

New York Public Library Retirees Association Newsletter

Spring 2013 - Summer 2013

Issue No. 33

RAY MARKEY, LIBRARIAN & UNION ACTIVIST

Ray Markey grew up in New York City and attended elementary school in Inwood and high school at Cardinal Hayes in the Bronx. His first librarian position, in 1965, was as a senior clerk at the Municipal Archives, which was then part of The New York Public Library. As a native New Yorker, he was surprised to find that he was a “rare bird” at NYPL, where so many staff members came from other parts of the country. After finishing his BA at Hunter College, Ray went on to get his library degree from Columbia University. He held positions at various Bronx branches including branch librarian at West Farms and Melrose. One of his favorites was branch librarian at St. Agnes, a position he held just prior to his election as president of Local 1930 of District Council 37, AFSCME [American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees]. He served in that position from January 1992 to January 2005. The following excerpts are from his interview conducted as part of the NYPLRA Oral History Project.



I first became aware of the 1975 fiscal crisis when I was sitting at the reference desk at West Farms, and a pamphlet came across the desk from something called the Citizens' Budget Commission. The Citizens' Budget Commission was supposedly a good government group, but it was a good government group of big business and the interests who were actually in control of New York City financial aid. The pamphlet said that the City was reaching the point where the tax revenue would no longer be sufficient to cover the City's expenses. They laid out a plan that said they would have to lay off 50,000 public employees. At that same period of time, I had applied to work for the Board of Education as a librarian. I took the test, passed it, and was going into the interview process. I wanted to work in the public schools because I wanted to travel and have the summers off – as simple as that. I loved working in The New York Public Library, but... It had nothing to do with wages, either – I didn't even know what they were paying in the school system.

When I read the pamphlet, I actually believed what they said. I believed that dire consequences were coming. Since I had started in New York Public Library in 1966 – and this was 1975 – I had nine years of seniority. I thought to myself, "If I go into the public schools, I'll be at the bottom of the list, seniority-wise; and if layoffs come, I'm going to be the first one to lose my job." So, fortunately, I stayed at The New York Public Library, and everything that the Citizens' Budget Commission said came to pass. There was a fiscal crisis, and they laid off around 60,000 public employees in the City of New York. In The New York Public Library, they laid off a third of the branch staff. There were something like 700 members in the Union who were working in the branch system, and well over 200 of them were laid off. Many who weren't laid off were demoted; I was one of them. I had been a supervising branch librarian one day at West Farms, and the next day I was a senior branch librarian doing the exact same job, but with less staff and getting paid less money.

The Library set up a schedule of meetings where people went up to the borough office, the Bronx Borough Office if you were working in the Bronx. Bob Goldstein was Bronx Borough Coordinator. Whether you went to the first meeting or the second meeting determined whether you were going to get laid off or bumped down. The staff quickly found out when they sat in the room up there, because they could tell who they were sitting next to. If they were sitting with people with no seniority, they knew they had big problems when they walked into this meeting. The consequences for the staff were horrific. What happened to many who got demoted, like me, was that we were given a choice; we actually had "bumping" rights. If you were a supervising librarian, what they really did was eliminate your position. That meant that unless you "bumped down" (went down to a lower position), you didn't have a job – you were laid off. Everybody wanted to keep their jobs, so they bumped down and displaced other staff. I think the reason I stayed in the same place is because nobody wanted to be the senior branch librarian at West Farms.

A union for The New York Public Library had been formed on May 1, 1968. So when this fiscal crisis came, the Union was there and could do some things. It was pretty much powerless in the broad scheme of things, but it was able to do something. We went around to as many branches as possible, as soon as we got the word about what was going to take place, to talk to the staff. There were branch librarians that wouldn't let us into the building, but we did go around and talk to people to tell them what was taking place.

The day after the layoffs went into effect, Local 1930 tried to play a role at District Council 37 to organize a citywide demonstration to protest and stop the layoffs. But we didn't succeed; it didn't happen. There were many tumultuous meetings at DC 37, and – as hard as we tried – we couldn't do it. But we did have a smaller demonstration the Saturday after. That was one of the first activities in which Local 1930

tried to play a leading role within the larger union movement in the City of New York in defense of jobs and wages.

