

New York Public Library Retirees Association Newsletter

Winter 2005

Issue No. 18

A BANNER YEAR FOR JUANITA DOARES

This last year, 2004, was Juanita Doares' special year. She was presented with the Marion Martin Award of the Retired Public Employees Association. Their newsletter spoke of "her work in establishing the New York City Chapter and in developing coalitions with other senior and retiree groups on issues of mutual concern". The JPAC for Older Adults presented her with the Dorothy Epstein/Institute for Senior Action Legacy Award for "her outstanding dedication to senior action, for steadfast leadership amongst her peers and her extraordinary commitment to improving the lives of people of all ages".

THE ACTIVIST We see Juanita chairing our meetings, bringing us informative speakers, hugging old and new members, and speaking out passionately on issues that concern her, and us. Here is our chance to find out about her activities beyond our association and where and when her activist life began.

Throughout her life, Juanita has been an activist, participating in the Civil Rights movement, Vietnam War protests, the women's movement, and antiwar demonstrations. She was marching last August during the Republican Convention, including the Planned Parenthood march across the Brooklyn Bridge.

Juanita has been our representative to the organizations listed below. Some of the issues of concern for these groups are social security, prescription drugs, medicare, managed care,



JUANITA DOARES

nursing homes, long-term care, patient's rights, senior housing.

Alliance for Public Retiree Organizations: Albany based with local chapters. A coalition of organizations. A leader in getting COLA for New York State public retirees.

JPAC (Joint Public Affairs Committee) for Older Adults: New York City based. Educates about senior programs, pending legislation, and the "how to's of social action": classes in advocacy.
www.jpac.org

New York Network for Action on Medicare and Social Security: A program of JPAC for statewide advocacy
www.jpac.org/nynamss.html

New York StateWide Senior Action Council: Albany based. Research and advocacy, with chapters throughout the state
www.nysenior.org

OWL (Older Women's League): Washington, DC based with local chapters.
www.owl-national.org

Retired Public Employees Association: Albany based, advocacy for pensions and health benefits of retired public employees. Individual membership.
www.rpea.org

EARLY YEARS A tomboy, Juanita spent lots of time playing baseball with the boys in the field behind her house. When she wasn't playing baseball, she was reading. A voracious reader, she went through most of the children's classics and Bible stories. The story of Ruth

was a particular favorite. Her mother didn't let her read junk. One summer at her grandmother's, she spent the whole summer doing nothing but reading. On Saturdays she was allowed to play card games and board games. Monopoly was a favorite.

Though born in Hickory, North Carolina, Juanita spent most of her early years in Columbia, South Carolina. She graduated from elementary and high school in Columbia, then went on to college at the University of South Carolina, majoring in English and French, with a minor in education.

Though Juanita taught school for a year, teaching would not be her career of choice. Returning to Columbia, she went to work as a student assistant at the University of South Carolina library. It was after this experience that she decided to come to New York City to pursue a degree at the Columbia University Library School.

A ROMANTIC DETOUR Sally B. Anderson, Juanita's supervisor at the University of South Carolina library had her own plans for Juanita. She was going to get Juanita together with the former occupant of her library assistant job, Wade Doares. Because Wade had left the job to go to war, he was entitled to get his old job back. Sally B.'s plan was successful, Wade came to back to the student assistant job and later married Juanita. Wade finished his final year at the University, while Juanita went to New York City for her library degree. Soon, Wade would join Juanita in New York, graduate from Columbia University Library School, and go to work for the library of Columbia University. Juanita and Wade were married in 1951 in St. Paul's Chapel on the Columbia University campus. A son, Bill, was born in 1955.

