

Mar 1994

The New York Public Library Retirees Association Newsletter

Volume 2, number 1 March 1994

MAINTENANCE OF PURCHASING POWER BILL (MOPP)

MOPP provides a modest cost-of-living adjustment to the pensions of retirees from New York's state and local governments. The bill affects the Library's retirees because a special act of the state legislature in 1937 permitted the Library to join the state retirement system even though it is not a government agency.

MOPP is based on the premise that employers have a moral obligation to maintain the purchasing power of pensions. This obligation has been recognized by 32 other states, the federal government and much of private industry. In an effort to be as realistic as possible in the present economy however, MOPP does not try to right past wrongs; it tries to prevent future pain.

This proposed bill is sponsored by the Alliance for Public Retiree Organizations (APRO), of which the NYPL Retirees Association is a member. It is also sponsored by the Retired Public Employees [of New York State] Association (RPEA), to which many of the individual members of this association belong. The proposed legislation would amend the State Retirement and Social Security Law by adding a new article 7-A. It would be effective as of April 1994 and would remain in force until March 31, 1999. Its Senate number is S5878. Its Assembly number is A9699. The print number is 58788. *See page 2 for summary of the MOPP bill.*

Rallies Planned in Support of MOPP Bill

The Alliance for Public Employees Association (RPEA) and the Alliance for Public Retiree Organizations (APRO) are planning Retiree Rights Rallies throughout the State. Those to be held in the New York City area are (1) April 8, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 m., Mid-Manhattan Library, 6th floor, conference rooms B and C. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Enter by 40th Street entrance because the library does not open until 10:00 a.m. For answers to questions, please call Belle Weinberg, 212 877-6974. (2) April 12, 1:00 p.m., Knights of Columbus Hall, 4918 Queens Boulevard, Woodside, Queens, corner of 50th Street across the street from Stephens. For answers to questions please call Gene Lowry 718 224-2259. A State Convention will also be held in Albany on May 11, at the Albany Convention Center. Plans are being made for bus transportation. These rallies will be followed by visits and letterwriting campaigns to state legislators.

THE BOOK CRISIS IN CHINA

Taiwan and mainland China are facing a serious shortage of foreign publications. In a few years we shall see its consequences in China's education, research, and modernization, as well as cultural relations with the United States and other countries.

The source of this information is the speech given at the March meeting of this association by John T. Ma, retiree from the Oriental Division of The Research Libraries. He reported on his year as a visiting professor, 1992/1993, at the Graduate School of China Studies and the Graduate School of Educational Media and Library Science of Tamkang University in Taipei, Taiwan. While he was there he was invited to attend the International Seminar on Collection Development in Modern Libraries held in May of 1992 in the city of Xian in Shaanxi province of Mainland China. The attendees included over 60 directors of leading university and public libraries as well as government officials in charge of library affairs.

Xian was an appropriate place, for it was the site of the First Emperor of a unified China, who in his way had been concerned about collection development, for after he conquered the other six kingdoms, he ordered all the books in them burned. He spared the books in his own kingdom. In 1993 another book starvation began in China and Taiwan.

Its beginning is ironical, for it was an attempt by China to enter the modern age. It started when, without consulting library circles, the Chinese government joined the Universal Copyright Convention. This was fine for the authors and publishers of most of the rest of the world. But were Chinese

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SUMMARY OF THE MOPP BILL

The following summary is taken from a statement prepared by the Alliance for Public Retirees Organizations (APRO) in February 1994. The wording is kept as close as possible to the original, even when it may not at first seem clear, in order to insure that the correct legal meanings are kept.

1. An annual MOPP index (MPPI) would be established based on 90 percent of the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
2. Annually, starting as of April 1994, a MOPP allowance would be payable in monthly installments to eligible public retirees based on the MPPI.
3. During the first year of the program, retirement allowances would be based on the first \$20,000 of the total base year pension allowance. This "cap" would thereafter be adjusted to allow for year-to-year increases in the CPI.
4. Eligible retirees would be those age 55 or over, or retired ten or more years. Those retired for disability would not be subject to an age or service requirement.
5. The CPI used to compute the MPPI would be subject to a "cap" of five percent above the previous year.
6. MOPP would fix current pension supplements in place as part of the base year allowance, which would then be the means of adjusting pensions to meet inflation.
7. A new MOPP fund, under the control of the appropriate retirement system, would be established to pay MOPP allowances and collect contributions from public employers.
8. The program would operate on a pay-as-you-go basis, and it would bill employers for their pro rata share of costs based on their payrolls.
9. The comptroller would be authorized to borrow money from other parts of the retirement system to meet any cash flow needs, and he would be required to repay it with interest.
10. The bill has a sunset clause. It will be in force only until March 31, 1999.

