



PORT OF CALL

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

**PWTA RETIRED EDUCATORS CHAPTER
PORT WASHINGTON, NEW YORK
Winter-Spring Vaccine Time Vol. 31 No. 1**

NYSUT NO. 19 080R Visit our website at: <http://pwretirees.org/>

PWRE Mourns Members Lost - Mary Anne Cariello

The PWRE has lost two very significant members this past year. One was Betty McNally, who died on October 29, 2020, and the other was Leon Goutevenier, who died on December 17, 2020. Each of them made vital contributions to the education of students and the welfare of their colleagues.

Betty McNally was one of the founding members of the Port Washington Retired Educators. She was a devoted member who served as vice president in 1991-92 during the first full year after PWRE was established. She served as vice president in 1994-95 and was elected co-president, along with Matt Scott, in 1997-98. She served as vice-president again in 1999-2000, 2000-2002, 2002-2006, 2006-2008, and 2008-2011. She was one of the people who made the PWRE an organization that works for its members and for the benefit of education in Port Washington.

Before retiring Betty was an active member of the PWTA and a school nurse teacher at Main Street School and later at the Sousa Elementary School. Schools no longer have nurse teachers, but when they did, nurse teachers fulfilled both roles in the schools. They taught and worked with students academically and met their health needs. They communicated with parents and other teachers about the psychological well-being of students and helped students with health and other needs. They were valuable members of the school community. Unfortunately, nurse teachers were eliminated in Port and other districts in order to save money. It was a great loss.

Betty and her family lived in Port Washington for many years and her three daughters grew up here and attended Port schools. Betty met her husband when she was eleven years old and their love lasted 84 years, their marriage for 74. While Charlie served in the Navy during WWII, Betty studied nursing. Later she earned a BA and became a nurse teacher. After the war Charlie, became a math teacher in Port and then served as a principal in Manhasset. Betty and her family lived in Port for many years before moving to Florida. She was much missed when she moved and could no longer attend PWRE meetings.

Although he was legally blind, Leon Goutevenier was a physics teacher at Schreiber High School and an active member of the Port Washington Teachers Association for 42 years. Leon was born in Brooklyn and attended Brooklyn Prep, earned a BS from Fordham University, a Masters from the University of Pennsylvania, and a doctorate from New York University. He lived in Port Washington, and he and his wife, Regina, raised three children who all attended Port Schools.

Leon was very important member when the PWTA became the legal bargaining unit for teachers. He served as president in 1967-68 when the Taylor Law gave teachers the right to bargain for contracts. Before the Taylor Law, teachers had no right to bargain for the terms and conditions that they worked under. Leon was not only president but also the chief negotiator for the first contract. He helped establish the basic teacher goals that can be seen in all subsequent contracts. Leon was knowledgeable about the district and had the intellect and ability to think on his feet and articulate the positions of the teachers. One member of the first negotiating team stated, "He was as capable as any of the high-powered people on the Board's team."

The first negotiations included going to impasse and meeting with a mediator from the New York State Public Employment Relations Board, something that was part of the recently passed Taylor Law and totally new to everyone involved. This first contract set the basis for all the contracts to come and called for a significant wage increase and teacher involvement through committees. Leon again served as

continued on Page 3

Looking Back and Looking Forward - Mary Anne Cariello

It has been a sad, frustrating, and sometimes frightening year for all of us. We haven't been able to be with family and friends; we haven't been able to go to a show, movie or sports event. We had to carefully consider whether we should go to a religious service, a grocery store, or a pharmacy.

The PWRE had its last meeting on January 2020. We had to cancel planned trips, our spring luncheon, and "Our Not Back to School" brunch. Our Book Club could not meet until February 24, 2021 when we met using Zoom.

We must appreciate not being active teachers during the past year. Port's teachers have worked very diligently to provide an educational experience for students. But it has been exceedingly time-consuming and difficult. The school district often ignored their solid recommendations. No one had experience in remote teaching last March when in-person teaching ended. There was not enough training, but the teachers have done an amazing job in spite of the many difficulties they faced and continue to face.

