



2025 California Coastal Cruise

November 1 – 8, 2025

Current as of 9/29/2025

Guest Biographies

Ted Andrews

Hi, my name is Ted Andrews. This picture, taken in Regensburg, Germany during the early summer of 2024 gives a strong hint of how my wife Elizabeth Ewing and I have spent many of our days since she joined me in retirement.

Many of our journeys involve visits to Europe in general and to Germany in particular. Our son, his wife, and new baby are living in rural Bavaria on a farm next to a volcano. We also are frequent visitors to Long Island, where our daughter, a university professor, lives with her partner. This is my first long ocean voyage since crossing the Atlantic in 1965. We hit an iceberg on that trip (or did it hit us?). I am hoping for a less eventful trip this time.

I left the diplomatic service in 2017 after thirty-six years of assignments around the world, generally within a few degrees of the equator. My years in Washington tended to center on the same area. Apart from traveling, my days now are spent wrestling with a mass of material related to the history of Lyndon Johnson's war on poverty. The project began years ago as the subject of my doctoral dissertation and is progressively being narrowed down into a study of how the poverty program unfolded in Philadelphia, where we now have a house in the 'burbs.

These days, I read a lot of history, mostly as way to find tips about how to write my Philadelphia story. My other long-term writing project is a mystery that somehow and some way will involve the Montgomery bus boycott. It's a lot harder to write a plausible story than I thought!



Trudy Bantle

I am a retired Social Studies teacher (43 years) from a suburban public school district near Rochester, New York. In retirement, I spend my time between my home in Mendon, New York, and the Chautauqua Institute, where I participate in its nine-week lecture program each summer. In my free time, I enjoy



traveling, reading, gardening, sewing, and working on needlework projects. Between October and May, I support teachers as they work toward National Board of Professional Teaching Standards certification. This spring, I traveled to Tanzania and Zanzibar for two and a half weeks, a trip of a lifetime, where I was immersed in the culture of the Maasai tribe and the incredible wildlife of the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater. After attempting to learn the Swahili language for this trip, I decided it was time for me to learn another language, so I am now practicing Spanish, which I started learning in high school. I am a lifelong learner, currently enrolled in online courses through the University of Delaware. In the spring of 2026, I hope to begin tutoring elementary students in reading. Therefore, I am taking a “Science of Reading” course this fall. This is my first Nation Cruise.

Bev Becker

I am Bev Cable Becker from the Chicagoland area. I grew up outside Buffalo, NY and attended college there before getting advanced degrees at Northwestern University. Most of my career was in education administration - mostly special education in programs for children with disabilities. Now retired, I have many interests and loves- nature, music, art, politics, genealogy, travel, etc., etc. I am a member of a Unitarian Universalist Congregation and involved in the Elders Circle, the Mahjong players, the UU Jewish Heritage Group, the Women's Wisdom Group, the Genealogy Group, Science Sunday lectures and the local Humanist Society. I'm a member of the League of Women Voters and The People's Lobby. Previously, for about 20 years, I was on the board of a group working to preserve the semi-rural environment where I live. As an active participant in the local People's Lobby

and UU Prison Ministry, I was a "court watcher" for 2 years, helping gather data to support the passing of the Pretrial Fairness Act in Illinois that eliminated cash bail. That law is now being challenged by the Trump administration so I have volunteered to resume my court watching to protect the Fairness Act. Given my interest in preserving decency and democracy in the United States, I look forward to hearing the opinions of the speakers and interacting with the guests on this Nation cruise.

Gordon Bigelow

Born 3/2/1930 in Bangor, Michigan. Attended University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, B.A., western philosophy, 1952. Married Marilyn Seeger, (born 11/19/30 in Detroit) B.A., political science, University of Michigan, 1953, and we attended six or seven Nation Magazine cruises, mostly in the Atlantic from Florida. We lived in co-op houses with the leftist students in Ann Arbor. Marilyn took a Masters degree in librarianship from Cal Berkeley, Gordon holds doctorate in geology from University of Hawaii, Manoa (Honolulu). Most of our careers were in Honolulu, where Marilyn worked as a librarian at Chaminade University and Gordon as a professor in the Department of General Science at the University of Hawaii, Manoa. We also served on Semester at Sea, a ship outfitted for education of college students, circling the globe 4 times in the 1970s through 1990s, she working in the library, he teaching geology and oceanography. Both have taken part in antiwar demonstrations since the Vietnam War. He has lately demonstrated as an environmentalist. Marilyn died in late 2024.

Tana Bigelow

I grew up in Honolulu, Hawaii, attended college in Los Angeles, and now live in the Catskill Mountains near Woodstock, NY. I lived in Michigan, California, Hawaii, and Rome before moving to NYC for grad school. My background is in landscape architecture, English Literature, and film. I commute to Albany for my work as a planner for New York State Parks.

I have traveled extensively, both as a child and an adult, and sailed around the world with the [Semester at Sea](#) program while in college. In my work and personal life, I am involved in issues related to low-impact design, accessibility, climate change, and



the politics that are impacting the global response. As I approach retirement, I look forward to exploring other interests that include discovering new music, authors, communities, activism, occasionally raising guide dog pups for Guiding Eyes for the Blind, and fighting the good fight against invasive plants on our property.

This is my first Nation cruise, and it is very special since I'm traveling with my father, who has sailed on these cruises with my mother at least six times!



Bob BJORKE

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

Judy BJORKE

Grew up in small town MN, currently in Minneapolis. Ilhan Omar is my rep! Undergrad at UWisc-Stout, master degrees in public health (nutritional sciences) at UCLA and social work at UW-Madison. Was a witness for non-violence in Anishinabe-ceded territories in N Wisconsin "treaty wars" (early 1990's) and international observer in N Ireland during the contentious parades season (1999-

2001). Served on my education union executive board as part of a social justice caucus modeled after Karen Lewis's Chicago Teachers Union to strengthen and activate 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!

Kai Borner

For many years I have been the director of a number of PASTORAL CARE Departments (Spiritual Care) in different Agencies and Hospitals in the New York area.

My interest is in theological education and history. The focus of my training programs has been ecumenical, including Rabbis, Protestant denominations, Imman's and Catholics.as well as church representatives from different parts of the world.

I am originally from Germany and I am retired by now.

Irmgard Borner

I have been thinking what might be defining information about me, it is not so easy.

I would start that I am a refugee child at the end of WW2, when my mother fled from East Prussia Germany to the west from the approaching Russians. The next would be that I am a post WW2 generation child growing up first with the struggle to survive, then with the discoveries of German atrocities under the Nazis and then the strong urge to rebuild a life with renewed self-respect. All of these early experiences have been like guideposts in my life.

My parents permitted and afforded me to study medicine in Germany and I became an Adult and Child Psychiatrist though with some twists on the way. During my early training for a child psychiatrist my then just husband was offered a stipend in the USA to further his training. I followed him under the condition that I would be able to continue my training in the USA. It worked out I passed the necessary exams and found a training place as psychiatric resident in Brooklyn New York.

The experience in New York in the USA had a profound effect on me. I experienced it in contrast to my years in Germany as very liberating. So we decided to stay "a little longer" pursuing our training.

The following years we had 2 children and I worked as a child psychiatrist in varies positions and took care of the family. When one of my children got into the early twenties she developed a serious mental illness. Her mental illness has been a challenging part of my life ever since. When she got pregnant, I

became the caretaker and guardian of her child. As much as this was a new major task it was also a delightful experience.

I have continued to enjoy working part time as a child psychiatrist and have found counter balances to the stresses in my life by walking, gardening, studying to learn to play the cello, and I have the "strange" need and satisfaction to fix broken objects instead of throwing them away.

This cruise with the Nation is the first for me of this kind. Our Friends Mel Grizer and Susie Hoffman introduced and encouraged us to this trip and I am curious and looking forward to it as a new experience.

Irmgard Borner MD

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 now twelve 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. Previously, I worked in non-profit human resources administration and retired in 2012!

I have been Swing and Ballroom dancing for over 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.

Recently, I have taken up photography with my iPhone and taking an online course. I need to catch up as I stopped viewing the lessons over the summer as I wanted to be outside! I went on a walk in my neighborhood, the Village to take photos of Reflections.

One of my photos, was a best mention!
downtown by the water

Recent Photo, August 2, 2025



This past May 2025, I visited Greece, 3 days in Athens and then we took a catamaran to some of the smaller islands. We went to Aegina, Ermani, Hydra and Poros. I even climbed the Acropolis to the top and it was some feat! I'll be happy to share more Photos on the cruise! The food was yummy and lots of Feta cheese! The tomatoes and Olive Oil were so delicious!

Acropolis!



