

New York Public Library Retirees Association Newsletter

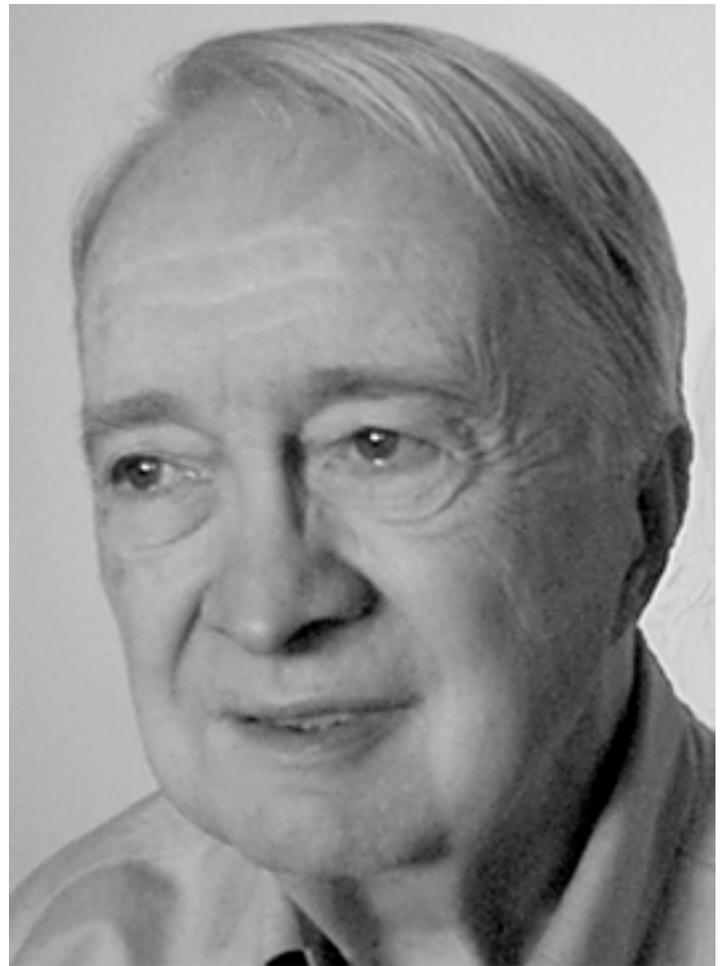
Summer 2005

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LARRY MURPHY: RENAISSANCE MAN AND LIBRARIAN

Some of you may have worked with Larry Murphy during his career in the New York Public Library from 1949 until his retirement in 1991. Most of us know him as the editor of our newsletter for ten years, since the beginning of our Association through 2003. Writing informative and impassioned articles on the state of our pensions and on the financial state of the library, encouraging others to write about the impressive history of a variety of branches and divisions of the Library. What we don't know is the extraordinary life and breadth of interests and experience that led to his career in the Library, and his life beyond the Library. You will find out why Larry Murphy, probably unique among our librarians, can be called a true Renaissance man.

BOOKS & LITERATURE Larry was born into a book loving family in Columbia, Missouri during the Depression. His father, a Yale graduate in Divinity, collected books. When his father lost his job teaching at the University of Wisconsin, the family began moving frequently to his father's temporary pastoral assignments. His mother, a graduate of the University of Chicago, would read to Larry on the screened-in back porch, Oz books, Louisa May Alcott books, King Arthur in the Mallory translation. Larry remembers visiting the Dubuque Public Library. Dubuque had only one library, the central library. He used an unusual measure in choosing books. If a book's cover was worn, he chose it. If other readers had



found the book worth reading, he might like it as well. He would go into the adult department where he picked fiction on the future of mankind, utopias or dystopias.

ART & DESIGN When Larry was young, he enjoyed drawing. It would be a long wait before his art and design talents would find use. His brother, as it happens, did become an artist.

MUSIC He began piano lessons at eight years old. By high school he was performing double piano jazz pieces with a high school football player. He had his sights on a musical career. While a college student, he gave pipe organ recitals. Though he would not make music his career, he continues to play piano. Two grand pianos dominate his living room in the apartment he picked over forty years ago for its thick walls.

SCIENCE In high school in Walla Walla, Washington, science became his new interest. He graduated from the Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, with a degree in chemistry. He was amazed at how well his female lab partners could perform, based on their kitchen skills.

