

November 2023

# A Pilgrimage to Explore the Early Roots of Christianity in British Isles

**By Mary Ann Laun**

*The object of a pilgrimage is not rest and recreation—to get away from it all. To set out on a pilgrimage is to throw down a challenge to everyday life.” — Phil Cousineau*

And so it began. In 2019, the Reverend Hartshorn Murphy, an Episcopal priest serving as an interim in my parish told us of his travels with a group called Celtic Christian Pilgrimages, based out of Whitby Island in Washington State. He told of journeys to early Christian sites in Scotland and Northern England, friendships made along the way and of most significance to me, an opportunity to step aside from his daily life to explore the early roots of Christianity in the British Isles.

It spoke to me to step aside from my busy life as a wife, sister, friend, an active grandmother and beekeeper and focus on my spiritual side that often gets lost in the hustle bustle of life. The more he spoke, the more I was convinced that this would be a retreat. This was a chance to put aside my daily routines and busyness and focus on learning about the a

I knew little about the Celts but it



called me...and called me. One day, I googled the tour group that was going and since they only accept 18 people, it was sold out. I asked to be placed on a waiting list. Who knew what might happen? Three weeks later I received a call inviting me to step in for a woman who had been diagnosed with cancer and who needed to start chemo immediately. I was going.

Jeff encouraged me to go on my own since he did not share the same interests. I had never travelled alone before, but I learned long ago, to grab on to opportunities and not let go.

You won't be surprised that I quickly surrounded myself with books to read. I immersed myself in numerous authors on the tour's "bibliography": Phil Cousineau, John Philip Newell, John O'Donohue and Diana Latham, to name a few. The more I read, the more fascinated I became.

Granted this was a tour and we

would be staying in nice local hotels and would be well taken care of. It was a far cry from walking the Camino in Spain and staying in elder hostels or trekking miles as the ancient pilgrims did, packing all their belongings on their backs as they traveled along. But still, the leaders made it clear “

Each day we will take time for worship, prayer and reflection; for food and fellowship and laughter; for exploration and for rest. Our pilgrimages are intended for anyone desiring to deepen their spiritual life in the company of a small group."

This group offers three trips and my first one was to Wales and Western Ireland. Imagine my excitement when we received our daily agenda and I started googling sites like St. David's and Penneant Melangell, places I had never heard of. Busy days with sites to see would be interspersed with lectures from our leaders Frank Shirbroun,

**Continued on page 2**





# Mary Ann's Celtic Pilgrimage Continues

former Professor of New Testament at the Episcopal Theological School at Claremont, and his wife Teresa Di Bias, former Librarian at University of Washington and spiritual director, historian and writer.

As we traveled, our knowledge base would expand. We learned that this is not a religion but rather a practice within Christianity, influenced primarily by ancient traditions as well as the lack of the influence of the Roman Catholic Church which often left Ireland, Scotland and Wales on their own.

I arrived in Cardiff three days before I was to meet with our tour group. I wanted to get acclimated to the local time and recover from jet lag. I wandered the city and visited the Llandff fields, the castle, the Cardiff University area and the cathedral. I also took the "hop on hop off bus" and found that the Welsh are so proud of their buildings made from materials from Wales. Roald Dahl was born here, Dr. Who was filmed here and that the Romans settled Cardiff in 55 AD.

Twenty-five thousand steps later, I crashed at my hotel, eating an apple and granola bar for dinner! Day three I met up with my tour group and found that three librarians were part of the group! We travelled by a beautiful van from Tony Doyle Coaches and headed on our journey.

First stop was St. David's, at the southern end of Wales. This would be



our base camp for a few days. Activities centered on cathedral activities with a choral matin, guided tour, the ancient Bishop's Palace and 6 p.m. Evensong. The next morning, we headed for St. Brynach's Church in Nevern.

I loved the historical burial grounds and was charmed by Nevern Focal Minister Steve Watkins. He was delighted that our leaders had asked him to prepare a morning service for us since tour groups usually cruise in, take a quick look and move on. It was a beautiful service accompanied by a walk along the Pilgrim's path.

We climbed the path that pilgrims

took, placing our feet in the worn footpaths of old times. The next day we hiked to St. Non's Chapel and well with reflections by Janet Ingram from St. David's cathedral. St. Non was the mother of St. David.

We travelled for two weeks visiting Machynlleth, Carreg Samson (ancient burial mound) and Pennant Melangell, Holyhead via the Llyn Peninsula, St. Bueno's. Travel days often had lectures and true to the Celtic traditions, many included significant women in their history. We then boarded the ferry for eastern Ireland where our home base was the Boyne Valley Hotel in Dublin area. Highlights of this area included Newgrange, Tara, Lane and Monasterboice where beautiful carved Celtic crosses tower above visitors.

We also spent time at the ancient monastery Clonmacnoise, St. Finian's church, Clonard and Athlone.

Our final destinations were Kildare and Glendalough. This was a culminating time as we toured St. Bridget's cathedral and fire temple. It was fascinating to hear of the role of women in the Celtic traditions where they were encouraged to become literate, educated and take an active role in the community.

A highlight for me was lunch with the Brigidine nuns and a service with them led by my fellow "pilgrims." A







woman priest from Australia led the service with the assistance of a woman deacon from North Carolina, the gospel was read by a Lutheran priest and the sermon was given by a former Catholic priest. All were “pilgrims” in our travel community.

The last week of our adventure was a few days at Glendalough with a tour of the monastic city as well as a trip to Dublin to see the Book of Kells at Trinity College and to see the Celtic treasures in the National Museum.

At Glendalough, I wrote in my journal as I had each day...