Poros



Poros



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. In their 21 years together they have done civil battle as Progressives vs. the Regressives and felt it was the “good fight”, but today’s slide toward autocracy makes those past battles quaint. That 40% of citizens think our ‘dear leader’ is a savior while overlooking his history of sexual assault, impeachments, felony convictions, and now murder on the high seas, is profoundly disturbing and existentially dire. Past successes we worked for like Barack Obama winning Florida twice and pushing out electronic voting systems to require paper ballots in Florida elections no longer feel like ‘happy warrior’ memories, rather more like echoes of bliss in ignorance of what was to come in 2016 and 2024. Helen continues to keep hope alive by regularly convening her Democratic social group and Arlin is Treasurer of the local Democratic Party, but now for our second The Nation Cruise we need an injection of hope from our fellow travelers.



Barry M. Dank

Barry M. Dank aka the Dankster, doctorate in Sociology, UW, Madison. Tenured prof Cal State Long Beach retiring in 2002. Came from an authoritarian Jewish Southern family. Alienated at early age which led me into sociology and dealing with marginal outsider groups. Always considered myself to be an outsider. Doctorate diss on homosexual identity, leading to my publication "Coming Out in the Gay World" which ended up being considered a paradigm shifting and classic article. Early 70s member of UCLA Gender Identity Research and Treatment Center. Interdisciplinary orientated, heavily influenced by Daphne Patai, Martin Hoffman, Peter Berger, Rollo May, Ernest Becker, Robert Stoller. In the 70s met Holocaust survivor Mel Mermelstein leading me into Holocaust studies, taught one of the first undergrad courses on the Holocaust. Became interested in survivors and survivor groups, eg, Parents of Murdered Children. Met my wife many years later who was a parent of a murdered child. My wife and I are living an idyllic life in Palm Desert, CA. Battled authoritarians and authoritarianism most of my adult life. Involved in many controversies most noteworthy as supporter of Roman Polanski, Holocaust survivor and film director. Also focused on issues relating to sexual consent between students and professors. Retired in 2010 as head editor and founder of the academic quarterly SEXUALITY AND CULTURE. Love dogs, playing scrabble, cruising with my wife, coffee and conversation.

Judy Darden

I grew up in Seattle/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 Dept. of 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 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 ensure 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. My husband passed away and I moved back home to Washington. Later I met Richard online and moved back to Anchorage. We got married, renovated his unfinished house, sold it, and moved to a fixer-upper in Bellingham which we renovated. After living in the forest eight years, we moved into the sunshine on an acre of land with a peek at Mt Baker. We are Certified Emergency Response Team members and are totally involved in playing “victims” or “survivors” for EMT, Fire, Police, and Border Patrol trainees, which includes things like a school bus rollover, plane wreck at the airport, live shooters in schools and malls, simulated earthquakes, and anything else they can come up with. They moulage us up with cuts, bruises, broken legs and arms, and squirting fake blood. This year we did a lot of traveling – did the Panama Canal with friends, cruised Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro and Greece, cruised the lower



Mississippi River with Viking (one of the FUNNEST trips we've done next to Antarctica), did an Alaska Cruise, spent a week in the Scottish Highlands ending with the Military Tattoo in Edinburgh, and we're doing New Zealand, Tasmania and Australia soon. I'm working on 2026 – still need to see Polar Bears and get to Africa. When we're home, we enjoy our two Labradoodles and watching the grass grow. Between us we have six kids, twelve grandkids and a slew of great grandkids scattered all around the states. Politically I'm in the middle of the road, and at this point I'm sick and tired of it all, 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 at 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/phone calls until I flew down to visit her for a week - the rest is history. We left Anchorage in 2012 and settled in Washington. We are Certified Emergency Response Team members and are totally involved in playing “victims” or “survivors” for EMT, Fire, Police, and Border Patrol trainees, which includes things like a school bus rollover, plane wreck at the airport, live shooters in schools and malls, simulated earthquakes, and anything else they can come up with. They moulage us up with cuts, bruises, broken legs and arms, and squirting fake blood. We love to travel – this past year we did the Panama Canal again with friends, a riverboat cruise of the Lower Mississippi (one of the most outstanding and fun trips we’ve had), cruised Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro and Greece, toured the Scottish Highlands and just finished our semi-annual Alaska Cruise. We are heading to New Zealand, Tasmania, and Australia soon. So far, we have been on six of the seven continents – working on Africa and seeing Polar Bears next. We have met many wonderful like-minded people on the past 12 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; we have 2 Labradoodles and are enjoying retirement.

Shirley DeCorte

Hello, I'm Shirley DeCorte. I spent most of my adult life in the education field, working in both public and private schools, teaching early childhood through college level, and concluding my career as a public school administrator. I'm interested in volunteer activities, doing taxes with the AARP program, League of Women Voters work, creating with needle felting and other textile projects, genealogy, playing MahJong, socializing, reading, and being as active as this old body will let me be. I belong to a Unitarian community. I enjoy family activities and grandkids. While I believe that it is important to hear all viewpoints, I believe strongly in democracy and look forward to listening to views I will mostly agree with.

Cecile De La Fuente

Cell: 530-313-0827 Northern California

I graduated from High School and enlisted in the Air Force. After serving four years I moved to Germany for one year and then returned home to California. I enjoyed touring Europe. While in England I was hungry to see a movie *in English*. So, I found myself unwittingly trapped into watching the very scary movie “The Exorcist.” Due to this mistake of unwittingly encountering a distressing presentation instead of a pleasant experience with my native language, I adopted the practice of thoroughly researching films, books, and programs before committing my time and attention to them. I credit living in Germany, traveling in Europe, and experiences like the above upon returning to English for awakening my interest in history, cultures, other societal experiences.



Upon returning to the US, I attended California State University in Sacramento. I was able to do so because I could use the GI bill, this nation’s gift to service people. It was during my years at the university that I developed my interests in current events, national and international news, and the interaction between national Policies and Human Morality. I started a subscription to the Christian Science Monitor and still enjoy it after all these years. I pay tribute to its consistently excellent editorial control, honest reporting, and breadth of covering our whole world.

I worked as an Office Technician or Administrative Assistant in several large California organizations (mostly hospitals, and later the State of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation).

Currently, I obtain my news from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting /PBS News Hour and Public radio. I watch Amanpour and Company, American Democracy Now, and Rachel Maddow. I attend two discussion groups weekly, but they are beginning to wind down as we age and disease, medical needs, and death diminish us. These meetings consist of folks with varying backgrounds who have in common their love of discussion, wordplay,

reading, and current domestic and international events. Our focus is obsessively upon the corrupt and wicked news nationally and abroad. Destruction of societal norms and of executive boundaries by American Political-Corporate executives is becoming the new norm in our country. There is an intentional, systematic erosion of our institutions. But these institutions have served us well. Of course, Us is defined as American citizens, including all of the people.

I look forward to differing perspectives and insights from our discussions and seminars on these fundamentally critical issues during this voyage.

Barbara de Leeuw

Barry and I recognized our birthdays this year by hosting an AMAZING picnic. Barry created a fascinating (V for Victory) pictorial invitation that represented 80 years of *our invitees' collective* marches, protests, and efforts expanding human rights. More than one hundred family and friends bouyed their spirits (and ours) by reminiscing, connecting, and strategizing...Joy as Resistance! Now the boring stuff...



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

I am a recovered Moderator 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, five years ago... I said yes to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) national governing Board of Trustees. I deeply love transformational governance work.

My latest reality? I am protesting, listening to podcasts, downsizing, and aggressively encouraging younger leaders and resisters to step forward. I am traveling with my partner Barry Swan, "the anti - social studies teacher".
Barbara de Leeuw bdeleeuw2020@icloud.com

Linda Ellinor

I live in Dana Point, CA, midway between LA and San Diego. While I grew up in Santa Ana, CA, I ended up graduating college in New York with a BS in business from NYU and an MBA from Columbia. I also went through a PhD program in Jungian Psychology from Pacifica Graduate Institute, later in life.

Many of my interests growing up were musical. I played classical and pop piano, guitar and sang in a myriad of choirs. On my way through my degrees, I toured through a variety of still current interests: political science, anthropology, psychology, facilitation, group process

I worked in the corporate world during my 20s at AT&T, International Paper Company, Exxon Office Systems and a subsidiary of the British Petroleum Company primarily in new product development, marketing and research.

In my 30's I made a major career shift. I worked as an outplacement counselor and career- workshop facilitator at Drake, Beam, Moran. I also worked as an executive/leadership coach at The Center for Creative Leadership and had my own teambuilding consulting practice.

Moving into my 40's and beyond I co-founded The Dialogue Group, which after my PhD program in psychology, I renamed as the Action Dialogue Group (actiondialoguegroup.com). Dialogue, as I have taught and continue to practice, revolves around the work of David Bohm, who was a quantum physicist and philosopher. His worldview out-of-which Dialogue evolved, focuses on wholeness and the interconnectedness of all life. Dialogue promotes deep listening, suspension of judgement, inquiry into underlying assumptions and developing shared, coherent meaning in groups who practice it.

