

BREA NEWS

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

Volume 25, Issue 3

May/June 2025

BREA Meetings

BREA meets on the second Tuesday of every month (except for August), at 1 p.m. in the Eastern Time Zone. All BREA members are invited.

BREA meetings are held via Zoom. Some meetings will be hybrid so that retirees living on Long Island can attend in person. Contact any officer for help to join a meeting.

Meeting Schedule

May 13, 2025

June 10, 2025

July 8, 2025

BREA Officers

President

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* * *

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Jane Koropsak has moved on. Read about it, pp. 2-3.

From the President

by Arnie Moodenbaugh, moodenba@optonline.net

Greetings to BREA members. This issue of the newsletter features Long Island native Jane Koropsak. She relocated to South Carolina after her recent retirement from her position as BNL Senior Public Affairs Representative.

BNL was in local news after being identified as a strong contender for an AI data center on Long Island. What is AI? This is from a news release BNL issued January 16, 2025: "Artificial intelligence (AI) once seemed like a fantastical construct of science fiction, enabling characters to deploy spacecrafts to neighboring galaxies with a casual command. Humanoid AIs even served as companions to otherwise lonely characters. Now, in the very real 21st century, AI is becoming part of everyday life, with tools like chatbots available and useful for everyday tasks like answering questions, improving writing, and solving mathematical equations. AI does, however, have the potential to revolutionize scientific research — in ways that can feel like science fiction but are within reach." Stay tuned!

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From 11980 to 29927: *Jane Koropsak Moves On*

Jane Koropsak was born and raised on Long Island. Except for a few years away for college and for her first job at UMass Medical Center, she has been firmly planted on LI. Then this spring, Koropsak pulled up roots and moved to South Carolina. She answered some questions about making the move – why and how. If you want to say hi, here's Koropsak's email address: daisyjane519@gmail.com.

Where did you grow up? Where do you consider home?

I grew up in Sayville, Long Island. It will always be my home. I have wonderful memories and I am still in touch with childhood friends. Sayville will always be “home sweet home” for me!



Koropsak rented a small storage unit when she arrived in South Carolina, weeks before her closing date. She had clothes and shoes for different seasons, jackets, and suitcases. She also bought a few items to start furnishing her new house. That local storage unit helped her keep things organized.

minimal clothing and necessary everyday items, together with important papers, and moved in to the Riverhead house of generous friends who were actually staying in Hilton Head at the time! Since my new home had to be built, I stayed on Long Island to complete a special BNL project. I am a widow and don't have much family, so I am very grateful for all of the friends who helped me through this transition.

Marie Kondo, from Japan, is a professional organizer. Kondo believes that your feelings are the standard for decision making – specifically, knowing what sparks joy. To determine this when tidying, the key is to pick up each object one at a time and ask yourself, “Does this spark

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Now you're living in South Carolina. How did you make the decision to move? And why there?

It was not an easy decision to leave Long Island, but I have several friends in the Hilton Head area and visited there often. It reminded me of Long Island – beautiful beaches, restaurants, nature trails, etc. But I liked the idea of warmer weather for longer durations, and no more shoveling snow! I would never move somewhere that didn't have easy access to the ocean, so I decided to be courageous and make the change!

How did you move? Did you hire packers and movers or do it yourself?

I sold my condo in Yaphank, ZIP Code 11980, quickly and spent two months purging and packing before hiring movers to take my belongings and put them in storage. I packed up



joy?” Instead of looking for reasons to discard an item, you should find reasons to keep it. You have moved locally several times. What is the Jane Koropsak method? How did you decide what to move to South Carolina?

This was not an easy task. I admit that I am a person who is very sentimental and tends to hold on to things. This move I did some serious thinking about what to keep, what to donate, and what to discard. Things that were probably irreplaceable like photos and trinkets from friends and family that held special memories made it to the “keep” pile, while items like clothing, shoes, coats, kitchen items and books were donated or discarded. Looking back, I could have purged more items, but I can still do that when I fully unpack here in South Carolina. I’m thinking I don’t need four winter coats!

