

BREA News



Volume 6, Issue 1

May 9, 2006

BREA Business Meetings

There are BREA business meetings monthly in building 475, room 82. All BREA members are invited to attend. We would like your participation in our meetings.

BREA Business Meeting Schedule

- May 15 (Tuesday)
- June 13 (Tuesday)
- July 11 (Tuesday)

No meeting in August. In general, on the second Tuesday of every month.

BREA Officers

PRESIDENT:
Myron Strongin
Vice President:
Arnold Peskin
Treasurer:
Ken Mohring
Secretary:
Kathy Einfeldt
Membership Chairman:
Dave Cox
Newsletter Editor:
Graham Campbell

PARTY TIME

Do you remember this reunion? BREA is once again preparing a reunion luncheon for BNL retirees and friends. Come catch up with old

friends. Save Tuesday June 6 for the luncheon at the Bellport Country Club. A flyer and reservation form is included in this newsletter.



OPTIONS

One of the most enjoyable things about retirement is the options that open up to you when you are no longer tied to a job. When you have worked out the finances so that you can retire (a big job, but that is another story), you have an option about where you want to live. Other options about alternate careers, alternate vacations, etc. also open up, but this issue of the newsletter will concentrate on living choices.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members:
It is a great honor to be President of BREA. I am not a very outgoing person, so please don't get upset if I don't say much. Actually, you should be happy that I don't say much. I expect to spend a significant amount of time understanding the issue of budgets and funding in the DOE complex,

and how to make sure retiree's benefits are not compromised due to budget cuts at a time when medical costs are rising so rapidly. I think the next most important topic is to invite speakers who can help us with planning our retirement years, and we are organizing a presentation on retirement housing sometime

in June. Any retiree should feel free to attend meetings on the second Tuesday of the month and, of course, is welcome to send in ideas they have for speakers or issues we should address. See you on June 6.
Best Regards,
Myron

I have a few statistics for you. First, it seems that BREA members tend to stay put! Of our 499 currently listed members, the breakdown by state follows.

Within NY, 335

members have stayed on LI within the 117 and 119 ZIP code areas.

WHERE WE LIVE DAVE COX

One fact I found very surprising was that there are only 3 members resident in Manhattan! So much for the appeal of the Big Apple! (I told Joyce that when she and Paul moved last year, they tripled the BREA representation there).

NY	363
FL	50
NC	14
SC	9
MA and VA	6 each
AZ, CA, and MD	5 each
CT, NH, PA, TX, VT, and WA	4 each
ME, NJ, and NM	3 each
GA and OR	2 each
AL, TN, and UT	1 each

A MOVE TO MANHATTAN JOYCE TICHLER

Last August (2005), Paul and I moved to Manhattan. From 1968 to 2004, we had lived in a house that was the right size when our children lived home. However, our children have been gone for a number of years and the two of us remained in this large house. We decided that we wanted to sell the house because maintaining it was getting to be burdensome. We no longer wanted to do most of the maintenance work ourselves and didn't always find it easy to find competent help. Furthermore, it seemed a bit silly to have two people living in a 5 bedroom, 3 bathroom house. We also had been thinking of moving somewhere that did not necessitate driving to get most places. Paul's peripheral neuropathy was making driving difficult for him.

We decided to do this "downsizing" in two stages. When we sold the house (we found buyers the first day we put the house on the market), we would move to a rental town house that was not very far from our house. Thus, we would only have to deal with getting rid of furniture and could delay the second stage, moving

somewhere where everything was new. We had found an acceptable town house, prior to selling our home. We signed a one-year lease and began looking at apartments in Manhattan about half way through the year.

We explored a number of neighborhoods in Manhattan and ended up on the west side of Manhattan, overlooking the Hudson River. We had again decided to rent. The real estate prices in the city as elsewhere seemed so inflated in comparison to the rentals that this seemed a good move given our stage of life. (If we were younger we might have been tempted to buy in the expectation of long-term appreciation in value.)