In my 50's and 60's I moved from California to the Tucson area and developed property in a small artistic town about 45 minutes south of Tucson called Tubac. Called The Floating Stone, it was a retreat center for those



wanting to learn Dialogue and relax in a spa-like environment. During this time a co-directed Sustainable Tucson. - a climate activist organization and joined the Climate Change Committee in Tucson's city government.

Now in my 70's I am mostly retired and live back in California. I lead and participate in several book groups, a monthly Dialogue group, a local democratic group, and a spiritual community. I am a member of the Praxis Peace Institute (Sonoma based) and The Pari Center (Pari, Italy).

I live with my partner, Rocky and my Himalayan cat, Nikkie. My partner and I practice music almost daily (ukuleles and voice, and piano) and play in several local venues. I bike about 20 miles riding down the coast from Dana Point to San Clemente, swim at a nearby pool and when not riding my bike, take walks around the harbor. One week out of the year, Rocky and I go up to S. Lake Tahoe for a week of downhill and cross-country skiing. We also spend a week a year during the summer at a music camp (CCMC. - California Coastal Music Community) in the Carmel Valley.

Elizabeth Ewing

In retirement, I now have more time for my strong interest in gardening with an emphasis on native plants and vegetables. When the garden is too cold, I spend more time knitting and pursuing other fiber arts. Since moving to Philadelphia, I began to write poetry in addition to my lifelong interest in reading poems. Monthly pub poetry nights encourage this endeavor.



Elizabeth Ewing

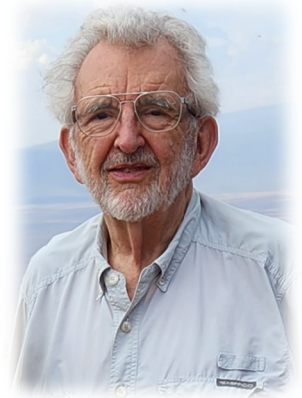
I remain active as a spiritual director after leaving full-time ministry as an Episcopal priest and take a particular interest in contemplation along with action. Travel to Europe and elsewhere, particularly related to local culture and art is more frequent now that my Sunday commitment has ended. If it is not too textile-related, my husband, Ted, and I travel together especially to Europe. I join small group tours with a textile and art focus alone. Germany is a favorite destination since our son, his wife, and son live in Bavaria, Germany. The travel bug led me to the diplomatic corps from which I am also retired and that desire to explore continues.

Our daughter teaches at a university in New York state, and we travel there as well as to NYC. We share an interest in baseball and seeing games in different cities, though I am a Cardinals fan and Ted follows the Dodgers. Responding to current political events takes up more and more time, and I seek a balance between action and time for creative interests.

Two books I would recommend are Mystical Courage by Cynthia Bourgeault and Birding to Change the World by Trish O'Kane.

Don Feliz

Don Feliz is a seventh generation Californian who grew up in various San Francisco Bay area counties. After San Francisco State and three years as a soldier in West Berlin he moved to Sacramento in 1968. He started writing poetry in 1995 at Sacramento Poetry Center's Hart workshop and now at the Hart Senior Center Workshop.



Don's poems have been published in *Brevities*, *Poet's Forum Magazine*, *Rattlesnake Review*, *To Berlin With Love* (Rattlesnake Press, SnakeRings SpiralChap #9), and *The Gathering* (the Ina Coolbrith Circle 2005 and 2007 Anthologies).

Don was a California State employee from 1965 to 1987 in eight departments and several occupations like Economic Analyst, Statistician, Criminal Justice Specialist, Management Auditor, Business Recovery Analyst, and 911 Systems Management. His legacy achievement was organizing the statewide implementation of the 911 Emergency Telephone Number.

He has been retired, writing poetry, and traveling in about 40 countries since 1987.

Helene K. Fellen

My home is in Albuquerque, New Mexico and I moved here from, Calabasas, California about 40 years ago! I am a semi-retired marriage and family psychotherapist, graduating from the University of Southern California some years ago!!! I also attended Berkeley as an undergraduate. I have two children and four grandchildren all doing interesting things. Of course my grandchildren are trying to find their way in this time of existential crisis.

I am part of the Third Act New Mexico, as well as the educators group of the national Third Act. My own work over many years has been as a therapist often working with patients facing life threatening illness. I spent five years in Eugene, Oregon as a counselor for patients facing cancer, in a cancer center hospital setting. I have been on two Nation cruises going back to 2009, and decided at this difficult and stressful time that I must join this wonderful group of presenters and shipmates, good for the soul.

Nancy Frankenberry

Nancy Frankenberry attended last year's First Nation's Cruise on Land and had so much fun that she is back for this year! Particularly after the midterm elections, she is interested in what the speakers have to say. If asked where she locates herself politically, she would say to the left of the present Democrat party. Dividing her time now between Quechee, Vermont and Naples, Florida, she taught for 38 years at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH, and devoted a total of 50 years to higher education, on one side or the other of the podium.



Candy Gale

candylgale@gmail.com

1980 18th St, Apt 1008

Denver, CO 80202

813-317-7660

I grew up with a family run, grocery and gas station country store attached to my home in Truman, a one-horse town, 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 lived in Tampa, FL. for thirty years and am thrilled to be living in Denver. There is so much to do and so much of it can be done walking or using transit instead of an automobile. This is quite an adventure. We went from running a dehumidifier to running a humidifier☺, but we are adjusting. We downsized and are enjoying not owning a home.

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 you!



Suzanne Goode

I was born in Arlington, Virginia, and grew up in the suburbs of Falls Church and McLean. Washington, D.C., will always hold a special place in my heart as the place where I learned to love following politics. I watched all the inaugural parades, visited Congress, the Supreme Court, and all the executive buildings, as well as all the museums. I marched in every march and wrote letters to my senators.



After earning my bachelor's degree in English from Butler University in Indianapolis, with a year-long time-out to live in Munich, I headed to a new life in California. I earned a second bachelor's and a master's degree in biology, eventually settling into a wonderful 30-year career as an environmental scientist for California State Parks. I had the wonderful privilege of being entrusted with the management of 40,000 acres of Mediterranean habitat in the Santa Monica Mountains. I got to restore creeks and lagoons, remove fish barriers, eradicate invasive exotic plants, and participate in a lot of political intrigue, while meeting many politicians and celebrities. I am gratified by the experience, but much relieved to now be retired. Still marching.

Paul and Anita Gordon

We celebrated our 56th anniversary this year. We met in college in the panhandle of Texas, completed our graduate degrees in Louisville, KY, and spent most of our working years in Texas.

Paul worked for years as a social worker primarily in homes for children. Before he retired, he worked in the senior insurance market with Medicare supplements and long-term care.



Anita taught middle and high school science for 29 years before finishing her education career as the science coordinator for her school district. These years inspired her to be a lifelong learner.

We were active in the Democratic Party in Texas, where Paul served as election judge in our Williamson County precinct. In 2016 he ran for the Texas Legislature as a Democrat. Unfortunately, we were unable to flip the seat that year, but the foundational work done by many enabled the seat to become one of the few Democratic ones when John Bucy won in 2018 (and is still in office). In 2022, we moved from Austin, TX, to Richmond, VA, to be near our children and grandchildren. When we saw the advertisement for this cruise, we were definitely interested! Anne Lamont has long been a favorite author, and all the other speakers will help us widen our horizons. We look forward to interacting with the others who have signed up for the cruise.

Susan Greenwood

This is my first Nation cruise and I'm looking forward to learning, growing and discovering some clarity about issues.

I've lived in different parts of the country including New Jersey; Houston, Texas (I own my mother's poll tax form complete with racial information); Idaho; Iowa and now in a Chicago suburb. Yes! Deep dish pizza. Even though I've been a Midwesterner for almost 50 years, I still maintain New Jersey roots – especially pumpernickel bagels with raisins. I've very thankful for being able to enjoy the different cultures that are part of America.

I retired after a career as a communicator including newspaper and magazine writing, heading a Chamber of Commerce and finally marketing a public library. My interests include sustainability, climate change, reading and my two grandsons who are now in first grade. Climate change is especially important to be because of my grandsons and my faith. Christians are instructed early in Genesis to be good stewards of the Earth. We are doing a lousy job!

I'm looking forward to meeting people, having thought provoking dinner conversations and taking a 4-day train trip back to Chicago after the cruise.

Mel Grizer

I was born and grew up in Philadelphia (Phillies & Eagles fan) but have lived in Brooklyn for 58 years. In my first life I was a mechanic on pinball machines. But since 1967, I have been involved with the United Community Centers, a community based, non-profit, interracial, non-sectarian, social change-oriented organization located in the East New York section of Brooklyn. I started as a youth worker, eventually becoming Executive Director and later Board President (maintenance person and bus driver when needed). I am married to Susie Hoffman and we have two grown children.



David Hiles

I'm a first generation American. My parents emigrated from the UK to Austin, Texas so my father could meet American relatives and attend the University of Texas on the GI Bill. My dad was an idealist and a Communist. He did things like sell the Daily Worker on the UT campus in the early 50's. Both parents lost their jobs during the McCarthy Era. I grew up reading the Nation and the Texas Observer, as well as Time, Life, and Soviet Life. My dad gave me a perspective on the world that was just a touch different than the usual in LBJ's Austin.