LIBRARIES He worked part time in the library at Whitman College, foreshadowing his future career. He was frequently in charge at night and performed every form of library work except cataloging. After graduation, he went on to get simultaneously an M.A. in English literature and a library degree. He would have liked to get a Chemistry M.A. also, but that wasn't permitted. He particularly enjoyed the library courses on cataloging and children's literature. Who knows, if men were allowed to become children's librarians then, he might have taken that path.

During a very hot July 1949 and in the midst of a transit strike, Larry arrived in New York to work as a summer substitute librarian in the Main Reading Room of the New York Public Library. Even in those days without air conditioning, the Main Reading Room was a busy place. Because the libraries of New York City's colleges and universities were not of the quality of the New York Public Library, students used the Library's Main Reading Room.

LIBRARIES & SCIENCE Six months after

his return to the University of Washington's general reference library, Larry was offered a position as the head librarian of the University of Washington's San Juan Islands' campus, one of the three foremost oceanography libraries in the United States. The attractive campus had pink stucco buildings with red roofs. One of his library duties was chopping wood to heat the library. Then, back at the main campus in Seattle, he established the oceanography library, together with the fisheries library, in its own building. Researchers came from all over the world to use this library, including the secretive men who were researching the effects of the hydrogen bomb on the biological life of an island. Depressed, they came back to say that their experiments had come to nothing for the island was destroyed.

Happy with his library work, with his involvement in the Puget Sound Special Library Association, and with beautiful Seattle, Larry was not eager to follow a recruiter to the DuPont library in Wilmington, Delaware. But there were negatives to working for the University of Washington's library, he didn't have faculty status so couldn't defend his budget, and he was paid at the level of a janitor. He agreed to look at the DuPont library. When he did, the recruiter kept raising the salary offer until he couldn't resist.

Larry found Wilmington dull. He missed Saturday nights at the San Juan Islands tavern and dancers from all over the world.

As it turned out, his English degree was as useful as his chemistry degree. He edited laboratory and other reports, wrote a book on using graphs in reports, wrote up the reports for samples of new chemicals sent to the federal government's biological laboratories. He wrote journal articles, including one contrasting using a description in words and using a mathematical description. DuPont's biggest sales were dyes, with India an important buyer. Some of the new chemicals were designed to dye the new synthetic materials and to keep static electricity from hampering knitting machines. The Far East factories were modernizing their tex-

tile machines; the United States wasn't.

LITERATURE During his four years at DuPont, he was able to save enough money to come to Columbia University to study for a Ph.D. in English and Comparative Literature. He finished his orals and his dissertation on Hamlin Garland, but never got to defend his dissertation. After his orals, he was badly injured in a car crash. With bills from five months of hospitalization, he needed a job. A part time job working at the Main Reading Room information desk, while working on his dissertation and going for physical therapy, helped pay the bills. When the professor who sponsored his dissertation died suddenly, he abandoned his plans to get a doctorate.

LIBRARIES, WRITING, & SCIENCE

Having worked four years as a Librarian I, then Librarian II, at the Main Library, John Cory, the Deputy Director of the Library, told him that he needed an assistant and wanted Larry to start in that position the next day. The next morning when Larry reported to work, he wasn't able to refuse the job by citing a need to work on his dissertation, he must report to a meeting at 11 o'clock. Mr. Cory was presenting his idea for METRO, a consortium of New York libraries. Part of this idea was getting a grant to study the state of science libraries in New York City. Mr. Cory needed Larry's science and writing skills. From that point on, Larry worked part time for METRO and part-time for the Library. At METRO, after getting the grant, the next big item was getting libraries to join METRO. Area libraries were not always easy to persuade.

When Mr. Cory became the full-time Deputy Director, Larry chose to work full-time for the Library rather than METRO. Though now there is a large staff administering the library, in those days there was the the Director, Mr. Freehafer; the Deputy Director, John Cory; the Assistant to the Deputy Director, Larry; and a secretary for each of them. The three worked seven days a week with long hours each day. Larry took minutes for the Trustees Board

meetings and for committees of the Library. He prepared charts for the Board of Trustees in the days before computers. Throughout his Library career, his work assignments changed day to day. The assignment could include preparing budgets, proposals for projects, reports, minutes and agendas, as well as handling complaints, written, telephoned, and in person.