However, the PWRE has managed to continue functioning. It has been able to maintain its membership through the work of Rita Auerbach. It has been able to keep in touch with the members because Norma Ziegel continued to send our greetings, and Kathy Reilly sent emails to keep everyone informed. Our excellent website with its webmaster Barbara Mayer is always up-to-date and informative. Geri Ganzekauer has kept the books. You have received the Port of Call which is edited by Erlyn Madonia. A 2020 -21 directory was edited by Tessa Jordan and mailed to everyone. Our members also received letters reminding them what to do in order to receive the annual Medicare reimbursement. The PWRE awarded scholarships to graduating Schreiber seniors this past June. We contributed to Making Strides Against Breast Cancer and collected an amazing amount for breast cancer research due to the efforts of Bonnie Utzig. We continued to support organizations such as the Community Chest. Our members continued to make significant contributions to VOTE-COPE because they understand that educators' voices must always be heard in Albany and Washington, DC. We have continued to participate in Retiree Council 19, Election District 52, and other NYSUT activities. Of course, all of these had to be done remotely.

To use a cliché, there is some light at the end of the tunnel. Masks and social distancing have helped ease the pandemic, and three vaccines are here. Things can never be the same as they were because so many people have died and so much has been lost, but if we can continue to persevere, it will soon be much better. We all look forward to that time.

FRIENDSHIP/REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE



Norma Ziegel

Get Well Wishes Were Sent to:

Joan Brinkhuis
Faith Cleary

Condolences Were Sent:

To the family of Dr. Milt Ebner
To the family of Leon Goutevenier
To the family of Eleanor Irish
To the family of Jean Koran
To the family of Dot Lawrence
To the family of Betty McNally
To the family of Janet Moro
To the family of Waldo Scott
Janet Evans on the death of her father
Marilyn Sittner on the death of her husband

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

Dr. Milt Ebner
Leon Goutevenier
Eleanor Irish
Jear Koran
Betty McNally
Janet Moro
Waldo Scott



**Come to the PWRE Book Club -
join us on Zoom**

***If you plan to attend, please RSVP to the Barbara Mayer:
blmayer3@gmail.com. She will send you the zoom link!***

Date: April 14 at 1:00 pm

Book: Ordinary Grace - William Kent Krueger

Future books:

Fifty Words for Rain - Asha Lemmie

Four Winds - Kristin Hannah

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PWRE Mourns Members Lost cont.

chief negotiator for the second contract again involving a mediator to help settle an agreement. These two contracts established the principles that teachers wanted to be involved in educational decision making and earn salaries reflective of their knowledge and experience.

Leon was an excellent educator who taught a very difficult subject. He not only worked with his students to understand physics, but he had an important role in changing Schreiber's traditional eight period a day to a "modular schedule." In this schedule students made many more of their own choices and the length of class periods varied according to the subject; some classes did not meet every day but met for longer times less frequently. Study halls were eliminated, and students could seek assistance from teachers during that time or pursue their own work. This schedule, with many modifications, continues to exist at Schreiber today.

Throughout his career Leon was a significant member of the staff. He was an advocate for teachers and a significant voice in the PWTA. His knowledge, intellect, and good counsel were invaluable to the schools and especially to the PWTA.

Both Betty McNally and Leon Goutevenvier made major contributions to education in Port Washington and to the PWTA and PWRE. They are missed by their families, friends, and colleagues.

We Asked To Hear From You

Hello from Carol Kratenstein

Keeping busy doing a variety of things. Making beaded mask lanyards is a new "start up" company I've begun. Doing lots of cooking, did Turkey Trot with Mill Pond Acres, spending lots of time FaceTiming granddaughter and just being grateful for life! Call me if you want a mask. Stay safe all! ckrat@icloud.com



Sydney with grandfather Richard Gutlerner and Michael Koenig with granddaughter Julia

Hello From Mike Koenig

Richard and Michael met at Sousa JHS in '68. They became colleagues, friends, neighbors and carpool buddies over the ensuing years. Their children were classmates in Northport Co-op Nursery School and Northport High School. Their granddaughters are seniors in neighboring high schools - Sydney/Kings Park and Julia/Northport. In 2019 they were guests at the same senior prom. The Gutlerner and Koenig kids are related through their grandmothers. Who would have predicted that in 1968?

