

BREA NEWS

www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/

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September/October 2019

BREA Meetings

BREA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month (except for August), at 1 p.m. in one of the conference rooms in Bldg. 400 (except where noted).

All BREA members are invited to attend and participate.

Meeting Schedule

September 10, 2019

October 8, 2019

November 12, 2019

BREA Officers

President

Steve Shapiro
shapiro@bnl.gov

Vice President

Bob Kinsey
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Secretary

Arnold Moodenbaugh
moodenba@optonline.net

Treasurer

Lillian Kouchinsky
lkouchin@yahoo.com

* * *

Newsletter Editor

Mona S. Rowe
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BREA members travel abroad to Cuba, Norway, New Zealand & Africa; see pages 2-3. Right, inland Norway; below, New Zealand coast.



From the President

by Steve Shapiro, shapiro@bnl.gov

Dear Fellow BREA Members,

The summer is nearly over and fall is approaching. I hope all of you had a good summer, doing some traveling, taking care of grandchildren or just 'chilling' out near home. After the pause in August, we will continue our monthly BREA meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The next one is September 10 at 1 p.m. in Bldg. 400. If you can't make the meeting in person, there is a call-in number you will receive with the agenda. It's a good chance to become active in BREA and connect with your fellow members.

I was away with my wife in Sweden for a good part of the summer (see inside pages for more on international travel). When I came back and entered the Lab, I was surprised to see so much construction at the entrance. It's for a new traffic circle along the road to the main gate, which will allow access to the main site and the future Discovery Park (DP). DP has been talked about for many years, and the first planned building, a science and user support center, will be completed by 2023. When the full scope of the project is realized, it will be the biggest change to BNL since Camp Upton became a national laboratory and will further enhance the greatness of the Lab. You can learn more about DP from the public website: <https://discoverypark.bnl.gov/>.

– Steve Shapiro, shapiro@bnl.gov

Visiting Cuba – Just in Time!

by Anita Cohen



After U.S.-Cuba relations were restored in 2015, my husband Marty Van Lith and I knew we wanted to go to the long-forbidden island. But we also knew that it probably couldn't happen, given my multiple sclerosis and Cuba's general lack of accessibility. That changed when Marty learned about Pearl Seas Cruises offering an 11-night voyage circumnavigating Cuba on the Pearl Mist, a ship with fewer than 200 passengers. We sailed from Fort Lauderdale on February 22, 2019.

Cuba is a gorgeous island, and its people are eager to learn more about America. Cuba has been a communist country since 1959, and its revolution is still glorified throughout the country. But we were there on a cultural voyage, as “people-to-people ambassadors,” not officially



Touring Havana in a 1955 Chevy

tourists. In each of the cities we visited, we engaged in a cultural interaction with the Cuban people – moving encounters for all involved. Yes, accessibility was an issue, especially the huge cobblestones that formed most streets in the smaller cities. But the Cuban tour guides and our ship's crew helped passengers with mobility issues participate in most activities.



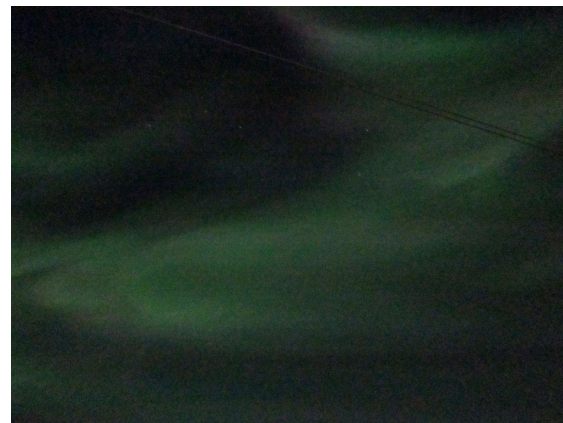
On the Pearl Mist, food and drink were never-ending, staterooms were spacious, entertainment was delightful, and our fellow passengers were great company. On our last night, my birthday eve, Marty arranged a champagne and cake surprise – a wonderful end to a fantastic trip!

In June, the U.S. tightened laws restricting travel to Cuba; American cruise ships can no longer dock there.

Exploring Norway

by Leslie G. Fishbone

Motivated primarily by a desire to see the Aurora Borealis, also known as the Northern Lights, my wife, Leslie Weitzner, and I took a cruise along the coast of Norway during January. The ship took us beyond the Arctic Circle and into the latitudes where – during winter – there is no direct daytime sunlight and long nights, and thus a reasonable chance of seeing the Aurora. (While this year is close to the minimum of the eleven-year solar cycle, reducing that chance, waiting five years was not a good option for us.) Fortunately, we saw the Aurora three times, once from our cruise ship and twice during bus excursions.



Generally the ship cruised at night and docked during the day, when we could go on excursions. Our most interesting was to a reindeer herd inland. The reindeer are owned by people of the Sami culture. In contrast to the relatively mild climate on the coast caused by the Gulf Stream, inland was really cold. So the highlight of the excursion, a ride on a sled pulled by reindeer, required heavy blankets (photo on page 1). After the ride, our group gathered in a lavvu (large tepee-like tent) for a traditional feast of – yes – reindeer stew! It tasted like beef stew.



After our cruise finished in Bergen, we traveled by train across southern Norway to its capital, Oslo. One notable attraction there is the the Nobel Peace Center, a museum that commemorates the winners of the Nobel Peace Prize. While the other Nobel prizes are awarded by Swedish organizations, the Peace Prize is awarded by a committee of the Norwegian Parliament; it is conferred in a ceremony at the Oslo City Hall.