NYPL YEARS In the summer of 1948, after graduating from library school, Juanita walked by the New York Public Library. She thought she would see if they had jobs available. As

luck would have it, there was a summer substitute position at the information desk on the third floor. Though she had considered working in the branches, she took the full time research library job; it paid more than working in the branches. She spent eighteen years working in Room 315. In 1967 she was called into the Director's office. What could this mean? Nothing to fear: James W. Henderson, Director of the Research Library and Joe Rosenthal, Chief of Preparation Services, offered her the job, Chief of Acquisitions. Seven years later, the Director called her to his office. This time the job he was offering was Planning Officer, a new position which dealt with budget proposals and foundations. The high point of this job, Juanita says, was being involved in the new Schomburg building, which opened in 1980. A third call to the Director's office led to the position of Associate Director of Collection Management and Development. She would work with the selection librarians on their budgets, dividing the general funds. The hardest part of this job, Juanita says, was when she had to tell librarians that they couldn't bid at an auction or buy materials the Library needed.

RETIREE YEARS In 1988, after 40 years in the Library, Juanita retired from the Library, but not from library work. She became an adjunct professor at Columbia's library school, teaching collection development for four years until the library school closed.

In 1993, to protect our pensions, she joined with Moritia Leah Fredericks, Agnes Babich, and Betty Gubert to form our retirees' association.

We are all sorry to hear, that after eleven years as our president, Juanita is stepping down. But intrepid activist that she is, she has promised to continue representing us to all the organizations to which she has been our liaison.

SOCIAL EVENTS

In December 2004, the retirees enjoyed a most fascinating and in-depth tour of The New York Historical Society's latest exhibit "Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made America." The exhibit and tour featured rare and precious historical objects and documents associated with Hamilton, personal correspondence to friends and enemies, as well as the deadly dueling pistols. We also attended an original multi-media play related to Hamilton and that period of time. We also saw the Henry Luce Collection which houses the many other wonderful treasures owned by the Historical Society. Though it was chilly and raining, we had a good turnout of 16 people.

On January 14, 2005, the retirees celebrated the holiday season and the New Year with our annual Holiday Dinner held at the Silver Swan, a German-American restaurant. It was a successful and enjoyable event. The food was delicious and the company excellent. Nineteen retirees, spouses, and friends attended.

We have planned two more special events. On February 23, 2005, we will be visiting the Dashes Museum of Art at 580 Madison Avenue. The museum collects and exhibits fine works by European academically-trained artists of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. For more information on our tour, check our website, Staff News, or call Becky Koppelman at (212) 874-6199 at blekopp@hotmail.com or Jennine Porta at (201) 928-1392, or jennineporta@earthlink.net

We hope to visit Kykuit, the Rockefeller Estate and gardens, on Saturday, June 4, 2005, for an all-day tour. New York Waterways has a complete packaged cruise tour that leaves Manhattan in the morning and returns late afternoon. It will cost approximately 60 dollars, but this pays for all transportation and tour passes. Plans will be finalized in March 2005, but questions can be directed to Becky Koppelman.

Becky Koppelman, Social Committee Co-Chair

BACK TO SCHOOL

To expand our knowledge and challenge our brains, we retirees can take classes at local colleges and Y's. Where should we go and why? For those of you in New York City, here are some choices.

Prices can be high, but there are bargains in New York City. One of these is FORDHAM UNIVERSITY'S COLLEGE AT SIXTY. The sixty stands for 60th Street, Manhattan; you can register at fifty years of age. For \$50 a course, if you are an alumni, you can choose from eight small liberal arts seminars taught by Fordham University faculty. If you are not an alumni a course is much pricier at \$292.
www.fordham.edu/Academics/Special_Programs/College_at_Sixty

The other great bargain is HUNTER COLLEGE as a senior auditor at \$70 a semester. You must be sixty years or older to be admitted as a senior. After you are admitted to the program, you get instructions on how to register. Auditors register on a day after regular students have finished choosing classes. The source of the \$70 bargain is that you are picking from the leftovers. You can choose your classes by telephone or by online registration. Also, if you pay \$5 to join the Senior Citizen Students Association, other seniors will help you register in the Graduate Student/Senior Student Lounge on the auditor registration day. For the first time this semester, the schedule of classes is not printed out, but must be used online or downloaded as a pdf file. This is becoming the usual practice at other schools to help keep costs down. Hunter has printouts available in the library and in the Graduate Student/Senior Student Lounge. You may need a high tolerance for frustration if you plan on joining the Hunter College program.
<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/>

