



PORT OF CALL

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

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

Celebrations - Winter/Spring/Summer 2025 Vol. 35 No. 1

NYSUT NO. 19 080R

Visit our website at <http://pwretirees.org/>

The PWRE class of 2025

Congratulations to Andrew Apicos, Kevin Baudo, Wanda Burgess, Nori Cerny, Eric Clauss, Cathleen Costello, Leslie Eason, James Fallon, Joy Grasso-Krebs, Maryanne Horan-Teta, Thom Johnson, Judith Lavelle-Caroll, Regina McLean, Stephen Moore, Barbara O'Donnell and Anthony Pinelli! Thank you for your dedication!

Welcome, the best is yet to come.

It Was Awe Inspiring - Sally Reinhardt

Phil Glover retired this spring as Minister of Music at the Westbury United Methodist Church after 44 years. There was a musical program by many of his former choir members and musicians. The music included hymns, jazz, folk and popular songs.

What a wonderful tribute to Phil and a lovely dinner, too.



Four Presidents at the Breakfast



Free NYSUT Member Benefits

The following programs are some of the services and programs which are free of charge to NYSUT members:

Peer Support Center - created in partnership with Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care. This confidential help-line can provide answers, referrals, and empathetic support when you need it.

Financial Learning Center - powered by Kiplinger's Personal Finance. This platform offers numerous articles designed to assist NYSUT members in achieving their personal financial goals and better understand the nuances of insurance, savings, investing, and more.

Travel Assistance Services - All members are automatically provided travel assistance services from Europ Assistance that focus on providing coordination services to travelers.

Check out our website for volunteer opportunities

https://pwretirees.org/difference/difference_volunteer.shtml



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: October 17, 2025 @1:30 via Zoom

Book: Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books - Kristen Miller

Date: November, 2025 - TBD

Book: The Trouble of Color - Martha S. Jones (a Schreiber graduate and the stepdaughter of Ronnie Jones))

Date: December, 2025 - TBD

Book: TBD

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Memorial Luncheon

For those of you who might have been a friend or a colleague of Carla Rueck there will be a memorial luncheon in her honor on Sunday, October 12, 2025 in Bellmore, New York.

If you are planning on attending please let the family know now by texting Jo Papaleo at 516-455-8967.

In your reply, **include your cell phone number** so that the family will be able to compile a contact list. Individuals on that list will receive an official invitation with more details closer to the date.



FRIENDSHIP/REMEMBRANCES COMMITTEE

Norma Ziegel

Condolences Were Sent To:

MaryLynn Conte-Lawe on the death of her husband
Janet and Bruce Davis on the death of their son
Mary Louise Fearson on the death of her son
Ruth Haukeland of the death of her daughter
Ute Johnson on the death of her husband
JoAnn Miles on the death of her mother
Jeanne Miller on the death of her mother
Marilyn Rodahan on the death of her husband
Carla Rueck on the death of her husband

The family of Ann Bruni
The family of Kathryn Centrella
The family of Stan Cutler
The family of Edna Edelstein
The family of Ed Edwards
The family of Margaret Galante
The family of Don Jones
The family of Bob Kovach
The family of Mary Ann Monaco
The family of Vicki Pertrick
The family of Carla Rueck
The Family of Stella Resnick
The family of Winnie Schwartzman
The family of Joyce Shapiro
The Family of Elsie Wikstrom

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

Ann Bruni
Kathryn Centrella
Stan Cutler
Edna Edelstein
Ed Edwards
Margaret Galante
Don Jones
Bob Kovach
Mary Ann Monaco
Vicki Pertrick
Carla Rueck
Stella Resnick
Winnie Schwartzman
Joyce Shapiro
Elsie Wikstrom

Making Strides 2025 – Lisa Idol

This year marks the 23rd year that NYSUT has partnered with The American Cancer Society. Since 2002, the American Cancer Society has been honored to have the New York State United Teachers as a New York State Flagship sponsor for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. Making Strides Against Breast Cancer is the American Cancer Society's signature event to finish the fight against breast cancer. Each October, teams of walkers take to the streets to walk to end this disease. Funds raised support the American Cancer Society's mission against breast cancer through research, education, advocacy and services for patients. The efforts of the union and its members have generated support, energy, awareness, volunteers and more than \$12 million.

