



# PORT OF CALL

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

**PWTA RETIRED EDUCATORS CHAPTER  
PORT WASHINGTON, NEW YORK  
Winter 2019**

**VOL.29 NO.1**

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

## THE PORT WASHINGTON TEACHERS ASSOCIATION - AN UPDATE

The Port Washington Teachers Association was organized in the spring of 1932. That makes it 87 years old this spring. When it began, the PWTA worked to organize itself as a professional association, to publicize the role of teachers to the Port Washington community, and to serve as a charitable organization. Over its 87 years, it has done those things. However, in 1967 it was able to assume the significant role of bargaining unit when New York State enacted the Taylor Law. The PWTA in 2019 has continued to work to achieve the goals established in 1932 and has evolved to deal with the changes which have come about since that time.

The current officers of the Association are as follows: President Regina McLean, Weber /Salem PEP teacher; Executive Vice President Jeanne Zeh, Sousa /Manorhaven PEP teacher; First Vice President Joy Grasso-Krebs, Schreiber science teacher; Treasurer Dan Dowling, Weber social studies teacher; and Secretary Christine Cuomo, Guggenheim teacher. They are continuing the work of the PWTA and meeting new challenges.

In the 1930s PWTA members raised money to buy clothing and galoshes for students hit hard by the depression. Later it started a scholarship fund which still exists today. Each year the PWTA provides thousands of dollars in scholarships to graduating Schreiber seniors. It contributes to the Community Chest, the Ed Foundation, and other community groups. From its beginnings, a primary concern of the PWTA has been the improvement of education. Early on teachers recognized the need for teacher involvement in educational decisions. Today that work is carried on by the Professional Growth and Curriculum Development Committee which gives teachers a voice in educational and professional decisions made in the district. Julie Katz, a teacher at Salem, is the current chair of the committee. She and the others on the committee continue to work to ensure that teachers are part of the decision-making when it concerns such issues as reporting to parents, teaming, in-service education, and professional development. In addition, Port has a teacher center which provides professional development, in-service courses, and university classes for teachers. 51% of the Teacher Center policy board must be made up of teachers. Funding comes from the state legislature, and the district provides the space. The current director is Susan McAuliffe, Weber reading teacher. Besides classes, the center provides other services useful to teachers in their classrooms.

Port's facilities have long been a source of difficulties for teachers and students. This is still true as teachers try to solve the problem of noise, especially during the present construction. Mold, which causes health problems, has been detected at Weber. A present concern at Schreiber is asbestos. The Association has been working to mitigate these problems and has called in experts from NYSUT and even paid its own consultant.

A new issue that faces Port's teachers came as a result of the U.S. Supreme Court's Janus decision. The PWTA has had "agency fee" since 1978. This meant that even if people chose not to join the Association, they would have to pay a fee for the services that were provided. The Court's decision made it possible for people who receive the benefits of membership to pay nothing. As a result, building representatives contacted each member and asked them to sign an agreement to continue their membership. The PWTA has had 100% membership since 1978, and it still has 100% membership in 2019. Obviously, all the teachers recognize the need to be part of the organization and to support it.

Over the years there have been other changes. The PWTA has represented substitute teachers since 1982, only one of three locals in Nassau County who do so. Certainly, substitutes need the benefits a contract provides. It also represents school nurses as nurse teachers no longer exist. They, too, have the benefits of a contract.

In 1990 a Retired Educators chapter was added. The Retired Educators have a voting representative on the PWTA Executive Council. There are now three past presidents who are active in Port and in NYSUT. They are Mary Anne Cariello, Tessa Jordan, and Christine Vasilev. The PWRE has been able to continue to support education in Port by continuing its charitable works. It, too, provides scholarships and contributes to community organizations. It puts ads in the local papers in support of school budgets. It is represented in NYSUT's Retiree Council that sends delegates to NYSUT's Representative Assembly each year. The Retired Educators chapter supports the students, teachers, and schools in Port Washington. The positive relationship and support between active and retired teachers continues to be a benefit to both.

