



# PORT OF CALL

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

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

**VOL.24 NO.1**

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

*As the Poem States...*

*To Everything, There is a Season...*

In May of 2001, at the P.W.R.E. Spring Luncheon, I casually said to Toni Salerno, "I may live almost 5000 miles from New York, but I have a computer, a printer and a fax machine and I'd be willing to print things for our retired educators." A month later, I received an e-mail from Elaine Berman thanking me for "volunteering to be the editor of PORT OF CALL." As you can guess, that was not my intent when I made the statement.



In 2001, few of our members had computers and most of those who did have them, just used them for e-mail. Luckily, before retiring I'd already been creating newsletters with my fourth graders but was still unprepared for this assignment.

The first of my issues of Port Of Call, in black and white, were printed at the NYSUT office in Jericho. (Elaine would "schlep" the pages there and pick them up when they were ready.) Pictures had to be at least 3 X 5 to be seen clearly. Pages weren't in a booklet form but had to be stapled together. We certainly have grown! Thanks to Microsoft Publisher and Elaine, who arranged to have Merrick Printing produce the final copies, we now have a full color, booklet form, award winning newsletter.

Why have I recounted all this? As you can guess... "To Everything There is a Season" and this is the "season" for me to retire as your editor.

Unlike 2001, many more of our retirees are computer literate and capable of creating a newsletter for our retired educators. Knowing that, I am hoping that one of our retirees will decide to take over the position as editor of PORT OF CALL. I will be happy to share any of the current formatting procedures that a new editor might like to use and any of the programs that I use to create them.

*The June 2014 PORT OF CALL will be the last issue that I will create.*

*Jean*

# STAY CONNECTED! TAKE A STAND! GET INVOLVED!

From the Desk Of  
Our President



Elaine Berman

## WHERE ARE WE NOW, NEW YORK STATE?

Perhaps when you read this, we will have our due-by-April 1st state budget. But you should be aware of the kinds of things that your state and local leadership have been working on both to achieve and to avoid; and if any of these are still on the table, we ask that you help us help ourselves by sending MAC Fax-es, making phone calls and handwriting letters to legislators.

For retirees, both current and future, reimbursement of IRMAA (Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount Medicare Part B payments to retirees participating in the Empire Plan/NYSHIP continues to be an issue to fight for. The Executive Budget proposal would alter Section 167-a of the Civil Service Law and increase monthly out-of-pocket health care fees placed on Medicare Part B premiums for a large number of our seniors. This is a recurring attempt on the part of the State to diminish established health care benefits, and has nothing to do with the Affordable Care Act.

At this writing, Teacher Center funding is not yet included in the state budget; yet for teachers to prepare to familiarize themselves with and instruct students in

the Core Curriculum standards, much training is needed. Surely the Governor and legislators must understand the reason for and need behind adequate Teacher Center funding.

Some small successes have already been achieved, e.g. a moratorium of two years to provide some time to decouple Common Core testing from evaluations and to examine and decide the applicability of Common Core standards to NYS students; the replacement of one of the four Regents whose terms expire this year; a vote of "no confidence" in the NYS Commissioner of Education by the NYSUT Board; halting the ill-conceived state plan to store all student information on the in-Bloom "cloud". Additionally, NYSUT has been using the courts and FOIL to challenge how APPR composite scores are calculated, making every effort to secure greater funding of higher education, opposing the Governor's sought business tax cuts and property tax freeze; and making every effort to preserve public education. 500 of us visited our legislators in Albany on our March lobbying day and have been in constant contact at home. Please go on **MAC at NYSUT.org** now to see what is left of our priorities and help us get there.

*Elaine*



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

**Date: March 26th**  
**Time: 11:00 a.m.**  
**Book: *The Invention of Wings***  
**Author: Sue Monk Kidd**  
**Where: Joyce Shapiro's Home**

**and**  
**Date: May 6th**  
**Time: 11:00 a.m.**  
**Book: *Orphan Train***  
**Author: Christine Baker Kline**  
**Where: Marian Weissman's Home**

*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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Port Washington Teachers Association  
99 Campus Drive  
Port Washington, NY 11050  
Jean Sellers, Editor  
[jeansellers2@gmail.com](mailto:jeansellers2@gmail.com)  
(808)322-1499  
PWRE Webmaster: Barbara Mayer  
[blmayer3@gmail.com](mailto:blmayer3@gmail.com)



