

River Winds



*Against
the Wind*

BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR CREW
**PHILADELPHIA
FLYING PHOENIX**
WOMEN'S DRAGON BOAT TEAM

Against the Wind

- Chris Brady
- Maureen Coffey
- Donna Elkins
- Sharen Ezersky
- Pam Felice
- Trish Koons
- Lynn Marks
- Charlene Ostroski
- Sherri Ponticello
- Betty Ann Quinn
- Betty Solley
- Margo Toland
- Karen Warren

River Sisters

- Nelly Bailey
- Mary Beth Curcic
- Jinni Erichetti
- Carol Fitzer
- Linda Garrett
- Joan Grossberg
- Ruth Gubernick
- Cynthia Howarth
- Tema Morelli
- Carol Neumann
- Ritu Pandya
- Carolyn Rosin
- Shelly Safer

Nellie Bailey

- Paddling 9 years with River Sisters
- Also paddled with Hope Floats
- Paddled at the IBCPC Festival in Florence
- 2 children and 4 grands



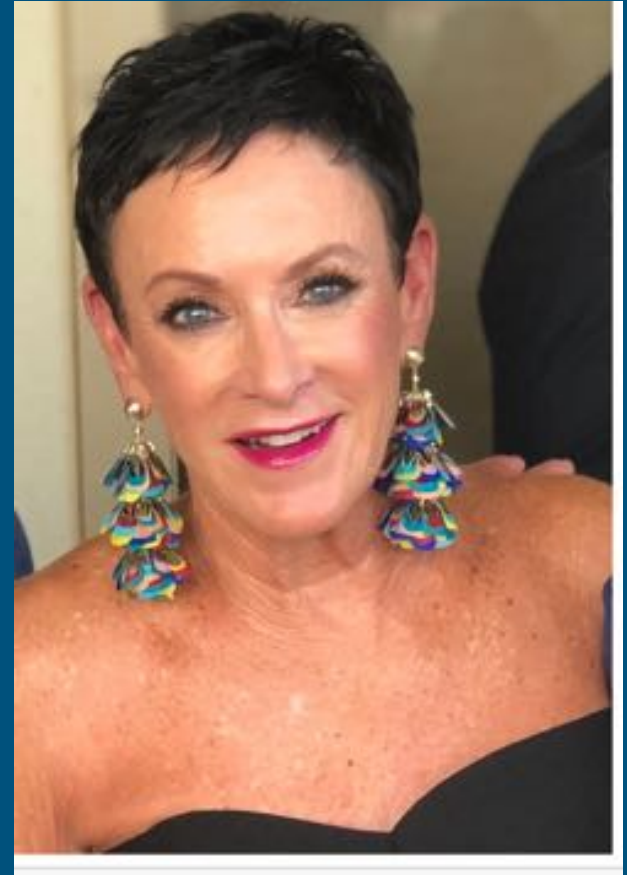
Chris Brady

- Joined PFP/ATW in 2019; BC survivor since 2016.
- Retired from 35 year career in PR in 2016; Retired from PT job as errand runner in January 2023.
- Toured New Zealand in 2018 and can't wait to go back
- Traveling with partner Gerry Chalphin (A PT lawyer and computer tech salesman, who hopes to play golf on our free days)
- Mother of a son; Gerry has a daughter.
Granny of 2 granddaughters



Maureen Coffey, Captain

- Joined ATW in 2013
- Recruited by teammate Trish Koons
- New Zealand is my 3rd ICBC Festival



Mary Beth Curcic

- Member of River Sisters for 7 years
- Retired from teaching after 40 year career
- Mother of 2 sons/Mimi of 3 granddaughters
- Golfer - average player; like the fun and camaraderie
- Enjoy the psychic realm



Donna Elkins

- I joined PFP in 2020
- Trained as a metalsmith but now spend my time oil paint painting
- We have two grown sons, a much loved doodle and enjoy traveling together
- Husband Scott is traveling to NZ
- His happy place is in the ocean. He loves to surf



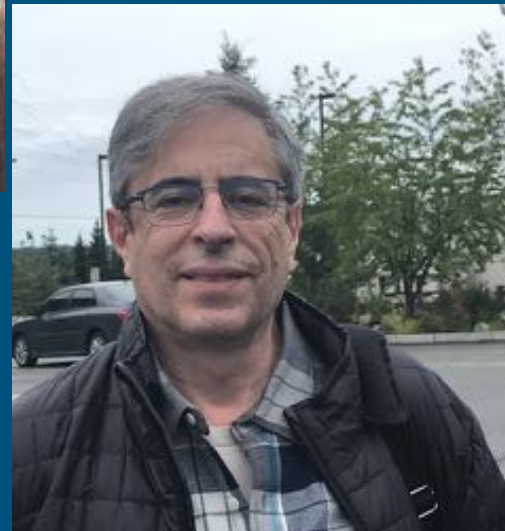
Jini Erichetti

- Joined River Sisters in 2009, diagnosed 2007
- Went to Florence in 2018
- My niece Vicki is traveling with me as my supporter in New Zealand
- Retired 10 years ago. I was an elementary school Library Media Specialist
- Married 31 years, two beautiful daughters
- I am a photo manager, scanning and digitizing photos and video tapes.



