



PORT OF CALL

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

**PWTA RETIRED EDUCATORS CHAPTER
PORT WASHINGTON, NEW YORK
Spring/Summer 2017**

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George L. Williams: 2017 Citizen of the Year

The Port Washington Community Chest honored George Williams at a presentation at the public library on April 24, 2017. The auditorium was filled, and there were many speakers who paid tribute to George for his contributions to the community. The following is from the Port Washington Retired Educators' ad in the journal.

Long before George was known for his community work, he was admired as a teacher and valued colleague. George was known

For bringing his intellect and intelligence to his students and colleagues.

For his work as the chair of Integrated Studies and later, English, departments, where he helped create many innovative programs, improving education for students.

For helping to bring diversity to the district's curriculum through his leadership of the Amherst Project.

For believing in the knowledge and professionalism of teachers, championing the role of teachers in district decision-making.

For always being a supportive and contributing member of the Port Washington Teachers Association.

For his work and support through many difficult negotiations.

For helping negotiate the Professional Growth and Curriculum Development Committee, which he chaired until his retirement.

For working on public relations for the PWTA and editing the Port Arrow, a newsletter providing a teacher point of view to the community.

For authoring the *Memoirs of Paul D. Schreiber* in order to record the history of the school district.

For researching and writing a history of Weber Junior High School.

For being one of the founders of the Port Washington Retired Educators.

For continuing to support education in Port Washington in so many ways.



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Project FeederWatch - Bonnie Utzig

Project FeederWatch, a research and education project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada, is a great way to get involved as a citizen scientist right in your own backyard. As a musician, I've always been fascinated with bird calls and from a young age learned to identify various bird species through their songs. By participating in Project FeederWatch for the past several years, I have sharpened my visual recognition skills as well.

Each week from November through April for two consecutive days, I count how many birds of each species I see at any of my several bird feeders. I generally do this for a few hours on each count day. I then take the larger number from each day and submit this information directly to Cornell's website. By doing this, I and



thousands of other bird enthusiasts are helping scientists study changes in the distribution and abundance of feeder birds over time.

On a typical winter day here in Port Washington I see an average of 15 different species of birds. Occasionally there will be a rare sighting, such as a Sharp-shinned Hawk Purple Finch, Hairy Woodpecker, or Brown Thrasher, but I usually see these species: Downy Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Cardinal, Blue Jay, Mourning Dove, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, House Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, House Finch, Goldfinch, Dark-eyed Junco, Carolina Wren, and Starling. In March during spring migration I begin to see the Brown-headed Cowbird, Grackle, Red-winged Blackbird, and many more Goldfinches.



Although buying bird food and cleaning feeders and bird baths

can be costly and time-consuming, it is well worth it to me to see and hear these beautiful creatures singing and enjoying my backyard!

FRIENDSHIP/ REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE



Norma Ziegel

Get Well Wishes Were Sent To:

Joyce Leonard
Steve Shackel

Condolences Were Sent To:

Rita Albert on the loss of her father
Rachel Bialer on the loss of her mother
Sheila Furlong on the loss of her father
Lenore Ilberg on the loss of her mother
Barbara Mayer on the loss of her brother

The family of Kathy Cushman
The family of Lila Feld
The family of Connie Fisher
The family of Lynn Schreiber
The family of Amy Webb

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

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.)



Date: Monday, June 26 @ 11:30
Book: Sisters In Law by Linda Hirshman
Hosted by Seth Ehrlich also includes tour of Seth's jewelry boxes - brown bag lunch

Date: September 5th @ 11:30, right after the "NOT Back to School Brunch"

Book: Invention of Nature by Andrea Wulf
Hosted by Barbara Mayer

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

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

Kathy Cushman
Lila Feld
Connie Fisher
Lynn Schreiber
Amy Webb

MOCA - The Museum of Chinese in America - Merry Gilbert

A lecture, a walking tour and, of course, food, made for a wonderful April experience in Chinatown. Our visit began with our first guide, Alice, who grew up in Chinatown. We began with the walking tour and were very fortunate that the rain mostly held up, with just a misting from time to time.

We toured sections of Chinatown, learning the significance of the many statues, streets, and buildings, and how many had changed over time due to changing populations. Columbus Park, in particular, with its beautiful arcade, has been a focal point for outdoor activity for different waves of immigrants in an area dominated by apartments. We also learned about the variation by regions of China of the immigrants over time.

