



# December 8 – 15, 2024 Guest Biographies

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## Ronald (Ron) L Anderson

I was born on October 22, 1940 in St Louis, Missouri. I had hair two inches long and in my first baby picture I looked like I had been electrocuted, the hair straight out and up. Perhaps I was born in shock. My mother was a Rowland from Albany, NY. Her father had been the protestant minister to the Howard Taft family. My father got his US citizenship by being born in New York harbor, on a boat of immigrants from Sweden. His younger sister ended his short stint with the St Louis Cardinal baseball team when she knocked him out of the second floor of a barn while they were loading concrete and

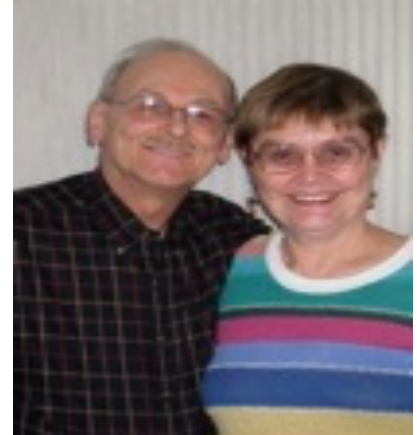
he broke his back. He was the catcher who caught Dizzy Dean when he first pitched in the majors. He retired as a Sears manager. My childhood dreams were to be a baseball player and a man as good as Dad was.

My brother (six years older and a damn good one) and I were raised in the 1940s and 50s in St Louis, which should tell you much. I graduated from Ladue High School in June 1958. From 1960-1964, I served in the Air Force and did a tour in Vietnam from 62-63. I was in Meteorology while in the military. With the help of the Air Force and the GI bill, I graduated from Wichita State University in 1965, and in June 1970 received a Masters degree from WSU. During those years I worked for a CPA firm and then the Wichita Area Community Action Program. In August 1970 I was hired as an assistant to the Dean of Students at WSU and, in fact, became the director of their Vietnam Veterans Outreach Program. I did that until August of 1973. By this time I was deeply engrossed in human and civil rights, and fought for fellow Vietnam Veterans, and those who dropped out to Canada. I made a commitment to some veterans at Wounded Knee, SD and went there to help. The love of my life and my best friend ever, tired of "cityness" and we uprooted our five year old daughter to the sacred land of New Mexico. I worked various jobs and eventually transferred my CPA from Kansas to NM. I provided accounting and tax services to a rural community. With a Presidential scholarship, my daughter graduated from UNM. Later she earned her masters degree and became the principal at a rural Elementary/Middle school. My esposa passed on to greener pastures and I finally retired. I have a top notch union leader granddaughter (President of the NM Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO), and a caring daughter, to cherish.

**Ken Armstrong  
Campbell, CA**

Common Citizen. Born, raised, and educated (UC Berkeley) in California. Semi-retired nurse. Married to Marilyn Sander, who is also on this cruise.

Father was a union member in home construction. The only direct political guidance Dad gave me was this: "I always vote the man, not the party, but every time I voted for a Republican I was sorry later." He told me this only to later vote for Dick Nixon.



Subscribe to "The Nation", "Mother Jones", "Washington Spectator", Hightower Report and receive regular reports from various groups I support.

Have been influenced in personal/spiritual life by, among others, the works of Sheldon Kopp, Ram Dass, and Fritz Perls (gestalt therapy). Hobbies include bowling, ballroom dancing, and lutherie (make guitars, banjos, fiddles, ukuleles, etc.). Big customer of "Great Courses" from The Learning Company for ongoing education. I am fearful for our country's democracy right now.

**Cherry and Elvis Barksdale**

Cherry and Elvis Barksdale live in Fredericksburg, Va. We have over the past 40 years been involved with the Department of Defense in various roles from the United States Army to supporting agencies of the government.

Over the past years we focused on creating a solid foundation for the growth of our family and securing the future of the country by becoming involved where possible.

We have found that we enjoy discussing the impact of the social economic conditions on an individual's view of the political landscape. The interest comes from her being from an urban environment and my coming from a rural environment.

Besides love of gaming, we enjoy meeting people who visit our shop in Bowling Green, VA that caters to designing, tailoring and custom alteration of clothing.

**Edward Baran**

Edward Baran, Somers, NY. Retired actor and singer. Current scribbler. Still smokin'.

## **Kim Batchelor**

I'm the coordinator of Texas Christians for Reproductive Justice, working to overturn Texas's abortion bans. We had a recent victory working with the Amarillo Reproductive Freedom Alliance to support the rejection of a travel ban ordinance voted down by 20 points. The ordinance would have resulted in intimidation of anyone helping someone to travel through Amarillo to access abortion in New Mexico.

My previous experience focused on immigrant rights and community organizing. I spent more than 20 years in public health, focusing on qualitative, quantitative, and clinical research, research ethics, and participatory assessment and evaluation.

**Harold W. Beu**, aged 78, turning 79 on December 5th.

Retired Unitarian Universalist minister and retired high school teacher, teaching history and civics [I call it civics, instead of government because it is about creating a civil society]. I also taught psychology and math. As you can discern from this brief description of my life so far, I am really a jack of all trades and master of none. It is part of my curiosity in so many things.

I am involved with peace groups, particularly Kalamazoo Nonviolent Opponents of War [KNOW]. I was also involved and the chair of the interfaith group in Kalamazoo. My main concern right now is about Israel, Gaza and the Palestinians. I have taught courses on the history of Israelis/Palestinians to various groups, including Western Michigan University, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, various churches and the general public. The more I had learned about the subject, the more enraged I have become about Israel's treatment of Palestinians. My grandmother was an Austrian Jew, which would make my father a Jew. She lost 3 siblings in the Holocaust. Again, I am enraged that anyone would think that Israel represents Judaism. It does not.

At any rate, I do want Israelis not to suffer as well, and I think that those who dominate others suffer as well, but in a different way.

At any rate, I think I have said enough here. I look forward to meeting people and listening to some interesting people.

Keep the faith, Harold W. Beu, Kalamazoo, Michigan

## Cynthia Bickey

Hello, I'm Cynthia Bickey, from Dunedin, Florida, and Williamsburg, VA. I'm semi-retired, mother of four, grandmother of fifteen, great-grandmother of six, and a widow of ten years. I'm a lifelong liberal, and I'm grateful that my children are as well. I have a male 19 month old dog, a CavaPoo named Cookie, who daily helps me see the value in life, although I can't help feeling daunted by the task ahead.

I love to read, take walks with Cookie, watch streaming movies, and talk with my family. Now I only read the news. I tired of screaming at the television. I look forward to hearing my fellow travelers suggest ways we may stem the tide of oncoming fascism, resist it, subvert it, kill it—anything but capitulate. This truly is a “hill worth dying on.”



### Bob BJORKE

Retired public school teacher, enjoying the travel teaching prevented me from embracing.

### Judy BJORKE

Grew up in small town MN, currently live in the most progressive district in MN. Ilhan Omar is my rep! Completed undergrad at UWI-Stout, masters in public health at UCLA and in social work at UW-Madison. Worked in nutrition before going into social work, mostly in-home family therapy with non-profit organizations in WI and school social work when I moved back to MN. Expanded my social activism to being a witness for non-violence in ceded territories in N Wisconsin “treaty wars” and international observer in N Ireland during the contentious parades season. Served on my education union executive board as part of a social justice caucus to move our union to be more active (less ‘what can our union (leaders) do for me’ and more of ‘how can I get more involved to strengthen my union’) and to fight the growing education reform movement in our district. Now retired and enjoy traveling, especially road trips, gardening, reading, Korean TV shows on Netflix. Looking forward to spending time with fellow Nation readers!

## **Anne & Kent Bossange**

We met in the early 70's while in college. Last August we celebrated our 48th anniversary. We live about an hour South of San Francisco in a small community called Saratoga. We are both retired. Kent worked mostly in high tech in sales and marketing, and I was an estate planning attorney. This will be our second cruise that includes a political speaker series. The first one was several decades ago – a fund raiser for Air America -the radio station that unfortunately no longer exists. The hosts of Air America were Al Franken, Thom Hartman, Rachel Maddow and many others. We are very much looking forward to meeting the other attendees and speakers, attending the lectures and enjoying seeing new sights.

Anne and Kent Bossange

## Lisa Botwinick

Hi, my name is Lisa Botwinick, and I am 72 years young and live in the West Village of Manhattan, New York City with my two brother tabby cats, Amour and Magic and they are eleven years old! Most of the time they love each other!

I am a life coach for women over 50, who want to reignite their confidence to love again as that is me! I help women over 50, by having more clarity, confidence and discovering their authentic self, and then to find a compatible partner that will bring happiness to both people!

Please check out my website: [lisabotwinick.com](http://lisabotwinick.com). Previously, I worked in non-profit human resources administration and retired in 2012!

I have been Swing and Ballroom dancing for about 40 years and find that to be great exercise, love the music and have made several good friends this way. I also enjoy creating collages, greeting cards and making my own jewelry! I also love the theater.

By the time we cruise, hopefully we will know the results of the election! Someone I met this summer said the following after I said, "we will be drinking either say." I said hopefully champagne, and the other person said if it goes the other way, it will be real hard stuff! I am cautiously optimistic! I've written 190 letters to swing states to encourage young people to vote and contributed funds! I did something!

I look forward to meeting old friends, making new ones and having a great time as usual!