After graduation from the University of Texas, I moved to DC with Jennie. I made a career at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, from which I retired in December 2024. In suburban Maryland, I co-founded a pre-K soccer league and served in municipal government. After Ms. Clinton's failure, I joined DSA in 2017 and found my ideological home. This will be our second Nation Cruise.

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 on 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. In 2025, her yard was selected for the Alexandria City Beautification Award for her use of native plants and sustainability efforts.

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

Susie Hoffman

I have worked for many years (now part-time) as a research scientist and Professor of Epidemiology in the Division of Gender, Sexuality and Health/Department of Psychiatry, Columbia University Medical Center. My research focuses on HIV prevention both in the US and southern Africa.



Although none of my own studies were cancelled by Trump's shake-down of Columbia, those of many of my colleagues were. I joined a group that opposed the negotiations and final settlement between the University and the Trump Administration. Our group continues to press for free speech on campus.

I met my husband, Mel Grizer, at the United Community Centers' Camp Hurley in 1973, and we have two grown children.

Our first Nation Cruise was in 2022, and on this, our second, we are happy to be joined by our longtime friends, Kai and Irmgard Borner.

Irene Kaoosji

Irene Kaoosji retired from the healthcare industry, where she worked in the Medical Staff offices of leading hospitals in San Francisco, Stockton, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and Fresno in California. Born in Cochin, India, she grew up in Bombay and has a Bachelor's Degree from Elphinstone College. She migrated to the USA in 1972 with her husband, Yezdyar.



Following retirement, she volunteered at an elementary school, helping kindergarten and third-grade children in the classrooms. Irene enjoys reading and traveling.

Yezdyar Kaoosji

Yezdyar Kaoosji retired from a career serving international and national NGO and non-profit organizations. He was born and educated in Hyderabad, India. He was Secretary General of the Indian Junior Chamber (Jaycees) when he and his wife Irene migrated to the USA in 1972. After tenure on the staff of Junior Chamber International (JCI) in Coral Gables, Florida, he moved to California and worked for local United Way organizations in various capacities in San Francisco, Stockton, Los Angeles, and Santa Barbara.



In 2000, he joined the Friends of the Indian School of Business to lead development efforts in the USA for the newly established institution in Hyderabad, India. Later, he ran his own Management Consulting practice supporting California nonprofits with strategic planning and training board members until he retired.

Active in social and community service organizations, he has served on the boards of local charities, including the KFCF Free Speech Radio, a Pacifica Radio affiliate in the California Central Valley, writes an occasional column titled “Progressive Voice” in the Community Alliance Newspaper in Fresno, is a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow and was a member of the Fresno County Democratic Central Committee. He played a leadership role in the local Bernie Sanders campaigns in 2016 and 2020.

Yezdyar and his wife, Irene, live in Visalia, California. Their daughter is a Defense Attorney in Visalia, CA, and their son is the Executive Director of the Warehouse Worker Resource Center in Southern California. They have three granddaughters.

He enjoys traveling and writing on social and progressive issues.

Kitty Kroger

My name is Kitty Kroger. I currently live in Pasadena, CA. I lived in Los Angeles for about 30 years before that. I grew up in Kalispell, MT until 8th grade, then Pomona, CA, and Riverside, CA. College was in Colorado Springs, CO, where I majored in English. After graduation I went to Germany for a summer job and ended up living in West Berlin for four years, during the time of a divided Berlin and of the Soviet Union. This was an amazing experience.



After Berlin I ended up teaching ESL (English as a Second Language) to mainly Latino students in East Los Angeles.

My current activities are engaging in political issues such as climate change, Gaza, and fascism. I go to demonstrations, make phone calls, read a lot about current events and world and U.S. history.

I also try to exercise three times a week, doing aerobics (I like to run, especially), weightlifting on machines, and yoga. I love to hike, too.

As for my hobbies, right now I am into watercolor painting and sketching. I also go to lots of free outdoor summer concerts in the area. And I love to travel. I have had many wonderful travel experiences. I have been on three *Nation* trips so far. Animals are a joy to me, and especially intriguing to me are the wild ones.

Other activities I have done but don't do anymore are writing—a novel, poetry, and short stories, stand-up comedy, acting, and piano.

I am a socialist. I have a history of activism from the 60s on: anti-war, anti-imperialism, climate change, feminism, union work.

I have a son, who is a public defender in San Jose, CA.

I'm looking forward to this wonderful cruise and to meeting you all!

Paula Lee

Are you interested in Ranked Choice Voting and Proportional Representation? Ending Gerrymandering?

I am Paula Lee. My husband David Weil and I live in Sacramento, CA. near the Capitol. I am an active long time member of the League of Women Voters and am leading an effort to get Ranked Choice Voting on the Nov 2026 ballot in our City and County (BetterBallotSacramento.org) Also V.P. Californians for Electoral Reform. (CfER.org)



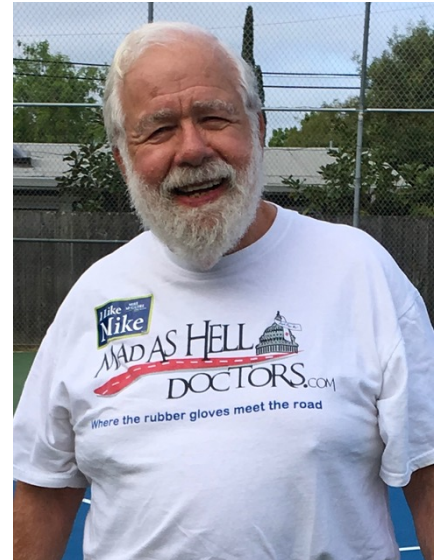
I hope to meet Nation cruisers interested in RCV and PR and hope you will join me for an “ad hoc” session (as customary on the Nation cruise) or contact me for a coffee, breakfast or lunch chat.

Cabin 5188 Paula.Lee@comcast.net (916) 704-0195

If you can't find the “ad hoc” sessions, ask a Nation organizer or call me and leave a message on my cabin phone.

Larry Lewin

I'm an 89 year old retired nephrologist who lives in a senior living (CCRC) condo, in San Rafael, CA. A Chicagoan, by birth, and then a transplant to Los Angeles, where my last year in high school, qualified me for a free education at UCLA (A.B., Zoology.) Thanks to fabulous parents, a career postal worker and a secretary in a clothing factory, I went to U.S.C. Medical School, while my younger sister became a school nurse. We graduated with no debts (except that of gratitude to loving parents.) I trained at Fresno County Hospital, Kaiser Oakland, Cedars-Sinai and UCLA, and was deferred from service in Viet Nam, as Orange County, with 1.5 million people, had only a single nephrologist. For the next 50 years, I labored in a philosophical, political and cultural desert, caring for anyone with end stage kidney disease, funded, insured, citizens, or not. I was innovative, and despite swimming against the currents, even got to the Board of Directors of the County Medical Association, where I was a perennial voice from the wilderness insisting on Universal Healthcare. My practice was extremely satisfying as I was my own boss, and the bureaucracy and consolidation that strangled the profession, was not yet the impediment to my that it is today. I was a very good physician, but I sacrificed my concept of that role to my responsibility to be a good husband and father, and thus found myself, in 1984, with 3 ex-wives and 5 children. When I should have considered a monastic future, through a dating service, Great Expectations, I was selected by a beautiful, intelligent divorcee, with 2 children, and a fairy tale romance began. 2 years after our wedding, she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, but she went on, bravely, to a career as an administrator of an assisted living center. At her request, I retired in 2016 and we moved to be near our daughter in Corte Madera. We entered Villa Marin, in August 2023, with my wife still driving, but her disease progressed. She moved from independent living to assisted living on February 14, 2025, and we shared meals and TV. She died in her sleep, on February 19th, and was buried in her wedding dress on what would have been our 40th anniversary, leaving with wonderful memories.

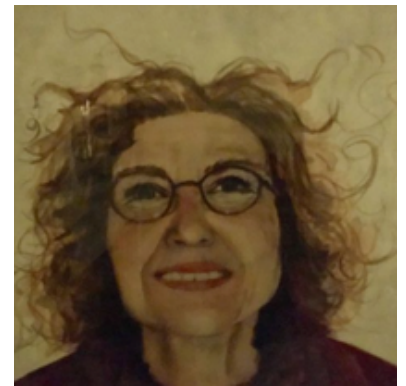


I have 7 children, 16 grandchildren, an interest in politics, aviation, sports cars, history, particularly the history of aviation in WW 2, almost anything on PBS and NPR. I live in a wonderfully compatible community, in luxury that I wish my parents might have experienced for all the work that made it possible, and I play pickle ball, now twice a week, after 65 years of competitive tennis. I love college sports, and to a lesser degree, professional football. I also like to make collage art. Life remains very exciting, and my memories are a consolation. Life in the blue bubble that is Marin, surrounded by fascinating people with a full activity schedule, provides an idea of what **Abundance** might portend, if our political will can match our resources.



