

BREA NEWS

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

Volume 20, Issue 4

July/August 2020

BREA Meetings

BREA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month (except for August), at 1 p.m. All BREA members are invited to participate. ***As long as the BNL site continues to be closed to retirees, BREA may arrange an alternate mode of communication. Watch for email notices.***

Meeting Schedule

July 14, 2020 ***via video link, BNL site closed to retirees***

August 2020 ***no meeting***

September 8, 2020

BREA Officers

President

Arnold Moodenbaugh
moodenba@optonline.net

Vice President

Lillian Kouchinsky
lkouchin@yahoo.com

Secretary

Pat Flood
pat@leonhardts.com

Treasurer

Leslie G. Fishbone
lgfishbonenn@gmail.com

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Newsletter Editor

Mona S. Rowe
msrowe.hi@gmail.com

From the President

by Arnie Moodenbaugh, moodenba@optonline.net

To fellow BREA Members,

Greetings! BREA continues to be active during the Covid 19 pandemic. The newsletter is being published online and emailed to most of you. We're printing and mailing copies only to members with no email address on file. We did not meet in April, but used Zoom for the May and June meetings, which each had about 20 to 30 attendees from across the country.



BREA meeting online in May using Zoom

The Zoom meeting on July 14, 1 p.m. (EDT) will be smoother than before because we will use an upgraded account. You can attend meetings at no cost. To participate, however, you must have a computer or smart phone with video and audio capabilities. I recommend that you join the scheduled meeting a few minutes early. Go to <https://zoom.us/join>. If you have never joined a Zoom meeting, Zoom will first download an application to your device. The meeting announcement – with meeting ID, password and agenda – will be emailed on or about July 8. Instructions to join the meeting will be repeated there.

At our June meeting BREA members approved a \$5,000 donation to the food bank Long Island Cares. (I note that we also received many positive responses from members who did not attend the meeting.) In late June we mailed the check to LI Cares, along with a letter on behalf of BREA members. The following is an excerpt from the letter.

“Our organization, the Brookhaven Retired Employees Association (BREA), consists of over 300 retirees from Brookhaven Lab. BNL is managed by Brookhaven Science Associates under a contract with the U.S. Department of Energy. We take great pride in the many wonderful science and technology achievements of the Laboratory

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Covid-19: More Reports from BREA Members



Diane Greenberg, retired and home in Wading River, NY

When I retired, my daughter bought me watercolor lessons at a local studio. I like painting because it is relaxing. Until the pandemic hit I was taking a weekly class in Shoreham run by Brookhaven Town. I still consider myself a beginner. At left is a painting I did recently and titled "Remembering Georgia O'Keefe."

I have also been attending monthly meetings on Zoom of Peconic Bay Zonta, a local nonprofit group that aims to improve the status of women. Recently, to honor me as the outgoing president of the group, its members gave me a lovely art book, "Painting the Colors of Nature: A Watercolorist's Guide" by Karen Simmons. It has many beautiful photos that I can try to copy, or I can use the author's color theory when painting. I've been spending a lot of time right here in my yard this summer.

From Steve Musolino, teleworking for BNL

Working from home turned out much better than I ever imagined. With the ability to do web meetings, I do almost everything I do normally and without the distractions of the office. In some ways it has been more productive. In some circles it has improved attendance in meetings in part because no one was traveling. I typically spend over a month a year on the road. While I do not miss the wear and tear from traveling, I do miss the people at the destinations. It's getting old stuck in the house!

I'm a scientist in BNL's Nonproliferation and National Security Department, working in radiological and nuclear-emergency response. Remember the Fukushima nuclear accident after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan? I coordinate a team of deployable radiation protection experts from DOE who would again join and support the US Agency for International Development (USAID) but next time in an expanded role and with dedicated equipment. If another situation like that happened, we likely would be part of a global effort to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief but, again, where the mission is complicated by radiation.

Day to day, though, it's more routine – not that the scenarios are routine! I helped develop guidance for first responders in the first 100 minutes after detonation of a terrorist device meant to spread radiation. Now I'm contributing to a similar document on guidance for the first 72 hours after a nuclear detonation. Both projects are supported by the research and development arm of the Department of Homeland Security. Here are two links.