## Helen and Arlin Briley

St. Petersburg, Florida

Helen and Arlin met at their county Democratic Party Headquarters in 2004 as they both were volunteering for the John Kerry for President campaign. They have many memories over their 20 years. Helen loves to tell how she was the front office manager of the local Obama headquarters in 2012 which garnered her an invitation to the White House Christmas Party. Arlin co-led an investigation of electronic voting system risks and thus contributed to the successful effort to require paper ballots in Florida elections, and he continues as a leader of the local Party.

We look forward to meeting like-minded people on The Nation Cruise.

## Judy Brengi

I live in Peoria, AZ and have been an active Democrat all my life. I served as a precinct committee person, on the state committee, and as a Bernie delegate to the 2016 Convention in Philadelphia. When Covid hit, I gave up my positions, turning them over to the next generation. I still participate in campaigns, but without a title.

I grew up in Pennsylvania and lived in New Jersey for a few years while I finished my degree at Rutgers, before moving to Arizona in 1972. Since retiring as a CPA 3 years ago, I have been an avid traveler. I traveled to Vietnam with The Nation and always look forward to the annual seminar cruises.

## Cliff & Judy Brunk

We are Clifford (Cliff) and Judith (Judy) Brunk.

This will be our 8th cruise with the Nation, and we are excited about this year's adventure. We have three children (our youngest daughter and her husband are with us on this cruise). Judy was a mother and homemaker and then had a 40-year-plus career as

the director of a premier early childhood learning center, Hill & Dale Family Learning Center in Santa Monica. She directed an infant toddler center and a preschool center and found working with children and families wonderful and deeply rewarding. She retired in

2012 but remains active in the early childhood community in West Los Angeles. Cliff was trained as an electrical engineer, receiving a BS and MS in electrical engineering and then a doctorate in biophysics. He was a professor doing research on molecular evolution and taught in the Biology Department at UCLA for some 45 years. He retired in 2010 but continued to teach for several more years. His passion is the 'origin of life' a topic he still studies and writes on. We both enjoy the *Nation* journal and the Nation cruises. We are particularly looking forward to this cruise and the opportunity to see old friends.



## Cherylene Burruss

I am a native of Lexington, Kentucky. I'm A woman of GOD. I'm Retired First Sergeant US Army and A retired Para educator. I have over 15 years of management, counseling experience. I am optimistic, philosophy and a sincere person to what I Believe in! I love to read books, needpoint, cross stitch and love music!! I Believe Our Life Is a Joyful Journey of many Challenges and each individual must use their Gifts whatever they may be.



## Janet Clemenson, LCSW

(Surviving heat, humidity, hurricanes, and *the worst kind of politics* in Houston, Texas!)

Greetings, fellow agitators,

I'm Janet Clemenson, a 68-year-old social worker originally from Indiana and Chicago, Illinois and now living for 25 years (yikes!) in Houston, Texas. I have worked nearly nonstop as a clinical social worker, having earned my MSW from SUNY at Stony Brook in 1982. That program was very Marx/Marxism-informed and introduced me to the anti-psychiatry movement of R.D. Lang and others, a worldview I embrace to this day, and which has informed the way I work with clients in a psychotherapy setting. I worked for many years in a couple different community mental health centers in Chicago, then for another 12-ish years in a part-time private practice in a suburb of Houston, and for the past 10+ years in the student counseling center at the University of Houston (and from which I will retire when I'm ready).

I have two "kids" (30 and 31 years old) who are busy building their own adult lives and who each live within 1.5 miles of me in Houston. Although I'm a long-standing atheist with no belief whatsoever in an interfering god(s) or goddess(es), I do consider this a blessing of sorts. I have two cats, as well, who keep me moderately entertained.

I enjoy reading a wide range of fiction and nonfiction, camping and hiking in faraway beautiful places here in Texas and beyond, staying in touch with wonderful close friends and family members, and using yoga and meditation as survival tools for these times.

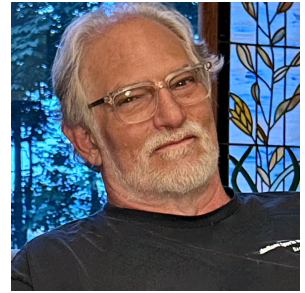
My favorite news sources are In These Times and The Nation, because they bring a smart and thoughtful labor-focused and social democratic lens to the many wicked social and political problems we face as a nation and as part of a global community. As I write these notes, I can't help but wonder what the mood will be when we come together in December for this cruise. Will we be celebrating or commiserating? Will we feel empowered and hopeful or more vulnerable than ever? Will we even know who the rightful president will be, or will the captured and Cristofacist Extreme Court be weighing in on this decision? I really had to think hard about whether to join this cruise at this time, wondering how we can possibly support each other, whatever the outcome. In the end, I decided I can't imagine a better group of people to travel with, whether it's tears in our beer or the audacity of cautious optimism.

Whatever the realities, let's have some fun!

Janet

## Dave Coker

Dave Coker is a licensed massage therapist and proprietor of Indiana Sports Massage, which recently won the people's choice gold-medal award as the top massage therapist in the region. Long interested in the workings of local government, Dave was approached to run for a vacant borough council seat and served as borough councilor for several years. Dave is proud member of the Democratic Socialists of America and long-time listener of Sam Seder's program. The reason we're here is because one morning he said, "If we ever decided to try a cruise, this is the only one I'd really want to do."



## Jim Cooper

**James Cooper** (Jim) is a retired chemist and computer scientist, having worked both in the scientific instrument industry and in IBM's Research Division. He has written a number of technical books over the years and writes a blog called [foodscienceinstitute.com](http://foodscienceinstitute.com). His hobbies include community theater, gardening, photography and singing Gilbert and Sullivan. He first became interested in national affairs while attending Oberlin College.

## Jill Cozzi

I was born in the mid-1950s to FDR Democrats. At age 11 I was making civil rights march signs for my mother. At 15 I marched against the Vietnam War. At 17 I stuffed envelopes for a local Democratic candidate for Congress. At 25, I was warning friends that Ronald Reagan was a threat to Roe v. Wade. In 2004 I started a blog, Brilliant at Breakfast, that enjoyed a small reputation for a decade until the loss of my husband, both parents and two cats knocked me flat for a while. But every year since then I've said "I'd really like to do the Nation Cruise sometime." And this most consequential year seemed like the right time to do it.

These days I am a contented childless cat lady of two, retired after a varied career in IT and clinical research, taking home-cooked meals to people going through life crises, staying sane through regular tai chi and qigong practice, writing a memoir, and thinking that maybe it's time to start blogging again.



## Bonnie Cushing

Bonnie Berman Cushing is a licensed clinical social worker and an anti-oppression organizer and educator. Along with her private practice and training/consulting work, she is an adjunct professor of social work at Montclair State University. Above all, she is the mother of Molly, Jerome and her aged rescue dog, Homer.



## Judy Darden

I grew up in Seattle and Tacoma and worked as a Telephone Operator with Pacific Bell. In 1964, after the earthquake in Anchorage, the government came looking for operators, so I headed to Alaska for three years before I heard the call of “The Beach Boys” and headed to San Diego to enjoy a warmer climate. Long story short, I began my career as a Computer Systems Analyst with the Navy, doing testing, delivering, and training personnel on board US Aircraft Carriers all over the world until 1991 when I went to work for the Defense Information Systems Agency’s Joint Interoperability Test Command at Fort Huachuca, Az, which was responsible for testing anything that digitally “talked” to anything else between the various services (I worked on weapon systems with the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, etc.). I also set up testing with other nations to verify they could communicate with the US systems. Wonderful job that was extremely hard to let go – great travel, met wonderful people from all occupations in so many places. Eventually I retired from Civil Service as a GS-14 and went to work as a manager for one of the local contractors – I was responsible for a group of people that wrote the test procedures, conducted the tests, and analyzed the data – again, it was another wonderful job that was hard to leave. When my husband of 37 years passed away, I moved back home to Washington. Later I met Richard on-line and moved back to Anchorage, since he was still working. We got married and renovated his unfinished house, sold it, and moved to a fixer-upper in Bellingham which we remodeled. After living in the forest eight years, we bought another house just before the pandemic, in Ferndale, WA, where I was able to have contractors in and out since no one lived in the house yet. Now we’re out of the forest into the sunshine on an acre of land with a peek at Mt Baker. And we’re back to traveling – spent two weeks in Cabo, did an Expedition Cruise to Antarctica, went down in a submarine in the Weddell Sea, cruised Denmark, Norway, Iceland and Scotland, took a bus tour through the Pacific NW National Parks, and recently stayed on the ocean in Seaside, OR, before heading to Friends and Family Homecoming Weekend at Boise State University with our two grandsons and their mom (where they WON the game). In 2025 we have four trips scheduled and we’re working on 2026 – still need to see Polar Bears. When we’re home, we enjoy our two Labradoodles and watching the grass grow. Between us we have six kids, eleven grandkids and a slew of great grandkids scattered all around the states. Politically I’m middle of the road, and I just don’t talk politics – it just doesn’t lead anywhere, but I love attending The Nation Cruises.