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 Brazil for Carnival where my Brazilian 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.

Jerry Ludeke (a she-Jerry)

Every year, when the Nation edition comes which tells about that year's Nation Cruise, I think, "Ooh, I'd like to do that sometime." The 2022 year's announcement came that Elie Mystal would be on the trip. That did it. I'm an Elie Mystal fan so, at age 90, I went on my first Nation cruise with my son Kevin Ludeke as my chaperone. Elie's back this year, along with a slate of top notch speakers...and so am I at age 93. This time traveling solo.



It is not my first Holland American trip. That was in the summer of 1953 when the Dutch government gave two Holland America ships for student travel to and from Europe--- the SS Waterman and the SS Groote Beer--- over 70 years ago. I have my "Able Mariner" certificate from Holland America.

Where have I lived? New York 8 months; Fort Wayne, Indiana 27 years; Bakersfield, CA 63 years (great place to raise a family); The Redwoods in Mill Valley, CA 3 ½ years (fantastic community for seniors).

Colleges: Sweet Briar, VA; Indiana University; Tulane University; and Stanford.

Greek stuff: Phi Beta Kappa, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Delta Kappa Gamma
Family: History professor husband John who died 30 years ago after 36 years together, two sons—Kevin in Costa Rica and Scott in San Francisco--- wonderful wives and three children each. We were campers, backpackers, and travelers every summer. Methodist church choir singers; Sierra Club; Historical Society.

Vocation: a mother and wife; teaching: art teacher at Beirut College for Women in Lebanon; professor at Bakersfield College (critical thinking/reading, study skills, etc.). Post-retirement: taught English in Tienjin, China; Director of Bakersfield College Archives for 16 years. Travel (love it): all 50 states and worldwide.

Carol Lutness

I was born in a little..... Wait. No. Let me start again... Back in the mid-90's Dave and I were watching a National Geographic documentary on Bonobos at the San Diego Zoo. "Look Dave, they have arms like a hairy body builder. Look at their hands, so much like ours..." That film led me to my 30-year fascination and curiosity about Bonobos and our other Primate^{1st} cousin, the Chimpanzee.



Over the years through continuous reading, watching university lectures, and documentaries, etc. I have come to believe that because we share 98.7% of our genes with Bonobos and 98.7% with Chimpanzees so many of our problems stem from this fact. It's the root of our vast cultural, economic and political differences.

This can be summarized briefly by the fact that Bonobos welcome the stranger whereas Chimpanzees eat them. Chimpanzees are male dominated, hierarchical, authoritarian and warlike. They eat their own. Bonobos are female dominated, collegial, more democratic and "make love not war" when there are conflicts. For example three Bonobos walking down a path see a banana. Instead of fighting over it, possibly trying to kill for it, they have sex (all kinds) and then split the banana.

I see us as falling on a continuum from Chimpanzee to Bonobo. I think we're born that way. On the extreme Right, ultimate Chimpanzee types are John Wayne, Donald Trump, Mel Gibson, Steven Miller and many current Republicans. On the extreme Left are Jesus, MLK, Obama, Bernie Sanders, AOC and many of our current Democratic heroes.

All humans have both of those gene pools, some people are born very, very Chimpanzee, some are kind of 1/2 and 1/2, some are so Bonobo that every time you see them you want to sing KumBahYah. I believe all our political and religious differences spring from our being a blend of Chimpanzee and Bonobo. Right now, we have the ultimate Chimpanzee Christian Nationalists and oligarchs vs the ultimate Bonobos, Quakers, DSA's, Progressives. We are different. Do we worship the patriarchal punishing warlike, frightening Father God or the loving, nurturing live and let live Gaia, the Divine Feminine?

Because we are so different our only hope things deteriorate so badly that we become willing to try to come again to the middle, learn how to

compromise again, as the Greeks taught us millenniums ago. Moderation in all things. The Golden Mean. Nothing in excess, etc. So every day I have to make my choice whether or not to manifest my Chimpanzee self or my Bonobo self. I hope you meet my Bonobo.

David Lutness

My great grandparents immigrated from Norway (to get away from the cold) To North Dakota (Go Figure.). I was born in 1946 in Virginia and, when I was five, we moved to the great state of DuPont (excuse me, Delaware), where I stayed until I went to college at Gettysburg, where I took 2 semesters of Bible (required) and became an atheist. I spent the next 50 years getting to California where I am now retired to gardening and political activism. I am a 'friend of Bills' and a believer in ranked choice voting. I believe in human caused climate change and that the correct name of our species is Homo Credulus.



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.

H. Tony and Ann Martin

We traveled through Morocco this spring and met welcoming, though confused, young people along the way. Here we are with a couple from Crete and co-workers from Tangier heading to a conference in Marrakesh (we are in the very back by the window, but the young faces are much more interesting and you've likely seen us before anyway). The confusion about the political situation in the US has undoubtedly deepened as conditions in the US have gotten worse. We also spent time in Madrid, where we saw a man carrying a sign urging Spaniards to boycott US goods. As we traveled, we were warmly welcomed as Americans, but America is becoming (rightfully so) an international outcast! Tony is a retired attorney and Ann is a retired land use and transportation planner. Owning wheat farms and tree farms in eastern and western Washington gives us an interesting perspective on the effects of climate change as droughts continue on both sides of the state. Marching against Kings and authoritarianism and for free speech, peace, strong local media and climate action have become frequent events this year. We work to keep our elected officials (go Pramila) accountable. We are lucky to live in the targeted city of Seattle in a state that is run by competent leaders who take their responsibilities to citizens and noncitizens alike seriously and who know our state and nation depend on a world community. We look forward to seeing cruisers and sharing time once again with The Nation community!



Michele McCaffrey

Hello, I am Michele McCaffrey from Bloomington, IN where I was born. I graduated from Indiana University and also have an MLS from IU. I retired as an academic librarian after working at the University of Missouri, Syracuse University, and St. Michael's (27 years) College in Vermont. I am a fierce Italophile and earned a Masters degree in Italian Language and Literature from Middlebury College. I have worked as a linguist for the US government and I tutor Italian and teach short Italian introductory courses to adults in various venues. I studied in Bologna, Italy as an undergraduate and in Florence with Middlebury. I go to Italy as often as possible, in June I traveling in Puglia and in May I will revisit Sicily. Seven years ago, I retired to Bloomington. I love dogs and have a terrier mix named Luigi. I am looking forward to this cruise for the beautiful scenery, cultural enrichment, educational value, and of course being among fellow liberals!

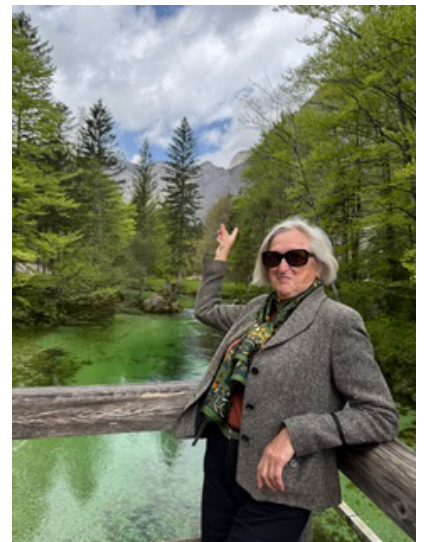
Lynn McClintock

Eastern Oregon

I live in the Pacific Northwest in the high desert of Eastern Oregon. I am a retired educator. After 21 years working in the Atlanta Metro area, I moved back to the West Coast, where I was born. I retired in 2015. I enjoy good food, nice wine, and good, thought-provoking conversation.

This is my fourth Nation Cruise. I look forward to celebrating 160 years of progressive journalism and fellow progressives.

See you in November.



Kat McOmie

I am a fourth generation Californian! My great grandmother on my mother's side, Emma Wood, was born in 1864 in San Francisco. Her father sailed around the horn from Denmark and landed in San Francisco some time in early 1800's. My father was born in California also. His background is from immigrants from Scotland.

I went to University of California-Berkeley in the riotous 60s!! I graduated in 1965 and finished my teaching credential in 1967. I began teaching Kindergarten in 1967 in Oakland, California. I got married in 1971 to a Jewish man, who survived the Holocaust, in Berkeley where we lived. I lived in Berkeley until 1981 and had two daughters, then moved to Nevada City, California trying to get back to the land! Then after a few years ended up in Sacramento with a teaching job. During that time (the 80's) I went back to school to get a Masters in School Psychology/Counseling. I then worked and retired in Sac City in 2009 but I am still working part time in Sac City as a school psychologist (Am I crazy? to still be working?)

I started traveling abroad in 1966 going to Europe with a roommate from college. Since then, I have been to Europe many times with my friend, Don. We've had many adventures! We have been to Africa, England, France, Spain, Etc over the last ten years. We are both members of CCL (Citizens Climate lobby) and are horrified at what our current government is doing. I am hoping for a real change and bringing civility back to our country.