## FRIENDSHIP/ REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE *Joan Gerken*

### Condolences Were Sent to:

*Dorothy Daddirrian on the death  
of her husband, Arthur*

*The Family of Margo Fletcher*

*Kathleen McEntegart on the death  
of her sister, Eileen*

*The Family of Catherine Salerno*

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

*Margo Fletcher  
Catherine Salerno*

# Happy 90th Birthday to Lou!



**Lou Tremante, A Founding Member of P.W. R. E. and Four Times Our President!**

CELEBRATING 130 YEARS OF TREMANTES!  
To celebrate her 40th and her father's 90th birthday, Ellen Tremante hosted an awesome party on March 8<sup>th</sup> in Ithaca, N. Y. where she is a practicing veterinarian and which is Lou's now-home. Tessa and Elaine joined Frank Thorpe's wife Paula and local friends Mary Jo and Phil Spinella in the trip to see and celebrate with Lou.

These words, accompanied by the history of the PWTA, written by Mary Anne and Tessa, were delivered to Lou on behalf of us all:

*“Lou, dear Lou, What shall we do,  
To show you how much we're missing you?  
We cannot believe it's 9 plus zero  
For our much beloved Teacher Association Hero!  
Negotiator, activist, To say the least;  
In days of famine, You strove for feast!  
Then on to president of retirees  
- Another task you handled with aplomb and ease.  
Now we are here with wishes galore,  
And our love that continues  
For many years more!*

**PORT WASHINGTON RETIRED EDUCATORS**

**There are a limited number of copies of the history of the PWTA available. Each will cost \$ \$15, payable to the PWTA Scholarship Fund...It's a true collector's item.**

## CALL TO ACTION

The NYS Senate's proposed state budget is anti-public education and as of this writing (mid-March) is provoking immediate and drastic measures from all those fighting for the public schools. It would not only make the Tax Cap worse (1.46%) but make permanent the law set to expire in 2015; "back-door vouchers" to private schools would take urgent funding away from public schools; it would actually add as much money for tuition tax credits, charter schools and for non-public schools as for K-12 public school aid. Rallies/picketing actions are planned for March 21 at the locations of certain State Senators (Jack Martins included), and everyone is asked to help by at least sending a FAX through the MAC site at NYSUT.org.

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Support NYSUT member Todd Hathaway's dissenting opinion on the Common Core panel report and demand a moratorium on high-stakes at the MAC. Also, go to the MAC to say no to back-door vouchers. Take action RIGHT NOW at the NYSUT Member Action Center by telling your state senator our public school students shouldn't pay the price for charter corporate and back-door voucher deals! Speak out against the Senate budget resolution: Go to the MAC. Once again, our work is cut out for us as the state budget deadline looms. The state Senate Majority Coalition passed a horrific budget resolution that would make the tax cap permanent, include the governor's proposed "freeze" and encourage privatization of public hospitals. It does not include the moratorium.

*Merry-Go-Round by Merry Gilbert*  
*I'm Wearing Kratenstein*

I have always been intensely interested in fashion. One of my favorite books is "Let There be Clothes," by Lynn Schnumberger, former consultant in costume to the education department of NY's Metropolitan Museum of Art. Farthingales, wimples, bum rolls, the origin of all of these (and more) and what they reflect of the times in which they were created and worn fascinates me.

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

In 1958, Geraldine Stutz, president of the then somewhat dowdy department store Henri Bendel, revolutionized the usual shopping experience. Interested in showcasing the newest fashion design talent, and the latest in accessories, she revamped what was a traditional department store to create a "Street of Shops"—an elegant series of high fashion boutiques on the main floor—each devoted to a different cutting edge designer. (Sold to The Limited in 1986, Bendel's is now devoted to accessories.)

Over time, other department stores followed suit, nowadays showcasing different manufacturers in different areas of the store. Want a sweater? You'll need to troll through all the "shops" in which manufacturers display the sweaters they produce. Blouse? Pants? Wool? Linings? Union made clothing? Same thing. I don't think I am the only person who finds this overwhelming. I walk in, I look around, I panic, and I leave.

Fashion week now brings styles no one can possibly wear (especially not on the subway!) at astronomical prices. Should an outfit cost \$5,000? Are any of these garments actually sold? To whom? Why should any of this matter, anyway?

Which brings me to another trend that has gotten out of control—the red carpet.

**"Who are you wearing?"** I can't decide if I dislike the jarring grammar more than the elitist nature of the question.

Well, luckily for me, I don't have a problem figuring out whom to wear. Since my house fire (No, I am not back in yet!), it has been a real challenge to find replacement clothing for all I lost. But wait—legions of my friends came to my rescue. When I stopped into Alper's to ask how to get the stink off my credit cards that were in my purse (which was rescued from the fire), Adam Alper told me to use Fantastic, and Mrs. Alper gave me a purse to use.