## **Richard Darden**

I'm from Newsoms, VA, home of the "jumbo peanut," where I saw the effects of Jim Crow, where the Nat Turner Insurrection occurred and the oppression of tenant farming on poor people who never were freed from slavery after the Civil War. I joined the Air Force and attended electronics school in Biloxi, MS, where I saw oppression on a massive scale. I transferred to the West Coast and when my enlistment ended, I attended college in Riverside then moved to Cave Junction, OR, and built a cabin on a hill on land friends owned - no roads nor electricity. I used a book, "How to Build a Cabin in the Woods" to construct my first ever carpentry project. In 1972 a friend asked me to help him drive the Alcan Hwy up to Juneau and I found work with a Seneca Native American to rescue a half-sunk WW I submarine chaser. We ferro-cemented the hole in the hull and removed the rusted engine, then we found big slabs of wood at high tide and made a hanging table, put in a wood stove, and made it into a houseboat and anchored offshore from Douglas Island. I got a job halibut fishing on a twenty-two-foot Columbia River gillnetter out in Icy Straits - I could hear humpback whales all around us and see bears swimming in the water. I moved to Anchorage and got into a four-year Alaska Carpenters Apprenticeship Program. Most of that time I worked on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. I worked for 10 years out of Local 1281 then got a job with the Municipality of Anchorage in Facility Maintenance where I worked as a carpenter. I met Judy online and we exchanged emails and phone calls until I flew down to visit her for a week. We vacationed in Cabo that winter, then spent a wonderful month in Buenos Aires, Argentina, with visits to Uruguay, Iguazu Falls, Salta, a road trip over the Andes at 13,000 feet, a gaucho ranch, and Mae de Plata on the Atlantic Ocean. Since I was still working, Judy rented out her house and drove up the Alcan Hwy - just her and her dog, Maggie. I could not fly down to help drive as a volcano had spewed ash and there were no flights out of Anchorage. I had raised my house to a 2-story and built a new first floor but there were things that still needed repair, so Judy hired a contractor to do most of the work and we got it completely remodeled. In 2011 I retired, we sold it and moved to Bellingham, WA, to a fixer-upper home we had purchased earlier. A contractor did all the work before we moved. After eight years of living in a forest, we bought another one that needed work, got it done during the pandemic and moved to Ferndale, WA. We have met many wonderful like-minded people on the past 10 Nation cruises - each gathering is a highlight of the year for me, as I am a Bernie Sanders/ Elizabeth Warren type progressive. I work with stained glass, have 2 Labradoodles, we travel a lot and are enjoying retirement.

**Linda Darga**

313.522.7366

I have a Ph.D. in Biological Anthropology and have been a full-time researcher at 2 universities. I have also taught anthropology part-time throughout my career. I went hiking and backpacking, mostly in the mountains out west, every summer since my late 20's, first with my late husband and after he died, with others. I have been involved with Peace Action of Michigan for many years, trying to bring a reduction in violence. I have been involved in social justice issues my whole life. I have lived in Detroit, near WSU, for many years and I love this area.



**Barbara de Leeuw**

[bdeleeuw2020@icloud.com](mailto:bdeleeuw2020@icloud.com)

My former students called me Mrs. de Leeuw (dah-lay-o). I mostly go by 'Barbara' these days. I *retired* in 2002 from Brighton Central Schools located in suburban Rochester, New York located across "the lake" from Toronto. I was a teacher and administrator for over 30 years. I also

worked with the children of migrant farm workers.

My legacy career included a salaried stint as Executive Director of the Genesee Valley Chapter, NYCLU- American Civil Liberties Union.

I *retired* again and became a community volunteer. I served on the governing boards of Geva Theater Center, The Rochester Area Community Foundation, YWCA and Planned Parenthood. I tried again...retiring.

Currently, I am a recovering Moderator (just recently *retired*) and past President of a 700 member Unitarian Universalist congregation. If you know UU's, this will have meaning. I thought three times would be the charm... but then, four years ago... I said yes to the Unitarian Universalist Association National Governing Board of Trustees. I deeply love transformational work.

I also agreed to return for a single 3-yr stint (absolutely 1 term only) on the Geva Theater Center board to support and encourage our new, Tony Award winning Artistic Director, who is a woman.

They say that it takes 17 repetitions to learn something.

My new reality.... I have not and probably will not retire. I just no longer earn a salary. I am traveling with my partner Barry Swan, "the anti - social studies teacher".

## **Christine Diehl**

I grew up in the northeast, mostly PA. When I moved to San Francisco at age 20, it was the 20th city I had lived in. I married my best friend, and I swim behind waterfalls. I met my hubby in SF when he was a computer scientist by day and punk rock drummer by night. After 5 colleges and 10 years of full time employment, I earned my degree in Experimental Psychology/Cognitive Science. I finished writing my U.C. Berkeley dissertation in France while my hubby was on sabbatical at CERN. I lectured at Berkeley while conducting research on developing new educational technologies. I later had the privilege to teach in a hard to staff middle school in SF—6th grade math/science.

When we travel overseas—50 countries, so far—I take local cooking classes. I love preparing food for family and friends. I've already mastered Jamaican Goat Curry. We recently retired down to New Orleans where I am working on mastering local dishes and he's playing in several local bands. In my spare time, I actively volunteer with local emergency services, unhoused folk & food outreach groups.

## **Cindy Evans**

This is my third Nation Cruise event and I have been looking forward to it for months! I am a mother of 2 and grandmother of 5. I retired from the practice of Hematology/Oncology at the end of 2019. Upon retirement I moved from southwestern Pennsylvania to South Carolina for warmer temps and more sunshine. My roots, however, are in Iowa where I was born and Nebraska where I spent my growing up years so Tim Walz's style of speech is quite familiar to me. I am a proud member of the Liberal Ladies of the Low Country which now has nearly 600 members and also a member of one of our several local, active Indivisible groups.

Our little county Democratic office has been a hub of activity this year. We have some strong leadership and fielded more candidates for local offices than ever before. The county in which I live is 48% Democrat so we are hopeful that one or two of our candidates will actually win! I hope we will be celebrating big time on this cruise and I look forward to seeing everyone.



### **James Fallon:**

This is my first cruise as a passenger. I enjoy gardening, sailing, cooking and hiking.

My training and occupation include being a physician, internist, epidemiologist, child and adult psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, with additional training in adolescent medicine and infectious disease. Currently, I am a faculty at St. Elizabeths Hospital in Washington, DC, and Professor at the Drexel University College of Medicine. My present courses include Creative and Reflective Writing, Bioethics and Advanced Psychotherapy. Active research includes psychological maturation of the developing mind. I also have a thriving psychotherapy private practice seeing children, adolescents and adults. Among the myriad possible topics of

conversation, I would be particularly interested in exploring why the “liberal” and intellectual media takes little interest in understanding the other half of the population.



### **Bruce Fealk**

My name is Bruce Fealk. I live in Rochester Hills, Michigan. I guess you'd call me an activist and troublemaker. I am married and have two grown daughters and two grandchildren.

During the 2016 campaign, I traveled across the country with an anti-Trump message with a friend. We were at the location of 2 presidential debates with a giant papier mache head of The Former Guy and message for voters about how dangerous The Former Guy would be for our country.

Starting in 2007, as an activist, I had another papier mache head of my then Congressman and had a story about my activism that was shown on Keith Olbermann's show and our 8-term Congressman lost that election by 10 points and put Senator Gary Peters in his first elected office representing the 9th Congressional district of Michigan.



### **Nancy Frankenberry**

Nancy Frankenberry is a philosopher of religion who retired as the John Phillips Professor in Religion after teaching for 38 years at Dartmouth College. She is currently finishing a book on American pragmatism, reading *The Nation.*, and hoping to see a Trump perp walk. This is her fourth cruise with *The Nation.* if you count the one on land in 2021. She divides her time between Quechee, Vermont and Naples, Florida.

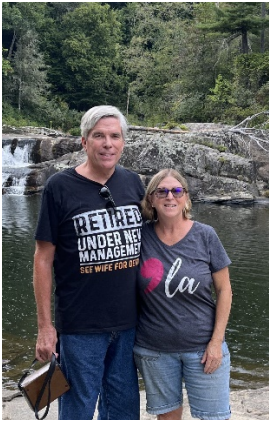
### **Suzanne Goode**

I was born and grew up in the D.C. suburbs of Virginia. My classmates in McLean High School were mostly children of government officials and military officers. I developed a keen interest in politics from an early age, and was involved in the civil rights movement as a teenager. After earning a B.A. in English from Butler University in Indianapolis, and spending over a year living in Munich, Germany, I gathered up all my belongings and drove to California in my 1962 Chevy Impala. Not long thereafter I decided to become a biologist and went back to school, earning a B.S. and a M.S. in Biology from California State University, Los Angeles.



After graduation, I worked in a few starter jobs: a course coordinator in the Ecology Department at U.C., Irvine; a field technician for the U. S. Forest Service; and executive director of a small environmental organization. In 1989 I began my dream career with California State Parks, starting as an intern and ending up thirty years later as a Senior Environmental Scientist managing 40,000 acres of parkland in the Santa Monica Mountains and the greater Los Angeles area. I worked behind the scenes to help defeat destructive development proposals and supervised many environmental restoration projects. Among the latter were a major restoration of Malibu Lagoon, the eradication of an invasive exotic grass from a native grassland in Point Mugu State Park, and the initiation of a dam removal project in Malibu Canyon to allow passage of the federally-endangered steelhead trout to its historic spawning grounds.





## Randy and Sharon Goertz

Randy & Sharon Goertz live in Prince George, in central Virginia. Randy is now officially retired from the Army, the Defense Contractor world, and DoD Civilian life. He is a devoted husband, doting Papa to two beautiful granddaughters and dedicated tinkerer. “If it aint broke, Papa already fixed it.” Raised in New Braunfels, Texas and a reformed graduate of Texas A&M, he has a legitimate claim to be an avid fan of Dallas Cowboys, Houston Astros, San Antonio Spurs and the Aggies. (You can take the man out of Texas, but you can’t take Texas out of the man.) His hobbies include caretaker of five acres and summertime pool boy. He enjoys big bonfires and relaxing in the water.