I am looking forward to creating a book about my life in the sixties and doing some creative art as in my heart and soul I am an artist! My email is katblewett13@gmail.com I would love to hear your stories!



Nancy McPherson

Richmond, VA

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 living in Richmond, VA, and I've now moved there to be nearer to him. I retired from the Coast Guard and went to work at the City of Chesapeake in the Planning Department, and I 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!! Our state elections are concluding while we're on this cruise, yes, I voted early. Hopefully we'll have a great outcome to celebrate while we're in San Francisco!

Also, I'm a Jack Russell Terrier enthusiast!!! They've all trained me well. Looking forward to seeing friends from previous Nation Cruises and making new friends on this cruise.

Shinju and John Morris

Arcadia CA

John and Shinju met in 1983 on the UCLA Fencing Team. Both native to southern California, Shinju spent many years in San Francisco in her youth and in law school. While John attended Loyola Law School, he clerked for a law firm that handled First Amendment cases.

John and Shinju have had their own small law firm in Arcadia since 1997. Although they practiced many areas at the beginning of their practice, the focus now is primarily in trusts and estates. This has allowed them to take longer trips since 2022 as they move towards semi-retirement. There are a couple of big trips on the calendar for next year. Shinju especially loves cruising and Disney. John has a keen interest in military history and together they love touring ships of all kinds and riding their bicycles.

The photo is from this year's California Coast Classic (CCC), the Arthritis Foundation's premier fundraising event, riding bicycles from San Francisco to Los Angeles over 8 days. It was John and Shinju's 12th year of the CCC. They have a daughter and a son, and two dogs. This is their first Nation Cruise.



Pat Murphy

When I received the email about this cruise I was instantly intrigued. The thought of being with other progressives on an educational cruise called to me. I have never taken a cruise, and at 77, it seems like an apt way for me to travel these days. Living in the autocratic environment that we find ourselves in, the list of speakers and topics that will be addressed inspired me to really consider this. I reached out to friends to see if they wanted to join me, and I got a lot of support to say yes to the trip, but no takers to accompany me. I signed up and then dove into the details.



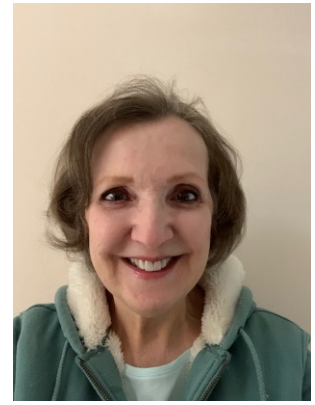
Being a Californian, cruising up and down the CA coast seemed redundant, but the mission of this particular cruise still swayed me. Did I say I hadn't yet drilled down into the details? I am a 3rd generation San Franciscan, and I smiled ironically when I read that we would stay overnight in SF and then cruise back to San Diego. Digging deeper, I saw that the 160th anniversary party will take place in the vibrant Mission district, and I laughed out loud. I live in the Mission. When I saw that it would be held 3 blocks from my home, I belly-laughed. Some of my friends will be attending the anniversary event. I look forward to introducing them to you, dropping off my laundry, picking up my mail, and refreshing my stash of dark chocolate. The saving grace for me is that I have a nephew who lives near San Diego, and I will visit with his family at the San Diego Zoo. If this is your first trip to SF, I guarantee you will enjoy it. The doom and gloom scenario you have been fed is erroneous. It is a great city.

I retired last year as a Co-Founder and the Director of a small nonprofit that provides grief support to children, teens, and their surviving parent or other caregiver after 17 years at the helm. Prior to that I worked on the business side for several magazines, including a film and photography magazine. I was an early employee of PC Magazine, and an original employee of PC World, Macworld, Publish magazines and other start-ups in the IDG family. I was laid off after 19 years. I hired a coach to help with my work transition, became a coach, and then launched the non-profit - the most rewarding and meaningful work of my life. That being said, I am loving retirement.

I like to travel, yet I haven't left northern California since the pandemic. I am ready! See you on the ship!

Sheryl Mylan

I'm Sheryl Mylan. I grew up in the Chicago suburbs, and now after decades in California where I received my Ph.D. in English from San Diego State and University of California-Riverside, I returned to Chicago finishing my career at the College of DuPage. In the interim, I was a tenured professor at the University of Houston-Downtown and Stephen F. Austin University. I published on various topics from science fiction, modernist poetry, and the works of Scott Fitzgerald, who was the subject of my dissertation.



Now I happily read for pleasure, although at first it was a challenge not to mark up books with questions to be used for class discussions and various literary techniques to point out to students.

In my spare time, I have enjoyed taking part in the Basic Program of Liberal Arts at the University of Chicago. It's a four-year program based on a Great Books curriculum, and my cohort was all retirees—a few doctors, an engineer, a documentary filmmaker, and environmental scientist, and five attorneys. It was a delight to discuss books on history, philosophy, literature, science, especially when there were no tests and no papers to write (or grade!). Some of us even went to Oxford for a two-week intensive program with time for fun and sightseeing.

Like many retirees I find meaningful work volunteering to help seniors with cognitive difficulties at a local center. A friend and I create Music Jeopardy, with a screen that looks exactly like the one on television, and we have categories of questions that relate to songs they probably remember from their youth. Sometimes this can bring out smiles and toe-tapping, even for people who are almost non-responsive, if only for a short time.

I love Chicago, with its abundance of wonderful museums, world-class Chicago Symphony, the Lyric Opera, and theater and enjoy the ways it enriches my life.

I look forward to this cruise and to engaging lectures and discussions. And it is my first cruise!

Natalia Nebel

I grew up in the Chicago neighborhood Hyde Park, the Chicago suburb Winnetka, and an Italian mountain village called Pieve Torina. I write short fiction and essays that have been published (4% acceptance rate), and I've written four novels that have yet to find a home (0% acceptance rate). I've been a good translator of Italian into English, a good editor for a literary magazine, and a brave co-founder of a Chicago reading series, Sunday Salon Chicago. Most importantly, I believe that I'm an excellent friend and family person—I hope that my friends and family agree with me, and one day I'll ask. I also know that even in these terrible times, every day is a gift, and I try to live with that in mind. Here's to a troop-free Chicago, a beautiful Italy, a kinder world, and *The Nation*!



Julia Nowicki

Like many folks on this cruise who were born around 1948, we now think it was a great time to be born. We demonstrated in high school (Riverside in Milwaukee, Wisconsin) to promote Civil Rights causes—when I was not playing my cello; then, in college (University of Wisconsin), demonstrated against the war in Vietnam. They were great times because we had concrete issues to address that had recognizable goals. This is unlike now—where issues like climate change, AI about to run amok, and Mr. Trump (no words needed on this cruise).

I went to law school at Loyola Law School in Chicago. I practiced in the public and private sectors. I also served as a judge in the Circuit Court. While there, I co-founded the Chicago Bar Association Orchestra, and we rehearsed in my courtroom. It still exists 38 years later.

After leaving the bench, I served as a mediator and arbitrator with JAMS, worked with the Chicago Archdiocese on the priest child sex abuse cases, and was appointed the Cook County Shakman Monitor, the purpose being to clean up political patronage practices in the county. Ha!

Then I went back to my cello and played lots of chamber music, primarily string quartets. My husband and I partially moved to Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, where in 2020 the Jacob Blake shooting occurred, followed by the Rittenhouse murders of two young men. There was great unrest. As Kenosha tried to pull itself back together, it inspired me to create a piece of music for Speaker and String Quartet that describes and tracks the history of the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. It was first performed at the Ceremonial Courtroom in Kenosha; we then produced it for Spotify.

During all this time, I was lucky enough to have a terrific son who graduated from the New School and who is a jazz drummer. I have a crazy abundant vegetable garden. My husband is still practicing cardiology, besides pursuing writing and painting.

I became tuned in to *The Nation* magazine because Joan Walsh and my younger sister, Claudia, were friends at Shorewood High School. I met Joan at my sister's memorial. Joan has somehow found time to console me about my dear Claudia.



Lynn Oberg

Retired widow living in South Carolina

B.A. Economics, CFA

Career in banking, trust investment management and finance.

Volunteer positions with environmental groups, non-profits, community associations, local political groups, church boards and community theatre costuming.

Special interests: travel, literary groups, art, cooking, bridge, and my 5 grandchildren.

Russ Patterson

russpat@gmail.com

1980 18th St, Apt 1008

Denver, CO 80202

813-849-3919

I'm originally from Port Arthur, Texas (now, sadly, a one-star state) and left in 1970 to go to the USAF 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 Southern Baptist but am happily 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 both the Great and Hadrian's Walls, eaten bugs and other "strange things," and have roped goats. After I retired from the USAF, I organized logistics for an English geological research group, ran a NC county fair, fought the Bush Tax Cuts (thank me for having to pay taxes on dividends), organized for Gay Rights with Equality Florida, and taught intellectually disabled high school students. For my mental well being, I'm still a usual suspect for many progressive causes.



