



# PORT OF CALL

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

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

**VOL.21 NO.2**

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

C

E

L

E

B

R

A

T

I

N

G

## 20 Years As a Retired Educators' Chapter

### Our Presidents

Their dedication and leadership made us the wonderful organization we are today. These seven people, several serving multiple terms, have worked diligently to insure that retirees are not forgotten.



George Williams  
Our First President



Margot Fletcher  
President  
1991-1993



Toni Salerno  
President  
1993-1994



Lou Tremante  
President  
1994-1995



Matt Scott and Betty McNally  
Co-Presidents 1995-1996



Matt Scott  
President  
1996-1997



Lou Tremante and Matt Scott  
Co-Presidents 1997-1998



Lou Tremante  
President  
1998-2000



Lou Tremante and Elaine Berman  
Co-Presidents 2000-2002



2002 - 2006



Elaine Berman - President

2006 - 2008



2008 - 2011

Twenty years ago, several of Port Washington's newer retirees, always active in the Port Washington Teachers Association (PWTA), decided that retirement didn't mean ending their involvement in issues that affected the educational environment of both students and teachers. As a result of their desire to remain a part of the education scene, the Port Washington Retired Educators Chapter, PWREC, was born.

### Inside PORT OF CALL Summer 2011

Our Anniversary Luncheon Pictures	pages 2&3
Elaine Shares Her Thoughts	page 2
Andrew Pallotta's address as guest speaker	page 3
P.W.R.E. Chapter News	page 4
Friendship/Remembrance	page 4
First Day Brunch Information and new retirees	page 4
Tribute to Marty Hamburger	page 5
New Scholarship Procedure	page 5
Merry-Go-Round and Honorees	page 6
Cold Spring Harbor ...DNA Laboratory trip	page 7
Port of Call Editors and Webmaster	page 7

# Our Anniversary



Nicole and Eleanor



Lydia, Annie and Betty



Stella and Harriet



Jean, Barbara and Anne



Penny and Ernie



Elaine and Kathleen Lyons NYSUT Nassau Retiree Consultant



Bill Toto - Pres. Great Neck Retired Educators and Rosemary Catanzariti Co-Pres., Retiree Council 19



Andrew Pallotta and Elaine



**Elaine shares her thoughts from our anniversary luncheon** along with her concerns for the future of education, civil rights and our democratic way of life.

This issue of our newsletter is in summary of the celebration of our chapter's 20th anniversary. It was a joyous, "up" celebration, and of course as educators we continue to see the glass half full. NYSUT Vice-President Andy Pallotta's words, which follow on the next

page, were inspiring. Since May 12, however, we have met a temporary set-back in the Legislature's passing of the property tax cap despite our multifold and multi-dollar efforts to defeat it. Our own Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel was with us (also Assemblyman Harvey Weisenberg), as we knew she would be, in voting against it. Sen. Jack Martins, on the other hand, said the cap was "necessary to getting the local economy back on track." The Governor's "muscle," plus some back-room deals plus short-sightedness on the part of the majority of legislators in looking only at immediacy of taxes rather than the future of how we want our state to respond to its education and social needs drove forward the imposed cap, which does not sunset until 2016. But we shall overcome. NYSUT as a union will grow, will continue to build power, to expand beyond ourselves in coalitions, to maintain our identity and to meet challenges head on. You have heard it here before - we need all of your help. We are an organization 640,000 strong - we need to stick to our ideals, mobilize, celebrate our successes and ride out temporary defeats. Optimism cannot be defeated. Please continue to make your union proud of you by doing whatever you can to help in the year ahead with putting our momentary set-back behind us and rising to the challenges of righting the wrongs. You will be asked to write letters, speak out to neighbors, hold elected officials responsible, We are counting on you as always! And also, as always, we thank you.