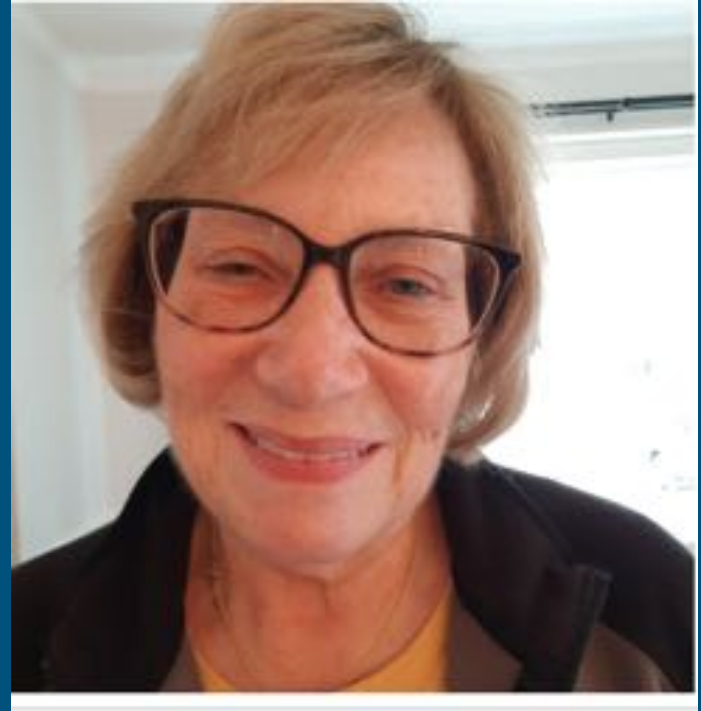
Sharon Ezersky

- Traveling with husband Reed Goldstein
- I have attended all of the previous IBCPC festivals. Each one has been special in its own way. I have been dragon boating since 2003 with Against the Wind and Philadelphia Flying Phoenix. In addition to dragon boating, I love hiking, swimming, and eating good food!
- Reed - Going to New Zealand is a dream come true! It will also be my 3rd IBCPC Festival where I have attended as a supporter. I am a huge fan of the band Wilco and the 76ers basketball team.



Pam Felice

- Joined PFP/ATW 2006
- Diagnosed with BC 1999
- Competed in Australia 2007
- Competed in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada 2010
- Competed in Sarasota, FL 2014
- Competed in Florence, Italy 2018
- Fortunate to be part of a group of wonderful strong women



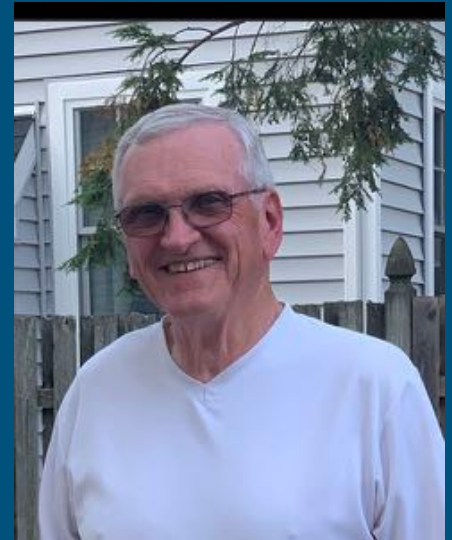
Carol Fitzer

- Joined River Sisters in 2013
- New Zealand is my first international dragon boat festival
- Mother of two awesome kids- a son and daughter



Linda Garrett

- Joined River Sisters in 2019
- Retired child psych nurse/school nurse
- Fun fact: did the Malibu Triathlon in 2015 with CNN FitNation team. Had to learn to swim first! Finished 3rd in my age group (only 3 in my group!)
- Traveling to NZ with my partner (aka Husband) of 54 years Jim, who is a semi-retired accountant / avid golfer



Joan Grossberg

- I have been paddling with the River Sisters for about 13 years.
- This is my third international festival. I even got to steer on the Arno River.
- In the few moments when I'm not paddling I am quilting (thank you Covid for doubling my collection).
- Best of all, I have two grandchildren who are turning into dragonboat groupies. I'm so proud!



