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THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 12
MARCH 1999

Your Pension

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOT VERY MUCH

In 1998 the New York State legislature failed once again to pass a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), although many people worked for it. They did succeed in increasing the supplement percentage, but a supplement does not replace a COLA, as will be indicated in this article.

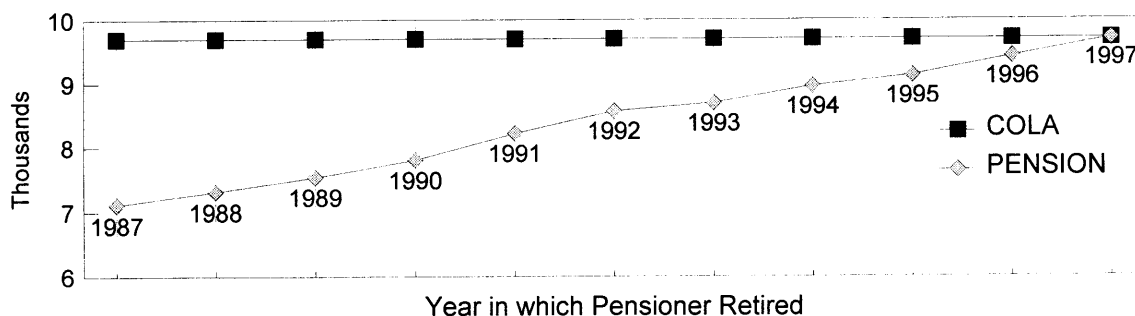
A supplement is not a true adjustment for inflation, and it has the dangerous disadvantage of not being permanent. The bill lasts only two years, and then must be reviewed by the legislature and the governor.

Yet in our disappointment we cannot ignore the benefits of the supplement. The money is vital to those who retired years ago, even though the amounts may not save them from poverty. The benefits need to be larger. The chart below shows the difference between what an average pensioner would have received from a true COLA and what was received with the supplement. The years on the bottom axis are the years in which the pensioner retired, and for lack of space we limited the retirement years to those between 1987 and 1997.

The upper line shows a basic state pension for the year 1997. We chose \$9,700, which was the average state pension for that year. We could have chosen any other number. Working backward from \$9,700 we have computed what \$9,700 would have been worth in each of the previous years, this amount would be the basic pension, the amount received upon retirement. Applying the State's supplementation percentage (taken from table in the State's supplementation law) to the basic pension, we have calculated the amount of the supplementation for each retirement year.

By adding together the basic pension and the supplementation, we have obtained the total amount received by the pensioner in 1997, and this amount appears in the lower line of the chart. The gap between the two lines indicates the difference between a pension that is increased by a supplement as compared to a pension increased by a COLA. If we had a true COLA, there would be no gap, and the two lines would be one, all pensioners in this example would receive \$9,700. Without

PENSION COMPARED TO COLA FOR THE YEAR 1997



A pensioner who retired in 1997 received the full amount of \$9,700. A pensioner who retired in 1987 received only \$7,106 (basic \$6,800 plus supplement of \$306) in 1997 instead of \$9,700. Those who retired in 1988 received \$7,306 instead of \$9,700, and so on. Calculations are based on the average pension of \$9,700 for the year 1997. For the values used in the chart see page seven.

the COLA only the person who retired in 1997 received \$9,700

In this chart the amount of the supplement was computed from the percentage table on page 8 of the Retired Public Employees Association (RPEA) Newsletter, vol. 30, issue 4, July 1998, which we reprint in this article. The RPEA in turn took their figures from the bill passed by the state legislature. In other words, the percentage increases were computed by the legislature not by RPEA.