Other City University New York campuses may be a bargain compared to independent schools. Brooklyn College has a special program. The BROOKLYN COLLEGE INSTITUTE FOR RETIRED PROFESSIONALS

AND EXECUTIVES offering "opportunities for retired people to continue their education, develop creative talents, share life experiences, and foster social and interpersonal relationships. Courses vary in duration and subject matter and may include traditional disciplines, current events, trips, concerts, and workshops. Information may be obtained in 3160 Boylan Hall or by calling 951-5647". It is best to check with your local CUNY campus to find out what they offer for continuing education. As it happens, there isn't a one-stop place for noncredit or senior programs at CUNY campuses.
www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES allows you, at 65 years or older, to register for noncredit courses at half the regular fee. There are some limitations on how you register and what courses you may choose. The courses, at full price, average \$300 to \$400 dollars each. With several NYU campuses, there may be one near you. Campuses are located in the Washington Square, Cooper Square, Union Square area; at the the NYU Midtown Center, 11 West 42nd Street; at the Woolworth Building, 15 Barclay Street.
www.scps.nyu.edu

MARYMOUNT MANHATTAN COLLEGE has a 5% to 50% reduction for selected courses if you are 65 or over. In addition there is a Center for Learning & Living program at \$245 per semester for those 50+.
www.mmm.edu

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY has a Lifelong Learners Program for adults over 65 years letting you audit up to two courses per semester. Apparently, you must go online to find out which courses are available for auditing. At \$400 a course, this may not be your first choice.
www.ce.columbia.edu/auditing/lifelonglearners.cfm

NEW SCHOOL has always reached out to auditors; unfortunately, not specially to seniors. Nevertheless, there are enticing courses though

priced in the range of \$300 to \$400 and up. The school is strong in culinary arts, including one day culinary arts tours for \$65 which include lunch.
www.newschool.edu

COOPER UNION provides a variety of programs in its Continuing Education program, from a course on selling on Ebay to a course on writing poetry. If you live near Cooper Square, you may want to check out their offerings.
www.cooper.edu

THE YMHA'S 92ND STREET Y has an extraordinary wealth of programs at three locations: the 92nd Street Y at Lexington, Makor/Steinhardt Center near Lincoln Center, and the Y Village in Rockland County. Whatever you want to learn, you'll probably find a course for learning it. Some of our members have taken art and literature classes at the West Side location. Prices vary: this semester a course reading Henry James, The Golden Bowl, is 6 sessions at \$190; A digital camera course for beginners is 8 sessions at \$285.
www.92y.org

THE YMCA with branches in all the boroughs, can offer you a variety of learning experiences. Here are a few: West Side, pottery and writing; Long Island City, computers and guitar lessons; Bellrose, computers and cartooning; Harlem, Congolese dancing and belly dancing; Prospect Park, ballet; McBurney, knitting and baby sitting. Members benefit in taking courses: a course in watercolor painting at the West Side branch costs \$35 for members, \$300 for non-members. Of course, the YMCA is best known for its exercise classes and equipment. The West Side branch has an extensive exercise program for seniors, including an aquatic program for those with arthritis.
ymcanyc.org.

RETIRES EDUCATION PROGRAM OF THE DC 37 EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, working together with the Retirees Association of DC 37, offers Not To Be Alone (trips, even including to Las Vegas, Niagara Falls, and

Toronto), American Studies, Dancercise, Black History, Arts and Crafts Workshop, Jewish History, Introduction to Computers, Exercise. The computer classes have a waiting list. To participate you must be a member of the Retirees Association of DC 37. Membership cost \$24 a year. For information, call (212) 815-1675.

If you don't want to trek through the snow to a course and have an internet connection, you might consider taking online courses at some colleges. New School and NYU have online courses.

