

# BREA News

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

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November/December 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.

The Laboratory site is now open to retirees. Even so, BREA's business meetings are still being held on Zoom via video link. Contact any officer for help to join these meetings.

### Meeting Schedule

November 8, 2022

December 13, 2022

January 10, 2023

### BREA Officers

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Catch up with Ed Kaplan (left), Gretchen Cisco (above, yellow jacket), Sue Perino and Swapna Mukherji in "Home for the Holidays," pages 2-3.

## From the President

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

To fellow BREA Members,

At our November 8 BREA meeting via Zoom, starting at 1 p.m., Peter Bond will talk about the politics and science associated with the tritium leak and eventual closure of BNL's High Flux Beam Reactor. Peter's presentation is connected to the publication of *The Leak* (see book details on page 4). After Peter, we'll continue with our meeting. Remember that November 8 is also election day.

We are in the middle of open enrollment for Medicare B supplement (Medigap), Medicare Advantage, and Medicare Part D drug coverage. In order to maintain your (and spouse) BNL monthly \$180 benefit from BSA, you must enroll or make any change in coverage in Medigap and Advantage through SelectQuote via (866) 479-8317 (press "1"). If you have problems with SelectQuote, contact the Benefits Office:

Jennifer Froehlich, (631) 344-3724 or [jfroehlich@bnl.gov](mailto:jfroehlich@bnl.gov)  
Melissa Schuchman, (631) 344-2877 or [schuchman@bnl.gov](mailto:schuchman@bnl.gov)

To resume in-person BREA meetings at BNL that include active participation of our remote members, I'll be working with Christine Carter, who has indicated that BNL should be able to provide tech support for this. I'll let you know as things develop.

Please join us for Peter Bond's talk on November 8. If you have to miss it, don't miss reading "Home for the Holidays," starting on page 2. It's written by retirees Gretchen Cisco, Ed Kaplan, Sue Perino and Swapna Mukherji. Happy Holidays to all!

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

## Home for the Holidays

When BNers retire, most stay on Long Island. Those who relocate often move to be close to their grown children and grandchildren. Home for the holidays usually means home with family.

### Gretchen Cisco, Middle Island, New York

*When you decided to retire, did you also think about where you might live in retirement?* I've always known how much my husband Charles (see photo on p. 1, left of Gretchen) loves Long Island and would likely never want to move away, yet I continued to plant the seeds of possibilities. In April 2022, several months after I retired, we took a long overdue trip to North Carolina to visit my youngest son and his family, who settled near Fort Bragg after serving in the military (family in North Carolina, p. 1). We also fit in a visit to Charles' brother in Augusta, Georgia. April was the perfect time of year to visit. Both live in a clean, quiet suburban neighborhood, with the city and many activities only a few miles away. We were also able to visit other friends in both areas. The trip was very enticing, the weather was perfect. I signed up with a realtor in Georgia and would share with Charles "possible" options and reasons to head south now that we are both retired. My strongest argument was no more New York winters, shoveling snow, freezing temperatures, etc.



*What influenced your decision to stay on Long Island?* Number one, my husband's love for Long Island and being only minutes from the water. Also, as much of a pain snow can be, when it first falls, it is always a beautiful scene. My grandchildren from North Carolina look forward to coming to New York just to be able to play in the snow. The change of seasons allows us to appreciate the beautiful emergence of spring, the warmth and heat of a short summer with beaches nearby, and the beautiful, crisp weather of fall enjoying trips to the north and south forks. New York City, New Jersey, and even Maryland, where one sister lives, are within driving distance. My other sisters live here on Long Island, and the majority of Charles' family lives in Nassau County. So I guess it boils down to being around more family here than if we were to move south. Family is important to us, and Georgia would put us so far from everyone. It would have been three hours from my son in NC. Now we have one child in North Carolina, one in Syracuse, one just moving from California to Pennsylvania (above, family in Pennsylvania), and one only minutes from my house (right, the Long Island and Syracuse families).



*How long have you lived on Long Island?* I've lived on Long Island the majority of my life, since 1962, and my husband, a native New Yorker, has lived on Long Island for just as many years.



### Ed Kaplan, San Francisco, California

*When did you decide to relocate to the West Coast and what did you consider in making that decision?* I retired in April '06, but several years beforehand, Judy (far right in photo) and I knew we would relocate to somewhere in California as our three sons had already taken up residence there. It was June 2014 when we decided to move, and it took us until the beginning of 2015 to start downsizing.