Although we know that Library pensions do not keep up with the cost of living, we do not know how each pensioner is affected. All pension information is confidential and is known only to the New York State Retirement System, the Library, and the pensioner. Even if we did have the information, space would not permit us to present calculations for everyone. For these reasons, we suggest that each retiree do his or her own calculations. To do so requires the use of the Internet. If you are not connected to it at home, you should be able to go to the nearest library or send someone there. If you do not know how to use the Internet, help is usually available from the library staff. Once you are on the Internet, you can use one of the Inflation Calculators; several are available from various web pages. The one used for this article is maintained by S. Morgan Friedman, and uses the Statistical Ab-

stracts of the United States and the Historical Statistics of the United States. It can be found at www.westegg.com/inflation/. When this site is reached, select "Inflation calculator." This step may be a little confusing. Using the Yahoo search engine we clicked on the first item in the list. The site will look like the illustration below.

Take the amount of money on the first line of your 1998 Retirees Annual Statement, as shown in the illustration to the right. This figure should be the amount you received when you retired. Enter this amount in the blank space. (Where 10000 appears in the illustration. Remember that you cannot use commas). Then enter the year in which you retired (where 1988 appears in the illustration). Next enter the year 1998 in the "final year" space. (Any statistics from 1999 will not work. An entire year must be considered in the calculation.) Finally, move the mouse until the arrow is on the "submit" space, and press the left button on the mouse. A page will appear that shows what your pension money would be in 1998 if you had received a true COLA.

To find out how this figure compares to the amount you received, turn again to your 1998 Retirees' Annual Statement. Again take the Total Normal Allowance figure and write it on a piece of paper. Do not use the Total Net Allowance. Add to this the monthly increase in your pension mul-

The Inflation Calculator

<http://www.westegg.com/inflation/>

The Inflation Calculator

The following form adjusts any given amount of money for inflation, according to the Consumer Price Index, from 1800 to 1998. (And don't use any commas in the numbers...) Enjoy!

Enter the amount of money:

Enter the initial year (1800-1998):

Enter the final year (1800-1998):

Source

The pre-1975 data are the Consumer Price Index statistics from *Historical Statistics of the United States* (USGPO, 1975). All data since then are from the annual *Statistical Abstracts of the United States*.

Other Inflation-related Sites

- [Consumer Price Index Home Page](#) at the Bureau of Labor Statistics
- [Consumer Price Index Conversion Factors](#), 1800 to 1996
- [Statistical Abstract](#) of the United States, from the Census Bureau (including CPI changes)
- [Inflation Calculator](#) in Java
- [Current Value of Old Money](#)

Creator & Maintainer: [S. Morgan Friedman](#)

Contact: morgan@english.upenn.edu

Last modified: Tue Feb 16 09:52:50 1999

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1998 Retirees' Annual Statement

Financial Statement

Retirement Allowance Paid during calendar year 1998

Total Normal Allowance		992.64
Total Supplemental Allowance	+	7.68
Total Benefit Adjustments	-	\$0.00
Total Medicare Credits	+	\$0.00
Total Miscellaneous Deductions	-	\$0.00
Total Federal Withholding Tax	-	
Total Health Insurance Premiums	-	
Total Medicare Premiums	-	\$0.00
Total Net Allowance paid during the period		*

* Do not use for tax filing. A 1099R is sent to you under separate cover for tax reporting.

Your Monthly Federal Withholding as of December 31, 1998, was

You elected the Single Life Allowance Option (Option O). This is the maximum benefit. All payments cease at your death.

multiplied by 12 to give you a figure for the year. This monthly increase appears in the letter of September 1988 from Carl McCall. It also appears in a notice sent out by the Retirement System to those who have their checks automatically deposited in a bank account. Others will find the amount on the stub of their pension checks. Once you have added the basic pension amount to the supplement amount you will have the total of your pension for 1999 before taxes and other deductions are taken. Subtract the amount you will receive (before taxes) from the figure you obtained by using the Inflation Calculator. This final amount is approximately the difference between a true COLA and a pension augmented only by the State's supplement. It will, however, be slightly too small because the COLA figure is for 1998 and the supplement figure is for 1999, but you will get some idea of the difference.

