



PORT OF CALL

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

**PWTA RETIRED EDUCATORS CHAPTER
PORT WASHINGTON, NEW YORK
Spring 2018**

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Our Annual Spring Luncheon

After a long and dreary winter, May 2, 2018 turned out to be a glorious, warm, sunny day. The view from the Commodore's Lounge of the Port Washington Yacht Club was spectacular. The positive energy from the attendees matched the glorious weather. It is always wonderful to be reunited with friends and former colleagues. The hors d'oeuvres were abundant, the main courses delicious and the dessert a fitting finish to an afternoon of catching up and remembering.

Look who attended!



See more attendees on pages 4 & 7

New Medicare Cards Coming

The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 required that Social Security numbers be removed from all Medicare cards by April 2019 and replaced with a new Medicare Beneficiary Identifier on a new card.

Beginning April 2018 and continuing through December 2019, cards will be mailed randomly by geographic location. During the transition you can use the original card with the SSN based Health Insurance claim number or the new card.

The main reason for removing the SSN from Medicare cards was to prevent medical identity theft for people with Medicare. Please be aware that there are many scammers. If you receive a call from anyone claiming to be a Social Security or Medicare representative and requesting any personal information, DO NOT respond. Just hang up.

Me Too + He Too = We Too Update - Dave Hinchliffe

Our bi-county committee, Long Island Committee on Sexual Assault & Family Violence, is working on several fronts. We have recently been dropped from funding by Suffolk County. So, in addition to planning educational and training events, e.g., conferences, we now must raise our own financial resources. All donations are most welcome and go to a growing cause. The committee chair, Herb Cohen, and I are working on a grant submission to the retirement corporation, TIAA-CREF. They are running a "Make A Difference Campaign" in which they will distribute 100 grants of \$10,000 each. This would help us a great deal, but not necessarily remove all uncertainty as expenses for speakers and conference presentations can be costly. Lastly, we are looking to partner with Adelphi University in efforts to maximize our impact in the bi-county region of Long Island. Adelphi is a wonderful drawing card, a well-positioned university, which has a commitment to education, training and the latest scientific findings relative to trauma, its impact, and victims' best use of healing modalities.

FRIENDSHIP/ REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

Norma Ziegel



Get Well Wishes Were Sent To:

Mary DeNisco.

Condolences Were Sent To:

Chris Haring - on the loss of his mother

Family of William Allen

Family of Joan Blacher

Family of Brenda Gerhard

Family of Annette Mione

Family of Anna Maria Mitchem (Maria)

Family of Emily Pedersen

Family of Dolores Scott

A \$100 contributions was sent to the PWRE Scholarship Fund in memory of

William Allen

Joan Blacher

Brenda Gerhard

Annetter Mione

Anna Maria Mitchem (Maria)

Emily Pedersen

Dolores Scott

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

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to the host.

Date: September 4th at 11:30 (after the Not Back to School Brunch)

Book: The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah
Hosted by Norma Ziegel

Date: October 10th at 11:30

Book: The Girl Who Wrote in Silk by Kelli Estes
Host: Evelyn Schonbrun

Date: November 14th at 11:30

Book: Educated By Tara Westover
Host: Marilyn Gilbert

http://www.pwta.info/PWRE/pwre_news/news_book_club

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PWRE Awards 2018 Scholarships

The PWRE has made its annual scholarship grants to Schreiber High School seniors. In so doing it has honored some of its members. This year's scholarship awards went to Luciana Aliendre, Megan Bazzini, and Luis Rojas.

Elaine Berman was honored by the scholarship given to Luciana Aliendre. Elaine, a former president of the Port Washington Retired Educators, is recognized for her many years of activism for the benefit of students and educators. In addition to teaching French and Spanish at Sousa and Weber and holding the position of Schreiber Foreign language chairperson, she was long active in the Teachers Association and the New York State United Teachers. She was a building representative, vice president, and a member and chair of many committees. She served as coordinator for New York State Senatorial District 7. She continued her activism into retirement.

Luciana Aliende is a deserving recipient of a scholarship given in Elaine's honor. Luciana came from Bolivia in 2010, and after a long and difficult legal struggle became a legal resident in 2016. She spoke no English when she came, but in unbelievably short time she transitioned from ENL classes and worked hard to become an excellent Schreiber student in all her classes, especially languages. She has demonstrated proficiency in comprehending, speaking, and writing French. She also excels in Spanish.

Luciana has shown her empathy for others through her volunteerism. She has tutored younger students and adults with disabilities. She is active in the National Honor Society and the Key Club. Her teachers praise her character and work ethic. There is every reason to believe that she will continue to be an excellent student.