In 2024 NYSUT had 176 teams walk during 13 events across the state. In total, over \$300,000 was raised. As you know, this money saves lives and funds the future of cancer research.

This is my third year as a retiree and I am busier than ever! It has been my pleasure to collect the donations from the PWRE for Making Strides. In 2024 the PWRE generously donated \$3,379.00. We walked on Saturday, October 20, 2024. It was a beautiful, clear day with over 77,000 walkers at Jones Beach! Thank you to all who participated in this important event.

Once again, we are asking you to contribute to the program, no later than November 1, by writing a check made out to the American Cancer Society and mailing it to:

Lisa Idol
8 Sandy Hollow Lane
Port Washington, NY 11050

Please remember the 2025 Breast Cancer walk will be held at Jones beach on October 19th.

Thank you so much for your support of this extremely important cause.

Looking Ahead - Mary Anne Cariello

The next four years will be difficult, so we must be vigilant to protect our hard fought rights and benefits. We are reasonably safe in New York State, but there are sure to be battles in Washington, D.C. if plans to eliminate the Department of Education, the Affordable Care Act, the protection of minority rights, and the implementation of a federal ban on abortion are attempted.

If you haven't contributed to VOTE-COPE yet, or you would like to contribute more, please do so, so we can protect ourselves, our rights, and our values. Email Tessa Jordan at tjordan084@aol.com and Tessa will send you a Vote - Cope form.

Your Talent is Requested

The Cow Neck Peninsula Historical Society's "Then & Now" 2nd grade field trip program is looking for a few more teachers to lead some of our morning sessions scheduled during the springtime in our two colonial kitchens. Two teachers work in tandem using artifacts in our kitchens to demonstrate how families used to live and work in the house. Children make butter to eat with their picnic lunch on the porch and may visit the historic barn for a guessing game of tools and outdoor artifacts. For further particulars contact Joan DeMeo Lager at joan@cowneck.org or 516-365-9074.

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Explore Our Website - Barbara Mayer

If you've recently retired, first and foremost, CONGRATULATIONS! You're beginning the next, BEST chapter of your life! What will you do? Where will you go? Some have it all planned out; some aren't sure. Our [PWRE website](#) is here to help!

Not a new retiree, but haven't visited our website yet or lately? Hopefully, I can whet your appetite. Some ideas...

[Challenge Your Mind](#) and/or [Your Body](#)!

[Consumer information](#)

Looking for [Volunteer Opportunities](#)?

Read our PWRE newsletter...[Current](#) or [Archives](#) with editions going all the way back to back to 2009!

Read about PWRE news: [Member Updates](#), [Book Club](#), [Board Meetings](#), and see upcoming events on our [Calendar](#).

Looking for recommendations: [kid-friendly ideas](#), [museums](#), or [books](#) (literally, hundreds!)?

Are you an avid traveler or do you want to be one? Look for [travel information](#) and/or [discounts](#)!

That's just a sampling of the "goodies" on our website. Visit it! And if you don't see what you'd like to see, email me, the webmaster, at blmayer3@gmail.com. I'm always open to suggestions!

Thank You - Erlyn Madonia

I am retiring as editor of the Port of Call! I want to thank all of you who have contributed to this publication over the years. Special thanks goes to: Barbara Mayer, Tessa Jordan and Mary Anne Carriello who are my very patient proof readers. To Sally Reinhardt who became the unofficial photographer for many PWRE events. To Merry Gilbert for Merry-Go-Round. To Norma Zeigel who informs us of Get Well Wishes and Condolences. To Barbara Mayer for the Book Club and award winning website. To Kathy Reilly who keeps us all informed via email. To those of you who plan field trips for us. To Linda Eckardt and her team who puts every issue together and oversees the mailing.

To all of you who contributed an article (s), a poem or sent in a "Hello!" Every contribution helps keep us connected. To Joel at Merrick Printing for doing a great job with every publication.