If you are curious about how the supplement was calculated, you can use the table at the right taken from page 8 of the Retired Public Employees Association Newsletter, vol. 30, issue 4, July 1998, which uses the percentages from the legislature bill. Find the year in which you retired. Take the percentage that is not bracketed. Move the decimal point two places to the left, and use it to multiply the figure you have taken from the Total Normal Allowance. If your pension is over \$14,000, then you must use the figure \$14,000 instead of your entire pension amount. In other words, \$14,000 is what is called the "cap." (If you thought the supplement was figured on an entire pension, you may be surprised.) When you have obtained this figure, add it to the Total Normal Allowance (the basic pension). That figure will be total of your pension plus the supplement, the amount you will actually receive from the state before deductions. This procedure will give you a more accurate number, but may not be worth the extra work.

Notice that the table begins with 1992. If you retired after 1992, you do not receive a supplement. Take your pension amount and subtract it from the COLA amount. Forget about

Continued on the next page

HOW TO READ THE FOLLOWING TABLE

The percent in brackets represents the 1995 Supplementation eligible retirees were receiving. The new supplementation is the percent on the right, it includes the old supplementation. For example, a person who retired in 1983 received 5% supplementation, that retiree will now receive 8.3%, an increase of 3.3%. This table reflects percentage increases based on the "O" Retirement Option. The 1998 table remains the same for 1999 except for the addition of calendar year 1993 retirees and the increase in the Cap in 1998 from \$12,500 to \$13,500 and in 1999 to \$14,000.

Calendar year of retirement	Percentage	Calendar year of retirement	Percentage
1992	1.5	1960	[252.1] 340.0
1991	1.5	1959	[294.4] 390.0
1990	1.5	1958	[334.1] 427.3
1989	[0.8] 2.8	1957	[384.6] 442.3
1988	[1.4] 3.7	1956	[400.7] 460.2
1987	[2.0] 4.5	1955	[408.2] 468.6
1986	[2.7] 5.5	1954	[406.3] 466.5
1985	[3.2] 6.3	1953	[410.1] 470.7
1984	[4.0] 7.4	1952	[413.9] 475.0
1983	[5.0] 8.3	1951	[423.8] 486.1
1982	[5.9] 10.5	1950	[465.1] 532.3
1981	[7.5] 12.5	1949	[472.2] 540.3
1980	[10.1] 15.6	1948	[465.1] 532.3
1979	[14.0] 19.9	1947	[510.7] 583.4
1978	[18.0] 25.4	1946	[598.4] 681.5
1977	[21.2] 30.3	1945	[656.6] 746.6
1976	[24.4] 37.8	1944	[673.8] 765.9
1975	[27.6] 42.5	1943	[687.2] 780.9
1974	[32.6] 54.0	1942	[735.5] 834.9
1973	[39.3] 73.0	1941	[826.5] 936.7
1972	[44.0] 86.0	1940	[872.8] 988.5
1971	[47.2] 96.7	1939	[879.8] 996.4
1970	[50.2] 105.0	1938	[865.9] 980.8
1969	[108.4] 141.8	1937	[845.8] 958.3
1968	[131.1] 169.0	1936	[879.8] 996.4
1967	[153.9] 195.9	1935	[894.1] 1012.4
1966	[160.2] 203.7	1934	[916.4] 1037.3
1965	[166.2] 230.5	1933	[947.6] 1072.3
1964	[169.7] 254.5	1932	[894.1] 1012.4
1963	[189.8] 278.6	1931	[796.0] 902.6
1962	[210.5] 310.0	1930	[715.5] 812.5
1961	[231.1] 330.0		

the supplement.

Consumer Price Indexes can vary, depending on how the information was collected. Nevertheless, the figures usually do not disagree by huge amounts. You may want to search the Internet for other inflation calculators. You may also want to go to the various inflation sites to find out how the Consumer Price Index is calculated. We would include here some of that information, but it is too large a quantity for our space. *The United States Statistical Abstracts* has an extensive description of the Index.

When you look at the supplementation table, notice that the percentage increases drastically for the later years and is quite impressive, but since the basic pension amounts for those years are very small, the result is still not much money. Notice also that the state saves money by not giving a supplement to those who have recently retired. ..