- About USAID: <https://www.usaid.gov/>
- "First 100 minutes" video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDOQApRmk5Q&list=PLPaVPPbYHq_i2MtwprSSdsjI9LcJsB6hZ



From Mark Israel, retired and home in Miller Place

Greetings everyone. Hope this finds you all in good health and being safe as our Long Island area begins to slowly and safely open up in a phased-in manner. Personally, I've been playing it safe during the pandemic and staying in with my wife, Ronni, most of the time. And, if we do have to go out for anything, or feel like walking or getting some fresh air, we wear masks and practice appropriate social distancing.

I've been winding down my tax and accounting practice over the past several years. This year, many clients have put off their tax filings until the delayed July 15 deadline. Most of my time has been assisting my small business clients with obtaining EIDL grants and PPP loan financing offered by the Small Business Administration under the CARES Act. Dealing with them remotely has been quite a challenge.



Mark and Ronni Israel on a Southern Caribbean cruise early this year

My representation of BREA on the Lab's Community Advisory Council (CAC) has continued, but the meetings have been conducted using BlueJeans, which is approved by DOE because it is more secure than Zoom and some other online applications. Here is a brief update on the past two CAC meetings.

May 14, 2020

- Demolition of stack used for HFBR and BGRR: The selected method will start at the top and grind brick and mortar down into the stack, all the while containing any waste in place. Due to Covid-19, the project has been delayed but is expected to be completed by late fall/early winter.

- NSLS-II and coronavirus research: Newsday did a wonderful video that features this work at NSLS-II: https://www.newsday.com/opinion/bnl-coronavirus-1.44794477?utm_source=tw_nd

June 11, 2020

- Environmental update on emerging contaminants: BNL will soon complete characterization of PFAS (firefighting foam) and 1,4-Dioxane (common solvent).

- Computational science support for DOE Covid-19 response: BNL's supercomputers are being used for computational drug discovery, Covid research evaluation, epidemiology, and building a coronavirus archive.

From Susan Eng Wong, teleworking for BNL

My routine has not really changed. I can do anything at home that I do at work. That's because through VPN (Virtual Private Network), my home device has secure access to BNL's internal network. VPN allows me to send and receive data from my home computer as if it were directly connected to the BNL internal network. It's like I'm sitting at my desk on site, working directly on my office computer.

Working at home, though, I do not have more spare time. So weekends are still precious. I like walking and biking around my community for fresh air, and anything that you normally buy at a store can easily be purchased online and delivered to your front door. Being home-bound has not affected me in a negative way since I am a bit of a homebody. That said, however, I look forward to returning to "normal" because, although I have adapted well, this lifestyle is NOT normal.

I'm active in BERA's Asian Pacific American Association (APAA). Our "Asian Food-Tasting" fundraisers and participation in the Port Jefferson "Dragon Boat Race Festival" (the photo shows our race crew in 2018) may be on hold due to the pandemic. Also, we are now accepting applications for the Dr. Mow Shiah Lin Scholarship online. An unforeseen benefit is that we are receiving applications sooner!

APAA is one of seven Employee Resource Groups (also known as ERGs, affinity groups or business network groups) at the Lab. These employee-led groups – based on shared characteristics or life experiences – provide support, enhance career development, and foster diversity, inclusion, and equity in the workplace. As an ERG, APAA meets with senior leadership to discuss topics in support of DOE and BNL goals to advance inclusion and diversity at the Lab.



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 BNL and DOE retirees.

Ernest David Courant, 100, April 21, 2020
Bryan Culwick, 88, February 7, 2020
George F. Dell, Jr. (Fritz), 88, May 5, 2020
Richard Diem, 73, April 22, 2020
Carole Saurino, 81, May 17, 2020
Morris Strongson, 77, April 16, 2020

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 the panel below for BREA's address).

President's Message (continued)

and are hopeful that current efforts by Brookhaven staff will help mitigate the effects of COVID-19. Our membership has approved a donation of \$5,000 to Long Island Cares. This money comes from BREA member dues and personal donations."

BNL is preparing for a gradual reopening. The plan is outlined at <https://www.bnl.gov/COVID19/>. Guest workers are limited, and retirees are not permitted on site. The extent of the effort to make these needed changes is apparent. BNL is using "BlueJeans" software to host online meetings, including seminars.

Please attend BREA's Zoom meeting on July 14 at 1 p.m. (EDT). We would like a large turnout!

Best wishes.

– Arnie Moodenbaugh, moodenba@optonline.net

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association

BREA c/o BERA

Brookhaven National Laboratory

Bldg. 400 Brookhaven Avenue

Upton, NY 11973

Phone: (631) 344-5090

Email: BREA@bnl.gov

Web: <https://www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/>

