



## Retirees Association

# NEWSLETTER

P.O.Box 15285 • Pittsburgh, PA 15237 • 412-459-7674

Website: <http://acretirees.org> • Email: [acretireeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:acretireeassociation@gmail.com)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Guy Tumolo, *President*  
Marge Lubawy, *Vice President*  
JoAnna McQuaide, *Secretary*  
Cathy Thomas, *Treasurer*

Connie Przybyla  
Donna Johnson-Smith  
Hugh Hachmeister  
Pam Long  
Sharon Silvestri

### NEWSLETTER

Kathy Burk, *Editor*  
Guillermo Cole, *Contributing Writer*

## Message from

# THE PRESIDENT

IT'S TIME! The election of officers for your association is coming up. Two of us have decided to step down and let new faces take over. Other than myself and JoAnna McQuaide, our secretary, all other board members prefer their current positions and do not wish to run for president or secretary. That means we have incumbents running for vice president (Marge Lubawy) and Treasurer (Cathy Thomas). We are looking for members to run for president and secretary. That does not mean that competition for the positions of vice president and treasurer are not welcome. Nominations will close September 20. You must nominate yourself

or have someone nominate you by that date. Get your name in by sending us an email to the address on the masthead.

Ballots are scheduled to be mailed around September 29 with October 27 being the last day we can accept returned ballots. Bob Meussner has again agreed to chair the Election Committee and will present the results at our Annual Meeting on November 15.

We have a very active board that has provided you with luncheon programs of interest in such areas as history, elder law, consumerism, county services and other topics of

interest. They have also arranged activities such as, river tours, trips to the History Center, Phipps Flower show, a nature preserve, a winery, and coming up this year, a Pirate game. Then, of course, there are the Annual Picnic and Christmas Holiday Party with their huge attendance.

To keep things going members need to step up and volunteer by running for a position on the board. IT'S TIME to volunteer.

A list of duties for the four offices may be obtained by emailing a request to [ACRetireeAssociation@gmail.com](mailto:ACRetireeAssociation@gmail.com)

## NAME THE FAMOUS PEOPLE OF PITTSBURGH QUIZ

See if you can name the famous People of Pittsburgh shown below. Vague hints are given next to each of the pictures. If you can solve this one, you can count yourself in as a true son or daughter of the Burgh.



Soup



Fences



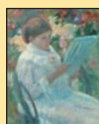
Transplant



Ecology



Neighbor



Impressionist



Jurassic



99



Dance



Immaculate



Camptown



Beetlejuice

# LONG-AWAITED TRIP, WORTH THE WAIT

By Guillermo Cole

Initially booked for 2020 but cancelled due to the pandemic and then rescheduled for this year, Pam Long's Alaskan cruise proved to be well worth the wait.

"It was my first time on a cruise and a wonderful way to experience the natural beauty of Alaska. Breathtaking views from the ship and the excursions along the way created unforgettable memories."

The seven-day cruise began July 3 in Seward, Alaska, after 14 hours in transit from Pittsburgh, traversing five time zones, flying to Denver and Anchorage, and traveling the final three hours to Seward by bus.

"We finally arrived and boarded the ship at 9 p.m. local time. It was still daylight, with sunset coming at nearly midnight and sunrise a little later, just past 4 a.m. That is one of the most amazing things about Alaska this time of year. It has very long days and very short nights."

Pam's ship, *The Jewel* of the Norwegian Cruise Line, carried 2,400 passengers from virtually every state and some foreign countries as it plied the waters of the Pacific Ocean in the Gulf of Alaska.

The first and perhaps most stunning view from the ship was of Hubbard Glacier, a massive seven-miles-wide and 76-miles-long glacier that is as tall as a 30-story building. It is the largest tidewater glacier in North America and, while most glaciers are retreating, Hubbard continues to get bigger and bigger.

At Icy Strait Point, where the ship docked first, Pam visited Alaska's Wildest Kitchen for a demonstration on how to grill salmon and halibut and enjoyed a meal she prepared for herself.

After a stop in Juneau, the cruise continued to Skagway, where Pam's excursion took her on the White Pass and Yukon Route Railway. Built in 1898 during the Klondike Gold Rush, the 20-mile narrow gauge railroad rises to an elevation of 2,865 feet and is an International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, akin to the Eiffel Tower and the Statue of Liberty.

Next on the itinerary was Ketchikan and the nearby Saxman Native Village and Totem Pole Park, home to a vast collection of Native American totem poles. The Tlingit indigenous people presented a theatrical production featuring songs, dances and rituals performed by members of the native community.

The cruise ended July 10 in Vancouver, Canada, where passengers had an opportunity to drive by and see many of the city's most notable attractions before reaching the airport and heading home.

Pam worked 41 years in the Allegheny County Health Department and retired in 2011. She started as a public health nurse assigned to various district offices, before moving into the Maternal and Child Health Program, where she became an administrator and culminated her career as the Program Chief.

