



American  
Red Cross

Retiree

# HEARTBEAT

PENJERDEL Retiree Group

Fall 2018

## RETIREEES BRIEFED ON ARC HURRICANE RESPONSE AT SPRING MEETING



Wendy Vara

The PenJerDel retiree group met at the Penn Jersey Blood Region on Wednesday April 18, 2018. Stanley Roberts, chair of the group called the meeting to order at 11am. The meeting had over thirty five participants including a number of new attendees. Wendy Vara, the Volunteer Services Executive for the Mid-Atlantic division addressed the group. Wendy had been on a Disaster Services assignment in Houston following Hurricane Harvey in 2017. This hurricane and the resultant

catastrophic flooding of the metropolitan Houston area required Red Cross to open numerous shelters in the area. Wendy spent time in one of them providing disaster relief services. She related a number of stories about her time there. It was a very interesting presentation followed up by questions from the group.

Lunch was served and after lunch committee reports were given. There was a discussion regarding the day the meeting was to be held and it was decided to move the meeting from Wednesdays to Tuesdays going forward.

### *From the Chair*

*Autumn is my favorite time of the year if you don't count spring and summer. Autumn brings changes with it, the crisp cool air foretelling the cold to follow in winter. The leaves change color and our appetites increase. I hope you will reflect on these changes and enjoy the fall.*

*There is good news in the paper if you look for it. We have a strong economy and low unemployment. I just read that the Social Security Administration is going to give us a 2.8% increase in our benefit checks. Also, our ARC pensions funds are invested, in part, in the stock market that has had a good year gains. All this makes for a better retirement for all.*

*I also want to mention that as a retiree you have the opportunity to volunteer your time to the Red Cross. If you were part of blood services why not volunteer for disaster services. ARC even has a job for you that can be as short as a one-time local event; and you don't have to leave the state. If you were in Human Services why not volunteer for blood services. You will learn new skills and meet new people.*

*Hope you have a pleasant autumn.*

*Warm regards,*

*Stan Roberts*

## KEEP IN TOUCH UPDATES

*Throughout the year our faithful KIT leaders reach out to retirees to find out how they are doing and what they have been up to. If you haven't heard from a KIT leader let us know by email at [arc retirees@gmail.com](mailto:arc retirees@gmail.com) or contact our very talented KIT editor Gail Seeley at [cottagegardengail@gmail.com](mailto:cottagegardengail@gmail.com)*

Michael Baumann continues to love retirement. He had a few trips to Rehoboth Beach this summer with long time friends and recently got a new car. He meets up with his work friends for lunch. His favorite thing since retirement is going to movies during the day.

Bob Benninger and his wife Nancy enjoyed part of the summer in Burlington Vermont, as well as their home in Virginia. Now that his wife has retired from teaching they will be exploring other sites, including Utah's national parks. The exciting news for the family is that their daughter Kim and her family recently moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where Kim was appointed second horn at the Grammy Award winning Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. The season

officially starts September 22<sup>nd</sup> with a Rachmaninov Piano Concert.

Jean Berry had surgery in August and is recuperating nicely. She enjoys getting together with her fellow nurses in NJ. She will be 89 in November. Jean has 2 nieces who make sure she is well taken care of. Jean is still in her apartment.

Harriet Browne, her husband Glenn and their 11-year-old Springer Spaniel, Tillie, just returned from a Rock Club show in Cologne, NJ, to which they drove in their travel trailer. Harriet is hoping for better health with the new device installed in her heart by the good surgeons at Cooper Hospital. She is grateful for the great help and support from her husband of 38 years. Glenn enjoys cooking and grocery shopping, as well as any special assignment that comes his way.

Kerry Bryan continues to be busy juggling several part-time jobs, including both paid and volunteer. Effective June 1<sup>st</sup>, she became the volunteer Secretary for the Greater Philadelphia Area Decent Consortium (GPADC). In July she took an

intensive, week long training course in grant writing and may soon be expanding her repertoire to include assisting several local non-profits in their applications for grant funding.