*“Today felt like another sacred day as we met for early morning prayer and then went to the visitor center to hear a video presentation on Glendalough. Then we were so blessed to have Father Patrick Murphy from the Tearmann Spirituality Center give us a tour of the monastic city. He led us quietly through the old remains of the medieval monastery highlighting*

*St. Kevin and St. Ciernan. He then took us on a guided spiritual walk along the green rode, stopping to remind us to turn off our cell phones and put our cameras away.*

*He encouraged us to walk as the ancient Celts would have done. Like the sisters at the Saint Bridget center, he spoke*

*of man’s damage to the earth and over-consumption. Greed. Need for solitude and reflection in our lives. It resonated with each of us because we’re all guilty of wanting and using more than we need.*

*He stopped along the way and offered poems and prayers from Scripture, Psalms... he recited poems from Irish authors... providing history as well as spiritual insights.*

*I wanted to remember each word he said as I reenter my busy life on Friday.”* It was a little bit of a strange juxtaposition to be out walking where the Saints walked in their monastery days, where they lived frugally and simply and then to return to a beautiful hotel with beautiful meals. it was a little bit jarring.

I travelled again with this group in 2022 and 2023, first to France to follow in the footsteps of St. Martin of Tours and then this year to Scotland and Northern Ireland to visit Iona and

Lindisfarne. So much to share and so little time! Most importantly, I learned so much about the Celtic way of spirituality

I learned that the Celts valued

—The goodness of all creation (human, animal, nature)

—Each human being created in the image of God with the free will to choose good or evil (Celts never embraced the 4th century concept of original sin)

—The disciplines of Celtic monasticism which came from the Desert Fathers and Mothers. St. Martin of Tours is thought to have had tremendous impact on Celtic monasticism.

—Community and communal spiritual practice; monasticism was primarily a lay movement

—the Authority of individual experiences over doctrines

—copying the scriptures (as evidenced in the Book of Kells (800 ad) and the Lindensfarne Gospels (715-720 ad)

—A deep love of the Trinity as evidenced in their prayers, sculptures and art

It was life changing experience.

**Captions—Page 1 top is Mary Ann with some of the members of her group. Page 2 at the top shows St. David’s Cathedral in Wales.**

**Page 2 bottom left is Mary Ann and fellow traveler at Carreg Samson, an ancient burial site in Wales. Right is Glendalough Monastery and burial grounds, SE Ireland. Page 3 top is St. Bridget’s well in Kildare, Ireland.**

## **Retirees Board Looking for Someone To Host the Spring Mixer**

*Every year, the Retirees Association plans two mixers so people can get together with former colleagues and enjoy a relaxing afternoon. It’s all about fun and making new friends or catching up with your former coworkers. This Spring, we are looking for someone to host our mixer. We usually have the mixer in April or May, but you can choose the date that works best for you. It could be in your home or a clubhouse in your building. It could also be in your backyard. Normally 20 or 30 people attend.*

*If you volunteer your home, you will get plenty of help from the retirees’ social committee. They will help with most of the details. If you have attended mixers before, you know that those attending usually bring food and beverages to share, so you won’t be expected to provide food and snacks for everyone. If you are considering hosting, please contact Jim Arnwine at [jaarnwine@yahoo.com](mailto:jaarnwine@yahoo.com) or Elizabeth Polenzani at [egpolenzani@gmail.com](mailto:egpolenzani@gmail.com).*

# Jo Ann Lee Cruises on a Viking Expedition Ship That is a Floating Research Lab

By Jo Ann Lee

On Viking's Expedition ship, *Polaris*, I cruised around the Great Lakes, from Toronto to Milwaukee. Although Viking has been offering riverboat cruises throughout Europe for many years and I had taken several, this is a relatively new experience for Viking in the United States. Thus, I had expected much of the same on this cruise. **WRONG!**

*Polaris* is classified as an Expedition Polar Class 6, ship! It is 665 feet, with a 77-foot beam and can carry 378 passengers. This ship, along with its sister, *Octantis*, had its maiden voyage in 2022, was built for expeditions, with a team of scientists observing and participating in on-going research projects within a working lab in the research center. The ship is equipped with a "Hangar," an on-board marina to launch expedition equipment such as kayaks and Zodiaks and even a submarine.

Its scientists conduct research and offer lectures on biology, botany, atmospheric sciences, glaciology, among others. According to the Chief Scientist, "We (the expedition ship) go to areas where tourists go—Antarctica and the Arctic Circle, the Great Lakes, Alaska—so we can conduct research along the way." In other words, Viking's expedition cruises and its passengers subsidize the research and data-gathering.

We watched an early-morning launch of a weather balloon, part of the ship's affiliation with the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and a registered weather balloon launch station for the US National Weather Service (NWS). The balloon has a radiosonde sensor that sends signals from up to 18.6 miles in the upper atmosphere; we were able to track the path of the balloon along with other NWS balloons simultaneously launched around the world.

The helium-filled balloon self-dissolves and the sensor drops off somewhere, not to be returned; but along its path will have transmitted important data required for weather predictions and climate modeling.

Although the *Polaris* is a floating research lab, it still offers its passengers sightseeing at its various ports of call and gracious hospitality. Our first stop was at Port Colborne, where we took in the splen-



dor of Niagara Falls, Ontario. The Falls is linked with the U.S. by the Rainbow Bridge, offering views overlooking Horseshoe Falls, which is the most expansive part of the Falls. We watched the majestic falls from the Escarpment, the famous cliff over which Niagara flows, creating the Falls but runs from near Rochester, NY, to NW of Chicago. Table Rock Falls flows down from Lake Erie to Lake Huron.

