



PORT OF CALL

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

PWTA RETIRED EDUCATORS CHAPTER
PORT WASHINGTON, NEW YORK
SEPTEMBER 2012

VOL.22 NO.3

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

Dates
to
Remember



Sunday
October
21st

The Annual
Making Strides
Against Breast
Cancer Walk
Jones Beach
Parking Lot 5
at
7:30 a.m.

November
6th
Election
Day



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

WELCOMING OUR NEW RETIREES



Ten of our newest retirees joined us for the PWRE Breakfast on September 4th.

The "We Don't Have to Go Back to School Breakfast" is a wonderful way to welcome our new retirees and to "touch base" with our colleagues who have already been enjoying their well-deserved retirement.

Including the new retirees,
70 retirees in all were present
at the Breakfast.

What a great sight to see so many
tables full as Elaine welcomed all and
reviewed the P.W.R.E. plans for the
coming year



What's Inside For You

From the
Desk of
Our
President



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MORE PICTURES FROM
THE "WE DON'T HAVE TO GO BACK TO
SCHOOL BREAKFAST"
and the GUGGENHEIM RETIREE LUNCHEON
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MERRY
FOR
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WE ASKED TO HEAR FROM
YOU...AND WE DID
FROM ... STEVE SHACKEL



...SETH EHRLICH

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GET INVOLVED! BE CONNECTED! TAKE A STAND!

From the Desk of
Our President



Elaine Berman

It's that time again - almost autumn before a crucial election. Be sure you are registered, have contributed to VOTE/COPE, and that you get out to vote in November. (Apropos of VOTE/COPE - bear in mind that NYSUT coffers in no way resemble those of Citizens United groups, e.g. the Koch brothers, Abelson and other billionaire contributors - **Please give generously so that we can support candidates who support us.!**)

YOU must decide, particularly in the presidential race, who best will fight for you, your family, your friends - who will best support the issues of the greatest importance and need for you. Listed here are the issues you might most want to consider. You will not agree with all positions of any one candidate, nor with all past actions and stands taken; but just as NYSUT/AFT/NEA consider carefully before their endorsements are made, we urge that you study the issues, try to foresee the future, and note what you believe to be in your and our best interests.

Elaine

Copied from the SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2012 ISSUE OF AMERICAN Teacher and PUBLIC EMPLOYEE Advocate

EDUCATORS FOR OBAMA COMPARE THE CANDIDATES on education and healthcare	
Barack Obama	Mitt Romney
<p><i>"I believe that this country succeeds when everyone gets a fair shot."</i></p> <p>—President Obama, weekly address, June 9, 2012</p>	<p><i>"He [Obama] says we need more firemen, more policemen, more teachers. Did he not get the message of Wisconsin? The American people did. It's time for us to cut back on government and help the American people."</i></p> <p>—Mitt Romney, campaign event, June 8, 2012</p>
<p>Class Size</p> <p>AMERICAN Teacher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided funding to keep educators on the job to help prevent class sizes from growing. (U.S. Dept. of Education, "ARRA Report: Summary of Programs and State-by-State Data," 11/2/09.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dismisses the importance of smaller class sizes, claiming the fight to maintain teacher-student ratios is a ploy by teachers trying to add more members to their unions. (Romney, <i>No Apology</i>, p. 208.)
<p>Testing</p> <p>AMERICAN Teacher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Says we should "stop teaching to the test" and give teachers the flexibility to teach a fuller range of real-world skills to students. (Obama 2012 State of the Union address, 1/24/12.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Believes in standardized tests, and attributes concerns about them to teachers unions trying to reject accountability for the performance of teachers in the classroom. (Romney, "A Chance for Every Child," 5/23/12; <i>New York Times</i>, South Carolina Republican Presidential Debate transcript, 5/15/07.)
<p>Higher Education Affordability</p> <p>AMERICAN Teacher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Made higher education more affordable and accessible by increasing the number of Pell Grant recipients from 6 million to 9 million. (Matthew Lynch, <i>Huffington Post</i>, 4/3/12.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports a budget plan that would take away Pell Grants from 1 million college students over the next 10 years. (Joy Resmovits, <i>Huffington Post</i>, 3/27/12.)
<p>AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE FOR ALL</p> <p>PUBLIC EMPLOYEE Advocate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed the landmark Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to reduce the number of uninsured Americans by 30 million, guarantee insurance coverage for people with pre-existing conditions, and allow parents to keep their children on their insurance plans until age 26. (Josh Levs, "What the Health Care Ruling Means to You," CNN, 6/28/12.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vowed to "repeal and replace" the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, thereby leaving 30 million Americans uninsured and allowing insurance companies to deny healthcare coverage due to pre-existing conditions. (Ezra Klein, "Romney's Health Care Plan—or Lack Thereof," <i>Ezra Klein's Wonkblog</i>, <i>Washington Post</i>, 6/13/12.)
<p>MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY</p> <p>PUBLIC EMPLOYEE Advocate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wants to secure a future for working Americans by strengthening Social Security and Medicare. He has vowed to fight Romney-supported plans to turn Medicare into a voucher system that would hurt the children, disabled and older people who receive healthcare through Medicare. (www.whitehouse.gov/issues/seniors-and-social-security) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports a budget plan that would voucherize Medicare—doubling out-of-pocket expenses of seniors—and lead to privatization of Social Security. The plan takes away the benefits workers have earned and shifts costs to current and future retirees. (Joe Klein, "These Savings Are Unreal!" <i>Time</i>, 4/23/12.)

