



# PORT OF CALL

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

**PWTA RETIRED EDUCATORS CHAPTER  
PORT WASHINGTON, NEW YORK  
JUNE 2014**

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**NYSUT NO. 19 080R Visit our website at: [www.pwta.us/PWRE](http://www.pwta.us/PWRE) AFT NO. 9591-R**

## Au Revoir, not Adieu, Hasta Luego, not Adios to our awesome PORT OF CALL EDITOR!

As we read with some dismay in our last newsletter issue, after 13 years at the helm of Port of Call, Jean has decided to step down from these lofty heights and yes, folks! retire! We have come a very long way in this time, from black and white to color, from stapled pages to booklet, and - from Hawaii to New York! We have won many NYSUT journalism awards (see the plaques on the walls of the PWTA office) and even trekked to Troy (the Trojan soldiers?) to receive them.

Our newsletter has been the envied model of many retiree chapters, and thanking her at our retiree luncheon does not begin to convey our appreciation for all that Jean has accomplished. We know she has many other endeavors going in Hawaii, and we wish her well in everything she does. We know that we will continue to see her at brunch/lunch functions, so we are not saying goodbye, just good luck.



Elaine

## Welcome to Our New Editor...Erlyn Madonia!



Erlyn

We are fortunate indeed to have as Jean's successor Erlyn Madonia, retired social studies teacher and computer maven, who will take over the newsletter in September. It will be Erlyn's newsletter, much as it was Jean's, i.e she will develop her own style and modus operandi, and will be headquartered much closer, in Albany! (not that it matters in this tech age - but when we win those awards, travel distance for her will be a cakewalk. But no pressure, Erlyn!) What she will depend upon, as did Jean, is input from all of us; however competent an editor, no publication can be produced without material! So let's continue to be roving reporters, all of us - and report our own comings and goings as well as news we hear of our colleagues; never assume anything has already been reported - twice or thrice is better than once!

Jean has promised technical (and spiritual?) advice as sought, and we know that as Erlyn gets her feet wet, a mighty editor will she be! Welcome and muy buena suerte, Erlyn.

*(Erlyn's contact information can be found on page 2)*

# STAY CONNECTED! TAKE A STAND! GET INVOLVED!

From the Desk Of  
Our President



Elaine Berman

## Legislative Update

The new NYSUT officers (Karen Magee, Pres., et al) are hard at work pushing on legislative priorities (e.g. working to expand the moratorium on high-stakes testing decisions to include teachers, tax cap reform, revisions to APPR, etc.), as well as awaiting the outcome

of Harris vs. Quinn, the case before the U.S. Supreme Court challenging the principle that public sector unions can collect agency fees. Working closely with coalition partners such as AQE (Alliance for Quality Education) efforts have continued to oppose the governor on his stand on tax caps and to seek additional funds to start to get back on track with the Campaign for Fiscal Equality and prevent further debilitating cuts to curriculum, services and staff.

The State Legislature did pass an on-time balanced budget, with \$1.1 increase in school aid. and, thanks to efforts of our local Assemblywoman (16th A.D) Michelle Schimel and others, the SED contract with inBloom was terminated and flawed implementation of Common Core reforms addressed. Many of our NYS Assembly members as well as Sen. Carl Marcellino did attend the L.I. Retirees Luncheon on May 9th at the Woodbury Country Club and addressed some of our most important education and retiree issues..

On the local level, our two School Board

members who ran unopposed were reelected (Alan Baer and Bill Hohausner) and the school budget passed handsomely. Retirement parties for "newbies" are on the June agenda; newly retiring teachers include: **Griselda Dupuy, Lori Goldstein, Bob Joseph, Harriet Lorber, Paul Moyer, Nancy Zove, Kathleen Doughty, Beth Geraghty, Andrea Illiano, Bob Moore, Sara Shaw, Linda Sims, Bonnie Utzig Kathy MacIntosh, Debbie Servat, Joe Lederer and Sally Reinhardt.**

Also retiring are non-teachers:  
Nancy Barish and Alice Vigliotti.

