



PORT OF CALL

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

PWTA RETIRED EDUCATORS CHAPTER PORT WASHINGTON, NEW YORK Together Again Fall 2022 Vol. 32 No. 2

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

Port Washington Athletic Hall of Fame - Sally Reinhardt

On Saturday September 24th, Steve Shackel was honored for his 35 years of coaching in the district.

He joins his two daughters Kristina and Beth who were both inducted in 2008. His entire family was there to cheer him on including his five lovely granddaughters.

As an English teacher at Sousa Junior High, Steve began his coaching career with the 7th grade girls softball team and the ninth grade girls basketball team. In 1987, Steve became the boys varsity basketball coach. His first year, the team was honored with the County's Sportsmanship Award in recognition of their dignity and fair play on the court. After eight years, Steve resigned to watch his daughters play at the collegiate level. In 1999, he began his middle school career coaching both boys and girls basketball as well as girls softball. Steve would continue to coach until three years after his retirement.

I had the pleasure of attending many of Steve's games over the years. It was so much fun to see him in action as a coach. He was a role model for his athletes and was well respected and loved by his players and parents. Congratulations to Steve! His former colleagues are so happy and excited for him. He is so deserving of this honor.



Save the Date: Spring Luncheon, May 4, 2023, Port Washington Yacht Club - \$55! Fantastic pictures from "Not Going Back To School Breakfast" can be viewed at the PWRE web site, in the masthead:

<http://pwretirees.org/>

Making Strides - Bonnie Utzig

This year marks 20 years that NYSUT has had a partnership with the American Cancer Society. During that time, our union members (including many retirees) have helped raise \$16.2 million to support innovative breast cancer research, patient support services, breast cancer education, and access to mammograms. Since 2002, our union members have walked at Jones Beach to show solidarity with individuals who have been diagnosed with breast cancer and/or have survived the surgery and treatment journey.

I started walking in 2006 as an active PWTA member after I became a survivor myself. I no longer can do the walk due to other health issues, but I am still involved with collecting donations from my fellow retirees. Over the years I have witnessed the true spirit of our union members through their generosity of time, financial support, and creativity (Nance Hinchliffe's pink ribbon head boppers for example, or Shari Salazar's pink ribbon cookies).

During the worst of the pandemic in 2020 and 2021, most people chose not to walk for obvious reasons. This year's walk showed an increase in people again walking the 5K along the boardwalk. Most years the event averages around 60,000 walkers, with a rolling start from 7:00 -10:30 am, usually ending by around noon. Thanks to the generous support PWRE retirees during this year's campaign, we collected \$4,500 for this worthy cause.



Public Service Announcement

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.**



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 alternating 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: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 via Zoom

Time: 1:00 PM

Book: Profiles in Ignorance - Andy Borowitz

Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 TBD

Time: 1:00 PM

Book: The Night Watchman - Louise Erdrich

Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 TBD

Book: The Marriage Portrait - Maggie O'Farrell

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Get Well Wishes

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Condolences Were Sent To:

Liillan Bidekov upon the death of her son, Damien
Dorothy McDougald upon the death of her son, Bruce
Gilda Perone upon the death of her husband, Joseph
To the family of Eileen Cadigan upon the occasion of her death
To the family of Bernie Scheidner upon the occasion of his death
To the family of Nancy Wheeler upon the occasion of her death

Condolences were sent and a \$100 Contribution was made to PWRE Scholarship in Memory of:

Sheila Adelberg
Hal Champol
Mary Ellen Davis
Nettie Jonath
Joseph Mooney
Marge Murray
Eleanor Oppenheim
Flavia Vissat
Penelope Zengas

Standing Where They Stood - Excursion to Raynham Hall Museum - Merry Gilbert

May 24th 2022

A mere two years after our originally scheduled date, 17 of us finally got to experience this eye-opening presentation, conducted by Christopher Judge. The museum tour takes place in the actual home of the Townsend family, who, like many other Long Islanders, had enslaved African workers. We were shocked to learn of the extent of enslavement on Long Island and New York.

Each of us got an identity card with the name and details of a real person who was enslaved in Oyster Bay during the 18th century. We also saw footprints of the individuals so we could visualize “stand(ing) where they stood.” Using actual documents, we were shown the names and jobs of many of the enslaved persons. If you watch *Finding Your Roots*, you know how unlikely it is to have this information as most slave-owner logs mostly list merely the sex and age, but rarely names, of their “property.”

Raynham Hall was occupied by British officers who lived alongside the family members and the servants also living there. Unknown to the British, this arrangement provided opportunities for spying. There were Townsends who joined the Culper Spy Ring, along with Liss, a Townsend enslaved woman who was embedded with the British. This was but a taste of the extensiveness of spying on Long Island.

There is also a wonderful Education Center next door with talking pictures, dioramas, etc. but we ran out of time. There’s lots more, but you can visit Raynham Hall on your own and sign up for this and other public tours and visit the Center.

www.Raynhamhallmuseum.org

What would a PWRE trip be without lunch? We had a lovely private room at Café al Dente. The food was great!! And the company....well we didn’t run out of things to say. (Would you believe that the waitress’ boyfriend was in Sally Reinhardt’s class? “His favorite teacher,” he said.)