Hyatha Butler is still driving and enjoys going to the senior center to play bingo. Her health is good.

Barbara Calogero enjoyed a trip to Chicago. She is planning another trip to Palm Springs this winter.

Edna Charles reported that she is doing OK. She had a wonderful time on a trip to Sanibel, Florida, in spring with her daughter.

Dolores Clark is still active in church and the senior center, where she attends three times a week with Silver Sneakers and Bingo.

Cheryl Collins had fun this summer, considering the weather. She took several camping trips to Knoebels and had a wonderful week at South Nags Head NC with family. Cheryl also had a surprise visit from her niece and 4-year-old great nephew from Florida, who really kept her running.

Joan Colti's North Carolina family have been spared from the horrific hurricane Florence weather that has befallen the southeast part of the state. Her daughter and family live in Raleigh, North Carolina, well west of the flooding. She and her local family traveled to Six Flags Great Adventure for rides on the latest introductions. Among them was "The Joker", a four-dimensional roller coaster with 120-story hills, 90-degree turns and more excitement than you could imagine. Joan reports that it was painful, but she did lots of laughing. She really does know how to celebrate her birthdays!

Geri Coughlin has been very busy volunteering with the Boy Scouts and Cub Scout camp during the summer. They had a wedding reception for her one son who was married in the early spring in Las Vegas. They also just found out that they are now expecting in December. So they've been helping to paint the baby's room.

Nancy Culling sends greetings to everyone. She is doing well. Nancy spends some time volunteering to improve the lives of some furry friends at the local out-door 'cat colony', and has also taken a few short birding excursions this summer.

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## KEEP IN TOUCH UPDATES

Dr. Miriam Dahlke, ever the gardener, was harvesting seeds when her correspondent spoke to her. Like many, she has had a challenging summer in the garden with tomatoes splitting and indications that her roses "have gone to bed." For many years, she raised runner beans, which were given to her years ago by Marge Washington, an ARC retiree and PenJerDel member. Likely, the beans are heritage beans, grown by Marge Washington's parents on their Virginia farm. These beans are sweeter than most, and Dr. Dahlke treasures that rich family history going back to Marge Washington's family. Dr Dahlke very much enjoys her new home at White-Horse Village, where she has met many new and interesting friends.

Joylette Daniels has had a busy summer. She has been doing quite a bit of traveling, including Cancun and Florida. She is planning to return to Cancun before winding down to prepare for the holidays.

Janet Demcoe will be in the land of sweet Aloha at the time of the fall meeting. She'll be celebrating her husband's return to good health. She has been rocking the gym and pools 4-5 days a week and has been taking pounds and years off with better nutrition. She is now the grandmother who runs races with grandkids and tries to win! Janet also dyed her white hair purple and pink,

mermaid hair they call it, and has confounded friends and neighbors. Why, she says - Because she can! Life is short; rock it, she says! She has volunteered to index copies of legacy records for digital access. The genealogy bug is kicking in! She wishes everyone a great rest of the year.

Kathy Denton reports that 2018 has been a memorable year. Kathy's Dad, Frank Broderick, went to Heaven on July 31, and the months leading up to that were filled with many significant and wonderful hours together. She turned 70 in August, and left for Venice in September for a magnificent, magical adventure. Upon her arrival home, she had to say goodbye to her best friend of 14 years, Sandy, and her adorable Schnoodle, who this time, could not beat the odds. Kathy plans to resume her art work and banjo playing, volunteer work at the library, and to enjoy good times with her mom, step mom, sisters and friends.

Emma Enoch is well. In May she participated in the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration for United Church of New Jersey. She researched and presented the 75 year history of the organization. She says hello to everyone.

Thomas Fitzpatrick said he wishes everybody well. Tom had a nice summer, because he spent the weekends in Sea Isle City.