*Best wishes to all, and welcome to PWRE!*

How exciting!!! We do not always get involved in local political races, but when "one of our own" is endorsed by NYSUT, and is running against a decidedly non-friend of teachers, unions etc. we are delighted to suggest you give him your trust, your money and your vote! We speak of non other than JASON ZOVE, son of retiring foreign language teacher Nancy Zove, who is taking on NYS Assemblyman Michael Fitzpatrick (Smithtown). Best of luck , Jason. (And while we are at it, do NOT forget one of our best friends, NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli!)

Elaine

## QUALITY COLOR POLO SHIRTS AVAILABLE

Some of us are already showing off our new L.I. RETIRED EDUCATOR shirts, dark blue with yellow lettering, excellent quality, made in U.S.A., suitable for proof that retirees are always alive and kicking, whether in union activities, on the golf course or tennis courts ... available for \$28.50. Let Elaine know if you wish to order one.



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

**When: Tuesday, September 2nd**  
**Time: 11:30 am - after the Brunch**  
**Book: Boys in the Boat**  
**Author: David James Brown**

**Where: Home of Marcia Kirschenbaum**

*All are welcome whether you've read the book or not. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to the host. (check member directory for address & phone number, or email.)*

## PORT OF CALL

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## FRIENDSHIP/ REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE *Joan Gerken*

**Condolences Were Sent to:**  
**Walter Chaskel on the death of his daughter**  
**The Family of Beulah DeMEO**  
**The Family of Domenica Dietrig**  
**The Family of Georgia Komitee**  
**A \$50 contribution, in memory of each, has been sent to the PWRE Scholarship Fund**  
**Beulah DeMEO**  
**Domenica Dietrig**  
**Georgia Komitee**

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CENTENARIAN!



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BILL!

Retiree Bill Allen, one-time principal at Sousa Jr. High and Schreiber H.S., always much-beloved, and active participant in our retiree events, will be celebrating his 100th birthday on June 29th.

Bill was born on the same date that the Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated in 1914! Your good wishes will certainly be appreciated.

**WISHING YOU A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BILL!**

Bill's address is: **3 Guilford Road  
Port Washington, NY 11050**



## OUR ANNUAL P.W.R.E. LUNCHEON



Two Elaines



Christine Ernie Penny



Rosemary Mary Ann Tessa



Sue Elsie Ute



Erlyn Annemarie



Gail Katy



Harriet Nance



Kathy Pat



Chris Mary Pat



Mary Pat Rita Jane



Marilyn Sue



Mary Ann, Eleanor, George, Nicole



Jan Dot Joan Betty

Elaine presented Jean with a gift from P.W.R.E., ...a snow globe that plays "Auld Lang Syne."

### What's Inside Port of Call June 2014

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**One solved, one not**

Enjoy another episode in the *Adventures of "Displaced" Merry*

I begin with my experience with ceramic tile: I have found that when you need to buy tile, you have to go to every single tile store till you find **THE ONE** style that works for you.

The same search seems to apply to Modern Medicine: a field so fragmented that an ordinary person is divided up into so many parts that s/he becomes not more, but less than a whole. You could say one hand doesn't know the other exists, but a specialist would have to say that!

Next, let's combine the two ideas, citing my addiction (for which you know there is a specialist), to the Sunday Times Magazine column that lays out a seemingly baffling medical condition. After recounting the presentation of the legions of tests and examinations the poor suffering patient undergoes, there emerges **ONE** member of the medical community (often by accident), who **KNOWS** what the condition is because s/he has seen it before!! (Heaven knows how long it took to diagnose that condition for the first time!)

Just over the last two weeks, I have capped my search for "my perfect doctor" with an appointment with the premier foot doctor in New York, referred by a neurologist, who then sent me to the doctor whose specialty is sonograms of the forefront of a patient's left foot.

What I needed was that one person who said "Aha!—I know what that is!"

But, despite some knowing grunts, no luck.

