



# PORT OF CALL

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

**PWTA RETIRED EDUCATORS CHAPTER  
PORT WASHINGTON, NEW YORK  
Summer 2016**

**VOL.26 NO.2**

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

## *SAYONARA, sadly - -*

YOU KNOW IT'S TIME WHEN

Your almost 50-year old house becomes more  
burden than joy

YOU KNOW IT'S TIME WHEN

Your 25-year old retiree organization has seen  
you at its helm for 16 of those years

YOU KNOW IT'S TIME WHEN

Your only close family lives a continent away

YOU KNOW IT'S TIME WHEN

Your organization work, political pressuring has  
sometimes turned from fun and challenge  
to drudgery and exhaustion

YOU KNOW IT'S TIME WHEN

You have attained your almost mid-80s and are  
ready for a totally new life

AND YOU KNOW IT'S TIME WHEN

You have a co-president willing to take charge for the  
remaining year at least until elections next May

YES, with untold thanks for being able to be your president all these years, and with even more  
thanks to all those who have always been there to support and help - - -

AND TO ALL OF YOU -

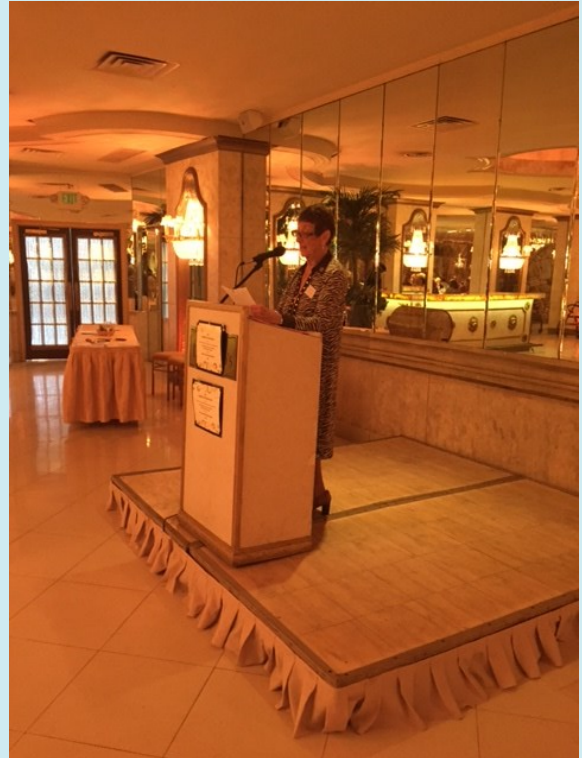
I DO KNOW IT'S MY TIME TO RETIRE AGAIN - this time as president of our

Port Washington retirees - and it is with an *au revoir* and *hasta la vista* 'til I see you again -

IN MY NEW HOME IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON  
WHEN YOU COME TO VISIT!

My very best wishes to all for continued success as a great organization and for long, healthy  
and productive lives to each of you.

Fondly, Elaine



# Our 25th ANNIVERSARY Celebration

On May 12th, members of the Port Washington Retired Educators and invited guests gathered on a lovely spring day at Leonard's in Great Neck to celebrate our 25th Anniversary. Three representatives were there from NYSUT's Retiree groups and the president of the PWTA, Christine Vasilev. The social hour provided time for old and new friends to catch up and reminisce about our days working in Port. After a delicious lunch, we were treated to an inspiring talk with Jeanine Tesori, 1979 graduate of Schreiber and the 2015 Tony winning composer of the Broadway play FUN HOME. She was accompanied by her mother to the event. Jeanine had fond memories of her Port Washington teachers and how they influenced her. It was a lovely afternoon and enjoyed by all!

Sally Reinhardt



## "We're Not Going Back to School" Breakfast

**When:** Tuesday, September 6, 9:30 AM  
**Where:** Fish On Main (previously Fish Kebab)  
**Cost:** \$20 Please send a check to:

Penny D'Antonio  
1425 Port Washington Blvd.  
Port Washington, NY 11050

## 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.)*

Please consult our web site for Fall meeting dates.

Photography by Sally Reinhardt

FRIENDSHIP/ REMEMBRANCE  
COMMITTEE

*Norma Ziegel*

## NYSUT Journalism Awards

Congratulations to Barbara Mayer and Mary Anne Cariello. Barbara won first prize for Best Website and Mary Anne received an Award of Distinction for her article on Joe Coppola. Once again, the excellence of Port Washington Retirees shines!