Other organizations have drafted or are drafting cost of living increase (COLA) bills. Some of these are the Civil Services Employees Association (CSEA), the New York State Employees Retirement System (NYSERS), and the Police Conference of New York. The Public Employees Association (PEF) has not drafted one but is supporting MOPP. The NYPL Retirees Association's Legislation Committee is gathering data on these various proposals and will report on them latter.

INCORPORATION OF NYPL RETIREES ASSOCIATION

As of December 7, 1993, this association has been incorporated by the State of New York as an independent domestic (not-for-profit) corporation, type A.

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libraries ready for it? Until 1993, the libraries of Taiwan, and especially mainland China, had relied greatly on pirated reprints of foreign books. When these were banned, libraries were not given additional book funds to cover the great difference in price between the originals and the unauthorized reprints, a problem especially severe for the acquiring of science periodicals. Although Taiwan's libraries are better funded than those of mainland China, its libraries also are suffering. If you consider how difficult it is for libraries in the United States to keep up with the ever-increasing prices of books and periodicals, you may be able to imagine the problem in countries with far less money and less governmental interest in collection development.

Mr. Ma believes an attempt to solve this problem is important for the United States, if it wishes to develop better cultural relations with China. He himself is sending to China unwanted and duplicate library materials, but the cost of shipping has always reduced the quantity of materials acquired this way. At present the best solution is to establish exchange relationships with Taiwan and mainland China. As always, more money is needed, but its acquisition must be preceded by an awareness of the problem and an enthusiasm for solving it.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

In our last issue we reported that funding for various library items was in danger. On October 21, 1993 the President signed the Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill (P.L. 103-112). The total Fiscal Year 94 appropriations for the Library Services and Construction Act were slightly increased over Fiscal Year 93, although LSCA V (Foreign Language material) was decreased to zero. The Higher Education Act appropriations for FY94 remained the same as FY93. The considerable cuts made by the administration (the Higher Education Act was to receive zero funding) were restored by Congress, but the one increase advocated by the administration (for public library services) was ignored.

THE ILLEGAL FINANCING OF PENSIONS — AFTERMATH OF THE COURT OF APPEALS RULING

In our last newsletter we reported that the Court of Appeals ruled unanimously that Governor Cuomo and the Legislature acted illegally in changing the way the state's pension system is financed. The change had permitted employer contributions to cover only current operating costs instead of paying pensions for all employees in the future. In this manner \$4 billion was taken illegally from New York's public employee pension fund.

State Comptroller H. Carl McCall, as well as his predecessor, Edward V. Regan, had opposed the change. Now it is Comptroller McCall's duty to schedule repayment of that money. He has ordered the employers to repay, but he has given them approximately 12 years to put back the entire amount, as compared to the four years during which money was taken from the fund. Some people have been upset over this long time stretch, but Mr. McCall has said that to order the full repayment immediately might lead to layoffs or unacceptable spending cuts.

In addition, many employers are upset because they did not ask for the 1990 pension fund change; it was the decision made by the governor and the state legislature in an effort to ease budget deficits. To help the employers, Mr. McCall has worked out a plan by which repayments would be phased in over five years and then would continue at a fixed rate. Initial payments would be low so as to do as little damage as possible. To please everyone, however, will be impossible. *The principal source for this item is The Legislative Gazette, December 13, 1993.*

A good library is a joyful place, where the imagination roams free, and life is actively enriched. John K. Hutchins, 28 Oct. 1967

HEALTH CARE REFORM POSITION STATEMENT

At its meeting on March 23, this association unanimously accepted the following position paper that was written by the Association's Health Care Committee and modified by those present. This paper is now presented for comments by the entire membership.

The New York Public Library Retirees Association has identified the following components and principles which it believes should be included in a national program of health care reform. They are:

Universal Access and Coverage. Every American should be covered from start up. Universal access must be available regardless of a person's income, employment status, race or sex.

Comprehensive Benefits. The benefits offered must include

- hospital and physician services
- preventive care
- prescription drugs
- long term care (nursing home, home- and community-based care)
- mental health care
- substance abuse treatment
- primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health)
- health promotion and education

Free Choice. We must be able to choose our own providers.