Though Pam's husband of 28 years passed away last year, he wasn't planning to accompany her on the cruise. Her traveling companion was a long-time friend and former colleague, Janice Maker, Maternal and Child Health consultant for the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

## POET'S CORNER

Angel

By Carolyn Papciak

I saw an angel over there  
With sparkly wings and golden hair  
I think I know you very well  
But who you are I cannot tell  
Just then I saw a lovely smile  
Which made me ponder for a while  
But now I know exactly who  
It's such a blessing that it's you  
*Carolyn Papciak is a retiree  
from Kane McKeesport*

## CALLING ALL POETS AND THOSE WHO ASPIRE TO BE

Poetics can be both fun and cathartic. But you say you don't know anything about Iambic Pentameter or Haiku? Rest assured, neither do we. So why not try your hand at your own poetic style, and then send us a copy of your work. And who knows, maybe it will appear in the next publication of the ACRA newsletter. And remember, all poetry is good poetry, and it doesn't even have to rhyme!

Email: [acretireeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:acretireeassociation@gmail.com)



# GALLERY OF EVENTS

*Photographer - Connie Przybyla*



**ACRA  
Summer Picnic  
June 21, 2023**



**Wendell  
August Forge  
July 26, 2023**



# MEMORIES OF SOUTH PARK – PART ONE

*By Hugh Hachmeister*

Growing up in the South Hills of Pittsburgh, I have many fond memories of Allegheny County's South Park from an early age.

On a bright Fall Day when I was in Kindergarten at Foxcroft Elementary School, we were learning about different modes of transportation and journeyed to South Park to take a ride on the proposed **Skybus** demonstration track that was built by Pittsburgh's own Westinghouse. While Skybus' Early Action Program was never constructed in Pittsburgh's South Hills, it was included 25 years later as part of the Midfield Terminal Complex at Pittsburgh International Airport, a project that I had the honor of being part of. It was a fast, smooth and exciting ride around the park and fairgrounds, for this wide-eyed 6-year-old on an early adventure with his schoolmates.

As each summer of our childhood wound down and we got ready to return to school, we looked forward to the Allegheny County Fair with my grandfather, who was a volunteer fireman. His fire company would host a family picnic each year at the fair on fireman's day that

culminated in the annual fireman's parade around the fairgrounds before the evening's entertainment. Entertainers included Brenda Lee & Batman's rival – Pittsburgh Native Frank Gorshin, aka the Riddler. I also remember the exhibits of livestock, fresh produce and many other handmade goodies.

As time passed, my visits to South Park became less frequent, going away to college and new interests and responsibilities. I have attended a number of concerts in recent years of local and national performers, including Don McLean of *American Pie* fame. This epic song about the day the music died, was one of the first records I purchased and recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of its release. I will still put a copy of the CD in and enjoy while on a fun summer drive, wishing for simpler times.



## UPCOMING LUNCHEON MEETINGS

### September 20th

Membership  
Appreciation  
Fun Day

### October 18th

City of Pittsburgh  
Film Office

### November 15th

Annual Meeting  
including election  
of officers

**“No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world.”**

*-Robin Williams*

## ANSWERS TO THE FAMOUS PITTSBURGHER QUIZ

Andy Warhol

August Wilson

Thomas Starzl

Rachael Carson

Fred Rogers

Mary Cassatt

Jeff Goldblum

Barbara Feldon

Gene Kelly

Franco Harris

Stephen Foster

Michael Keaton

# *In the Spotlight* **Gary's Dilemma: Cutch or Kidney?**

*by Guillermo Cole*

On Sunday, June 11, Gary Santel and his son, George, were having lunch at the Federal Galley on the North Shore before heading to PNC Park to see the Pirates play the New York Mets and a chance to witness baseball history, Andrew McCutchen's 2,000th career hit.

Suddenly and unexpectedly, Gary gets a call from the Allegheny Health Network Transplant Center. The lifelong Pirates fan and kidney transplant candidate had a decision to make: Cutch or Kidney?

Told to get to nearby Allegheny General Hospital within the hour, Gary turned to his son and said, "Well, we have an hour, maybe we can go to the game for a little in case Cutch gets the hit in his first at-bat."

Thankfully, as Gary recounted later, "the voice of reason came from my son and we went straight to the hospital. I didn't get to see it in person but watched Cutch get his 2,000th on TV from my hospital bed."

Gary got his kidney transplant later that night, proving you can have your cake and eat it, too.

Diagnosed more than 30 years ago with Polycystic Kidney Disease, a genetic disorder, Gary knew that dialysis and/or a transplant would be his fate one day. In 2005, just days before starting dialysis, Gary received his first transplant when his sister, Lisa Herron, was able to donate one of her kidneys.

Gary's transplanted kidney lasted over 18 years, much better than the 10-year average. But when it started to fail, Gary had a sense of déjà vu and realized dialysis or a second transplant was in the cards.

"I was put on the waiting list in April and truly blessed to get the call just two months later, because the average wait time for a donor kidney is three to five years. I never expected to get it so soon."

Gary does volunteer work with the local chapter of the PKD Foundation to raise awareness of Polycystic Kidney Disease and hopes to be back on his feet for the annual PKD walk on Sept. 23 at the Waterfront.

