

# BREA Newsletter

## Election Edition

Volume 3, Number 1

February 17, 2004

### New Officers Nominated

#### Dates to Save:

- May 27, 2004: BREA luncheon/reunion.
- March 4, 2004: Eric Forsyth film.

(This is a repeat of the standard election comment) You probably noticed that this is an election, but there is only a single candidate for each position. We are not a “banana republic”, this simply reflects the difficulty of finding people willing to serve. The voting rule for this election will be that a candidate is elected if that candidate receives a positive vote on a majority of the ballots returned. The office will be left open until another election if a candidate does not get this majority. Note that returning a ballot, but not voting for a candidate is the equivalent of a “NO” vote. See next pages for information on the candidates. To vote:

1. Detach the last page of this ballot and mark your selections.
2. Fold that page in half so that the address of the BREA office is on the outside and tape it closed (the post office asks that you use tape, not staples).
3. Put a stamp on it.
4. Mail it.

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### FROM THE (NEW) PRESIDENT

This is our first newsletter since October 2000. The BREA Executive Board nominated a new slate of officers in September 2003 and we have been meeting monthly since then.

We are planning a luncheon on May 27th at Villa Lombardi's and are hosting a talk by

Eric Forsythe at Berkner Hall on March 4th. Look for an invitation to attend the luncheon soon. A new group of recently retired employees have joined the BREA Executive Board and are helping make these things happen.

David Cox has taken over as membership chair and as

his first task has brought our membership database up-to-date. We currently have over 600 members in our database. Renee Flack is coordinating plans for our luncheon in May. Elliot Auerbach is gathering information on the new legislation covering Medicare benefits. In addition,

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## Computer Woes

We had a close call with the BREA membership database. Serious disk problems led to the replacing of our computer system. We have restored the membership database to the best of our abilities, but are unsure if the result is really up-to-date and complete.

If you receive this newsletter, you are in the database (obviously—since we use it to make up the mailing labels). But our problem is

identifying anyone we may have missed. We thought of simply asking anyone that did not get the newsletter to let us know. But the flaw in this approach is obvious! So we have put a note in the BNL Bulletin about the problem. If you know or hear of anyone that did not get this newsletter, please let us know. We can be contacted at:

BREA  
Bldg. 475C

Upton, NY 11973  
or by telephone at  
(631) 344-2707.

We have two classes of membership in BREA, full and associate members. Full members are retirees or employees on long term disability, and their spouses (note this includes surviving spouses). Associate members are all others interesting in joining our community.

## Reserve the Date!

May 27 for a reunion lunch. More information to follow. See the Bulletin.

## From the President (cont'd):

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tion, longer-term members of the BREA board continue to help us.

The BREA board meets monthly at BNL in Building 475. The BREA office is located in that building as well. We would like to see more members attend our board meetings. If you are interested in attending, please send email to [tichler@bnl.gov](mailto:tichler@bnl.gov) or leave voicemail at the BREA office at 344-2707.

Paul Michael has been doing a great job maintaining the BREA web site at [www.brea.bnl.gov](http://www.brea.bnl.gov).

[brea.bnl.gov](http://www.brea.bnl.gov). Please look there for news of the organization.

One of the things you will note on the web site is a series of links to the web sites of other national lab retiree organization. Please look at these and see if any of these organizations are involved in activities you would like to see BREA take up.

Graham Campbell, Barney McAlary (former presidents of BREA) and I met with Bill Hempfling, head of Human Resources and later with Praveen Chaudhari, BNL's new Director. Gra-

ham, Barney and I told Hempfling and Chaudhari about future BREA plans and also alerted them to retirees' concerns about possible changes in benefits because of the new legislation recently passed by Congress. We will maintain contact with both of these folks as things evolve. Both Hempfling and Chaudhari have accepted our invitation to attend the BREA luncheon in May. We hope to see many of you there and to hear from you about your interests and concerns in the meantime.

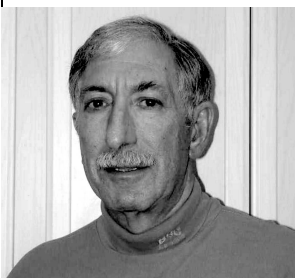
## The Candidates

### President - Joyce Tichler



Joyce retired from BNL in September 2001. She worked at the lab from 1961-1963 in the Applied Mathematics Department. During that period of time she developed computer programs for the High Energy Physics group. She returned to the lab in 1972. She worked in the Department of Applied Science. During the 1990's she led the Scientific Information Systems Group within the Department of Environmental Sciences. She was also active in Brookhaven Women in Science (BWIS).

### Vice President - Lew Jacobson



Lew retired September 30, 1995 after a 33-year career with BNL. Prior to joining Plant Engineering as the Electrical Engineer in their Special Projects Group in 1970, Lew worked on the Cosmotron and AGS. Assignments within Plant Engineering in addition to engineering projects, included; 20 years as their Safety Coordinator up until retirement, serving as the laboratory's first Energy Management Coordinator and establishing Plant Engineering's Maintenance Management program and serving as it's first Coordinator.