We have been very happy with our move. We sold both our cars and rely on public transportation and taxis. Public transportation in New York City is wonderful. We find that we use buses more than we use the subway. The buses seem to go all over and work well if you are not in a hurry. We have found new doctors and new places to get our hair cut. We have learned that groceries and take-out food and much else can be delivered. We do

a lot more walking than we did out on the island. We go to the theater much more often than we used to and I go to a lot more operas. We are fortunate in being near first-rate movie theaters as well as Lincoln Center. Because we chose to live on a street facing the Hudson River, our neighborhood is a bit away from the normal Manhattan "hustle and bustle". We also love to walk in Riverside Park along the river.

I don't think our move to Manhattan would suit everyone. But we grew up in the city, went to college and graduate school in the city and have family in the city. So moving back was an adjustment but not as major as it would be for someone who had never lived in the city. We are probably spending more money than we would be if we were living out in Suffolk County but we are doing a lot more. As far as theater tickets – I've joined a discount service that offers tickets for some events a few days in advance for \$4.50 a ticket! Should anyone want to discuss our move further (or just say hello), please contact either of us at: Joyce jtichler@nyc.rr.com Paul tichlerp@nyc.rr.com

ON THE ISLAND

ARNIE PESKIN

Like so many other recent retirees, I have recently changed residences. I suppose it is only natural that, when one ends one's career, it prompts a reassessment of other aspects of life as well. And with the real estate boom in full flower, my wife and I were drawn into the vortex of activity for finding a new home.

The first question was, where in the world did we want to live. We quickly ruled out neighborhoods that were too tough, like the Middle East and Siberia. The sunny south seemed to have some appeal, but more so in the dead of winter than in the summer. The option of staying on Long Island had to be considered; after all, that was the place we chose almost 40 years ago, albeit when both we and the Island were much younger. The final determinant was to be near the grandchildren. (We subscribe to the philosophy that grandchildren are the Lord's reward to parents for not murdering their children when they were teenagers.) Long Island it was.

The next question was, what type of facility. After doing what I considered an ample lifetime of lawn mowing and snow shoveling, the promise of condominium living seemed very inviting. We selected a development called the Vineyards, in Miller Place, which had the added advantage of being new construction.

The next and to me, most crucial question was whether we were to sell and then buy, or vice versa. My continuing nightmare was that

we would buy a place, the bubble would burst, and we would have trouble selling the old homestead – and like suckers I would have bought high and sold low. On the other hand if we sold first and then bought, particularly because the house was not yet built, we might be 'homeless' for some time, but that is finally what we did. To bridge the time between moving out and moving in, we rented a small place (very small, indeed), which could be the subject of a whole other article.

For those people like me who aren't accustomed to completing real estate transactions frequently, every aspect of it was distasteful, but I learned a lot. For example, I learned how to cope with strangers going through one's closets and evaluating one's taste and lifestyle. I learned how to maintain my sanity when I heard one day that there would be a delay in the issuing of Certificates of Occupancy by Brookhaven Town and the next day read in Newsday that some town inspectors had been sent to jail. I learned that when you have a very large check to deposit in the bank, you don't have to stand in line like ordinary folks, but when you withdraw, you do. And finally, I learned why not everyone thinks moving into new construction is an advantage – evidently it is the new homeowner who is responsible for quality control.

But all is well that ends well. I like the house and the neighborhood. The new neighbors are very nice, and I also found among them some

old friends that I didn't even know had bought into the same place. And I am still only eight miles from my old house, so I didn't have to forego old friends, favorite restaurants, or BNL events I might want to attend. So on balance, I recommend a move, at least once every century.

ANOTHER OPTION

GRAHAM CAMPBELL

Faced with an odd corner to fill, your newsletter editor would like to defend the procrastination option. We still live in a large (3 floors), old (1917) house with no restrooms on the first floor. Very nice for raising a family, not so optimal for growing old. But it is home.

We have discussed moving many times and recognize that eventually that will be necessary. But we know our way around and have a good set of friends. We find the social climate on Long Island agreeable. The physical climate is less than perfect, but we have lived in enough different areas to realize that every climate has some drawbacks. So we put off any change and wonder when circumstances will force us to change our minds.