Around this same time, the Library wanted to close branches (Columbia, Epiphany, Tompkins Square, and Baychester). The public sat in at some of the branches. People stayed overnight and actually prevented the branches from closing. The branches were never closed; hours were cut, but the branches weren't closed. The public reacted in a way that showed everyone that they wanted their libraries kept open, that they valued their libraries and they valued the staff. The staff participated in a limited way, because you always had to worry that there could be retaliation against you.

On a more positive note, during this time there was a program established, I believe as a result of Lyndon Johnson's Great Society program, called the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act [CETA], that used federal funds to hire, put to work, and train people who were chronically unemployed. When all the layoffs took place in New York City, the unions went to the federal government and said that they wanted to use the CETA program to hire back the people who'd been laid off in the City of New York. For The New York Public Library, there were a number of people who had been laid off who came back to work for the Library, and there were others who hadn't been working in the Library who were hired. This turned out to be a very, very important program, and I know of a number of people who were hired under CETA who went on to long and successful careers in The New York Public Library.

There was another federally-funded program called Wildcat, which hired ex-offenders, and, once again, some of the people hired by the Library went on to long and successful careers. Both programs are examples of how the federal government can successfully intervene and use tax money to put people to work for the betterment of everyone.



**A young Ray Markey
with his daughter Nicole
at a Labor Day parade**

The other thing that happened was a result of The New York Public Library's original agreement with the City of New York under which the Research Libraries are privately funded while the Branch Libraries are largely City funded. Why does that have much of a bearing in 1975? It has a bearing because when the layoffs came in 1975, the Board of Trustees decided that they would not use a penny of the private funds to prevent layoffs in the Branch Libraries, but not a single person was laid off in the Research Libraries. Even when we went to them and said, "Please use some of the money in the endowment fund to prevent these mass layoffs..." in the branches, they refused. And for me, as I went on in my years in the Union, I always remembered what took place. I never forgot who really had the power when push came to shove in The New York Public Library; it was the Board of Trustees.

Then in 1990 or '91, there was once again some kind of budgetary crisis, and the Library was facing layoffs. Some people had been laid off at District Council 37, and if people had been laid off in other agencies, the Mayor wanted people laid off in The New York Public Library. I was the treasurer of the local at that time. I went to a meeting to discuss these layoffs. At the meeting were the head of human resources for The New York Public Library, the chief negotiator for District Council 37, the president of Local 1930, and myself. When I learned that those at the meeting were agreeing to fifty lay-offs, I asked the question, "Well, who are you laying off in management?" I was told it was none of my business.

