



PORT OF CALL

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

**PWTA RETIRED EDUCATORS CHAPTER
PORT WASHINGTON, NEW YORK
DECEMBER 2012**

VOL.22 NO.4

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

**A Belated
Happy
Hanukkah**

**Merry
Christmas**

**Happy
Kwanzaa**

**Happy
Holidays**



SEPTEMBER 2012												
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15						
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**A Happy
Healthy
New Year
Is Wished
To All**



JANUARY 2013												
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2012...A Year We'll Remember



The Challenges We Faced



"ATTACKS ON EDUCATION AND EDUCATORS CONTINUE"

Attacks on teachers - on motives, salaries and union affiliation - are rampant. Public access to teacher evaluations became a

serious issue sending NYSUT Vice-President Maria Neira and NYSUT Executive Vice-President Andrew Pallotta to testify before the State Senate Education Committee. (JUNE 2012)

The New Retirees Who Joined Us

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At our annual PWRE "Back to School Breakfast" on September 4th, we welcomed our new 2012retirees.

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...The challenge of trying to determine truth from "Campaign Rhetoric" in the recent Presidential Election and being subjected to the barrage of advertisements, phone calls, surveys and pressure from motivated political groups.



...and the challenge of trying to vote on Election Day amid problems caused by the aftermath of Super Storm (a.k.a. Hurricane) Sandy.

...And the Biggest Challenge of All ...Superstorm Sandy...



...and the Days (and even Weeks) Without...



OR...Help from L.I.F.A.

If you, as a NYSUT member, are in need of disaster relief, see page 4 for NYSUT's list of contacts and services.

GET INVOLVED! BE CONNECTED! TAKE A STAND!

From the Desk of
Our President



Elaine Berman

A TRI-PARTITE MESSAGE

Hurricane Sandy and its follow-up Nor'easter have left all of us wearier and more humble, I think, than in past holiday seasons. We are grateful if we were spared the storm's wrath, and more likely to spend larger portions of

December budgets on donations for the relief of those less fortunate than ourselves than on less meaningful sheer-for-the-joy-of-it gifts. As very much occurred post 9/11, families, communities and friends have all gathered together to provide food, shelter and comfort for those in need. But we cannot forever rest of those laurels.

As you must by now be aware, the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund has come to the aid of those in distress many times in the past and has been doing so again now to the full extent of its monetary ability. I have a suggestion: if you would like to make a contribution to this very worthwhile effort whose funds go for aid and not for corporate expense, make out a check to the **NYSUT DISASTER RELIEF FUND** and mail it to me at 12 Marlin Lane, P.W. I will gather all the checks received in the next two weeks and send them - along with a contribution from our retiree chapter treasury - in the name of the Port Washington Retired Educators. Hopefully, this will amount to a sizeable contribution and some recognition of our assistance to union brothers and

sisters who have suffered and continue to suffer immeasurable losses. Thank you in advance for whatever you can do.

.....
On a lighter note: those of us who worked hard for victorious November election candidates were gratified to see the results of our labors on both local and national fronts. We thank all who helped to make "victory" possible. But we now pray as hard as we worked that our optimism will bear fruit: that the two parties will bury the hatchet, bury lingering thoughts and/or resentments of campaign rhetoric, and indeed try to work together in the best interests of our nation rather than in the interests of those already running - at least mentally - in the next campaign. If you, as a retiree, parent, educator, unionist - are concerned about the future of Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, education, of a fulfilling way of life, please continue to let your elected officials know how you feel. Make your suggestions (they DO listen to constituents) in either your own words, through phone calls, emails, letters, FAX's, or through the NYSUT easy-access mechanisms at NYSUT.org (MAC or legislation). Do not sit back and complain (either vocally or silently) - take action. Trite but true: action does speak louder than words.

(A favorite expression from my own religious prayer book says "Pray as if everything depends upon God; act as if everything depends upon you." I say this quietly to the pilot each time I fly!)

Finally - I wish each of you and your families a sane, healthy holiday season, and a GOOD 2013 for us all.

Elaine

Thoughts Posted by John Wilson, Former Executive Director of NEA



John Wilson

"I hope teachers take a lot of heart and a few lessons from the 2012 election.