Both as I wrote the words to the song we sang at our 20th Anniversary Luncheon ("Oh Retirees, Oh Retirees") and as I prepared my remarks for that occasion, I realized it was not possible to mention the names of all who have contributed to the building of our organization. ALL of you have made us what we are today - a dedicated group of some 500 professionals who still care deeply about education, civil rights and a democratic way of life. We need to continue to make our voices heard (as we did in passing our School Budget) and our wallets speak (as we continue to set and meet high goals in our VOTE/COPE contributions). We were fortunate indeed to have as our guest speaker on May 12th Andy Pallotta, Executive Vice-President of NYSUT (and director of NYSUT political action). Andy went on to speak of some of the specific battles we are continuing to face and to fight in NYS - particularly the issue of the "millionaires' tax" which is scheduled to terminate later this year, and the tax cap for which the Governor is ardently fighting (aided by a \$750,000 contribution from realtors who do not understand that the number one reason people buy homes in one community over another is the quality of the schools). The "millionaires' tax" would provide some \$5 billion to use to invest in schools and to provide direct immediate relief to seniors and the middle class. A "2%" tax cap, as we have pointed out before, would actually result in a 0% increase.

Our Port Washington retirees, together with our in-service colleagues, have attended rallies this year, marched on picket lines, demonstrated locally and in Albany. We have grown over our 20-year history in numbers, in commitment and in political strength; let us approach the next 20 with the same determination and success!



Lotise Levine, co-president RC 19, Ed Vasta, Pres. ED 19 and Elaine picketing at the LI offices of Senators favoring tax caps.

# Luncheon



Marv Anne and Eleanor



Lou and Maria



Marilyn and Mary



Carla and Joan



Mary Lynn and Kathleen



Linda and Joan



Terry and Jane



Jo Ann, Rita and Marilyn



Seth, Jackie and Joan



Bernadette, Marian and Annmarie



Jean and Elsie



Pat and Grace



Evelyn, Sue and Flavia



Dorothy, Rosemarie and Mary



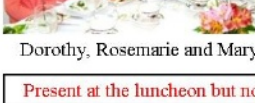
Doris and Marilyn



Kris, Maryann and Ellen



John and Bob



Jay, Annette and Donna



Lois and Gail

Present at the luncheon but not photographed: Jo Papaleo.

We are going through tough times - nearly as bad as the fiscal collapse of the mid-1970's. Our union was in its adolescence

then and we are more mature now. But what helps us get through these tough times is learning lessons taught to us by our founders, many of whom are now gone but never forgotten. From Shanker and Hobart and the creation of NYSUT to the ultimate unification with the NEA we have grown from organizing balkanized tens of thousands to a behemoth of 610,000 members in N.Y. We are everywhere. And we are hurting. Retirees have always played an important role in the union...a solid division of our political action activists.

Victories for our retirees have been sweet. We secured a permanent COLA (there were those who said it would never happen). Remember pension supplementation bills? Going hand in hand every year begging for more . . . We secured a law to safeguard retiree health insurance from unilateral reductions.

**Andrew Pallotta,**  
Executive  
Vice-President of  
NYSUT,

as guest speaker reminded all of the vital role that retirees have played in supporting legislation and securing rights and benefits for retirees.



No other public employees union secured that little wonder. Just imagine where our retirees would be today if that protection were not on the books. With double digit health insurance rates annually, retirees would surely be the most vulnerable of targets.

Retirees are integral now - and will continue to be in the future. What is more compelling than a retiree visiting a legislator today to tell the tales of what life was like without Triborough? We are under siege from Tea Party activists and right wing "nuts" whose idea of mandate relief is returning to collective begging, defined contribution plans and the elimination of tenure, and LIFO....

VOTE/COPE - retirees now contribute over half a million dollars annually to VOTE/COPE, many through pension deduction... Without those precious dollars we would be unable to fight in the political arena and win the victories so desperately needed.

So - THANK YOU for all you have done to build this beautiful union. Retirees are the foundation upon which all of this was built. And I thank you for your continued activism - fighting on behalf of your colleagues in service AND RETIRED. We WILL weather these tough times. Tough times never last - tough unionists.

## P.W.R.E. CHAPTER NEWS

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NYSUT JOURNALISM CONTEST WINNERS



For the third year in a row, Marilyn Gilbert (left) PORT OF CALL's feature writer and Barbara Mayer our webmaster for [www.pwta.us/Retirees](http://www.pwta.us/Retirees) have won awards in the annual NYSUT contest. Here they are pictured with Maria Neira, a vice president of NYSUT, as they accepted their awards on June 4th.