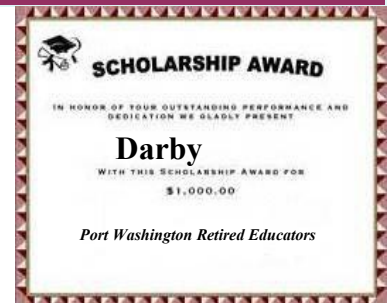
I did, however, have a great "No adult left behind" experience heading home, waiting for the 34<sup>th</sup> Street crosstown bus. For this route, it is necessary to purchase a paper ticket, using your Metrocard, before you board the bus. I always wanted to know how to do this—and a lovely non-English speaking lady, who, watching me fumble around the vending machine, gently took my Metro card, and showed me how to get the ticket. Why buy a ticket before boarding the bus? Ah, sweet mystery of life, I found you--it enables passengers to get on at any of the three doors on the (articulated) bus, making boarding and exiting faster. Before I'd left home, I'd checked on the MTA website to see how long that crosstown trip from 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue would take at 4:30PM. Seven minutes? What was that computer smoking?! That number was, in fact, inaccurate—it took eight!

Back to tile: last week I was on what seemed to be my millionth visit to Home Depot, desperately looking once again for a listello to replace the one I had had that was discontinued. The installers were due to arrive at my house any day. Amazingly, Zoila, the tile "specialist" was in the aisle. I showed her my wall tile and counter sample. "Here," she said, "you can use **THIS ONE**" handing me the one tile I'd never seen before that was just perfect.

**P.W.R.E. SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**



**June 11th, 2014**  
 At the Port Washington Public Schools Award Assembly, **P.W.R.E.** was pleased, once again, to award scholarships totaling \$2000 to two very worthy individuals.  
 A \$1000 scholarship was presented to **Samantha Crawley** in memory of **Margo Fletcher**.  
 Samantha will be attending the University of Southern California. She will major in psychology and go on to medical school.



The second \$1000 Scholarship was presented to **Darby Drukker** in honor of **Jean Sellers**.  
 Darby plans to attend Colgate University, and will pursue a career in journalism.

# WE ASKED TO HEAR FROM YOU AND WE DID!

## From Barbara Schmidt:

Several years ago I began taking Photography Classes in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Stony Brook University. Little did I know how that small step would impact my life. I've learned the rules of composition, how to use a dslr camera, and the magic of Photoshop. As is usually the case, one thing led to another. I am now an active member of the Huntington Camera Club, I belong to the Long Island Photography Meet-Up Group, and love nothing better than going on photo shoots to interesting places with my husband and my new found photography friends. Last month I entered my first Photography Contest and got an honorable mention. This month I took second and third prizes at the end of the year competition of the Photographic Federation of Long Island. I've attached the three winning images.



## From Allen Tinkler:

I reluctantly moved to NJ eight years ago - and wish I were back on Long Island - but that's another matter. My "immigration" [it is like a foreign country] to the Garden State has at least allowed me several opportunities to go to the Grounds for Sculpture and Rats. We go into Princeton quite frequently. Princeton is a great town and the campus is extremely interesting. While there stop in to a clothing store on Nassau Street (the main drag) called Landau's Woolens. Walk to the very back of the store and see the Einstein Museum. It's not really a museum as you would picture a museum. It's more like a mini-mini museum with authentic memorabilia, letters, photos, etc. If you want a quick beer go down to the rathskeller of Triumph Brewing Company - the food is good too!



*The Garden of Sculpture*

**Congratulations to Carol and David Kratenstein on their Golden Anniversary**



Together with their family and friends, Carol and David Kratenstein celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Carol, as we know, has become a talented sculptor. She shares her latest sculpture in the picture below.



Carol's newest sculpture is called: *Lady Silver*



## From Barbara Mayer:

We took a wonderful trip in two parts: first, we took a two week cruise around South America, and then we did a week's land tour in Chile and Peru, culminating in Machu Picchu.

We are very, very lucky!