While my wife (Candy Gale) and I were at the USAF Academy for my 50th USAF Academy Class Reunion, Hurricane Milton hit Tampa. Our friends in Colorado offered for us to stay with them until our house had electricity. They showed us around and we thought, hmm..., maybe we can move to Denver. We visited Denver again in November, and decided to move, and left Tampa, the other o'e star state, In December to settle In Denver. We love living in a city with good public transportation, and much better public services.

I look forward to meeting other fellow travelers and Nation Magazine readers.

Pat and Jeff Petrucelly

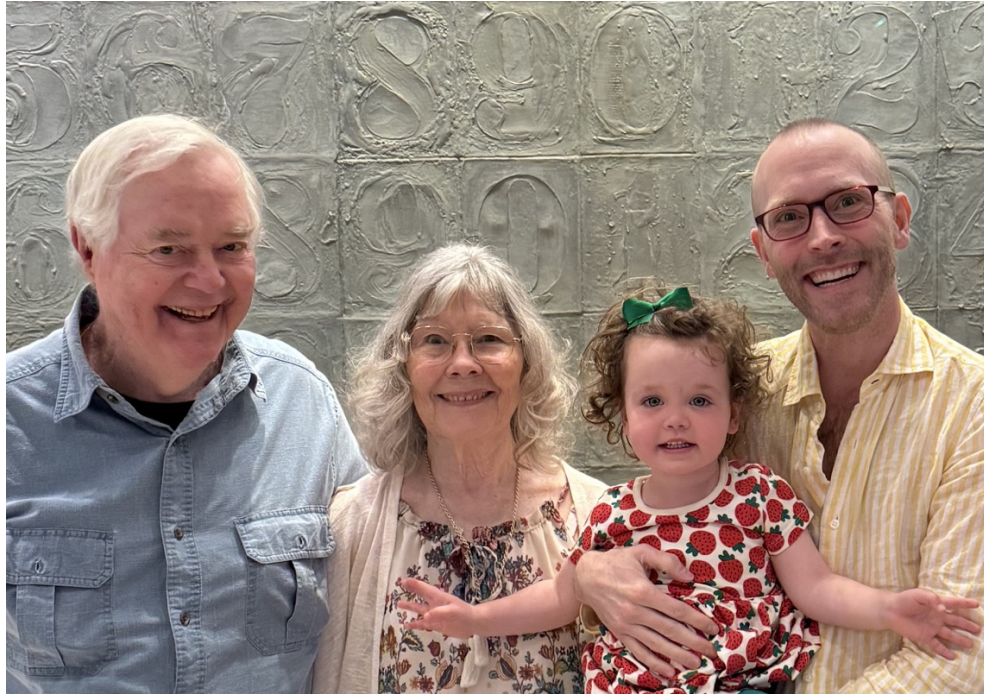
Jeff Petrucelly grew up in the Bronx NY and is a graduate of Bronx High School of Science and City College. After graduating from Harvard Law School, he built a public interest law firm in Boston specializing in individual, civil, and employee rights. He is a life-long progressive activist, currently a



board member and co-treasurer of the National Lawyers Guild Foundation, a financial officer of the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, and board member and vice-president of the Wellfleet (MA) Conservation Trust.

Pat Cantor Petrucelly grew up in Yonkers NY and is a graduate of Yonkers High School and Mount Holyoke College. After graduating from Boston University school of Law, she worked as a legal services attorney and then as General Counsel to the Cambridge Rent Control Board and as municipal counsel to many Massachusetts cities and towns. She is a life-long progressive activist, currently co-chair of the board of the World Fellowship Center in Conway, NH and co-president of her college class.

Jeff and Pat have been married for 53 years. They have 2 adult children and 3 grandchildren and live in Cambridge and Wellfleet, MA.



Ken Pipkin and Dianne Pipkin

We asked our son, Ryan, to pen some lines.
In 2008 he wrote in rhymes
To make clear our progressive conviction.
What follows here is true non-fiction:

In Texas my parents were born and bred,
Back when Texas was blue, not red.
Delegates to State and County Convention
They were, more years than I can mention.

Dad served as local Precinct Chair
For several years, because he cares.
As election judge, with Mom as clerk,
They strove to help our democracy work.

Dad grew up in Texas, near Bush by chance
But turned out to have a different stance!
He retired from IT then owned a swim shop.
A marathon man, he won't ever stop.

Mom was an avid Obama supporter,
To change the world, a Social Worker.
Her own dad advised LBJ. He taught
'A good economist has liberal thought.'

They've sailed before on The Nation cruise.
Their support for Bernie was really "HUGE."
Wed nearly 5 decades, they've quite a clan.
Six children, nine greats, and seven grands!

By Ryan Pipkin, 2008 – Updated, 2017 and 2025

Dianne's email: DiannePipkin@gmail.com

Ken's email: Kpipkin@yahoo.com

Brian Polejes

Brian Polejes was a union organizer for the Service Employees International Union for 23 years, retiring last year. A longtime activist in the LGBT community, the Palestinian solidarity group Jewish Voice for Peace, and the Democratic Party, he recently was elected a San Diego member representative for the Working Families Party and renewed his dormant membership in the Democratic Socialists of America this spring. He's read The Nation Magazine for decades and has long wanted to go on The Nation Cruise, taking advantage this year of its leaving from and returning to San Diego, where he's lived for 27 years. He enjoys Pilates and volunteers weekly at the San Diego LGBT Community Center, serving meals to the elderly. He's joined on this cruise by his longtime partner Edwin Lopez.



Dale Prince

Dale Prince lives in Washington, D.C., grew up in Oregon and Michigan, and calls Ann Arbor his hometown. He enjoys traveling, reading, biking, music, and learning foreign languages. Retired from a federal career in international relations, he now works on hyper-local issues as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner in downtown DC. Typical issues before the Commission are zoning, liquor and cannabis licenses, transportation, and historic preservation. He is also an advocate for safer biking infrastructure in DC. 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 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.

Randy Prince

Randy Prince retired this year after a career in retail sales at the USPS in Eugene, Oregon. He now spends most of his time as a volunteer working for social justice and community engagement in municipal matters. This year he is active in People for Peace and Justice in Palestine, an interfaith coalition working to end the war against the people of Gaza.

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 a federal 501c3 non-profit that provides financial support for neighborhood associations and special projects. Community disaster preparedness remains a top priority for him as climate change increases the threat of urban conflagration in Oregon. Randy is a former wildland firefighter.



In the Vietnam era Randy was an anti-war activist and socialist in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He later returned to Oregon where he grew up and became involved in the struggle to save Old Growth forests from logging. He once camped 90 feet high in a tree for several weeks and was a pioneer in the tactic of tree-sitting to resist forest clearcutting. He later ran for municipal office and then campaigned twice for US Senator, running as a Republican in the primary election promoting an environmental platform. He retains an interest in the concepts of 19th century American economic theorist Henry George and their application to environmental problems. He has also worked for STAR voting, an electoral reform.

Randy has a BS in Latin American history, a certificate in Middle/Secondary Education and remains an avid reader. He enjoys camping and hiking in the Oregon Cascades and does his best to stay fit with a vegetarian diet, Olympic-style racewalking and bicycling wherever and whenever possible. This is his fourth Nation cruise.

Kay Ransdell

I'm a retired college dean, life-long progressive and a Democrat, product of a socialist/pacifist/atheistic family (my early memories include attending a banned Paul Robeson concert sponsored by the local communist organization and canvassing for Adlai Stevenson in Indiana); I was a freedom rider and Viet Nam protestor in the 1960's and a passionate supporter and practitioner throughout my career in what was called affirmative action. I currently live in Tucson, Arizona and, most recently, have been volunteering for two organizations that support immigrants.

I love jazz, contemporary art, particularly that created by Native artists, the cities of Boston and Philadelphia, and traveling to unknown places. I live with my partner, Nick Soloway, and our recently adopted five-year old Rottweiler/Shepherd mutt called "Coal".

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 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.

Jennie Reinhardt

I credit my husband David Hiles with getting me to hop from the liberal Democratic road onto the Bernie train. After growing up in Austin, TX, and graduating from Mills College (Oakland, CA) in American history, I made a career in editing and designing science, museum, and history journals and books. Now retired, I'm grateful to be energized and supported by the Nation cruisers during this time of buffoons in the White House and crisis on the streets. Onward!

Tim Sanborn

Tim Sanborn MD grew up in Evanston, Illinois. He practiced cardiology in Boston, New York, Evanston and now Kenosha, Wisconsin. His academic publications appeared in NEJM, JAMA and various cardiology journals. His short stories, essays, and poetry appear in *JAMA Cardiology*, *Pulse voices from the heart of medicine*, *Touch: The Journal of Healing*, *Emergency Medicine*, *Chicago Tribune*, and others. His short story, *Passing the Stethoscope*, was acknowledged in the Northwestern Medicine Alumni Magazine. He is at work on a collection of medical humanities short stories about a cardiologist who empowers patients to make lifestyle changes.

