUT volunteers in Washington, D.C. for the *One Nation Working Together* rally. Hundreds of thousands from across the United States listened to speeches and rallied around redefining our nation in terms of jobs, social and economic justice, and education. Six NYSUT buses brought 300 from Long Island to participate in this memorable event.



PROJECT INDEPENDENCE IS THERE FOR YOU

A Service of the Town of North Hempstead



In Port Washington, as in other Project Independence locations, a registered nurse and gerontologist are on hand several days a week to answer questions and provide a host of services, such as blood pressure screenings, caregivers' and bereavement support groups, flu shots etc. Help in locating needed household services can be obtained. Call 311 for further information. At

present there are four sites in operation, i.e. at the Port Washington Senior Center on Manorhaven Blvd., at the JCC in Roslyn, at Clinton G. Martin Park and at the Great Neck Senior Center. Long-term plans include the establishment of four other sites in the Town. Visit the website at: www.tonhprojectindependence.net



Port Washington Retired Educators Chapter

Meetings will be held on Thursdays at the Port Washington Library on the dates and times listed below, unless otherwise notified. Please check your e-mail or the website for any meeting changes. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend these monthly meetings.

The Last Meeting Date of 2011 | 2012 Meeting Dates

December 22, 2011
in the Lapham Room
of the Library
at 11:30 a.m

The Following are Tentative Dates and Sites:

*January 26, 2012 may be at the Amsterdam Tuttle Center instead of the Library. Watch the website for details.

February 23, 2012 - probably in the Hagedorn Room

March 22, 2012 - probably in the Hagedorn Room

WANT TO GO GREEN? You can read Port Of Call right on the website. Just follow the link and the pages will appear just as they do on the paper copy. Notify P.W.R.E. if you no longer need the paper copy. TO VIEW THE NEWSLETTER ON LINE, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE (www.pwta.us/Retirees).

Just for fun - see how many people have YOUR name at: www.howmanyofme.com

PORT WASHINGTON
RETIRED EDUCATORS CHAPTER, PWTA
99 CAMPUS DRIVE
PORT WASHINGTON, NY 11050

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