

# BREA News

<https://bera.bnl.gov/brea/>

Volume 22, Issue 2

March/April 2022

## 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 attend and participate.

With the BNL site still closed to retirees, Zoom meetings via video link have become routine.

Contact any officer for help to join a meeting.

### Meeting Schedule

March 8, 2022

April 12, 2022

May 10, 2022

### BREA Officers

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## From the President

by Arnie Moodenbaugh, [moodenba@optonline.net](mailto:moodenba@optonline.net)

To fellow BREA Members,

This issue includes a feature on BNL retiree Leonard Mausner and his experiences during Covid participating in Long Island's Sound Symphony as a French horn player. The requirements to protect players and audience are interesting today. In the future, we hope these measures will be viewed as a quaint reminder of a fading history. My own family recently planned a get-together



*Leonard Mausner on his way to a concert after Long Island blizzard  
- photo by Ira Kocivar*

that was canceled after one mild case was diagnosed.

Along with a few other retirees, Les Fishbone and I volunteered for the BNL Science Bowl for middle and high schools. The day-long contests were conducted over Zoom. A blizzard descended on Long Island, and the Saturday event would have been canceled without the remote format. Some BNL officials were at work and contestants were in school on

Friday, but everybody was housebound Saturday. In spite of the weather, things went fairly smoothly. For example, Les lost web access Friday, so a substitute volunteer was swapped in.

Saturday, I was dealing with a dead oil burner, and a substitute was lined up for me but not needed after all. Other retirees should consider volunteering for next year's Science Bowl. If it continues in Zoom format, those not on Long Island could participate. Contact me to be added to the list of volunteers.

BNL awarded a \$61.8 million contract for construction of the first building at Discovery Park, near the entrance to the Lab site. A

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## A New Normal: Leonard Mausner Live In Concert!

Retiree and BREA member Leonard Mausner plays French horn with the Sound Symphony on Long Island. Because of rising Covid cases, the Sound Symphony cancelled rehearsals and concerts in March 2020. More than a year later, the orchestra returned to live performances, first with an outdoor summer concert, followed by indoor concerts as the weather turned cooler.



*Leonard Mausner at rehearsal. French horns are seated in the last row of the orchestra, bells toward the wall.* – photo by Ira Kocivar

“The November concert went well musically, and the audience for the January performance was surprisingly good considering we had a heavy snowstorm the day before,” recalled Mausner.

For the indoor concerts, the audience is required to wear masks at all times but no proof of vaccine is required. Sound Symphony, however, requires players to be vaccinated, no exceptions.

“It’s become a new normal for the orchestra,” said Mausner. Two years into learning about Covid and living with the virus in its various forms, most orchestra members have accepted as “workable and sensible,” in Mausner’s words, the Sound Symphony’s protocol for playing.

- proof of vaccination
- mask wearing at all times for string players, percussionists and the conductor
- masks on for brass and wind players when not playing their instruments and extra spacing between the players because their masks necessarily come off when playing
- one player on a music stand, with stands spaced six feet apart

When rehearsals started last year, arriving players had to show proof of vaccination to the orchestra’s general manager, Daria Blyskal, a board-certified family physician and violinist. The orchestra only accepts a medical exemption for an anaphylactic (allergic and life-

threatening) reaction to the first dose of Pfizer or Moderna. Religious exemptions are not accepted. Players are also asked to monitor their health and refrain from attending rehearsals or concerts if they have potentially infectious symptoms.

According to Sound Symphony’s President and Chairman of the Board Daniel Millheiser, a violist, the orchestra’s policies and procedures comply with guidelines and mandates from New York State and Comsewogue School District, where the group is based for indoor rehearsals and concerts.

As we have all learned by now, the Covid-19 virus and its variants are readily spread via air. Playing the French horn means pushing air through 12 to 13 feet of brass tubing. And along with the air comes spit. Said Mausner, “For horns, the bell faces backwards.

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### Upcoming Live Concerts

March 27, 2022, 2 p.m.

June 12, 2022, 2 p.m.

*Both Sound Symphony concerts are at the Comsewogue High School in Port Jefferson Station, NY.*

Plus, we are at the back of the orchestra. So air goes away from everyone.”

Apart from Covid complications, the French horn is reputed to be one of the most difficult brass instruments to play because its range is so wide: it competes with the trumpet up high and with the tuba down low.