Lesson 1: Your voice matters, individually and collectively through your association or union.

Lesson 2: You do not have to accept bad legislation. Challenge it through the proposition process, the courts or the next election by ousting those who proposed it.

Lesson 3: Uniting teachers nationally and contributing to a PAC allows you to pool resources to fight and defeat the billionaires who have been given

new power under Citizens United.

Lesson 4: All politics really is local and your power comes from influencing voters in your neighborhood and school district.

Lesson 5: Our collective power through a strong and democratic union that is student-centered increases our credibility with voters.

We become teachers to make a difference for students. Let us assure our political participation has the same goal, and then voters will be our best partners."

(Thanks to Melinda Person, NYSUT Legislation, for sharing this.)



HEY, TRAVELER - Many of your 500 colleagues are waiting to read and see photos of your trips! I know from "chance meetings" that one of you is a frequent visitor to Ecuador (AND has spent considerable time in southern France!); one is cruisin' to and from Brazil; more than one other spends considerable time in Puerto Rico; scuba dives are high priority on other lists! Those who travel less, or to different locales, are EAGER to live vicariously - or give thought to similar vacation spots.

Please share with us - email Jean at jeansellers2@gmail.com for PORT OF CALL, and/or email Barbara at blmayer3@gmail.com for website notoriety. Do it now - in time for ending March doldrums when our next newsletter appears! Danke! Mil gracias! Mille remerciements!

Elaine



In the past it was not uncommon for future administrators to have been officers of their district's teacher association. Before moving to administration, these people worked as teachers for a long time and developed an understanding of the complexities of being a teacher and knowledge of young people. In Port this was true of many administrators including Bill Allen, Toni Zummo and Irwin Krive.

Bob Bartels who died this past summer was another such administrator. Bob came to Port in 1950 as a math teacher. He started at Main Street, moved to Weber, and then to Schreiber as the district grew. He met his wife Mary, a physical education teacher, while at Weber. He was active in the PWTA and was seen as a strong and forceful person. During that time, teachers generally took turns as association officers and saw this as part of their professional responsibilities as educators. Bob took two turns as president, in 1955-56 and 1956-57.

He continued to be active in the association and was a member of its first negotiating team for the 1967-68 contract. Before 1967, the PWTA had been able to speak to the Board of Education about salaries, but it did not have the legal right to bargain for a contract. The passage of the Taylor Law in 1967, gave teachers the right to bargain collectively for contracts. The first negotiation was a new experience for everyone because the law had now given teachers a right they had never had before. Bob played an important role on the team because he dealt with all the numbers and prepared the facts for the meetings. Charts and graphs showing Port's position in the county were developed to convince the Board members of the justice of the teachers' demands. These were also used when the team made the unprecedented decision to go to impasse, as provided in the new law. They asked for the aid of a mediator to arrive at an agreement. With Bob's work and the work of the team, the PWTA arrived at its first contract for the 1968-69 school year.

In 1969 after seventeen years of teaching, Bob became assistant principal at Schreiber High School, a position he held until he retired in 1990. However, he did not forget being a teacher. During the difficult 1973 negotiations, which almost resulted in a strike, Bob poured over the information he received and was able to find some mathematical errors that the administration had made in one of their proposals. Informing the team was very helpful to the teachers. We believe that Bob always saw himself as a teacher first.

It was because he was a long time teacher before becoming an administrator that he brought an understanding of the position of teacher to his position as administrator. He had an understanding of young people as well as teachers. Bob had a reputation among Schreiber students for his strictness and this had a purpose. He wanted to keep students out of trouble even if this meant that they would be somewhat afraid of him.

Elaine La Brocca, Schreiber teacher, recalls: "Bob was the person who hired me and I thank him for giving me a chance. He appeared gruff with his gravelly throat, but he was really a pussycat. I remember that he cultivated his gruffness to keep kids in line. He was a special person in my career." He accomplished a great deal in his career in Port.

After he retired, Bob became a member of the Port Washington Retired Educators and attended many of its functions. Unfortunately, his wife died in 1990. He spent his time helping other family members and traveled with his three sons and grandsons. He pursued his interest in vegetable and flower gardening.