UPSTATE LENORE DUDZICK

Central New York - a great place! My husband, Paul, and I chose this area, specifically Baldwinsville, just NW of Syracuse, because our only child lives in Rochester. But other reasons are that Paul graduated from Syracuse University and wanted to re-connect with his sport, crew (he's now on the board of the alumni crew organization and is starting to row again himself), and he's from Buffalo and still has family there.

We started our search in Geneva and moved eastward. We connected with a realtor but also looked extensively on the internet. We chose 9 properties and Paul came up and saw them with the realtor (I couldn't go because my mom lived with us and couldn't be left alone). When Paul narrowed the search to 3 and said I should go right up. I did and went with the realtor to see those. The first one I eliminated, the second was a 1850 brick farmhouse with lots of character, and the third was a contemporary in a planned (not adult) community. The negative to the farmhouse was that it was on a country road with farms surrounding it. The positive to the contemporary is the active people living there - there are 10+ miles of walking trails. Another positive was seeing all the shopping we need is 5-10 minutes away. It's also very quiet - in Mt. Sinai we always had traffic noise from 25-A! The decision was made and the offer accepted.

We could have chosen a house that costs the same as what we sold our Mt. Sinai home for - but we didn't

have to do that. Our home is right on the golf course and we used the profits to add a four-season room, a new deck and an overhaul of the main floor and upper floor - including a new kitchen and bathroom. Taxes are not that much lower here, gas prices are a little lower.

Central New York is slower-paced, easy to get around - we're an hour south of the 1000 Island region, close to the Finger Lakes wineries, we have good cultural venues in Syracuse, Rochester and Turning Stone Casino, numerous restaurant choices, and a big draw for me - a variety of crafts. Our first winter was fine even with 120" of snow - they know how to take care of the roads up here. There are a few colleges in the area for diverse opportunities, including Syracuse for Div. I sports - we can be at the Carrier Dome for a basketball game in less than a half hour. The grocery stores offer so much more. The things we do miss are delis and bakeries (the grocery stores are OK for these but not nearly as good) - we finally found a decent pizza place nearby and I'm still searching for good Chinese food.

My mom now lives in an assisted living place about a mile from the house in our corporate park of this community, Radisson (no connection to the hotel chain). Budweiser also has a huge plant in the park. The assisted living is less expensive than Long Island, is a small, family-run place and very clean. One important thing is that her doctor up here is a geriatrician -

there is a group associated with Upstate University Hospital - a teaching hospital like Stony Brook - but I'm finding the care to be better up here. Her geriatrician coordinates all of her care - I was hoping for one-stop shopping and found it!

Baldwinsville is a small town on the Erie Canal at Lock 24. There is an effort to draw people to the town like other canal towns up here. I hope they succeed - there is a lot of potential. There are day and overnight trips on the canal and you can rent a small houseboat.

I did not have any transition period moving up here - it felt like a comfortable place to live immediately. I consider myself an upstater already and I was born and raised on Long Island. Paul and I deliver for Meals on Wheels two mornings a week. There are a lot of volunteer opportunities to explore. Our neighbors welcomed us and we're making friends in a variety of ways, including our realtor and contractor.

Life is great and is an exciting chapter beginning up here. We're looking forward to exploring in the years ahead.

Here are some websites:

www.syracuse.com

www.radissoncommunity.org - our homeowners association

www.radissoncommunity.com

THE MID-COAST

JIM HURST

Ed. Note: In the interest of space, some very interesting comments by Jim have been left out of this issue. They will be included in the next issue.

For those of you who don't know me, I came to BNL in February of 1962, and I retired on December 31, 1999 after 37+ mostly very pleasant years in Solid State Physics (24 years) and the Materials Science Division and later in Administration of the Department of Applied Science (12 years). My final year was spent in developing what I hoped would be a minimal, but useful, Lessons Learned program for BNL under BSA. I stayed on as a guest in 2000 and part of 2001 working on lab/civic matters – the Community Advisory Council.