New retiree Michael Bauman with Lane Liebman

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## KEEP IN TOUCH UPDATES

Kathleen Glackin had a good summer but it was really hot. Kathy also had a great spring – a camping trip in Oregon and Washington, ending up at her brother's place in Mt. Vernon, WA. John Goetz and his wife acquired a filly about a year ago and it has been fun to see "Puddin", a southern belle from Alabama, grow up. Finally, the Mariner East #2 pipeline has been put down on their property, taking up two acres of pasture. Although the pasture around the pipeline has been seeded, the run off from the heavy rains have required reseeding three times. Recently, he drove to Alabama to visit his sister, a very long 15-hour trip.

Liz Guido traveled to Vermont and Montreal in May and, despite rainy weather while tent camping, had a great time. Liz also enjoyed time in Cape May with children and grandchildren and a week in Maine with girl friends. She is enjoying this retirement gig!!!

Joyce Hamilton is finally playing golf again after female surgery. She is going to Arizona to visit old friends of 60 years ago from H.U. P.

Joanne Hammond's granddaughter from Reno stayed with them for six months for an internship at the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia. Her goal is to do cancer research. She hopes to travel to Reno this fall. Joanne enjoys working in her garden.

Rose Marie Hart had a busy summer visiting Mt. Rushmore – fabulous! Rose Marie and husband are still in good health and enjoying time with their growing family. They still love living in Delaware.

Anna Harrison has fully retired and has been on the go with her family for graduations and other celebrations. She and her husband have just returned from an Alaskan cruise.

Bill Hoyer's reporter said that Bill is not well and not up to conversing on telephone.

Sharon Jefferson had a nice family reunion at the shore. She was fortunate to be at the shore a number of times this year. Sharon has 5 children who are doing well, along with 8 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. She is presently pursuing part time work to supplement her income.

Doris Kraft's Alzheimer disease is taking its toll. Fortunately, she still recognizes her daughter and son

Pearl Kuo is doing well. She recently traveled out West to the Badlands and Yellowstone National Parks. They have another trip planned at the end of September to spend 10 days in Utah's 5 National Parks. Her family is doing great – granddaughters are at the delightful ages of 4 and 7 now.

Brigid O'Neill LaGier and her husband Doug trav-

elled during the summer to North Dakota to visit their three granddaughters and family. Brigid has enjoyed her time away from the college campus where last semester she taught three courses, one of which was online. Doug and she are anticipating an excursion to Maryland in the month ahead, where a friend who is a fellow artist is exhibiting. Looking ahead, plans are underway to travel to Sea Pines Plantation in the spring.

Rosemary Leyland and Jerry took a cruise through the Baltics this past summer. So much of the country is pristine, the water is clear, and folks eat healthy. They packed for a 62-degree summer, typical for the area, but unexpectedly the weather broke 47 year old records, recording temps in the high 80s. It prepared them for the weather at home. The early summer lily season in Rosemary's garden was floriferous. They saved the summer garden returning in time for day and night watering.

Lane Liebman is doing well and stays busy. She had a wonderful trip to New Orleans and to the Palm Springs Film Festival. While in California, she also enjoyed a visit with her son. When local Lane enjoys going to museums and to the movies.

Rebecca Lowe is gadding about for a bit. The first part of summer she was at her shore house on Long Beach Island wrapping up renovations from 'Superstorm Sandy,' i.e., painting and decorating. In July Rebecca was in PA to celebrate birthdays of her granddaughter and grandson. Currently, she is back at the shore completing

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## KEEP IN TOUCH UPDATES

projects for final inspection. She did go kayaking for the first time and loved it! New hobby, maybe?

Kathy Mainardi just returned from Stratford, Canada. She enjoyed a Shakespeare Festival with friends. They saw two plays a day in different theaters. Some actors would be in morning and evening plays. Kathy is going to Maine for a month to be with her son. She is still cleaning out her house in preparation for moving.