Sharon has lived in San Diego, MD, GA, Germany, AL, TX, KS and has finally settled in central Virginia for the rest of her life. A very young mother of three sons, she went to college with her youngest two (different schools), graduating from University of Virginia at the age of 45 in 2005, with a degree in American Studies and Politics. She is an avid fan of MSNBC and audio books and never without her AirPods. She is currently co-writing a Midlife Magical Women’s Fiction novel. She enjoys homeschooling and having adventures with her 2 granddaughters, keeping up with the dogs (3 rescues: 2 Lab mixes and a one-eyed Beagle) and 4 cats: 2 old, 2 kittens, and generally doing her best to keep up.



## Candy Gale, Tampa, FL

[cigid@me.com](mailto:cigid@me.com)

813-317-7660

I grew up with a family run, grocery and gas station country store attached to my home in central Pennsylvania. Went to Cameron County High School and got degrees in mathematics and linguistics from Marshall University (WE ARE MARSHALL!) and The University of South Florida. (Go Bulls!). I retired from public school teaching in 2015.

I live in Tampa Florida and am very active in the UU Church of Tampa, Treasurer of The Southeast Winter Institute (SWIM, - [swimuu.org](http://swimuu.org)), and board member of the Hillsborough Organization for Progress and Equality (HOPE which is Direct Action Research Training (DART)). I’m also a past president of the Hillsborough Educators Association – Retired (HEA-R). My husband and I have hosted 5 foreign exchange students plus several campaign workers. I like to garden, watch YouTube and Netflix, and relish opportunities to snorkel where I can observe cuttlefish (also known as reef squid).

I like to be on the periphery of politics, but being married to Russell Patterson, I am in more often than out. I look forward to meeting with all of you!

## Carol Goldman

I'm a "Red Diaper Baby", born and raised in California. I moved to New York City after college and worked for the NYC Department of Social Services in a variety of programs, from Homeless Services to Homecare and Aids. I've been a lifelong activist, walking on union picket lines with my parents and participating in every social movement you can name. I'm retired, and my main focus recently has been on protesting the genocidal war on Gaza as a member of Jewish Voices for Peace.

On a personal note, I'm married with two adult children and four grandchildren. I love living in culturally rich NYC. I enjoy the theater, concerts of jazz, folk, opera, and classical music, and listening to New Sounds on NPR. Not to mention our fabulous museums. I can't leave out the joy of living within walking distance of both Riverside and Central Parks. I look forward to meeting like-minded people during what will be a stimulating week cruising the Caribbean.



## Linda Hardesty

Undeniable facts about me:

I was born in 1957 in Dallas, Texas. My father grew up on a farm in southern Illinois, fought in WWII in the Pacific, and finally found a decent living when the UAW organized the GM plant he worked at. My mother gave up nursing when her first child was born but worked cleaning cabins at the Lakeview Tourist and Trailer Park, where we lived in the office cottage. I was not too fond of Texas, but I appreciated how much had changed for the better when I returned to Dallas to care for my father in 2017.

I graduated from Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in Philosophy in 1982 (social class year 1979). I served in the US Foreign Service for 4.5 years in Bangladesh and Washington. The rest of my career was as a self-taught computer database consultant in Boulder, CO. I'm retired and enjoy hiking and wildlife photography with my husband of 17 years, who is not on the cruise. Neither of us had any children. I have a complicated relationship with spirituality, but I am a member of a progressive Mennonite church. I have also been a long-time student of A Course In Miracles.



## **Donna Harwood**

Donna Harwood was born in SE Pennsylvania and raised by democratic parents who were active union members and is proudly registered as a democrat. She moved south to attend college and graduated from Georgia State University in Atlanta. She worked for 43 years in the commercial insurance industry, moved to Tampa, Florida in 2006 and retired in 2017.

Donna became an active member of the New Tampa Democratic Club in 2018, was elected as the club Secretary, and joined the Hillsborough County Democratic Party. She was elected as Treasurer of the Hillsborough County Democratic Party in 2019, and her background in insurance financial auditing has served her well in fulfilling her duties as the party Treasurer.

Donna enjoys volunteering for charitable organizations and traveling.



## **Tanya Heflin**

Tanya Heflin is a professor of English with a focus on feminism, women's and multi-ethnic literatures, and life-writing of the late 19th through 21st centuries at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Having long had an interest in the visual arts, she is currently working toward completing a certificate in photography and digital imaging. Her primary political interests include restoring reproductive freedom, uncovering unconscious

bias, achieving intersectional equity, and recovering ecological and climate health. This is her first-ever cruise.

## **Paul Helgeson**

I grew up on a diversified family farm in Iowa - still own a 120 acre farm in Wisconsin. I have a Mechanical Engineering degree from GMI, Flint, Michigan. Most of my working career was with General Motors, State of Wisconsin, and State of Minnesota. I also worked as a carpenter and was a member of the International Brotherhood of Carpenters. Elected four times to the City Council of Middleton, Wisconsin, and am a member of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin.

## **David Hiles**

I was born, raised, and educated (UT) in Austin, Texas, by parents who lost their jobs in the McCarthy era.

## **Kathie Hoekstra**

Kathie Hoekstra is an attorney, pilot, and Founder of a new nonprofit Sustain ALX. Its mission is to educate and entice members of Alexandria, VA to save money and protect the planet for future generations. She formed the nonprofit because she was frustrated with the lack of focus and energy from the City government on doing something to “move the needle” and address the climate crisis. Until her retirement in 2021, Kathie worked at the Federal Aviation Administration leading software design projects to improve safety for pilots in the cockpit focusing on human factors – the science of making it easy to do things right and difficult to do them wrong. Prior to the FAA, Kathie worked at the FDIC helping to resolve the savings and loan crisis. Following over 30 years of government service, Kathie retired and turned to her primary passion – the environment and the climate crisis.

Kathie studied ecology in college and has always been concerned about the environment - spending most summers hiking in the Cascades or Canadian Rockies since she was five. After college, she earned her JD in Chicago and a Master Degree in Environmental Law (LLM) from George Washington University Law School. In 2017, Kathie attended VP Al Gore’s Climate Reality 3-day training to get the facts and be able to give presentations on the climate crisis. As a direct result, she installed solar panels on her home and now has electric bills of \$7 per month under Virginia’s net metering program.

When not working the above issues, you will find Kathie tending her organic garden and all the native plants leading to having her yard certified by the National Audubon Society and Virginia Native Plant Society as a wildlife sanctuary.

Kathie has been on multiple Nation cruises as well as the Nation’s trip to Russia in 2016 – just in time.

## **Diane Kaskey**

Our First Nation Cruise was 10 years ago in 2014. I am looking forward to another one. I think it’s number 7?

My main job was working in a Credit Union for over 20 years. Currently I/we keep busy with happy hours and eating out with friends and family. This year we have adopted two cats, Red and Meeky, they are fun. My husband and I enjoy traveling. This year we visited friends in Mexico in March. And in April we went on a Viking cruise in Paris.

## **Sid Kaskey**

The basics: I am a retired law librarian in my 70s.

The obvious: my wife and I enjoy eating well, meeting interesting people, and visiting places we have rarely or never visited.

And the strange: inexplicably we like participating in this philosophical/political echo chamber. Our worldviews are repeated back to us through discussions, lectures, and general conversations. We enjoy hearing ourselves in a different voice. My wife and I have done a number of these cruises and, like most [all?], we are fortunate to be able to afford doing it. It is a pleasant way to help/support, in our small way, The Nation Magazine.

## Tony Kelso

Tony Kelso is professor emeritus and the former chair of the Media and Strategic Communication Department at Iona University. He is the author of *The Social Impact of Advertising: Confessions of an (Ex-)Advertising Man* as well as various journal articles, coauthor of *Encyclopedia of Politics, the Media, and Popular Culture*, and coeditor of *Mosh the Polls: Youth Voters, Popular Culture, and Democratic Engagement*. In his former extensive career, he worked as a professional advertising copywriter/producer.



## Ellen Kessner and Frederick Shortz

We have lived in Chester, CT since 1986. We are both recently retired. Ellen has always worked in health care administration and was most recently the director of an assisted living community in New Haven. Fred was a lawyer handling the administration of estates and trusts in Connecticut and on Martha's Vineyard. Ellen attended Tufts University and Boston University. Fred attended

Tufts University, the University of California in San Francisco (Hastings College), and Oxford University. We have also lived in Massachusetts and California, and both of us grew up in Pennsylvania. In his spare time, Fred rants ineffectually about Republican policy on Facebook. Ellen volunteers locally and actually works to positively improve things.



## Heather Kirkconnell

I'm Heather Kirkconnell. My two passions are travel and politics. I live near Toronto in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada and this is my third Cruise with The Nation. I taught German, French, ESL, Co-operative Education, Career Studies, English and ran a Peer Mentoring program during the 30 years I taught high school. When I retired from that in 2007, I taught Adults English as a Second Language for a non-profit. In 2011 I changed professions, and became a travel agent. These were fabulous years which took me to many, many countries. "Thanks" to Covid, I was forced to close that business. Provincially, I have been president of our riding association for 17 years. Since September 2021 I have been engaged in 4 separate elections.