Recently, Carol Kratenstein gave me a big bag of stuff—most of which was almost exactly what I used to own! So if you meet me, and are one of the many donors to the Gilbert replacement cause, you may see yourself coming and going. It is not so much "who am I wearing" as "what."

**I see myself clothed in love.**

**WE ASKED TO HEAR FROM YOU AND WE DID!**



**From: Grace Bellomo:**

**On the left:** Grace with her grandchildren

**On the right:** Christmas dinner at the Bellomo's



Jean and Elsie

**From Jean:**

In February, Elsie Wikstrom visited me in Hawaii for a few weeks. I flew to Honolulu to meet her direct from JFK flight. We spent a few days in Waikiki before flying to my home in Kona.

## MORE: WE ASKED TO HEAR FROM YOU AND WE DID!



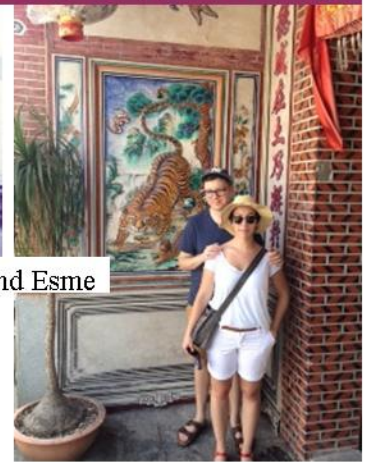
*From Sue Mittelstaedt...*  
Her Grandchildren

### *From Ute Johnson*

As you can imagine I have no personal winter adventures for you. But Linn (her husband) did travel to Singapore to visit Peter and Esme → (Her son and daughter-in-law) who'll be working there for two years. They took a side trip to Penang Malaysia. It's a World Heritage site, also known as Georgetown during the heyday of the British Empire. Linn really savored the 90 degree temperatures and even had the remains of a sunburn when he got back.



Peter and Esme



### *From Patricia V. Reed*

Here are some photos of us camping at Doheny State Park in Dana Point, CA. We backed up to the ocean and slept to the sound of the waves breaking on the beach. Tom and I left Colorado in a snowstorm with our 29' Argosy Airstream and returned a month later to another snow storm! Our trip included a week stay at Quartzsite, AZ where over 700,000 RV's dry camp on BLM land for the winter months. The world's largest outdoor flea market sets up during those months and it features a rock and gem show that any lover of Native American silver jewelry would love. We then headed to southern CA for a visit with one of Tom's daughters in Mentone. She and her partner had bought a small orange grove and we scoped it out for a possible spot to park an Airstream for the winter months! Next was the week at Doheny with friends, sitting on the beach during the day and sipping margaritas at night by the campfire. Heading north to visit the second daughter in the Bay Area of San Francisco I persuaded Tom to stop at my "Mecca", Cupertino, the home of Apple Computers.



Arriving at lunch hour towing a 29' trailer was not optimal as thousands of employees were milling around and parking was impossible. We stopped in the middle of the road on a median and I ran in to the company store to buy the much anticipated t-shirts for the grandchildren! (I will hear Tom moan about this for years to come!)

In the Bay area we camp at the fairgrounds in Pleasanton which allows easy access to the BART. (Bay Area Rapid Transport) Best way into the city. Trying to return to Colorado in January means watching the weather and we knew coming back across the mountains was impossible so we headed back to SoCal allowing us to travel across to AZ thru Phoenix and then up to Albuquerque. We love traveling in a trailer because we can take the dog, all my shoes and sleep in our own beds! Retired life is great!!!!



### *From Ellen Zimmerman*

As a long time ESL teacher, it pleases me to write that my granddaughter Carrie, a junior at Tufts University, is doing a semester abroad in Arica, Chile. She is living with a family there, taking Spanish classes 2 hours a day in the mornings and working at the local medical clinic several hours each afternoon.

She likes her "adoptive" family very much and is especially close to their 8 year -old daughter who reminds her a lot of herself at that age. Carrie must speak Spanish or her new "little sister" can collect a small monetary fine. At the end of her stay, Carrie hopes to complete an independent study, comparing the modern medical facility in Arica with traditional methods of folk healing still in use today in that part of northern Chile.

