



PORT OF CALL

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

**PWTA RETIRED EDUCATORS CHAPTER
PORT WASHINGTON, NEW YORK
SEPTEMBER 2011**

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At Our Annual P.W.R.E. (We don't have to go back to school) Brunch Where the "Old" Meet the "New"

It rained, actually it poured, on September 6th, the first day of school for the active Port Washington teachers. The nasty weather didn't stop sixty-eight of Port's retirees from meeting for brunch and to celebrate their retirement. Many of those present were our newest retirees.

OUR 2011 RETIREEES

- Milana Axelson
- Patricia Barnett
- Carmela Bartoletta
- Steven Birnbaum
- Toni Bracchi
- Pat Cantalmi
- Gladys Dello-Iocono
- Marita De Maria
- Maria Dubie
- Harriette Gold
- Alan Hagel
- Nancy Hinchliffe
- Ute Johnson
- Rosemarie Kidnar
- Erlyn Madonia
- Kathleen Marra
- Charles Mellen
- Sue Mellen
- Donna Milazzo
- Caroline Nomgno
- Kathleen Odierna
- Josephine Roger
- Kathleen Ryan
- Catherine Salerno
- Judith Schutzman
- Stephen Shackel
- Carol Smith
- Noreen Tannert
- Alice Teepe
- Bessie Tsiakos
- Pat Venditto
- Janet Vietri
- Carmela Vlahos
- Cecilia Weinberger
- Andrea Willert
- Norma Ziegel



How many of the new retirees listed on the left can you find in the pictures?

UNDER ATTACK... EDUCATION... SOCIAL SECURITY

Goodbye Summer

We have been reminded too often these past few months of our own mortality as we have bid farewell to several of our colleagues or family members and friends. We focus now on all the good memories, and are grateful for having known them and shared meaning in their lives.

It has been a summer of shock in many ways. Physically, we have been attacked by a hurricane and even an earthquake. Financially, many we know have suffered loss of income and with it loss of dignity and an accustomed way of life. And as educator professionals we have been and continue to be subject to verbal slaughter: schools labeled as ineffective while essential funds go to support unproven charter schools; teachers vilified because they cannot overcome all of society's problems brought into their classrooms; teacher unions labeled as the enemy standing in the path of progress.

Well, to quote an old movie line, "We're mad as Hell and we're not going to take it any more!" Pick up a pen, send an email, make a phone call, send a letter to the Editor, speak out at local meetings. Each time you hear or read disparaging remarks let your legislator, newspaper, media personality or - yes, School Board member - know that what (s)he is saying is wrong.

When they are right, let them know that also. Stay in touch with those who represent your interests - including your unions (NYSUT, AFT, AFL-CIO, ARA - all of whom you can locate online and become subscribers to their email). You are a member of ARA - the Alliance for Retired Americans - supporting the right of all retirees to continued social security and health benefits. (Just ask the families of members we lost the value of these benefits!) Retirement does not mean we do not care - perhaps we have time to care even more. Stay involved with our own retiree chapter - come to meetings, watch the website, read our newsletters. Hold those responsible for unacceptable stands by talking up, by not re-electing those whom you feel are not representing your interests.

From the Desk of Our President
Elaine shares her thoughts on the current political attitude toward educators, social security and Medicare.



And for the latter - **Be sure you and your family members and friends are registered to vote!** Support VOTE/COPE. **If you do not vote, do not support those who support us, do not get actively involved, you may be part of the problem.**

In time for the Jewish New Year - L'ShanahTovah - a GOOD year is wished to us all!

Elaine

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.

In early September, President Obama will give a speech laying out his agenda to create jobs. He is also expected to ask the Super Committee to consider his plan for reducing the deficit by \$4 TRILLION. The President was negotiating that plan with House Speaker Boehner in July.

We need to tell President Obama—**Hands off Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid!**

We need to draw a line in the sand now before President Obama makes his speech announcing his

plans and tell the White House no cuts to Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid.

In July, the President proposed \$650 billion in cuts to these crucial programs. These cuts included reducing the Social Security cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), which would affect seniors immediately, raising the Medicare eligibility age to 67, and deeply cutting Medicaid.