When you compare the candidates on the issues, the choice is clear.

That is why the AFT has endorsed President Barack Obama for re-election.

For more information, visit www.aft.org/election2012.

CHAPTER NEWS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

MORE PICTURES FROM THE "WE DON'T HAVE TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL BREAKFAST"



Can You Identify These Retirees
Who Attended the Breakfast?



Guggenheim Retirees Annual First Day of School Luncheon



Since 1999, Guggenheim Retirees have met for lunch on the First Day of School in Port Washington
Seated: Debbie Sellers, Pat O'Donnell, Grace Bellomo, Ute Johnson and Barbara Mayer.
Standing: Carla Rueck, Jean Vogelev, Vicki Field, Carol Smith, Jean Sellers, Mary DiNisco, Elsie Wikstrom, Stan Makover, Debbie Tedeschi and Sue Mittelstaedt

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FRIENDSHIP/ REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

Joan Gerken

Get Well Wishes Were Sent to:
Eileen Cimperman-Farley
Mildred Kupferberg (Two cards for two illnesses)
Jo Papaleo
Pam Rothman

Condolences Were Sent to:
The Family of Robert Bartels
The Family of Ron Costello
Margaret Galante on the loss of her Sister
The Family of Ruth Grunwald
Pat Lynch on the loss of her Father
Pat O'Donnell on the loss of her Husband
The Family of Joseph Peluso
Kristen Zwerlein on loss of her Mother and her Father

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

Robert Bartels
Ron Costello
Ruth Grunwald
Joseph Peluso

P.W.R.E. ON THE MOVE



From: Deanna Glasmann

Along with Amsterdam and Paris, Marvin and I visited the D Day beaches in Normandy.

Bayeux, (a gem of a place), we rented a car and visited the Omaha beaches where Charlie and Dog companies first landed, Point du Hoc where the Rangers scaled the cliffs and the German bunkers are still there to see, St. Mere 'Eglise where the 82 paratroop division landed, prompting the story of the paratrooper whose parachute snagged on the church steeple, and the American Cemetery at Colleville du Mer, so beautifully done as a tribute to the Americans who died there. A few more days there would have been perfect, as there were other beaches and museums that we did not get to.

For those interested in history (and even those not so interested), I highly recommend a visit to Normandy and the D-Day beaches in Normandy, France. It was the highlight of our European trip this past June. Spending three nights in the small, medieval town of



A Day to Remember

Patricia Reed

If you've never been there, Patti's pictures may encourage you to see the amazing sights of Alaska.

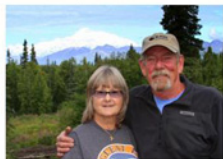
When we left Denali National Park this morning we were bummed that it was finally a clear day and we had to leave. Tom and I lamented that if only we could have done the bus ride into the park today we might have seen

Denali, The Great One. We mustered up the usual suspects to caravan with, the Greens, Westbrooks, Drag and our Florida buddies the Johnson's, and headed on the highway to Anchorage. We had only driven about 10

miles when we rounded a corner and there she was in all her glorious majesty, Denali, or her American name, Mt. McKinley, the highest peak in North America, seen only by about 30% of visitors to Alaska. One young man studying fault lines in Alaska since May told us he hadn't seen the mountain until this morning. We felt honored and elated at our luck. We stopped at every opportunity for a different vantage point to take photos. The breakfast stop for the caravan was at a lodge that featured one of the best view spots on the road. This was a special day with a visual memory of that mountain that pictures can't quite capture.



Denali (Mt. McKinley)



Tom and I with Mt. McKinley in the background. Only 30% of visitors to Alaska are able to see the mountain which is usually blanketed by clouds.



"HOMER"
The Reed "AIRSTREAM"



I am with a member of the Denali Dog Sled Team!



Tom and I are on the right. The others are our Airstream friends from California. Taken outside Denali National Park.

Want to Know More About Patti and Tom's Trip? Check out their "Blog" at:

homerstravels12.blogspot.com



WHERE IN THE WORLD?

WHERE IS ELLEN ARTALE...WEBER RETIREE?