Financing and Administration. A single payer plan financed by the national government and administered either by state or federal government is the fairest and most efficient way of financing the health plan.

Taxes. The Association supports increased federal taxes to finance health care for all, provided health care reforms contain effective control strategies as outlined above.

Other Health Policy Goals

- Equitable distribution of services (e.g. allocating medical resources to undercovered areas)
- Advancement of medical research and technology
- Ability of a person to pay should not be a consideration in the allocation of health care resources.
- Malpractice reform. Important as a cost control measure.
- Public accountability. The system must guarantee that consumers have a voice in the decision making process and respond to consumer needs.

The New York Public Library Retirees Association will support any plan that includes the principles of a national health care reform program as outlined above.

Health Care Committee: Moritia Leah Frederick (Chair), Agnes Babich,
Mercy Kellogg, Ann Moy

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN:

NY State Legislation regarding NYPL
Juanita Doares

In observance of New York Library Association Legislative Day on March 1, 1994, library supporters and librarians from all over New York State went to Albany to encourage their legislators to support additional funding for libraries in Fiscal Year 1995 (FY95). Earlier, Ristiina Wigg, Chair, New York Library Association Legislative Committee, had spoken to the Joint Fiscal Committee of the New York State legislature and had given them the following message:

In 1990, Chapter 917 was passed to amend the New York State Education Law. It was supposed to add \$5 million each year for all types of libraries and library systems over a three-year period beginning in Fiscal Year 1991-92. The full \$5 million a year was never received. In 1993, our libraries should have received a total of \$86 million from New York State. In 1994-95, total funding of Chapter 917 requires \$88 million

Although the governor has added \$2.9 million for 1994/95, it is not enough, since it is \$12 million less than the \$88 million required. The State Budget is due to be passed by April 1. If the state legislature has not approved a budget by the time you receive this issue of the newsletter, please write to your state senator and state assembly member urging that they support the additional \$12 million for statewide library programs as promised in Chapter 917 of the New York State Education Law.

The following are some of the items that have been requested.

A \$500,000 increase in funding for the Andrew Heiskell Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. With the opening of the modern Andrew Heiskell Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in December of 1991, operating costs have increased significantly, and the facility was forced to reduce service hours because of State funding cuts in Fiscal Year 1993/94.

A \$360,790 increase in base level funding for the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. This includes Schomburg's full funding allocation under Chapter 917 and discretionary funds traditionally allocated by the Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus. Since Fiscal Year 1991, total State funding to Schomburg has been cut by 13.3 percent.

A \$640,000 increase in funding for New York Public Library to serve students and faculty of the City University of New York (CUNY). The Library has received \$2 million annually to support graduate services provided to CUNY students and faculty. For the past eight fiscal years the amount allocated has remained constant, while both the number of services provided and costs of providing existing services have increased.

In addition to new York State funding, it is now time to push for funds in the 1994/95 City budget for the Branch Libraries. See the next article on this page in regard to the needs.

Keep Libraries Open!

Write or Call Your Elected Officials

The Library has just published a green flyer, which those of you who live in New York can obtain in any of the branches. It urges people to thank Mayor Giuliani and the City Council for six days of service "and please ask for increased funding for:"

Books and Materials

Central Libraries' Hours

Connecting Libraries and Schools Project (CLASP) - A program that brings libraries and schools together to serve children.

Research Libraries' Services

On the back of the flyer is a long list of people to call or write. We do not have space for all of them but have selected the following:

Mayor

Rudolph Giuliani

City Hall

New York, NY 10007

212 788-3000

Speaker, City Council

Peter F. Vallone

City Hall

New York, NY 10007

212 788-7210

Chair, City Council

Finance Committee

Herbert Berman

250 Broadway, 23rd Floor

New York, NY 10007

212 788-6984

Borough Presidents

Bronx

Fernando Ferrer

851 Grand Concourse, 301

Bronx, NY 10451

718 590-3500

Manhattan

Ruth W. Messinger

Municipal Building, 19th fl.