87 years later, the PWTA has changed and evolved but it maintains its primary mission of improving the lives of teachers and improving education for students. We believe that it will continue to do so in the future.

## Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 2018 - Bonnie Utzig and Pat Lynch

Congratulations to the PWRE! Through your generous donations to the American Cancer Society, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer contributed a grand total of \$2,621. Thanks also to the three walkers who represented the PWRE this year: Fran Clark, Trish Wright, and David Lawton. If we missed the name of anyone else who walked on Sunday, October 21st, please let us know, and we will add your name to the acknowledgements. Several of us had conflicts this year and couldn't get to Jones Beach, but there is always next year!

Your checks will be going toward more Breast Cancer Research, the Road to Recovery Transportation Program (rides to chemo treatments), Hope Lodge (free lodging for family members), the 24/7 Cancer Helpline (20 million calls, chats, and emails), and to Patient Navigators (who help nearly 45,000 patients through the health care system). Thanks again for your continued support!

### Hello from Ruth Haukeland



My husband and I have fulfilled a lifelong dream. Having sold our home in Port Washington, we have moved onto a 48-foot trawler and will start traveling this summer to Maine in the summer and to the Bahamas in the winter. Everything has to have a place living on a boat! But we are happy to be living our dream.

#### FRIENDSHIP/ REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE



*Norma Ziegel*

#### Condolences Were Sent To:

Fred Buchman on the loss of his mother  
Ann Mingorance on the loss of her husband

The family of Leonce Castero  
The family of Walter Chaskel  
The family of Neila Farber  
The family of Bill Fish  
The family of George Loh  
The family of Robin Skolnick  
The family of Charlie Smith

#### A \$100 contributions were sent to the PWRE Scholarship Fund in memory of :

Leonce Castero  
Walter Chaskel  
Neila Farber  
Bill Fish  
George Loh  
Robin Skolnick  
Charlie Smith



### Come to the PWRE Book Club

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

Date: February 26 at 11:30 am  
Book: The Keeper of Lost Things - Ruth Hogan  
Host: Maureen Peraza

Please check our website for future book club meetings

[http://www.pwta.info/PWRE/pwre\\_news/news\\_book\\_club.shtml](http://www.pwta.info/PWRE/pwre_news/news_book_club.shtml)

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# We Asked to Hear from You



## Geralyn Ganzekaufer:

In March, 2018, I visited Peru on a 10-day excursion including Machu Picchu, the Sacred Valley, Cuzco, Lake Titicaca (really!) and Lima. The trip was well organized, the accommodations fabulous, and all *very* reasonably priced. I highly recommend the tour company, Smar-Tours, and will use them again on my next adventure.

## Elaine Berman:

These are a few of the descriptors that come to mind after 22 years of retiree life. Surely many others - gardening/ helping others/volunteering/arts & crafts to name but a few fit into many of our lives. Some of us are luckier, healthier than others. But wherever you find yourself at this stage of your life, make the most of it! You may or may not stay in good health for lots of years, but enjoy new as well as longtime friendships, seek out new challenges, and enjoy whatever it takes to fulfill the years ahead to your liking.

Retiree vocabulary:  
Think FECRIMPT!!!

Friends

Exploration

Compassion  
Contentment  
Confusion

Rest  
Rebirth  
Rejuvenation  
Recreation  
Rejoicing  
Regrets

Involvement  
Imagination

Meditation  
Memories  
Mimosas  
Medication

Politics

Travel



## Donna Persson: Christmas 2018

Schreiber grads: Donna Allegretti Persson ('62), Scott Persson ('86), Tracy Persson McCarthy ('89).

Others: David Persson, Kyra & Sean Persson, Bryan & Eliza McCarthy.



## Carol Kratenstein:

A great day spent with Jo Papaleo and Carla Rueck at a Mahjong tournament. And I even came in fourth place out of 88 women who played!!!