Two proud grandfathers wish their progeny well as they head to college. Sydney will attend Marist and Julia will attend Longwood U in Virginia. The legacy of the fourth generation is in their hands!

What's Inside Port of Call Vaccine Time 2021

PWRE Mourns Members Lost.....	Page 1	Our Semi Professional Croquet Player	Page 4
Looking Back and Looking Forward.....	Page 2	A Dog Story.....	Page 5
Friendship/Remembrance Committee	Page 2	Merry Go Round.....	Page 6
Come to the PWRE Book Club on Zoom.....	Page 2	We Asked To Hear From You: Ute Johnson, Merry	
PWRE Mourns Members Lost (cont).....	Page 3	Gilbert and Ed Conti.....	Page 7
We Asked To Hear from You: Carol Kratenstein and Mike		Ignore All The Ads.....	Page 7
Koenig	Page 3		

Our Semi - Professional Croquet Player - Erlyn Madonia

Did you know that Carla Rueck is a semi-professional croquet player? Carla travels the eastern seaboard playing in about 18-20 tournaments a year. She ended 2019 as the 18th ranked female and the 150th ranked player for men and women in the United States. Due to Covid most of the 2020 tournaments were canceled. Carla has become an instructor and a Regional Referee, working towards becoming a National Referee. She is a member of five croquet clubs and serves on the board of four of them. For the past seven years Carla has served as Secretary to the United States Croquet Association and was recently elected to the position of Second Vice President.



Scoring a wicket



Running a tournament

Traditionally croquet is a sport where men and women compete equally, but in reality men have dominated the sport. There were very few women that competed on the highest level of the game. For the past four years Carla has worked closely with Sara Low, the first female President of the USCA, to change this situation. Together they instituted a ranking system for women which made the female players more aware of where they ranked against each other and encouraged them to work together to become more competitive. In 2018 Carla and Sara encouraged 11 women to travel to Ireland to play on the International

level at the Irish National Tournament and the Irish Women's tournament, which they won! Over the last four years it has become more common to see more women playing at the highest level and taking home medals. This summer Carla, together with Beverly Cardo, this year's top ranking woman, will be conducting clinics for women on how they should approach the game of croquet with a winning attitude!



Being honored by the United States Croquet Association



With her coach, John Osborn



The Steuber trophy presented by two members of the Croquet Hall of Fame.

Carla is hoping that her next two years as Second VP of the USCA will be productive. She invites anyone interested in taking up this sport to contact her: cprueck@aol.com

A Dog Story - Marty Farber

If you have never had a dog, or just don't like dogs in general., read no further. If you have some experience with the canine species, you may appreciate this. I make no promises.

When our daughter, Amy, was eight years old and our son, David, just shy of seven, we made the first of several trips to London, at the conclusion of which we asked them, "What would you like as a souvenir?" The reply came quickly, "A dog." "A dog?" said Mom and Dad. "Yep, a dog!"