His career should be a model for all those planning to become administrators.

YOU MAY WANT TO KNOW (Reprinted from NYSUT.org)

How to Get Help... Some Suggestions from NYSUT.org

The devastation and loss resulting from Superstorm Sandy reminds us of one of the tenets of organized labor: We must look out for one another. Here are some resources and points of contact for those needing assistance and for those looking to help out:

If you need help

- **United Way 2-1-1:** United Way's 2-1-1 hotline is operational in most of the affected areas. Further information regarding United Way's 2-1-1 program and disaster guide can be found at <http://www.211ny.org/> or <http://www.uwnys.org/>.
- **FEMA:** To contact the Federal Emergency Management Agency, call 800-621-3362. If you are able to access the Internet, go to <http://www.disasterassistance.gov/>. You will need to have your Social Security number, current and pre-disaster address and a telephone number where you can be reached; insurance information, including policy numbers; total household annual income; a description of losses caused by the disaster; and the dates of the disaster. In New York, the following counties have been declared disaster areas: Bronx, Kings, Nassau, New York, Queens, Richmond and Suffolk.
- **NYSUT Social Services:** Expert guidance from experienced caring professionals will help members and their dependents cope with some of the storm's unexpected complications. Social Services staff can be reached at 800-342-9810, ext. 6206 or at socsvcs@nysutmail.org.
- **NYSUT Disaster Relief Grants:** Download an application for assistance at www.nysut.org/disasterrelief or contact your local president or NYSUT regional office. Please refer questions about the Disaster Relief Fund to Jeff Lockwood at 800-342-9810, ext. 6252 or at disasterrelief@nysutmail.org. Completed applications can be forwarded to NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund, Attn: Jeff Lockwood, Accounting Department, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110.
- **MetLife Auto & Home questions:** Members who participate in the NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed MetLife Auto & Home program should file claims with MetLife at 800-854-6011. If questions arise during that process, contact Lynette Metz at NYSUT headquarters, 800-342-9810, ext. 1244.



Come to the P.W.R.E. Book Club

Date: Thursday, January 17th, 2013

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Book: *You Know When the Men are Gone*

Author: Siobhan Fallon

Where: Seth Ehrlich's home

The PWRE Book Club is an informal group and all are welcome, to any or all of the sessions. If you've read the chosen book, great; if not, come for the company. Please RSVP to the host. You can call, (check your member directory for address & phone number, or email.)

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FRIENDSHIP/ REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

Joan Gerken

Get Well Wishes Were Sent to:

Joan Bernhard

Condolences Were Sent to:

The family of Millie Kupferberg
Kathleen Stanco on the loss of her Father
Family of Mary Jayne Walsh

A \$50 contribution, in memory of each has been sent to the PWTA Scholarship Fund

Millie Kupferberg
Mary Jayne Walsh

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WE ASKED TO HEAR FROM YOU AND WE DID

From Nance Hinchliffe

Here's a picture of Dave, our daughter Maggie, and myself after she received her GG-Graduate Gemologist certificate at the Gem Institute of America in NYC in July. Her jewelry designs can be found on facebook-Maggie Hinchliffe Jewelry or on the web @ www.mhinchliffe.com.



From Grace Bellomo:

My two grandsons, Christian and Anthony, went fishing out in Manhasset Bay with their father in their boat. They caught this very large blue fish. After photos, they let the fish go back into the bay. They were so happy that it swam away.



More From Nance Hinchliffe

Here's a rehearsal picture from a scene from the play, *Patio Porch* by Jack Heifner, where Sue Mellen and I act as a mother and daughter in a relationship characterized by mutual torment and frustration.



Last year when we retired, we explored an avenue for developing performance art while reaching out to others. We found **STAR-Senior Theater Acting Repertory** that has been bringing theater and music to audiences at libraries, hospitals, "Y"s, senior centers, churches and temples throughout Queens and Nassau Counties for 25 years.

We are always looking for new members, especially men, so if anyone is interested they should contact me at 516-603-2192 for more information.