I have been enjoying retirement in Clearwater, FL. Since I knew no one when I relocated here 13 years ago, I went to a NYSUT retired teachers luncheon. I was immediately drafted to take an active role in the

group. (Criteria: I could sit on a chair with my legs crossed under me [like Buddha] so I must have had all my original body parts--no kidding--that is what the President said to me--including that I had a choice of Editor or Legislation for the newsletter. So I came up with a new name for the newsletter (A.C.U.T. ABOVE--where CUT stands for Clearwater Unit of TRIF) and the rest is history. We have a social emphasis for our monthly meetings--which include a lunch and a program--and, I think, the largest participation of all the FL units. As a group, we sponsor a child centered endeavor--The Sheriff's Youth Ranch. Kids who need a staple home environment can elect to reside here in one of 3 cottages. Each cottage houses 10 children.

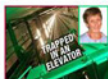
This year, the Ranch is changing its focus to house siblings of all ages, who would otherwise be split up, to be placed together in one of the cottages. We give our monetary support for "extras"--like a day at Busch Gardens, a flat screen TV, tutoring, clothing, gifts for the holidays, etc. So we see directly where our contributions of time and/or money go.

On a personal level, I was a caregiver for my mom (who died 3 years ago at age 96) and am my daughter Laura's caregiver as well. She resides in Tampa and is the light of my life. Laura received her doctorate in 2003 at age 27 from The University of Florida in Gainesville and moved to Tampa to start what she hoped would be a career working at the college level (Dr. Laura) with students with disabilities, in some

administrative capacity. Unfortunately, her lungs collapsed (cystic fibrosis) and she became an immediate candidate for a double lung transplant. We had to temporarily move to Durham NC (Duke University Medical Center) to await new lungs (took just a few weeks) and have some additional surgeries to improve her chance for survival.

We were there for a total of 8 months before we could return to Florida. So Laura is now 36 years old and her "job" is to take care of her lungs. So, she doesn't work. What she does do, however, is to bring a light to the transplant team at Duke, where she is followed and goes every 6 months for check-ups. She is unique in the medical regimen she follows and is part of several studies. She plays tennis 3-4 times a week, several hours at a time, on leagues and is awaiting news to find out if she is going to be an early start 4.0 player. Laura and I see each other often and talk at least once a day. She and her boyfriend have been living together for 7 years.

My little Molly (a papillon, age 13) and I have been involved with Project PUP (Pets Uplifting People, a pet assisted therapy group that visits hospitals, ALF's etc.) for 11+ years. I trained with her for over 1 1/2 years to be both a therapy dog and a service animal. I have had some major surgery on my spine this past year and the teachers here have become my family and support group. I have one of my bedrooms designated a "craft" room where I enjoy card making, sewing. My ground floor end unit condo has a very large fenced in courtyard where I grow flowers, herbs and fruit. It also serves as a playground for my dog. I had to put screening up to keep the armadillos and other wildlife from the adjacent pond out of my garden. So that is what I have been doing. **I am content in my retirement.**



AND...WHERE WAS ELAINE BERMAN? ...

There but for the grace of...5 firemen???

I discovered, during the August NYSUT Endorsement Conference, that attending meetings can be hazardous to one's health. About to depart for dinner, eight of us were attempting descent in a Hilton elevator when the car decided to head "north" instead, lunging upward to an abrupt stop about three feet short of the 9th floor. We tried the alarm bell - no response; then the elevator car telephone, answered with "OK, we'll report it" - and a hang-up. Waited, waited some more, in a stuffy airless and crowded car, no response. One of our group then used her cell phone (God bless them and her!) to call the front desk and after a total of what seemed like hours (actually 8 minutes) an employee arrived with help -- a crowbar! He pried the doors apart about two inches enough to let in a little air, then the manager arrived with 8 bottles of water (this could lead to other problems!), advising that only the Albany Fire Department could resolve the situation by first shutting off power and then on to "rescue maneuvers." Twenty minutes later, aided by a chair placed in the crowded car upon which to stand and a fireman to help, two firemen on the outside helped raise each of us to the floor level above. Saviors all!!!





Thank goodness we retirees are old enough and can still, from the olden days, recall elections that had an actual political platform. (You remember-- Platform: A series of serious statements of the positions the candidate represents on substantive issues of importance to Americans.)

Herewith, My Platform.

One—There will be no more selective editing of videos on TV's (so called) news shows that purport to give credence to a stand on an issue that makes it sound like the opposite of the real position taken.

As your president, of these United States of America, I will insist that the FCC take a stand on this misuse of the airwaves. Repeat a lie often enough, and it becomes "truthy." (Thank you, Stephen Colbert.) Networks that provide news will be required to have items with a real basis in fact, or, by FCC regulation, have to exhibit this warning: "Viewer discretion advised, items covered in this broadcast are opinions and not news."