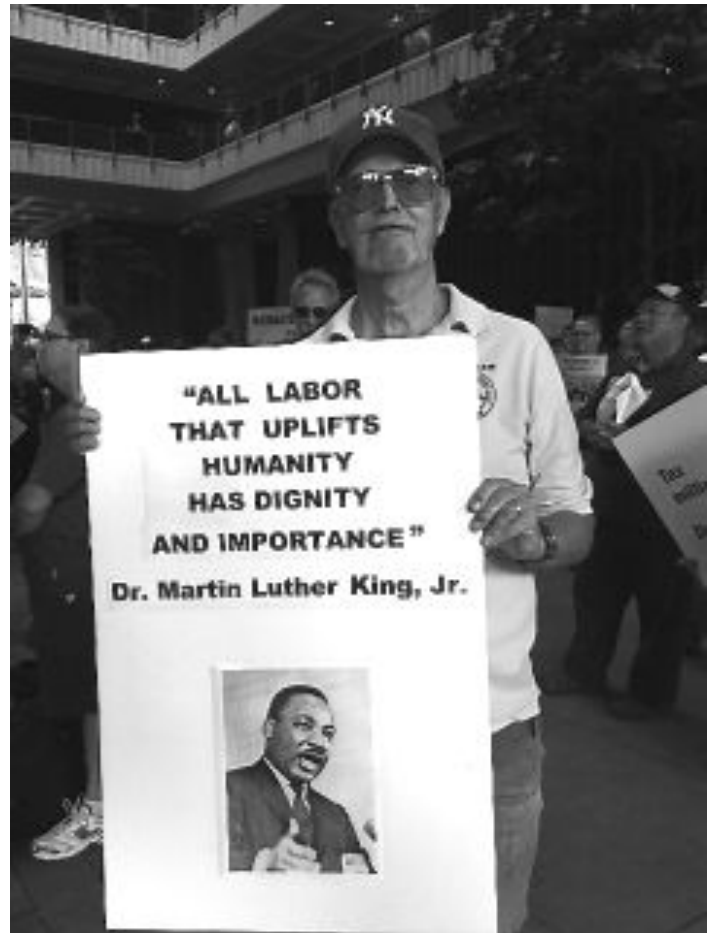
In 1975, we had suffered the loss of a third of the staff in the Branch Libraries, and nobody was laid off in the Research Libraries. Because I remembered that vividly, I decided that if the situation ever arose again I would do something about it. So we started a campaign to prevent the layoffs. I never thought this campaign had the slightest chance of working, but Ed Fursa and I wrote a letter that was published in *The New York Times*. We talked about the many members of management that existed in the Library. We had gone through The New York Public Library telephone book and just counted everybody who was listed as vice president, etc., and we put this in this letter. We pointed out that The New York Public Library, in the worst of times during the depression, was open seven days a week, twelve hours a day, and that there was no reason to be laying off people now and no reason for curtailment of branch hours. The day the letter appeared in *The New York Times*, it turned out that the Board of Trustees was visiting the Melrose Branch. The librarians in the region all went to the branch for whatever program they were having for the Board of Trustees. So I walked into this meeting, and members of the Board of Trustees got off this bus. They'd all come up from Manhattan where they had met at the main branch at 42nd Street, and they'd all read this article that had appeared in *The New York Times* that day.

The Library's reaction to this was to have somebody in the public relations department write a letter to *The New York Times* stating that our figures were incorrect; that the Library didn't have nearly this amount of management. A member of the Union executive board, who worked in Lincoln Center Library, wrote a letter to *The New York Times* and simply said we got our information from The New York Public Library's telephone book; and anybody can just take the telephone book to see if what we said was correct. Well, that was one mistake too many for the unfortunate person from the public relations department who lost her job. I felt sorry about that, but the idea was that these potential layoffs did not have to take place. We also found out that a publication called *Chief Financial Officer* – this is one of the things that happens when you're librarians and you have people who work in all sorts of different departments – contained an article by the Library's vice president of finance in which he talked about how a woman who had been close to homeless had died and left ten million dollars – I think that was the figure – to The New York Public Library. She specifically stated that she wanted it to go to the Branch Libraries. And in his article he stated, I believe, that the money was going to some general fund of The New York Public Library. When we looked into the matter, we found out that the general fund of The New York Public Library, as it existed then, meant that the money went to the Research Libraries and not a penny of it was going to the Branch Libraries. We also found out that this was true of *all* sorts of other contributions that were supposed to have been going to the branches and never went to the branches. For instance, there were publishing houses that gave money that was specifically to go to children's rooms, and the money never got to the Branch Libraries and never went to the children's rooms, but went into this general fund which the Library could use for whatever it wanted. Essentially, they were using it for the Research Libraries.

We went to the City Council and had private meetings and asked them to investigate this. There were also community support groups set up by the Library that had elected or appointed leaders. These were primarily for the Branches. We went to their meetings, and it caused a tremendous uproar. We started this campaign by meeting with as many people as we could to say that no one should make a contribution to The New York Public Library anymore because of how the Library was misrepresenting what was taking place with their funds.

Finally, after doing this campaign, and in conjunction with our saying that the Library should use the endowment funds to prevent the layoffs in the Branch Libraries, the executive assistant to Library President, Dr. Timothy Healy, started to meet with Ed Fursa and me at O’Casey’s Restaurant – unbeknownst to anybody else – to have discussions about what was going on. I remember the first time he met with us he said something to the effect of, “Why am I meeting with Ray Markey, who is the treasurer, and Ed Fursa, who is on the executive board? Why am I meeting with you two and not with the president of the Union?” I guess the answer was obvious – because the president of the Union was willing to go along with the layoffs, and we weren’t. We were carrying out this campaign along with whoever else on the executive board was helping out. Finally – when we were having such a big effect and there were articles that appeared in some of those community newspapers – we had a meeting at O’Casey’s, and were asked, “What would you say if the Library agreed to use money from the endowment fund to prevent the layoffs?” We said that would be the end of our campaign and so that’s exactly what happened.