Joyce McGrane spent the summer in Ventnor reading and enjoying the beach. She has also been busy renovating her kitchen, which can be time-consuming and exhausting.

Steve Michalson has had a difficult year. His

wife passed away in February. He is doing better recently and trying to keep busy. He is taking painting classes and is currently working on watercolors.

Marge Miller enjoyed a good summer despite the heat. She took a lot of short trips with family. One that she found extremely interesting and recommends to others was a visit to the new National Museum in Cambridge, Maryland, where the story of Harriet Tubman was presented. Marge and her husband are both healthy and happy. Sorry she will miss the October luncheon and meeting, but will be traveling at that time.

Freda Mockenhaupt's grandchildren will be 8 and 11 very soon. She still looks after

### Put These Phone Numbers in Your Cellphone

Your Retiree Connection: 1-800-738-2724 ARCRA volunteers are available to help retirees by providing guidance on Red Cross benefit information and links to retiree resources, support and information. In most cases, callbacks are received within 24 hours. Please leave your name, phone number and brief explanation of your issue/concern

ARCRA Office: 202-303-7184 please leave a message with your name and phone and information/ need and we will get back to you within 24 hours.

Red Cross Benefits Information: 1-877-860-7526 (managed by Alight) provides information about your Red Cross pension, health and insurance benefits.

Alight (formerly Aon Hewitt): 1-877-860-7526 still provides support regarding the portion of your benefit still being paid by the Red Cross Pension Plan through the State Street Bank. Alight will also continue to provide customer support for the Red Cross Savings Plan

Athene: 1-877-813-4240

Aetna: 1-800-952-2700

John Hancock: 1-800-624-5155.

## KEEP IN TOUCH UPDATES



Spring 2018 Meeting from left Kass McIntyre, Sharon Stein, Eva Sanchez, Roseann Harvey, Anna Cosgrove, Paula Hong, Tom Fitzpatrick.

them when they come home from school – snacks and homework. Freda enjoys meeting with former nurse friends for occasional lunches in and around Bucks County. Her health is good and she still drives.

Mary Mullin has had a busy summer boating on the river, visiting friends at the shore, and seeing oldest granddaughter off to PSU for her second year. Mary is looking forward to spending a few months in Florida this winter.

Janice Nixon wrote, “I just came back. 10 days in Italy with Betsy Moyer. I also went to see Mindy Einarson in July. She lives in Port Angeles, WA. We hiked in the Olympic National Forest, went whale watching and went to Vistoria, BC for the day

Ruth Oberg is on oxygen 24/7 and is very weak. She is trying to get stronger so she can walk to the dining room. Ruth has an aide helping her every morning. She still remains very cheerful.

Iris Paige continues to be a “taxi mom” for her grandkids, but now that they are in school, she has more free time to have fun. Her focus has been on house repairs such as a new roof and other items, which required

maintaining a working cash flow. However, she was able to spend some time at the shore this summer on vacation. Iris is happy to say she is enjoying good health and feeling blessed every day.

Michael Parks is extremely busy taking care of certain of his family members, especially his Mom. With all of these responsibilities, Michael still finds time to relax. Not long ago, he attended the wedding of his girlfriend’s daughter, which was a beautiful event. Michael is looking forward to a trip to New Orleans, where he was born. He will take in the football game when the Eagles play there.

Peg Pierce has had some health issues, but all is well. She keeps busy with painting watercolors and salsa dancing.

Deloris (Dee) Rice had a wonderful 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration at a favorite seafood restaurant. All of her family, including her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, were there. She also had a special trip 2 weeks ago. Her “play” daughter took her to New Orleans. She had a lovely time, but it was very hot. They solved that problem by

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## KEEP IN TOUCH UPDATES

going in and out of air-conditioned shops. Dee especially enjoyed the French Quarter and Bourbon Street. She said, "It was a fun street."