**Bonnie Lambert**

*Self Portrait, 2022, Trinidad,  
Colorado*

I am a democratic socialist since 1979 when I joined NAM in Los Angeles, a retired small business owner of a graphic design and advertising agency, the mother of a 40-year old son and a grandmother of a soon-to-be one-year-old grandson. I am an artist, constructing photographs that are narratives about the wonder of quotidian life, the fun of serendipity, the beauty of the imperfect.



I live in Helena, Montana (38 years), was raised in Billings, Montana, in a working class family. I'm a reader, a walker, a gardener, a knitter, a traveler. I have never wanted to go on a cruise, but I want to meet my Nation heroes so I'm ready to travel with a crowd. And I look forward to meeting fellow travelers.

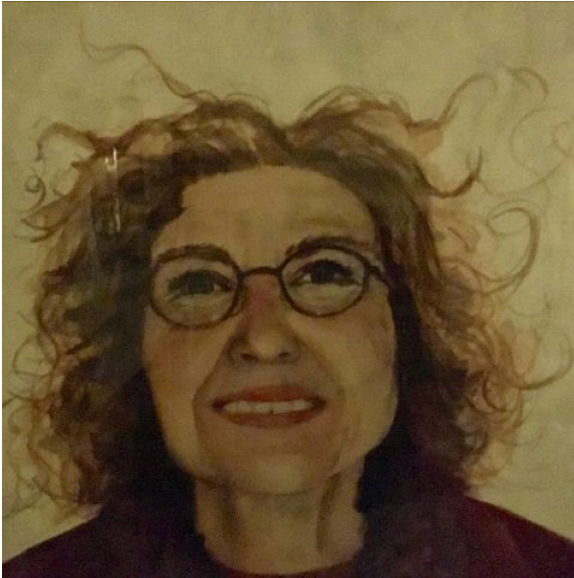
**Joan V Lawson**

206-841-4963

joanvlawson@gmail.com

This is my 17th Nation cruise. I stopped a few years ago because of Covid and concern about the environment. I gave up flying as well. But since I recycle and compost, shop at a food coop, take public transportation, and do not eat meat, I feel I deserve to be with like-minded people and excellent speakers who will celebrate with us if we win or guide us to what's next if we lose. Besides, it will be my birthday and I will be avoiding a family birthday with Trumpsters. In Seattle I lead a League of Women Voters unit and a secular humanists group. I hope we meet if we have something in common.

## Julia [Julie] Ann Lindsey



As a lifelong benefactor of Lyndon Johnson's GREAT SOCIETIES PROGRAM; and as a result, a card carrying Liberal Democrat. My life has been full and rich from being able both to teach students kindergarten through postgraduate and also to make my own art in Art and Art Education. As a recipient of a National Defense Student Loan, I was able to attend college [the first in my family to do so] and earning a teaching degree at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

With two subsequent degrees earned at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, I eventually progressed to university teaching the University of Colorado at Boulder, Colorado; Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio; the University of Akron, Akron, Ohio; and Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where I retired in May of 2013.

Born in Portsmouth, Ohio, I spent the major part of my life living in the Southeastern and Western regions of the state. I now live in Germantown, Ohio, in my Sears Storybook Tudor home with my kitties—Lilly and Crosby.

I have two Children of My Heart—my stepson who lives in California with his paramore and my step-daughter who lives in Michigan with her husband, and my granddaughter who is a musician and composer, and my grandson who lives in the Seattle, Washington area with the love of his life. Additionally, I have three Sons of My Heart who live in the state of Saó Paulo, Brazil.

The Studio Area of my education is in Fiber Arts-Knitting, Weaving, and Book Binding. Other pursuits in my retirement are playing my mandolin, as a beginner; tracing my genealogy with the goal of tracing my ancestors' path through the Highlands of Scotland; and traveling the world, especially Brasil for Carnival where my Brasilian sons and their families reside; and being politically active.

I am on Facebook and post with foci on Education, Violence Against Women, Woman's Voice, World Hunger. and keeping in touch with my former students.

My greatest wish is for Peace in the World and for all of us to live in Harmony through the realization that we all want the same things—love, security, safety, warmth, spirituality, beauty—and to do Good Work.

I look forward to the experience and intellectual growth through meeting and talking with all of you on our 2024 Nation cruise.

## **Katherine Loweree**

Retired teacher, proud former executive board member, shop steward and organizer for AFT Local Union 2317 in Southern California and confirmed fitness fanatic.

## **Edmundo Loweree**

Retired construction electrician, local president, organizer and Assistant Business Manager for IBEW Local Union 583 in El Paso, TX and movie studio electrician for IBEW Local Union 40 in Southern California.

## **Susan L. Lytle**

Susan L. Lytle is Professor Emerita of Education, Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania and Founding Director of the 45year old Philadelphia Writing Project, a site of the National Writing Project and an urban school-university collaborative network. Dr. Lytle has worked closely with urban K-12 teachers and other educators to design and document a variety of inquiry-based collaborative research projects as well as how critical inquiry communities contribute to changing the cultures of teaching and learning in urban schools and universities. She has published widely on topics related to practitioner inquiry, literacy teacher education, critical/feminist/activist pedagogies, and inquiry-driven educational leadership. She has been married to James (Torch) Lytle for 60 years, mother of two and grandmother of four, an inveterate traveler, aficionado of fiction and poetry, and activist on behalf of teaching as a profession.

## **James H. Lytle (Torch)**

James H. Lytle (Torch) is Adjunct Practice Professor of Educational Leadership at the Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania. From 1998 – 2006 Dr. Lytle was superintendent of the Trenton, NJ Public Schools where he led an aggressive effort to implement New Jersey's urban education reform initiative. Prior to his appointment in Trenton, he served in a variety of capacities in the School District of Philadelphia as an elementary, middle, and high school principal; executive director for planning, research and evaluation; regional superintendent; and assistant superintendent.

Lytle has been active in a number of national professional organizations, including the Council of Great City Schools, the Cross Cities Campaign, and the American Educational Research Association. He has written and presented frequently on matters relating to the improvement of urban schooling. His teaching and research interests relate to increasing the efficacy of urban public schools, managing leadership transitions, and leading school change efforts.

He is the long-time partner – professional, parental, and spousal – of Susan.





## Ann & H. Tony Martin

Day trip to Mount Rainier near our home in Seattle. Taken before much of the political upheaval of the summer. Who knows what the next few days will hold. We hope our gathering in December will be a celebration of the election of Harris as U.S. president. We can't fathom a different result.

Both of us took turns reaching our 75<sup>th</sup> year. Having retired from the law (Tony) and land

use, transportation, and environmental planning (Ann), we spend time traveling, between home repair and enhancements (Tony) and political action and volunteering (Ann). We are privileged in many ways, but most definitely to live in a community that largely shares our democratic and Democratic values. We look forward to meeting or renewing acquaintances with all you cruisers and hearing the insightful political analysis provided by The Nation gurus!



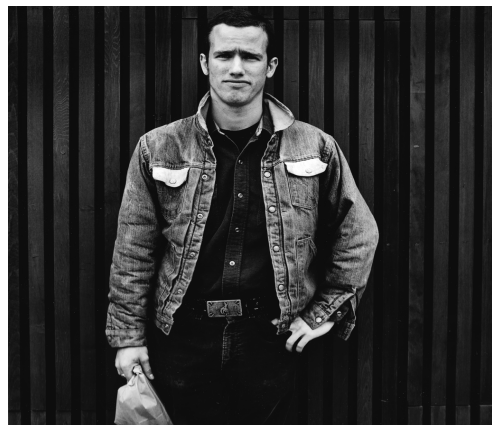
## John Martin

John Martin is a part-time lecturer in U.S. and African American History and a union activist at Shasta and Butte community colleges in Northern California. His passion for social justice includes union activism on the principle that all faculty should be treated the same, in terms of equal pay for equal work! He is also the [Chair of the California Part-time Faculty Association's \(CPFA\)](#) and serves as a [regional board of director with Community College Association \(CCA\)](#). Finally, he is currently one of the leaders in [suing his district](#) for violating the California labor law that requires payments for working outside the classroom, particularly prepping and grading time. He was awarded the Part-time Faculty Award in 2014 and the statewide Jerry Brown Advocacy Award in 2017.

## **Marshall Mayer**

*portrait by Phel Steinmetz, 1979*

I got into socialist politics while in graduate school obtaining an MFA at UC San Diego. I joined the New American Movement in 1979 when I moved to Los Angeles. After NAM and DSOC merged, I was the full-time organizer for Los Angeles DSA where I worked with many wonderful comrades, including Dorothy Healey and Harold Meyerson, to grow the chapter to the largest in the country. I also served on DSA's national political committee from 1985 to 1991. I helped found Helena DSA in 2015, the first organized socialist presence in Montana in many decades.



I was born in Iowa, but I've lived in the American West since graduating high school. For 38 years, my life partner and I have lived in Montana, where we raised our son. We have one grandchild in Colorado. After retiring in 2008, I've returned to photography. I publish my work at <https://take-note.com>. I've always considered myself among the luckiest to have ever lived. I just want everyone to share in that privilege, no matter the circumstances of their birth or life.

## **Andrew Mabey**

My name is Andrew Mabey, I am a GenXer born on the east coast and now live in Michigan. I work as a Driver Trainer for Amazon, and for fun and relaxation, I enjoy spending time with my cat and two dogs, reading, playing video games and I help moderate and run the Book Club in a large YouTube political show's Discord.