#### FRIENDSHIP/ REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE



*Joan Gerken*

Get Well Wishes Were Sent to:  
*Bette Stetson*

#### Condolences Are Sent to:

*Joyce Finizio on the death of her mother  
Dolores and Jim Girillo on the loss of their son  
The family of Babette Harper  
Barbara Healy on the loss of her father  
Kathleen Hess on the loss of husband  
The family of Jeffrey Roberts  
George Williams and family on the death of Adelia  
Penny and Leonard Zangas on the loss of their son*

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

*Babette Harper  
Jeffrey Roberts  
Adelia Williams*

A "Thinking of You" card was sent to  
*Gil and Ida Levesque*

### COME TO OUR ANNUAL FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL BRUNCH

at 9:45 a.m. on Tuesday, September 6th, at  
the Fish Kebab Restaurant on Main  
Street in Port Washington  
**AND CELEBRATE  
OUR NEWEST RETIREES**

#### New Teacher Retirees

Milana Axelson  
Patricia Barnett  
Harriette Gold  
Alan Hagel  
Nancy Hinchliffe  
Erlyn Madonia  
Charles Mellen  
Sue Mellen  
Donna Milazzo  
Judith Schutzman  
Carol Smith  
Bessie Tsiakos  
Steven Bimbaum  
Toni Bracchi  
Ute Johnson  
Stephen Shackel  
Alice Teepe  
Pat Venditto  
Norma Ziegel

#### New Administrator Retiree

Maria Dubie

#### New E.A. Retirees

Carmela Bartoletta  
Pat Cantalmi  
Gladys Dello-Iacono  
Marita De Maria  
Kathleen Marra  
Caroline Nomgno  
Kathleen Odierna  
Josephine Roger  
Catherine Salerno  
Janet Vietri  
Cecilia Weinberger  
Andrea Willert

#### New Clerical Retirees

Rosemarie Kidnar  
Carmela Vlahos  
Noreen Tannert  
Kathleen Ryan

#### PLANNING TO ATTEND THE BRUNCH?

The cost is \$20 per person. Please send your  
check, made out to "PWTA,"  
by August 20th to:  
Penny D'Antonio  
1425 Port Washington Blvd.  
Port Washington, NY 11050

#### PORT OF CALL Summer 2011 Vol. 21, No. 2

Published by the Retired Educators Chapter  
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  
[blmayer@optonline.net](mailto:blmayer@optonline.net)

## WE ASKED TO HEAR FROM YOU

### MARTY HAMBURGER

by Mary Ann Leonard

Marty arrived in Port in January 1969...dressed in his Coast Guard uniform ready to be interviewed by Dr. Waldo Scott. Dr. Scott, of course, was impressed with this fine young gentleman and gentle man. Marty stayed for thirty-two years before retiring in 2001.

He worked in the same district as the love of his life, Nickie, a teacher at Merriman, Main Street and Sousa Schools. Nickie was Marty's best friend, and they were happily married for forty-one years. The poem that he wrote for Nickie is testimony to that.

As soon as he was hired, Marty was welcomed into the Schreiber English Department. He was a people person; he always had a smile and time for those he saw and interacted with each day. He appreciated the goodness he saw in others. Throughout the years many of his Schreiber and district colleagues became his long lasting friends.

At Schreiber High School Marty achieved a reputation as an excellent and respected teacher, a caring and thoughtful person who touched many students' lives. For years he was the advisor to the yearbook and Kaleidoscope, the literary magazine. Each Christmas vacation Marty spent his days and nights writing over one hundred college recommendations for his students. The students knew they could count on their teacher, and Marty always put forth his best efforts on their behalf. He made his students feel special and unique.

The PWTA, too, knew it could count on Marty's support. He was willing and able to write letters to the Port Washington News in support of teachers and the PWTA during difficult times. His colleagues were grateful and proud of his well thought and insightful responses on their behalf. Marty was dedicated to his profession and a true asset to Port. He certainly left his mark after an outstanding career.

His endless talents, interests, and hobbies impressed those of us who knew Marty as a friend. He was deeply rooted in his faith. He was an insatiable reader, his mind and heart were planted with the writings of those he admired. Marty himself was a writer and a published poet. He was well able to paint a picture, feeling, impression with words...and what an extensive vocabulary he possessed and used so eloquently!