A bustling part of the ship was the ship's World Café, an open "live kitchen," taking up half a deck, where chefs bake, cook, and grill in open kitchens preparing all the fresh foods, breads, pizzas, and sweets. There is also a sushi area; a fresh seafood area; and a gelato bar where any concoction desired can be created. There was no need to dine in any of the three specialty restaurants with the wide variety of foods prepared in the Café daily!

On shore, via tenders, was chocolate seemingly everywhere one went. We visited a chocolate factory in Niagara-on-the-Lake and sampled about a dozen varieties; the fudge shops on Mackinac Island; the Chocolate Sommelier in Milwaukee; among others.

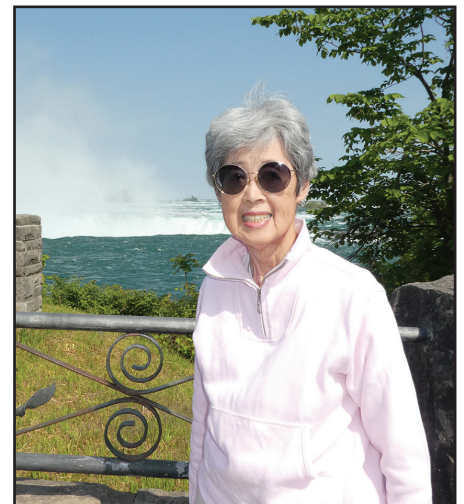
One interesting shore excursion was at Marquette University, Milwaukee, home to the St. Joan of Arc Chapel. The original chapel was built in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century in a village south of Lyon. Joan of Arc may

have visited and prayed at the chapel. After WWI, a young architect rediscovered the chapel and had it shipped to New York to its new owner, John Russell Pope, who reconstructed it for Gertrude Hill Gavin, daughter of the founder of the Great Northern Railway. Upon Gavin's death, her estate passed to Mr. and Mrs. Marc Rojzman, who then presented the chapel to Marquette University in 1964.

More Plastics or Fish? was a fascinating lecture given by the Chief Scientist. She told us that there are three types of microplastics that adhere organisms: primary (bottles and bags); secondary (plastic bottles broken up into smaller fragments); and fibers (40 percent from clothing, even treated Virgin cotton). Plastic bottles last for three generations, so essentially have lifespans of hundreds of thousands of years! Statistics offered: total plastics that end in the sea, 86 million tons; found in coastal ocean waters, 23 million tons; and floating in open ocean surfaces, 21,000-439,000 tons. Astoundingly, the amount of plastic seen/found on the surface of water is only one-half of one percent of what is actually there! Studies have found that microplastics have been found in 80 percent of the blood and gut of people surveyed; microplastics have even been found in the lungs of people undergoing surgery. So, educating people about the use and effects of plastics is key to protecting our oceans.

And speaking of plastics, Canadian dollar bills are made of plastic—to counter counterfeiting. This is one form of plastic not likely to be found in our waters!

All in all, an unexpectedly delightful expedition experience!





# Haein Shim, PCC's Dynamic Scholar, Offered Scholarships to Stanford, Yale

By Rob Lee

Haein Shim looks like a typical college student, and many people who pass her on the street have no idea that she is one of the most dynamic, courageous people to ever graduate from PCC. Although she has already garnered an amazing number of accolades and awards, what amazes me is how much adversity she has cheerfully overcome.

Her story literally starts from the very bottom. A high school dropout in Korea, working two or even three jobs at the same time to help her family survive, she faced insurmountable odds. What changed?

Determined to succeed, she taught herself English by listening to NPR and reading English language newspapers. She succeeded beyond all expectations, and at one point became a translator for foreign guests in Korea.

She became a strong advocate for women's rights and started reading and researching in Korea. She soon became recognized as an expert on the complex issues of women's rights there, but this made her somewhat unpopular with the authorities. She came to the U.S. in 2016 to continue her work, and focused on exposing femicide in many countries,



especially Asian countries.

After Haein enrolled at PCC in 2021, she immediately amazed her instructors with her passion and intellect. She also worked in the Office of Student Life and the Title IX Department and quickly established herself as an extremely reliable and hardworking student leader. Her accomplishments are so numerous that I can only skim through some of the most impressive.

Haein was interviewed live on Al Jazeera English about women rights in Korea. She was a semi-finalist for the Jack Kent Cooke undergraduate transfer Scholarship.

She is an accomplished photographer and her artwork title **"I'm not a doll, I'm a person"** is currently on display at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, which is the world's largest museum of applied arts.

She has published numerous articles and been interviewed for major publications and news outlets from around the world such as The Guardian, CNN, NPR and Marie Claire France.

She is the producer of a segment in a not-yet-released international documentary about femicide in 12 countries. She was the primary organizer of a screening of the movie **Everything, Everywhere, All at Once** at PCC and was instrumental in bringing the two directors of the movie to the campus, where she interviewed them onstage.

The PCC Retirees Association scholarship enabled her to purchase a new laptop, which she used to complete

her transfer applications. Haein was accepted and offered scholarships to all the schools to which she applied. In the end, she chose a full scholarship to Stanford University over a similar offer from Yale University. However, she deferred her enrollment at Stanford until the fall quarter of 2024 in order to complete her work on the global femicide documentary project (due to be released in 2025).

Although her stellar academic achievements and her passionate work to advance women's rights place Haein in the top 1 percent of all students I have ever had the pleasure to meet, her gratefulness and humility impressed me as much as her lengthy list of accomplishments.

A few months after she was awarded a retirees scholarship, she met with me to discuss her future plans. At that time, she was a finalist for an internship with the UN Women's Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality.

Haein presented me with her copy of a book about the role of South Korean student activists in the democratic reforms in Korea. She passionately discussed how that movement has changed South Korea. She also asked about my family and was genuinely interested in them and their lives. Her warmth and zest for life were readily apparent.

