

New York Public Library Retirees Association Newsletter

Spring - Summer 2008

Issue No. 25

THE NEXT CHAPTER: THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT AGING

We were surprised and pleased that Brigid Cahalan, an outreach librarian at Mid-Manhattan Library and former member of VISTA, had good news for us when she spoke at our spring general meeting. She is exploring the world of library outreach to baby boomers, those born between 1946 and 1964. She began her quest with attendance at a conference on Lifelong Access Libraries sponsored by the Americans for Libraries Council/Libraries for the Future, in collaboration with the Institute on Aging and the School of Information Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

She learned that attitudes toward aging are changing. In 1900 the life expectancy was 47; in 1980 it was 78. In the past retirement was viewed as a short respite before the rapid onset of old age. Older adults were seen as having a stable self-identity with a focus on rest and leisure. Today, retirement is seen as a 30-year stage of life with continued health and vigor. Older adults are ready for self-invention with a focus on both old and new life options.



Brigid Cahalan

Brigid Cahalan told us about three pioneering authors and a scientist who show the new ways of thinking about aging and the aging brain: Mary Catherine Bateson, Richard Restak, Marian Diamond, and Gene Cohen.

MARY CATHERINE BATESON

Mary Catherine Bateson, daughter of Margaret Mead, says that in the past, older people were few and precious. It was known that a child had a better chance of surviving if it had a grandmother to take care of it. Today, we have two adult stages: Adulthood I is for family and careers. Adulthood II, between 40 and 80, is for doing something new.

Bateson, an inspirational speaker and writer, thinks we should stop focusing on the present. We should use wisdom from our life experience and apply it to social activism. Combining wisdom and activism you can have what she calls “active wisdom.”

[Editor’s Note: Bateson’s website states that she is soon to publish a book, *Active Wisdom*. One of our members, Ann Moy, exemplifies active wisdom. She participates in Grandmothers Against War every Wednesday, between 4:30 and 5:30, at Rockefeller Center on Fifth Avenue between 49th and 50th Street.]

RICHARD RESTAK

Richard Restak, MD has written eighteen books about the brain. *The Naked Brain* is his newest book. In addition he has written *The Longevity Strategy* and *Older and Wiser*.

He characterizes two kinds intelligence: “fluid intelligence” and “crystallized intelligence.” In fluid intelligence, we are gathering new information. As we grow older it is harder to concentrate, to memorize, and to remember things. Concentration requires a deliberate act of will, often accompanied by caffeine. Surprisingly though, we can learn new motions as easily as a young person, for example, tap dancing.

Crystallized intelligence is where we shine. Our past knowledge and experience makes us able to deal with complicated thought, for example in law or medicine. The Supreme Court Justices benefit from this form of intelligence.

Restak presents ten factors that keep the aging brain healthy: (1) education, (2) curiosity, (3) energy, (4) keeping busy, (5) regular physical activity, (6) acceptance of unavoidable limitations, (7) need for diversity and novelty, (8) psychological continuity over our life span, (9) maintenance of social networks, and (10) establishing and fostering links with younger people. The author Robertson Davies is an example of someone who had all these factors, especially curiosity.

Researchers find that learning changes the brain. An older brain can appear to be like a thick forest compared with the thinner forest of the younger brain. Freud did his best work after 65; Sophocles wrote Oedipus Rex at 71. Older brains are better at tasks requiring subtlety, such as editing, law, coaching, science, and medicine.

MARIAN DIAMOND

Dr. Marian Diamond, is a neuroscientist at the University of California, Berkeley, who did a landmark study of rats. The study showed that at all ages, the rats who had had a stimulating environment produced new neurons, sprouted dendrites between neurons, and developed glia, which produce mechanical and nutritional support for the neurons. The study of Einstein's brain revealed that his had more glial cells than the usual older brain. In studies of the amygdala, a part of the brain dealing with emotion, older people are better able than young people to rein in the amygdala. Older people are calmer and able to benefit from their experience and the fundamental changes in the brain's function. Researchers have found that older people use both hemispheres of the brain while, for the same task, younger people may use just one hemisphere. This may be part of a resculpturing of the mature brain.

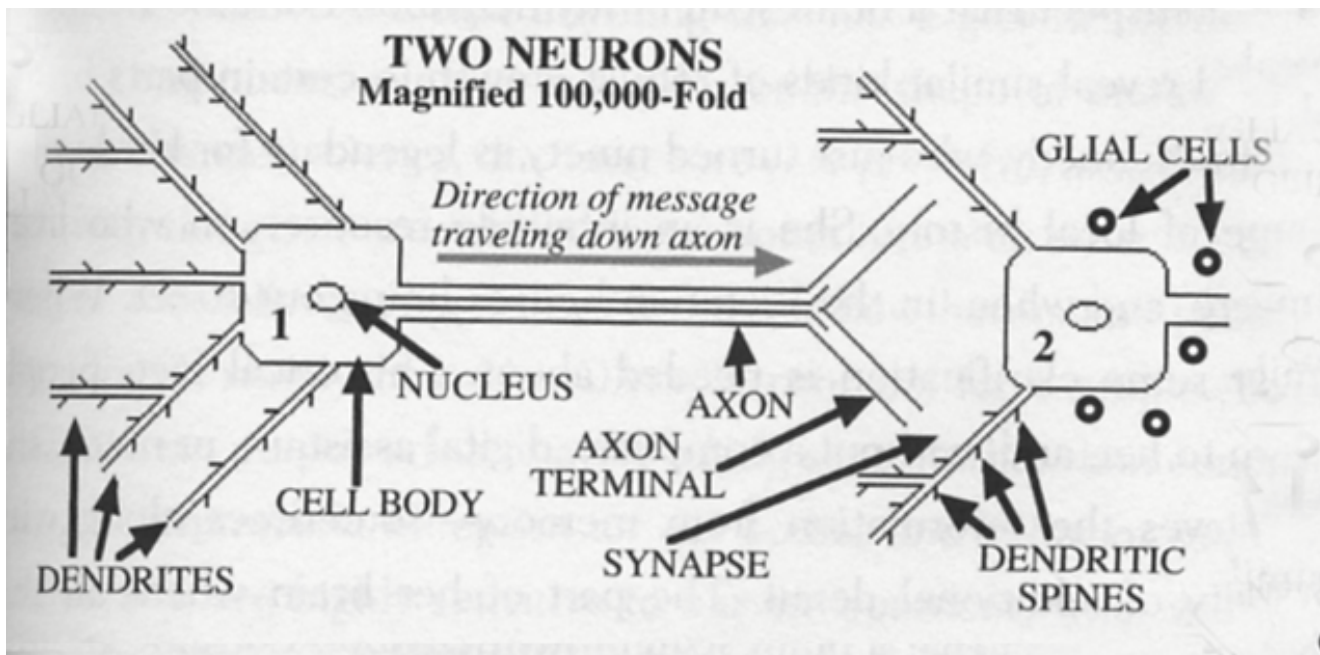
GENE COHEN

Gene Cohen, M.D., author of *The Mature Mind: The Positive Power of the Aging Brain* and *The Creative Age: Awakening Human Potential in the Second Half of Life*, presents a quotation from Carl Jung, "A human being would certainly not grow to seventy or eighty years old if this longevity had no meaning for the species. The afternoon of human life must also have significance of its own and cannot be merely a pitiful appendage to life's morning."

Cohen proposes four developmental phases of later life:

- (1) Midlife reevaluation (35-65 yrs.)
- (2) Liberation (50-70 yrs.)
- (3) Summing-up (70s & 80s,)
- (4) Encore (90s & 100s.)

In an example of the first phase, Madeline Albright went through a midlife reevaluation at forty after a painful divorce.



For reevaluation, all of us must ask the question, “What am I here for?” Albright’s answer included teaching herself Russian. Later she became UN Ambassador at 56 and the first woman Secretary of State at 60.

In the liberation phase, Cohen asks the questions, “What can they do to me?” and “If not now, when?” His example of someone who answered these questions is Laura Ingalls Wilder who began writing the Little House series in 1931 at about 65 years of age. She finished the series when she was 75.

Phase three, summing-up, is a time of life when we may feel the urge to contribute to society. This is often a time when people begin autobiographical writing. Nelson Mandela made his contributions in his 70s. In his twenties, Verdi’s comic opera was a failure; in his seventies, he wrote his second Falstaff, one of the finest comic operas ever written.

Encore is French for again or still continuing. A great example of this fourth phase is the writings of the Delaney sisters, Bessie and Sarah, about their one-hundred years of life. At 107 George Abbott revised his musical *Damn Yankees*.

Cohen proposes a “gym” for the brain in order to achieve, as he calls it, developmental intelligence and positive growth in the mature mind. Here is his plan:

- Exercise mentally
- Exercise physically
- Pick challenging leisure activities
- Play board games

- Do crossword puzzles
- Read
- Achieve mastery
- Establish strong social networks

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

We should consider citizen action that has public consequence for our communities and the polity. This can be political, social, intellectual, or cultural. Once the question was, “How do we keep the old folks busy?” Now it is how to engage the largest, best-educated cohort of older Americans in confronting the urgent problems that threaten the world’s well-being.

Brigid Cahalan recommended several possibilities for civic engagement:

Civic Ventures at www.civicventures.org awards five \$100,000 and ten \$10,000 each year for entrepreneurs 60 and over who have plans to tackle society’s biggest problems.

Ashoka is the oldest and largest program that supports social entrepreneurs who are retired professionals. There are 1,800 Fellows worldwide who take on society’s biggest problems. Charlotte Frank of New York City is one of the Fellows. She co-founded The Transition Network, www.thetransitionnetwork.org.

Brooklyn based ReServe, Inc. identifies experienced adults and connects them with paid part-time positions in public and private agencies for the public good. The participants are given a stipend of \$10 an hour for a fifteen hour week.



**Brook Berry
tells us about gaming**

[Editor's Note: Library retiree Stephanie Tolbert has enjoyed participating in this program.]

Volunteer opportunities may be found at:

Mayor's Volunteer Center at www.nyc.gov/html/mvc and NYPL's website at www.nypl.org/links. On this page under Reference, choose Volunteering.

LIFELONG EDUCATION

There are a number of opportunities for lifelong education.

Elderhostel is not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing extraordinary learning adventures for people 55 and over. Whether you want to stay close to home or venture around the world, you will find programs that meet your interests, activity level, budget, schedule, and lifestyle.

Institutes for Learning in Retirement lists learning opportunities abroad.

Association for Continuing Higher Education is an institution-based organization of colleges, universities, and individuals dedicated to the promotion of lifelong learning and excellence in continuing higher education.

American Society for Aging's Lifetime Education and Renewal Network is a membership organization involving all aspects of education for older adults and representing the growing variety of settings and programs offering opportunities for lifetime learners.

CUNY Senior Citizen Program is open to residents of New York State who are at least 60 years old. Applicants may enroll in undergraduate courses tuition-free on a space-available basis at any CUNY community college. At senior colleges, applicants may enroll in undergraduate courses as auditors tuition-free on a space-available basis. There is an incidental fee of about \$80.

BOOKS

Brigid Cahalan set out several books for our consideration.

His Oldest Friend by Sonny Kleinfield is the true story of a young Dominican man who volunteers at a nursing home as a 93-year-old woman's companion.

Granny D, by Doris Haddock, is the story of an 89 year old woman who walked across America to lobby for campaign reform.

I Feel Bad About My Neck, by Nora Ephron, is a book of wry and amusing essays on her personal approach to aging



**Carol Anshein
tests her skills**

GAMING

Brook Berry, Coordinator of Technology Training, challenged us to try one of the games now available at the Library. Though games are thought of as appealing to the teen public, adults can benefit from their combination of mental and physical therapy. As of now, there have been no medical studies on the effect of computer games on older adults.

You can see an article on the controversial celebration of computer gaming at the History and Social Sciences Library of the NYPL at <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/22/books/22games.html>

THE BOB GOLDSTEIN YOU DIDN'T KNOW

At the memorial service at Mid-Manhattan Library on May 29, we got a picture of the exceptional life of Bob Goldstein. Many fellow employees and family members spoke that day. In addition, we have memorials written by Larry Murphy and Alar Kruus to give a full picture of this man.

At the memorial, Juanita Doares, our past president, expressed her appreciation for his help finding a meeting place for our retiree association.

One of his grandchildren told of a soccer in which his grandfather feigned an injury. When his grandson came up to help, his grandfather took the ball and ran to the garbage can goalpost.

One fellow employee reported that Bob Goldstein could finish the Sunday New York Times crossword puzzle in ten minutes. Mary Kay Conwell recalled Bob Goldstein's tradition of taking anyone retiring from a Bronx branch, along with the Borough Office staff, to lunch on City Island. Bob always made sure there was a lot of reminiscing about the early days at NYPL, which was a wonderful education for the younger Borough Office staff members. Harriet Shalat found Bob Goldstein easy to talk to. He would listen to her problem and, even if he couldn't do anything about it, she felt better. Diane Riordan saw how affected he was by the layoffs in 1975. She saw him helping those employees who were the "walking wounded." Wol Sol Lee was thankful that he arranged a transfer for her that ultimately enabled her to have had a

long career at the NYPL. When one fellow employee said that Bob Goldstein was vocal in his disagreements with the administration, there was an instantaneous surge of laughter from those in the room. From the speakers, it seemed that what would be most remembered about him was his help for those who were going through rough times.

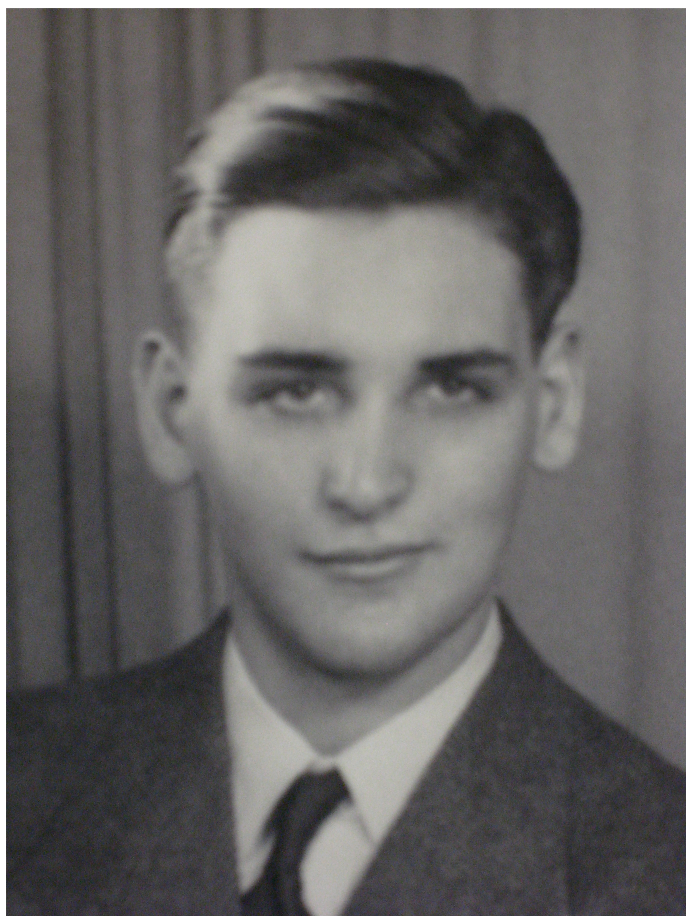
Two memorials are printed below, the first written by Lawrence Murphy and the second by Alar Kruus.

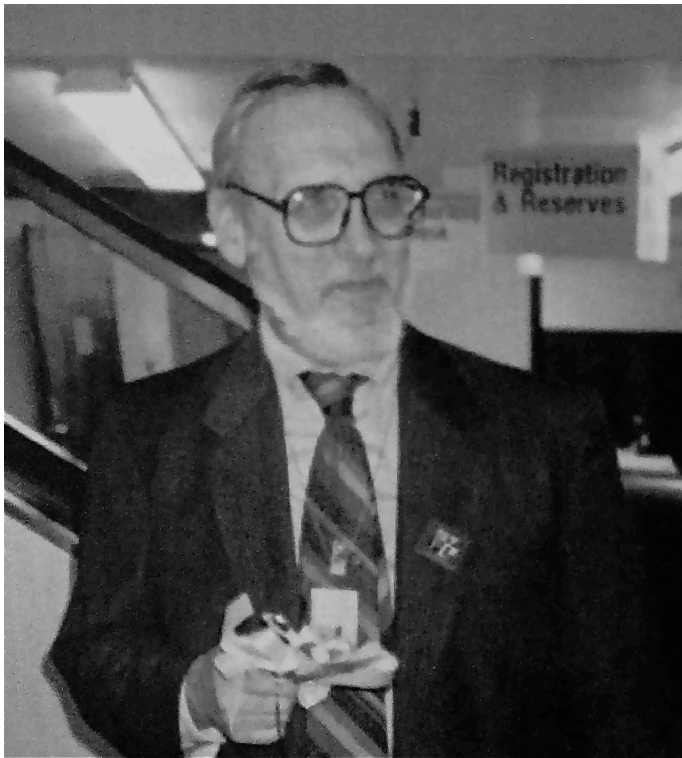
LAWRENCE MURPHY: Robert Goldstein was born in the Bronx, but his family moved to various other locations throughout the city. His mother supported the family by working in the editorial office of various magazines. After the death of his young sister, the family temporarily broke up, and Bob at the age of fourteen went to a relative in Los Angeles. There he tried to enlist in the armed services, but they would not take so young a person. The Merchant Marine, desperate for manpower, overlooked his age, and he left Los Angeles on one of the hurriedly-built Liberty ships that were to supply the World War II with everything from soldiers and guns to food and tents. His ship followed the great circle route past the Aleutian Islands and on to Vladivostok. From there the ships went through the sea between Japan and China. Those ships that survived went on to Shanghai and Singapore, the latter in the process of being taken over by the Japanese. The next large stop was Burma, and the last stop was sometimes Bombay, India. There were many trips on this route until the end of the war. At one time the ship's crew and its cargo of soldiers helped build an American Air force base in Siberia.

When peace came, Bob bought a house in Kyoto, the garden city of Japan. For a job, he became the Japanese correspondent for Fairchild publications, which at that time was the second largest publishing house in the world and was putting out a large number of trade magazines, the most famous of which still is Women's Wear Daily. He lived in Kyoto for seven years, and traveled throughout Japan gathering information and writing articles.

Because the U.S. armed forces did not consider service in the Merchant Marine to be legitimate military service, no matter how valuable the ships had been in the war, Bob was drafted into the army, and he spent two

A young Bob Goldstein





**Bob Goldstein
at his Retirement Party**

years in Korea where he was given much authority because he was older and he knew the Orient. At one time he was in charge of Seoul during weekends. He also was in charge of paying the Koreans who were helping the American Army as workmen. Inflation was so high that the money for wages arrived in large vans and was distributed by the armful to each of the workmen.

After being discharged from the army, Bob worked in San Francisco, Seattle, and Los Angeles with occasional trips back to Japan. During part of this time he worked as an actor and singer for the famous Pasadena Playhouse. He was especially proud of having sung the part of Jud in the Pasadena's production of Oklahoma.

Eventually he returned to New York City and earned a bachelor's degree with honors from Columbia University with a major in history. Instead of going on to graduate school in history, he chose instead to go to library school because throughout his life he loved books. To help pay for his schooling, he worked as a supervisor in the claims department of The New York Life Insurance Company.

After graduating from Columbia Library School, at that time the leading library school in the country, he got a job in the Seward Park branch of The New York Public Library. From there he worked at various other branches. Later he held various positions in the Manhattan Borough Office. Next he went to the main library, the great marble palace at 42nd and Fifth, where he began the assembling and management of the books and services which were to become the humanities section of the new Mid-Manhattan Library across the street from the main library.

He was next promoted to head all the libraries in The Bronx and their supporting services. Because of his management abilities, he was later put in charge of the new computer services located on the entire top floor of the Donnell Library, across the street from the Museum of Modern Art. At that time The New York Public Library and the British Library in London, the world's leading research libraries, were being used by IBM for experimental purposes in developing computers that could work with huge quantities of records such as those in a large library. This work also involved the financial help of various prominent philanthropies. This unit also did the

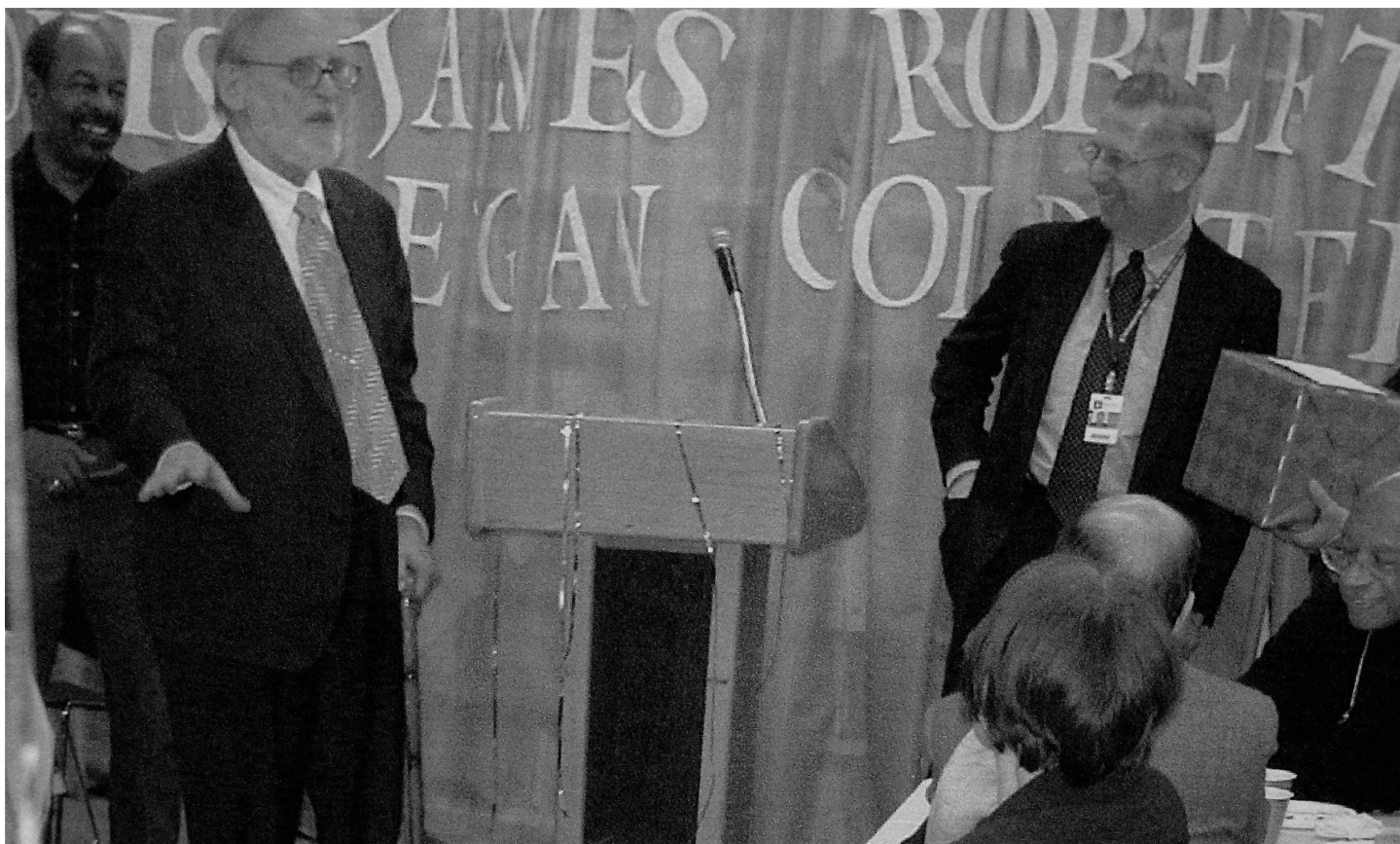
computer work for all the public libraries in the Midwest.

Eventually he wanted to return to library work, and he became head of Mid-Manhattan Library, at that time the largest circulating library in the country. During all of this time he also worked at such jobs as adjunct professor at Rutgers University as well as host of a book discussion group on TV. He took a three-year night school course on teaching English as a second language to foreigners and earned a certificate. He taught in night school and also privately in his apartment. He kept in touch with most of his students throughout his life.

He was also on various consulting committees and library boards such as The Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO).

His love of books never stopped, and at home he surrounded himself with about 3,000 volumes. Once a week he attended performances at The Julliard School, and he also had season tickets to opera, plays, and ballet throughout the City. He was a promoter of public parks, and after retirement spent many hours reading on benches in Central Park. Retirement also gave him time to cook for and entertain large groups of people from many different countries.

Throughout his life he helped many hundreds of people. Among them were those whom nobody wanted, and with his help they became valuable employees. He took those who were mentally retarded, badly deformed or in serious trouble. He found jobs for new immigrants and taught them how to speak English. He was so successful in helping people that various agencies





Mary Barrett

wanted to hire him, but he remained in the library, which he loved. He was a brilliant and remarkable person, and hundreds of people are indebted to him for his help.

He died at home on December 18, 2007.

ALAR KRUUS: I first met Robert Goldstein at the Seward Park Branch Library, where I had been dispatched as a newly minted professional librarian. Bob presided over the whole thing as a Senior Librarian.

Together, we hoped to accomplish much. We went to work. Thus began a relationship, on both professional and personal levels, that was to last well into its fourth decade.

Bob took me under his wing and became my mentor, my teacher and my friend. We met deadlines and became activist librarians. You did not work in vain. The quality of our

collections and the high standards of our training programs augur well for our future.

It was generally accepted that time with Bob was quality time. I watched as Bob undertook very difficult assignments and, by virtue of leadership, vision, and dedication, turned things around. Nice going.

Above all, Bob was a servant of the people, with a strong commitment to the community. To all the inhabitants of our city, our region and indeed our country, who read, seek information, pursue education and knowledge, this is Bob's lasting legacy.

MARY BARRETT REMEMBERED

From Staff News: "Mary Barrett, a retiree of the Library, died on July 1, 2008. Ms. Barrett began her career at the Library in 1947 as a Librarian and worked in many of the Bronx neighborhoods. At the time of her retirement in 1981, she was a Senior Coordinating Librarian at the Bronx Borough Office. She will be missed by family and coworkers."

Many, many staff members have fond memories of Mary Barrett. Two are printed below, the first written by Gerald Gold and the second by Anne Hofmann.

GERALD GOLD: Mary Barrett had four great loves; her family, her faith, her friends, and the Library. Her love of her family and her faith never wavered and on these she built her entire life. Her friendships lasted for many years and were carried throughout her life. Friends she met in school as a child

were still close and caring to the end. Her sense of loyalty meant that once you were her friend, you would always be her friend.

She came to the Library early, and it was clear that her love of children destined her to be a Children's Librarian. Over the years, she worked in various Children's Rooms in the Bronx. When her mother's illness required her to be home every evening and weekend, she reluctantly gave up her direct work with the children she adored and accepted a position in the Bronx Borough Office as Bronx Supervisor of Children's Work. Her work in that position brought out her strength in organization, which led to her being asked to serve as Bronx Assistant Coordinator. She reluctantly agreed to serve in that position, although she missed working directly, on a daily basis, with the Children's Librarians. She continued to tell stories in the many Children's Rooms in the Bronx.

In all the years Mary worked in the Bronx Coordinator's Office, she treated all persons with a fairness and respect that led to a trust of her judgment that we all valued.

When her time for retirement came, she moved to Lake Worth, Florida and found a home near an old childhood friend. She occupied herself with many activities. She volunteered at the local library to work with children and again

enjoyed telling stories to them. She visited various nursing homes in her community as a lay Eucharistic minister, giving comfort to the residents. She acted as an usher at the West Palm Beach Theater, enjoying the many plays. And, of course, she continued to enjoy her many hours of reading.

When she died in July 2008, she left behind many friends who will miss her and remember her as a true and trusted friend.

ANNE HOFMANN: Miss Barrett, as we all called her, was a remarkable woman. She started her career as a Children's Librarian and later spent many years as an administrator in the Bronx Borough Office. Her management style was warm but authoritative. She was always

Wendy Caldiero gives a gift



available to counsel staff, listen to new ideas and nurture new librarians and clerks. Miss Barrett was a strong influence on generations of library staff working in the Bronx and molded many of us to be strong professionals. She instilled values such as good customer service, fair treatment for all staff, and punctuality. I remember many things about Miss Barrett: how it tore her heart out to lay off staff during the New York City fiscal crisis in the mid-1970s, how she remembered the names of everyone's children, how she allowed me to try new things, how she so looked forward to retirement in Florida and marveled at the shiny new bicycle that was her retirement gift. Miss Barrett cycled around her new hometown for many years and enjoyed 27 years of retirement. She continued to keep in touch with many colleagues and friends and enjoyed their visits to Florida.

DONATIONS

Donations may be made in her memory to Sacred Heart School, Scholarship Fund, 410 North M Street, Lake Worth, Florida 33460.

READING ABOUT LIBRARIES

Here are interesting articles mostly from recent publications.

“Donnell Library Closes This Week, So a Hotel Can Be Built”, by Sewell Chan and David Giambusso in *The New York Times*, May 30, 2008. As of June 19, there were 84 comments listed in the New York Times Reader Comments. Of special interest are comments 61 by Emlynn, 66 by Ray Markey,

78 by William Bond Walker, and 83 by Helen Chirivas. www.nytimes.com

“The Library in the New Age” by Robert Darnton in *The New York Review of Books*, June 11, 2008. The article examines the way information has been communicated over the centuries. It speaks to the question of what will become of research libraries in a world with Google, including Google’s project to digitize books.

www.nybooks.com/articles/21514

“The Lion and the mouse: the battle that reshaped children’s literature” by Jill Lepore in *The New Yorker*, July 21, 2008. The battle was between Anne Carroll Moore, NYPL’s children’s specialist, E.B. White, author of *Stuart Little*, and his wife Katherine Angell, who had an approach to children’s books very different from that of Miss Moore.

www.newyorker.com/reporting/2008/07/21/080721fa_fact_lepore

“Iraq’s Ruined Library Soldier On” by R.H. Lossin, *The Nation*, April 9, 2008. Just as the prime museum in Baghdad was largely destroyed, so was the Iraq National Library and Archives. Here is the brave attempt to revive the library.

www.thenation.com/doc/20080421/lossin

“Trade Secrets; A Bibliophile, 3,600 Friends and a System” by Carole Braden in *The New York Times*, February 10, 2005. Kathie Coblentz, cataloger for The New York Public Library’s Rare Books Division and the Spencer Collection gives her experience arranging her large personal collection of books. www.nytimes.com

RETIREE NEWS

LUIS ALCALA

As per the last go-round, I still have the winter blahs. But! I did get to a superb performance of Verdi's Falstaff in Chicago. One night at the opera plus two night's hotel fees and bye-bye \$1,500. Lucky New Yorkers: two major opera companies a transit ride away. I live 230 miles from the toddlin' town on Lake Michigan. Still buying all the classical vocal CD's that my budget permits.

I dream constantly about the NYPL. I find myself working with loved colleagues now dead. In some dreams, I'm working with local friends who've never set foot in an NYPL unit. Strange, ain't it? Maybe 'cause I'm pushing 73 and still imbibing Harrison Roadhouse martinis.

BARBARA ALPER/ EDMOND FURSA

As hard as it is for me to believe, Edmond has been retired for a year! He was hospitalized twice so we were not able to do

much. He is fully recovered now so we are making up for lost time. For Spring break we went to the Finger Lakes with the Brehenys. A conference of mine took us to Salt Lake City. We added on Zion National Park and Las Vegas. I'm looking forward to getting used to retirement myself within the next year.

CAROL ANSHIEN

I had a collage work accepted for exhibit at the annual Adult Student Art Exhibition of the 92nd Street Y, May 13 - June 12, 2008.

DAVID BEASLEY

The Botanical Artist (Dec. 2007) reviewed *The Watercolours of Charlotte Hills Beasley* (Simcoe: Davus Publishing, 2007 - www.kwic.com/davus) Introduction by Dr. David Beasley, Commentary by botanist Dr. Jim Cruise: "She shows a vivid use of color and flair for observation of detail that is truly remarkable."-- "This book is a moving tribute to a dedicated botanical artist and an inspiration to remember why we do this work."

A Bicycle !!!



Charlotte Beasley was my great-grandmother. Her beautiful paintings date between 1879 and 1882. Their discovery makes an interesting story told in the Introduction. Also published by Davus is a pamphlet of two talks I gave to historical societies during the past year: "Richard Beasley and early days on Burlington Heights" and "The Political Education of Richard Beasley." This brings to three the pamphlets on Richard Beasley. They serve as an introductory notice of the creative nonfiction work about him which I just finished. It spans from the tenant rebellions in New York State in 1766, through the Revolution, early settlement in Upper Canada, the War of 1812, the Goulley reform years, the Rebellion to the Union of the Canadas in 1841 entitled "From Bloody Beginnings." He was the grandfather of my great grandfather who was married to Charlotte. "From Bloody Beginnings" will be available in September for \$15.95 plus postage through my website. Thanks.

May I ask that you correct reference I made in the last Newsletter to the writer Lawrence Lader. You spelled his name as "Zader." He was a professional writer and perennial habitué of the Allan Room, a good friend and champion of liberal causes and women's rights.

I had a long letter from Bob Wallace who lives in Middlebury, Vermont. Staff may remember him as the energetic and resourceful secretary of the Economics and Public Affairs Division. He enjoys spending a couple of weeks in Montreal every so often. He has been a faithful reader of my books. When he stops buying them I will know that my writing days are numbered;

that is my "talent" has faded or my light has dimmed.

WENDY CALDIERO

I am enjoying living in a log home in the woods: landscaping, gardening, growing old roses, etc. I volunteer at the Afton Museum; on the Board of Trustees of the Free Library of Afton; member of the Art Committee of the Jericho Art Council; a board member of the Friends of the Sidney Library; and a clerk of my church's council. I go to the Tri Cities Opera (Binghamton) and Glimmerglass Opera (Cooperstown) and various plays, concerts, etc. in the area.

NANCY CHARNEE

I spent a delightful month this winter in Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay.

HELEN W. CHIN

I had a mastectomy in September 2005. The cancer came back in my bones in October 2006 and again in September 2007. I am getting chemo treatments again. My granddaughter turned one on December 28, 2007 and my grandson will be four in March 2008. My son Matthew moved to North Carolina in August 2006. Now I get to see them more often. I would love to hear from my library friends! I turned 81 in August 2007.

WILLIAM LEO COAKLEY

This autumn in London I read poetry at the memorial service for the great blind poet John Heath-Stubbs in St. James's, Piccadilly. St. James is the church where William Blake was baptized and that the Nazis bombed.

WILLIAM A. CWALENSKI

I am antiquing (especially outside of New York City), traveling within the United

States, going theatre/concerts, museums, and cinema.

EDWARD M. DANA

My oldest granddaughter graduated from Baylor University in the middle of May. Another granddaughter graduated from high school at the end of May and will be going to college in the Fall. I'm still active with the Air Force Sergeants Association as Convention Chairman.

I'm keeping active taking care of our twenty-one room house and thirteen acre property. I enjoy sitting in the house and watching the deer, turkeys, and foxes in the yard.

CAROL DAVIES-GROSS

In January I fell injuring my right elbow and left knee. I'm back at the museum and am now able to write. No more fifteen minute miles.

I always love it when I meet former readers. Recently I was working at the museum and two police officers came in. I approached them and one of them said, "I know you." After an exploration of where we meet, it turned out he had been a reader at George Bruce Library.

JESSIE LEE JOHNSON

Retirement continues to be a pleasure and luxury. Bike riding in Central Park and identifying trees en route, playing the piano, attending exercise class, seeing many Met operas, spending more time at the Metropolitan Museum, and the New York Botanical Garden keeps me very busy. I thoroughly enjoyed reading *The Last Mrs. Astor* and hearing the author, Frances Kierman, speak. The next book up is Oliver Sacks' *Musicophilia*. For some years I have



**Retiree Jennine Porta admired
the working seals on our
Central Park Zoo visit**

had (self diagnosis) Leon Fleisher's disability (the fourth and fifth fingers of the right hand curl under). Nevertheless, I persevere.

WOL SUE LEE

My last day at NYPL was Tuesday, May 18, 2008. On the 19th I went on a 10-day cruise to Grand Turk, Road Town, Philipsburg, St. Maarten, St. Thomas, and San Juan. Hopefully, I will not spend the first few days of my retirement trying to catch up on sleep!

As Mid-Manhattan Budget Action Chair, I worked closely with the volunteers, especially for the letter-writing campaign. They are always paired with staff members to generate letters. A staff member scheduled with a volunteer observed and reported the following: a volunteer approached an elderly man who was impatiently waiting for the elevator and asked if he would like to take a couple of minutes to write a letter to the mayor. He was rather annoyed and barked at the volunteer, "I am waiting for this ____



Elaine Thomas photographed this charming duck family on our zoo trip.

slow elevator and have no time for anything else.” Without missing a beat, the volunteer said very gently but firmly, “That’s why you need to write a letter asking for help, so that we can have better equipment.” Guess who prevailed?

JENNINE PORTA

I’m still working part-time in OAS coordinating and scheduling the book discussion groups for NYPL. My hobbies are photography, sewing, and gardening.

MARCIA LANE PURCELL

After leaving NYPL I went to work at Random House, Inc. and will celebrate my

17th anniversary there next month (April). I am in charge of the Library and Academic Marketing Department, total staff: 9, with two summer interns. I have enjoyed my time there very much. Random House publishes over 3,500 books annually so I always have piles of good books to read. My department also does around 25 trade shows a year which means lots of travel. Since travel is a favorite activity, this allows me to get all over the country. My husband, John, and I also continue to travel widely. We’ve taken at least one cruise a year for the past 13 years. Upcoming: Norway in July on the Queen Victoria. And we also do land trips. Upcoming: Northern Italy in October.

I look forward to participating in the Retirees Association activities and to seeing many NYPL coworkers. Thanks for inviting me to join.

PAULINE RISTUCCIA

I belong to the Greenwood Village Senior Citizen Club, membership of 265. The club is very active with parties, meetings, and day trips. I help as a waitress when parties are in house in our Club House. We serve the food, set up, and whatever is necessary. It’s an active club and runs benefits, especially for orphaned children. My husband is treasurer and has been for approximately 20 years. They won’t let him resign. The people of the adult community we belong to are warm and help each other whenever needed.

I enjoyed every day of my 37 years in branches and Technical Services.

ROBERT SHEEHAN

I managed another winter in Yucatan, Mexico. My fourteenth! Also I managed a side trip to Acapulco, but sadly, not Spain.

I feel sorrow to lose the Donnell building which I helped to open in 1955, and sorrow to lose the Mid Manhattan building which I helped open in 1970. But, dammit, time marches on!

AMY SPAULDING

I have been teaching people planning to become librarians and it is fun to work with their enthusiasm. I miss my NYPL friends and having put in fifteen years still feel connected, so am joining up and am glad to have been invited.

LYNN TAYLOR

I am a new retiree as of June 6, 2008 after 31 years of service. I began as a CETA librarian in OYA in 1977, then became a branch librarian at New Amsterdam in 1991. After serving on the Executive Board of Local 1930 from 1978 - 2005, I was president from 2005 - 2007.

HERBERT W. THORNE

I am a member of the Council Senior Center (241 West 72nd Street) and the Morningside (Gardens) Retirement & Health Services (100 LaSalle Street). Here are my doings: ceramic sculpture (I push clay), chorus, play reading and discussion, dance movement (health fitness), memoir writing workshop, poetry writing, many cultural and art series, and tennis.

LEONARD VIGGIANO

Both Ellen and I are working as Evening Librarians at the local community college. A very relaxing job. Our first grandchild, Mara

Christina, was born June, 2007. We enjoy being grandparents.

VIRGINIA WARNER

I constantly am grateful to NYPL for the health care programs they supply to us, especially over this past year. My shoulder replacement was a huge success. I can even scratch my ear! The rehab in the Clove Lake Nursing Home took longer than I planned. They sent me home after a stay of over two months. Then, it was cataract time. I can now read street signs, see red lights and stop signs! Time now to call the travel agents and pack my bags.