(continued next page)

The move to San Francisco happened in December 2015. We were a bit naive in the real estate area, however. Our primary residence was in Stony Brook, and we had a year-round vacation home in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Our totally incorrect thinking was (1) our homes would sell quickly, (2) at a large profit, and (3) the proceeds would allow us to purchase a home in the Bay Area. The homes did not sell until several months AFTER we moved. Our profit expectations were too optimistic. Taking our savings together with profits, we could AT BEST afford a two-bedroom condo in San Francisco. So we rented a three-bedroom, three-bath apartment in the lovely Glen Park neighborhood, and that turned out to be a wonderful experience.

*What do you like about living there?* It is hard to beat San Francisco's year-round moderate climate and friendly, liberal and diverse population. Plus the large array of cultural and culinary experiences, as well as the proliferation of coffee shops that all allow one to sit and enjoy oneself however long one desires to stay. Add to these the wonderful parks, seashores, cable cars, hordes of young folks, and nearby (day trip) venues . . . you have an environment where being retired allows one to delight in each new day!



### **Sue Perino, Richmond, Virginia**

*You retired from BNL and went to Colorado. Why?* After retiring from BNL in July 2016, I took a position with Battelle working on their newly acquired National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) Project in Boulder, Colorado. As Director, Finance and Administration, I served as the Chief Financial Officer for the NEON project until the financial and business functions were transitioned directly under Battelle Corporate in 2018.

*You've moved a few times since.* In March of 2018, my daughter Cassie had a one-year-old son and was pregnant with my twin grandchildren (a girl and another boy), so my husband Terry (far right in photo) and I decided to move to Richmond, Virginia, to be closer to her and the grandchildren. To keep busy, in early 2019 I

began part-time contract employment as a Senior Project Consultant that enabled me to work but around my personal calendar and activities. In November of 2021, we purchased a home in a socially active over-55 community in Moseley, Virginia, which is only five miles from our daughter, now 6-year-old Brayden, and 4½-year-old twins Ava and Declan. With my grandchildren, my remote contract work, and my very active social calendar (as well as typical retiree medical issues), I am keeping very busy. Life is GREAT!!

### **Swapna Mukherji, Dix Hills, New York**

*Did you always plan to retire where your children live?* In life, nothing is permanent. All plans are meant to change. Before I retired in 2012, my husband Prabal and I took it for granted that we will stay on Long Island and in Florida (our second home) for a few years. Our children, one in Manhattan and the other in Boston, are close enough.

*With family so near, how do you spend time with them? Are the visits planned or not?* Visits from us or them are generally planned and depend mostly on their schedules. We celebrate birthdays and holidays in my house.

*What do you like about living on Long Island?* I love beautiful Long Island, except when I have to travel. The picture here, taken in December 2019, is with Brookhaven Lab friends. Isn't it nice to see them once in a while? Unfortunately, Marilyn McKeown is not with us now.



*Where will you be for the holidays?* Earlier, we thought of going to Mexico with children and grands or going to India, just the two of us. We've decided to be home for the holidays. I feel blessed when I see all my family and friends in my house during the holidays. Glad I can still manage the work with everyone's help.

## 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 Membership Chair Beth Lin at [hellobylin@yahoo.com](mailto:hellobylin@yahoo.com). *Note: New retirees get one year of BREA membership free.*

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

## In Memoriam

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

Peter Thieberger, 86, August 30, 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 mailed to BREA.

*The Leak*, a new book by Robert Crease with Peter Bond, looks back at 1997, when a harmless radiation leak sparked a media firestorm, political grandstanding, and fearmongering that closed BNL’s HFBR. *The Leak* is now available in hardback and electronic formats.



A sampling of book reviews:

“Anyone who wants to understand why more than one million Americans have died of COVID should read this brilliant book. It dramatically describes a titanic clash between world-class science, dishonest activists and celebrities, amoral politicians, and the federal bureaucracy.”

– Robert Birgeneau  
 former chancellor, UC Berkeley

“This true story illustrates how science (and society) lose out when misdirected activism mixes with misguided politics. If you think that social media is necessary for misinformation to win the day, think again.”

– Marcia McNutt  
 President, National Academy of Sciences

## Brookhaven Retired Employees Association

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