A PROUD GRANDMOTHER... *Annette Mione, Retired Secretary of the Teacher Center*

I am proud to state that my grandson was a recipient of the Programma Ponte Scholarship award to study in Rome, Italy this past summer. While Sean Hickey* was attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill last year, his Italian professor, Brandon Essary, suggested that he submit an application and resume to the Association of Italian American Educators for the Programma Ponte Award. The program grants a scholarship for courses through the University of Saint Thomas Aquinas and covers room and board. Some of the requirements for the scholarship included a minimum 3.5 grade point average, Italian language fluency and Italian heritage. The scholarship funds course credit for a selected handful of students from prominent American Universities to study Italian 'history' and 'Contemporary Italy, European Institutions & USA Relations.' After several interviews, where Sean was required to demonstrate his fluency in Italian and background in economics, he was awarded the scholarship. Unlike typical study abroad programs, Ponte was designed to educate students on various affairs and build relationships with educators, government officials, and students for future engagement. The word Ponte translates to "bridge" in Italian, very fitting as one of the key goals of the program was to unite academics from both nations for common understanding and mutual benefit for both countries in the future. In its 16th year, the program brings Italian speaking students from the United States to study in Rome and build relationships with Italian students and representatives.



**Annette's
Grandson
Sean Hickey**

A fundraiser was held at The Chateau Briand on April 29th, 2012, which was attended by some of the recipients and their families. The night featured opera singers, Italian cuisine and some very interesting guests: Ida Corvino Miletich, the President of the Association of Italian American Educators, Leo Cimini, the treasurer, and New York State Controller Tom DiNapoli. These are just a few of the many who have devoted their time and efforts to make this program so special. Having met with the President of Judiciary System of Italy, members of the European Commission and visited dozens of museums, Sean's language skills improved and he forged many lasting relationships. I am both proud of his accomplishment and grateful for the existence of such an award. This was a great experience for him and I wish him the best of luck with his future endeavors.



Merry-Go-Round by Merry Gilbert

On Not Winning the Lottery

“What would you want to do differently if you won the lottery?” asked Mr. Gilbert *one day at breakfast. Somehow, I never thought about it, but the surprising answer for us both is “nothing, really.”

How lucky I am to live, and to have worked, in Port Washington, a community with a heart. Why would I move away? It is so satisfying to me to go to the supermarket (station, post office) and bump into former students. They are always amazed that I can recognize them, but truly they are just bigger and look pretty much the same. We catch up on their lives since I last saw them, sometimes I even meet their spouses and children to whom I refer as my “grandstudents.” They are always amazed that I look the same (I find that pretty gratifying), and I always say, “I was old when you had me.” And, I manage to exercise my “world’s most annoying woman” skills by pinching their cheeks. So far, none have minded.

What is it like to live on my street? Having chosen to live here in 1974 on the basis of the fact that we found a house with character three blocks from the train station, so I wouldn’t have to drop off and pick up my husband (and we could easily walk places), we had no idea how fortunate that decision would turn out to be. Thirteen years ago, two neighbors up the street thought that since ours is the 20-house, one block stretch of Reid, it would be natural to have a block party. The result is that we have more than a passing acquaintance with all of our neighbors. For more than just the once a year event in which we work as a team to plan, set up, enjoy, and clean up, we are a community. We have a new neighbor who expressed concern that her sixth grade son would have no one his age to play with. Not to worry — all our children play together, the bigger ones, medium ones, and the smaller ones. How nice it is to see the middle school kids helping the little ones learn to in-line skate, or ride a bike without training wheels, or even just chase each other around. Because the parents of the little ones are out keeping an eye on their children, most days we can step outside and just socialize with each other. In fact, we know when spring really arrives, because the neighbors come out!

On a final note, do I need to get more stuff? We both have more than enough. I don’t even want to upgrade any of my stuff. I deeply regret that I accumulated so much of it already. (Now I understand why, when I visited my aging aunt she would send me home with some pot or pan of hers.)

Don’t think that I am not gratefully aware of my good fortune: I have plenty to eat and to wear, and have a nice house to live in. In fact, I guess you could say I’ve already won the lottery.

*Where did that Mr. Gilbert come from?

By now, we are two of the older residents on the block. Our new little neighbor calls me Merry but, “out of respect,” he calls my husband “Mr. Gilbert.” Ouch! To take the sting out of that, I affectionately call him “Mr. Gilbert,” too.