The Chairman of the Board had agreed to use three million dollars, or whatever the cost was, to keep fifty people on the payroll, so people were never laid off, and it was a very successful campaign. I guess until this day, right now, there’s probably only a handful of people who ever knew that Ed Fursa and I were



Ray at the Hawaii State Capitol

meeting with Dr. Healy’s assistant and that our campaign had been successful.

But this is what happened, and, as far as we were concerned, what the Library was doing was less than ethical, particularly since – once again – they were singling out the branch staff for retribution. And truthfully, if I had not been an employee in 1975 when this happened once before, I probably wouldn’t have thought anything about it. But there is something to be said for longevity, knowledge, and working in an institution for many, many years. There’s a collective memory, and there’s an individual memory, and, in this case, the individual memory worked out and we saved the jobs.

Outside of having saved everybody's jobs, what did this mean for me personally? For me personally, what happened was that two members of the executive board came to me and said that I should run for president of Local 1930. I had run for president once many years before and had lost, so the idea of running for this type of position again was a big decision, and I had to think about it. The election was a year and a half away, so I discussed it with many people, and decided that yes, I would run. I went around to members of the executive board and asked them to support me. Out of the nineteen members on the executive board, sixteen said they would. For the next year and a half, every spare moment that I had, I went around and campaigned. I walked in and would say, "Hey, I'm Ray Markey, and I'm running for president of Local 1930." After campaigning for a year and a half, there was an election, and I believe I got 74% of the vote. So I was elected president of Local 1930 in December of 1991, and, in January of 1992, was sworn in.

As president, I always tried to fight as hard as I could to get whatever salary increases I could get and to prevent givebacks of whatever nature. That was a very difficult task. What made things worse was – around 1995 – Mayor Giuliani became Mayor of the City of New York. Mayor Giuliani, in my opinion, would be the modern day leader of the Tea Party. He had no use for public employees; he thought we were getting paid too much; he wanted to cut back our salaries; he wanted to lay us off; he wanted to attack us every which way and up. So he was not very good for the unions.

And unfortunately for us, Stanley Hill was the executive director of District Council 37, which represented many of the workers in New York City. We were one of the fifty-six locals. During this period there was a salary negotiation, and Stanley Hill – supposedly acting on behalf of all of the members of District Council 37 and the local presidents – agreed to a five-year contract, the first two years of which had no salary increase. Many presidents, particularly

of other unions in the City, were opposed to this settlement. They thought that if they took one year without an increase that should be enough to satisfy the mayor because the City was running budget surpluses. They thought they should share in some of the wealth. But Stanley went ahead and agreed to double zeroes. This had to be ratified by the members of all the various locals, and it was done local by local. I thought that our salaries were already far too low, so I went on a campaign to encourage our members to vote no, and they did. Something like 92% of our members voted against the contract. At the end of the day, supposedly when they counted up the votes of all the members of District Council 37, they said that the contract had passed, but it was clear to me that it hadn't.

The reporters covering the ratification process reported that they had gone around to different workplaces and hadn't found anybody who was voting for this thing. Most people didn't want a double zero contract. I had been part of a handful of people who fought against the ratification. Because salaries had been falling so low for all the workers, because there had been so many cutbacks, because so many things had been taken away, there was this sense developing, not only among the work staff in The New York Public Library, but in the work staff in the City, that there was something the matter with the Union.

