



PORT OF CALL

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

**PWTA RETIRED EDUCATORS CHAPTER
PORT WASHINGTON, NEW YORK
Celebrations - Fall 2024 Vol. 34 No. 2**

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

Jeff Moss nominated for "Best of the Net Award"

228 Stops

For Suna Karaby

Please let me be patient," she said.

The road ahead – the snow capped peaks

"Let me be
generous and kind."

The rearview mirror – the high rises of the city

Her father said
humanity was like a single
body of water.
This was her ocean.

She loved
her passengers built
relationships with her regulars:
Ethiopian women
who cleaned offices,
elementary school children
who wrote her thank you notes,
Honduran day laborers
who taught her Spanish,
medical students
who asked about her heart ailment.

But then the pandemic ...

The job was
to drive and keep driving
no matter what
else was happening.

Deep indentations
of her fingers
on the wheel.

She counted
her breaths, burned
sage incense, drank
herbal tea ...

Along Colfax: Billings Street ... Havana ... Dayton ...
Broadway...

228 stops.

She'd been spit on, hit
with a toolbox, threatened
with a knife, chased
into a restroom.

Her windshield
shattered

One day a 57-year-old woman jumped
in front and pushed
her way aboard
pacing and cursing.

A man twice her size
punched her, stomped
hard on her chest, flung
her off the bus to die
on the sidewalk.

She (Suna) called and said,
"I used to be an extrovert,
but now I'm exhausted
by people."

Said, "This job now
is like being
a human stress ball."

Said she was done driving
for the day—
that was 11 hours and 203 stops ago—
stood up...
and walked
off the bus

The snow-capped peaks: the high-rises of the city
counted her breaths.

This is a found poem, meaning it was derived from an already existing text. The **Source & Method** Saslow, Eli, "Anger and Heartbreak on Bus No. 15," *The Washington Post*, 6/6/22. Published in <https://www.theunjournal.com/unlost32b>

Making Strides - Fran Clark



The Making Strides for Breast Cancer walk at Jones Beach, Sunday, October 20th was the largest ever. The weather helped in that respect. I was a little late getting down to the beach at 8:30 AM and could not get parking in any of the fields and eventually was led back to the parkway. I drove home and got on my bike and bicycled down.

I haven't missed a walk since my diagnosis and surgery in 2006 and wasn't going to miss it now. It truly was an experience with the crowds. Of course, I did not miss stopping by the survivor tent and the NYSUT tent.

The walk was a record breaker. PWRE members contributed \$3,379 to Making Strides, the annual breast cancer research appeal. We thank Lisa Idol for spearheading the drive and collecting all the funds.

FRIENDSHIP/REMEMBRANCES COMMITTEE

Norma Ziegel

Come to the PWRE Book Club - Join us

The PWRE ZOOM Book Club began in March 2021 and transitioned in July 2021 to a HYBRID Book Club, with some months of Zoom and In Person meetings. All PWRE members are welcome to attend. If you are not on the book club list and would like to be, email [Barbara Mayer](mailto:blmayer3@gmail.com). (blmayer3@gmail.com)

Date: Nov. 22, 2024 @1:30 Zoom
Book: The Little Liar - Mitch Albom

Date: Jan. 10, 2025 @ 1:30 Zoom
Book: James - Percival Everett

Date: Feb. 2025 - TBD
Book: The Berry Pickers - Amanda Peters

Date: Mar. 2025 TBD
Book: American Mother - Colum McCann & Diane Foley

Date: Apr. 2025—TBD
Book: By Any Other Name - Jodi Picoult

PORT OF CALL
Celebrations Fall 2024 Vol. 34 No. 2
Published by the Retired Educators Chapter
Port Washington Teachers Association
99 Campus Drive
Port Washington, NY 11050

Erlyn Madonia, Editor
emadonia@gmail.com

PWRE Webmaster: Barbara Mayer
blmayer3@gmail.com

Get Well Wishes were sent to:

Bob Joseph

Condolences Were Sent To:

Harry and Glen Andersen on the death of their mother
Lori Goldstein on the death of her husband
Lisa Meade on the death of her mother
Lois Sazer on the death of her husband
Jackie Yorio on the death of her husband

The family of Marian Cheris
The family of Terry Dover
The family of Jeanne Miller
The family of Margaret Muller
The family of Mildred Pascucci
The family of Cecil Tinder
The family of June Wood

A \$100 Contribution was made to PWRE Scholarship in Memory of:

Rosemary Andersen
Marian Cheris
Terry Dover
Phyllis Keogh
Jeanne Miller
Margaret Muller
Mildred Pascucci
Cecil Tinder
June Wood