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## Wonderful Morning Tour and Lunch in Flushing - Marilyn Gilbert

Led by Dr. Jack Eichenbaum Queens Borough Historian, we had a lively walking tour of Flushing. Getting off the train with an eye-opening walk through an enormous Asian supermarket in the New World Mall we visited the “facilities” and were refreshed and ready to explore.

One emphasis was on the history of religions in Flushing, home to all major global religions. We stopped at the site of one of the oldest African Methodist Episcopal churches in America (under renovations), which was on the site of what had been an integrated middle class black and white community. We stood outside the Bowne House (under renovation), a Quaker meeting house. In 1657, the Quakers issued the Flushing Remonstrance, a petition to Peter Stuyvesant, the Director-General of New Netherland, in which some thirty residents of the small settlement at Flushing requested an exemption to his ban on Quaker worship. This document is recognized as the birth of religious freedom and considered a precedent to the First Amendment. There were also numerous Sikh temples of different sects, a synagogue or two, some Korean congregations, and more.

The growth of public transportation – subway, railroad, buses, and at one point a ferry to Manhattan,- contributed to the population growth. Investment in housing, commercial building, stores, parking lots, and major hotels also contributed to the incredible increase in population growth and density.

And yet, just blocks from the bustling Main Street, we saw leafy shaded streets which reflect the influence of generations of local horticulturalists on the greening of Queens. Some of the trees we saw date back a few hundred years.

Lunch was most welcome after the 2-hour walk, at Asian Jewels, an enormous restaurant housed in a former warehouse. In the giant, bustling dining room, waitresses circulated offering, Dim Sum small plates of all kinds of delicious snack-like foods.

Most of all, kudos to our guide. We felt we were lucky to have this particular knowledgeable new friend lead us. His familiarity with the area and its history, its current development, and the nature of the groups that lived there peeled back the layers from the present to the past. It was fascinating.

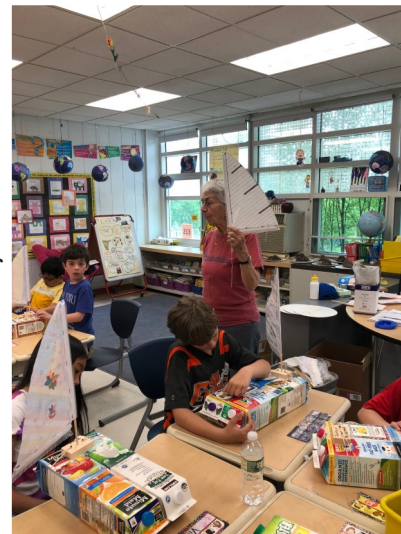
Back on the 1:35 train, we arrived in Port happy, educated, and full. As in many of our trips, we learn a great deal about things of which we are unaware, that once that surface is scratched, we never look at a place the same again.



## Get On Board - Sally Reinhardt



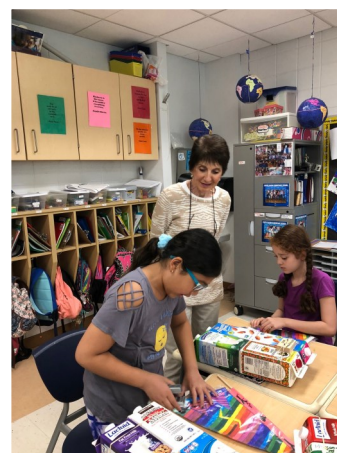
Are you a sailor or enjoy spending time on a boat? Do you miss being in front of the class teaching? Wouldn't it be great to work with a former student who now teaches third grade? Since Port Washington is well known as a sailor's haven, for the past twenty three years all third graders including St. Peter's have learned about the terminology and mechanics of sailing a boat. The importance of recycling is discussed, and students are asked to bring in four recycled milk or juice boxes. With these boxes and other materials donated by the Port



Washington Chamber of Commerce, they are taught how to make a sailboat. Students have the opportunity to race their sailboat at Baxter Pond during the Annual Harborfest Day the first Sunday in June.