# LONG TERM CARE PLANNING



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LONG-TERM CARE BROKERS, LTD.  
NEW YORK



New York Long-Term Care Brokers (NYLTCB), located in Clifton Park, NY, is an award-winning and nationally recognized insurance intermediary specializing in Long-Term Care insurance. Combined, the employees of NYLTCB have more than 150 years of experience in Long-Term Care Planning. With access to multiple, highly-rated Long-Term Care Insurance companies, the specialists at NYLTCB offer unbiased guidance to help you craft the best plan for you and your family.

With New York Long-Term Care Brokers, eligible individuals get a long-term care insurance plan designed with their specific needs in mind. And with the discount provided to NYSUT members (along with marital/domestic partnership discounts and potential Preferred Health discounts), this important protection can be far more affordable than you may assume.

As a NYSUT member, you and your eligible family members (between age 18 & 84) are eligible to apply.

To request additional information or a customized Long-Term Care Quote contact New York Long-Term Care Brokers toll-free at 888-884-0077

National/New York Long-Term Care Brokers  
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518-371-5522 | 800-695-8224 | Fax 518-371-6131

## OUR P.W.R.E. HISTORY IN PRINT

**Tessa Jordan and Mary Anne Cariello Present a Copy of Our PWRE History to the P.W. Library**



Mary Anne Cariello and Tessa Jordan, past presidents of the Port Washington Teachers Association, are shown presenting the Port Washington Public Library with a copy of the 75-year history of the Association which they have recently compiled and authored.

Accepting the new addition to the library is the director Nancy Curtin.

The book, in limited printing, is available for purchase for \$15, with the proceeds going to the Port Washington Teachers Association Scholarship Foundation.

# SPRING IS COMING AND SO IS OUR ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON



*Please cut out the Spring Luncheon Form. Fill out the information required and send the form with your check made out to PWTA to:*

Penny D'Antonio  
1425 Port Washington Blvd.  
Port Washington, NY 11050

**Port Washington Retired Educators**

**Spring Luncheon**

April 24<sup>th</sup>  
12PM  
The Swan Club  
\$37

Our School Days May Be Over  
But Our Friendships Remain

So, make a call. Bring a friend and let's catch up on each other's lives.

I \_\_\_\_\_ can't wait to see old friends.

Please make checks out to PWTA and mail to Penny D'Antonio by April 15<sup>th</sup> at 1425 Port Washington Blvd. Port Washington NY 11050.

**School Days**

## LIRDC RETIREE LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON

### Important Notice

## LIRDC

(Long Island Retiree Delegates Council to NYSUT)

## Legislative Luncheon

(Menu On Reverse Side)



From Elaine:  
LIRDC Legislative Luncheon, May 9th, Woodbury Country Club - \$20 (balance of \$20 subsidized by PWRE VOTE/COPE money)

Checks payable to PWTA, should be sent to Penny D'Antonio at 1425 Port Washington Blvd., Port Washington, NY 11050

Meet your **NYSUT Delegates** and **National Political Leaders** from Long Island. Get a chance to speak with our lawmakers at this crucial time when Social Security, Medicare and Education are being unfairly attacked.

**Day & Date:** Friday, May 9, 2014  
**Time:** 11:30a.m. to 3:30p.m.  
**Location:** Woodbury Country Club  
**Cost:** \$40 per person check payable to LIRDC  
*First registered basis -Space is limited!*  
\* Respond as soon as possible before April 1, 2014

**Directions:** To the Woodbury Country Club  
Southern State Parkway - Exit 28A N or  
Northern State Parkway - Exit 36B or  
Long Island Expressway (Rt. 495) - Exit 44N  
then proceed to Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway (Rt. 135), Northbound to Syosset Exit 14E (Route 25 E towards Woodbury.) Make a slight right onto Jericho Turnpike. Go Approximately 2 miles Woodbury Country Club is on right.  
Detach here and mail this form with check to  
**Louise Rosenthal at 4 Admiral Road, Massapequa, New York 11758**



### LIRDC – Legislative Luncheon Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

District retired from: \_\_\_\_\_

# of persons attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Check Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be seated with \_\_\_\_\_ (we will accommodate as best we can)

\*\*Contact your retiree chapter President for payment information

Write your choice(s) of entrée: (Salmon, Chicken or Vegetarian) \_\_\_\_\_



**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**

\*April 24, 2014 at Noon ...the Spring Luncheon at the Swan Club

May 22nd from 10:30 am. to 12:30 p.m. in the Hagedorn Room.

June 26th from 10:30 am. to 12:30 p.m. in the Hagedorn Room

**PLEASE NOTE: Checks for contributions to the PWRE Scholarship Fund should be made out to the PWTA Scholarship Foundation and mailed to the**

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

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