Celebrating My 80th Birthday - Rita Auerbach

On June 19, four days before my 80th birthday, in honor of said birthday, I jumped out of a plane 14,000 feet in the air. It was a tandem skydiving adventure, and I was tightly strapped to an expert skydiver who handled the parachute. All I had to do was enjoy the experience. This all started a couple of years ago. The woman who cuts my hair showed me pictures of her skydives and said I should join her. I promised I would do it for my 80th which was then safely off in the future. As the day approached without her forgetting, however, I needed to live up to my commitment. We did it in Sussex, New Jersey, which has a well-known skydiving company. They are particularly known for the height from which one jumps – 14,000 feet is the limit before one might need oxygen. We met on a beautiful, sunny day in an otherwise rainy week and were joined by Rachel Fox, head of Children's Services at the Port Public Library. So the three of us jumped from the same plane. When you first jump, you are in freefall, descending, I am told, at about 125 mph. This only lasts for just under a minute and then the parachute is unfurled. After that you float gently to the ground raising your knees at the end for an easy landing. I was told that the temperature when we jumped from that height would be about zero degrees, but you're so involved in the jump that you don't feel the cold. I had tried to picture the jump in my mind, but two things I hadn't envisioned were the strength of the wind as you jump and the beauty of looking at the ground far below through clouds. It was a joyful experience, none of the rollercoaster uneasiness people fear. I had decided not to be afraid, so I wasn't. I'm not about to do it again, but it was one of the most exhilarating experiences of my long life.



It's the SEASON

It's the season when we are bombarded with advertisements about Medicare Advantage plans. Please continue to ignore all of these ads. We already have the best plan we could have in Medicare and Empire (NYSHIP). If you have any questions about Medicare, call the Medicare Rights Center at 800-333-4114. Counselors can assist with all parts of Medicare.

What's Inside Port of Call - Celebrations Fall 2024

Jeff Moss nominated for "Best of Net Award".....	Page 1	Thank You.....	Page 4
Fran Clark - Making Strides.....	Page 2	Sandy Rosenwald - 60th Anniversary.....	Page 5
Friendship and Remembrances Committee.....	Page 2	Hello from Sharon Frank.....	Page 5
Rita Auerbach - Celebrating My 80th Birthday.....	Page 3	Sally R shares.....	Page 5
It's the Season.....	Page 3	Congratulations to the 2024 Retirees.....	Page 6
40th Annual Coach Classic.....	Page 4	Marilyn Gilbert - Merry-Go-Round.....	Page 6
Arlene Braverman my 75th... ..	Page 4	NOT BACK TO SCHOOL Brunch.....	Page 6
Donna Persson my 80th.....	Page 4	Look Who Joined Us for Brunch.....	Page 7

40th Annual Coach Classic



On October 17th, the Schreiber High School golf team played in the 40th Annual Coach Classic in honor of their coach, Frank Meystrik. Every year the group gathers at the Sands Point Golf Club and reminisces. Three of Frank's children, Joanne, Dan, and Jim, were able to participate in the event this year. Pictured here with Frank (in golf cart) are Al DeMaria, Paul Pacent, Kathy Doughty (also a PW

Retired Educator), Bobby and Shelly Weingrad, and Jim Madison. Nick DeMeo (not pictured) hosted a BBQ back at his home where the storytelling continued.

Arelene Braverman my 75th



Donna Persson - my 80th



The celebration my family gave me as I turned 80! Not only was I a '62 PDSHS graduate and a TA at Schreiber, but both of our children also were proud Schreiber graduates! Go Vikings!!

Thank You

We thank Rita Auerbach and Tessa Jordan for contacting people about dues and making the information for the Directory possible.

Lenora Matricardi Needs a HUG!

When I retired I moved to Florida and participated in the lives of my two wonderful grandchildren, I traveled all over at least two times a year. I had just got back from a trip to Alaska. Then two weeks later Helene hit. I live on a barrier island on the west coast of Florida. I did sometimes evacuate for a hurricane. This time I was sure I would be ok. That was a huge mistake that almost cost me my life. I choose to sit on my bed with my cell phone and wait out the storm. My upstairs neighbors called and told me to come upstairs. I thought I was safe until I put my leg down over the bed and the water was up to my knees, I asked them to help me get out. The surge was coming in the back door in waves and pushing on the front door. It took the three of us to open the door so I could get out. I was never so frightened in my life. From upstairs I could see the water coming from the Intercoastal over the pool and lawn and into my condo. I am very blessed to have neighbors who saved my life. I have lost everything including my car. I have faith that I will be back home again. With the holidays so close, I am remembering that stuff is stuff and can be replaced. Mementoes of my life will always be in my heart. The wonderful, caring, loving people who are sharing their home and concern, reminds me how blessed I am.