It has been my pleasure. Please be sure to check in on our amazing, awarding winning web site. Going forward please contribute to and use our website as a resource.

Please consider becoming the next editor of Port of Call!

Hello from Mary Ingnoli

I retired from my job as principal's secretary at Sousa Elementary School in 2008. I moved to upstate NY, just outside Saratoga Springs. Since then I began to live my passion: bringing more nature and spirit into my life.

After years of learning from shamans, energy workers, and spirit communicators, I am now practicing as a Space Clearer. Space Clearing is the act of releasing the accumulated energetic clutter that may be blocking your ability to activate your full potential. After a Space Clearing, balance returns within you and your home. A new sense of clarity and peace can be embodied to attract something new into your life.

I have written a book, using my pen name, to illustrate the ways to bring more magic into your life. It's titled, LIKE MAGIC. To find out more, I have a website: MKClearing.com.



A Hoot for Help - Jim Jones

My name is *Bubo virginianus*, some of your species call me the great horned or 'hoot' owl. By any name, I share Long Island with you, and have done so for thousands of years. Now, I need your help. In the past few weeks, two of my fellow owls have died, one of which was my life-long mate. They did not perish as a result of any of the many natural factors that can kill or injure top predators such as we are; they were poisoned - - - by members of your species. That poison is a rodenticide, a poor name for a chemical that kills far more than rodents; it is an anticoagulant, once ingested by any creature, they slowly bleed to death. And since it does not kill quickly, a mouse or rat can wander around and be eaten by some other - unintended - animal, which will also die in a lengthy agony. That is exactly what happened to my mate. This is what you humans call 'ironic', since the owls that die are doing exactly what you humans are trying to do by using the poison - they are killing rodents, and many of them!



Many of my fellow wild creatures are also at risk, since poisons are what you humans refer to as 'indiscriminate-killers'. Any wild - or domestic - animal that eats mice or rats can suffer the same fate as my fellow 'winged-tigers'; that includes hawks, eagles, foxes, coyotes, weasels and yes, your dog or cat! Is this what you people wanted when you put out those 'black-boxes', and left them unattended? For myself, my owl brethren and all wild creatures, I hope not.

I am often characterized as 'wise' by members of your group, but I actually do have some useful alternatives to using the chemical-fix that humanity seems to accept. For one, let us nocturnal raptors do our job! When I and my now deceased mate nested and raised chicks last year, we killed over 1,000 rats and mice! Owls of all kinds do not make their own nests, so help us help you by erecting nest boxes or nesting cones (I know some local naturalists that study us that can assist in the process). Also, clean up your act. Humans all too often leave food out-and-about; if you fail to keep your areas clean, opportunistic rodents will be quite happy to enjoy the bounty. And, spring traps are very effective, they kill even more quickly than my talons. Although I do not like to share my food resources with another predator, cats can be very effective 'mousers' (just be certain to avoid letting them roam free to kill any of my feathered friends).

If we work together, Long Island can be a safe haven for all of its inhabitants. Nature does, indeed, know better. Chemical fixes are almost always a bad idea, and are often detrimental to top predators, like yours truly. Please let us live our lives, and we will be certain to bring wonder to yours. In the language of great horned owls - - - Hoot, hoo, hoo - - - hoot, hooo! (translation - don't poison owls, help owls)

Gerry Izzo on ABC News

American Victory Ship Turns 80., Tampa, Florida

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/american-victory-ship-turns-80-223555088.html?guccounter=1>





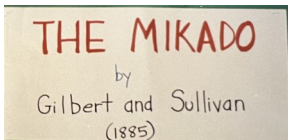
Merry-Go-Round by Merry Gilbert

OPERAtunities –

Chapter One: The back story

Music teacher Bonnie Utzig speaks:

In the early 1990's I wanted to introduce my students to the world of opera through active participation rather than simply sitting in a chair in the classroom listening to a recording. And so "OPERAtunity" was born. My fifth and sixth grade students read kid-friendly versions of the libretto for Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta, *The Mikado*, and were immediately drawn into the silly story that takes place in Japan. Their response was so positive that they happily wore costumes, used props, and some even created their own choreography. One of those sixth grade students, Alex Boyer, had already proven he could sing quite well in the choral program at Manorhaven. He also sang in both the All-District and All-County choruses. In the classroom version of *The Mikado*, Alex skillfully sang the part of "Nanki-Poo" the wandering minstrel as he strolled about the music classroom.