Ruth Gubernick

- A founding member of the River Sisters in 2007 (Originally known as Hope Floats).
- Drummer for the River Sisters during the IBCPC DB Festival races in Florence, Italy in 2018.
- Still working professionally (by choice!), with pediatric practices, as a QI Advisor/Coach.
- Will be celebrating my 34th wedding anniversary on April 9th, while in the air on the way to Auckland.
- Excited for this upcoming NZ adventure and to be in the boat with all of you! Will have 4 grandkids cheering for us from NJ and AZ.



Cynthia Howarth

- I have been a River sister for about 10 years or so. Don't remember exactly when I joined.
- I am a long term cancer survivor. It's been 35 years since I was diagnosed.
- I have 3 sons who have given me 5 grandchildren. They're in California, Utah and Voorhees. I travel a lot to see them .
- I participated in the IBCBC in Florence.
- I am a retired nurse, preschool owner and director. I retired 15 years ago.
- Being a member of the River Sisters has been one of the highlights of my life. Love my River sisters!



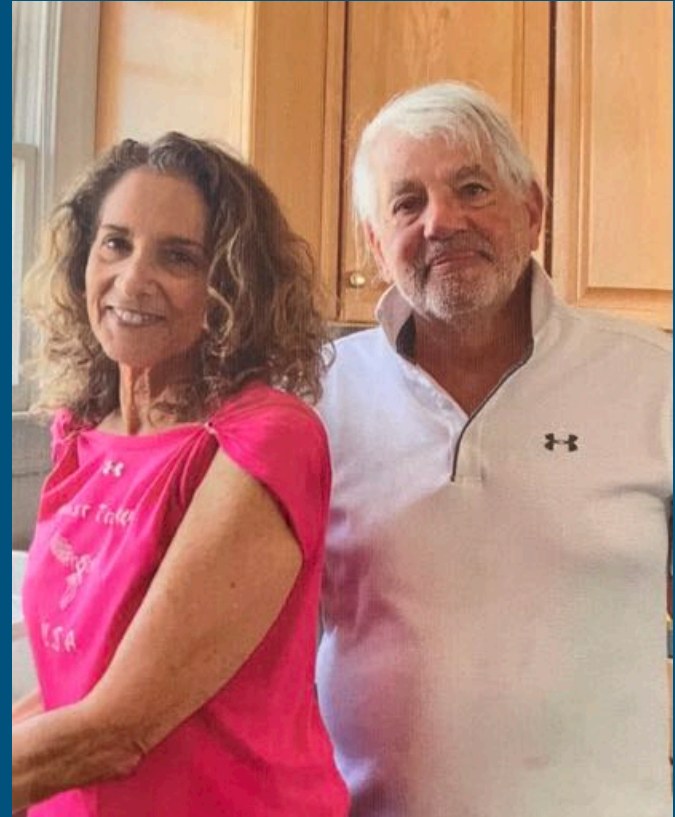
Trish Koons

- Founding member of ATW in 2001
- Paddle in Florida on a mixed team, Draggin' Dragons
- I've been to all 5 IBCPC Events (Vancouver, Australia, Peterborough, Sarasota, Florence)
- Play guitar in a band
- Love kayaking
- I've been to NZ before but couldn't wreck my perfect attendance record! Plus NZ is the most beautiful place I ever visited



Lynn Marks

- Joined ATW in 2006 after became empty-nester
- Retired public interest attorney; currently teach "Hot Topics in Justice & Law" at Temple U's continuing ed division for people over 50
- Traveling with husband Clifford Pearlman, who I met in a hardware store in 1977, and who used to row on the Schuylkill River
- With deep regrets had to withdraw at the 8th hour because of illness



Tema Morelli

- Steered for Majestic Dragons at the International IBCPC Festival in Sarasota
- I am a docent at Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, NJ
- I am an artist. My most impressive art is a 2 figure heroic sculpture “The Visitation,” commissioned by The Church of the Visitation in Brick, NJ



Carol Neumann

- Had the pleasure to paddle with my River Sisters on the Arno in Florence at the International Breast Cancer Festival in 2018
- Parents purchased a little shack across from LBI in the 1960s, and now I live on Dock Rd.; love boating, crabbing, paddle boarding, kayaking, and swimming
- Love to travel ... excited to be part of RiverWinds and this trip to New Zealand



Charlene Ostroski

- Joined PFP in 2006 — best decision ever, going from couch potato to an active, healthier lifestyle
- Never traveled this far before
- Enjoy change and love adventure
- Bring on the shenanigans!