### PORT OF CALL

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## Condolences Were Sent to:

Joan Brinkhuis on the loss of her brother  
Dottie McDougald on the loss of her sister  
Kathleen Doughty on the loss of her mother  
Anne Jessen on the loss of her son  
Rosemary O'Connor on the loss of her husband

To the family of Olga Dufour

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

Olga Dufour



# Look Who Attended the Celebration



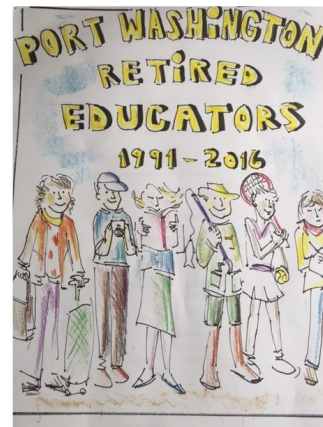
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## Our 25 Year History

We are celebrating our 25th Anniversary this year. Our chapter was organized in January 1991 as the Port Washington Retired Teachers, and George Williams was our first president. There are still eighteen original members. By May of that year, our constitution was amended to make administrators, paraprofessionals, and secretaries eligible for membership and the name was changed to Port Washington Retired Educators. A newsletter was created and in 2007, a website. Both have won several NYSUT Journalism Awards. The helpful membership directory came out in 1992. Since 1993, Schreiber High School students have been awarded scholarships in memory or in honor of P.W.R.E. members. Since 2001, retirees have participated in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. The educational trips began in 1994, and the famous "I Am Not Going Back to School Breakfast" started in September (of course) 2002. The popular Book Club began in 2005. We have been involved politically from the start, When we sent Lynn Schreiber to attend the Committee of 100 in Albany. We had our first VOTE-COPE drive in 1992 and beginning in 2011 until now are among the highest contributors statewide.. We have been represented locally and state wide since the beginning. In 1996, Matt Scott was elected co-president of E.D.19 Retiree Council and Elaine Berman was appointed to the NYSUT Retiree Advisory Committee in 2008. We have continued to stay involved with the PWTA. Their constitution was amended in 2005 to give a vote to the retiree member of the Executive Council. We have placed an ad in support of the school budget every year in the Port Washington News since 1993. In 2013, the history of the first seventy five years of the PWTA was published, written by Mary Anne Cariello and Tessa Jordan. It has been a busy and meaningful 25 years for our organization. Here's to another 25 years!



Cover by Nancy Heller

## Be a Tourist in Your Own Town

**Place:** The Noguchi Museum ,32-37 Vernon Boulevard; entrance on 9-01 33rd Road, Long Island City, Queens 11106

**Date:** June 24, 2016

**Time:** 10:00

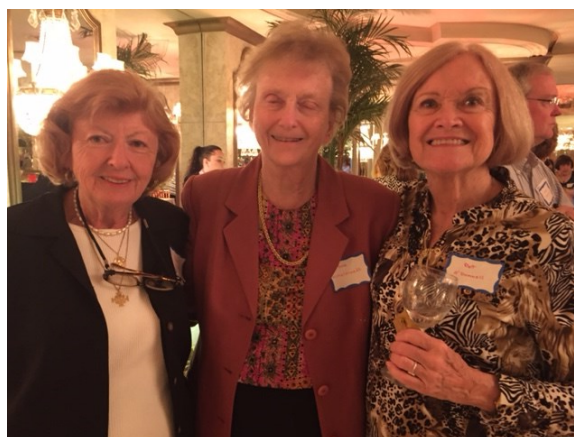
**Cost:** \$10.00 per person includes admission, tour and video, payable on the day of the trip.

For directions and a map go to [www.Noguchi.org](http://www.Noguchi.org) "Visitor Information"

The Socrates Sculpture Garden is across the street, free admission, so you can walk through this lovely small park with its beautiful view of the city across the East River, before lunch if you choose.

For more information and lunch suggestion go to [http://www.pwta.info/PWRE/pwre\\_news/images\\_calendar/Flyer.pdf](http://www.pwta.info/PWRE/pwre_news/images_calendar/Flyer.pdf) . If you wish to attend, contact Marilyn Gilbert at [mqmgtd@aol.com](mailto:mqmgtd@aol.com) or [516-944-9211](tel:516-944-9211).