We can't let these cuts happen. Social Security does not even contribute a penny to the federal deficit!

President Obama knows this is not the America we want. Now it's up to us to remind him - **no cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.**

We can stop this from happening - if we work together. Thanks for all you do!

If you will be away on Election Day, please send for, complete and mail an absentee ballot.

UPCOMING EVENTS

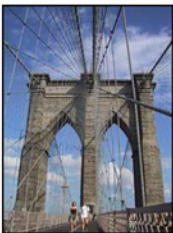


Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk

The annual walk for breast cancer will take place on Sunday, October 16. Those attending will meet at Jones Beach at 7:15 a.m. and will walk as a group. Afterward, all walkers are invited to go to breakfast at the diner in Glen Cove. For more information, or to make a donation, contact Sue Mittelstaedt at: artsuemitt@aol.com.



Pictured on the left are volunteers from Long Island who attended the Making Strides breakfast kick-off on August 3rd at Crest Hollow Country Club in preparation for the breast cancer walk at Jones Beach on October 16. Those shown include: Sheila Goldberg, NYSUT's LI Chair of Making Strides, Rosemary Catanzariti, Louise Rosenthal, Matty Wolfson, and Elaine Berman who assist in preparations, as well as a rep from Herricks. Sue Mittelstaedt chairs for the PWRE and Bonnie Utzig chairs the event for the PWTA.



The Brooklyn Bridge designed by John Augustus Roebling

A Walking Tour of the Brooklyn Bridge Area

On Tuesday, October 18th, Mike Nicoll, who led our *Highline Tour*, will guide us through the area around the historic Brooklyn Bridge. The fee for Mike is \$15 per person (plus a contribution to a tip for him from the group), payable to him on the day of the tour. The group will meet Mike at the Penn Station Police Kiosk around 10:30 a.m. Since the tour will end in the mid-afternoon, a break for lunch, not included in the tour fee, will be arranged by Mike. The tour will visit Brooklyn Heights - the site of the Battle of L.I. (and NYC's first suburb), some historic churches, brownstones and historical houses, the Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims (etc). Mike's tours are always fun and certainly educational.

RSVP to Elaine Berman: erberm@aol.com

- we need to know whom to expect and wait for at Penn Station!

The Port Washington Education Foundation

by Jane Tafarella

The Port Washington Education Foundation will open its Education Support Center on Oct. 4. The Center is open every Tuesday that school is in session. It is staffed entirely by volunteers. We have many retired teachers, community members and Schreiber students who help out. This year, because of the staggered closing times in the elementary schools, we will be open from 2:30 - 5:30. If you can't stay for the entire time, an hour or two would help. Our Schreiber students can't get to us until 3:30, so early help is what we need most.

We always welcome new volunteers. There is no minimum commitment to be a volunteer. We have those who come every week, and others who join us once a month. Each week, we provide an activity that builds literacy skills. Then we offer homework help to those children who need it. If you love retirement, but sometimes miss the kids, this a chance to meet that need. You go home without papers to grade, reports to write, or plans to make. It's the best of both worlds!

We meet in the Latham Room at the Port Washington Public Library.

If you're interested, please contact me at 883-5414 or j_tafarella@hotmail.com

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MEMBERS CELEBRATE... AND ARE REMEMBERED

Guggenheim's Retirees Celebrate Their Annual "Extra Long Lunch Hour" on the First Day of School



New retirees, Ute and Carol, with Jean Vogeley

September 7, 2011



Debbie, Helena and Debbie



Elsie, Flavia and Pat



Two Sellers: Debbie and Jean



John and Larry



Pat, Grace and Mary

FRIENDSHIP/ REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

Joan Gerken

Get Well Wishes Were Sent to:
Ronnie Jones

Condolences Are Sent to:
Grace Bellomo on the death of her husband
The Family of John Broza
The Family of Joe Carpenito
The Family of Miriam Falk

Eileen Cimperman Farley on the death of her daughter
Gil Levesque on the death of his wife
The Family of Mel Schwartzberg
The Family of Matt Scott
Amy Webb on the death of her brother