ART, DESIGN & THE BOOK When Mr. Freehafer retired and Mr. Couper became President of the Library, the long hours and seven day work weeks stopped. Larry was able to spend time on one of his passions, the book. He taught the history of printing and the book at Queens College. For three years he went to Parsons College night school to learn design, page layout, photography, calligraphy and more. These skills would be useful in his four year position as keeper of rare books in the Rare Books Division. Later, when he worked in the Exhibitions Office, mounting exhibits was an especially pleasurable part of the job. A favorite exhibit was the nativity in manuscripts.

When Dr. Gregorian became President, Larry worked officially in the Publications Office, but also worked sending discarded books to Caribbean libraries and arranging Dr. Gregorian's memorabilia.

RETIREMENT Larry retired from the Library in 1991. Even so, he continued working part-time for the Carnegie Corporation. He still works occasionally for them. For a number of years he produced his church's publications and, for ten years, our newsletter. He continues to play double piano. He mentions a familiar theme for all of us, not being able to keep up with all the books he wants to read. His well provided kitchen indicates that he may have another skill he didn't mention. All of this makes us wonder what interests and skills are left out of this article on our Renaissance Man.

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer. Right now, I'm in front of a cooling fan trying to organize my thoughts about what has been happening with The NYPL Retirees Association since the last newsletter. As you know, Juanita Doares, our past president, did indeed step down in April after devoting over eleven passionate years to the association. We owe much to her dedication and perseverance. Fortunately for us, she is still active and involved. And fortunately for me, the new president, she is willing to share her expert advice.

We elected new officers in April and with the help of the executive board and committee members, we are busy with plans for the coming year. Our treasurer and longtime association member, Alar Kruus, is moving away. We will certainly miss him for his friendship and for his most helpful participation in the association. However, we have had the good fortune that Elaine Thomas, who retired in 2001 from Children's Services, is happy to be our new treasurer and begins this September.

To catch up with other events, in March we visited The Schomburg Center for an interesting tour and exhibit called "In Motion, the African-American Migration Experience." In September, we will be taking a scenic cruise up the Hudson River to tour historic Phillipsburg Manor and Kykuit, The Rockefeller Estate.

Our legislative committee has been busy this year. We sent a representative to Albany for Library Day. Jacob Azeke joined other NYPL staff and state library personnel to meet with Albany legislators to advocate for additional support for libraries.

Our members again participated in the NYPL's letter-writing campaign asking patrons to write letters to their representatives to restore budget



cuts and hours. It was a successful campaign as money was restored to NYPL. We have also remained active and vigilant in attending meetings with other coalition organizations (JPAC and Network for Action) to protect Social Security, Medicare, prescription drug plans, etc. If anyone is interested in attending some of these meetings, please get in touch with Juanita Doares for information (212-666-5737.)

Presently we are planning general meetings that will focus on the concerns and issues we retirees have. We hope that our new Branch and Research directors of NYPL will join us at one of our meetings to get acquainted with us and share their library plans for the future. Soon we will have definite topics and dates for you along with information about our social outings. Please remember that we place this information in Staff News six weeks ahead of the event. You are welcome to bring family, friends, and still-working staff members.

Now we'd like to hear from you, those of you

who live in other areas, those who live nearby, and those right here. Do you have ideas or thoughts for us? What kinds of meetings and outings would you be interested in attending? Perhaps you would like to volunteer and help out in our association. We have interesting committees such as membership, legislative, and social, but not enough people to help with them. We need help with our oral history project. If you have a computer, and the skills, and would like to help with our newsletter and directory, contact Polly Bookhout at 212-956-3634, email: pbookhout@earthlink.net. If any of these areas sound interesting, please give us a call and volunteer some of your time.

In closing, I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of this association since my retirement from Branch and Children's Services in 2001. I've loved getting together with other members, going to meetings, outings, and sharing adventures. I look forward to working with the new officers and anticipate an eventful year for The NYPL Retirees Association. Let's keep our organization growing and expanding as a vital voice in library and retirees affairs.

Respectfully,

Becky Koppelman
President

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ONE DAY LAST FALL

by Edward Di Roma

One day last fall I shut down my computer at the Finkelstein Memorial Library in Rockland County, N.Y., reshelfed the reference copy of the Guide to Reference Books, and retired for the second time. On the day before I had done the same thing at the New City Library, another local library. After sixty years of working in libraries, I felt it was time to make way

for the new generation.