Sandy Rosenwald - 60th Anniversary

On March 22, 2024, Bill and I celebrated our 60th anniversary. We decided to spend most of 2024 traveling to some new and some favorite destinations. Adventure #1 was a 3-week trip to South América. We spent 3 days in Buenos Aires before boarding our Azamara cruise ship for an 18-day cruise. Our favorite times were spent hiking around Tierra del Fuego National Park and trekking over 2 hours off road each way to walk among the penguins of the Falkland Islands. Adventure #2 was a surprise from our children. We spent 5 days on a private yacht exploring and relaxing on secluded south Bahama islands. Feeding swimming pigs was definitely a highlight as was all the beauty everywhere. Adventure #3 took us to Milan and the islands of the Venetian lagoon for 10 days. We spent 3 days in Milan and then drove to Venice to board our UniWorld River cruise. It was spectacular. Adventure #4 began in Barcelona. After spending a day there we boarded Celebrity Ascend for 2 cruises. We spent 21 days onboard exploring Spain, Italy and France with a stop in Gibraltar. We hiked around Mt. Etna, climbed a gazillion steps in Eze, Positano, Sorrento, and Taormina, and laughed at the monkeys of Gibraltar. Adventure #5 will be a week, relaxing in the shade, on the beaches of a resort in Cabo. We did have a wonderful dinner and go to the theater ON our anniversary, but 60 years is too special to just celebrate one day.



Hello from Sharon Frank

Neil and I enjoyed a 16-day vacation in Hawaii. The natural beauty is just amazing. From the Kīlauea Crater on Hilo to Waimea Canyon on Kauai to the Maui and Waikiki beaches, the beauty of nature there is just breathtaking!



Sally R shares...

Judy Keller is still wearing the jacket from the early 1980s when she coached her beloved freshman tennis team at Sousa Junior High School!



Congradulations to 2024 Retirees

Virgina Block - Manorhaven, Phil Crivelli - Schreiber,
Debra Fisher - Daly, Michael Gallagher - Weber, Lauren Giliolf - Schreiber, Evelin Joseph - Salem,
Nicole Puk-Silverstein - Elementary, Helen Sachs - Schreiber, Maria Silverstri -Weber,
Jodi Taranto - Salem, Kathleen Wengenosky - Sousa, Marlene Woska - Schreiber.



Merry-Go-Round by Merry Gilbert

40th Year reunion

A Celebration of the 40th Year Reunion of the Kings Park High School Graduating Class of 1984
Held on October 26, 2024

A Teacher's Dream Come True!!

Imagine my joy when I received my Facebook invitation to attend.

What a special occasion. Many of the attendees, now 57 or so years old, had been my San Remo Elementary School students. Some had been in my Kindergarten class, so our first meeting for some of them was when they were 6 years old.

Because I liked to change grades, many were in my classes again in second, third, and sixth grade. That was real time delight then, as I saw how they developed over the course of their elementary school years. Communications on Facebook made it possible for us to stay in contact for many of these subsequent years.

My invitation came from a student who is my "birthday" twin. We're only 20 years apart.

It was a real treat to hear what they took away from our classes (and me) that they remember after all these years.

I was amazed and delighted.

For me, a hallmark of this occasion, is the remembrance of my Halloween costume the year I dressed up as a pickle. One of the students in my third-grade class said, "You shouldn't be Mrs. Gilbert, you should be Mrs. Dilbert." And so I was, for years after. The name sign outside my classroom was modified as well. I was given nicknames, too, like Meany Pickle and Dilly Pickle.

At the end of each school year, when we'd attend for just an hour, I'd give each student a specially chosen personality gift. This took some doing to find an appropriate item for each one. I loved doing that. To a girl who loved frogs I gave a bowl of live tadpoles. (OK with her mom.) Not all were so extreme. A now grown-up student showed up at the reunion with the gift I gave her, carried like a talisman, intact after all these years, a very large Chapstick, because her last name contained the syllable, "kiss."

At this party I got **my** personality gift.

The hat says, "I'm a really big Dill" and is embroidered with a giant pickle. And two jars of Kosher dills. "Look," the kids said, "She's crying." And I was.



Note: The photo was taken in my kitchen where I could stage it to include some pigs from my famous collection.

NOT BACK TO SCHOOL Brunch

The NOT BACK TO SCHOOL Brunch was very successful with over 50 people attending. Everyone enjoyed seeing colleagues, socializing, and eating. We thank Norma Ziegel for organizing the event. We thank Shish Ke Bab for doing an excellent job again.

Look Who Joined Us For Brunch



Many of 2024 retirees joined us at the
NOT BACK TO SCHOOL Brunch!
Welcome

Schreiber retirees!



Daly Retirees



Manorhaven Retirees win again for best
attendance at the breakfast!



Weber retirees



Thank you to Sally Reinhardt for
the pictures and for her help!



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.

2025 Meeting Dates

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

PLEASE NOTE: Checks for contributions to the PWTA Scholarship Fund should be made out to the PWTA/Retired Educators. Put the name of the honoree on the memo line or in a note. Please mail to:

**Geri Ganzekaufer
8 Oak Street
Wading River, New York 11792**

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

FORWARD SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

FIRST CLASS MAIL