District Council 37 had a delegate assembly meeting once a month. Local 1930 had six delegates that attended, and there were 300 some delegates who attended overall. At these meetings, there would be all these battles. In general, it would start off with Charles Ensley, president of the Social Services Employees Union 371, and me standing by one mike, and we would essentially start fighting with Stanley Hill over what was taking place in the Union. They would have one mike for proposals and one mike against proposals. It would be Charles Ensley and myself at one mike, and fifteen supporters of Stanley Hill at the other mike. We had gotten used to being in

the minority over various issues. Then it turned out during this whole process that the treasury kept dropping. District Council 37 had gone from a treasury of something like 25 million dollars, I believe this was in 1997, to 3 million dollars by 1998. Clearly, large amounts of money had disappeared.

Then Mark Rosenthal was elected president of the parks division local on the platform of fighting the crooks in his union. Part of his union had been controlled by the mob—by that, I mean the Mafia—and part of it by other people—individuals who were committed to stealing. When Mark got elected, he joined us. Our thing was to fight what we perceived as the corruption taking place in the Union and the low salaries. I had started a campaign, basically by myself, saying that I wanted the contract reopened. At this time, the City was doing very well. My position was if we had to take double zeroes when times were bad—and the City had always said that it could reopen a contract to demand givebacks from us—then why couldn't we say the same thing to them when things were better? But I was told that no, you didn't do that. With Mark Rosenthal, we started the Committee for Real Change. We got a bunch of presidents, started holding all sorts of rank and file meetings, and they went crazy with hostility towards us down at District Council 37. We kept holding meetings and getting more people to support us. We started going out to the press, and the press started picking up what was taking place.

Mark Rosenthal used to come in to work very early every day, and he got to meet Joe DeCanio, who was the president of one of the highway workers locals. (Joe became known as 'Turkey Joe' because he was supposedly buying all these turkeys — following the tradition of unions providing free turkeys for the holidays — but really pocketing the money himself.) Mark kept talking to him and talking to him, and, finally, Joe told him that the ratification vote for the citywide contract had been fixed. Mark said "Well, how do I know you know? Do you have any proof?" And Joe DeCanio turned around, opened up his

locker, and took out ballots. They had taken the ballots downstairs to the basement and steamed them open. Where people had marked "no," they replaced those ballots with another ballot that said "yes." So the whole thing was fixed, which I had suspected all along.

I told Mark that he should talk to Steve Greenhouse, who was the labor reporter for *The New York Times*. I got to work one morning, and there was Mark, who said he was going out to meet with Steve Greenhouse, and he had the ballots with him. I drove him to *The New York Times* headquarters, dropped him off, and went back to work. And that was the beginning of the end for all these crooks.

Not only were they stealing money, but they had actually stolen an election. They didn't steam open ballots so that we would say no to a bad contract, they steamed open the ballots so we would say yes to a bad contract. It absolutely made no sense. They did this because they didn't want Stanley Hill to look bad with Mayor Giuliani for not being able to deliver a win on the contract. Thirty people went to jail. They weren't all presidents, some were treasurers or held other positions, but a large number of people went to jail. Local 1930, and myself as president, played a major role in this whole fight to clean up the corruption.

STATEN ISLAND LIBRARIES & LITERATURE

Our speaker Andrew Wilson, Strategic Projects Manager at NYPL, has a sideline: exploring Staten Island's history, literary connections, and libraries. His tie to Staten Island is deep; his mother was born on Staten Island. Her family came to Staten Island in the 1600s.

On this April day, he took us back to the early history of libraries on Staten Island. We think of Andrew Carnegie as the great financial provider of libraries, but there was another provider before him, Benjamin

Franklin. In 1833, the first library on Staten Island was established by the Franklin Society with money from Franklin's will, a will that helped establish libraries throughout the country.

This first library was for factory workers in Factoryville, near present day Snug Harbor in the area that was later called West New Brighton. The library's users were the men in the textile dye and printing works.



In the Audience: Norma Herz is sitting; standing are Robert Sink, Andrew Wilson, Margaret Ma Lin, Nancy Avrin, Sandra Payne, Emily Cohen and Becky Koppelman.

Association libraries followed, including the Young People's Literary Association of Tompkinsville, the Young Men's Free Reading Room, New Brighton Reading Association, and the Castleton Free Circulating Library in the Unitarian Church. The Unitarian Church provides the oldest continuing library service on Staten Island. Today, this is an outdoor bookshelf called the Little Free Library on Staten Island. The notice reads, "Take a book, return a book, or keep it forever."