### Secretary - Alyce Daly



Alyce started working at BNL in November 1963, when she was hired to work at Sigma Center (now the National Nuclear Data Center). After many years with NNDC, she transferred to the Hazardous Waste Management operation, and she retired as a Senior Computer Applications Specialist from that position in 1995. In addition to her work with BREA, she is also active in the local Brookhaven Business & Professional Women's Club, and serves as President of Business & Professional Women International / New York.

### Treasurer - Barney McAlary



Prior to his retirement as Business Manager in 1996, Barney had responsibility for three Administrative Divisions, Fiscal Division, Supply and Materiel, and the Staff Services Division. His duties also included managing the \$50 million Work For Others program of the Laboratory. He has an MS from Long Island University, BS from New York University, and is a Certified Public Accountant. He resides in Wading River with his wife Jean.

## Introducing the new Membership Chairman—Dave Cox



Dave was a senior scientist in the Physics Department prior to his retirement at the end of 1999, after 36 years of service at the laboratory. His research work was carried out mostly at the HFBR and the NSLS, where he participated in numerous collaborative studies with research groups from around the world. He resides in the village of Bellport with his wife, Martine O'Connor, who worked in the Medical Department for many years until her departure in 1989.

## PERCEPTION AND REALITY – THE “FADED STAR” INTERVIEW

By David Cox (Physics Department 1963-2000)

Many Brookhaven retirees may have been concerned about a recent article in the “Science” section of the New York Times that appeared on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2003, under the headline “A Conversation with Praveen Chaudhari - New Chief at Physics Lab Tries to Polish Fading Star”. In this article, Claudia Dreyfus described an interview with lab director Dr. Praveen Chaudhari, previously a vice-president at IBM, who succeeded Dr. John Marburger earlier in the year. When asked “What was it about heading Brookhaven that intrigued you?” Dr. Chaudhari was quoted as saying “Like many people at private labs and at universities, I had this preconception of the national labs as places where second-class science was being done. I thought, if that is true, then here is an opportunity to try something challenging”.

In the November 11<sup>th</sup> issue of the Newsletter of the Brookhaven Organization of Scientists it was stated that this interview was “widely considered to have had a major negative impact at the Laboratory and in the Community”, and that in a memo sent on October 24<sup>th</sup>, the Brookhaven Council had expressed their deep

concern about the perception that “...the director views the laboratory as a second-rate institution....It is even more distressing that the director would highlight this negative perception in an interview with the press. We cannot see that the public expression of this opinion is in any way helpful to the Laboratory, while the negative impact it may have on our reputation and morale is obvious.... We encourage you to find an appropriate way to clarify your position to the BNL staff...”.

In the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Memo, Dr. Chaudhari acknowledged that several employees had informed him that they were unhappy with the way in which Brookhaven had been portrayed in recent news articles, and offered some further comments.

“...In response, I would say that I have only been honest about the perceptions that I had about the national laboratory system before coming to Brookhaven, perceptions that were shared by many of my colleagues at universities and industrial laboratories. Those perceptions have certainly changed since I started here in April and learned more about the researchers and the research being conducted at Brookhaven....There are

many excellent scientists and numerous examples of superb research...We must all try to understand the perception of the world outside the Laboratory, because it is that perception, and the things that have led to that perception, that we wish to change...”.

In response to this clarification, the BOS Newsletter noted that “What seems to be missing here is Director Chaudhari’s vision of a path to correct the perception ‘of the national labs as places where second-class science was being done’, if indeed it is a common perception as Dr. Chaudhari suggests. It would seem that statements such as he made in the Times interview are not the way to correct that perception, but serve rather to further it”.

In the light of this controversy, it is gratifying to learn that Dr. Raymond Orbach, Director of DOE’s Office of Science, apparently does not share Dr. Chaudhari’s perceptions, for in the November 21<sup>st</sup> issue of the Brookhaven Bulletin, Dr. Orbach is quoted as saying “The quality of this laboratory is, internationally, on the highest level....It is an asset, not just to the United States, but truly for

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Place stamp  
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Bldg 475C  
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the world". He went on to praise BNL's extraordinary work in areas such as biology and medical imaging, and at facilities including RHIC, the AGS, and the NSLS.

The image of the laboratory as a second-rate institution is surely not one that most retirees would share, nor a legacy to be proud of. One need look no further than the report "From Fifty to the Future - Brookhaven National Laboratory, 1947-1997" to appreciate the outstanding scientific contributions made by the laboratory staff, past and present, and it is refreshing to hear the very positive comments from Dr. Orbach about his perception of the laboratory at the present time.

#### **REMINDER**

**Eric Forsyth will present a talk and film on his latest cruise,**

**"ROUND THE WORLD THE WAY OF THE CLIPPER SHIPS, 2002-2003"**

**The event will be at noon on Thursday, March 4, 2004 at Berkner Hall.**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**BREA LUNCHEON**

**MAY 27, 2004, 12 - 4**

**VILLA LOMBARDI'S**

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BNL Retired Employees Association  
Bldg. 475C  
PO Box 5000  
Upton, NY 11973-5000

**FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED**

President - Joyce Tichler

Vice President - Lew Jacobson

Secretary - Alyce Daly

Treasurer - Barney McAlary