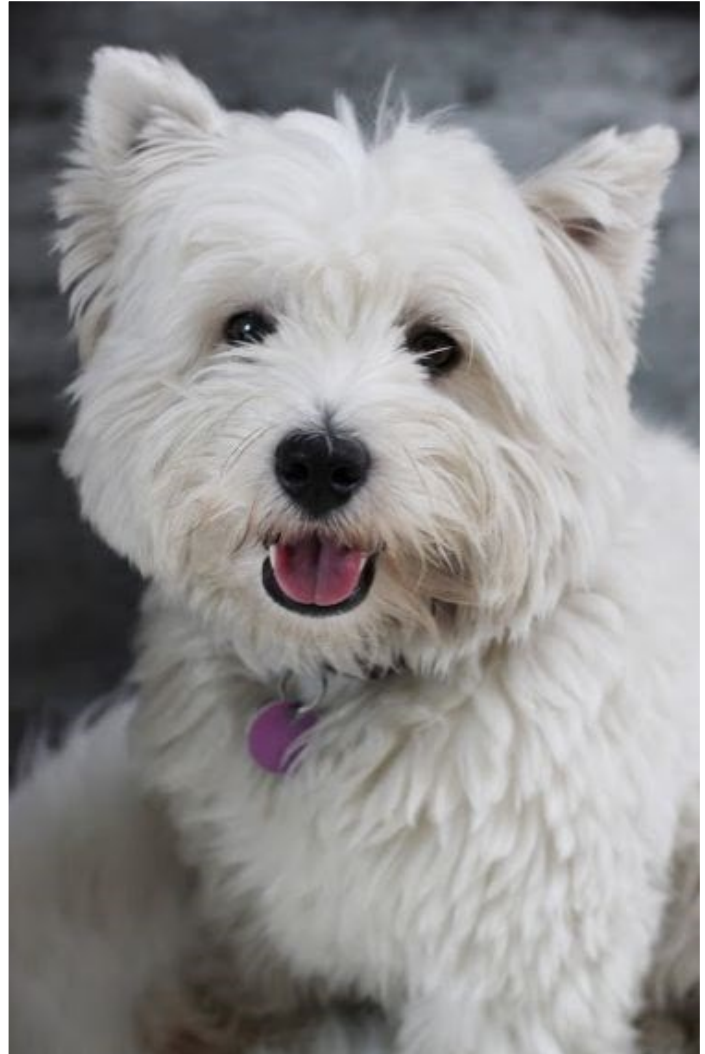
Was this doable? Turns out it was, so off we went to a pet shop where the owner found a West Highland white terrier for us, weight 7 lbs. She flew home with us in the cabin of the plane. Don't ask. We named her "Shandy" after a drink in any London pub. She was small, fuzzy, and friendly and guaranteed not to grow larger than 20 lbs. She didn't.

Life with Shandy was great fun for the kids as well as Mom and Dad. She was happy and had a large yard to run in and chase squirrels and birds. One fine day, Mom and Dad decided that, since she had a fine pedigree and was not spayed, why not mate her and make a few bucks from the sale of the puppies?

First problem: find a mate. We found a gentleman in the neighborhood with a male and he agreed with a plan to use his dog as stud. How exciting! I set about building a whelping box where Shandy could mother her pups until they could be weaned and sold. Next problem: how do you mate these two animals? We had a foolproof plan. The male would be brought to our house when Shandy was "in season" and we would put the two of them in our closed off kitchen and let nature take its course.

The night arrived. The two were put in the kitchen while we got out of the way. Shandy proceeded to back her hind quarters into a corner and growl while the male paced back and forth trying to get to her. This wasn't working so, we agreed to try again the following night. Same result. On the third night I suggested we might put on some Sinatra records, light a few candles and, perhaps, a touch of Pinot Grigio in the doggie bowl might do the trick. It works for most humans but the family thought this was going too far. After the third night, the male was taken home completely exhausted, never to be seen again.

The whelping box was taken down and Shandy remained unsprayed and went into season every six months attracting every dog in the neighborhood to our yard. She seemed excited to see them...



Optimistic? Looking Forward to Safe Travel? Trip Alerts by Snail Mail

No email? Want to go on future PWRE trips but lack access to notifications?

Please let Harriet Englander
10 Crescent Road
Port Washington

or Merry Gilbert put you on the list for mailed notices.
133 Reid Avenue
Port Washington,



Merry-Go-Round by Merry Gilbert

Covid Chronicles

Words I never hope to hear again:

Transparency

Abundance of caution

Social distancing

Zoom

Virtual

Covid

Pandemic

Mask

Hand sanitizer

What I will need when it's over on

June 20th - See below...

A cardboard box with a rectangular hole cut out of the “long” side. This is so I can recognize my friends whom I’ve only seen on zoom, their faces ensconced in rectangles, for when we finally meet “live” again.

Z***

Much of the Z*** meeting conversation for weeks and weeks centered around shots: How were you able to book an appointment? Where did you get the shot? Which one? How did you feel afterward? How far did you travel? I posited that Amazon should run the program: all the infrastructure is there, after all - data base, warehousing, distribution: the truck pulls up, the driver rings the bell, you get the shot.