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

John Broza
Joe Carpenito
Miriam Falk
Mel Schwartzberg
Matt Scott

A "Thinking of You" card was sent to
Constance Fisher

CARLA RUECK'S NEW CAREER



Over the past three years I have been working hard to master the game of American Six Wicket Croquet. I have played in seventeen tournaments in 2011 and hope to be in a total of 20 by the end of December. I have moved from fourth flight to first flight. Last fall I participated in a National Tournament in West Palm Beach, Florida. I am also the captain of the New York Croquet Club Doubles Team. Last March NYCC brought 9 teams to Florida to participate in the National Club Team Tournament with 102 other teams representing twenty clubs from all over the USA, Canada and the Caribbean. It was the first time in 20 years that NYCC has had such a large presence at that event. We had a fantastic group and we came in third in our division. In June, I appeared on the show *Only In America* playing croquet in Central Park with Larry the Cable Guy. *CarlaRueck*



This picture was taken last January at the Palm Beach Invitational Tournament. Everyone pictured here won first place in their respective flights.

The young people in the second row next to me are all members of the SUNY New Paltz Extreme Croquet Society and the New York Croquet Club. I have been mentoring them and the rest of the New Paltz croquet team for two years now. Last April we took about 38 players to the National Collegiate Championships which were held at the Merion Cricket Club in Haverford, PA. The kids played well and won the National Championships in both Six Wicket Croquet and Golf Croquet.



If you look carefully at the second picture you can see me. The kids insisted that I be in this picture.

If anyone is interested in keeping up with Billy's artwork, he now has his own website It is: www.wcrueck.com.

WE ASKED TO HEAR FROM YOU AND WE DID

Some teachers just can't seem to retire. Edd Shalett is one of them. Read and discover what he's up to these days.

From Edd and Shirley Shalett

Most of us like to do what we do best, which is why I am still teaching 12 years into retirement. We moved to Arizona after my last teaching day in Port Washington on Leap Year Day

2000. Shirley got involved with a group of women and I played golf (which is what I do worst). I took a tour of the facilities at Mesa Community College and was offered a position on the spot. The Biology Department was quite different from my Weber and Schreiber colleagues, but I quickly grew to admire their backgrounds and fine teaching abilities. I teach several different courses and substitute in most of the other 15 subjects we offer. One or two classes a semester is enough for me although I did teach full time one semester. I enjoy the diversity of the student body including

Native Americans, 40 and 50 year olds, and visitors from foreign countries. Last summer I had a large group of soldiers still on active duty. They were really a pleasure to teach.

I spend time with my girls and grandchildren both here and in Minnesota.

Deborah is a School Psychologist in AZ

and Rachel is a Nurse. My two oldest grandchildren are entering

their sophomore year in HS. All five are very active athletes so we get to see many gyms, fields, rinks, and arenas.

We have done some traveling around the country but prefer to tour our near-by states with friends and family especially Nevada with Vegas being just a few hours away.

We do enjoy swapping jokes and articles with many of our Port Washington friends on the Internet, and still read the Port Washington News.

We are active in our local temple where Shirley is a member of the board.

We are also happy to have the Faundes living near us.

Thank you for the letters and kind words sent to us and Deborah after the recent loss of her husband James.



The extended Shalett family with (2) Children, (5) grand children, friends with children, and children's friends.



Shirley, with Deborah and Tori in the Pop's Room at Buccas in Minnesota.



Edd, with Matthew, Ben and Colin



Ruby Sunshine Mayer, Barbara and Joe Mayer's granddaughter, is shown here with big brother Max, Mom, Kim, and Dad, Jason. Ruby was born on September 1st.



Marcia Kirschenbaum is shown at a birthday celebration with her family.



Ed Conti is shown here with his newest grandchild, Thaxton, born on August 9th.



Speech Teachers Together
From Deanna Glassman
Here is a picture of Nance Hinchliffe (newly retired) Betty Smith (retired 1990) and me (retired 2001). Nance and I were visiting Betty in Camden, Maine where she moved to in September 2010. We were all part of the speech department.



Marilyn Gilbert shares this photo of introducing Nance Hinchliffe to the joys of retirement. Celebrating with Nance are in-service colleagues, Pat Lynch (and Bonnie Utzig was there but not in the picture).