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Hello from Megaera Regan

I can't believe it has been just over a year since I retired! I feel like I am finally starting to settle into this new lifestyle. This past year has been incredibly busy, with lots of changes.

First of all - we moved from Manhattan to Connecticut. We are now only 30 minutes away from my daughter and her husband, my mom, and my sisters, (just wish my sons were closer, but they love living in Astoria). Joe and I are enjoying living in a house again, and the area is so peaceful.

When we retired, I promised myself and my husband that I would take it easy for one year (not commit to anything big), and just sort of see how retirement went. I was still active in the PE community, but was not seeking out anything major.



One year later:

- I am supervising student teachers from Southern Connecticut State University
- I have joined the Connecticut Cadre of Physical Education Trainers
- I have started working for a company called Focused Fitness, providing professional development to Physical Educators nationwide.

This probably seems like a lot, but it really is not. Imagine being able to present to PE teachers at conventions and workshops all around the country, having all your expenses paid, and earning a stipend. Even better - there is no obligation at all - I get to pick and choose where I go and when. Talk about a dream job!

One of the best things about my schedule is that I am able to help look after my mom, who has dementia. This has been quite a journey for all of us. We saw our grandfather go down this path and know that things will only get progressively more difficult, but it is good for everyone in the family that I retired when I did. I wish you could meet my mom - she is so good natured, and a truly sweet person. It is sad to see this happening to her, but she really seems to be happy most of the time.

Well, that is all for now. I look forward to seeing folks (missed the brunch - the rain that morning made it impossible for me to get there). Be well, everyone!

News from Weber -Emily Roberts



Weber's retirement party was in May of 2022 at Chateaubrand. Celebrated were Tony Facciola, Kate Herz, and myself, all retired in 2022, and Sharon Frank, Anne Giantempo, and Jeff Moss, retired in 2020 or 2021.

Other retirees chose not to participate in the party. We had a wonderful time as it was the first large-scale celebration since pre-Covid.

The Home Front - Sally Reinhardt

On October 19th, sixteen of our members attended an exhibit at the Cow Neck Peninsula Historical Society entitled: WW1: The Home Front: Our Community Takes Action!

The exhibit, which was six years in the making taught us about why the United States entered the war and how Long Island and especially Port Washington stepped up and made major contributions to the war effort. We heard how at first training camps for the local soldiers were held at Main Street School



as well as Manorhaven's Locust Grove Pavillon. We learned how the farmerettes, a group of women all over the country including Port tended the farms and cultivated crops for citizens at home as well as sending food to the troops in Europe. Port children, including the Boy and Girl Scouts were involved searching for scrap metal and black walnut trees used to make gun stocks. Finally, we saw how the suffragist movement evolved over the years and how women's involvement during WWI boosted their efforts to get women their right to vote.

Everyone enjoyed the tour and commented on how much they had learned from their visit. Tours will begin again in May. We highly recommend attending this interesting and well done exhibit. For information, see <https://www.cowneck.org/ww1-the-home-front>.



Hello from Nance Hicnhliffe

Thought you might get a kick out of this article from the Queens Chronicle about the uke classes I teach through the Queens Library Creative Aging program. My latest group of seniors started Sept. 8th. Please feel free to contact me and join our group. Hope all is well and everyone is staying healthy.

https://www.qchron.com/qboro/stories/library-ukulele-classes-strike-just-the-right-chord/article_10465e87-76de-5369-8e4d-c78c4b94bb18.html

News from Weber (cont.) - Emily Roberts



Personally, I am loving retirement! I am enjoying and appreciating the luxury of time. I am relaxed and happy. I have taken a few small trips and visited with friends. I am learning to knit so that I can make gloves, hats and booties to donate. I am volunteering at my Temple. I am going to the gym several times a week. I will be starting pickleball classes soon. I am working on projects at home for which I never had time. I am subbing on occasion and will start tutoring soon. And, of course, I still have my twin daughters who are currently 14 and in 9th grade to keep me busy in the afternoons and weekends. I am grateful for my health and my pension which allow me to enjoy this time of my life. And I love spending as much time as I can in my house in PA!!

Several Weber retirees attended the wedding of Mary Ann and Paul Moyers' daughter, Marissa. The wedding took place at the Tarrytown House Estate on the Hudson in NY in September. It was beautiful and interesting as 2 cultures blended and shared traditions.



Merry-Go-Round by Merry Gilbert

Organ Recital

In what seems like a very long time ago my young niece asked me, "Aunt Merry, do you have someone for every part of you?" The answer at the time was "Yes."

Only now there are even more someones, as specialization has become more prevalent in medical care. I refer to this as "No Part Left Behind," part of my treatise on aging.

A recent (non-medical) appointment occurred last week. Friends and I of 50 year acquaintance visited one of our former colleagues who had had a knee replaced. In the olden days, at San Remo Elementary School, we'd shared lunchtime stories of places we'd gone, people we'd seen, stuff we'd purchased. Somehow (no surprise), last week, when there we were together again, joined around a table (in a kitchen instead of a faculty room) the topic gradually changed: we began swapping stories of our latest adventures: medical test results, operations, and replacements.