Speaking of Z***

A bunch of us celebrated Chris Vasilev’s birthday on z***. Nance Hinchliffe, our host, is very adept at producing, staging, and adding backgrounds. You may recall, Nance runs a program for seniors called STAR-Senior Theatre Acting Repertory. You may have also attended some of the performances of the group presented at libraries in Queens and Nassau. Each is a wonderful pastiche of jokes, skits and songs performed by lively seniors. (The holiday performance is especially joyous.) Incredibly, she is proceeding with rehearsing and producing performances with her group on z***. (One of the participants is in her 90s). So to prepare for the Vasilev shindig, Nance suggested we, as do members of her cast, add a lively, festive background. After a few tries, I copped out and placed a large painting done by my sister in law as my background. I’m only 73, after all.

A high moment

I have been going to Costco at an early “old peoples” time reserved for seniors, over 60, before the store officially opens to the public. One time when I was showing my card, the door screener said I couldn’t enter, as I wasn’t over 60. I would loved to have kissed him—but you know: a M*** and S***** D***** ruined the moment.

Augury update

You may recall that last spring I confidently predicted that we would be out of the woods on June 20th. This was predicated on my foolproof method of determining when I’d be back in my house which I used after the large fire I had by checking “sell by” or “best by” dates on groceries. (I should have known better, as it took many tries over 18 months, before that worked accurately for me.) So here we are, and I now assume that it is necessary to factor in an 18 month interval as part of the spell. I predict, confidently, once again, that by June 20th THIS YEAR we should be out of the woods. Same date, wrong year - I must have misread the stars (er, the milk carton expiration dates)!

We Asked To Hear From You

Hello from Ute Johnson

I, like many, have gotten used to traveling since retiring. This year I've seen a lot of Long Island, especially Port - mostly by walking.

The one area that has been daunting is remote grand parenting. Linn and I are two people who "ooh" and "ah" on a little screen to our youngest grandson who will be 1 year. old this May. And, of course, we couldn't hug our boys. So we began making them surprises - knit hats for winter, read-aloud books, and videos of favorite songs.

And for our 5 year old we made an elf house door. The elf door is now part of the front yard tree. It's been great fun for our little ones because many youngsters who are out and about come to visit the elf house. They sometimes leave a little toy on the doorstep. It surely has become a way to meet the neighbors!



Hello From Merry Gilbert (with an interesting link to Ute and Port of Call)

You will read (briefly, below) about my niece Maria, who is a science and social studies teacher. Over 20 summers she has gone on wildlife ecological and scientific explorations all over the world..

A photo of Linn Johnson (he's Ute's husband) in a tuxedo, standing on an ice floe, appeared in our newsletter. It explained that Linn was a member of the Explorers Club, and was on an expedition. Out of nowhere, my niece mentioned that she would love to join the Explorers Club (admission is by nomination and invitation only). A light bulb went off, and I asked Linn if he would be a willing nominator. He was pleased to do so, and based on the record of her 20 summers of wildlife environmental and scientific exploration, and following documentation and interviews, she was admitted. There is a link below to her talk, which she was asked to deliver to honor women members of the Explorers Club. It highlights her contributions to science and ecology and includes her wonderful photography. It is so engaging, especially the part about how other women like Jane Goodall inspired her, that it could be used in a classroom.

<https://athome.reachtheworld.org/event/the-women-of-the-explorers-club-maria-ives/> (You can also access this link from the PWRE website.)



Hello From Ed Conti

Ed teaching his granddaughter in Phoenix during COVID-19.

Hello from Sally Reinhardt

Three founding members of the Schreiber Coffee Club Reunion in Pompano Beach, FL
Jeff Byrne, Sally and Bobby Baker



Ignore All The Ads

We continue to be bombarded by TV, social media, mail, and email advertisements dealing with various Medicare advantage programs. **IGNORE them all.** When we retired and were eligible to participate in Medicare, the Empire Plan (New York State Health Insurance Program) became our secondary insurance. This combination of Medicare and Empire is the best and most cost effective program that anyone can have. So **IGNORE** all the ads now and in the future and appreciate what we already have.



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: <http://pwretirees.org/> for any meeting changes.

2021 Meeting Dates

Please check our website for future meeting dates.
pwretirees.org.

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:

**Gerri Ganzekauer
51 Longview Road
Port Washington, New York 11050**

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PORT WASHINGTON, NY 11050

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