Marty loved sports...baseball, basketball, bowling, golf, sailing, and the list goes on. He played and had a depth of knowledge about each. He was up-to-date on current events. Perhaps Marty acquired the travel bug from his days in the Coast Guard, and he and Nickie were able to visit many places in the world. He was interested in technology, new gadgets, photography, astronomy, his rose garden, music, movies, the theater, etc. He enjoyed many a card game with his buddies too. It is most evident that Marty was a true Renaissance man.

Marty wore many hats...loving son, husband to Nickie, brother to Jeanne, uncle, brother-in-law to Huguette, Al and Frank, dedicated teacher, fine colleague, and true friend. We will miss Marty for who he was in our lives. It was a privilege to know Marty and be his friend. We will not forget this special person.

### CHANGING OUR SCHOLARSHIP PROCEDURE

As you know, each year we award one or two scholarships to graduating seniors in the amount of \$2000. Until now, we have been sending \$50 to the PWTA Scholarship Foundation upon the sad passing of any of our members; our members also have been sending contributions to that foundation at times in memory or honor of one of our retirees. The PWTA disburses its own scholarship awards from that foundation.

It has occurred to us that perhaps it is time to have the monies donated by or in tribute to our own members be contributed to our own PWRE fund set aside for that

purpose, so that incoming monies benefit our own scholarship fund from which we can then draw outgoing scholarship dollars. (Of course if such a fund were not large enough in any given year we would supplement from our "regular" PWRE checking account.)

If you agree with this idea, please make future checks for this purpose out to the:

PW RETIRED EDUCATORS SCHOLARSHIP FUND, and send them directly to our Treasurer,

Penny D'Antonio at 1425 Port Washington Blvd. Thanks, as always, for your understanding and cooperation.

*Elaine*





# Merry-Go-Round by Merry Gilbert

## My Non-Life in Music ... A Trail of Shame



Enjoy a chuckle as you read Merry's column. With her usual humor, she describes her experiences in learning and teaching music.

I've always had a complicated relationship to music. Required in Music Education to learn 183 songs so I could sing with my class every day, I joyfully did so, adding to my repertoire over

the years. Those of you who know me, live, so to speak, are now smiling, since you know what's coming next: I confidently and loudly sing all of my repertoire in one key and to only one tune.

Although I have always tried not to systematically pass ignorance from generation to generation, my "one note Johnny" shortcoming, although not truly pedagogically correct, doesn't seem to faze the students much. Last week, I bumped into a third grader at Manorhaven, one of a group I've vigorously led in song at the Ed. Foundation. I mentioned to her that when I sing with the Manorhaven teachers, I am usually asked to just move my lips. After a moment's thought she gravely commented, "But you're so creative."

I did have to learn to read music in Music Ed., and to do so I had to learn to play a recorder. I lived at home while I attended college, and my practice

sessions, at the orders of my dad, were held on the roof of my apartment building (some people have a fiddler....).

At the age of 27, I decided I'd love to play an instrument. I really liked "Flute Thing," from the Blues Project, and so I chose the flute. I played for 10 years. Then I could no longer face daily practice. An unexpected bonus has been my lasting friendship with my music teacher—we are opera buddies. I love when I'm thrilling to an aria, and she leans over to tell me, "That was pitch perfect," or she comments on the composition of the orchestra.

Some of my former students are seriously studying music—opera, composing, voice. We have interesting conversations, such as "I'm sure my vocal coach can teach you how to sing," or why not read "The Rest is Noise," by Alex Ross (music critic of the New Yorker).

So ask me about Tom Lehrer's songs, or those of Barry Louis Polisar, or what songs I know for Halloween, for example. Then stand back -- for here comes my lively, loud, a capella, one-note rendition.