Sadly, by the time retirees reach the brackets of the large amounts they frequently are no longer living, a fact that benefits the state. You need to remember that if a person retired at the age of 65 in 1930, he or she would now be 134 years old. The Library did not have pensions before 1937, but even if you figure the amount for that year, the pensioner would still be considered a true senior citizen in his or her 127th year. Pensions are also available for disabilities, which means a person could have been disabled at the age of 20, and he or she would be only 99 years old today. The big percentages are impressive; but as you can see, the State evidently thinks senior citizens are gullible.

The editor bases this article on the bill passed by the state legislature that is now found in the New York State Laws, Title 8, Chapter 687, paragraph 78.

The table used for the graph on page one is reprinted on page seven.

So may the outward shows be least themselves;
The world is still deceiv'd with ornament.

Bassanio in *Merchant of Venice*, Act III, scene ii

AT HOME IN THE LIBRARY

The DC37 Scandal

The latest five-year union contract with the City, which freezes wages for two years, was ratified by a fraudulent vote. Mark Shapio, a former top aide to Stanley Hill, the former executive director of District Council 37, has pleaded guilty to a vote-rigging scheme in which leaders of the Council printed thousands of extra blank ballots and then marked them to show approval of the contract. They mixed these ballots with piles of authentic ones. The count for ratification was 19,513 votes for ratification and 14,438 against. Without the fraudulent ballots, the contract would have been defeated by more than 2,500 votes--12,173 against to 9,511 for. This scandal has been reported in local New York City newspapers, but the Library's many retirees who live outside the City probably have not heard of it.

Evidently the union leaders believed that their relations to Mayor Rudolph Giuliani were more important than their devotion to the rank and file. In addition, great misuse of union funds has been found. Large sums of money have been spent without any receipts that would show where the money went, and the top leaders have lived luxurious lives at the expense of the union. The scandals are especially dismaying because the council is one of the nation's largest labor organizations, an umbrella for 56 local unions representing about 120,000 workers. Most of these are people who struggle to live on salaries in the teens and twenties, which must be stretched to meet New York's high cost of living.

Neither the Library nor its local union are involved in the scandals. Over the last year, Ray Markey, president of the Library's local 1930, has become one of the loudest voices for change. Last fall at a meeting of presidents of local unions, he called for the resignation of Stanley Hill, the executive director of DC37. Several other union presidents immediately vilified Mr. Markey; trouble-stirring is not welcomed within a union, but

since that meeting, the once-popular Mr. Hill and other administrators, including Mr. Shapio, have resigned. The investigation into corruption continues as the Manhattan District Attorney, Robert Morgenthau, looks into allegations of embezzlement, kickbacks and vote fraud. A grand jury has heard months of evidence, and indictments are now beginning to be brought against offenders. Mr. Markey and his union members are still fighting for changes within DC 37 and for higher wages within the Library.

The lack of adequate wages is a major reason for making the Library's employees take jobs elsewhere, and the number of vacant positions is large. There is a trend among young librarians to take a job in the Library and then use its prestige and training in applying for a better paying job elsewhere. They are also marketable outside the library world because librarians today have considerable computer training. The Library, hindered by the union contract, has been unable to keep pace with these changes in the job market. Despite a large city surplus the starting salary for a librarian is \$29,007, compared with \$39,564 in Los Angeles County, \$37,656 in Greenwich, Connecticut, and \$33,496 in Lindenhurst, on Long Island. These discrepancies are dangerous because the Library cannot function adequately without experienced librarians. Legal experts have not found a way to modify the 1996 fraudulent labor contract.

Information and statistics are taken from the many articles in The New York Times on this subject. See www.nytimes.com. Search on New York City DC37

FEBRUARY SNOWFALL

By Phyllis King

When I went out each branch
In the park was covered
with an ermine cloak.
When I returned the sun was out.
The trees were doing a striptease,
Dropping their white wraps.