Gary retired in 2022, after working nearly 35 years in the Allegheny County Health Department. He was the Retail Store and Farmers Market Coordinator for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) supplemental nutrition program.

## **PENSION PLAN NOTES**

The Retirement System has published a summary of the financial report for the calendar year 2022. I thought I would briefly share some of the things that struck me when I skimmed through it. A more detailed and updated report on the status of the Plan will be presented at our Annual Meeting on November 15 by representatives of the Retirement System.

From the independent auditors report it is noted that if the plan had terminated on December 31, 2022, (i.e., no new contributions and no new members) there would be sufficient assets to pay all pensioners who were eligible on that date till 2038. That is a decrease of three years from the estimate in the 2021 report.

The net position of the fund restricted for pensions at the end of 2022 was \$936 million, down \$162 million from 2021. The declining global economy in 2022 contributed greatly to the decline in value.

Despite the decline in investment returns from 2021, the Fund managed to remain in the top 10% of 500 similar funds, according to the introductory letter from the Board President, John Weinstein.

Benefit payments were up almost \$10 million. There were 6,610 employees paying into the Plan and 5,225 former employees receiving payments. The number of employees paying into the Plan decreased while the number receiving benefits increased. The average monthly payment was \$2,029, \$103 more than the average in 2021.

If you are interested in further details, the full audit is available at [www.alleghegheny.us/retirement/reports.aspx](http://www.alleghegheny.us/retirement/reports.aspx).

Guy Tumolo





# RECIPES BY PAM

by Pam Long

## PEACH CRISP

### Topping:

- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons chilled butter cut into small pieces

### Filling:

- 6 cups sliced peeled peaches (about 8 plump peaches)
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- Cooking spray

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Combine flour, granulated sugar and brown sugar in a bowl. Cut the butter with a pastry blender until mixture resembles coarse meal.

Add lemon juice to the sliced peaches and toss gently to coat. Add 1 tablespoon sugar and cornstarch and toss gently to coat. Spoon into an 8 inch square pan coated with cooking spray. Sprinkle with flour topping mixture. Bake for 45 minutes or until brown.

Serves 6



## NEW RETIREES LIST

### May 2023

- Aul, Mark
- Carragher, Christine
- Collier, Jacqueline
- Doughty, Wayne
- Faulkner, Richard
- Gunkel, Robert
- Hovanec, Rebecca
- Jugan, Ken
- Kaduke, Ruth
- Krakovsky, Andrew
- Kurta, John
- Logue, Timothy
- McKelvey, Alice
- Miller, Gary
- Moderer, Robert
- Moeller, Edward
- Nicodemus, Dana
- Sladic, Thomas
- Streily, Michael
- Willig, Robert
- Yockey, Valerie

### June 2023

- Babiyak, Martha
- Braucher, Joanne
- Digiacomio, Steven
- Frank, III, Robert
- Givens, Jacqueline
- Ketter, Valerie
- Liu Schwartz, Ling
- Roth, Edward
- Rudge, Lorraine
- Smith, John
- Thomas, Richard
- Thompson, Arlon
- Thornburg, Virginia
- Uzar, Kathleen

### July 2023

- Ahmed, Naji
- Brenning, David
- Chernosky, Donna
- Falconer, Juliane
- Fitzgerald, Daria
- Hargrove, Denise
- Hohman, Mary
- Jameson, Beth
- Kenitz, Agnes
- Lewis, Veronica
- Maize, Diana
- McGrogan, John
- Morgano, Lisa
- Parisi, Louise
- Pearson, Carol
- Sheriff, Ahmed
- Smith, Yvonne
- Soroka, Mary
- Stengel, Joseph
- Stinner, Stephanie
- Szpanka, Ruth
- Young, Shirley

## IN MEMORIAM\*

Name	Date of Death	Name	Date of Death
Angelo, Rose Marie	4/2/2023	Kaduke, Ruth	5/18/2023
Nickel, Robert	4/4/2023	Halikos, Michael	5/19/2023
Kyne, Michelle	4/12/2023	Lukus, Lois	5/24/2023
King, Bernice	4/21/2023	Wallace, Donald Lee Sr.	5/27/2023
Linsenmayer, Robert	4/23/2023	Hansen, Linda	5/27/2023
Kiser, Kathleen	4/24/2023	Elton, Agnes	5/29/2023
Domzal, Janis	4/24/2023	Brennan, John	6/1/2023
Smith, Maurita	4/25/2023	Politano, Camille	6/2/2023
Domhoff, Linn	4/25/2023	Jamieson, Helen	6/5/2023
Butler, William G.	4/26/2023	Marszalek, Dorothy	6/5/2023
Conrad, Grace	4/28/2023	Ward, Lawrence	6/17/2023
Krally, Donald	4/29/2023	McMullen, Jane	6/20/2023
Koczaja, Edna	5/14/2023	Waldron, Catherine	6/22/2023
Prunty, Gary	5/15/2023	Pasinski, Edward	6/23/2023
Benton, Carl	5/17/2023		

\*As provided by the Allegheny County Retirement Board