Ritu Pandya

- Joined River Sisters in Feb. 2017. Enjoying every moment with this amazing group of strong minded sisters. Participated in IBCPC in Florence with 1st place in final round. Looking forward to events in New Zealand.
- Breast cancer survivor since 2004
- I am a multidisciplinary artist teaching Yoga, Folk and Bollywood dance, Mandala art, Ayurvedic cooking, Henna and Batik painting in my healing art studio 'Happiness Within'. Check out www.HappinessWithin.biz
- Vijay my loyal husband of 48 years will be joining and cheering for us.
- I have 2 daughters living in Africa and Canada, and 3 grandkids ages 3-6 years, who are the joy of our lives.



Sherri Ponticello

- Joined PFP/ATW in 2020, happily year 3! I cannot believe we are going to New Zealand!
- Two bouts of breast cancer 2004 & 2012
- I teach hot power yoga; love all things fitness
- Tim is my husband of 8 years and can be found cheering us at our competitions
- Sherri has 2 children, son Spencer (31) daughter Chloe (28) & a granddaughter Lenni (1)
- Tim has 3 grown sons and 2 grandchildren Charlie (3) & McKenna (1).
- And there is Taco, their 17 year Pomeranian!!
- Fun fact: Donna Elkins is my sister-in-law and her husband Scott is my brother



Betty Ann Quinn

- Joined ATW in 2019, diagnosed in 2012. This is my first IBCPC festival.
- Toxicologist with the Environmental Protection Agency where I worked on hazardous waste disposal sites and delivered training in Poland, India, Israel, Jordan, the Occupied Territories, Qatar, and Morocco. I can't wait to add New Zealand to my list!
- Former basketball and field hockey player and coach. Member of the Immaculata University Mighty Macs, winners of the first three women's national basketball championships, and inductees into the Naismith basketball hall of fame.
- Married for 45 years, two beautiful daughters, and an eight month old granddaughter.



Carolyn Rosin

- Member of River Sisters since 2008

First two years, my daughter Jill was also on the team as my supporter. Best paddling days ever!

- Attended IBCPC in Sarasota and Florence.
Can't wait for New Zealand!

- Retired teacher

- Pickleball, kayaking, hiking, and being with my three grandkids are my favorite times



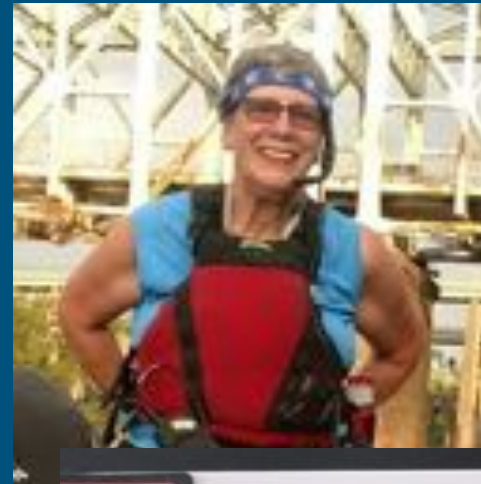
Shelly Safer

- Started paddling with Gilda's Gladiators (now Viking Dragons) in 2006
- Still live in my childhood home in Margate, across the street from Lucy the Elephant
- I love pickleball, tennis, skiing and paddling, and all games
- My license plate is FUNBUM



Betty Solley, Team Coach

- Retired H & PE teacher, coach and New Teacher Coach, School District of Philadelphia
- Mother, Grandmother: 3 sons, 2 daughters, 9 grand daughters, 3 grandsons, 1 great grandson.
- Paddler, PFP/ATW since 2003 following bc diagnosis and passing of husband Joe.
- Memorable paddles: River Thames with 1000 boats in Queen's Diamond Jubilee; Hungary, 2015 as a member of the first Team USA Senior C crew.
- Proud of our RiverWinds team headed to New Zealand, April 2023.



Margo Toland

- Started dragon boating in 2014 with Power Over Cancer (co-ed all cancer survivors and caregivers as a supporter for my Mom.)
- Joined ATW in 2018 after my BC diagnosis in 2017
- Currently the Insurance & Risk Manager for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia (15 years in May 2023).
- Played women's softball for 30+ years including Division II college at Millersville U.
- I am the fun, unmarried "cool" aunt in my family



Karen Warren

- I am an early intervention teacher and work with children with developmental delays and their families.
- Love to kayak, hike, garden, and go to the beach.
- This is my first international festival! I am ready to make memories!
- Jim and I have been married almost 35 years and have 3 grown children and one beautiful 2 year old granddaughter.

Jim:

- Loves to fish and hears that NZ has great trout fishing!
- Was a wonderful supporter through my breast cancer treatments and continues to support my dragon boat habit!



Paddles Up!