### Honorees... Nancy Heller ..... T Aschenbrenner for Lee

On March 13, 2011, The Port Washington Children's Center held a celebration to honor retiree Nancy Heller for the work she has done to bring the arts to young people. *Mary Anne Cariello*



Mary Anne Cariello, Marilyn Gilbert, Linda Welles, Nancy Heller and Tessa Jordan

AWARD OF HONOR  
PRESENTED TO:  
"T" Aschenbrenner  
Honoring Lee - Mr. Port Washington  
BEST FEATURE STORY  
2011 NYSUT Journalism Competition  
*Au Revoir to our own beloved Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy*  
Author: Merry Gilbert



PORT OF CALL  
Port Washington Teachers Association Retired Educators Chapter



As a result of Merry's winning feature story about Lee Aschenbrenner, NYSUT bestowed on him a posthumous AWARD OF HONOR. The award was presented to his wife, "T" Aschenbrenner.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST



Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory's

### DNA LEARNING CENTER

Dolan DNA Learning Center, Harlem DNA Lab & DNA Learning Center West

#### National DNA Day

Celebrated Locally by PW Retired Educators at World Renowned Genetics Lab

by Merry Gilbert

Read about a fascinating scientific organization almost in our backyard. Did you know that the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory grants graduate degrees?

seemingly little village that looks like something out of a Christmas setup.

Luckily, the rain ceased for one day, enough time for 26 retirees to take a tour of some of the buildings and labs on the 120 acre campus.

Did you know that CSH grants graduate degrees? Two of the graduate students of the current class of 14 (one of whom had passed the orals for her Ph.D. the day before, and one from St. Petersburg (Russia), were our tour guides. These knowledgeable young women guides led us through part of the campus, which lived up to its description of being "hilly but paved." Some of the buildings dated from Cold Spring Harbor's whaling days, some were moved from other locations, like the former Cold Spring Harbor fire station, which was moved twice, and some were recently built to house visiting students, conference attendees, and faculty. Some of the landmarks pointed out to us had subtle details—such as the bell tower with the helix

How fortunate we are to have the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, incubator for DNA research, in our own backyard. Having driven by it on my trips going east and west along 25A, I was always curious about the

staircase. It was exciting to visit some of the labs. One we saw, was equipped with special "pods," designed to eliminate movement that might spoil the data.

Lunch was served in the CSH cafeteria, after which we traveled a short distance to the Dolan DNA Learning Center. Some of us had taken our students to do DNA extractions and other labs here, and were eager to share the wonder of it.

First we all did the DNA extraction, with expert scientific background and guidance from instructor Elna Gottlieb. It was thrilling. Then we went to the computer center to participate in the interactive "Mystery of Anastasia." Was Anna Anderson the last remaining Romanov? We traced lots of DNA evidence, unavailable when Anna Anderson surfaced in 1920, and not really resolved until the 1980's.

Unable to join us? Take a part of the trip virtually--go to [www.dnalc.org](http://www.dnalc.org) and enter "Anna Anderson." You can see the information we used in the computer lab. There are also some wonderful, easy to understand animations to explore, such as those in the Biology Animation Library. If you are more scientific, there's lots of other information to explore as well.

Care for a self-guided tour? Go to the DNA Learning Center, 334 Main Street, Cold Spring Harbor NY 11724, and visit the "Genes We Share" exhibit. Afternoons might be best, as most school groups come in the morning.

### TWENTY ONE YEARS OF PORT OF CALL .... SIX EDITORS...ONE WEBMASTER



George  
Williams  
1991-92



Joy  
Timko  
1992-94



Stella  
Thymius  
1994-95



Webmaster  
Barbara  
Mayer  
2008 -  
Present



Stella  
Thymius  
and  
Dorothy  
McDougald  
1995-97



Doris  
Kash  
1997-  
2001



Jean  
Sellers  
2001-  
Present

Since our 2011 newsletters are in Volume 21, PORT OF CALL must have existed before our chapter was official.



### **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**

**August 18, 2011 in the Lapham Room  
at 10:30  
September 22, 2011 in the Hagedorn Room  
at 10:30**

The following are tentative dates due to the Library's policy of not scheduling events too far in advance.  
**October 20, 2011 in the Lapham Room at 11 a.m.  
November 17, 2011 in the Lapham Room at 11 a.m.  
December 22, 2011 in the Lapham Room at 11 a.m**

**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE ([pwta.us/Retirees](http://pwta.us/Retirees)) WEEKLY FOR TIMELY INFORMATION.  
Look for up-to-date information related to meetings, trips, book club dates and legislation.  
For NYSUT items of importance, see NYSUT.org - then click on whatever link to the left is of interest.**

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

**FORWARD SERVICE REQUESTED**

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**