Haein Shim represents the kind of student that the PCC Retirees Association is honored to support, and we look forward to following her life and career.



# *Linda Malm Makes Good Use of the Gift of Time After Her Retirement*

By Linda Malm

A good thing about retirement is the gift of time to do things that otherwise would never have been realized. Kelsay Books has just published my first chapbook, "Winded from the Chase", and I have a full-length book of poetry in the works. It was fun to see my chapbook appear on Amazon. I had a celebratory book launch in Taos and still have another reading here with several scheduled in Los Cruces, where I now spend winters.

I've become somewhat of a snow-bird. Two years ago, I built a second home and rental casita on the wilderness boarder against the Organ Mountain, Desert Peaks National Monument. Summers and fall I live in my Taos adobe and manage a casita there.

Recently, I've been anonymously involved in several major projects that have provided meaningful naming opportunities.

Working with a number of environmental coalitions in Alamosa, Colorado, I was privileged to dedicate the Toivo Malm Rio Grand River Trail System that links the underserved part of that community to a National Wildlife Refuge. I was also able to name the center trail "Donn's Refuge Run", after my fiancé, "Judith's View" after my childhood friend, "Martha's



River Rest," a bench beside the Rio Grande (my Mom's ashes had been scattered elsewhere many years ago), and "Ginny's crossing", a pedestrian bridge honoring my sister.

My Dad was a modest man who worked as a machinist, could never afford to travel and who died just a year after he retired.

His grave is unmarked because the tree my mother planted was cut down.

One of Daddy's pleasures was walking our home-town nature trails. I am grateful to have been able to

honor him with a nature trail system.

At my hometown museum in Fitchburg, Massachusetts I have been able to endow a Free Thursday's admission program in my mother's name.

The museum has evolved from the mill-town machinery and stuffed-bird exhibits of my childhood, to a dynamic multi-cultural regional art museum with shows frequently reviewed in the Boston newspapers.

Finally, I'm just starting to work with a Land Trust to hopefully support the building of a one-room schoolhouse.







## More of Linda's Projects

My support is conditional to having naming opportunity to honor my poetry mentor and her artist husband (and that the building house one of his large paintings.) The husband-and-wife co-founded, a very effective statewide environmental organization.

Oct. 1, my longtime companion Donn Young and I happily married.

I'll end where I began: grateful for the gift of time. As I write in one of my poems, "Old age comes with force ... and fascination. Best wishes to all former PCC colleagues.

**Captions—On Page 6 top, Linda and Don cut the ribbon for the Toivo Rio Grand River trail. Below is the front and back covers of her chapbook. Below right, Linda and Don rest on Martha's River Rest. Page 7, Don and Linda on their wedding day.**

## Building Rededicated To Dr. Jack Scott

The administration building, that has been known as the C-Building for more than 60 years, has a new name. It was rededicated to honor former president, Dr. Jack Scott on Oct. 12. More than 100 faculty, staff, students, family and community members attended the ceremony to mark the official name change.

Dr. Scott spent eight years as president of the college, and during that time, he oversaw the construction of five buildings including the Shatford Library.

After leaving PCC, he served two terms in the State Legislature. He was elected to four years in the Assembly and eight years in the State Senate. He was then named Chancellor of California Community Colleges, and he spent four years in that position.

When he returned to Pasadena, he became a member of the PCC Foundation, and he led the organization's first major fund-raising campaign. We are so lucky that he has done so much for PCC.



## Members of Retirees Group Tour Homeboy Industries

By Alan Lamson

Fr. Greg Doyle, founder of Homeboy Industries, observes that "gang violence is about a lethal absence of hope." To counter this absence of hope, Doyle believes that through "kinship" with gang members and former inmates, "you honor the dignity of the poor and powerless and voiceless while opening your own eyes to their plight."

Recognizing kinship with the down-trodden has powered the success of Homeboy in combating the absence of hope in the lives of formerly gang involved and previously incarcerated people.

At the beginning of our tour at Homeboy Industries, Welman, our guide, told us, "I was incarcerated for 27 years." The weight of 27 years hung in the air. We all stood dumfounded. We all wondered what he did to warrant a 27-year sentence. No one asked.

Welman credits Fr. Doyle for giving him hope that he could do something positive with his life.

In prison he doubted that his life would come to anything. He even hesitated about being released when told that he would be.

But now, five years later, his life has turned around.

He has completed the Homeboy 18-month training program, has a job as tour guide, and is receiving ongoing

support from his case worker and navigator. He also gets subsidized housing and mental health therapy. He credits the therapy with helping him make the transition from prison mentality to a more normal way of life.

Tours are limited to 10 people for good reasons. The Homeboy facility feels cramped. People fill the space inside. One of the busiest places is the tattoo removal room.

Every year, thousands come here to have their tattoos removed, himself included, though he still prizes the tattoos that cover his left arm.

Toward the end of our tour, we visited with former PCC student, Laura Hayes, who received two of our Retirees scholarships.

She is an educational program manager at Homeboy, helping participants with getting their GED's or high school diplomas.

Welman has gotten his HS diploma and looks forward to taking classes next year at ELACC.

After our tour we ate at the Homegirl cafe. There is a set menu for lunch that combines tacos or sandwiches with a drink and dessert.

We all left feeling the positive effects of the Homeboy way that has benefitted thousands of homies who have flocked to Homeboy from the hundreds of gangs that populate the greater Los Angeles area.

# Retirees Celebrate Scholar Successes

By Alan Lamson

This year our Retirees association greeted another group of students at the University Club for our annual awards luncheon. They are "hard working, dedicated, talented and intelligent students," who have overcome substantial obstacles in achieving success at the College and in their lives.