The delicious dim sum lunch at the Red Egg restaurant across from the museum provided a welcome rest and refueling stop. Reinvigorated, next we had the gallery talk inside the museum.



Our first stop was the exhibition “Sour, Sweet, Bitter, Spicy.” The centerpiece was an enormous table reminiscent of Judy Chicago’s Dinner Party at the Brooklyn Museum, set with recently created ceramic representations of the foods typical of the various regions in China recreated by a mix of 33 home cooks and chefs from around America. Interviews with the 33 were being screened around the room, as if we were in conversation with them at their dinner table. It would be interesting to return to spend more time in this gallery and learn the significance of its title. This exhibition has been extended into the fall. Call for more information.



Our indoor docent, Alex, led us through some history of China and countries that interacted with it through trade. Central to the discussion was Chinese immigration to America. Chinese were drawn to our west coast for economic opportunity after the 1849

Gold Rush. Many helped to build the first transcontinental railroad. In 1882, President Chester A. Arthur signed the Chinese Exclusion Act. This was the first major law restricting immigration to the U.S.. At that time many Americans believed that unemployment and declining wages were due to Chinese workers. The Chinese were also viewed as racially inferior. The law was extended twice and became permanent in 1902. In 1929 the National Origins Act limited overall immigration to the U.S. to 150,000 people per year and permitted no Asians to enter. The law was repealed in 1943 during WWII when China was an ally against Japan. Prejudice against Chinese continued, however, as only 105 immigrants per year were allowed to enter the US. The Immigration Act of 1965 eliminated national origins restrictions and Chinese (and other) immigration was permitted again.



Both docents were terrific: enthusiastic, interesting, and informative.

“Maya Lin’s design for the museum fused form and function beautifully.” Pat Lynch.

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George L. Williams: 2017 Citizen of the Year cont.

George the historian:

George wrote many books for the Cow Neck Peninsula Historical Society, including *The Mill Pond with Walking Guide* (1979), *Lower Main Street: A Waterfront Community* (1982), *Sketchbook of Historic Homes* (1982) and *Port Washington in the Twentieth Century: Places and People* (1995). He wrote the play,

The Triumph of the Constitution, which was first performed at Town Hall on December 11, 1988.



His work as a contributor to the Port Washington Public Library's Oral History Project led to the creation of the Sandminer Monument on West Shore Road in Port Washington. George and his wife Adelia created a scholarship for Paul D. Schreiber High School for graduating seniors who are descendants of Port Washington sandminers.



George served as Landmarks Preservation Commissioner and on the Town Landmarks Preservation Committee. He was a trustee of the Cow Neck Peninsula Historical Society and instrumental in the restoration and preservation of many buildings, and cemeteries including the Sands Cemetery, the Dodge Homestead, the Mill Pond Historic District, the Monfort Cemetery, and the Roslyn Grist Mill and Clock Tower. As chair of the town's Historical Landmarks Preservation Commission, he was instrumental in Landmark on Main Street being named to the National Register in 1983 and in the Sands-Willets House being added to the



State and National Registers of Historic Places in 1986.

Photos courtesy of Diane Luger.



Remembering Penny D'Antonio

The Port Washington Retired Educators and the Port community suffered a great loss when Penny D'Antonio died suddenly on December 25, 2016. Her death left a huge gap which has yet to be filled and probably never will be for her family and friends.

Before Penny's retirement in 2003, she was a reliable and dependable member of the Schreiber High School Math Department. She loved mathematics and instilled an appreciation of the subject in her students. She served as a building representative and later was elected treasurer of the Port Washington Teachers Association. Penny contributed to the work of the PWTA.

When she retired, Penny joined the PWRE and assisted the treasurer Ernie Meyer when he was away for part of each year. When Ernie "retired" from the position, Penny took over the responsibility of treasurer. She did an outstanding job in participating in meetings, preparing budgets, and keeping the books. Everything was left in perfect order.

Penny was known for her great smile and welcoming presence. Perhaps it was her faith that helped make her so accepting of even the most difficult events which occurred in her life. She was an active member of St. Peter of Alcantara parish in Port Washington and sang faithfully in the choir.