Nine years ago, our own Marian Weissman volunteered to lead the way. Her first order of business was to make a lesson plan for teaching this process. She have recruited several of our retired educators to help out along with other community members. Marian's love of sailing and her excellent organizational skills have made this program a huge success with third graders, their teachers, parents, and community and PWRE volunteers.

The boat building is taught the last four weeks in May. New volunteers as well as repeat volunteers are invited to attend a one hour workshop taught by Marian on



how to construct the boat. Each third grade classroom involves two one hour sessions to complete the boat. As a volunteer, you can usually pick the school or even the class you would like to teach. By the end of May, all boats are finished. Students are given their boats to take home, and many happily participate in the regatta on Harborfest Day.

The PW fire department provides the "Wind".



students. What a thrill it has been for me to see them in their classrooms. I have

This will be my fourth year participating. The third graders are fun and enthusiastic. I have worked with four teachers who were my former

met several parent volunteers who were my students. They are so proud to introduce their child to me. I have also reconnected with many of my former colleagues. It has been a wonderful and rewarding experience.



The fastest boats in Port Washington

Marian is always looking for new volunteers. Email her at [marianhweissman@gmail.com](mailto:marianhweissman@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping out or have any questions. I highly recommend it.



## Bumper Sticker Bonanza

Welcome to our era of “crook du jour.” Daily news reports depressingly feature, among other items: stories of government appointees and elected officials, many of whom are shown to be working for personal gain and benefits while in public positions. Other reports show misuse of public funds (taking government airplanes, for example, instead of flying commercial for private trips), or using campaign funds for private expenses. Clear indicators of entitlement for “me first” in lieu of doing the job of working for the good of the people.

Perhaps it would be helpful to re-popularize some sayings whose sentiments seem to be currently out of style, in an attempt to guide and improve behavior. A likely place to do so might be on car bumpers. Tweet-like in economy of language, direct and to the point, staring at a labeled rear bumper in traffic might reawaken and popularize the sentiments promoted. Should this idea be successful, you might soon see these as slogans on bumpers near you:

“There but for the grace of God go I”

Seemingly ungrammatical, this favorite saying of my mom’s reflects attention to and compassion for the circumstances and plight of others in need-economic, physical, emotional. This saying can be shortened, for bumpers on mini-cars or motorcycles, to “Love one another.” If this slogan helps to renew our ethos, it might stimulate overdue action toward homelessness, hunger, school improvements, public health, and more for the good of the people. Remember: “We are only as strong as our weakest link.”

“Honesty is the best policy”

Steven Colbert coined “truthiness” on his old show the “Colbert Report.” He defined it as repeating something that’s not true over and over, until it begins to have the ring of truth. (But is still a lie.) Disinformation has expanded truthiness on social media, as we have seen recently, planted by those who wish to distort the facts to discredit individuals and our country. Too bad there’s not a saying that promotes critical thinking, reading newspapers and historical awareness.

“In America, anyone can become President”

But we can see that a viable candidate must possess these attributes, among others: honesty, willingness to show dedication to public service, demonstration of care and compassion for the people of America, the ability to listen and be diplomatic, be a reader, know history, get along with and respect for others and their diverse viewpoints, respect diversity, be polite and courteous, and listen to advice of teams of qualified experts.

“Remember the Golden Rule”

## Save the Dates - May 2019

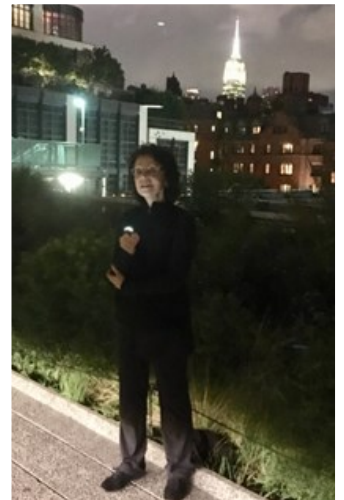
PWRE Spring Luncheon - Port Washington Yacht Club - May 22nd  
Kathy Mooney Retirement Party - May 30th details to follow  
Check PWRE website for updated information: <http://www.pwta.info/PWRE/index.shtml>