New York, NY 10007

212 669-8300

Staten Island

Guy Molinari

Borough Hall - Room 120

Staten Island, NY 10301

718 390-5105

NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPDATE

The library of the New York Historical Society is especially important to retirees of NYPL because many of them worked there after they retired from the Library. In our last issue we reported what many NYPL retirees already know, that the Society is financially starved. To save the library, New York University took over its management for a \$100,000 a year fee. Under a new five-year contract, the university would take complete charge of the book collection and also its valuable collections of prints, architectural drawings, historical photographs and advertising ephemera. The collections would remain in the society's building, but authority over them would revert to the dean of the New York university Libraries, Carlton C. Rochell. The society would continue to pay the university \$100,000 a year, and a grant of \$1.5 million from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation would help pay for recataloging the society's holdings.

Public officials and representatives of the Upper West Side community have raised objections to the arrangement, saying it would end the society's independent existence. Under an agreement with the city and the state, public money was to be made available on the condition that it remain independent. At its meeting on March 3, when it was expected to sign the contract with New York University, the society's board decided to postpone action. *For additional information see The New York Times, March 15 and 17, 1994.*

SEQUEL TO IBM GALLERY CLOSING

In the last newsletter we reported that the IBM museum in the IBM building at Madison and 57th Street was to close January 31, 1994. We wrote to IBM, and we received an answer from Mr. Roy B. Lee, Jr., Program Administrator of the IBM Gallery of Science and Art. He says, "In response to the strong public interest we have decided to keep the Gallery open during 1994 using works from various IBM collections. If a way can be found to continue the Gallery in some manner beyond 1994, you can be sure that we will do so."

CLIPPINGS

If you have not already seen them, the following are called to your attention. Each entry is followed by our summary.

"Empty Shelves, Empty Minds: Budget Problems Drain Libraries of Their Lifeblood: Books" by Douglas Martin, *The New York Times*, March 21, 1994, first page of second section. NYPL branches suffer from a reduction of nearly half of the materials budget over the last five years. Funds plunged from \$7.4 million in 1989 to \$5.3 million in 1994, and \$3.9 million is the amount in the city's preliminary budget for next year. Annual spending has dropped to a proposed \$1.26 per capita from \$2.52. These figures are considerably below those of neighboring areas. In 1991, for example, Nassau spent \$10.08 per capita as compared to NYPL's \$2.11. Library funds both for personnel and materials were cut back in the early years of the Dinkins administration, but later he increased the budget enough to expand service in the branches to six days. These funds were earmarked for longer hours, meaning mainly more staff members. No extra money was provided for new books or the repair of old ones.

"A Library, A Refuge: In East Harlem an Old Building and a Determined Woman Give Children a Safe Place to Read and Grow" by Mary B.W. Tabor, *The New York Times*, February 6, 1994, first page of "The City" section [not available in editions outside of NYC]. Christiana Pinto is the head librarian at the Aguilar Branch Library, now closed and waiting for renovations. From temporary quarters in an old flower shop she serves 48 local schools, as compared with a system average of 10 to 15 per branch. Mrs. Pinto has worked in the Aguilar Branch for the last 12 years and has focused on making the library a happy after-school refuge. She has fought hard to make the area safe for her readers. In 1988 she helped found the 110th Street Anti-Drug coalition. Three years later she formed the Sunshine Project, its mission to drive away the drug trade and replace vacant lots or abandoned buildings with new stores or housing. To make her case for the library and its surroundings, she continuously lobbies the community board, the school board, the local police. For many children the library is the only quiet and safe place to study.

"Annenberg \$500 million Includes Creation of Electronic Library," *American Libraries*, February 1994, page 134. Walter H. Annenberg has given \$500 million to the United States for public education reform, and a portion of it is to be used for libraries. Vartan Gregorian, NYPL's former president, has been named project advisor. He is quoted as saying, "You cannot have school reform without libraries...My plea is that librarians should not act as auxiliary but should be central; our libraries are essential, not a luxury."

TWENTIETH ANNUAL LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE DAY APRIL 19, 1994

On Tuesday, April 19, during National Library Week, a special lobbying effort will be made in Washington for national library programs. Legislative briefings will be held in the morning on Capitol Hill. Throughout the day legislators will keep the appointments set up in advance by the constituents. From 5 to 7 p.m. a reception is to be held for Members of Congress, their staffs, and library supporters. The day is coordinated and hosted by the District of Columbia Library Association, The Washington Office of the American Library Association, and The Special Libraries Association.