Mausner started on trumpet in 4th grade but switched to French horn in 8th grade. “I have played continuously since, including in college, graduate school, 78th Division Army band, and community orchestras everywhere I’ve lived,” he said.

“During the Covid-induced orchestra hiatus, I continued to play but only intermittently,” added Mausner. “It was good to return to playing with the Sound Symphony.”

After 36 years, Mausner retired from full-time work in 2017, then worked part time for another



*Sound Symphony conductor Dorothy Savitch wears a mask during indoor rehearsals and concerts, as required by New York State and the Comsewogue School District. In the conventional orchestral seating, she is surrounded by string players, also masked. – photo by Ira Kocivar*

### Sound Symphony in Virtual Space

During the height of the pandemic, when all live performances were cancelled, the Sound Symphony stayed active with its players and its audiences by performing virtually. You can find online Leonard Mausner and his horn in a virtual performance of Rossini’s William Tell Overture, recorded and produced over a period of several months. Go to the Sound Symphony’s YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=-pzD-ggdfkU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-pzD-ggdfkU).

Look for Mausner wearing a white shirt in one of the boxes. You might also spot violinist Mona Rowe, wearing a red aloha shirt (Rowe played with the Sound Symphony for many years and, because of digital technology, was able to join the group from Hawai’i, where she now lives).



Violist Ira Kocivar, who took all the still photos for the feature article on Mausner, worked with Dorothy Savitch, the orchestra’s conductor and music director, to produce the virtual performance of the William Tell Overture. This included syncing the audio of each individual recording and editing all the visual aspects into a meaningful musical performance. – MSR

four years. “For my entire BNL career, I

was involved in research and production of radioisotopes for medical use, both diagnostic and therapeutic, using BLIP, the Brookhaven Linac Isotope Producer,” he explained.

His last project was to develop the production of actinium-225 (Ac-225) at BLIP. Ac-225 is used to treat certain types of prostate, brain and neuroendocrine cancers. It releases high-energy alpha particles that can stop cancer cells from replicating or even kill them. Mausner now serves as a consultant for the U.S. Department of Energy, advising the federal agency on medical radioisotope issues.

“My wife, Judy, and I have reduced our traveling since Covid began,” said Mausner. “We have ceased any foreign travel, but after getting vaccinated we do drive to grandchildren in Virginia every several months. We also took one vacation in the Florida Keys last spring.”

“I am, like most people, tired and frustrated with the limitations that Covid has placed on our lives” Mausner reflected.

“For me it is not so much the masking and vaccinations, but more the restrictions on activities in retirement, specifically visiting family/friends and traveling. We can all hope for a return to normalcy soon.” – Mona S. Rowe, [msrowe.hi@gmail.com](mailto:msrowe.hi@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:hellobylin@yahoo.com).

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Membership type:

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

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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](mailto:hellobylin@yahoo.com)

## In Memoriam

We deeply regret to inform you of the passing of the following retirees.

- Joseph A. Bamberger, 94, January 20, 2022
- Arthur Gremillion Jr., 77, January 26, 2022
- Richard Hahn, 88, January 31, 2022
- James J. Marron, 72, December 28, 2021
- Eleonore Mitchell, February 17, 2010
- Joe Nolan, January 10, 2009
- John A. Penney, 99, December 27, 2021
- Arthur E. Scholtz, 87, January 21, 2022
- Norman Sutin, 93, January 31, 2022
- Jeannette Thiede, 95, January 14, 2022

More information may be found at BREA’s website: <https://bera.bnl.gov/brea/>. To post an obituary for a deceased BNL employee or retiree, email information to [msrowe.hi@gmail.com](mailto:msrowe.hi@gmail.com) or mail it to BREA (see panel below for address).

## President’s Message (cont’d from page 1)

75,000 square-foot facility, the building will house guest processing as well as other functions. To my eye, the design is more modern than other recent construction on site. See for yourself: <https://www.bnl.gov/newsroom/news.php?a=119125>.

We are planning to schedule some speakers on a variety of topics. These talks would take place before BREA meetings. Our next Zoom meeting will be on Tuesday, March 14 at 1 p.m. EST. Future meetings will take place on April 12, May 10, June 14 and July 12. We hope to see you.

– Arnie Moodenbaugh, [moodenba@optonline.net](mailto:moodenba@optonline.net)

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