Karen and Dave Pehlike proudly show their grandson, Austin, 14 months old

IMPORTANT NOTE: Change in Scholarship Contributions

In order to make your contributions for scholarships TAX DEDUCTIBLE:

Make check out to PWTA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION, indicate for retiree scholarship on memo line, and mail your check to the PWTA office (NOT to Penny). The T.A. secretary will copy/make note of your check as being credited to our Retiree Scholarship account.

The donor and, where appropriate the donee, will be notified by our retirees of receipt thereof. Thank you.



Merry-Go-Round by Merry Gilbert



Ties to the Community

For some teachers, living in the town where you teach can be awkward. Merry sees it differently. Read and enjoy her experiences which you may also share.

How lucky I am to have retired in the community in which I live. When I first moved to Port Washington in 1974, I worked in Kings Park- 32 miles east. I left at 7:30AM, and returned home, for the most part, at 5:00PM. The people I knew best in town were those with whom I exercised at Bobbi Strauss' studio. And, in fact, I didn't know much about our town at all, except for shopping, the train, and the library.

So how fortunate I was to do leg lifts on a regular basis to the left of Nancy Lobell and behind Marian Weissman. And one day, in the fall of 1989, fate took a hand when Nancy told me about the job opening for the Manohaven PEP position—which I then got and held for the last 12 years of my teaching career. So here I am, 22 years later, deeply embedded in the culture of our town.

When my husband casually asks how long I think I'll be at the supermarket, I reply, "It depends on how many people I meet." And I do meet **lots** of people. I check on the status of former Manohaven students while they checkout my order; I bump into former students or their parents in the aisles, and get brought up to date on their lives—jobs, school, marital status; why only last week at King Kullen I stood in the fruit department and virtually held court! I see wedding pictures, children's pictures, hear about courses of study, semesters abroad.

One of my friends loves to travel on the LIRR with me—almost always we hear, "Mrs. Gilbert," and presto, there's someone to catch up with.

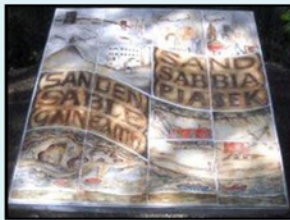
It's always surprising to me when the students are amazed when I recognize them. "You look just the same, only bigger," I tell them, "but it's easier for you to recognize me because I was old when you had me." (They mostly nod solemnly, the brats!)

One very special aspect of getting up to date, is hearing about the accomplishments of so many of our former students. My little teacher heart beats with pride to hear the stories of so many of our children (and so many of our first generation children), who tell where they work, where they went or go to college, got married (or not), and maybe even have children of their own. Last week I met Mario's grandmother, all 4'11" of her, who used to make me papusas. I used my pidgin Spanish to check on how her grandkids are doing. I did much better when someone the abuela knew stopped to interpret, and I found out that now grown-up Mario manages movie theaters, and his sister is a teacher in Brentwood.

I imagine that for many Port News readers, honor rolls and graduation rolls are just lists. For me (and I suspect for my colleagues), each name embodies the saga of a life well lived; often some of the listings offer nice surprises – pleasant evidence of children who came into their own as they grew older.

PORT-POURRI

In case you have not seen the "new" Port North Bay Walk alongside Manhasset Bay on Shore Road, you may be interested to know that it has been enhanced, not only by plantings, benches (trash baskets!) and a new walk-out viewing pier, but by artistic tiles by a local artist and accompanying descriptions of Port's history in terms of its sand mines, early aviation history, and even the fish below its bay surface! Take a walk and see for yourself - not only will you get aesthetic pleasure and perhaps new knowledge, but the walking exercise will do you a world of good!



P.W.R.E. TRAVELS

P.W.R.E. VISITS OHEKA CASTLE *by Barbara Blum*

I love castles. My husband and I visit them everywhere we travel. Our exploration of castles around the world, in such varied places as China, England, France, Canada and Switzerland, has always required a passport and lengthy trips on an airplane, and often brought us to foreign cultures.