Two—I will work to overturn the Citizens United verdict. Corporations are not people. The result of this ruling has been to create an election by auction—in which the candidate who raises the most money wins.

Three—I will wage peace. I will establish a cabinet position of Secretary of Peace. Consider, if you will, the 3.7 trillion dollars (and counting, according to a report by Reuters on June 29th) spent on wars in Iraq and Afghanistan which could have been put to better use. In our own country, these United States, local governments will see restoration of sufficient funds to address the needs and concerns of its citizens. With this money, paying for universal health care is no longer an issue, schools can restore programs and services, our aging infrastructure, roads and highways, will be rebuilt. In the countries where the wars were waged, their people can be best served by improving their housing, food, and water supply before they were destroyed by fighting.

Four—I will ensure that America makes it a priority to develop our last and most important renewable natural resource—our children. Students who attend 2 and 4 year colleges, which are incubators of an innovative, intelligent, informed population, important for the security and productivity of our nation among all the others, will be entitled to low cost student loans.

Technical schools will be established so that students who are interested in a career directly after high school can be served.

In-school clinics will be established so that children can receive routine health and dental care. Good health is the best indicator of academic achievement.

I will overturn testing programs which exchange critical thinking, creativity, and delight in learning for rote recall, using up far too much of our children's school days focused on a trivial level of knowledge.

Actual testing can use up about 5% of the school year.

"Education uncoupled from curiosity becomes little more than an insurance policy."

(Ta-Nihisi Coates, NY Times, July 11, 2012)

Five—I will work to be sure all Americans understand the importance of taxes. Taxes are dues you pay to belong to "Club America." They support and maintain our infrastructure—roads, public works projects, social programs, government of our country as a whole, as well as other projects that make America great. Although I believe that representative democracy is less effective than it has been, given the state of legislative gridlock, I had proposed in the past that disbursement be modified so that citizens can choose how they want their tax dollars spent as they file their forms. But I no longer endorse this solution. If it's worth doing for some, it's worth doing for all.

Six—I will promote reduction of inflammatory public language. Members of congress do not have to "fight" for their constituents, but rather "work" together to improve America for its citizens. Fighting connotes combat; working together connotes cooperation for the good of the citizens and the country.

In closing, I encourage my fellow Americans to work together to forge a new era of unity, peace, and prosperity. Disagreement can be productive, leading to compromise to accomplish legislation. But at all costs avoid counterproductive, partisan stalemate to the detriment of our fellow Americans.

WE ASKED TO HEAR FROM YOU AND WE DID

From Steve Shackel:

“These are the Top Five Reasons I Retired...”



Maddie, Kara, Kaci, Teagan, Bridget

Photo taken at Wrightsville Beach, NC - July 2012

From Carol Kratenstein:

Wow her grandchildren have grown!



Adam, Blake, Dylan and Jordyn

From Seth Ehrlich

Keeping My “Teaching” Skills Active in Retirement.

Although I have not wanted to substitute teach in the schools in retirement, I have tried to find alternative ways to use my teaching skills.

1. I was volunteering for the Sands Point Preserve and taught a naturalist class in local wildlife.
2. I volunteer for PW Green (A local environmental group that supports natural spaces) I co-teach a lesson in local geology to most of the 4th grade classes at the Sands Point Preserve each year.
3. I also made a new Harborfest booth for PW Green which involves teaching about local wildlife (shells, rocks, trees)
4. I had an art show at the PW library and taught a class to the after school program about my creative process.
5. I hold an annual “introduction to kayaking” workshop each year at the town dock. I also teach new kayakers about paddle strokes and about choosing a boat.
6. I had been involved with a program at Hofstra called PEIR (Personal Enrichment in Retirement) where I taught a class about the latest finding in the field of “Positive psychology”.
7. I have taught an introduction to tai-chi workshop in a few different places. Most recently to the kayak club for a “tai-chi paddle”

Other teaching opportunities I have turned down.

1. I was asked to teach an in-service class for teachers dealing with problem solving skills
2. I was asked to go to the elementary schools to help students make model boats for the Harborfest sailboat regatta.



HER “CROQUET” WINNING WAY!

Carla Rueck and Bobby Durvea accepting their second place doubles trophy at the Meadow Club Tournament. The trophies were presented by James Ollcot and Stuart Baker.



A VISIT TO THE VILLAGES IN FLORIDA



Jean, Arlene and Elsie
Arlene, Adi and Elsie
Elsie Wikstrom and Jean Sellers visited with retiree Arlene Sutarno and her husband, Adi, in the retirement community of THE VILLAGES in central Florida.



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.

2012 Meeting Dates

Thursday, October 25, 2012 at 10:30 A.M.
in the Hagedorn Room

NO NOVEMBER MEETING
Thursday, December 20, 2012 at 10:30 A.M.
in the Hagedorn Room

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

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