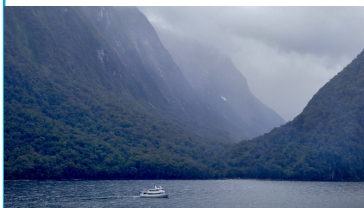
New Zealand on a Cruise by Janet Tempel

Joe D'Ambra and I journeyed to New Zealand on a cruise that stopped at wonderful towns and cities on both the North and South Islands. I fell in love with NZ, the people and the beauty of the islands. Our experiences included a personal look at sheep farming – a very hardy husband and wife team who broke out the dogs to herd the sheep up and down the beautiful hills. Truly a South Pacific landscape on this South Island farm outside Akoroa. The dogs were so well trained and anxious to please their master. The sheep were not so well pleased. The dogs

brought four sheep into the barn and you could see they knew something not fun was about to happen. The farmer dragged one poor sheep out of the pen and commenced shearing. In two shakes, the deed was done and the sheep was naked. His friends gave him a few sniffs and you could just laugh at the antics! Wool, however, is not a profit making part of the farming – strictly meat (no potatoes). Leaving there, we stopped to feast on green-lipped mussels – wow!

To the far west out of Auckland, we viewed thousands of nesting Gannets on a rocky outcrop that was swept by winds from Antarctica (photo on page 1).

Driving around, we discovered trees banded to prevent possums from climbing up and defoliating them. Possum fur has a hollow core, making it lightweight, but warm. One way of cutting down on the population is to make sweaters from the fur. So I bought one; my contribution to saving trees!



The scenery is magnificent. The island charms change from pastoral to cities hanging over bays and coves. Wellington clings to the hills on two sides of the harbor, misty waterfalls appear on giant hillsides, wild water surrounds much of the coast. The food is wonderful, the people charming and friendly. Hint – it is a 24-hour flight from Long Island. So we stopped in Hawaii on the way out (wonderful) and Tahiti on the way back (yuk – but that's another story).

On Our Bucket List: Africa by Steve Shapiro

My wife, Annika, and I decided to do one item on our bucket list and go to Africa in February. We traveled with a small Gate 1 Travel (recommended!) group of 12 persons. The itinerary included four days in Cape Town, a safari at the Mabula game preserve, and a tour of Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe.

Among the many sites near Cape Town – Table Mountain, Robben Island, Cape of Good Hope – our favorite was the multicultural area of Bo Kapp, which was settled by the Dutch and housed many slaves brought from Malaysia, Indonesia and other parts of Africa. This historic area is known for its multi-colored houses, which was an expression of freedom after the abolition of slavery in the British Empire.



After Cape Town we went to the Mabula Game Preserve, which is a 30,000-acre private reserve. We went out in jeep like vehicles four times either early in the morning (5:30 a.m.) and late in the afternoon in search of the big five: rhino, elephant, water buffalo, lion and leopard. Unfortunately, we saw only the first three. I am not showing any photos of animals, because I took the advice of a trusted source who said, "You will waste a lot of time trying to get the "perfect" shot, and you can download better photos from the internet. It is best to gaze at these beautiful creatures and let the images imprint on your brain."



The most spectacular part of our journey was the visit to Victoria Falls on the Zambia/Zimbabwe border. In his search for the origins of the Nile, David Livingston was the first European to discover these falls, which are 354 feet high – twice that of Niagara Falls – and over a mile wide. I took a helicopter ride over the falls, which amplified the greatness by a hundred fold.

It was a wonderful trip!

Renew BREA Membership

Membership expires on December 31 of every year no matter when you paid your dues (which are requested by January 31 of the following year). To stay on BREA's mailing list, complete the form below and mail it to me along with your payment. Include your email address so BREA can send you timely information.

If you have questions or if your contact info has changed, email me at hellobylin@yahoo.com.

PLEASE PRINT

Last name: _____ First name: _____ MI: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Membership type:

annual (\$10) 5 years (\$40) Life (\$95)

Date: _____ Check amount: _____

MAKE YOUR CHECK OUT TO BREA

I want to receive BREA News by mail via the U.S. Post Office.

I want to receive BREA News by email only. Do not mail it to me via the U.S. Post Office.

Mail form and check (made out to BREA) to:

Beth Lin, BREA Membership Chair
81 Westchester Drive
Rocky Point, NY 11778

– Beth Lin, Membership Chair
hellobylin@yahoo.com

In Memoriam

We deeply regret to inform you of the passing of the following retirees and former employees. Certain individuals died many years ago. Thank you to Bill Bockelmann (mapmanLI@aol.com), who passed on their names to BREA so that we could add them to our In Memoriam list.

Robert A. Aikman Jr., 79, March 2, 2011
John J. Coccorese, 55, September 15, 2011
Eleanor Carman Dahl, 88, June 12, 2019
Joe Guiffree, 57, April 10, 2004
Peter D. Horton, 76, August 10, 2019
Anna Kuczynski, 95, July 4, 2019
Glenn A. Price, 96, February 12, 2019
Eugene C. Raka, 94, July 26, 2019
Alan T. Raphael, 60, November 21, 2011
Robert Stauber, 64, June 7, 2003
Abass Wesson, 75, April 29, 2019

More information may be found at BREA's website: www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea.

To post an obituary for a deceased BNL employee or retiree, email information to msrowe.hi@gmail.com or mail it to BREA (see panel below for address).

Sign up for Senior Aqua Fit!

12 Wednesdays, Sept. 11 - Dec. 11, 9:45 a.m., \$150
Contact: ccarter@bnl.gov or (631) 344-5090
No classes 10/9 and 11/27

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association

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Upton, NY 11973

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