*From Metropolitan Diary
The New York Times, February 15, 1999,
page B2 (Phyllis King is a NYPL retiree)*

RETIREES IN ACTION

News from the Field

Most of the items have been compiled from membership applications and renewals. Although editing has been done, entries have been kept as much as possible in the words of the writer. We beg your forgiveness for possible errors in our reading of handwriting.

The Editor

Ruth Ganeles, Bronx, New York:

Activities: Reading, travelling (Greece, Niagara Falls, Toronto, etc.), courses, theatre, movies, visiting with my two delicious grandchildren, gym, swimming and exercise. Memories of the Library: Seven wonderful years that I spent working at the West Farms Library in the "South Bronx Project."

James Egan, New York, New York:

I still work for the Library. I became a member two years ago on the occasion of my 40th anniversary with NYPL. My life is kind of full right now, and I don't have much time to participate in Association activities, but I know several people, whom I see from time to time. I look forward in a couple of years, when I retire, to being more active. I worked in Bronx branches from 1956 to 1970, and I have been at Mid-Manhattan since that time.

Catherine Marquard, Langhorne,

Pennsylvania: My current interests remain theatre, travel and baseball. I have just returned from London, where I enjoyed several plays. I have been busy serving as secretary on the very active residents' association of the retirement village where I live. I also serve on their library committee.

Inez S. Russo, Bronxville, New

York: I wish I had something exciting to tell you, but when you move to the so-called suburbs you really are nobody. I still love the City, even if it is messy and frightening. Memories of the Library: The readers were mostly nice.

Frances Edelberg, Sunrise,

Florida: Because of some health problems I've had to curtail some activities. But am still going to lectures, attending a wonderful class—History—Dancing sometimes, Reading, meeting with friends and going for therapy. I used to run a Yiddish group (for 12 years) but had to give that up. I enjoyed that very much and miss it. I miss playing golf. However living in Florida is great. I enjoyed working in Children's Services with Augusta Baker and Barbara Rollock and was saddened when learning about their demise. And also working with Marily Iarosso and Mrs. Murphy was a good reason for coming to work every day. I learned a great deal from them all. Memories of the Library: One of my best memories was the storytelling symposium on Staten Island, even though I had to be up at 5:30 to get there by 9 o'clock. I lived in the Bronx and had to allow myself time to make the ferry to get there on time. But it was worth it. The storytelling was great, the rose wine with strawberries in the garden was lovely and mingling with all the children librarians was stimulating.

Virginia B. Smith, Hawley, Penn-

sylvania: Book Selector—Hemlock Farms Library. Have an enclosed garden in our rocky mountainous haven, with lots of rhododendrons, andromedas and pots of geraniums, tuberous begonias and impatiens. Golfing up here at our club and winters down in Garden City, S.C. in the cold winter months. Memories of the Library: Watching CBS video men come into the Library with cameras strapped to their backs trying to relax after moments before a "rush" call to another "news" incident. Meeting Ruth Donnelly (old-time actress) in the reference room (loved her wry humor).

Kay R. Keeney, Staten Island,

New York: Planning a short trip to Ireland in November and hoping, God willing, to make another trip in '99 to Scotland and Ireland—this will be 13 days. Keep very busy with my gardening and read some good books from Todt Hill Library. We have a good group who meet monthly and try out the neighborhood restaurants. We call ourselves "The Lunch Bunch." Sometimes we are as many as 14, sometimes as few as six, but we are all NYPL retirees who enjoy each others company. Memories: Enjoyed my time with NYPL. Met some very wonderful people while I worked there—both behind the desks and in front of the desk as well.

Carol Davies-Gross, New York,

New York: Activities: Investments, bridge clubs, concerts, ballet and theater, day and weekend trips. DC 37 Outreach Program—working with disabled City employees, making sure they get their checks in a timely manner and keep their benefits. Educational volunteer and library volunteer at the Museum of Natural History. Help Line telephone service, cheering and suicide hotline. Cheering helps senior shut-ins who benefit from a concerned and caring call each week. Hot Line is for crisis intervention. I'm also on Help Line's Recruitment Committee, and I visit colleges and other institutions to encourage people to volunteer. Memories of the Library: I have been so thrilled at the response of the public to my efforts to care for their educational needs. Since I have retired I have had several young women come to me and inform me they were my readers. One received a full scholarship to Tufts; another a full scholarship to Brandeis. Pretty swell for a children's librarian who usually worked in poorer neighborhoods. My last day at George Bruce one of my favorite

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pages came to me and told me that he had been accepted at Cornell University on a full scholarship. I had found this scholarship for him and was thrilled to find he had followed through. I guess you could say my best memory of my career is the positive influence I had on my readers.

Jay (John) Hildreth, New York, New York. Activities: Music—as ever! I am working on an opera project, an attempt to put together an opera Tchaikovsky started and then left unfinished, although he included thematic and verbally related material in other works: *Romeo and Juliet*. I also work with my local political club, the Broadway Democrats, and my church, Judson Memorial in the Village, also Morningside Heights Resident Association, especially in support of the new “Columbia Branch.” I help with work of the United Farm Workers, People of Faith Network, etc. Memories of the Library: In the early 1960’s, one evening at Hamilton Grange Branch after having to subdue three rowdy young men, I was told “OK, we’ll be quiet now—but we’ll see you at the subway station!” Sure enough. There they were lined up against the rail as I approached. I didn’t know what to do, had no idea how I’d react, but relying on army experience, I walked right up to them, said “Hi” with a big smile, turned and walked just as quickly down the subway stairs. Note: My activities are limited due to a number of serious health problems, which my new team of doctors are working on aggressively trying to get me back to more normal status. They are doing very well at this, but if I did all the things all of them have told me to do everyday, it would take me over 26 hours! So I have to pick and choose as I refuse to shut myself up as a hermit in my own apartment just to prolong my life! I’m doing very well and you’d never dream these troubles to look at me!

Ivy N. Hicks, New York, NY:
Activities: I cook for the homeless. I

am an avid needleworker and I make clothes for the children at Mother Hale House. I serve on the Board of Directors of two neighborhood centers: St. Matthew & St. Timothy and the Lexington Center. Every year I take at least two trips. Last year I went to Japan, Korea, China and Israel. This year to Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Russia. Memories of the Library I loved giving special programs, crafts, reading aloud and collection development. Now that I am retired sometimes I run into the children I served at the 96th Street Branch, and they call out “Look, there’s the library lady.”

Phyllis King, New York, NY:
Activities: Stayed in NYC mostly this summer. Went to DC for a weekend. Sailed on the Chesapeake. *Pudding Magazine* took four of my Imaginary Journey prose poems. No date of publication set yet.

Helen Chin, Port Saint Lucie, FL:
Moved to Florida in August and had an accident on August 21. Still going for therapy (November 1, 1998).

Richard Lynch, New York, New York: In the ten years I have been retired I have had two more books published and many magazine articles. I spend a lot of time on the beaches of Long Island and Puerto Rico and traveling. In 1998 I spent 30 nights “at sea” on cruise ships to such varied locales as Canada, Russia and the Caribbean. I hope all others have successful retirements.

Ruth Rittreiser, Bronx, New York:
Before I retired from the Library I joined Jack LaLanne, and I’ve been a member ever since. I exercise and like to swim. I spend a lot of time at the Van Cortlandt Senior Center. The classes are wonderful and so are the teachers. I love to see plays. I have a subscription for the Pearl theatre in St. Marks Place. The Country Wife is next on Wednesday, June 6. I took classes at Lehman College about a year after I retired. Going back to school was a real joy and the price

was right. Other centers are available to us also. On Sundays we go for lunch and social dancing at the Hebrew Institute.

When I got to Van Cortlandt I already knew most of the people in my building from the Library. The people in my building were all very adamant readers, some of whom became my friends. Sometimes I meet people on the street or bus. They ask aren’t you the lady who worked at the library? It’s great to know that these people remember you. When I first retired people told me how much they missed me. One day I got on the bus and sat down across the way from this man who was staring at me. I did recognize him but couldn’t place his name. I eventually did of course.

Wes, my husband, and I also met a reader in the Federal Archives while we were looking up information for my husband’s family tree. He works there and is an archivist. I like doing the family tree very much. It’s very interesting and hard work if you’re doing it yourself. Miss everyone from the Library. Affectionately, Ruth Rittreiser.

L. Cleveland, Bronx, New York: At this moment I am very busy preparing for the holidays. As far as retirement, I am enjoying every day of it, doing a little travelling. Sorry I don’t have the time to give more details.

Marion L. Stock, Falls Village, Connecticut: I have been laid up for three months with a broken hip and broken elbow. Now recuperating at home. Memories of the Library: When I first was employed by NYPL in December 1940 we worked on Sundays—all branches were open. Staff on Staten Island enjoyed talking with Phyllis Whitney who used the Staten Island branches a good deal.



THE ASSOCIATION STEPS OUT

Thanks to Agnes Babich, the Association's outings continue to be one of the most enjoyable of the Association's activities. Although most of those who participate in them live in New York City, the outings are of such high quality that they would be worth a trip back here to attend. Agnes reports below on the latest.

NYPL Members Visit Newark

NYPL retirees had a "whirlwind" tour of Newark's attractions on Thursday, November 12. Starting off the day at the World Trade Center on the PATH train, they arrived in Newark in enough time to take in the newly restored Penn Station Waiting Room. A three-block walk to the Ironbound District brought them to Forno's Restaurant for a delicious, leisurely lunch.

The group took a City bus to The Newark Museum for a guided "Treasure Tour," an overview of the collections, which included American paintings, decorative arts, Africa, the Americas, the Pacific, and the wonderful Tibetan Buddhist altar. Just down the street, The Newark Public Library was the next stop. Librarian Curt Idrago (who once worked at NYPL) gave a tour of the collections in this old, historic building. The room housing material on New Jersey's history was particularly impressive.

A short ride on the Loop (shuttle bus) took the group to the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. Fortunately, a guide was available to give a private tour of this magnificent arts center. It was exciting to view (from a sound booth) the New Jersey Symphony rehearsing in the main concert hall. There was also an opportunity to visit the small adjacent theatre and rehearsal rooms. It was apparent that this new facility was a catalyst for change and the beginning of Newark's rebirth as an important city.

Tired but exhilarated, the group boarded another Loop bus to Newark's Penn Station for the train back to New York.

EDITOR'S NOTES: The DC 37 scandals (page four) give one the unpleasant feeling that library workers are no longer important, a feeling we get from other people as well. Computers are supposed to have taken our places. But they have not, for their complexity and the new world they have brought to us have increased the need for highly skilled library workers. Not only has the computer opened new forests in which people can get lost without guidance, but it has also helped increase the data glut that is jamming libraries, problems that make the worker extremely important. In libraries, the value of the worker has actually increased. (In regard to the overwhelming abundance of information, see "The Too-Much-Information Age" by Joel Achenbach on *The Washington Post* Internet page, March 12, 1999. www.washingtonpost.com.)

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT STATUS REPORT

To date we have completed five interviews. Listed below are those retired staff who have been interviewed; with the name of the interviewer:

Aileen Murphy Angeline Moscatt
Julia Brody Phyllis King
Catherine Marquard Juanita Doares
Naomi Noyes Virginia Swift
Henrietta Cohen Angeline Moscatt

(Pending, Hannah Friedman, scheduled to be interviewed by Juanita Doares.)

Two new interviewers have signed on—Despina Croussouloudis and Carol Davies-Gross.

Next steps -

- A training session will be scheduled for new interviewers and current interviewers.

Continued from page four

The table below contains the statistics for the graph on page one. The editor is responsible for the calculations.

Retirement Year	1. Amount of Pension	2. Today's Equivalent	3. Supplement Percentage	4. Amount of Supplement Col. 3 x Col. 1	5. Total dollars received	6. Amount less than COLA Col. 2 - Col. 5
1937	857	9,700	9.583	8,213	9,070	630
1947	1,208	9,700	5.834	7,047	8,225	1,445
1957	1,682	9,700	4.423	7,439	9,121	597
1967	2,008	9,700	1.959	3,934	5,942	6,758
1977	3,523	9,700	0.303	1,067	4,590	5,110
1987	6,800	9,700	0.045	306	7,106	2,594
1990	7,686	9,700	0.015	115	7,801	1,899
1991	8,101	9,700	0.015	122	8,223	1,477
1992	8,441	9,700	0.015	127	8,568	1,132
1993	8,695	9,700	0	0	8,694	1,006
1994	8,955	9,700	0	0	8,955	745
1995	9,188	9,700	0	0	9,188	512
1996	9,417	9,700	0	0	9,417	283
1997	9,700	9,700	0	0	9,700	0

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

December 1998

The two year terms of all current officers and executive board members ended on December 31, 1998. The nominating committee is pleased to submit the following slate for two year terms starting January 1, 1999 and ending on December 31, 2000.

President: Juanita Doares

Vice President: Alar Kruus

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Executive Board:

Helen A. Levine

Angeline Moscott

Lawrence Murphy

The committee regrets that no members have been found to serve as secretary and treasurer. With the President's permission, the committee will continue the search. In the interim, the President is empowered to appoint people on an acting basis.

Respectfully submitted

Ada E. Jackson

Despina Croussouloudis

RARE BOOKS

Our shelves are crammed,
yet one book lost leaves a gap
we notice as we pass.
We have found this year
the gaps are larger.
Some favorite ones are missing,
familiar words no longer
there to read.

So we must search our memories
and record for others to know
the books we loved so well
but will not see again.

Phyllis King

IN MEMORIAM

Judith Brill-Paar

Donald Brown

John Hawker

Allen Hogden

David Turiel

ON THE INTERNET

An important web site belongs to the *Arts and Letters Daily*. An article in *The New York Times* called it one of the best places on the Internet.

www.cybereditions.com/alddaily/

Here you will find essays, book reviews, comments on news, and many other things. The site gathers items from newspapers, books and articles ranging from the *London Observer* to *The Washington Post*.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 19 at 5:00 pm: Program Meeting Mid-Manhattan Library, 6th floor conference room B. Subject: "The Challenge to Protect and Preserve Medicare." The speaker is Lani Sanjak, the Executive Director of the New York State-Wide Senior Action Council. Ms. Sanjak has been a founder and organizer of the New York Network for Action on Medicare, which is a part of a national organization devoted to preserving the fundamental principles that have governed Medicare for over 30 years.

April 23: Social Outing to the American Museum of the Moving Image.

May 13, 6:30 pm: Spring Gala at a local restaurant

May 18: NYPL Retirees Association Executive Committee meeting at CUNY Graduate Center, Dining Commons, 33 West 44th Street

June 5: Social Outing. Details to be announced later..

The Newsletter is published at irregular intervals by The New York Public Library Retirees Association, an independent association. Information for the newsletter should be sent to Lawrence Murphy, Editor, The NYPL Retirees Association Newsletter, 137 East 36 Street, Apt. 16-B, New York, NY 10016-3528. Officers of the Association—President: Juanita Doares; Vice-President: Alar Kruus; Social Activities Coordinator: Agnes Babich. To join the NYPL Retirees Association, send annual dues of \$10 to Alar Kruus, 85-34 56th Avenue, Elmhurst, NY 11373-4828. Dues include a subscription to the newsletter. Information and inquiries should be mailed or telephoned to Juanita Doares, NYPL Retirees Association, 401 W. 118th Street, Apt. 3, New York, NY 10027-7216 (telephone: 212 666-5737). Committees of the Association: Health Care: Ann Moy; Legislative: Ruth Kronmiller; Oral History Advisory Committee: Angeline Moscott (Chair), Alar Kruus, Phyllis King, Dolores Noyes, Despina Croussouloudis, Virginia Swift, Carol Davies-Gross, members of the Executive Committee, and Bob Sink (Library Liaison).