In addition to her teaching and her work for the Associations, Penny was a devoted wife, mother, mother-in-law, and grandmother. Her grandsons were especially important to her. She devoted many hours to them when her son was ill and her daughter-in-law was working. She took care of them after school and made sure they did homework, were tutored, and also had some fun. Penny was a good and caring friend and gave her time to helping and being there for others. Her Christmas tree decorating parties will long be remembered by her friends.



Vote Cope

156 of our members contribute to VOTE-COPE through pension deduction. If you are among those who don't, why don't you? It's free, painless, and easy and helps make it possible to support education and teachers. Just complete the form you will be receiving in the mail, and send it back to Tessa Jordan, 1 Lynn Road, Port Washington, NY 11050. Even a small amount like 5 or 10 dollars a month will make a difference and help protect your pension and Medicare rights and reimbursement.

Hello from Lois Baslaw and Vicki Field



Lois
at
the
Taj
Mahal



Just got back from Sante Fe. Went to paint Plein Aire with 4 other watercolor artists. We toured Ghost Ranch then painted where Georgia O'Keefe painted her desert scenes. So inspiring. Vicki



Merry-Go-Round by Merry Gilbert



To Promote Domestic Tranquility

I have struggled to submit this. But I cannot divorce myself from my despair and sorrow at the way my country is being steered now. My new daily routine: log on, read email, sign lots and lots of petitions in an attempt to keep my country in the place I love. Have my representatives on speed dial. Send money. Get sad.

Do you, like me, recall when debate meant the sides of issues were discussed civilly and rationally? Then debate devolved into each side stating its case with no discussion. (As a former kindergarten teacher it reminded me of parallel play. The participants were involved, but not with each other.) I used to think how sad it was that our students might think that was debate. I'm so old fashioned. There was no real debate in the last campaign (nor much in Congress now). No substantive issues were discussed: promises, no details. This was couched in a style that inflicted deep scratches in the veneer of what should have been civilized dialogue, fostering the feeling that it's OK to "let it all hang out." Winners and losers. What has years of us working on cooperative learning done to help our process?

It should be no surprise that the incidence of hate crimes is up. Though we educators tried to stop bullying, in a campaign during which people were mocked, demeaned, and belittled, a tone was set: such behavior and language became acceptable.

On a recent January evening, I was at the JCC gym, when a fire drill bell sounded. It was night, quite cold, and the instructors expressed surprise about this unscheduled drill. We were all huddled outside, in the cold with no coats until the fire department came. My knee-jerk reaction was "terrorism." I guess I overreacted, as it was simply hate.

Have we been living a lie in Port Washington? So many of our students are from all over the globe. Brought here as children, or first generation, their parents sought to give them a better life. Are they the bad hombies? Are their parents? We, of all people, know what our diverse students make of themselves as they grow up. We see how hard their parents work to make them a better life, what successful Americans "our kids" become.

I was on the Flushing IRT last week. Looking around the packed car, filled with people reading newspapers in many different languages, I wondered how many of these people's lives are now torn by anxiety. I know that mine is. My feeling of safety and well-being has been corroded by a pervasive unease.

You may recall that in the 1950s, "one nation under God" was added to the pledge, to show those godless Russians we were believers.

Might it be time to make a further modification, perhaps "with liberty and justice for some?"

Hiking and Walking - Dave Pehlke

Hiking has been a passion since 1985 when I took my first hike on the Long Island Greenbelt from Cold Spring Harbor to Syosset. What an escape it was from everyday stress and matters of concern! Hiking made me aware of its benefit for the mind, the body, and for comradeship. When we still lived in Port Washington I enjoyed hiking on Long Island, the Hudson Highlands, Harriman State Park, the Catskills, and even in New York City! Since we moved to southern Utah the hiking has continued weekly. Some of the hikes were to amazing places, and some were everyday hikes, all wonderful. Hiking made me aware of its benefits for the mind, the body, and companionship.

As one ages, many outings become walks, enjoyed because they are easier and can be done more slowly. These hikes/walks, or just walks, provide the same relaxation and escape from stress, important exercise, and a chance to meet new people. They can be done until our last days. I hiked (yes, we hiked) the other day with an old friend, 87 years old, who could only shuffle along. We did the hike, out and back, three-eighths of a mile each way, in what seemed to take two hours. But it was good, really good, for both of us!

Life Continues... Dave Hinchliffe

I'd like to bring my colleagues/friends up to date relative to my "second act;" that would be the one in which I recover and heal from the effects of childhood abuses. Let me first share that this process of integrating lost (repressed) parts of the self is a long, arduous one. This is without a doubt the most challenging task, set of tasks, I have ever faced in my life.