BONNIE E. WILLIAMS

The last two years have, unfortunately, been full of family illness and tragedy. Five members have died. So coping with those who remain, holding each other up and getting through other illnesses, personal and family, as well, has been all consuming emotionally. However, an active 4 year old grand nephew is brightening all our lives and I have begun a 'book of the month' club just for him.

I've been to both the southwest and east Texas on birding trips - up the lower Rio Grande Valley and at High Island during spring migration. Such gorgeous birds - painted bunting, roadrunners (who will eat cheddar), all three Southwest orioles, the green jay, 27 warblers, clapper and sora rails, and Whooper Cranes. Also went to San Francisco for the opera and had lunch with Phil Gerrard.

After eight years, Library memories grow increasingly dim, I do have wonderful

memories of the good people I worked with, staff, volunteers and public.

EDITOR'S NOTE: You may send your items for the Retirees News section by e-mail to nyplra@earthlink.net. Then the editor won't misread your item.

NOTES FROM OUR PRESIDENT

October 10, 2008

This year in November we will be electing a new president of the United States. We are reading our newspapers, watching the debates on television and deciding for whom to vote. We are also concerned about the financial crisis and what's happening to the economy. In the meantime, we continue to live our normal lives, as best we can.

This summer the Office of Children's Services co-sponsored The Bryant Park Storytelling Programs. Three retirees were asked to participate in a series of Storytelling events for children of all ages at the outdoor Bryant Park Reading Room, located between 5th & 6th Avenues on 42nd Street. Mary Kay Conwell told "The Crab and the Jaguar," a Russian folktale from *Picture Folktales* by Valery Carrick. Elaine Thomas told "*Anansi and the Talking Melon*," a retelling of the African folktale of spider and his escapades by Eric Kimmel. I told "Squeaky Door" from *Crazy Gibberish* by Naomi Baltuck. It was so much fun performing outdoors and brought back such wonderful memories of our days when we were Children's Librarians and did summer programs in the parks around the city. It was a beautiful day and we had a large, eager

audience of children and adults from all over the city. Everyone walking by stopped to listen.

Now what's been happening with the Retirees Association? The executive committee had its first monthly meeting this September and we are busy planning our meetings and events for the year.

On October 15 we are touring the Museum of the City of New York and two of its very interesting and worthy exhibits: "The Catholics in NY 1808 – 1946" and "Campaigning for President from the Inauguration of George Washington to the present."

We have scheduled a second meeting with David Ferriero, Director of The New York Public Libraries, and David Offensend, Chief Operating Officer. They will meet with all retirees on Monday, November 24th at 1:30 pm in Trustees Room at 42nd Street and Fifth Avenue. They will continue their dialogue with us about the library changes that are still taking place in making Research and the Branches into a single entity. Donnell has closed now and the different units there have been either moved to Mid-Manhattan, Lincoln Center, SIBL or to temporary sites. Staff still continues to be moved around as positions and titles are changing. So please, try to join us for this important meeting, and bring your questions.

Lately, I have been reading so many articles on how healthy and active, both mentally and physically, retirees and older adults keep themselves. It's true, just read our newsletter. Isn't it amazing the very different interest we

retirees have and the varied activities we use to fill our time?

In fact, I was just at the Mid-Manhattan Library for an all day program for older adults, sponsored by Brigid Cahalan, Adult Program and Outreach Librarian who is mentioned in another article in this Newsletter. This program was entitled: *The Next Chapter: A 50+ Resource Fair, about opportunities in NYC in Volunteering, Education and more.* It was such an interesting day, most helpful for anyone looking for places in which to volunteer. There were 17 organizations, and each organization had 15 minutes to speak specifically about what their volunteers do. Each organization also had their own booth where you could speak to them for more information. Should you be interested, here is a short list.

The Mayor's Volunteer Center of NYC. www.VolunteerNYC.org Their goal is to make every New Yorker a volunteer. They list everything by location and interest.

Elder Hostel. www.elderhostel.org The world's largest educational travel organization for adults 55+.

Learning Leaders. www.learningleaders.org NYC's premier public school volunteer program for over 50 years.

New York Cares. www.nycares.org Identifies needs, creates projects, and provides volunteers for over 850 organizations throughout all 5 boroughs.

Peace Corps. www.peacecorps.gov "Life is calling. How far will you go?" They look for adults over 50.



Our president Becky Koppelman surveys the Resource Fair at Mid Manhattan for 50 + New Yorkers September 27, 2008

ReServe. www.reserveinc.org A volunteer organization with stipends for retired professionals.

Score. www.scorenyc.org Offers free professional business advice and counseling at locations throughout NYC.

The Transition Network. www.thetransitionnetwork.org A community of women over 50 exploring "what's next" in their professional and personal lives.

Now it is time for me to close. I hope many of you are looking at beautiful foliage or are just enjoying the change of seasons. Our fall and winter holidays are in sight and soon we will celebrate the New Year.

Again, I can't stress how pleasurable it is to read our wonderful Newsletter. Polly does a magnificent job, but the best part is hearing from you all. Keep those newssheets coming. And again, please remember everyone loves to hear from you!

Best wishes to you all for the rest of this year and have a happy, healthy and peaceful 2009!

Becky Eakins Koppelman & the Executive Committee Members

NEW MEMBER

Welcome!

Donna Abbaticchio
Carol Anshien
Arleen Geller
Sylvia Goldberg
Margaret Ma Lin
Alan Pally
Larry Petterson
Winifred Saltus
Amy Spaulding
Lynn Taylor
Kathy Wou

PASSINGS

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

Mary Barrett
Deirdre L. Bibby
Laila Honebrink
Warren F. Michon
Wilfredo Vegas

CORRECTIONS

In the Directory please change the telephone number for Alar Kruus to 410 332-1330. Change the email for Carol Petras to Carolsnn@aol.com

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