RETIRES NEWS

JACOB AZEKE

Since my retirement in April '04, I have travelled to Nigeria in Africa, Las Vegas in the USA and, recently, to Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. The place I enjoyed most was Bahia, Brazil. The weather was between 80 and 90 degrees. The place is very beautiful and clean. They have everything: transportation is excellent; they have an abundance of food and beautiful beaches. However, you will need basic Portuguese to really enjoy your visit for ninety-nine percent of the people do not speak English. By air it is 12 hours from New York to Sao Paulo, Bahia.

POLLY BOOKHOUT

Learning more about taking digital photos and enhancing them using my computer, has been a special joy. I am learning so much from my fellow photographers at the NYPC camera group. Two trips this year provided opportunities to take pictures and make new friends, a spring trip to Romania and a trip to Boston to avoid the Convention hoopla near Columbus Circle where I live. I'm planning a spring trip to Hungary and back to Romania. If you would like to see some of my pictures, go to <http://homepage.mac.com/pcbookh/Menu5.html>

This spring I took a class at Hunter on John Milton with an emphasis on Paradise Lost. Challenging reading, but very rewarding.

HELEN W. CHIN

The Savannah Club continues to be a very active community. I've met so many nice, wonderful friends. I wish I had moved down sooner. Who would have believed we would get hit with three hurricanes in three weeks, September 4 to 25. I am teaching Chinese Mah Jongg twice a week. People are very addicted, once they learn it.

FRANCES EDELBERG

January 27, 2004, my husband, Murray, passed away during his sleep. It was a shock to all. Although his health was not good, his medicine kept him going. He was not an invalid. Therefore, as I had a few friends left with their health problems, I moved to California to be near my son, as I had no family in Florida. I retired from the Library in 1979 and am up there in age. The long trip and leaving familiar surrounding was very traumatic; I'm finally adjusting.

I worked in the Office of Children's Services as secretary. My memories are all good of the wonderful people I worked with and dealt with: Augusta Baker, Barbara Rollock, Marilyn Iaruso, and Mrs. Murphy. They were good years. I would love to hear from people I knew.

BARBARA GIBBONS

In June I went to the British Isles with a choral group made up of alumni and friends from my alma mater in Texas. The L.I. Choral Festival took place in July. I participate there as a singer as well as the treasurer/board member. I will sit out the last month of the election campaign in Germany, but plan to be back in time to vote. Then I look forward to the opera and concert season, holidays, etc. I continue to enjoy my retirement anew every day!

RAPHAELLE GUIYOULE

Nothing new. Still bowling but with seniors. Going to tournaments and enjoying every moment.

LEE (JESSIE LEE) JOHNSON

After three years in retirement, I am still in a

state of wonderment and elation to have abundant leisure time. I continue to play tennis and the piano, go bicycling, attend museums, concerts, operas, botanical gardens and the zoo. Before the current Discover the Museums of Lower Manhattan, I was doing just that. The area is so rich in history and buildings of architectural interest that one can spend many a day exploring. Harbor cruises enhance the experience. I take that wonderful little book, Manhattan Block by Block, everywhere.

KAY R. KEENEY

I have done a considerable amount of traveling since my retirement. I visited Ireland, Scotland, England, Austria, and Germany twice, plus many more interesting states in our own USA. I loved my years with NYPL and met so many wonderful people while employed there. We here on Staten Island have formed a Luncheon Club and meet the second Tuesday of each month. Sometimes we have just four or five, yet other time we have as many as eighteen or nineteen. Also, we correspond to several members who have left New York. One is in North Carolina; and one, in Seattle Washington. I'm sure there are others but these two are the only people I can think of right now.

PHYLLIS G. MACK

I am still enjoying myself tremendously. After retirement in 2002, I took a course in Real Estate at NYU for informational purposes. I exercise regularly at Riverbank State Park and have participated in a couple of dance recitals. This summer my family and I traveled to Orlando (I missed most of ALA due to airline problems) but the grandchildren loved Disney World and SeaWorld and to Las Vegas for my sorority convention. Both trips were great.