So I was surprised to learn that there is a castle from the Gilded Age in my own backyard. Oheka Castle, in Cold Spring Harbor, was built by Otto Herman Kahn (Oheka is an acronym of his name), between the years of 1914 and 1919. It was built on an artificial hill so that the castle would have views of Cold Spring Harbor. It had 127 rooms and it remains the second largest private home in the United States. (The largest home belonged to George Vanderbilt.)

The face of Otto Kahn is a familiar one. He is also known as Mr. Monopoly and his picture graces the original monopoly games. He made his money as a banker who financed railroads, and he was a very generous patron of the arts, supporting George Gershwin, Hart Crane and Arturo Toscanini. Kahn was a close friend to Charlie Chaplin and his personal library has many photographs of Chaplin.

We entered the grounds through a cobblestone courtyard. The castle which is modeled after a French Chateau, is in the process of being remodeled. Although mostly completed, from the courtyard you can see some windows that are still boarded up. Each window is imported and costs about two hundred forty thousand dollars each to replace.

The entrance hallway is graceful and has a grand staircase. We toured the ballroom, formal dining room (now a restaurant), library, billiard room and the terrace room which was added for catered affairs at Oheka. The formal gardens and statues are beautiful. The original gardens were designed by the Olmstead brothers, and Gary Melius, the new owner, is recreating the gardens and house from Kahn's plans. The Melius family lives on the top floor of the castle and operates the rest as a small, luxurious hotel. Oheka Castle is a gem. It is truly magnificent, and it was so interesting to learn about the grandeur of Otto Kahn's era.



Mary and Roger Winter at the Grand Canyon Skywalk this past May. It is over the Grand Canyon and 4,000 feet above the river.



Joe and Barbara Mayer visited the gardens of Versailles while in Paris.

From Patti Reed: Tom and I returned from a three week caravan trip through Cajun country in L.A. We joined 27 other Airstream trailers enjoying the Cajun lifestyle. The guided tour included the city of Baton Rouge, a swamp boat tour, alligator farm, crawfish farming, visiting and oil rig, accordion maker, Cajun two-step dancing in clubs, the Tabasco Factory, the oldest rice mill in the country and lots of live Cajun music and food.



The photo is me polishing off 5 lbs of crawfish!!!

A Highly Recommended Vacation

Have you cruised the Greek Isles or visited Istanbul lately? Ann Murray and Elaine Berman did just that this summer, on an almost-impromptu whim, on a 7-night journey aboard the 700 passenger luxury Azamara Quest. At our first port of call, Nauplion, we passed orange and lemon groves enroute to the ruins and excavations at Maceonia. At our next stop, Santorini, we trekked through cobbled streets. From there on to Paros just north (praised in verse by Byron), with its historic buildings (excavations date back to 3200 B.C.). Then on to Kusadasi (east of Mykonos) with its beautiful beaches and - yes, shopping - and then from this port stop a drive along the Arcadian Way to Ephesus, showplace of Aegean archeology and one of Turkey's most important museums. From Kusadasi, we traveled northwest to Lesbos, the third largest of the 6000 Greek islands. Olive groves, and beaches abound. This island was home to the poet Sapphos, and around 340 B.C. Aristotle here

laid the foundation for the study of the natural sciences.

Finally, we arrived at Istanbul, located in both Europe and Asia. With only a day and a half to explore, we visited the Grand Bazaar (of 4000 shops we covered only about 100!). On the following day we visited in the Blue Mosque, the Hippodrome, Hagia Sophia, and the Topkapi Palace. We found the Greeks and Turks with whom we came into contact to be warm, receptive people (the Greeks somewhat more aggressive shopkeepers!). Biggest regret? Not knowing the language.



The Topkapi Palace in Istanbul

Now, book club colleagues - who will join us in (re)reading the Iliad and/or the Odyssey???



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.

2011 Meeting Dates

October 20, 2011
in the Lapham Room
at 11:30 a.m.

November 17, 2011
in the Lapham Room
at 11:15 a.m.

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

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE (www.pwta.us/Retirees).

to Look for up-to-date information related to meetings, trips, book club dates and legislation.

For NYSUT items of importance, see NYSUT.org - click on whatever link, on the left of the main page, is of interest.

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.

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RETIRED EDUCATORS CHAPTER, PWTA
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