Stan Roberts reports that the Maine weather has been very comfortable and that he and Janice have escaped the searing 90-degree weather that others have had through much of the summer. Janice has recovered handsomely from her shoulder replacement surgery and is in no pain! She is often out on the Sheepscot River one to two hours a day kayaking.

Virginia Robichaw is well and hopes to see

everyone at the meeting.

June Russell is now making plans to enroll in Meals on Wheels through the Boyertown MOW office. They provide a hot meal at lunch and a cold meal at dinner. When June retired as an RN from ARC she volunteered at MOW delivering meals to residents of the Pottstown area. June has been in the hospital three times in the past six weeks, so she counts on and appreciates extra help. June says hello to all.

Carole Rykaczewski says, "I am healthy and happy. Who could ask for anything more! I am currently camping in Grand Teton Na-

## IN MEMORIAM



**Alice Jernigan** long time Red Crosser died on August 11, 2018 on her 90th birthday. Alice started with the Red Cross when it was located on Spruce St. She had a number of positions working lastly in Hospital Services contacting hospital blood banks regarding blood supply issues. Bob Benninger remembers Alice as thoughtful and caring, a real team member, and was a true asset to Red Cross Blood Services. Arlene Urbanski remembers Alice as "a real fashion setter", loved shopping and was a classy lady.



**Carla Yates**, a former staff member of the Donor Resources Department passed away at her home in Valdosta, Georgia in the spring, 2018.

Carla was a valued member of the DRD team developing many community based blood drives in the Cumberland and Salem County areas of New Jersey as well as expanding blood donations with small business along the Route 55 corridor. A lifelong resident of Cumberland County her knowledge of the area was invaluable as Blood Services continued to support more hospitalized patients. She retired in June 2014. She is survived by her daughter Margo, other family members living in Valdosta, and a sister who lives in Vineland.

**Joyce Putt**, long time Blood Services nurse manager died Novemebr 22, 2017

We also remember our colleagues **Richard Jennings** who died February 11, 2018 and **Margaret McGarity** who died February 7, 2018



## KEEP IN TOUCH UPDATES



Tony and Arlene Urbanski, pictured with one of the amazing desserts Arlene so generously provides at our

tional Park and loving it. Cold overnight, but fabulous during the day. Cell and WIFI service in the wilderness are spotty to say the least!

Leigh Ann Schafer just returned from a cruise in the Western Caribbean with family, including 4 of her youngest grandchildren. She had a great time!

Andy Schneider is doing well and happy to report that his health is very good. He enjoys activities at his local Senior Center and is out walking whenever the weather is good. No complaints!

MaryAnn Schnell is very much enjoying the off-season in Florida, but also looking forward to the return of their snowbird neighbors and friends this fall. She traveled to NJ and PA again this summer to visit family and friends. This year she joined her family to celebrate her Mother's milestone 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. They enjoyed a few days in Jekyll Island, GA, to break up the return trip to Florida.

Dave Seamon went to the King of Prussia area and couldn't help but notice what beautiful foliage there was along the way. What a wonderful spring/summer ... all stayed green due to the abundance of rain, unlike many previous years. Dave went to Sean's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday party. He is the son of Dave's cousin. It was nice chatting with various people, especially the guy with the 'scrambled eggs' on his hat! We reminisced about our military days.

Gail Seeley's best news is that her first great grandchild, a girl, was born in April and Gail flew to Corpus Christie, TX, where she spent almost a week enjoying her. Her granddaughter and the baby spent some time at Gail's shore home in Brigantine. She hopes to see her again in December. Other than that, she attended a conference in Tarrytown, NY, in June where she also took in the sights – lovely area.

Doris Smith said, "All things good at the Smith house."

Frank Stearns had a quiet time this summer and spent a lot of time at the Jersey shore. Frank is enjoying good health and looking forward to seeing everyone in October. On Memorial Day Frank and his daughter, Jessica Goldstein donated blood in Ventnor, New Jersey prior to celebrating with their family in a holiday get together.