## The Mile-Long Opera-a biography of New York City after 7 PM - Nance Hinchliffe

Imagine a 30-block long urban park, the Manhattan High Line, transformed into a stage with a cast of 1,000 diverse singers and storytellers from across the five boroughs. Envision the city serving as both protagonist and backdrop to urban-life stories that take place after 7pm. Visualize a mobile audience of thousands entering a lengthy “sound cloud” of performers, luring them into narratives about the fast-paced city life and the joys and despair of its inhabitants. Dusk signals the show’s start and the stage lights come on, twinkling from billboards, lampposts, and skyscrapers. Screaming sirens, blasting horns, the thump, thumping of helicopters’ blades, shuffling footsteps-all compete with the pleasing and sometimes discordant vocals that line the High Line path.

Audience members, dressed in typical street garb to protect against the unpredictable autumn night temperatures, walk at a suitable pace to absorb the musical and lyrical rhythms. This is what Liz Diller, High Line architect, and Pulitzer Prize winning composer David Lang dreamed of as they walked the High Line some four years ago. Along with acclaimed poets Anne Carson and Claudia Rankine who created the opera’s text, the Mile-Long Opera-A Biography debuted October 3-7, 2018.

I was fortunate to be part of the one thousand Mile-Long cast as a member of Willow Interfaith Women’s A Capella Choir. Willow was invited to be one of the 38 amateur choirs to sing with professional singers representing the diverse cultures from across the city. Willow singers were spaced between 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> streets singing as individuals, not as a chorus, yet we all sang the same nineteen words on one assigned note that together made up a dissonant chord. We remained in one location and performed for two and a half hours singing, “I love the way, after rain, the smell of wet cement, will stay in the streets all day.” This type of performance is considered “endurance art” in which repeated musical and lyrical dialogue is delivered over a specified length of time. Challenges typically faced by the performers include boredom, emotional fatigue, vocal abuse, and back and body aches.



The Mile-Long directors and staff held a half dozen workshops in Manhattan and Brooklyn with tips for conserving the voice, keeping focused, using eye contact and body language to connect with the audience, and stretching to minimize pain. In order to conserve my voice, I kept hydrated, watched my pacing, adjusted my vocal intensity, and added moments of silence. Boredom was overcome by focusing on the foliage, buildings, and the non-stop movement of thousands of people. Sitting on a bench for 10-15 minutes usually helped deal with foot and back pain.

For Willow it was the first time the Long Island community took notice. A reporter and photographer followed us to the High Line, and we were given a four-page spread in the Long Island Life section of the Sunday Newsday, as we represented a choir from Queens and Long Island. This experience may be the only time I get to feel what it is like to be a Broadway performer. I commuted two hours each night, met in the green room for hospitality and instructions, walked several blocks to our High Line stage, reflected for 15 minutes on the task ahead, and then performed for “A” Listers like Renee Fleming, Maggie and Jake Gyllenhaal, James Franco, Martha Stewart, Peter Yarrow, and Julianne Moore, as well as unknown thousands each night.



Many thanks to all our PWRE members who were able to secure tickets to this once in-a-life-time, sold out New York City event. Your collective winks, nods, and thumbs up energized me when I wanted to fade. For those who missed it, you can experience it in 360 degrees by going to [www.milelongopera.com](http://www.milelongopera.com).

New York Magazine has listed the top ten classical events for 2018. The Mile Long Opera ranked number two. I enjoyed a part in musical history. And that is pretty cool!



**Port Washington Retired Educators Chapter**

**Meetings will be held at the Port Washington Library on the dates and times listed , unless otherwise notified.**

**Please check your email or the website for any meeting changes.**

**2019 Meeting Dates**

**No February Meeting**

**Please check our website for future meeting dates**

**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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