Two of the students are members of a campus organization called CORE (Community Overcoming Recidivism) whose members have either been incarcerated or been affected by a family member who has been. One such a student is Juliana Salas, who was raised in foster care since the age of 7 and was abused by her paternal grandparents for four years. In her teen years, she was tossed from home to home and viewed as a troubled teen that no one wanted. She was often homeless and that continues to be problem for her. But her grandmother said she would one day become somebody, and that is her goal.

Another CORE student is Tonya De-Gruy. She is a survivor of violent crime. She grew up with a single parent who suffered from mental and emotional problems. She dropped out of school to help raise her much young sister. She sought relief from her problems with drugs and alcohol. She credits AA with helping her to recover from addiction to alcohol. She now volunteers with AA to help other women who have become addicted to alcohol and drugs.

Others have also suffered similar misfortunes. Julia Raines suffered a huge setback when she was 21. An incidence of violence in her family left her in charge of her younger sisters, but they often had no place to live. Having to deal with all of these problems and attend classes, led to panic attacks that caused her to drop out of school. But now, several years later, she has overcome her panic attacks and graduated from the nursing program at PCC.

Karolina Biebec has also experienced setbacks. She wanted to be a doctor, but when her parents divorced, her life took a nosedive and so did her grades. But eventually she overcame her depression by volunteering at Children's Oncology hospital. Her visits to children with cancer "brought the patients joy and helped them forget for a while about their condition." It also helped her to get back on track and enroll at PCC where

activities at the College, including the flea market. Her volunteer work has improved her English and given her the confidence to complete her studies at PCC. She eventually wants to transfer and earn a bachelor's degree.

Steve Wells has had struggles with mental health and disability, but has managed to work toward his goal of being a medical technician despite his disabilities. Haoqing Li is an immigrant student who has suffered from anxiety and depression, especially when most classes were online during covid. Fosteen Ongko, an immigrant from Indonesia, found that her biggest challenge was learning a new language. She recalls the kids in her classes laughing at her because she couldn't understand the teacher. But she has now graduated from the PCC nursing program as one of its



she returned to being an outstanding student as she once was.

As in past years, several of our scholarship students are immigrants who have struggled with learning a new language and adjusting to an unfamiliar culture. Kevin Kruoch faced the challenges of not being able to understand what was going on in class. But he persevered and learned to speak and understand English very well. His other problem was his shyness. However, he was able to overcome this by volunteering at a culture center.

Like Kevin, Clay Ngo is an immigrant—a Vietnamese refugee. He says that he has always had trouble focusing in class, constantly "spinning from the stressors of worrying about money or the latest family drama." However, PCC has helped him to overcome the trauma to his nervous system and fostered the "healing path to his self-discovery."

Yoko Kohashi didn't suffer trauma like some of the others, but she labored for 15 years, working seven days a week to save enough money to afford to come to the U.S. to study.

Yoko has volunteered for many

highest achieving students.

Margaret Kong graduated high school 30 years ago. Being the eldest child and a female, she was not encouraged to go to college after high school. She had thought about nursing for many years, especially after taking care of her father after he suffered a stroke. She has now graduated from the PCC nursing program and feels that this is her true vocation in life.

Finally, the two students selected for the Mitoma have both had significant life struggles. Laura Naonan has had to deal with her father's opioid addiction that led to strokes that left him paralyzed. Her mother too is disabled. She struggles taking care of them and attending classes at the College. Binghong Ni's biggest challenge has been to forgo college for a time in order to earn enough to help his family.

The luncheon ended on an upbeat note. The students chatted with their new friend. And our retirees were delighted to have again awarded deserving students who have succeeded so well despite the many obstacles on in their paths.



# Trustees select an Interim President While Searching for a Candidate to Fill the Top Post

PCC is once again searching for a full-time president. If it seems like the board of trustees just hired a new president, you would be right. It may also seem like there has been a new president of the college every few years, and you would also be right about that too. Unfortunately, the board of trustee members haven't been able to get along with the people they have chosen for the top job.

The board recently appointed Dr. Jose Gomez to serve as Interim president while the college conducts a search for a full-time president.

Dr. Gomez was selected by a unanimous vote to fill the interim spot. He is a big-time promoter of community colleges since he started his education at Mt. SAC and Citrus colleges.

He was raised in a poor single parent family in La Puente. He is also first-generation college student. He said those years at a community college set him on the path to success.

Dr. Gomez spoke to the retirees' board at its last meeting, and he impressed everyone with his easy manner and his

enthusiasm for community colleges.

He spoke about the hardships in his early years and credited instructors at Citrus for keeping him focused and helping him transfer to Cal Poly Pomona where he earned his bachelor's degree.

He wasn't done yet. He moved on to USC and earned his master's degree and his doctorate.

Before being selected for the post at PCC, Dr. Gomez served as executive vice president, provost and chief operating officer at Cal State, L.A.

During his time at Cal State, the university's enrollment and graduation rates climbed and the school was named a Champion of Higher Education for Excellence in Transfer by the Campaign for College Opportunity.

Faculty will be delighted to learn that Dr. Gomez is not just an administrator, but he is also a teacher.

He has taught courses at Cal State L.A., USC, Chaffey College and Mt. San Antonio College, where he received the Educator of Distinction Award.

The list could go on, but his many awards are too numerous to include in



this story. His years of experience and numerous awards make him a good fit for PCC.

Dr. Gomez lives in Pasadena with his wife, Catherine, and their three children and two dogs.