## **Maureen McCue & John Rachow**

Both John Rachow and I are retired physicians, with dual PhDs and MDs. We took very different paths in Medicine. We both worked in unglamorous, low paid physician work. He worked in rheumatology and geriatrics, and I worked in Primary Care, Women's Health and Global health. His PhD is in Engineering, Mine is in Epidemiology/Public Health. We've both been long time members and activists in Physicians for Social Responsibility working to save life on the planet by halting climate change and abolishing nuclear weapons. Even in this shared endeavor we took somewhat different paths. His expertise lies more in addressing the threats of Nuclear Power, mine is in addressing the false solutions related to Carbon Capture and Sequestration. These critical heavy lifts have suddenly become even more so. I've written and published two memoirs, one focused on the disintegrating environment, the other on ruminations about disability in a disabled world. John has been my back-up technical advisor. We live on and work to preserve 14 acres of remnant wet land, wood land, and prairie. He chops the wood, I help haul it. It's been a challenge.

## **Gale P. McEvilley**

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, I graduated from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. I took the opportunity to study in Paris and Nice, France during my junior year. Less than a year after graduation, I became a flight attendant (stewardess, at the time) with Pan American World Airways, Inc. To this day, I refer to the Met Life Building at Grand Central Terminal as the Pan Am Building, although their name has been on it much longer than ours was. It was during those years that I came to think of myself as a citizen of the world. In preparation for a new career, I studied to become a Certified Financial Planner (CFP) professional, which designation I achieved while in the employ of L.J. Altfest & Co., Inc. After a move to Charlotte, North Carolina, I worked in a small financial planning firm before joining TIAA, from which I am retired. I was an avid skier, member of the Pan Am Ski Team, tennis player, roller skater and ice skater. I now mostly workout at home and take 3-mile walks. I belong to a book club and the Gastonia/Charlotte chapter of Coming To The Table.

## **Nancy McPherson**

Chesapeake, VA 23320

I grew up in Nashville, TN. I enlisted in the Coast Guard and left Nashville in my 20's. and was first stationed in Groton, CT, then New Orleans, Washington DC, Miami and finally in Chesapeake, VA. I'm a single parent to an adult son now living in Richmond, VA. I retired from the Coast Guard and stayed put in Chesapeake. I went to work at the City of Chesapeake in the Planning Department and have retired from there too. Now I'm filling my time with things I'm interested in doing, and things I just have to do, i.e. working diligently on local, state and national elections!! Also, I'm a Jack Russell Terrier enthusiast!!! I recently rescued another JRT. They've all trained me well.

Deeply worried about the direction/future of our country.

Looking forward to seeing friends from previous Nation Cruises and making new friends on this cruise.



## **Bill Miller**

Journalist, Educator, Television & Radio Moderator

**Global Connections Television** is an independently-produced and privately-funded talk show that focuses on international issues and how they impact people from Frankfort, Kentucky to Frankfurt, Germany and from Lima, Ohio to Lima, Peru. The program is a Who's- Who among the movers and shakers within the UN staff and system, as well as other international experts.

The interviews are with upper level UN leaders, international relations specialists, educators, private sector business leaders and heads of nongovernmental organizations, and many other groups that are working to create a better world.

Previous guests have included personalities, such as Dr. Jane Goodall, Mary Robinson, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and Peter Yarrow of "Peter, Paul and Mary." Guests come from a broad field of interests, such as former presidents of Rotary International and Lions International, the private sector, academia, labor and the environmental areas.

Global Connections Television features in-depth analysis within a wide scope of current issues, topics and events including climate change, environmental sustainability, economic development, global partnerships, renewable energy, technology, culture, education, food security, poverty reduction, peace and security, and gender issues.

Bill Miller is an accredited journalist at the UN for the Washington International ([www.washingtoninternational.com](http://www.washingtoninternational.com)) and has written about UN issues.

Bill is the Principal of Miller and Associates International Media Consultants, which created Global Connections Television.

Bill developed an interest in international issues and the UN when he served as a US Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic. His first year he worked as a community developer in a remote rural area; his second year he was Professor of Social Work at the Madre y Maestra University in Santiago, the country's second largest city.

Bill was instrumental in helping launch "Rotary Day at the United Nations," a program to strengthen the unique partnership between Rotary and the UN.

Bill is a member of various professional associations, such the National Press Club, UN Correspondents Association, the Society of Professional Journalists, the Radio, Television and Digital Association and the American Society for Public Administration.

Looking for a free, internationally- oriented talk show with access to the world's leading voices from the public and private sectors to assist in delivering your message re: the UN and international issues? Global Connections Television may fit into your programming very nicely! GCTV is the only program of its type in the world, and it is provided to you at-no-cost. You are invited to download any of the shows that would be of interest to your local programming, addressing students, service clubs and/or religious groups, to mention only a few. Additionally, you may wish to approach your local PBS/community access television (CATV) media outlets and request that they run the GCTV shows on a weekly basis.

CONTACT: MILLERKYUN@AOL.com

[WWW.GLOBALCONNECTIONSTELEVISION.COM](http://WWW.GLOBALCONNECTIONSTELEVISION.COM)

### **Elizabeth Mosier**

Hello, My name is Elizabeth Mosier. I am a retired nurse. I'm attending this cruise along with my new husband (of 7 years). I've been on one cruise; this is his first. We are looking forward to seeing the Caribbean. We are currently raising a 12 year old granddaughter, so I'm looking forward to being waited on and not worrying about being a responsible adult for a week. See you onboard! 🚢

### **Steve Mosier**

Hello, my name is Steve Mosier, from Tucson, Arizona. I am a 72-year-old recently retired attorney and heretofore avid political junky. As I am writing this brief bio just immediately after it has become clear that DJT has been re-elected, it now seems unlikely that my passion for and about politics will persist much longer into the future. I practiced law for 45 years, complex and commercial litigation primarily and then exclusively intellectual property litigation and licensing the last 18 years. I enjoy hiking, skiing, travel, mountains, history and time with family and friends. I went on a Rhine River cruise earlier this year, but this will be my first ocean cruise.



## Jeff and Dina Nash

Jeffrey E. Nash is professor emeritus of sociology (Missouri State University). He has taught at University of Tulsa, Macalester College ('Saint Paul, Minnesota) and at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He is author of several books and articles on a wide range of topics from bulldogs to barbershop singing. Recently, he published *Personal Sociology: Discovering Meanings in Every Life*. Also, he

is co-editor of *The Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*. He has been a barbershop singer for 21 years, and he writes op-eds.

Dina Nash is a retired social worker and criminologist living in Fayetteville, Arkansas, with her husband, Jeffrey Nash. Her education includes an MSW in social work and an MS in criminology. She has worked 28 years in clinical social work settings and several years in juvenile justice programs in Arkansas and Florida. Dina directed a drug treatment program at mental health centers, and she developed and ran an environmental education camp in Fayetteville. She taught college criminology and sociology for 13 years and is certified as a Civil Mediator, Climate Reality Trainer, and Master Naturalist. She is currently the Volunteer Coordinator for her county's Democratic Party, and she presents climate education and solar programs. Her recreational interests include travel, hiking, organic gardening, and writing op Eds for the state newspaper on social justice and climate subjects.

## John Ostfield

My name is John Ostfield. I go way back to the 60s. I resisted the draft during the American war against Vietnam. I'm retired now with children and grandchildren that I worry about greatly. I lived in West Jerusalem for five years in the 80s. It cured me of any Zionist illusions I might've had. I am trying to be active in progressive movements both for the United States and also for Israel/Palestine.

I live in Minnesota, where I grew up, although my family is from North Dakota. Minnesota is a classic PEP place.

I am known to be an iconoclast. I have a friend who has not forgiven me for the comment I made to him ten years ago, "Pretty soon we will look back at Dick Chaney as a moderate." I told my children that on behalf of my generation I wish to apologize to yours for the mess we are leaving you.

I look forward to some interesting discussions.

**Russ Patterson, Tampa, FL**

[russpat@gmail.com](mailto:russpat@gmail.com)

813-849-3919



Candy Gale and Russ Patterson

I'm originally from Port Arthur, Texas but left in 1970 to go to the Air Force Academy. Got to see the world with the Air Force where I was a KC-135 navigator, munitions officer, and logistics officer. I was raised a Southern Baptist but am now a Unitarian Universalist. I've been a continuous subscriber to The Nation since 1980.

I've gone skinny-dipping in the Arctic Ocean, walked the Great Wall and Hadrian's Wall, eaten bugs and other "strange things," and have even been goat roping. After I left the USAF, I organized the logistics for an English geological research group. I've run a county fair in North Carolina. I've been a Special Education Teacher, a Gay Rights Organizer and Activist, a Field Person for political campaigns, a Bush War Protester, and a usual suspect for many other progressive causes in Tampa, FL. My best job was field work on progressive political campaigns all over the US, as the last campaign brought me to Florida, where I met my wife, Candy Gale, who was a volunteer. She (pictured with me on Andy Warhol's sofa) and I have been together since 2004. I'm looking forward to meeting many usual suspects and Nation fans.