For the first forty years of my professional career I worked in the Research Libraries of The New York Public Library, and for the following twenty I served part time at the reference desks of the institutions mentioned above. I did not become wealthy, but I enjoyed practically every day of both engagements. This includes the two years way back in the 1930's when as a high school student I had a job as a part-time, hourly-paid page in the big library behind the lions in downtown Manhattan.

I became a librarian because while studying at the City College of New York, I developed the romantic idea that every educated person ought to participate in the struggle to improve the condition of humankind. I was thinking of the many newspaper people and other writers and reformers who had done so over the years. In 1942-43 I actually had a job in the city room of one of the large daily newspapers in New York City. It was exciting and educational, but before very long it became clear to me that my journalistic career was not going to progress much beyond writing obituaries of also rans and reports of small fires. So I resigned.

While I was casting about for a different career, somehow I was reminded of the librarians who used to supervise me when I was a library page. If I can't write, I asked myself, why not join the ranks of the professionals who collect and make available the publications of those who can and do write about saving the world and all other matters? The School of Library Services at Columbia accepted me as a student in the fall of 1943, and about the same time I started to work again in the Book Delivery Division of the Reference Department of the New York Public Library. In those days most of the non-circulating collection was shelved in the miles of stacks in the central building. One of my main duties was to help the pages deliver each book into the hands of the patron who requested it within six minutes. But for me the greatest reward of that job was being able in my free time to browse among the multitudi-

nous volumes crowded on the shelves. I am sure that many of those titles would have been kept in rare book rooms in libraries with more space.

After receiving my professional degree I was transferred at my request to the Economics Division, one of the busiest and most competently-run units in the Reference Department. The division served as the library's center for advanced research in most of the subjects comprising the economic, political, and social sciences. It was responsible also for the maintenance and augmentation of a special group of materials inherited from the Astor and Lenox Libraries. These were the official documents of governments at all levels (federal, state/regional, and local) throughout the world. The reason the division operated so efficiently was that by the time I arrived it had been headed for twenty-three years by Rollin A. Sawyer, a strict manager and a knowledgeable bibliographer.

As the library world readily acknowledged, the Reference Department had a number of other competent managers and bibliographers, and its collections were noteworthy. But I, for one, was very disappointed by the department's Nineteenth Century personnel policies and practices. In my opinion that problem was intensified by the domination of the library's administration by WASP males. Few women and Jews (outside the Jewish Division) held decision-making positions. Almost all the Italians on the staff were porters, and very few Hispanics and no African-Americans were employed at any level. I sensed that Irish-Americans were beginning to move upward, but they still had not achieved full acceptance.

The seventy-five or so pages who worked in the Book Delivery Division and in other parts of the Reference Department represented a partial exemption to the Library's "careful employment policy." Recruited from the high schools and colleges in New York City, these young people were mostly the children of European immigrants. Jews were included, but African-Americans and females were not.

These two latter groups were employed, however, after World War II began. I enjoyed supervising the pages because almost all of them were bright and ambitious with heads full of political and social ideas far more liberal than my own.

As regards employee relations, the Library started to catch up with the Twentieth Century in the late 1940's when it established a personnel division. Shortly thereafter some important working conditions were improved, but progress toward completely open and democratic employment policies and practices was too slow for some staff members. They felt that the existing staff association was not independent enough, and they revived the idea of forming a labor union. Starting from the Great Depression there had been some earlier attempts to organize, but they foundered because of opposition from the library administration and other reasons. Being a liberal, I was pleased when the library's local was established. Later, however, after I had become a division chief, I had some sharp disagreements over tactics with the union, but that did not diminish my advocacy of trade unionism.

As I said earlier, my career as a professional librarian began in 1944 when I was transferred to the Economics Division. I could not have asked for anything more. I was deeply interested in the economic, political, and social sciences, the collection was enormous, the patrons were numerous, and my new colleagues were genial and supportive. The following twenty years were full of reference and bibliographic adventure. In 1948 I was designated a "subject specialist," a new collection-development position in the larger divisions because the chiefs could no longer single-handedly identify and evaluate the increased number of titles being issued in their respective disciplines. In my free time I also did bibliographic work for Ulrich's Periodicals Directory and Public Affairs Information Service. In addition I earned a second master's in labor and sociology from the New School for Social Research, and for several years I taught bibliography and reference at Rutgers University's Graduate School of Li-

brary Science.