JEAN A. PINCKNEY

I am still employed at Trident Technical College in North Charleston. I work part-time in reference and technical services. In my spare time, I volunteer to teach computer skills to the seniors at my church. I also tend my flower garden and visit places of interest. I recently attended the play, I Sing From My Soul, which was part of the Moja Arts Festival held yearly

in the last week of September. I am happy that the recent hurricanes have not affected my area adversely and am thankful to God for that. I send special greetings to my NYPL friends.

VIRGINIA BOWLES SMITH

We are in our eighties, now, and don't travel even South for the winter, but we enjoy our condo in East Stroudsburg. It's beautifully set in a community of 119 homes (condos), nicely landscaped and very well taken care of. The best quality is that we are five minutes to everything (doctors, hospital, stores, etc.) and my husband still golfs once a week at Glenwood in Stroudsburg. The fall foliage is now at its best. Also, East Stroudsburg has the largest of the state colleges here and 8,000 students seem to enjoy it! I loved working on Staten Island for so many years and definitely enjoyed my time at Donnell Library during and after the big 70's budget crunch. My best regards to anyone who remembers me.

MOLLY WAMP

I'm spending much time in my hometown, Naples. My sister is here and our horse is here. Naples has a population of 1200 with beautiful scenery. I've done no volunteer work (hearing loss) at the local library. My hobbies are: daily crosswords in newspapers, petting the dogs in the neighborhood, listening to radio classical music, reading about world history in assorted books I own.

JOE ZEVELOFF

I got married in August of 2003. My wife, Vera Lucia, and I went to Hawaii in August of 2004 for a vacation. I volunteer for the Big Apple Greeters about once a month. We take visitors to New York City to different places in the city. This service is free to the visitor. Also, I visit with some fellow retirees.

ELECTION FOR NYPLRA OFFICERS

Alar Kruus, chair of the Nominating Committee, announces the following slate for 2004-2005:

President: Becky Koppelman
Vice President: Polly Bookhout
Vice President: Angeline Moscatt
Secretary: Jennine Porta
Interim Treasurer: Alar Kruus
Members at Large: Helen Levine, Marcia Loyd, Juanita Doares

In accordance with the Association bylaws, additional nominations may be made by any member in good standing within thirty days of the mailing of this newsletter or April 1. For forwarding to Alar Kruus, chair of the Nominating Committee, mail to Polly Bookhout, 345 West 58th Street, Apt. 5L, New York, 10019-1132, or email pbookhout@earthlink.net. If emailing, put NYPLRA in the subject line.

PASSINGS

We honor the passing of NYPLRA members and other NYPL staff as reported in Staff News.

Ovsanna Ashbahian, Eileen Brathwaite, Louis Broncatello, Charles Brown, Lionel Brown, Robert Calese, Forrest (Forrie) Carhart, Svitlana Cholhan, Florence Dean, Dominick Giacalone, Betty Long, Susan Pope, Robert Quarg, Mary Margaret Regan, Lamont Roper, Salvatore Scarcella, Daniel Simko, Lewis Stark, Barbara Sweetgall, Faye Vesce.

THIS NEWSLETTER is published at irregular intervals by The New York Public Library Retirees Association, an independent association. President Juanita Doares, 401 West 118th Street, Apt. 3, New York, NY 10017-7216, telephone, 212-666-5737. Newsletter Editor Polly Bookhout, 212-956-3634 or pbookhout@earthlink.net.

**PICTURES FROM OUR
HOLIDAY DINNER**



Tom Dickinson & Helen Levine

Lee Johnson & Jeanne Felker





Susan & Alar Kruus



Burt Abelson

Ed & Carol Breheny





Henrietta Cohen



Elaine Thomas



Mark McClusky & Jennine Porta



Angeline Moscatt



Agnes Babich



Dino Capone