RECAPITULATION

For the information of members who joined after the first issues of this newsletter were published, we summarize a few of its more important contents:

Pension Supplement: The 1992-1993 State Legislature passed a bill which continues for another two years the pension supplement for people who retired prior to January 1, 1983. The legislature ignored a request to extend the supplement to those who retired in 1983 through 1987. Also ignored was a request to make an adjustment for inflation. The supplement is not a cost of living increase. It is a small sum which hopefully might relieve some of the financial suffering of older retirees.

Lump Sum Unused Vacation Time Payment Option: The New York Public Library did not offer the payment of unused vacation time in a lump sum to its eligible employees until April 1, 1992. For retirees who had accumulated unused vacation time, the lump sum would have increased their pensions. The membership of this association has responded in favor of delaying any protest action, in part because the association has been advised that the Library acted within its legal rights in declining to offer the lump sum. The only option is to work for the passage of special legislation. The association concluded that its effort should be concentrated not on this legislation but on a bill to give yearly cost of living increases.

CORRECTIONS

In the last newsletter Rose Marie O'Leary's name was correct once and wrong in two other places. It should be changed from Rosemary to Rose Marie.

The first sentences of Belle Weinberg's article on MOPP were omitted. They emphasized that since its inception this association has heard of the MOPP bill and that one should be aware of the work of the Retired Public Employees Association (RPEA) in pressing this program to offset the decrease in purchasing power caused by inflation.

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The annual meeting of this association was scheduled for January 19, but because of bad weather it had to be postponed to February 16. At that time the nominating committee formally presented the roster of candidates. The committee consisted of Mercy Kellogg, Chair, Theresa K. Casile and Fred T. Gee. The December Newsletter had listed the names of the nominees and had requested that additional names be sent to the nominating committee if an association member so desired. No additional names were received, and the slate of the nominating committee was therefore elected by voice vote of those present. The new officers are President: Juanita S. Doares; Vice-President: Agnes Babich; Secretary: Mary Ann Altman; Treasurer: Fred T. Gee; Executive Board: Moritia Leah Frederick, Betty Gubert, Lawrence Murphy.

Moritia Frederick distributed the latest statement of the Health Committee, which was amended and appears elsewhere in this newsletter. Belle Weinberg, chair of the legislative committee, reported on her recent trip to Albany, where she had been sent by this association, and Rose Marie O'Leary reported on the activities of the Social Committee.

Those present at the meeting voted to continue the association's membership in the Alliance of Public Retiree Organizations. Juanita Doares reported that she had received requests from various organizations for volunteers, and members should contact her if they are interested in volunteer work. For a complete record of this meeting, you should contact the secretary, Mary Ann Altman.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the association:

Marie Aroldi, John P. Baker, Emma Cohen, Tillie Frank, James T. Kenefick, Lydia LaFleur, Anne Macy, Ann Moy, Eliza B. Perry, Gloria Quintana, Ethyl L. Ryan, Dorothy Schweitzer, Robert C. Sheehan, Pearl Siegel, Frances Lander Spain, Leonard Viggiano.

RETIREE NOTES

We received a letter from **Frances Lander Spain**, whom many will remember as the former Coordinator of Children's Services (1953-1961). She lives in Schenectady and is 91 years old. We have also heard from **Emma Cohn**. She writes from Paris, France. **Lillian Lopez** sent us a note from Puerto Rico, where she is spending the winter. **Forrest Carhart** is a volunteer at numerous Denver institutions including the Denver Museum of Natural History, where he plans the extramural educational excursions for members, and the Bibliographical Center for Research, Rocky Mountain Region, where he has edited a 50 year history of the Center. His wife, **Betty**, who was extremely active in New York libraries, died six years ago and will long be remembered.

Dorothy Swerdlove is a volunteer at the NYZS/ Wildlife Conservation Society. She is also a volunteer at the information desk in Astor Hall, Central Research Library. **Tillie Pearson** is a volunteer at the New York Philharmonic. **Belle Weinberg** received special kudos from Edward Curran, President of APRO for her dedication on having attended a Legislative Committee in Albany on February 8 in spite of a severe snow storm. Participants in a March workshop for the Aging and Pre-retirees, sponsored by the New York State Office for the Aging were **Agnes Babich**, **Juanita Doares**, **Betty Gubert** and **Georgette Lachat**. We have heard from **Virginia Warner**, **Marjorie Anderson**, **Bob Calese**, **Natalie Bassein**, **Rose Roth**, **Doris Jacques** of New York City, **Mary Gibson** of Whiting, N.J. **Pauline Ristuccia** of Manorville, N.Y., and **Herbert Boucher** of Tiburon, CA.