In 1964, with some sadness I ceased serving the public directly and accepted a promotion to head the Documents Section located in the back office of the division. About a year later I was moved up to become Executive Assistant to the Director of The Research Libraries, formerly known as the Reference Department. In 1967 I was named Chief of the Economics Division, later renamed the Economic and Public Affairs Division. Following two superb chiefs, Rollin A. Sawyer, 1920-1954, and John Fall, 1954-1967, was no small challenge.

Most of the time I enjoyed being an administrator. The pay was better, and the new position produced in me occasional illusions of power. The deference of some staff members and the public also was pleasant, but reference service was my true love. After my first retirement in 1984, I declined an invitation to become a director of a small library in Rockland County where I reside, but I jumped at the opportunity to serve part time at the reference desks of two medium-sized libraries in the same area.

One of the several matters former colleagues have asked me about since I retired is how many significant reference and bibliographic questions do I think I have answered in the forty years of my career at reference desks at NYPL and at the two medium-sized libraries in my county, where I worked part time from 1984 to August 2004. At first I didn't even venture a guess, but in the leisure that I now enjoy I have reconsidered the query at length, made a number of calculations, and arrived at what I feel is a reasonable estimate: 800,000. Since I have always taken librarianship very seriously, a little voice inside me asks how much good, if any, has come from all the information I have found for patrons or helped them find. I ponder that question during the many hours Dorothy (still beautiful) and I spend plucking the weeds from our vegetable and flower patch.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

You should have received a letter in June from Jennifer Levesque, Benefits Administer, Human Resources Department, New York Public Library, regarding the new Medicare Prescription Drug Program and your coverage from the Library. You were requested to return the attached form. If you did not receive a letter, contact Jennifer Levesque at the Human Resources Department, 188 Madison Avenue, 5th Floor, New York, New York 10016-4314., or (212) 592-7334.

Are you getting Staff News? If you would like an email copy, send an email to "getstaffnews@nypl.org" with the word "subscribe" in the subject line. If you want a printed copy, call or write the Benefits Office.

NEW STORYTELLING BY THELMA THOMAS

Many of you will remember hearing Thelma tell stories at our Tenth Anniversary meeting. She has a new CD out titled, Everyone Who Is Now First Will Be Last and Everyone Who Is Last Will Be First. She and Joyce Parr tell six passages from the Bible, some retellings, some from either the Contemporary English Version or the King James Version of the Bible. Included are stories of Ruth, Tamar, and an Unnamed Woman. You can contact Thelma at www.thelmasplace.com, by email at tthomas378@earthlink.net, or by phone at (212) 807-1570.

RETIREES NEWS

LUIS ALCALA

What's new? Same ol', same ol', as Seinfeld was wont to say. Still collecting waterline ship models, but not in quantity. Two thousand three hundred wee shippies are enough. Buying all the CD's my budget allows. Mainly opera and lieder (complete operas from Aida to

Zauberflöte), but also some pop and jazz. Our local so-called classical music station sucks. Save for the Met broadcasts, they refuse to play classical vocals. Off to the Santa Fe Opera this summer and the Lyric Opera of Chicago come autumn. My CD library has several "live" opera performances from such diverse locales as Mexico City, Milan, and New Orleans. Had my April shad roe orgy courtesy of my martini oasis, the Harrison Roadhouse.

Beginning to dread reading Staff News: too many obits of colleagues I knew and liked. Ave opera buddy, Bill Helm. Goodbye to my favorite anarchist, Bob Calese. Farewell to clerk of clerks, Nathalie Sutton. Three of many,

As for the Texas cowpoke residing at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, the best case scenario is that he wishes to bring about a right-wing Christian fundamentalist theocracy. The worse case scenario is he wishes to initiate Armageddon so that Christ can return to lead the righteous to heaven.

BARBARA ALPER

As more and more of my friends and colleagues retire, I continue to work at Bergen Community College. I have been there thirteen years! We are undergoing a renovation which is always stressful. The Library is a very busy place and so different from Library I joined thirty-three years ago straight out of Columbia Library School. I am reminded of the renovation of Mid Manhattan when it took over the first three to four floors of the Arnold Constable building, the renovation of EPA, and the move I didn't make to the Altman Building. I'm looking forward to two weeks of Spring in Tuscany!

JACOB AZEKE

Active with the NYPL Retirees Association, DC 37 Retiree Association, and JPAC. Lots of traveling to various states and different countries.