## More Celebration Attendees



## We Asked to Hear From You and We Did - Helena Wresch

Lo and behold, Luke Bednarski won the right to take second grade class mascot “Curious George” home over Christmas Holiday! Little did George know he was also accompanying Luke’s five-year-old brother, Kyle and Mom and Dad, Christina, and Paul. And did I mention Grandma Helena Wresch and Grandpa, Tim were also going via Air France to London for vacation?

George and family got to see “Big Ben,” Westminster Abbey, and the famous castle called The Tower of London. We also got a fantastic view of the English Parliament Buildings and other important scenic highlights from the 450 ft high London Eye! “The Tubes” were very complex. But they were very easy to follow to all important areas of London and fast, too.

We even got to pose for a photo with a tall and straight guard in front of the famous War Offices of London. The guard was a member of the Mounted Brigade of London. He didn’t even blink!

The highlight of Grandma Helena’s trip was to visit, with George and Luke, the house of composer George Frederick Handel. He had rehearsals there and wrote the famous Messiah. And “Curious George” appreciated the fact that they were namesakes!



## And More Celebration Attendees







# ★ Modern Life ★

## Merry-Go-Round by Merry Gilbert

If you have never heard my “artspeak” you don’t know what you’re missing. So here’s a taste: to make it sound authentic, it is essential to include the word “juxtaposed.” At a recent MOMA exhibition, I did my best with an artwork, er, a piece of rusty metal, leaning against the wall: “Look at the juxtaposition of the smooth white surface of the wall with the rough, striated, carefully shaped oblong.....” Some visitors to MOMA, to my great shame, started following me around, thinking I knew what I was talking about. (I did confess!)

This skill, however, failed to apply at DIA Beacon—what I saw was even beyond my ability—such as the entirely white gallery—that was it! The unadorned space was the artwork. Like some of John Cage’s work, the content depended on me. And let me say I saw some awesome floaters! Lyn Dobrin’s description of DIA Beacon in the Port News speaks for itself: “This is installation art at its finest, site- specific and designed to transform your perception of a space.” Nicely done.

Another type of juxtaposition is common in our daily newspapers. Today, May 3, 2016, for example, “In Schools Nationwide, Money Predicts Success,” an article on page 3 of the NY Times, describes the extensive research which supports that children from wealthier homes do better in school and life than those from poor homes. This lengthy article abuts ads for diamond earrings from Tiffany, “just the thing to celebrate mom.” And right under it, an ad from Dior for a mini “Lady Dior” bag. (May 14<sup>th</sup>-\$750.00 sandals.)

More egregious examples were in a recent Newsday. This time the juxtaposition requires page turning. A page 6 headline trumpets, “Clinton rakes in \$26M in month”; while a whole page story on page 8, the flip side, exclaims “STEM school to close, Science focused Doshi institute faces budget gap, low enrollment.” The article explains that the initial proposal was for the school to be operated as a charter school on the campus of SUNY Old Westbury. When surrounding districts expressed concern that a charter school would drain students and funds from their districts, BOCES was put in charge. Now it is seemingly kaput. Compare that outcome to trumpeting of the importance of STEM to our students. Does no one in politics play chess or know about logic? If this, then that, several moves ahead. You may recall that Billy Joel contributed one million dollars to keep open the Long Island High School for the Arts in Syosset. Interesting that worthwhile programs have to depend on the favor of an individual to be funded. Maybe we could raise funds for education by taxing campaign contributions.

Fifty years ago in May I completed my student teaching at a neighborhood “paired school” whose student populations was drawn from Lincoln Towers and Lincoln public housing. Population density and the juxtaposition of middle and low income housing made this excellent school’s diverse population possible. Fifty years!

## My Second Act - Dave Hinchliffe

This is a story worth sharing for it represents much about living and learning and growing. Before I retired in June, 2010, I had my right knee replaced, the result of overuse, misuse and an accumulation of sports injuries. The surgery was successful, but not without unexpected turns, as I reconnected to memories of traumas I had experienced being raised in a cruel foster home from the age of two.

I knew when I experienced a reconnection with early traumatic memories that I had passed through a door, one which I would never again go back through. What I did not know, however, was the extent to which those physical, emotional and even sexual traumas had adversely affected me. I began a challenging period of reassessing my life, my very identity, my future. The recovery has proved at times to be quite painful and frightening. I determined, though, that I would do whatever it took to “recover”, whatever that would mean.