We are saddened to hear of the passing of **Maude (Beth) Hayman**.

BECOMING INVOLVED WITH THE ARTS

Elders Share the Arts is an organization that helps seniors become involved with the arts in their communities. Its address and telephone number are: 57 Willoughby Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201; 718-488-8565. *from Senior Membership Horizons, American Express, Winter 1994.*

RETIREEES IN PRINT

Betty Gubert was the first speaker in the series *NYPL Retirees in Action*, which is part of the monthly meetings of this association. Her subject, *Blacks in Aviation*, has now appeared in the form of a bibliography:

Invisible Wings: An Annotated Bibliography on Blacks in Aviation, 1916-1993. Compiled by Betty Kaplan Gubert. *Bibliographies and Indexes in Afro-American and African Studies*, Number 32, ISSN 0742-6925. Greenwood Press, publication date 01/30/94. 312 pages (1,600 entries). ISBN 0-313-28553-5. \$59.95.

It can be ordered from Greenwood Publishing Group, Inc., 88 Post Road West, P.O. Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881-5007. telephone number 1-800-474-4329.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Association has received requests for library retirees to work as volunteers. Organizations include the American Alpine Club and the National Executive Science Corps. They need volunteers to organize their libraries. If you are interested in any of these activities, please call Juanita Doares at 212 666-5737.

DISCOUNT TICKETS

We have been told that theatre discount tickets available to NYPL staff are also available to NYPL retirees. For information call Joanne Pellerano, Human Resources at (212) 704-8616.

Some contemporary popular music groups have started using a few of the older songs. We have been told of a son returning from a pop concert who said with enthusiasm that he had just heard a new piece that even his father might like. Its name, *Stardust*.

The number of people directly employed by the arts in New York City and its environs has increased 16.6 percent since 1982. It is now a \$9.8 billion-a-year industry, the second largest industry in New York City. *According to a study by the Port Authority*, reported in *The New York Times*, December 27, 1993

EDITOR'S NOTES

The Gordans of NYPL. With the death of Phyllis Goodhart Gordan on January 24, the Library lost the last of the pair of people who were among its most gracious and effective supporters. Mrs. Gordan probably more than any other trustee was always intensely interested in the people who worked for the Library. She knew many by name, knew where they worked and what they did. At retirement parties and orientation programs she was often the one who represented the Library's trustees. Even after she was incapacitated she courageously continued this work. For many employees she was literally *The Library*.

She will also be remembered for placing the Library in a context larger than its immediate surroundings, for she was always aware of the importance of a library to civilization. Her husband, John D. Gordan, was also a person who was always concerned about the entire library, even though his immediate work was the operation of a special scholarly collection. He will be remembered among the staff for his warmth toward them. In the Central Building he seemed to know everyone's name, and when he walked through the halls he usually went out of his way to greet staff members, gestures of warmth which are not forgotten. With the passing of this remarkable couple, the Library has lost some of its best and most beloved friends.

The Tragedy of WNYC: Will the city-owned radio and television station be sold, as proposed by the Mayor's Committee on Privatization? This proposal will especially astonish those retirees who participated in the Library's programs on this station. Protests over the sale have been made, so far ineffectual, but none have mentioned WNYC's importance to the elderly. One of the station's most famous programs was actually named "Senior Edition," with Pegeen Fitzgerald and Leonard Lopate, later renamed "New York and Company," which was continued by Lopate after Pegeen's death. Today it is just one of many remarkable programs kept on the air by operating expenses that are paid largely by its members, and WNYC intends to be entirely self-supporting in the future. So little money is taken from the City's budget for WNYC's operation and so little will be obtained by selling it that one wonders if money is the object. If it becomes a commercial station, it will no longer be allowed to carry the programs of National Public Radio (NPR), and because NPR is carried by no other station in this area, it will lose its largest urban audience. This potential blackout makes one wonder about motives. Various politicians have long hated NPR. There is something here that sounds too much like what is now happening to stations in the former iron-curtain countries of Eastern Europe, where dissent and open forums are again gradually being smothered. This fear may be farfetched, and maybe the station really will not be sold, but the mere proposition of the sale, and the published comments of those who back the demise of the station—these are enough to be frightening. *Larry Murphy*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Mercy Kellogg reports on the January 4 meeting of the League. *Health Care*: The League wants to support Clinton's program for health care, but it prefers the single payer plan. Congressman Charles Rangel, who spoke at the meeting, said that New York State gets the minimum of Federal payments from Medicaid because the payments are based on a state's average income. Mississippi is reimbursed for 80%, New York State for 50%, although the number of poor in this state is high. Another problem with Medicaid is that the teaching hospitals are supported by it, for they are the primary care source for the poor, and without this money the New York City hospitals would be in trouble. *Welfare*: Congressman Rangel warned that no one who advocates a cut off after two years has indicated what happens then. Welfare reform is dependent on jobs and education.