LUCIA BURKE

I retired January 2005!! I am still trying to adjust to a new schedule after working forty-six

year for the NYPL at the Bloomingdale Branch. It's wonderful and I thank God for bringing me this far.

PHYLLIS F. CALESE

One of the worst periods of my life: the months' long illness and subsequent death of Robert Calese and, currently, the final disposition of his chaotic estate. I can only hope for recovery from this loss and a more tranquil time to come.

EDNA CANOZER

I am working at Mid Manhattan two afternoons a week at the Information Desk and love it! Also, I am on the committee for Sigma Alpha Iota, a professional music fraternity. Yes, fraternity, not sorority. I commute to my little house in the Pocono Mountains. Soon the daffodils will be in bloom.

Over a period of fifty years I can say that readers never change, they know what they want/need, and they want it now! The patrons, or whatever we call them these days, can be pesky, but they are appreciative.

HENRIETTA COHEN

I keep in touch with my friends at the NYPL who are still working and meet for lunch. I keep as active as I can, out every day. Weather does not keep me in!

MARY ANNE CORRIER

I will have been retired one year this April. I'm surprised at how quickly the months have passed. I've spent about three weeks every four months or so at my apartment in New Orleans, but New York city is my home. I'm lecturer at my parish here on the West Side. Mary K. and I are dipping into drawing class at the 92nd Street Y. Becky Koppelman is the one who has steered us. I don't know if our instructor is grateful to Becky, as we both await our talents becoming evident. I can go to the theatre and enjoy the play because I stay awake. I've enjoyed the time to read a book without feeling that I'm guilty of neglecting what I should be doing, and the time to spend an afternoon in the Metropolitan or to hop on a

bus to see a movie in the middle of the day.

JEANNE FELKER

I've just returned from a wonderful Elderhostel tour of Chile and Argentina.

ESTELLE FRIEDMAN

This was a good traveling year. Telza Gardner, Kaye Walker and I visited Australia and New Zealand for one of the most exciting trips in my life. On the way home we stopped in Honolulu and visited Mary Berman. This Passover, I'm going to Israel to spend the holidays with my son, daughter-in-law and granddaughters. Isn't it wonderful to see the world.

LEONARD GOLD

I am painting and studying Spanish at the Instituto Cervantes.

RAPHAELLE GUIYOULE

More bowling and/or tournaments. More day trips through the state and environs. Fighting with my computer, without luck!

DOROTHY HENDERSON

Hello everyone. I am still doing genealogy and loving it.

ARNOLD HYMAN

Looking forward to going to Arizona for my nephew's Bar Mitzvah over the Memorial Day weekend. Hope to travel to Grand Rapids in August for the APS stamp show. My wife and I continue to go to open rehearsals of the New York Philharmonic with friends.

LEE (JESSIE LEE) JOHNSON

Retirement continues to be most enjoyable. Now there is time for playing tennis and the piano, bicycling, attending concerts, museums, operas, theaters, botanical gardens and zoos. Exercise class twice a week is great. Since there is so much to do and see in New York, I'm rarely home.

LYDIA LA FLEUR

I am very busy with my community theater (memorizing lines and monologues is good for my memory brain cells!), a writing workshop,

and a book discussion group where we are reading The Iliad. I am able to appreciate the latter all the more having gone on a archaeological tour of Crete and Athens in January.

I have many cherished memories of my thirty-two years at NYPL, but especially of the exciting two years as the Young Adult Specialist with the North Manhattan Project at the Cullen Cullen Branch Library.

SUSAN LINDER

Currently volunteering as a docent at the Humanities and Social Sciences Library, giving tours of the building and of the exhibitions. I also serve at the Information Desk, as asked and volunteer in the Books by Mail program.

RICHARD C. LYNCH

More Bronx nostalgia: I first worked at the Fordham Library Center in the Reference Room. A few years later, I was in the Bronx Borough Office as Reference Specialist. And then later I returned to Fordham as the First Assistant. During all these assignments I was exposed to the most unforgettable staff member I ever met, Erwin Kraus, the record librarian at Fordham. He was known affectionately by other staff as "Herr Kraus". He was short and fat, loud and opinionated, and certainly unique.