## Dean Pavlakis

Born and raised in the Buffalo (NY) metro area, Dean Pavlakis had a 23-year career in banking operations and product management, followed by a history PhD and a second career as a professor of modern European and African history. He taught at Canisius College and SUNY at Buffalo before joining the faculty of Carroll College in Helena, Montana, where he recently retired as Emeritus Professor. His research interests involve the intersection of European humanitarianism and colonialism in Africa in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Ashgate published his monograph, *British Humanitarianism and the Congo Reform Movement, 1896-1913* in 2015. He has published in the *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*, *Men and Masculinities*, and *English Studies in Africa*, and has contributed to Bloomsbury's *A Cultural History of Genocide* (2021) and the *Cambridge World History of Genocide* (2023). Dean is something of a Tolkien fanatic and has sung tenor in a few choruses. He and his wife of 41 years, Pat Christian, have three children and four grandchildren. They have taken five bike trips in Europe, only in 2024 discovering the wonders of doing somewhat hillier terrain using e-bikes.

## Paula Pelosi

I am not a close relative but a great admirer of Nancy Pelosi. I was born and raised on a farm in Ohio, when farmers and working-class people were Democrats. I'm sorry that I can't give you more of a bio, but at the moment, I am still getting over being a Poll Worker on Tuesday, November 5th, from 5AM until 10PM, making it possible for my neighbors and countrymen to vote for Donald Trump. However, I look forward to meeting and getting to know all of you who believe in what is good, right, and true.



## Joy Pereth

I was born in the UK at the height of McCarthyism to an American mother (from the Bronx) and a British father. My father, an anti-fascist, was denied an American visa, so I grew up in London.

When I was nineteen, I came to New York to pursue a career in film and experienced a life-changing era in documentary film for social change. In the early '80s I co-founded an international film distribution and marketing company for American and UK independent producers and represented directors such as Mike Leigh, John Sayles and Ken Loach.

I went on to organize film festivals with The Film Forum, Lincoln Center and BAM and to present "new waves" of American and British filmmakers. After I retired, I went back to school to take a degree in film and social change. My life partner was a civil rights lawyer who fought the KKK in Greensboro NC. I had the privilege of introducing him to a whole new world of film, as he shared his vast knowledge of progressive political organizing and legal justice history with me. (Disclosure: *The Nation* helped us to meet!)

Today I live on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. I am involved in volunteering at and supporting a number of organizations, including Jewish Voice for Peace, Dorot, Riverside Immigrant Services and Empowerment and Compassion and Choices. I'm continuing the fight for social change and against social injustice--especially in Gaza and Occupied Palestine.



## Pamela Powers Hannley

Hello! My name is Pamela Powers Hannley. I'm a progressive activist, long-time political writer and former member of the Arizona Legislature. Prior to entering politics in 2015, I had a long career in public health, medicine and communications. I was managing editor for *The American Journal of Medicine* and continue to work for AJM as social media/technology editor and an occasional author.

Writing, photography, music and van life camping are my passions. Although I have retired from politics, I continue to write about politics, economics, health, women's issues and the environment at [PowersForThePeople.substack.com](http://PowersForThePeople.substack.com). I play keyboard and accordion and love live music and dancing. My latest project is transforming my minivan into a camper van for road trips. I am an alumna of The University of Arizona (public health) and The Ohio State University (journalism). I was born and raised in a union household in Amherst, Ohio, but I have lived in Tucson, Arizona for 40+ years. I am single and have two adult children, four grandchildren and a rescue dog.



## **Dale Prince**

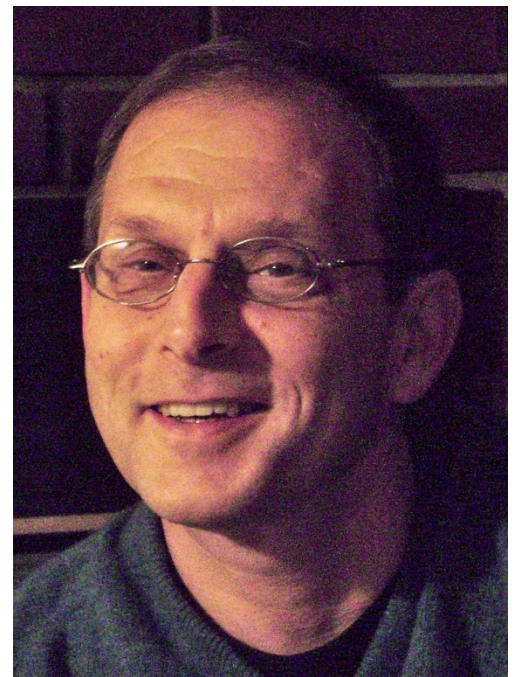
Dale Prince grew up in Oregon and Michigan, calls Ann Arbor his hometown, and has spent much of his life living overseas. He loves traveling, reading, biking, music, family history research, and learning foreign languages. He is an advocate for safer biking infrastructure and is active on his condominium's board of directors. He graduated in Latin American studies from the University of Michigan and has a graduate degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

Dale spent his professional life in the U.S. foreign service and retired in fall 2022 after 35 years of service. He worked mainly in the public diplomacy field, which focuses on media outreach, people to people and cultural exchanges, cultural preservation, and support for English teaching. During his career with the U.S. Information Agency and Department of State, he served at U.S. diplomatic missions in Warsaw, La Paz, Recife, NATO, Brasilia, Erbil, Paris, New York, and Baghdad. In his final assignment at the State Department, he worked on countering foreign disinformation, which he considers a pressing challenge of our time. He and his wife live in downtown Washington, D.C., with Sigmund, an 11-pound Chiweenie.

## **Randy Prince**

Despite delaying taking Social Security as long as possible, Randy Prince still works full-time at the retail counter of a busy Post Office in Eugene, Oregon. He enjoys serving residents from all parts of his local community, and learning about the many countries and cultures represented among his customers.

Randy serves as Co-Chair of his city-sponsored Neighborhood Association, is a member and former Co-Chair of the citywide council of neighborhood associations, and chairs an independent non-profit organization providing financial support for these volunteer citizen associations. He has a special interest in disaster preparedness, and is a coordinator of the Eugene Neighborhoods' Preparedness Network that promotes grass-roots cooperation to mitigate the risks posed by wildfires and earthquakes in the Pacific Northwest.



During the Vietnam era, Randy was a leading anti-war activist and socialist in Ann Arbor, Michigan. After returning to Oregon, where he spent his childhood, he became involved in the

fight to save Old Growth forests from logging and gained a few minutes of fame as a long-term tree-sitter in that movement. He ran for municipal office and twice brought the environmental platform to Republicans statewide as a candidate in primary elections for US Senator. He has worked on third-party electoral efforts and maintains a keen interest in efforts to develop fairer, simpler alternatives to the current plurality-wins voting system.

Randy has a BS in Latin American history and a certificate in Middle/Secondary Education and remains an avid reader. He enjoys camping and hiking in beautiful Cascadia where he lives, and does his best to stay fit with a vegetarian diet, regular Olympic-style racewalking and bicycling wherever and whenever he can.

### **Kay Ransdell**

Retired art college admissions dean. Have worked in literacy programs, consulted to community organizations, and other positions. Passions include jazz, contemporary art, modern literature, Native American and African art, and - of course - politics.



### **Anne Jordan Rawley St. Petersburg, Florida**

I've moved again. Back to St Petersburg and my old "hood."

I'm a Jersey girl, though I haven't lived there since 1968.

I'm a retired RN who served 28 years in the US Navy Nurse Corps. I was stationed all over the world, including Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, London, the UK, and all across the US. I retired as a Captain.

My educational background is a BS, major in Nursing from Rutgers University and an MHA from the US Army-Baylor University program.

Living in Florida for the past almost 11 years has proved challenging in many ways. The state is trying to win the title of most "cray-cray" in the world and seems to be succeeding. I also am suffering from "hurricane brain." Two in a row is a bit challenging.

I'm looking forward to meeting old friends, making new ones, and listening to stimulating seminars.

## Eric Robertson

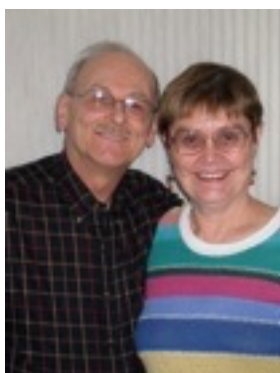
Eric Robertson is a longtime labor and racial justice activist from Georgia. Eric spent 18 years working in Teamsters local 728. First as a rank and file member, then as a Business Agent and Political Director. Since leaving the Teamsters in 2018, Eric has focused his work on building progressive independent political organization in Georgia with organizations like the Working Families Party and The New Georgia Project.

## Nora Sallows & Bill Kinney

Nora Sallows and Bill Kinney live in Indianapolis, Indiana with three rescue dogs and a Norwegian Forest cat who has convinced the pack he's a dog too. Nora is an artist and writer who teaches business technologies in a state prison and advocates for social justice and adult education. Bill retired from a sales manager position in 2023 and is spending his retirement learning how to sail their 22' sailboat and restoring his 1970 TR 6.



## Marilyn Sander, Campbell, CA



Occupation: retired software engineer.

Marital Status: Married to Ken Armstrong (who is also on this cruise) since 1997. Family: 1 son, from a prior marriage. 1 brother.

Hobbies: ragtime piano playing; ballroom dance; studying foreign languages; following commentators on MSNBC

Religion: No convictions about dogma. Affiliated with the Episcopal Church. Inclined toward Buddhism.

I was born in 1940 in Chicago. Went to grammar school, high school, and college there. My family were **secret** Republicans until about 1970, because they were opposed to and afraid of the Democratic machine in Chicago. My mother was a schoolteacher and was convinced she would lose her job if she revealed she was a Republican. So I followed suit and was a Republican. Was pleasantly surprised at how good Lyndon Johnson was, but still remained Republican.