Donald Voss was honored by a grant given to Luis Rojas. Don was a mathematics teacher and department chairperson at Weber Junior High School and Weber Middle School. He loves math and inspired his students to enjoy math too. He held his students to high standards and helped them to achieve to the very best of their abilities. He has a very good sense of humor which he used in his classes. He was known for his corny jokes in and outside the classroom. Don was supportive and helpful to the members of his department and was much valued by his Weber colleagues. As an active member of the Association, he served on a negotiations committee. When he retired, he used his knowledge of computers to keep members of the Retired Educators informed.

This grant to Luis Rojas is a small way to thank Don for all he did as a teacher, colleague, and friend. Luis Rojas is a determined, motivated, and hardworking young man who has excelled in his studies. He came to the United States when he was 14 and has overcome many challenges in his life. He has been on the Honor Roll for four years and was named Student of the Month. He was selected to represent Nassau County at a Youth Leadership Institute. Not only does Luis work hard and succeed academically, he helps others and is well liked and respected. Outside of school Luis has a job, so he can contribute to his family. He hopes to become a teacher or graphic designer. Such a hardworking and determined student certainly should continue to be successful.

A third scholarship was given to Megan Bazzini in memory of Penny D'Antonio. Much of the funding for this scholarship was raised by some of Penny's close friends and family. Penny was a math teacher at Schreiber High School before her retirement. Penny had a wonderful smile and a very kind demeanor, which endeared her to students and adults. She guided them to understanding difficult math concepts and was always there to help them. She was an active member of the Association and served as its treasurer for many years. Her records were meticulous. When she retired, she became the PWRE treasurer. Penny did a great deal for her church and for her family. She was much appreciated by all who knew her.

Megan Bazzini is a fitting recipient of a grant given to honor Penny and her memory. Megan is extremely organized, self-disciplined, and highly motivated. She has faced many challenges including the inability to speak aloud outside the comfort of her own home. With the support of her family and elementary school teachers, she conquered this condition and gained her voice by the time she reached Weber. Megan earned excellent grades in all her classes. When she struggled in AP Calculus, she sought help from her teacher who admired her fortitude in facing problems. She has been accomplished at Schreiber, including playing in the band and being a peer leader. In addition, she is an outstanding athlete and was a member of the winning track and soccer teams. There is every indication that Megan will meet every challenge she faces and achieve success at the university and beyond.

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More Pictures from Our Spring Luncheon



Jean Sellers to the Rescue!!! Helena Wresch

My husband and I, along with 3 couples travelled to the Hawaiian Islands at the end of September. We visited the very moving and somber Pearl Harbor. We then boarded “The Pride of America,” a Norwegian cruise ship to cruise four of the Hawaiian Islands.

After flying to Oahu to visit Pearl Harbor, Maui was our first port of call. The beaches are lovely. Lots of beautiful resort hotels line one side of the island. On the other side of Maui is Haleakala National Park with a National Observatory and Laboratory at the top. We saw miles and miles of terrain covered in lava. It is the only place on earth that one can go from sea level to the top of the dormant volcano (approx. 8000ft) by driving only 37 miles zig zagging to the top. We walked through Thurston Lava Tube, a hollow 15 foot wide tube of dried lava where an air pocket formed the space. All the Hawaiian Islands “appeared” by volcanic eruption over millennia.



Our next stop was the Big Island. And, I knew I would be close to the home of Jean Sellers. Prior to the trip, a friend and retired colleague reminded me that Jean retired to Kona, Hawaii. Kona is a mecca for cruise ships. Jean taught with me at Guggenheim School. She always liked Hawaii and even spent summers on various islands before retiring in June of 1999.

The Big Island has the only active volcano in the Hawaiian Islands. Kilauea is active since the mid 1980's. The molten lava was an outstanding site! Tuesday evening, as the ship docked near the lava flow, we saw the orange lava pouring into the steamy Pacific!

At the time I was feeling “under the weather” and went to the deck of the ship’s doctor. No visiting hours until Wednesday afternoon! But, I remembered our lunch plans with Jean for Wednesday. I phoned my S.O.S to her that morning. She not only got me to her local Urgent Care, she took me to Long’s Pharmacy (owned by CVS) and within 15 minutes I had the prescription I needed to feel better and enjoy the second half of my trip!

Jean took us to Sam Joy’s Open Air Restaurant for some delicious fresh seafood and great coastline views. We enjoyed reminiscing about school and fond memories of Port Washington. Before we knew it, we needed to head back to the ship for departure. It was sad coming and going so quickly!