*Durango Railroad Museum*



*Jerusalem Street Musician*



*Nala the Innocent*

## From Nancy Lobell:

Hello all,  
I am getting ready to celebrate Stanford graduation with the STEP class of 2014. The class of 2015 arrives one week later.

Our 51 week program leaves little room for the summer breaks I used to enjoy in Port.

But working part time and living in California feels like a year long vacation. Here is a photo of the five math teacher candidates I mentored this year.

On the personal front: Lori is expecting a baby boy in October, David and his family will be returning from a six month sabbatical in Australia soon, and my mother has moved from Florida to live with Richie and me in California. My dad will move into a small nursing home nearby.

Regards and good wishes to all of you,

*Nancy*



*Nancy with the five 2014 STEP Candidates*

## MORE: WE ASKED TO HEAR FROM YOU

### *YOU CAN GO HOME AGAIN* Deanna Glassmann

After 63 years, I did go home again to visit the elementary school in Brooklyn that I attended from kindergarten through eighth grade. Accompanied by my friend Linda, with whom I reconnected (thanks to the internet) after having not seen nor spoken to her since our college days, we walked up the long flight of stairs to the office not knowing whether or not we would even be allowed to enter the school. When we told the guard at the door that we graduated from the school in 1951, she was so taken aback and excited that we had returned that she did not even have us sign in. She did say "I wasn't even born then" a statement that we heard over and over again as we introduced ourselves to various members of the teaching staff. The principal and teachers welcomed us with open arms and were eager to convey their pride in their school and its students. We felt like celebrities.



PS 91 was a large school with over 1,000 students when I attended. However, according to the principal, the enrollment is now down to 450. She attributed this, in good part, to the

presence of charter schools in the area which seem to be drawing the neighborhood students away from the local public schools. This seems to be the trend in the New York City public schools. It was not, however, stemming the enthusiasm for the school and its students that the teachers expressed.

While physically the school looked as it did back in the 1940s (though the bolted down desks and seats have been replaced by group tables and chairs), the student's work that was displayed around the school reflected the many changes in education that have taken place. We were impressed by the emphasis on literature as illustrated by bulletin boards in the hallway displaying the writings and reflections of the students, kindergarten through fifth grade about their reading of King Lear (or of having the story read to them). I don't ever remember being exposed to this level of literature during my elementary school years. It was all the three Rs then. Also noted, the students all print, as they no longer are learning cursive writing. I guess there will not be a need for them to sign checks in this electronic age.

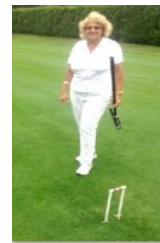
It was definitely a nostalgia trip for me as well as for my childhood friend. It was a good trip and we were buoyed by the fact that our old elementary school was still a functioning educational institution bathed in the enthusiastic spirit of its teachers and students.

### *From: Lenore Ilberg*



My sister, two brothers, and I made our Mother a 90th birthday party. Mom resides at the Regency assisted living facility (in Glen Cove) where we made the party with family & friends. She celebrated with 5 grandchildren & 5 great grandchildren. It was a wonderful party with lots of smiles!

### *From Carla Rueck*



I was just elected Secretary of the United States Croquet Association (USCA) Management Committee. The USCA is the governing body for croquet in the United States.

### *Editor...My Second Time Around*

As I come to the end of my tenure as **Port Of Call** editor, I was remembering my senior year in high school. I volunteered to work on our 1961 Year Book and was given the title "Layout Editor." My job was to take photos of school events, develop and print the photos and plan each of the 300 pages of the yearbook. There were no desktop or laptop computers then!



**This newsletter was a lot easier!**

## A TOUR OF PRINCETON GROUNDS FOR SCULPTURE

A tour of the Princeton Grounds for Sculpture with Lunch at RATS Restaurant is planned for Tuesday, September 16th, 2014. Primetime Motorcoach Travel Company will pick us up. They pick up at four different locations - 2 in Suffolk County and 2 in Nassau County.