After being moved by my employer to California in 1969, I started paying more attention to politics. I came to realize that the values of the Democratic party were closer to my values, and so I registered as a Democrat.

Now I am distressed over the incompetency of the Democratic party. The elected representatives, senators, and president are excellent. The policies are excellent. But they have been terrible about messaging. If we lose the 2024 election it will be because the Democrats—and Biden—failed to brag about their achievements. The Republicans ought to lose because of dishonesty and greed. I am disillusioned with the American public. The polls indicate that half the population is air headed and clueless.

I feel so sorry for children being born today, because the consequences of global warming will be on them for many decades.

This is our thirteenth Nation cruise.

### Pat Shure



I have lived in Ann Arbor ever since I came to the University of Michigan as a freshman in 1952. My husband, Fred, was a nuclear physicist and my three children (+grandchildren) are now scattered between Seattle and Brooklyn. Most of my professional life has centered around teaching and mathematics. My responsibilities in the Math Department at Michigan included lots of teaching and many years as director of the large, multi-sectioned pre-calculus and calculus courses.

After I retired, I did lots of traveling (Cuba, Iran, Morocco, Antarctica etc.). But these last years, like most of you, I've stayed at home watching the tumult in our country and the world.

Currently, I tutor in a high school, and drive for Meals on Wheels. I'm involved with a group of local environmentalists and various political candidates. Working feverishly to get out the vote and keep Michigan Blue!

## Glenn Slocum, Washington, DC.



Glenn Slocum had a long career in Africa development-assistance programming through the U.S. Agency for International Development as a foreign service officer from 1969 to 1997, and, after retirement, as a contractor in various positions and countries, largely in Africa, until 2021. He has lived on assignment and posted to a total of six countries (Cameroon, Senegal, France, Mauritania, Burundi and Cote d'Ivoire), and conducted a large number of short-term assignments in several countries in Africa, Asia and Europe. This exposure has endowed him with a certain international

perspective and appreciation for the diversity of other countries' people, cultures, value systems and operating environments, while at the same time confirming his American roots, each side (overseas and U.S.) reinforcing the other. He has concluded that the "international system" works better under modalities of cooperation rather than of competition and conflict. Since ceasing overseas work three years ago, he remains engaged in international affairs and their impact on our own country's interests, and now, especially, on the challenges to our own democratic system and values. This has reinforced his conviction of America's near uniqueness in its range of diversity and cooperation among people of different backgrounds, cultural values and tribal/ethnic associations. This year is a watershed year for the United States, with fundamental values under attack and the prospect of the end of our democracy. Where are we headed?

## Nancy Snapp

Hello Everyone! I am happy to again be on the seas with The Nation!

I am a retired Family Physician who worked for 20 years in an Asian community clinic in Seattle's Chinatown International District. Before that I taught in a Family Practice residency. I have also spent many years volunteering with a development project in the mountains of Bali, which I visited every couple years. I love to travel and am happy to be able to go again in the past year.

I am a long-time supporter of The Nation and progressive causes. I have been on quite a few cruises and traveled with The Nation to Cuba and Russia. I also participated in the Civil Rights Tour, a wonderful experience. I write many letters to voters and contribute funds to grass roots organizations working to get out the vote in key states. I am frightened by what has been happening in our country. I look forward to meeting people who share my ideas, and hearing from our wonderful speakers.

## Nick Soloway

I am a lifelong Democrat. I am a practicing Patent Attorney by day, and a serial entrepreneur by night.

My partner (Kay Ransdell) and I previously traveled to Cuba with the Nation Magazine. We also were scheduled to travel to Jordan with the Nation Magazine a year ago last October. However, we cancelled at the last minute after the events of October 7. We are looking forward to the Cruise.

Kay and I dated in college some 60+ years ago. She was attending Wellesley College and I MIT. We reconnected after I lost my wife of 40 years. Thomas Wolfe was wrong – you can go home again.



## **Nancy Street, Cheney, WA**

I grew up in Grayslake Illinois, and earned degrees from U of Il, Iowa State University, and University of Nigeria, Nsukka. For 17 years I taught school at various levels in Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Liberia. After teaching Psychology for 20 years at Spokane Falls Community College, I retired. only to volunteer at World Relief, which welcomes refugees, and Barton English Language School in Spokane. In addition, I volunteer as an Election Observer and PCO for the Democrats; and attend the Spokane Friends Church. I write letters to the editor monthly and send them to 14 newspapers in Eastern Washington. This past year, 6 articles were published about Ceasefire in Gaza. I am married to Jeremy Street, a dedicated gardener, who enjoys Toastmasters. Our blended family consists of 5 adult children, and 8 grandchildren. Our granddaughter was the first black female president of Cornell Students Association, and has now entered Yale Law School. I enjoy traveling, learning about people throughout the world and encourage DEI. I also love peace and politics

## **Barbara Svetlik**

Currently retired and residing in Minneapolis, MN; I was raised in a small town in northern WI; and have lived and worked, over the past many years, in Milwaukee and Madison, WI; Astoria, OR; and Monterey and Long Beach, CA.

My educational accomplishments include a BA from the University of WI, Madison and an MBA from Marquette University.



This is my first Nation Cruise. I'm looking forward to sharing a week of interesting presentations and discussions with fellow passengers.

## **Barry Swan**

I am Barry Swan from Rochester NY, partner of Barbara de Leeuw. I am a retired urban anti-Social Studies teacher and am still a teacher's union representative. I am the Madrikh (leader) of Beth Haskalah, the Rochester Society for Humanistic Judaism. I am also the president of The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester.



## Janet Thompson

Horse person, cat lady, tap dancer, hiker in the mountains, Water loving Pisces, 20 years a Girl Scout Leader, and a BA In history a long time ago.



## Ann Vandeman & Geraldine Jennings



Ann and Geraldine live in Olympia, Washington, at the southern end of the Salish Sea. Geraldine is a stocker at Goodwill. Ann is a CPA in a small accounting firm. Before her accounting career, Ann worked as a research economist at USDA, a non-profit ED, a farmer, and a bookkeeper at the local hardware store. We have a dog, a cat, and 11 chickens at home.

Geraldine and Ann enjoy cruises with Holland America and any opportunity to kayak, snorkel, hike or ride bikes (a trike for Geraldine). We like movies too, and growing vegetables and berries. We like being involved in our community, and we volunteer at our local collectively owned and managed food co-op. We're looking forward to meeting all of you.



## Cheryl Walker

I'm an 80-year-old computer geek, who only retired three months ago. I was born in Portland, Oregon in 1944, but have worked all over the world since 1965 as an expert in IBM mainframes, first for people like Ross Perot but for the last forty years in DC, Tampa and Sarasota with my husband Tom, running our own computer publishing and consulting company. Check out *Cheryl Watson's Tuning Letter* ([www.watsonwalker.com](http://www.watsonwalker.com)). Watson is my maiden name. We love to travel and over the years we've visited most of the famous cities of the world. Besides travelling, I love reading, playing bridge, attending many of Sarasota's theater productions, and studying our genealogies. We love Nation cruises and have been on many.

## Tom Walker

I'm an 82-year-old broadcaster and activist, born in NC but living now in Sarasota, Florida with my wife Cheryl. For twenty-five years I helped lead our local Nation discussion group. Since 1965 Cheryl and I have been mainframe computer professionals. We met and formed our company Watson & Walker in 1986 and just retired this year. On my weekly WSLR FM Peace & Justice Report I interview authors, experts (like John Nichols), activists, and filmmakers from here and abroad, both via Zoom and in the studio. For the last thirty years Cheryl and I have led a weekly Great Books short story discussion group. My hobbies have included Japanese ink painting and improv. I'm fairly shy so please say hello when you see me.





## **John Wallach**

Tri-coastal (Lake Michigan, Pacific O, Atlantic O). Low-key activist (student govt.; tenants union organizer; VISTA volunteer). Degree holder (UCSC, Princeton). Paid political theorist (Yale, Vassar, CUNY/Hunter College & GC, 1981-2022). Academic writer (books on Plato, Athenian democracy, democratic ethics/practice; articles on recent political theory, ancient Greek political thought, human rights). Resident: (Glencoe, IL, Los Angeles, Santa Cruz, Manhattan, Princeton, New Haven, Poughkeepsie, Brooklyn, Montville, NJ). Father X 2. Subscriber to *The Nation*. since 1970s.

## **Linda Wolfe**

Linda Wolfe is a retired Anthropologist. When she was an active researcher, she studied the macaques of India and Japan. Now she enjoys learning to paint and caring for her cats.

## **Joseph (Joe) Webster**

I grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, graduated from Calvin College with majors in History and Political Science. Taught in Junior and High schools as well as in Hazard, located in Hazard, KY. Community College.

Have Master Degrees in History and Adult and Continuing Education. I spent the last years of pre-retirement teaching in a Florida Prison( NO not as an inmate) Also was a teacher in a Juvenile Detention Center in Council Bluffs, and finished my career as a Realtor in Lake Lure, NC.

In 1966, I married Nancy, a Nurse I met in Omaha, Nebraska. After she retired, we did a lot of traveling mainly in Europe and the USA. Sadly, she died of a lot of medical issues on April 25 of this year. We were on I believe three Nation Cruises.

I know she would want me to continue traveling, but it's hard because *I rarely did before I met Nancy.*