Kraus was a real record collector. He told me he once has two apartments in Brooklyn, one to live in and the other for his records. I would occasionally see him in the Discophile, a Village record shop that specialized in imports;. Every few years he would go to London on the QE 2. Once his London hotel had to move extra tables into his room to hold all the books and records he was buying. And he wanted to keep all the records. Once the Borough Office gave him one week to discard one hundred LP's from the Library's collection. Someone came down and counted them at the end of the week. Herr Kraus suffered a stroke and died in 1980 before reaching retirement. I wonder if Fordham has ever been the same.

PETER MC CALLION

I find I am spending most time in Massachusetts where I continue as house manager at Tanglewood. I volunteer as a guide on an Elderhostel program in the Southwest, in addition to driving a van for the program.

ROSE MESSER

I am now eighty-nine years old with a number of the infirmities that go with it. However, I still get out to an occasional theatre show, casinos, Albuquerque friends gatherings and so on. Otherwise, I occupy my time reading and doing puzzles, as well as regularly scheduled bridge games. Since I retired in 1980, I don't suppose many of your members remember me. I've been seeing a great many names I don't recognize.

I think the United States is going to hell in a basket. Why the concentration on pushing all other nations into democracy while whittling away at ours?

EMIL N. RAMIL

My hobbies, they're plenty. I enjoy listening to and watching CD's, DVD's, and videos by myself and with friends. Besides that, I enjoy singing in Holiday Inn with the Association Pro Cuba, with the help of a great pianist, Baserver Soler. Thanks to my dearest Dr. Kathleen Murphy, urologist, I'm okay after thirty-nine radiation treatments. But the arthritis in my hands and legs is the ... now.

ADELE S. REQUENA

Upon her retirement from Tripler, my daughter invited me to live with her in Hawaii. I gave up my New York apartment, giving most of my furniture, etc. to the Good Will. The items she was interested in having we shipped to Hawaii and we are still in the process of unpacking! My time in Hawaii is devoted to doctors' visits. My daughter drives me in her Prius to these appointments. I shall be meeting the male doctor, who is replacing the female doctor who has been taking care of me. I shall miss her.

I enjoyed my years working in the Office of

Children's Services on Fifth Avenue and at Lincoln Center, with Frances Clarke Sayers, Mrs. Spain. I enjoyed meeting Anne Carroll Moore who was nice to my daughter who was quite young then. I was able to type material for publication for her.

I was on my way to a Union meeting on the day 911 happened. The subways were closed down while I was en route, so I had a long walk to get back home, Riverside Drive and 129th Street. The buses were full and no taxis available.

PAULINE RISTUCCIA

My husband and I are active in the Greenwood Village Senior Citizen Club. I assist in monthly parties such as Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Spring Party, trips to various parts of New York State or New Jersey. At time, I'm even asked to give the Invocation at a luncheon or sing the National Anthem or God Bless America. We also assist in VETERANS parties and volunteer in taking people who need a drive to get to a doctor or specialist through the Dominican Homecare Interfaith Group.

ROBERT SHEEHAN

Still enjoying the delights of Yucatan at least six months each year! And damn, I wish I had paid more attention in my Spanish classes in my misspent youth.

PATRICIA SMITH

I am presently recovering from back surgery. Everything is going well. I am looking for warmer weather. I want to get my hands dirty working in the garden. I am now the treasurer of my parish's women's club.

VIRGINIA BOWLES SMITH

I have had the shingles since the beginning of last February. I haven't been able to do much of anything since. I wouldn't wish this ailment on anyone.

DOROTHY SWERDLOVE

Still busy volunteering at the zoo and the local branch of the library. I miss the wide selection of books that we used to have at the NYPL.

Also enjoying visits with various members, eight people in all, of my family. They live in Tucson, including a great niece (5 1/2 years) and a nephew (2 years).

LEONARD VIGGIANO

Currently chair of the local library board of trustees. Working eight hours a week at the local community college library. Still enjoying the slower pace of life here in North Carolina. Taking an occasional course at North Carolina State University.

VIRGINIA R. WARNER

Health problems have slowed me down recently, but not too much! Went on a cruise to the Caribbean and did very well. The Staten Island Retiree Lunch Bunch continues to meet the first Tuesday of every month. By now we have eaten in almost every restaurant on Staten Island. I miss seeing you all at meetings and events. The MTA express bus is not user friendly to folks with walkers. Waiting patiently to get approval for Access-a-Ride. Then you will see me more often.

Anyone who would care to join the Lunch Bunch, feel free to call me at 718-227-4906.