We reminisced about our doctors (some of whom we'd all used and loved), who've retired, leaving us to competent professionals who don't really know who we are. It said a lot about us and them that we saw many of these practitioners for 20 or 30 years. We used to joke that they and we were growing old together, but now it's no longer a joke. We miss them and their knowledge of who we were, our history, and even how our parts were related to one another.

My old pals related to a medical nightmare that I have: a new practitioner comes into my exam room, looks at my name on the folder and still looking down, says "Hello, Marilyn." Then s/he looks up and we both gasp in unison!! It's my former student!! And the former teacher (moi) is barely decent!!

At lunch our hostess said, "This kind of conversation has its own name." Can you tell what it's called?

Hello from Patty Barnett



We are loving retirement here in Florida and decided to take a fun trip with new friends from our Valencia community in the southeast to



Naples on Florida's west coast for some shopping. That's me - 2nd from the left - after a very successful day for us all. And a few of us had a fabulous time at a beach on the Gulf of Mexico. The guys? They spent all their time fishing and caught an amazing load. That's my

husband Michael on the left with his prize barracuda from our spectacular trip!

Hello From Schreiber Foreign Language Teachers

All former Schreiber Foreign Language Teachers, left to right: Carol Testa, Jackie Marshall, Joyce Finizio, Ruth Haukeland, Louise Lindemann, and Karen Ortiz. We hadn't seen each other in years. Wonderful reunion!



Hello from Elaine Berman



They seem to like my "cooking," and I enjoy their company all day long. Feeder needs refilling daily, sometimes twice a day. Elaine in Seattle!

Hello from Jim Jones

It always seems to start with an unexpected call. My Friday morning was off to an enjoyable routine when my phone buzzed. A friend of mine had been on her morning walk when she, and a couple of others, noticed something strange on the ground. It was a young osprey in obvious distress; it could not fly. I packed up my usual gear: gloves to handle raptors, net, towel, and a carrier and headed right over.

The bird was a youngster and most probably had just completed his first flight – unsuccessfully – out of its nest. The nest was right above the bird, situated on top of a utility pole. (I was very familiar with this nest, and this youngster). Several years earlier, this nest had been refurbished by PSE&G, it was now inside a plastic cone, and safely away from the live wires.) The young bird, the white tips on the edge of every wing feather showed it was not an adult, was in distress. It is not uncommon for fledglings to wind up on the ground after their first flight attempts, but on Long Island, these situations can lead to dangerous consequences. For example, this wayward chick landed in the park near the nest. He could



have landed on the other side, which would put him right in the middle of a busy road. I gave the bird a few chances to “take flight,” but it was not happening. I picked him up, arranged for him to be checked out by a local wildlife hospital, and waited for the results.



As it turned out, the bird was fine. Now all that I had to do was get him back in the nest. As a member of the PSE&G “Osprey-Protection –Team (I am a very busy retiree), I called to see if we could get a crew out to the site, dreading that it could be a long wait. Osprey are very difficult to keep in captivity. They often will not eat any fish that they have not caught, and therefore have to be force-fed, which is always traumatic. Amazingly, the crew would be there in a few hours! So, I picked up the youngster and headed over to the nest pole – the PSE&G crew was already there! There were several trucks there; the utility crews enjoy helping these birds. I said hello to some old friends from crews that have helped me with raptors over the years, and got to work. Raptors, even young ones, can be very difficult – even dangerous to handle. In the old days, I would have been able to go up in the bucket truck

and handle the bird myself, but those liability-free days are over. So, a crew member was selected to take the bird up to the nest. He was young, had no experience with raptors, but was very enthusiastic. I gave him a short course in handling raptors, wrapped our juvenile osprey in a blanket, and passed him along into the slightly nervous hands of our young crew member.

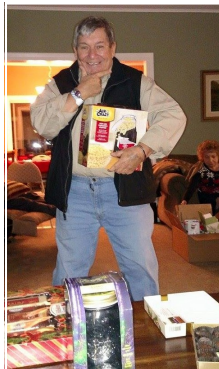
It all worked out beautifully! Our youngster was successfully placed back in the nest, and very quickly one of his parents came by to check in. As of that evening, all was more than well! The next day, I watched as those parents brought a fish breakfast to their happy child. Sometimes, good things DO happen when people all come together, along with a very happy osprey!

Hello from Seth Ehrlich



I showed 4 jewelry boxes at the Cradle of Aviation Museum with the Long Island Woodworkers Club.

Update from Sheril Joan McCormack



John "Jack" McCormack is back from the Philippines, where he built an octagonal hotel, oceanfront, on Siargao Island. He recently sold the hotel, and will decide now whether to live out his life here or in the Philippines. You can message him on FB, and ask to friend the photo with the black shirt/yellow stripe. Ignore the other account with balloon photo. Jack was an elementary teacher at several schools.



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.

2023 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:

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

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