## *It's Holiday Mixer Time*

The Retirees Association's Holiday Mixer this year will be an opportunity for all retirees to get together and start celebrating the season. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukka or Kwanzaa, we will be happy to celebrate with you. Mark your calendars for Dec.12, so you won't forget to join us.

The mixer will be held from 2 p. m. to 4 p.m. at the home of Bonnie Shimasaki. It is located at 1715 Homet Road in Pasadena.

The mixers are always casual get-togethers, where friends and former colleagues spend a relaxing afternoon.

If you haven't been to a mixer before,, now is the time to start. So many first timers have said they wished they hadn't waited so long. Please bring your favorite appetizer and beverage to share. We look forward to visiting with you. It will be a fun afternoon..



## Take Advantage of Your Retirees Email

By Dan Haley

Thanks to Rob Lee, PCC retirees now have access to our own Retiree Email Accounts. Right now you're wondering why you need another email account. The reason is that these accounts end in .edu which gains us access to many sites which are reserved for education-related users.

Two examples of this are: ThinkEDU <https://thinkedu.com> and CollegeBuys <https://store.collegebuys.org>.

These two sites sell hardware and software with steep discounts, but they will only sell to those with .edu email addresses.

The last time I checked ThinkEDU was selling ipads for \$69, and CollegeBuys was offering Macbook Airs for \$250.

Getting to your new email is a little tricky so the back page of the Newsletter has a step-by-step guide to help you set up your retirees email.

Make sure you check out page 12 where you will find what you need to set up your account.



# In Memoriam

## Robert Adanto, Community Skills Center

Robert J. Adanto, graduated from Cathedral High School in Los Angeles in 1956. He married Angela M. Parga in 1957 and worked for Carbon Cote, a printing and bindery company from 1956 to 1975 in Los Angeles, CA. While working full-time, Robert returned back to school earning his AA Degree from East Los Angeles College. He went on to complete his bachelor's degree from Cal-State University at Los Angeles and finally his master's degree from Point Loma University.

Robert enjoyed his education journey and prided himself on being a lifelong learner and always encourage individuals to pursue higher education.

He began his career at Pasadena City College in 1975 in the Financial Aid Of-



fice. In 1980, he was promoted to Program Coordinator of the Pasadena City College Community Skills Center where he was the supervisor of the evening college programs.

At the CSC he developed many programs, including Las Posadas, special events and the Rose Bowl 5k Run to benefit the Center. One of his most important projects was the new construction of the Community

Skills Center on Foothill Boulevard. He was most proud of that accomplishment.

Following his retirement in 2002, he continued to teach Citizenship and assist with immigration programs. His colleagues at the college became his life-long friends. He was also recognized by the City of Pasadena in May 2023 for his commitment and work to better Pasadena.

Robert is survived by his four adult children, five grandchildren and one great-grandson. He took great pride in his family. One of his favorite pastimes was genealogy. He traced the roots of his ancestors several generations, and he traveled several times to the Smithsonian to do research and learn about his family history.

## Robert Petring, Facilities

My father, William Lara Petring, was born in 1949. He was the youngest of 14 children. As a young man he was a sort of nomad, spending time traveling the wilderness of Mexico and the mountain regions of the United States. He had an avid love of the outdoors. He enjoyed fishing, hiking, biking and camping. My dad also had a great love of animals; especially dogs; and cared and nurtured several throughout his lifetime.

Later in life he settled down when he met my mother. I remember he would tell me how she turned his life around, and how she was the best thing that ever happened to him.

And he always expressed how the happiest day of his life was the day I was born.



Losing my father has been life changing. I realize how fortunate I was to have him as my father. There are no words to express his influence in my life. It is through his example that I learned to be the person that I am today.

I remember one time I asked my mother, why does Daddy work so much? She looked at me and said, everyone's Daddy works a lot. I didn't realize it then, but that was one of the biggest lessons I learned from my dad—the value of really hard work.

He truly believed that if you worked hard, treated people right, and with a little luck from God, you could have a good life.

He was able to see his grandsons and enjoy them for several years before his passing. When we would all get together on the holidays, he would sit in the big old soft recliner in our living room with his chest all puffed out. His grandsons would gather around and they would wait their chance to sit on Grandpa's lap. His youngest grandson was born 3 months before his untimely death, and he was named after him. His name will carry on through him. William 2.0, as we say, is new and improved.

He showed strength and love right up until his last days with us. I hope that one day, when I die, my children can look back, tell funny stories about me, and talk about how I loved them. Then, like my father, I will have led a complete life.



## Doris Ann McDaniels

Doris Ann McDaniels was born July 12, 1931 in Atlanta, Georgia. As a young woman, she married Claude McDaniel, Jr. and relocated to Pasadena in 1951. They had two daughters, Vicki Washington (Charles) and Pam McDaniel. She worked for 23 years at Pasadena City College. She retired in 1995. She held various positions at the college, but her most enjoyable one was as an Executive Assistant for multiple department heads.

Doris enjoyed music, dancing, sewing, cooking, playing bid whist (she really got a kick from running Bostons on you), bowling and playing penny slots at casinos. She had her most enjoyable moments spending time surrounded by her family and friends.

Doris leaves her daughters, granddaughter and great-grandchildren. She will also be remembered and cherished by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.



# Jim Bickley, Professor and Psychologist

Born James Braxton Bickley "Jim" "Deed" on June 4, 1947. He spent his childhood in Burbank. However, in 1961, his parents moved the family to Glendale, and he lived and raised his own family there.

Jim dedicated his life to his family, friends, students and patients. He lived a life of service, teaching at PCC for 53 years and as a psychologist at La Vie Counseling Center 30 years.

Jim earned a bachelor's degree from UC Riverside, a master's from Cal State L.A., and a Ph.D. from California School of Professional Psychology.