If there are 20 people together at a location, they will also pick up at that location.

The cost is \$135 all inclusive, but has to be prepaid. Cancellation insurance is \$15 more. **RATS Restaurant**

If interested, please contact Barbara Blum at [LBBLUM67@gmail.com](mailto:LBBLUM67@gmail.com). **Bus and tour guide go rain or shine.** Page 6



## MORE FROM OUR MEMBERS!



Riding the Camel *Matilda*



Visiting the grave of Oskar Schindler

We **dood** it! Israel and Jordan in ten awesome packed-full days with a group of 21 great travelers organized by Retiree Council 21 president Joan Perrini. Up at 6 a.m., back to the hotel at 7 - not for the weak, for sure! Never did at least the more aged one of us expect to be bouncing around in a jeep through the Golan Heights, straddling a Bedouin camel in the Negev desert (she ignored screams in whatever language tried, although she really was gentle, or so they assured us), climbing up the high and difficult path to the 8th wonder of the world, Petra, and descending from there in a horse-drawn cart whose horse and driver had surely seen better days), meditating in a wooden boat in the middle of the peaceful and beautiful surroundings of the Sea of Galilee, floating in the salt-laden, mud-bottomed Dead Sea and staying at a kibbutz which was a class one hotel resort. These were some of the "perks" as we took seriously and emotionally our visits to the holy sights of Judaism and Christianity, including but certainly not limited to Gethsemane, the Via Dolorosa, the Church of the Nativity, the Western Wall, Israeli Museum (home of the Dead Sea Scrolls). Yad Vashem, Masada, Oscar



Petra

Schindler's grave, and so much more! We trekked through Jerusalem's Jewish, Christian and Arab quarters, and spent time on Tiberius, Haifa, Sfat and Eilat, and nibbled . . . ."lunches on the run. And Joan's timing? Who else could have navigated every sight to be one step ahead of the Pope's visit to the Holy Land, thereby granting us entrance to almost every site un-crowded and unrestricted?! Joan, maybe the next trip will say R.C. 21, R.C 19 and especially Port Washington - who knows?!

*Elaine and Ann*



*Judy overlooking the harbor of Oban, Scotland*

### *Singing in Scotland from Judy Keller*

For two weeks in May, my women's chorus, *Common Voices*, toured Scotland. We sang in a concert in Edinburgh and participated in a workshop with several other choruses in Inverness. We sang for people on the trains we rode around the country, on the ferries to the islands of Mull and Iona, and did a "flash mob" on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh. Scotland is a delightful country to visit. Put it on your bucket list.

**Please take a minute to read and complete the following:**

**Our day-after-Labor-Day brunch will be in place again at Fish-K-Bob, but, before we contract for the spring luncheon which has been at the Swan Club for the past few years, please tell us:**

**Would you prefer another location? If so, please make a suggestion.**

**Does mid-May work for you for this event? If not, what date would you prefer?**

**\* This coming year, 2015, is a PWRE election year, so attendance at this general meeting/ luncheon is important.**

Activities: We have been enjoying book club meetings, excursions (in and out of NYC) to museums, walking tours, etc. **If you have not been participating, what other activities might interest you?**

Please email responses, and any other comments you may wish to add, to me ([ERBerm@verizon.net](mailto:ERBerm@verizon.net))

Thanks,



**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.

**2014 Meeting Dates**

June 26th and Aug. 7th - 10:30 a.m. in the Hagedorn Room of the Port Washington Library  
\*September 2nd -9:45a.m. At the FISH-KA-BOB Restaurant to welcome our new retirees  
October 16th and November 20th -10:30 am. in the Hagedorn Room

**PLEASE NOTE:** From now on, checks for contributions to the PWRE Scholarship Fund should be made out to: **PWTA Scholarship Fund** and mailed to Penny D'Antonio at 1425 Port Washington Blvd.

PORT WASHINGTON  
RETIRED EDUCATORS CHAPTER, PWTA  
99 CAMPUS DRIVE

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

FORWARD SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL