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NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 13 AUGUST 2000

COLA AT LAST

The New York State government has finally amended its inadequate pension plan, the worst of all 50 states. After 30 years of struggle, we now have a permanent annual pension cost-of-living bill (COLA). It is not perfect, but it is better than what we have had, and it is a step on which additional legislation can be built. Many people have worked to get this legislation passed, and they deserve thanks for their letters, e-mails, phone calls, post cards, and personal visits to the legislators and the Governor. The following are the details of the two-part COLA bill. These have been copied from the May/June newsletter of the Retired Public Employees Association.

PART 1: Effective September 1, 2001 [note: for 2000 see part 2] there will be a cost-of-living adjustment equal to 50% of the annual rate of inflation as determined by the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the prior year ending March 31.

- ♦ The maximum increase in any given year will be 3%; the minimum will be 1%.
- ♦ The increase is on the first \$18,000 of your zero option base pension.
- ♦ To be eligible for the COLA you must have attained the age of 62 and have been retired five years or attained the age of 55 and retired ten years or are disabled (regardless of age) and retired five years.
- ♦ Beneficiaries will receive 50% of what the retiree would have received had the retiree lived.

PART 2: Effective September 1, 2000, there is a cost-of-living "catch-up" for those retirees who retired prior to calendar year 1997 according to the schedule printed on page 8 of this newsletter.

- ♦ The increase is on the first \$18,000 of your zero option base pension
- ♦ Beneficiaries will receive 50% of what the retiree would have received had the retiree lived.
- ♦ These new "catch-up" COLA increases are *in lieu* of any pension supplementation you may now be receiving.

The table that shows the increases is printed on page 8 of this newsletter.

FISCAL YEAR 2001 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

FUNDING PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE

STATE

- Funding for Chapter 917 (funding for libraries Statewide) remained the same. There was an additional \$5 million appropriated to libraries statewide. The formula for distribution of these funds has yet to be determined.
- The Schomburg Center received \$165,000 from the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus.
- The Schomburg Center also received \$75,000 for the Emancipation Proclamation Exhibit this fall, which is part of their 75th Anniversary Celebration.
- The Library for the Blind received \$124,000.
- The Science, Industry and Business Library received \$100,000.
- The Research Libraries received \$110,000 for digitization projects.
- Member items for neighborhood branch libraries increased by \$42,500 for a grand total of \$165,500.

CITY

- The three Library systems received an additional \$10 million from this year's City Budget for books and materials, expanded hours and increased maintenance and security.
- As part of this \$10 million, The New York Public Library received operating funds to open and operate a new SoHo Branch Library, and funds for Schomburg's 75th Anniversary Celebration.
- The New York Public Library received \$30 million in new capital dollars for new projects including: the new South Court Building at 42nd Street [Central Building court], the new Bronx Borough Center, a full renovation of the Ft. Washington Branch Library, and funds to create a new Mariner's Harbor Branch on Staten Island. In addition, funds were provided for new technology, new roofs, windows and various smaller branch projects.

FUNDING THAT WAS REQUESTED

from Ada Jackson, March 17, 2000

Twenty-nine NYPL staff members and twenty-five supporters participated in Albany Day 2000, which was held on March 14, 2000. Our accomplishments included presenting NYLA and NYPL legislative priorities to all state legislators from Manhattan, The Bronx and Staten Island. NYPLers in key positions this year included Anne J. Hofmann, President of NYLA, and Mary Rinato Berman, Chair, NYLA's Legislative Committee. The following is a summary of the New York State Funding Agenda for Fiscal Year 2001:

STATE

♦ *Books, Bricks, and Bytes* (\$60 million): Funding for additional books and material, electronic resources and services, and library construction and renovation.

♦ *Libraries 2001 Act S.3166A, A.6048A* (\$23 million): Amends Education Law to develop local libraries as library community technology centers, to renovate and modernize library buildings, to enhance services for people with disabilities.

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

♦ \$15 Million in Capital Support for the New Bronx Borough Center Library and Latino Cultural Center: The Library seeks \$15 million toward the \$40 million needed for

this 55,000 square foot center. It will include a new business reference center, a community room, and an auditorium. It will provide access to databases, particularly those for business, job and health information. The Latino Cultural Center will house extensive Hispanic cultural collections, and will also provide programs and exhibitions. The City of New York has already committed \$18.5 million toward this flagship library for the Bronx.

♦ \$490,000 for services to Blind and Visually Impaired Readers. \$430,00 will go to the Andrew Heiskell Library for the Blind and Physically handicapped to increase hours from 24 to 40 per week and to provide additional outreach and programming. \$60,000 will support *regional* libraries for the blind in Nassau and Suffolk Counties

♦ \$400,000 for the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture: This money is needed to preserve and expand collections, and to increase educational and cultural programs.

♦ Dr. LeClerc recently sent a letter to each legislator requesting that each legislator secure \$15,000 for materials in the branches in his/her own district. Special support was asked from the following: Assemblyman Silver, \$25,000 for the Lower East Side. Senator Goodman, \$25,000 for Sunday service at Donnell.

NEW YORK'S VANISHING LIBRARIANS

The following editorial appeared on May 5, 2000 in The New York Times. It was preceded by articles on this subject in other issues.

The three public library systems that serve New York City are just recovering from the fiscal crisis of the 1970's, which left bookshelves empty, computer systems outdated and library buildings falling to pieces. Now the New York, Brooklyn and Queens library systems face a new problem — the rapid departure of their professional librarians, who are leaving for better-paying jobs in the suburbs and other cities.

New York's public libraries are especially crucial in poor and immigrant neighborhoods, where new citizens pour through the doors daily seeking help on everything from finding a job to getting a driver's license to learning how to read and speak English. Yet New York's librarians are among the most poorly paid in the nation. Beginning librarians, many with master's degrees, receive a starting salary of \$31,000 and could reach \$54,500 after 20 years. This puts New York librarians 20 to 25 percent below the average salary nationwide.

The attrition rate among librarians in the New York system is 50 percent in the first three years. In the Bronx, 9 of the 34 libraries have no children's librarian. In the Bronx, Manhattan and Staten Island, about 20 percent of librarian positions are vacant.

The city has been slow to recognize the value of librarians and has failed in recent decades to bring their salaries into line with those of other municipal employees, including teachers. Unless the city redresses the imbalance — and begins a recruitment drive as it has done for teachers — the library system could find itself permanently understaffed.

THE CITY'S ACTION

The following is copied from the first two paragraphs of a Special Bulletin to the Library Staff from Paul LeClerc, President of the Library, dated June 8, 2000

Despite the best efforts of many people, the City's budget for Fiscal Year 2001 regrettably did not provide for an increase in librarian salaries. While this is certainly a setback, I can assure you that the case for librarian salaries has been advanced substantially by the process. Many phone calls and meetings between City leaders, Union officials, and senior leadership of the Library took place. These efforts, combined with news coverage and the letters written by staff members and patrons and sent to the City on behalf of libraries, have established the issue of librarian salaries as a priority at the top levels of City government.

As I advised you in a previous Special Memorandum, the City Council attempted to include money in the budget to fund a 15% increase for librarian salaries for all three library systems. This initiative did not succeed because labor negotiations are an executive branch prerogative traditionally handled by the administration in collective bargaining with the unions and not in budget negotiations with the City Council. The process did enable the Council to convey to the administration the importance of the issue for the City, and I hope we can expect serious attention to be paid to the matter during DC37's negotiations with the City for a new labor contract.

Retirees in Action

News from the Field

Hannah Friedman, New York, New York: I am Chairman of Jewish education in the Hadassah Gotham Section in a Jewish women's organization. I also volunteer at the NYPL Information and Reception Desk. I enjoy attending classes at the local YWHA. Went on a trip to Israel in October 1998. *The following are my memories of times past:*

A Strange Coincidence: In 1963 my husband [Chief of the NYPL Jewish Division] and I took a 23 day Mediterranean cruise. It was a very luxurious trip in all kinds of ways. On our return trip we became acquainted with some fellow passengers including two sisters. We became friends. One of the sisters (Antoinette) invited me to meet the ship's Italian doctor. She too was Italian.

The following day Antoinette introduced me to the doctor. She told him my name and that I worked in The New York Public Library. The doctor then asked me whether I was Mrs. Hannah B. Friedman, Chief of the Acquisition Division of NYPL. I said that I indeed was, whereupon lo and behold he produced a letter actually addressed to me at the Library. He had planned to mail the letter when we reached port in New York.

He then told me the following story. He had been at the Library after one of his voyages. He searched for a particular book dealing with the history of medicine in Italy. He could not find a listing of the book in the library catalog. He then contacted one of the librarians at the Information Desk. She suggested that he send us the particulars of the book—place and date of publication, etc. and we then would try to get the book for him. The information was in the very letter that he had just handed me. Subsequently we did buy that book, and he was invited to come and read it.

The Changing Image of the Librarian: I started working in the Library as a summer substitute in the Jewish division. This was in June of 1928. My title was "Reference Assistant."

I had just graduated from high school,

and I was also at the time attending classes at the Jewish Theological Seminary toward a BS degree in Jewish education,

At summer's end I was offered a position in the Preparation Division of NYPL as a clerk-typist, although there were as yet no typewriters. I accepted.

One day my supervisor asked me to appear at the desk at the end of the workday. She then said to me as follows: "The New York Public Library is no place to wear a red dress." I was humiliated and embarrassed. After all, my mother made the dress for me, and I loved it.

Twenty years later, still working in the same library, I once more wore a red dress and my then supervisor (male) whistled at me!



Catherine Marquard, Langhorne, Pennsylvania: I have been busy winding up my term as secretary of our residents' association. Last month there were three meetings that I had to attend and write minutes of each. However, the last meeting will be next week. My term in office after two years ends then. So I hope that I will then be freer to come to New York and see my friends.

As you know, I did get over to see Catherine Halls. We spent a day together—lunch, Morgan Library, dinner, and much chatting! She seems fine. I was also over to the City to spend my birthday with my Florida cousins who were in town briefly.

Virginia Warner, Staten Island, New York: I visit my local branch at least twice a month. I am constantly reminded, each time I enter the front door, of how times have changed. For one thing -- often the staff were not as yet born when I walked into the St. George Library Center on my first day of employment and made my way to the Borough Office. I was assigned by the Borough Office to staff the two sub-branches at Prince Bay and Huguenot Park. At both sites, I was required to start a fire in the pot-bellied stove be-

fore I opened for the day. Jack Stratton would have been there earlier and laid the fire—paper, kindling and coal.

All I had to do was strike a match and start the fire. At this point, I should tell you the coal used at both sub-branches was paid for and provided by the Huguenot Garden Club. They also paid the electric bill. Believe me—I do not tell untruths! Most times, my application of a match worked. However, there were days I wished I had a blow torch. Usually a "fire starter" in the disguise of a seven-year old boy came to my rescue. This always made me happy at Prince Bay, since I needed the top of the stove to heat my supper. No mini malls in those days. My next challenge was the date stamp. Remember the pencil with the metal holder for little rubber letters and numbers that had to be changed with tweezers? Thank goodness my tremors had not as yet appeared, so I was able to accomplish this requirement without getting too much red ink on my fingers. In those early days we had no running water at either site so this was important.

In earlier days my predecessor had to work around the volunteer fire truck at Prince Bay. By the time I arrived the fire truck had been removed. The Huguenot building was very small. It was a really tight fit when one of the neighborhood children came in with his St. Bernard puppy. (Well-behaved dogs on a leash were permitted in those days.) Bathroom facilities were not available at either site. At Prince Bay, we used the facilities at Putz Propane Gas, which was next door on Amboy Road. Huguenot Reformed Church parsonage was used at the Huguenot site. Through the years chemical toilets were installed, a gas heater replaced the pot-bellied stove, and both branches have now been combined and replaced by the new building near the Richmond Parkway (Korean War Memorial Parkway). The children and grandchildren of my former "fire starters" are using this new building. I hope they are all told stories of how the community worked and fought for what they have now so that they can borrow books and read.



REGINA ANDREWS AND THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

by John S. Robotham

[*The following is the first in a series of articles printed here in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Schomburg Center. The Editor*]

Toussaint L'Ouverture was one of her ancestors. Two others—she didn't name them—were an Iroquois Indian and a Confederate general. Her father was a prominent Chicago attorney, who had worked with Clarence Darrow. She remembered sitting on Theodore Roosevelt's lap, when her father (who was nicknamed "Habeas Corpus" Anderson, because of his frequent use of that writ) was seeking a presidential pardon for one of his clients. With her quintessential American background—she categorized herself, when asked, as an American Methodist—she didn't know she was supposed to be a "Negro." At any rate, when Regina Anderson arrived in New York and applied for a Job with The New York Public Library, she was—for this reason—assigned to the 135th Street Branch, in Harlem, beginning on April 1, 1923.

Her arrival couldn't have been more timely; the Harlem Renaissance was tuning up. A year and a half earlier, Langston Hughes had stepped out of the subway station at 135th Street and Lenox Avenue into a clear, warm September morning. The first thing he did was to stroll west on 135th to the YMCA at number 181. Then, having secured a room, he retraced his steps to number 103, the 135th Street Branch Library, where a collection of "Negro literature" had been established. In 1924, Arna Bontemps repeated the experience of Langston Hughes almost exactly, only coming out of the subway at 125th Street. Wallace Thurman also arrived in 1924, and Zora Neale Hurston was on the scene by 1925. George Schuyler had come to Harlem in about 1922. A. Philip Randolph had been there since 1911, and Hubert Harrison since 1900. Countee Cullen was growing up in Harlem, having been there at least since 1914, when he was 11. The library staff had been noticing an increasing African-American population in Harlem since 1907. In 1909,

it was reported that a large number of fourteen-year-old "colored boys" were regular users of the reading room. A boy's club eventually developed, holding programs like a Shakespeare birthday celebration. Adults were active too; organizations like the Negro Civic Improvement League were meeting in the library.

In 1920, The New York Public Library began giving "special attention...to the development of the 135th Street Branch." Ernestine Rose, who had had great success working with the Russian Jews who were swarming into libraries on the Lower East Side, was appointed Branch Librarian. And three "Negro assistants" were hired. One of these was Nella Larsen, who would, in a few years, write the novels "Quicksand" and "Passing." The collection of "Negro literature" was then substantially increased with an emphasis on African history and culture. African-American artists were featured in displays. Locally prominent citizens were invited to speak at a Thursday Evening Library Forum. The Anti-Lynching Crusaders made the library their headquarters for a time. And the High School Boys' Club to Study Negro History met regularly.

Meanwhile, Regina Anderson (she later married William Andrews, an attorney, and a New York State Assemblyman) was a natural on the job. ("She was...very special...she had one of those very retentive memories. She loved to have people around her, she was quite social, a very delicate little person...") She was also strikingly pretty; her photograph appeared (in a pictorialness style, with lots of shadows and clouds) on the cover of the March, 1925 issue of A. Philip Randolph's monthly magazine, *The Messenger*. And she was a hard worker, taking home seven or eight new books at night to familiarize herself with their contents. On Thursday evenings she conducted the North Harlem Community forum. W.E.B. DuBois, Chandler Owen (journalist and co-founder of *The Messenger*), Joel Rogers (a writer credited with making African-American history better known), Wilfred Adolphus Domingo

(active in Socialist, Communist and Garveyite causes), Hubert Harrison (Harlem's most noted lecturer) and James Weldon Johnson were some of the speakers. Street corner speakers were an important feature of Harlem life at the time. There were so many speakers and so many people listening to them that the streets were often clogged. One of the corners at 135th Street and Lenox Avenue, right around the corner from the library, was particularly noted for its soap box oratory. Several of the men mentioned here—Harrison, Domingo, Owen—were active outdoor speakers. But the one who became the most prominent was A. Philip Randolph. Regina Andrews always took pride in the fact that she had arranged for him to have his first indoor platform—at her library forum.

Perhaps it was the drama inherent in these events that attracted her. If so, she must have been more than satisfied one evening when George Schuyler debated Otto Huiswood on the "Negro and Communism." Huiswood had just returned from Moscow where he had been "the Negro spokesman" for the American delegation to the Fourth Congress of the Third International. Nobody else, said Schuyler, was willing to debate him. Schuyler "took the position that the Negro had difficulties enough being black without being red." And he thought it was probably the first debate in the country on that subject. The audience was large, and the debate "stirring."

Drama of another sort soon caught her attention. The idea of having small theaters, called the "little theater movement," to avoid the constraints of large commercial theaters, had become popular in recent decades. W.E.B. DuBois had, with the cooperation and at the suggestion of Ernestine Rose, established the Krigwa Theatre, with its headquarters in the library, in about 1924.

To be continued in the next issue of this newsletter. Sources are omitted here for lack of space and will be printed later.



The Association Steps Out

By Agnes Babich

[Thanks to the remarkable work of Agnes the outings continue to be extremely popular. Here she reminds you of the ones that have taken place during the last few years so as to whet appetites for future outings and convince out-of-towners to join old friends for these happy events.]

March 12, 1998 A morning visit to The China Institute to view the exhibition "Scent of Ink: A Collection of Chinese Paintings from the Ming and Ching Dynasties." The tour was followed by a calligraphy workshop. After lunch at a local French restaurant, the group visited the Asia Society's exhibition "Great Cities, Small Treasures: The Ancient World of the Indus Valley."

May 8, 1998 Mini-outing to the Abigail Adams Smith museum for a tour of period rooms and gardens. This small house is nestled among tall buildings near the East River on 61st Street. The group had an afternoon tea break at the English-Speaking Union, where they had time to relax and enjoy this lovely house.

June 12, 1998 Retirees enjoyed a delicious lunch at a Portuguese restaurant on the Upper West Side followed by a visit to the New York Historical Society. They toured the "Paul Robeson: Bearer of a Culture" exhibit, which commemorated the centennial of the singer and actor.

November 12, 1998 A "whirlwind" day trip to Newark to see the restored railroad station, the Ironbound District, Forno's Restaurant, The Newark Museum, The Newark Public Library (a pioneer of American public libraries), the recently built New Jersey Performing Arts Center. (This trip was more thoroughly described in the April 1999 newsletter.)

April 23, 1999 Retirees visited the American Museum of the Moving Image in Astoria, Queens to view memorabilia of the film industry. They had lunch at one of the Greek restaurants in the area.

June 5, 1999 Retirees took a Metro North trip to the New York Botanical Garden for a "Garden Highlights Tour." They also visited the rose garden and the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory.

November 19, 1999 Retirees toured the Cloisters and Fort Tryon Park and saw chapels, monastic cloisters and other architectural elements dating from the 12th to 15th centuries. They also visited the flower and herb gardens, then lunched at the fort Tryon Café.

March 9, 2000 Tour of NYPL's Center for Humanities [we knew it as the Central Building]. Henrietta Cohen reports on this in an adjoining column

June 9, 2000 A ferry trip was followed by a tour of the

Staten Island Botanical Garden featuring the spectacular New York Chinese Scholar's Garden. Lunch at a local restaurant was followed by a walking tour of the Snug Harbor Cultural Center. The center consists of historic Greek Revival, Italianate, Second Empire and Beaux Arts buildings overlooking New York City Harbor. The group heard about plans for the center including the future home

Center for the Humanities Tour

By Henrietta Cohen

On March 9, members of the Retirees Association were taken on a tour of the Center for the Humanities, arranged by Juanita Doares and Agnes Babich. We gathered in Astor Hall, greeted old friends, donned name tags, and then at 11:00 am were met by William Walker and Rodney Phillips, who conducted the tour. It was awesome! We knew what went before, we learned and saw what is now, and were told in depth about what is planned for the future. We began in room 121, the new American History and Genealogy Room, once the Science Division that has been relocated to the old B Altman Building. Next came a behind the scenes visit to the beautiful scholars' rooms that include private offices, a lounge area, a kitchenette, and a meeting area, all in the old Economics Division rooms that face Fifth Avenue.

After a tour of the stacks to see new equipment, such as fire protection devices and an updated book delivery system, we reached the restored Main Reading Room. The partitions have been removed that enclosed the old Theatre Division and the Wertheim Study, and it is again entirely a reading room. The Theatre Division went to Lincoln Center long ago and was replaced by the microform reading room, now also gone. The Wertheim Study has been transferred to space in what was the part of the Economics Division that faced 42nd Street. The microfilms and the photo services are now on the first floor in what was once the catalog room for the Branches and later the serials preparation section for The Research Libraries.

After the tour we gathered at noon in the Trustees Room and had a delicious box lunch that the Library graciously provided. During the lunch, Mr. Walker gave an illustrated talk on the new construction and future plans for the building. Air hammers were already digging a deep hole in the South Court that once had a fountain, benches and lamp posts. At the bottom of this hole will be a large auditorium, and rising above it will be offices, work spaces, assembly rooms, and a staff lounge (including a quiet area where staff can catch a nap). This new addition is a building within a building; its walls are set back from the Library's original walls thus preserving the elaborate structure that faced the court. None of this new building will be visible from the street.

At 3:00 pm some of the group met for a tour of Grand Central Terminal, another restoration wonder. This event required much thought and work, and we thank everyone very much for an extremely nice day.

THE EDITOR'S CORNER

The Library Crisis

The most important problem in libraries today is the lack of librarians. On page 3 we therefore copy the editorial from the *Times*. The City Council did recognize the Library's personnel problems and did put a 15% percent increase in the budget, but the City administration, after months of sitting on the issue, found reason to avoid action. Librarians were convinced that they would receive a 15% raise, and the action of the mayor's office has come as a shock that has been met with anger and even some street demonstrations. Maybe part of this situation can be attributed to the political divisions between the Council and the City Administration, but some of it can also be blamed on the City's lack of interest in the serious needs of the Library, a lack especially hard to bear at a time when the City budget shows a surplus of money. In the United States the status of librarians has always been low. It is encouraging that newspaper articles and an editorial indicate a change of attitude, a change that the City administration has chosen to ignore.

The Present and the Past

One of the big recent events for the Association was the tour of the Humanities Library, or as we called it, the Central Building at Fifth and 42nd Street. The tour guides were William Walker and Rodney Phillips, and we are indebted to them for their gracious kindness and hospitality.

Throughout the tour the Editor thought continually of those who would have been pleased and overwhelmed if they could now see the building, especially those who suffered during the sparse days of the 1960's and 70's. Many of us go back to the time when even the smallest improvement involved the Library in intense and discouraging struggles that often ended in failures or unpleasant compromises. There was no money, and often little interest in new ventures. Ideas put forth by the Library were received with hostility from Library boards, City administrators, businessmen and even some members of the Library staff. In the present good times, we forget that money was extremely scarce, governments were blind, and wealthy people, fewer in number than today, were usually not interested in libraries. Yet somehow, many things were accomplished through much hard work and heartbreak, but in comparison, today's Library seems an impossible dream come true.

Lawrence Murphy

DC37 UPDATE

In our last issue we told about the DC Scandal. On July 25, a jury in State Supreme Court in Manhattan convicted Martin Lubin, the council's former associate director and former No. 2 official, and Albert A. Diop, who was president of the second biggest council. Mr. Diop was convicted on two charges, scheming to defraud and falsifying business records, but was acquitted on a forgery charge. Mr. Lubin was convicted on two charges, scheming to defraud and forgery. The two of them marked bogus ballots in an elaborate secret operation. The prosecutors said the ballot stuffing was pivotal to ensuring the ratification of the contract, which many workers vehemently objected to because it contained a two-year wage freeze. Sentencing is scheduled for September 7. The victims were the union members.