Ruth Sumner and her husband Norman moved from E. Montgomery County to Center Valley in Lehigh County near Allentown. It is a 55+ community that is just 5 minutes from her son and family and 1 hour closer to her daughter and family.

Arthur Swiesfurth has been busy going through boxes of family photos. It's nice to look at them and brings back fond memories. Fall clean-up will keep Art busy out of doors. The heat and frequent rain made it difficult to keep ahead of mowing and weeding.

Greg Talley sees his grandchildren, especially during the summer time. He has been helping his Mom who has had a serious illness for the past six months. Gary said he also is very busy helping other family members who have problems. He does enjoy summer though, because he can interact with the family. He also finds time to relax during retirement.

Elna "Peaches" Thomas is doing well, and happy to state that she turned 84 years in August and still enjoys traveling. She spent time in Destin, Florida, with her oldest daughter and then time in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, with her middle daughter. At the time of our call she was closely watching

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## KEEP IN TOUCH UPDATES

Hurricane Florence, hoping that it won't impact Georgia. Elna will be heading to Palm Coast, Florida, shortly with family. Sha good friend was very sorry to read about the passing of Alice Jernigan, noting that she will be dearly missed.

Arlene Urbanski and her husband spent most of the summer with relatives and friends in Seattle, WA; Wildwood, NJ; Pocono Mountains and Maryland. She had much sadness with the deaths of 2 very special people.

Mary Lou Walchak is very much enjoying retirement. She is working on antique cars with her husband and attending car shows. Their new German Shepherd is 2 years old now and is lots of fun. She is looking forward to more trips to the mountains in Pennsylvania in the spring.

Linda Williams says, "She is grateful every day for good health." She still stays active with leadership retreats. She is part of a "wonderful group of (15) women" who are "equipping and encouraging tomorrow's women leaders." The most recent event attracted 250 people. Linda has been part of this, as a speaker and teacher, for 6 or 7 years. These events take place twice a year



Spring 2018 meeting attendees from left Joan Colti, Liz Guido, Pearl Kuo

and cover the Mid-Atlantic area.

Linda is looking forward to the arrival of her 5<sup>th</sup> great grandchild who will be born in April. All of her family lives close by,

Otis Wilson enjoyed most of the summer months at his home in Tallahassee, FL. He also spent some time this summer visiting friends in Augusta, GA, returning home to the Philadelphia area just ahead of Hurricane Florence – perfect timing! He is doing well.

### JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO THE NATIONAL RETIREE ASSOCIATION NOW

As a member of the American Red Cross Retiree Association you're assured that someone is paying attention and championing your interests. The voice of the association is the voice of our members. . .and we're the only organization that speaks to Red Cross management on your behalf. As our membership grows, the association has an ever more powerful seat at the table as we work to protect our pensions and our health benefits. When you join us now--or renew your membership--you're assured that we'll always keep you up-to-date on the issues that really matter to your retirement security. Connect with the National ARC Retiree Association to join or renew membership by connecting to the link

<https://americanredcrossretirees.wildapricot.org/join-us>

### **Mission Statement**

The PenJerDel ARC Retiree Association seeks to encourage and promote the friendship and camaraderie among retirees. We hope to accomplish this by expanding our membership by reaching out to new retirees, hosting bi-yearly meetings and publishing a newsletter to keep our members in-touch with one another. We will strengthen our meetings and programs and will always be responsive and focused on the American Red Cross and its outreach to our local communities.

If you want to correct contact information or be added to our mailing lists please send an email to Arc retirees@gmail.com.

If you have information for the newsletter including old photos or current news of our colleagues please send an email to arc retirees@gmail.com or call Kathy Glackin at 215 370 3779

## **PENJERDEL RETIREE GROUP**

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ROSEMARY LEYLAND -AT LARGE  
GAIL SEELEY-KEEP IN TOUCH  
FRANK STEARNS-AT LARGE  
ARLENE URBANSKI- PROGRAMS

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