I took three important steps before I had even retired. I found a therapist, specializing in post-traumatic-stress-disorder recovery, and I bonded with him in a still-successful working relationship. I joined a bi-county committee which serves the needs of victims of violence. And I began commuting into NYC one night a week to begin my

## Second Act cont'd

next career, as a writer and speaker, at the Ninety-Second Street Y. This last step brought me to the unexpected place of pursuing an MFA in creative writing, with foci in poetry, fiction and memoir writing. I had made a decision, mostly unconsciously I suppose, that I would find a means to tell my story.

I've spoken to a number of groups, I've continued in a number of writing courses and with more intimate writing groups and have become so much more comfortable with my story and most importantly with myself. Too, I've become an expert at what happens to the body and brain in traumatic victimization. Last summer I had a wonderful weekend retreat experience with some three dozen other men who'd experienced sexual trauma in their lives. We continue our psychological support via electronic means, and on occasion in-person. These men have helped me to accept better my full self, and to find a supportive community in which I have learned to trust others and express friendship with "those who know" the path we've collectively walked. An added awesome benefit is that I now have more friends to visit around the globe in places such as the Dominican Republic, England, Norway, Ireland, Canada and in many states across America.

I am now ready to take yet another step in my recovery. The organization "One-in-Six" has begun a cutting-edge endeavor, The Bristlecone Pine Project. In this, they interview survivors, draw up synopses of their journeys and feature them with a professionally produced oversized photograph for both virtual display as well as for electronic uploading to a organizationally created website. The idea is to encourage other men who are suffering in silence, largely due to cultural constraints of male roles, to come out of their darkness. I only recently came to the realization that I've stumbled into a movement, one that is long overdue, one that shakes many assumptions and societal practices to the core.

My growth as a writer includes adjunct English teaching at LIU Post. This has allowed me to enjoy deeply-discounted graduate classes that I've used to fill in parts of my education that I missed, largely the result of the paths my challenging life traversed. I'm now in my fourth year of such work; this work is naturally beyond the three advanced degrees I've already earned.

Most recently, I have been undergoing one of the most effective treatments for ptsd sufferers, EMDR. This is a newer treatment modality, one that is validated by support from the prestigious World Health Organization. Most people are shocked to learn that childhood mistreatment is connected to the development of ptsd; they make the connection between war veterans and overload of stress, but not necessarily between other abuses and the onset of ptsd. I have been fortunate (the right expression?) to have a friend in my life who has experienced war-related trauma; he and I connect and support each other. There is a richness of views and perspectives we bring to each other and to our discussions. He and I have served on an educational panel together speaking to some 60 local mental health practitioners. And we have plans for other public educational exchanges. What wonderful bonding! What meaningful contributions!

One of the major changes in my body's operation I have noticed is that I feel more comfortable both being by myself, and being myself. I have at least at times achieved calmness--a balance--in my inner state. It feels in some ways that I've gotten myself back, that it had been lost for decades and now has wonderfully returned in a kind of homecoming. Too, I more easily reach out to others and support them with appropriate gestures. I feel less inclined to stay busy at every moment in a version of workaholism, and I feel much gratitude, despite all the considerable suffering I've gone through. I feel a part of man's whole, and this has informed my spiritual perspective. I now attend Unitarian Universalist Congregation services with an appreciation of feeling **connected**; this was something I especially needed and did not get in my upbringing.

Some may think I'm crazy to share such things about myself. I say I'd be crazy to live as I did before--in silence, in repression, with an unmet need to address the shadow double within myself. My attitude is that if I can help just one other person then all my suffering can be seen in light of its service to others. That is how I am propelled forward. That is the spirit in which I share this life update. The likes of Victor Frankl long ago struck me with his learned commentary about finding the meaning of one's life. My meaning is twofold--to be of whatever service I can be to others who suffer, and to enjoy this coming together--this healing--for I have suffered much and am due my time to enjoy, to play, to better know both fun and peace.

I wish you all peace and love on your individual journeys. If even a wretch like me can be saved, then surely there's hope for so many others. Peace and love, Hinch



**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.**

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

**2016 Meeting Dates**

**June 16 @ 10:30 am - Hagedorn Room**  
<http://www.pwta.info/PWRE/index.shtml>

**PLEASE NOTE: Checks for contributions to the PWRE Scholarship Fund should be made out to the PWTA and mailed to:**  
**Penny D'Antonio**  
**1425 Port Washington Blvd**  
**Port Washington, New York 11050**

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