Jean loves company! Her condo is spacious with two bedrooms and two bathrooms and a large wrap around deck outside. She looks forward to family and friends for visits. She asked me to extend an invitation to all Port Washington retirees who are planning a trip to the Hawaiian Islands. Hawaiian Airlines is the fastest way to go. They fly nonstop! They do have a rainy season. But, very low humidity. Mean temperature is between 75-85 degrees.

The last island we visited was Kauai, the oldest of the islands. Many well-known movies have included footage of this lush, almost “prehistoric” island. The mountains, flora and beaches display magnificent colors! Truly the Hawaiian Islands are a Paradise of their own! We finished up back on Oahu and relaxed on the beach of Waikiki with a spectacular view of Diamond Head. Much thanks to Jean for her TLC when I needed it.



Editor’s note: This article was submitted before the current volcanic eruption.



Plus ca Change....

Fifty two years ago, in 1966, I was finishing up my student teaching at a paired elementary school behind Lincoln Center. It seems like yesterday, and I believe some things haven't changed in all that time.

One of my cooperating teachers presented me with a goodbye gift that has mightily withstood the passage of time: the album (then on vinyl) called That Was the Year That Was*, written and sung by Tom Lehrer, in 1965, a math professor with an acute wit and a talent for writing and performing jaunty satirical music.

Despite the decades that have passed, many of his creations, sadly, are as topical today as they were a half century ago.

Many good songs came out of wars, he comments, but if we're going to get any out of World War III they should be written now. This, the intro to his song "*So Long Mom*," in which he recounts how WWII goes!

"If you live in American city, you will find it very pretty, just one thing of which you must beware, don't drink the water and don't breathe the air," begins his calypso style song "*Pollution*." Flint, Michigan? Los Angeles? School water fountains that have lead. How did he know?

"*Who's Next?*" In the shadow of today's Iran deal, this is as current as possible. "First we got the bomb but that was good, 'cause we love peace and motherhood..." And so goes this jaunty song about nuclear proliferation.

"*New Math*" will have you remembering how many times math instruction has changed. I, myself, find the part about base 8 hilarious. You may recall that in the 70's it was thought that introduction to another base would make students more fluent and better able to understand base 10. One of my student's moms plaintively asked: Does he have to know this?

"*National Brotherhood Week*" exemplifies how little times have changed.

If you google Tom Lehrer, and the individual song titles, you can hear them for yourself. Or, you can hear the entire first side of "That Was the Year That Was." All on YouTube, as well as some of his other, less topical but still funny, songs.

I actually find some of the laughter distracting, but the album was recorded live.

By the way, this used to be a gift for my high school graduating nieces and nephews. But here, time has changed. The latest ones (children of the original nieces and nephews), tell me they can hear the songs on line. I wonder if they listen to them? *Formatted after David Frost's TV show "That was the Week that Was."



Mark Your Calendar - Seth Ehrlich

For years I have been making jewelry boxes. I am primarily interested in form, with function following conveniently in some cases, less so in others. I am having a show at the PW library with the opening on Saturday, October 6th, and running for a month. The library usually exhibits things that hang on the walls so I had to design and create pedestals for the 43 boxes that will be on display. My hope is that I can eventually get them into a museum of modern art and design somewhere. I'd love to see people at the show opening on Saturday October 6th, Noon - 2:30 .

We Asked to Hear from You and We Did

Weber friends meet for lunch



Lois Baslow



Andrea Illiano



Ray Illiano graduated from USF on May 5, 2017 with a Bachelors of Science degree in cell and molecular biology. Hooray for Ray, a Schreiber graduate as well! Andrea and Gerry Illiano proud parents of two college graduates .

I was enjoying a warm, sunny day in Bora-Bora. It was a wonderful journey through the South Pacific from Sydney, Australia to Vancouver, Canada.

More pictures from the luncheon



A great big thank you to Sally Reinhardt our resident photographer



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.

2018 Meeting Dates

June 14th 10:30 am

Not Back to School Brunch

Tuesday, September 4, 2018, at 9:30 am. \$25.00

Please send checks to Mary Anne Cariello

11 Grand Street, Elmont, N.Y. 11003

f.i.s.h on Main, 286 Main Street, Port Washington.

PLEASE NOTE: Checks for contributions to the PWRE Scholarship Fund should be made out to the PWRE. Put the name of the honoree on the memo line or in a note.

Please mail to:

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99 Campus Drive

Port Washington, New York 11050

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