BONNIE E. WILLIAMS

I've taken up off-loom bead weaving--in short, making beaded jewelry and really enjoying it. There is a new little boy, a great grand nephew, in our family. I went to Mobile, Alabama, for his first birthday party. Next week I'm going to a great nephew's Bar Mitzvah in Chicago. Most trips now center around my family. Still on the Community Board and working at the Audubon Chapter once a week. The Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, concerts, theatre. Life is good.

I'm grateful not to be working in the Branches at this time, but glad I did my bit to keep the Branches alive.

PHILIP WOLCOFF

My wife and I were happy and proud to attend our granddaughter Sasha's undergraduate commencement at Syracuse University this

weekend, May 14 and 15.

HISAKO YAMASHITA

Travel, movies, plays, concerts, recitals, and museum exhibits.

FOR IVY NORMA HICKS

Born and raised in Harlem by parents from Grenada, West Indies, Ivy Hicks became a librarian late in life. After receiving an undergraduate degree from the College of New Rochelle and a library degree from Pratt Institute, she worked as a children's librarian at the Ninety-Sixth Street Branch of the Library until retirement.

Her library career followed marriage, a daughter, and working for the Board of Education and the New York County Lawyers Association. She was an activist in the Civil Rights Movement, CORE, the Brooklyn NAACP, and as a member of the vestry and Altar Guild of St. Stephen and St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Brooklyn. After moving to the Upper West Side, she became active in the Black Librarians Association and the Board of the Lexington Children's Center.

Her activism included using her accomplishments as a seamstress, embroiderer, and quilter, to sew baby items for Hale House, to make dolls for hospitalized children, and to quilt as part of the Empire State Quilting Guild and the Quilters of Color.

With family and friends, she enjoyed cooking and entertaining, listening to classical music, and also, traveling, particularly on cruises,

Her family and friends have needlework gifts and gifts brought back from her travels to help remember the rich life she shared with them.

The preceding was based on a written Eulogy presented at Ivy Hicks funeral, July 8, at the Trinity Lutheran Church, West 100th Street. Ada Jackson attended the funeral and provided the funeral service program. Juanita adds that

Ivy Hicks was active in the Retired Public Employees Association, an organization to which our Association belongs.

PASSINGS

We honor the passing of NYPL Retiree Association members and other Library staff as reported in Staff News, and elsewhere.

Edna Ball, Joan Canale, Raymond Clark, Emma Cohn, Anthony D'Anna, Charles Gaffield, Angelo Granata, Kathleen Grogan, Margaret Greenhall, Sophie Heneghan, Ivy Hicks, Wallace Leak, Lillian Lopez, Charlotte McDowell, Maureen Murphy, Eleanor Radwan, Alan Sattler, Gloria Simmons, Marion Simmons, Natalie Sutton, Elizabeth Wesley, Gloria Williams

GOING ON

By Anne Moy

Hurry up, the time is fleeting!
When I wave to friends in greeting
I think, when again will we be meeting?
So much has happened throughout our lives,
It's a wonder that one survives.
But do not say we're over the hill.
We keep going onward still!

THIS NEWSLETTER is published at irregular intervals by The New York Public Library Retirees Association, an independent association. President Becky Koppelman, 10 West 86th Street, Apt. 5B, New York, NY 10024, (212) 874-6199, blekopp@hotmail.com. Newsletter Editor Polly Bookhout, (212) 956-3634, pbookhout@earthlink.net. Visit our website, <http://home.earthlink.net/~pbookhout/nyplra.html>



Jennine Porta and Becky Koppelman are waiting for the Dahesh early photography tour to begin.



Telza Gardner and Mary Kay Conwell enjoying lunch at the Spoonbread Restaurant after our tour of the Schomburg exhibit, *In Motion: The African-American Migration Experience*.

Jacob Azeke, Marcia Loyd, Margaret Hetley, Hisako Yamashita, Mary Kay Conwell, Mary Ann Corrier, and Becky Koppelman



Alar Kruus, Jacob Azeke, and Marcia Loyd



Juanita Doares and Jean-Paul Michaud



Polly Bookhout, Angeline Moscatt, Estelle Friedman

Jennine Porta was the photographer for the pictures taken at the Spoonbread Restaurant; **Polly Bookhout**, for the other pictures. All of the pictures in this issue were enhanced in Photoshop Elements.