He served his community. He made our society a better place. He mentored and taught youth and they will have a better life because of him. Behind Jim's gentle demeanor was a sharp mind and a strong, moral commitment to his family, his community, and his profession. As a teacher he cared deeply about his students, both as learners in his



Senate, he continuously championed the faculty at PCC. He was, for example, instrumental in the development of the policy adopted by the Board of Trustees that delineated both the rights and responsibilities of faculty, helping to protect academic freedom on campus. A professionally accomplished man, Jim

classes and as individuals facing life challenges.

During his time at PCC, he was Chair of the Professional Rights and Responsibilities Committee, Vice-President and then President of the Academic

was still a simple man of God and a dedicated family man. Jim loved generously, gave of himself every day and when someone asked for help, he was first to reach out day or night.

A colleague wrote "He was one of the kindest and most Christlike men I have ever known. It was an honor to be his friend and colleague."

Another colleague said, Jim was a beloved member of the Social Sciences Division for decades, and still an adjunct at his untimely passing. He was part of the Psychology Department. He was a gentle teacher and colleague that led by example. Another friend added, he was a model for doing the right thing, no matter how hard that was. He was the definition of a gentleman scholar.

Jim leaves behind his loving wife of 47 years Belinda, daughter Elizabeth, grandchildren Blake and Ellie, and many nieces and nephews. The world has lost an incredible human being.

## Rae Ballard, English Chair

Rae Elizabeth Galbraith Ballard was a beautiful soul. She was very smart, having graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Reed at a time when many women, if they went to college at all, were there just to get an "Mrs." degree. She was dedicated and persistent, taking two decades to finish her PhD, the pursuit having been put on pause while she married Charles Ballard and raised two children.

But she was tenacious, teaching for a semester, then taking graduate courses for a semester, and eventually typing her doctoral thesis in a camping trailer while she and Chuck volunteered as camp hosts during summers at Jedediah Smith Campground.

Rae was artistic and creative, applying her talents to silk screening, calligraphy, jewelry making, and fabric arts, as well as other media. She was a poet, with several published pieces, and both a participant in and a teacher of poetry workshops. She loved the printed word and always surrounded herself with books, with Chuck scrambling to build more and more shelves to keep up.

She was a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother, a fierce mamma bear, and a passionate advocate for friends, family, and colleagues.

Eventually she was appointed the chair of the English and foreign languages department at Pasadena City College. Sadly, after 68 years of (very happy) marriage, when Chuck died in January 2020, she found herself living alone for the first time. When the pandemic plunged her into total isolation only two months later, Rae became untethered, and her children moved her back to Oregon. There she had the joy of seeing grandson Jesse Fishkin '22 graduate from Reed last May, his senior thesis on the ethics of hospice dedicated to her.



## Bill Galloway, Alumnus and Philanthropist

Bill Galloway, philanthropist, alumnus, foundation member and longtime friend of Pasadena City College, passed away at the age of 82. Saying that he was loved by all who knew him would not be an exaggeration. Bill made a tremendous impact on the college and the Pasadena community. Everything written about him after his passing underlined how special Bill was as a person and for every organization lucky enough to have him as a member. "The PCC family and community mourn the passing of a trailblazer, mentor, and leader, Bill Galloway," said Sandra Chen Lau, member of the Board of Trustees. "Many of us have benefited from Bill's generosity of wisdom, guidance, and time in his support of education because he believed education was the great equalizer of opportunity and achievement."

Bill and his wife, Brenda, endowed the sculpture garden on campus which is named in their honor. It was the first facility on campus named for an African American.

Bill was born in Oklahoma where his family owned an animal farm. He learned to ride a horse at 6 years old, and he rode it to school every day. His parents moved the family to Pasadena in 1955, and Bill fell in love with the city. He attended John Muir High School and Pasadena City College.

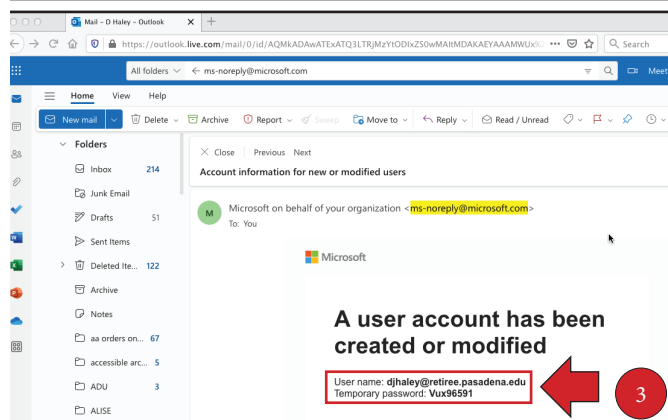
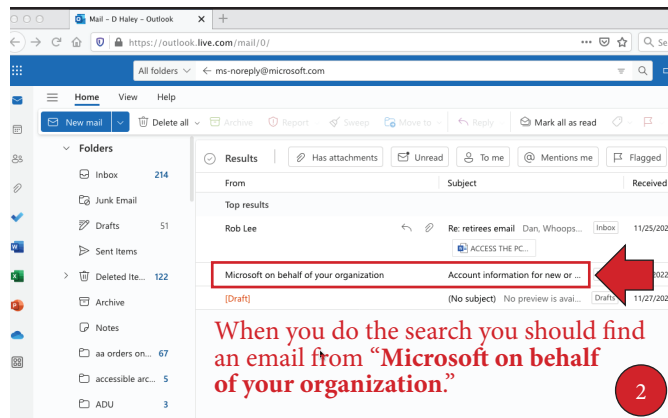
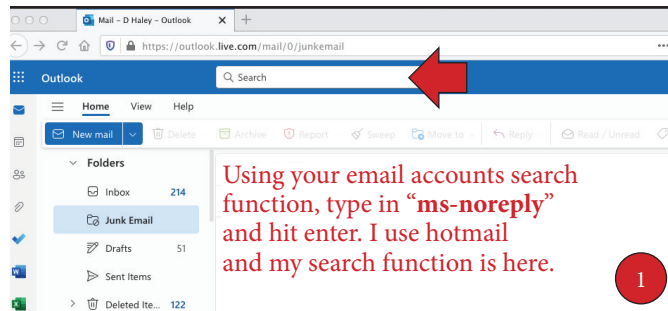
He appreciated the fact that people in Pasadena really get involved. And he certainly did get involved. He said there was no other place he would rather be.