**From Your Editor : Fly Nonstop from JFK in New York to Honolulu, Hawaii
Have you been to Hawaii and wish you could afford to visit again?**

...or have you never been here and always wanted to come and lay in the sun on Waikiki Beach or visit Diamond Head, Pearl Harbor and the Arizona Memorial?

... and did you know that **Hawaiian Airlines** (a Jet Blue partner) began flying a daily **nonstop** flight from JFK’s terminal 5 to Honolulu on June 4, 2012, a flight that can take anywhere from nine to eleven hours. (That’s really not too long when you consider that many of us have flown for considerably more hours just going to Europe or to the Orient.)

Hawaiian Airlines began its JFK-HNL flights with very competitive airfares. Recently, however, some of their **online only** airfares have been incredibly low, as low as a little more than \$400 per person **roundtrip** if you avoid weekend travel.

Six members of my family flew on the **Hawaiian Airlines** nonstop flight either last summer or this Fall. They were all pleased with the airline’s comfort on the long flight and the fact that **Hawaiian Airlines** serves food, mainly sandwiches, to its passengers without charging. You might want to check it out at www.hawaiianairlines.com

Aloha!
Mele Kalikimaka ...Houoli Makahiki Ho

Planning a trip? Let Member Benefits help!

Are you finally looking to book that fantastic getaway to the Caribbean or Europe that you've always been dreaming about? Maybe you've got a business trip that you need to plan? Or, do you need to rent a car to get around town as part of your next excursion?

Let your friends at NYSUT Member Benefits help! We've got a variety of endorsed discount travel programs designed to help you keep a few more dollars in your wallet while enjoying some well-deserved rest and relaxation.

If big savings is your game, the Member Benefits-endorsed travel program offered by Wyndham Hotels & Endless Vacation Rentals is for you! NYSUT members can enjoy savings of up to 20% at nearly 7,000

participating hotels among 15 hotel brands with Wyndham Worldwide; meanwhile, save 25% at more than 200,000 vacation rentals in 100 countries with Endless Vacation Rentals.

Wyndham Hotels has the right hotel for you at the right price – whether it's an upscale hotel, all-inclusive resort or something more cost-effective. With Endless Vacation Rentals, NYSUT members can save on resort condos, villas, homes, and cottages that provide space and flexibility ideal for families and groups of friends traveling together.

These aren't your everyday run-of-the-mill hotel rooms! Accommodations range in size from resort studios to multi-bedroom units. And, many units feature large living rooms, dining rooms, fully-equipped kitchens, and laundry facilities.

Whether you're looking for a multi-bedroom condo in Orlando or Las Vegas, or a luxurious resort in Mexico, the Caribbean, Europe, or Canada, Endless Vacation Rentals offers the space and comforts-of-home to make each stay a memorable time!

Need to rent a car as part of your next trip?

NYSUT members can get discounted rates on passenger car rentals with the following companies: Alamo, Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz, and National. You can even receive 20% off local or one-way truck rentals from Budget Truck Rental.

Finally, don't forget about TripMark.travel if you're looking for great deals on the most beautiful vacation spots in the world. This program provides NYSUT members and their family and



friends with online and offline (toll-free travel agents) leisure travel benefits.

TripMark.travel allows you to effortlessly book flights, hotels, vacation packages, and cruises online for personal and business travel needs. With a simple interface and advanced encryption technology, your information is safe and secure – giving you peace of mind as you plan your next trip.

Learn more about these endorsed programs – including how to access discounts, unique website codes and website links – by contacting Member Benefits at **800-626-8101** or visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org. Happy travels!

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

Nov./Dec. '12

**MEMBER
BENEFITS**
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Working to Benefit You



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.**

These meetings aren't just for the PWRE officers. All members are welcome to attend.

2013 Meeting Dates

January 17, 2013 at 11:30 a.m. in the Lapham Room of the Port Washington Library

February 21, 2013 at 11:30 a.m. in the Lapham Room of the Port Washington Library

March 21, 2013 at 11:30 a.m. in the Lapham Room of the Port Washington Library

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).

PORT WASHINGTON
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