Website: TimSanbornMD.com

Email: tsanborn06@gmail.com

Dick and Jo Sanders

Dick is a retired Vascular Surgeon; Jo is a retired Social Worker. They have lived in Denver for 65 years and have been married for 73 years. Dick's hobbies used to include skiing but now is only golf. Jo's hobby is gardening. Both are ardent readers. They live in Denver and spend summers in Aspen. They are regular attendees of symphony concerts and plays. They were world travelers for 45 years, but currently travel only in the US.

Carol Scott

Carol Scott was a writer, editor, and educator in a prior life. Now heading up the west coast to San Francisco, she will return to life on the East Coast where she hopes to survive one more cold winter looking out on the Seekonk River in Rhode Island. There, she plans to re-read old favorite books and discover new ones, and continue to enjoy an art collection that has taken years to build.

For now, she he looks forward to meeting and shmoozing with like-minded friends.

Robin Share

Hello. I am Robin Share, a native Angeleno, and second-generation Nation Magazine supporter. Before retirement I was an educator, primarily teaching high school theatre and English. I work now as a musical theatre bookwriter and lyricist, and recently began teaching Zumba gold. To still the incessant screaming in my head, I enjoy the peace of birding and the joy of singing in a choir. I have a brilliant 20-something daughter who is my hope for the future. I am on this cruise with my bestie Linda, and look forward to a wonderful week of insightful conversation in the company of likeminded companions.



Robert M. Shuman, M.D.

Home (Cell): 1-574-339-4177 robertusmax@gmail.com
4030 Lakeview Drive, Placerville, CA 95667

I am a child neurobiologist who is a pediatrician, pediatric neurologist, and pediatric neuropathologist. This training required 15 years of my life beyond college. During my next 20 years in Academic Medicine, I discovered pHisoHex poisoning in premature infants, that big strokes and little strokes in utero are a major cause of cerebral palsy, and wrote about the basic biology and assessment of treatment of congenital brain tumors. I co-authored a textbook on Neuropathology. I spent the last 15 years of my 50 years of clinical practice of Child Neurology in South Bend, Indiana (home of Notre Dame). I paired with Child Psychologists to make a Child Development Center. I now keep busy with medical legal consulting for damaged infants.

Robert's Wife Marcia Bigelow Shuman is the sister of Gordon Bigelow and the aunt of Tana Bigelow on this voyage. She was a Stanford graduate in French, a Masters in Librarianship from Univ. Washington, a computer programmer in CoBal, and the CFO of our Child Neurology practice. She kept busy in retirement (directing Robert!) until her death 2 years ago. Our two children are sharp pencils with independent minds. Sky manages exotic cars in Indonesia. Valery treats the homeless, prisoners, and Chicagoans with the dual diagnoses of mental illness and addiction.

I grew up in Niagara Falls my first decade, and on a hobby farm in Western NYS for my second decade. I am the oldest boy of 6 sibs, and I am an urban AND a rural product. I earned my honors degree in Experimental Psychology at Cornell University, learning the values of diversity in intellects, backgrounds, experiences, incomes, and disciplines. Medical School at Stanford added Laboratory discipline, experimental design, and faculty mentors. These medical scientists integrated complex causes and mechanisms of disease and applied them to bedside care. They set my standard of practice.

I am a product of my celebrated teachers. Henry Kempe at Colorado recognized child abuse. Bruce Beckwith in Pediatric Pathology at the UW in Seattle defined Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. My (now endangered) NIH Fellowship enabled my study of Pediatric Neuropathology with Buster Alvord at the UW. Buster discovered the antigenic role of Myelin Basic Protein in multiple sclerosis. He inspired and enabled my works on pHisoHex, Little strokes in Little folks, and the treatment of a particular brain tumor in infants and young children. David Clarke is the father of Pediatric Neurology in America. He taught Scottish skepticism, dialogue for solutions, the values of collaboration, and the importance of anatomy. He gave me my first labrador puppy (Kojak)!

I was first gainfully employed at 34 years old...

I established Pediatric Neuropathology at the University of Pittsburgh Children's Hospital and McGee Women's Hospital. I was the Chief of Neuropathology at Univ. Nebraska.

I was the Vice-Chairman of Pathology, then the Chairman of Neurology at the University of Oklahoma. And eventually I founded my own Child Neurology practice in Indiana, in 1991. I was 50 years old.

It took me several months in Private Practice to learn that parents want more in caring for their children than my scientific excellence. They want kindness, compassion, and empathy from me. They want me to demonstrate that I care for them throughout my treatment of their neurological disease. Once I learned that doctors do NOT need to protect themselves emotionally from the burdens and tolls of their patients, we (children, parents, and doctor) all thrived.

We retired from the clinical practice of Child Neurology in 2006. I continue my work in social medical justice in Child Neurology by consulting on medical-legal

cases of children with neurological injuries. This work is the legacy of my great teachers and the medical environments they created. They uniformly valued and used scientific methods, demonstrable truth, and intellectual rigor. I have learned that the court is not terribly interested in understanding these tools of Pediatric Neurology. I have learned that the most important person in the courtroom is the lawyer. The quality of his court savvy determines the outcome of the case. I have come to appreciate how autocratic, tyrannical, and biased judges can be... and how they control juries. Our treasured Legal Courts are difficult jousting grounds for a knight of the Medical Science Courts.

Nancy Snapp

My name Nancy Snapp. I am a retired Family Physician. I spent the last 20 years of my career working in an Asian Community Clinic in Seattle, caring for many immigrants or refugees and their families, plus neighborhood residents. I cared for everyone from pregnant women to newborns to kids and adults of all ages, through their entire lives. I have a Masters in Public Health, and have also worked in other countries, especially Bali.

I have always kept politically active in progressive politics since the 1960s, and I am a long-time reader of the Nation (have been on many Nation Cruises). I have especially appreciated The Nation as a source of truth and inspiration in the past year. I am sad and terrified about what is happening to our country, and I want to work with others to do as much as possible to preserve what we can of our country and culture. I am looking forward to being with like-minded people on the cruise for information, inspiration and support.

Nick Soloway

This is the second The Nation Magazine Cruise for my partner Kay Ransdell and me. Kay and I also previously traveled to Cuba with The Nation and are scheduled to travel to South Africa with The Nation next May. It is nice to travel with like-minded people.

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.

I am a lifelong Democrat. I am a practicing Patent Attorney by day, and a serial entrepreneur by night. A significant part of my practice involves

environmental technology (green energy, CO₂ capture, hydrogen fuel cells), and medical technology.

Barry Swan

I am Barry Swan and I will be accompanying my partner, Barbara de Leeuw. I am a retired (anti-)Social Studies teacher from the Rochester (NY) City School District. I would not be allowed to teach Social Studies in Florida. I have been a Rochester Teacher's Association union representative for 48+ years.

I am the Madrikh (leader) of Beth Haskalah, the Rochester Society for Humanistic Judaism. I am the currently the President of The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR) representing the secular Humanist community.

Denise Young

Denise Young, retired union organizer and labor educator, has not retired from her commitment to movement building. Living in the city (Rochester, NY) where Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony walked the streets, organized and agitated, buoys me up, especially during these challenging times. As does

work with farmworkers, young organizers and activists! A life-long amateur musician, I'm so happy to live in a "sweet spot" of exposure to great classical and jazz traditions. Family time, reading, gardening and friends add layers of fullness to a life I feel privileged to lead. Fun fact: I crossed the Atlantic on the Nieuw Amsterdam II in 1953 with my parents who were enroute to central Belgian Congo. A destination we didn't reach. "La lucha continua" echoes through the ages.



Adele Wallace

I am a proud survivor of two major careers. I was co-owner and manager of Sisterhood Bookstore (a venue for books by and about women) in West Los Angeles for 27 years. When that was no longer financially viable. I earned an MLIS and worked as a reference librarian for the City of Los Angeles for another 15 years. I am currently experiencing the joys and challenges of retirement. I am a member of Democratic Socialists of America (DSA Los Angeles) and Jewish voice for Peace (JVP). These are organizations which allow me to feel that, in my humble way, I am doing my bit to save what's left of our democracy. I have a wonderful husband, who unfortunately doesn't like to travel, so I am sharing a cabin with my good friend and traveling buddy, Kitty Kroger.



This is my second Nation cruise. I was also on the first Nation Civil Rights Tour which was one of the most profound and memorable experiences of my life.

Jordan and Ronna Weltman

After 20 years living in the Seattle area, Jordan and Ronna Weltman moved back to Orange County, CA in June 2017. In retirement, in addition to The Nation cruises, Ronna and Jordan traveled with The Nation to Vietnam and Cuba, the latter trip concluding only weeks before the Covid-19 shutdown. We look forward to once again meeting friends of The Nation and attending the fantastic presentations on this year's cruise.