BREA’s Membership Chair Betty Elder says that, since BREA’s founding in 1997, the majority of BREA members have stayed on Long Island after retirement. Any advice for retirees thinking about making a big move like yours?

Take your time, investigate the area. Are there activities available that you would enjoy? Is shopping nearby? I think that as we age we don’t want to drive far for necessities like groceries, prescriptions, physicians, etc. Is there a hospital nearby? If you are moving to a planned community, what does your monthly homeowners’ association fee cover? Try to be prepared as best you can.



Closing day celebration!

You’ve just moved in. What’s it like in your new home? What are you looking forward to in South Carolina?

I closed on my new home, in ZIP Code 29927, on April 11th. My friends helped me celebrate the occasion with dinner at a lovely restaurant, a bouquet of daisies (my favorite flower), and a margarita at the Bar and Chill restaurant, which is located in my new community! Hey, as Jimmy Buffet always said, “It’s five o’clock somewhere!” Life is good.

It is wonderful having a brand new home! It’s been a long process (11 months), but I am feeling excited and happy about what my future will hold as I enter the next chapter of my life. In addition to the friends I already had here (three are Lab retirees), I have met a lot of nice folks.

I purchased a house in Latitude Margaritaville, just outside of Hilton Head. There are many activities and perks like a restaurant, theater, pools, and nature trails on site. The residents are upbeat and most are recently retired. It’s been great so far! I kept

my bicycle and my golf clubs and hope to be back on the trail and the course very soon.

You retired from Brookhaven Lab, then came back to work, and then retired again. What happened?

Before I retired, in December 2019, I was asked by my Media and Communications Manager, Peter Genzer, if I would come back to work at the Lab on a part-time, temporary basis to sort and archive thousands of videos that were stored in Building 493. I always found the history of the Lab fascinating, and since I had worked closely with BNL’s video and photo crew, I happily agreed!

Lastly, I should mention that after initially sorting and archiving more than 8,000 videos, I also helped organize photos and a very large array of file cabinets that hold documents dating back to 1946 (yes, when the Lab was being formed). Some would see it as tedious work, but I saw it as an interesting and important task that documents Brookhaven’s past accomplishments for future scientists and engineers.

My work is done and I am beyond grateful for my career at the Lab. Let the new adventure begin!



Koropsak’s front yard, with pineapple pine trees.

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 information has changed, send me an email at bettyelder81@gmail.com.

PLEASE PRINT

Last name: _____ First name: _____ MI: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ Zip+4: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Membership type:

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

Dues cover year(s) _____

Date: _____ Check amount: _____

MAKE CHECK OUT TO BREA

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

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Mail form and check to:

Betty Elder, Membership Chair
215 River Drive
Moriches, NY 11955

– Betty Elder, Membership Chair
bettyelder81@gmail.com

In Memoriam

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

Bryce Dixon Breitenstein, 94, November 27, 2024

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 or mail it to BREA (see panel below for address).

President's Message (continued)

Adam Merone has emailed retirees a notice about new REAL ID requirements. Starting May 7, 2025, anyone requesting access to the BNL site must provide an active REAL ID-compliant identification document to either the Laboratory Protection Division or to the Guest User Visitor Center. A REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID card has a star in the upper right corner. Current users, guests, retirees and contractors with active badges are exempt from verification and may continue using their badge for site access. I'll repeat that: If your BNL ID is not expired, you may continue using it to get on site. But when you renew an expiring badge, you must provide a REAL ID, REAL driver's license, or an alternative, including an enhanced driver's license, a passport, or U.S. Military card.

The May 13 BREA meeting will be a hybrid – both in-person at BNL and on Zoom. Adam has reserved Room 1-2 off the lobby of Bldg. 400, where we regularly had meetings prior to Covid. If your BNL retiree badge or car tag has expired, make plans to arrive early and renew them at Bldg. 400. Remember to bring REAL-ID compliant documentation. We'll talk more about this at the meeting on the 13th.

– Arnie Moodenbaugh, moodenba@optonline.net

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association

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