Neither the Library nor its local union are involved in the scandals. Ray Markey, president of the Library's local 1930, has been one of the loudest voices for change. [source: *NYTimes* July 26, 2000]

THE MICROFILM SCANDAL

Nicholson Baker's most recent article condemns the transfer of books and newspapers to microforms. It is printed in the July 24 issue of *The New Yorker*, pages 42-61. Three letters, one from Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., were printed on page 5 of the August 14 *New Yorker*. We previously referred you to Baker's article on the destruction of card catalogs. See page 7 in issue no. 4 (July 1944) of this newsletter.

WEB SEARCH PROBLEMS

The World Wide Web contains more than a billion pages, and the best search engines cannot keep up. More thorough indexing will use librarians.

We refer you to an article, "Search and Deploy: The Race to Build a Better Search Engine," by Michael Specter on pages 86-100 in the May 29, 2000 issue of *The New Yorker*.

HARRY POTTER

An important review of the Harry Potter books is "Under the Spell, Harry Potter Explained" by Joan Acocella in *The New Yorker*, July 31, 2000. She tells of the folk tales, magic traditions, and classic fantasies that are in the background of the Potter books.

NEW COLA BILL INCREASES — Effective September 1, 2000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Current Supplementation %</u>	<u>New COLA%</u>	<u>Actual Net Increase %</u>
1997	0.0	-	-
1996	0.0	1.4	1.4
1995	0.0	2.8	2.8
1994	0.0	4.3	4.3
1993	1.5	5.7	4.2
1992	1.5	7.4	5.9
1991	1.5	9.3	7.8
1990	1.5	12.2	10.7
1989	2.8	15.4	12.6
1988	3.7	18.7	15.0
1987	4.5	21.4	16.9
1986	5.5	23.5	18.0
1985	6.3	25.2	18.9
1984	7.4	28.0	20.6
1983	8.3	31.7	23.4
1982	10.5	34.7	24.2
1981	12.5	40.4	27.9
1980	15.6	49.9	34.3
1979	19.9	64.6	44.7
1978	25.4	76.2	50.8
1977	30.3	84.5	54.2
1976	37.8	93.1	55.3
1975	42.5	101.8	59.3
1974	54.0	117.4	63.4
1973	73.0	134.8	61.8
1972	86.0	143.2	57.2*
1971	96.7	150.0	53.3*
1970	105.0	159.4	54.4*
1969	141.8	171.6	29.8*
1968	169.0	183.3	14.2*
1967	195.9	211.7	15.8*
1966	203.7	219.1	15.4*
1965	230.5	246.7	16.2*
1964	254.5	271.6	17.1*
1963	278.6	297.2	18.6*
1962	310.0	345.2	35.2*
1961	330.0	393.2	63.2*

All retirees who retired prior to 1961 will receive 100% of the cost of living from their retirement year through March of 1997 minus supplements already received.

*The actual per cent increase for these years is not as great because retirees in these years were already receiving greater supplemental increases.

FOR NEW YORK CITY RESIDENTS

Mark Green, The Public Advocate for the City of New York, has published *The Green Guide to Services for Seniors*. It contains many useful telephone numbers as well as such information as the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption, the School Tax Relief Program, Access-A-Ride, and College Programs. To receive a copy call 212 669-7670.

The Juilliard School will send you monthly schedules of

concerts and forms for requesting two free tickets if you join the Juilliard Association. Cost is \$125 for two people. Includes pass to the cafeteria. Call 212 799-5000

The 100 year old Peoples' Symphony Concerts produces three series of concerts for people on limited budgets. The performers are top musicians who accept reduced fees for these series. Call 212 586-4680.

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. (lmurphy@nyc.rr.com) 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 Moscatt (Chair), Alar Kruus; Phyllis King, Dolores Noyes, Despina Croussouloudis, Virginia Swift, Carol Davies-Gross, members of the Executive Committee, and Bob Sink (Library Liaison).