Who would have dreamed that some 30 years later, in March 2025, Alex would become an accomplished professional tenor making his debut at the Metropolitan Opera in NYC at Lincoln Center.

BRAVO Alex!!



Chapter Two

PEP Teacher Mrs. Gilbert's turn:

Fast forward 30 years or so. On March 13th 2025 I received a call from Alex, my former PEP student, (with whom I'd kept in touch on Facebook) that he would be performing in the Metropolitan Opera's production of *Moby Dick* in the role of Ahab, for whom he had been understudying. Too bad you can't hear the thunderous sound of my little teacher heart beating with pride and joy. It was tremendously thrilling to see and hear him on that stage!! The following day, this review on bachtrack.com appeared:

"Alex made a strong company debut in the challenging role - with weighty and beautiful tone, Boyer convincingly conveyed the maniacal captain's vehemence and anguish while hobbling around on stage on a belted peg-leg."

On the following day, I asked him about his early introduction to opera.

"The combination of music, visuals, and costumes appealed to me and it was fun!"

He relates his grown-up story. In his own words, which he allows me to use here:

"I considered something that would offer easier time as a major which would have been a more legitimate choice. I considered musical theatre, but it meant having to dance."

Alex studied voice at Boston University and the Manhattan School of Music. And so....



Lies About Social Security - Mary Anne Cariello

A number of lies are being told about Social Security in an effort to discredit it. One is that SS is just a Ponzi Scheme. The truth is that SS is an insurance program. Workers and employers pay in, money is put in the Social Security Trust Fund, and it is paid out when due. Social Security has a Board of Trustees and professional actuaries who report on the health of the Trust Fund every year. It is solvent and has never missed a payment in 89 years

Another lie is that there is a massive amount of fraud in Social Security. In 2024 Social Security's inspector general confirmed that fraud was not widespread, concluding that less than 1% of the payments that went out between 2015 and 2022 were improper. Social Security has several internal systems to find and reduce fraud.

A third lie is that Social Security makes up a majority of federal spending. Social security does not contribute to the deficit. It is a separate program from general federal spending. Its funding is from workers and employers, trust fund interest, and beneficiaries with high incomes.

A fourth lie deals with the fact that government databases list 4.7 million Social Security members from ages 100 to 109. However, fewer than 100,00 Americans over the age of 100 receive benefits. This is about the same number of people that the U.S. Census says that have reached that age. There are safeguards to ensure that deceased people do not continue to receive benefits. Funeral directors notify the SS Administration of deaths immediately, and the agency automatically stops payments for individuals 115 or older.

Another lie is that Democrats use Social Security to attract illegal immigrants and have them stay in the country. The truth is that undocumented immigrants are not allowed to collect Social Security benefits and cannot vote in elections. But many undocumented immigrants have Social Security taxes taken from their pay, so that in 2022, these deductions added about \$25 million to the Social Security Trust Fund.

Finally, Social Security has the funds to meet its obligations. Current trustees report that there is a 3.5% revenue shortfall over the next 25 years. The simple solution is to increase revenue over time by making the rich pay their fair share.

Don't be taken in by lies just because they are repeated over and over again. The truth is in the facts.

Source: Alliance for Retired Americans

Hello from Sally Reinhardt



We had a great gathering of PW Retirees in Florida in February. I organized it and we had a wonderful reunion. It was so good to see everyone!

Below are Sousa Jr. High retirees. Sousa closed as a Jr. High School over 40 years ago.





2025 Meeting Dates

Port Washington Retired Educators Chapter

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

PLEASE NOTE: Checks for contributions to the PWTAscholarship 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

You may also use Zelle - check with your bank - It would be listed as:
PWTA Retired Educators. Put the name of the honoree in memo.

PORT WASHINGTON
RETIRED EDUCATORS CHAPTER, PWTA
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