As a small, concrete example of how this all plays out in mind and body, I provide the reader with this rather quotidian dynamic. Many days I awake, usually quite early-often between four-thirty a.m. and six a.m. - and likely in large measure the result of my darned sleep apnea. Through my varied and extensive training I have become aware of a certain repeated pattern of goings-on characteristic of my first waking moments. A vague, indistinct set of feelings/sensations (?) seems to enter my body and my consciousness. I describe this occurrence as a feeling of dread.

My therapist and I have hypothesized that this is likely a neurologically-based holdover of my body and mind's operations living in a house with repeated and inconsistent threats and stresses. As I see things, the analogy of imprisonment best appears to represent what life in that household was like for me. Mind you, as we look at this latest revelation of mine, i.e., that I awake with a sense of dread, it is relevant to add that my mind/body have likely been experiencing this "holdover effect" for much of my life. The key insight is that this had likely been operating in a "below-the-surface" pattern for decades, often making me experience varied feelings without a single clue as to the origin of those feelings. Many call this being "cut off from parts of the self."

It is clear to me now that I have been conducting a search my entire life. That search has been about the pursuit of things that I have not known and have not had words for. Being labeled with the tag of "PTSD" has at least given me a sense of what happened to me and, more importantly, what effects it had, and still does, on how I operate. It cannot be overstated that recovery must involve the breaking out of what is essentially a rigidity, one that inhibits personal growth and the gaining of perspective and insight. A second must-do in relation to healing involves the sharing and trusting that are developed through exposure to workable therapy and to community-building with other survivors. Seeing myself, my issues, in others is supremely helpful (see: 'mirror neurons' in brain physiology). This process, I believe, allows for the radical transforming of a view of self as abhorrent and ill-fitting to one that allows the self to be seen as "normal" and well-fitting.

An important outcome of the re-integration is that one can finally get onto the path of making meaning of it all. Let me provide a specific example. I recently joined the growing list of courageous men who've decided to share a bit of their stories of being sexually abused/assaulted in worldwide-web fashion. We have been professionally photographed, our pictures posted online with a brief biographical statement and with a short video interview montage. This endeavor is called "Bristlecone Project." Please check it out online at <https://www.bristleconeproject.org>. In the three-hour photo/interview session, David Lisak, the founder, and I shared our stories and got to know each other a bit. We talked of Victor Frankl (who David has had a connection to) and his book: *Man's Search for Meaning*. David shared this insight; he said that these electronic representations of auditory and visual evidence will be going out on the web for worldwide consumption. He added that in many places around the globe it is dangerous even to whisper (he whispered at this point) about such crimes. A chill ran the length of my spine as I realized that this reaching out to the "other" is part of what I have been longing for. Also the making meaning of my suffering by serving as an exemplar empowers me beyond words.

I must add that the sense of positive connectivity I received from participating in this project is contributing to my healing as well as providing me with a healthier view of my self. Just imagine: little ole me, the foster kid who was taught to think of himself as a loser, as a less-than, the same one who once believed that he deserved those beatings, the put downs, even the sexual assault, now sees himself as an agent for change in our troubled world. I would never have dreamed I'd come to understand what I had been through. And, too, ever to think of myself as normal, or courageous, or insightful, or possessed of something so precious to offer to others.

The journey continues. And I keep on evolving, peeling the layers of the psychological onion. Perhaps the greatest gift I've received, and it has in great measure come as a result of surviving and then, too, of daring to face the demons, is my courage. Now, I see that not only did I have, and do have, that courage, but I acted appropriately on it. Along the way, I've been gifted with a grace-filled view of the self, that it is capable of much more than even what we can dream. How beautiful is that! I wish you, my colleagues and friends, all the beauty and grace you can carry with you. May your burdens be lightened; may your path be made easier; and may your heart sing. I know mine finally does (at least some of the time). How sweet it is! Love to all.



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 www.pwta.us/PWRE for any meeting changes.

These meetings aren't just for the PWRE officers. All members are welcome to attend.

2017 Meeting Dates

Not Back to School Brunch

Tuesday, September 5, 2017, 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.

(It used to be Fish Kebab.)

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:

PWTA

99 Campus Drive

Port Washington, New York 11050

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