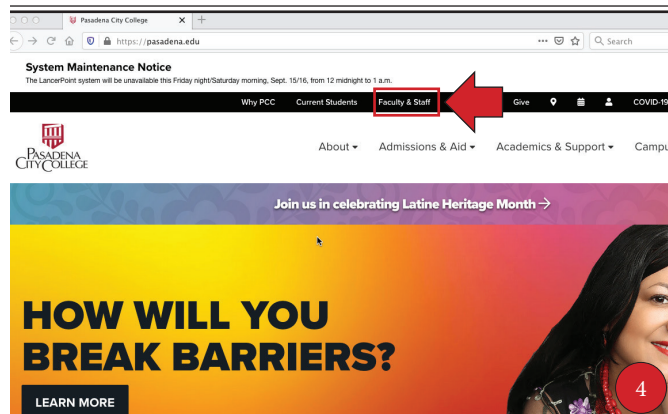


# RETIREEES EMAIL ACCOUNTS

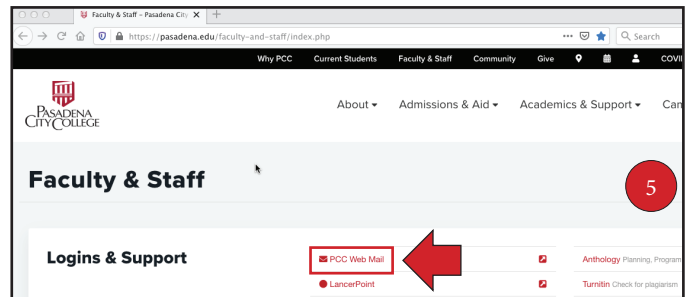
Getting to your new email is a little tricky so here are step-by-step instructions. If you have let the Retirees Association know about your non-PCC email address you should have received an email from the PCC IT Department informing you of your access. But, it's sometimes hard to find. (The following is a walk through)



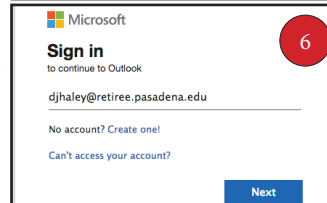
3) Open the email and you should see an announcement of your new email with the address and a temporary password.



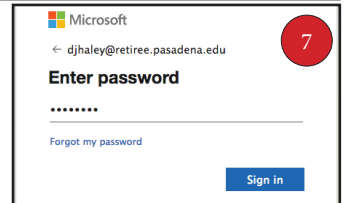
4) Once you have those, it's time to go to the PCC email site. First go to the PCC Homepage at <https://pasadena.edu> Then, click on the link for "Faculty & Staff."



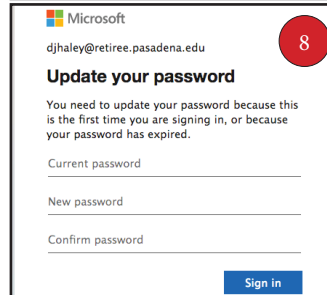
5) That should bring you to the Faculty and Staff Page. Click on the link for PCC Web Mail.



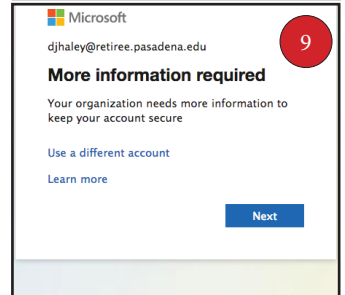
6) That should get you to the PCC Email login page. Type in your new email address and click on "Next."



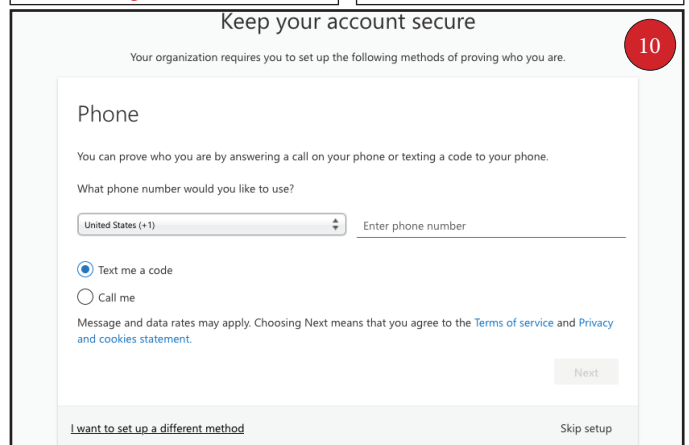
7) Then, type in your temporary password, and click on "Sign in."



8) The next thing you will be asked to do is to create a new permanent password. So follow the directions and click on "Sign in."



9) You should see a screen like this one.



10) The next step is to set up a security authentication. Click on "Next." You should see a screen like this: You can set up a phone authentication here, but you can also set up an email authentication or security questions by clicking on the "I want to set up a different method" link. After all that, congratulations, you're in.