Do we have any words of wisdom for others contemplating a move such as ours? Sure. First, pick a general area. We chose the east coast from Savannah GA north to southern MD. We looked around for over one year. We visited several great looking golfing communities in NC. But, ask yourself what the community offers outside of golfing (and boating?). The locations in NC failed there. Some of our children located to the Washington DC area which has traffic like LI on steroids. We came three hours south to the Tidewater area. Our last trip from Northport to Williamsburg was done in 6 ¾ hours with little traffic. We live on the "Middle" Peninsula bounded by the James and

York Rivers (and Jamestown and Yorktown). We are very close to Colonial Williamsburg and the College of William & Mary which has a great lifelong learning program called the Christopher Wren Association. They run a nice schedule of educational programs taught by retirees (mostly) with interesting professional backgrounds – science, engineering, politics, history, government, etc. Did I mention that we are also near Camp Peary, also known as "the Farm" in CIA circles? So, I'll add Intelligence to the list of topics. We are in an area that hasn't gotten rid of its industry – yet. The Newport News Shipbuilding Co. is part of Northrop Grumman. They build & refurbish nuclear powered carriers & submarines here. There is an oil refinery at Yorktown. There is lots of military activity just to our south. The Air Force is at Langley, the Atlantic Fleet is at Norfolk, NAS Oceana is the land home for the carrier aircraft, and there is a Navy Shipyard in Portsmouth. As an added bonus, JLab (the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility – home of CEBAF) is in Newport News – a short distance from here. I get there for meetings a few times a year.

In our travels we observed that the southeastern US coast has a number of civilian nuclear power stations. Electric costs are a bit lower because of them. My acquaintances from STAR and SHAD would say that we should all be dead or dying now from rhabdomyosarcoma – or other related cancers, or

some lung related illness caused by the refinery. We live within 5 miles of two Shoreham equivalents and each aircraft carrier down the river has two reactors on board. Submarines only have one. I'm not glowing yet.

On the recreational side, we are near a brewery and Busch Gardens. Younger family members enjoy the latter. We are 40 miles or so from VA Beach & the Outer Banks of NC. And Spring really exists as a season.

This area is a cultural melting pot. Many military folks retire here and they are from all over. Many of our civilian acquaintances have had life experiences similar to ours. We live next door to a retired chemical engineer and a few houses up live a retired nuclear engineer and a computer guy who worked for Burroughs and programmed in ALGOL.

I've been the webmaster for the eastern VA Chapter of ASM for about three years, and my administrative DAS experience continues to serve me well. I've been the Parcel Building Chair in the community where we live for the last three years. Compared to DAS, it's a piece of cake!

Brief Summary:

- Arrived in 1962, left in 2001
- Observations of local political & social LI climate resulted in us strongly suggesting that the children to get out as a long term plan
- We followed the advice that we gave them
- Some thoughts on relocation

BREA

Bldg 475C
Upton, NY 11973-5000

Phone: 631-344-2707
Email: brea-l@lists.bnl.gov

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5



BNL Retired Employees Association

*On the Web at
www.brea.bnl.gov*

HELP WANTED

THE RETIRED “LIFESTYLE”

Assistant Editor: No experience necessary, will train. Successful candidate will beat the bushes for newsletter contributions, harass potential writers, keep reminding the editor of his obligations and otherwise facilitate the preparation of the newsletter.

Reporters: Will write articles for the newsletter. Interview others and/or relate their own experiences. Great opportunity for free expression.

This issue begins a series (maybe only 2 long) on the choices people make at retirement. The first thing most retirees face is a choice of where to live and that is the focus of this issue. But the next issue is what to do with all the “free time” you now have. Somehow that “free time” disappears shortly after retirement. The frequent expression is “how did I ever have enough time to go to work?”. The next newsletter issue will cover some of the choices people have made. For that we would like to solicit input about choices you (or someone you know) have made about new occupa-

tions, travel, volunteering, hobbies or any other activity. Send your suggestions to the editor via e-mail to gc@bnl.gov or regular mail to:

Newsletter Editor
BREA
Bldg. 475C
Upton, NY 11973