The New York
Public Library
Retirees Association, Inc.
An Independent Association

President: Juanita S. Doares
Vice-President: Agnes Babich
Secretary: Mary Ann Altman
Treasurer: Fred T. Gee
Executive Board:

Moritia Leah Frederick
Betty Gubert
Lawrence Murphy

The membership year is January through December. Annual dues are \$10. To join, please make out check to Fred T. Gee, Treasurer, and send to:

Fred T. Gee
45 Adrian Avenue, 4-B
Bronx, NY 10463

Please send information for the newsletter to:

Larry Murphy
137 E. 36 St., #16-B
New York, NY 10016

All other information and inquiries:

NYPL Retirees Association
c/o Juanita Doares
401 W. 118th St., #3
New York, NY 10027
212 666-5737

The Association's Committees and Their Members

Health Care Committee

Moritia Leah Frederick,
Chair
Agnes Babich
Mercy Kellogg
Ann Moy

Legislative Committee

Belle Weinberg, Chair
Lucy Eldridge
Nora Gorchoff
Theresa Casile
Ruth Kronmiller

Membership Committee

Lucy Eldridge, Chair

Social Committee

Rose Marie O'Leary, Chair
Betty Gubert

If you would like to serve on one of these committees, please contact Juanita Doares.

NEW SCHEDULE OF ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Please ignore the meeting schedule in the last newsletter. Changes have been made because of the availability of meeting rooms. As you are probably already aware, finding a meeting place in Manhattan is extremely difficult, and we are fortunate to be able to use Mid-Manhattan Library. The day of the week and the time of the meeting have been determined by the hours the library is open and the use of the meeting room. The new schedule for spring meetings and other events is as follows:

Wednesday, March 23, 6:00 p.m.,
members meeting, ground floor meeting room, Mid-Manhattan Library

Tuesday, April 12, 12:30 p.m.,
MOPP retirees rights rally

Wednesday, April 13, 1:00 p.m.,
Executive Board Meeting, HBO

Wednesday, April 20, 6:00 p.m.,
members meeting, ground floor meeting room, Mid-Manhattan Library

Wednesday, May 11, New York
State Rally on MOPP in Albany

Wednesday, May 18, 6:00 p.m.,
members meeting, ground floor meeting room, Mid-Manhattan Library

Wednesday, June 8, 1:00 p.m.,
Executive Board Meeting, HBO

Wednesday, June 15, 6:00 p.m.,
members meeting, ground floor meeting room, Mid-Manhattan Library

Wednesday, July 13, 1:00 p.m.,
Executive Board Meeting, HBO

Wednesday, August 10, 1:00 p.m.,
Executive Board Meeting, HBO

We want to express our appreciation especially to Bob Goldstein and Judith Brill of Mid-Manhattan for their assistance in arranging for our use of Mid-Manhattan meeting space.

The National Council of Senior Citizens publishes a monthly newsletter, *Senior Citizens News*, which can be obtained for \$12.00 per year by writing to their address: National Council of Senior Citizens, 1331 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004-1171. The Council is an advocacy organization founded in 1961 during the struggle for Medicare.

FOR THOSE BORN BEFORE 1940 CONSIDER THE CHANGES

Georgette Lachat gave the editor a printed reminder of the world we no longer live in, from which the following items have been selected:

In our time, closets were for clothes, not for "coming out of." Designer Jeans were scheming girls named Jean or Jeanne. We were before gay rights and dual careers. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, artificial hearts, word processors, frozen yogurt, and guys wearing earrings. For us, timesharing meant togetherness...not computers or condominiums; a "chip" meant a piece of wood; hardware meant hardware and software wasn't even a word. In 1940, "Made in Japan" meant junk, and the term "making out" referred to how you did on your exam. In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mowed, COKE was a drink, and POT was something you cooked in.