In 1899, public library service began on Staten Island at the New York State-chartered Tottenville Library. The founders were the Philemon Literary Society, a women's club, and the Philo Debating Society, a men's club. They petitioned Andrew Carnegie who funded a new building, today's landmarked Carrère and Hastings library. Before construction of the new building began, Tottenville Library joined The New York Public Library. The Tottenville Branch of NYPL opened in 1904 and was renovated in 1991 and 1995. Other Carrère and Hastings buildings on Staten Island are the Port Richmond Branch Library, the Richmond County Court House, the St. George Branch Library, the Stapleton Branch Library, and the Staten Island Borough Hall. The architect John Mervin Carrère was a Staten Island resident for many years.

Though Andrew Carnegie gave millions to construct fifty-six branches in New York City, on Staten Island only Tottenville (1904), Port Richmond (1905), Stapleton (1907) and St. George (1907) were funded by Carnegie. The second NYPL branch on Staten Island was Port Richmond. When the WPA built an addition to the back of the library, providing a theatre, children's room, and reference room, workmen found a citrate of magnesia bottle under the old back wall with a note in it written by nineteen year old Edmund Joseph Nolan. Newspapers printed the story and hoped to find Nolan. Nolan couldn't be found, but two friends of his said the three had placed a time-capsule bottle under one of the pillars. It is probably still there.



President Becky Koppelman with speaker Andrew Wilson

To read the note, go to: <http://www.nypl.org/blog/2009/03/26/port-richmond-branch-library-first-50-years-1905-1955>

In the 1990s, the third Carnegie funded library, the Stapleton Branch, had an empty lot behind it following the demolition of the old P.S. 14. The city was slow finalizing the purchase of the lot after contracting to build an addition to the library on the empty land. So the landlord built townhouses on the lot in hopes of finding other buyers. After years of negotiations and legal proceedings, the purchase was completed, the townhouses razed, and an addition was added to the branch this past June, more than doubling its space.

Read more about the new Stapleton Branch here http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2013/06/photos_staten_islands_stapleto.html

The fourth Carnegie-funded library, the St. George Branch opened in 1907 with majestic steps in front, a "Sea Room" looking out over the harbor with many

ship models, and a children's room with N.C. Wyeth paintings. When the back staircase was removed in 1952, a new wing with a new children's room and borough office space was added.

The Extension Service provided bookmobile service all over the island. Just about every few blocks there were collections of books for borrowing or a bookmobile stop, including in the Woods of Arden (previously the farm of Frederick Law Olmsted); at a large linoleum manufacturing plant in Linoleumville, now called Travis; the S.S. White Company that manufactured dental equipment and toothpaste; schools; hospitals; and even on Ellis Island. Bookmobile service was phased out in all boroughs of NYPL in 1983 because of the price of gasoline.

Today, the program, MyLibraryNYC, a pilot program of the NYC Department of Education and our three library systems, uses UPS instead of bookmobiles. NYPL distributes individual titles and sets of about thirty books to classrooms in all five boroughs. Teachers may keep the books for sixty days without paying fines. This enhances the new Common Core curriculum, which is shifting the emphasis away from single textbooks to reading multiple non-fiction

**West New Brighton Branch, Open Tuesday & Saturday 3-5, Circulation 1000
(From NYPL Digital Collections website)**



books. Funds for this program come from a number of sources including the Department of Education and Citibank, which gave five million dollars. The Library Service Center in Long Island City serves as the distribution point for hundreds of participating schools around New York. Find the program online at mylibrarynyc.org

Some long-established Staten Island branch libraries have been permanently closed. The Prince's Bay Branch existed as a branch until the 1980s; an earlier Huguenot Park Branch building is now a locksmith shop; and the smallest branch, Castleton Corners, above a store, closed. The West New Brighton Branch was in a number of locations before its present branch opened in 1933. One of the West New Brighton Branch's old locations, for years an artist's studio, is scheduled for demolition, but protestors hope to stop this. Originally, the Todt Hill-Westerleigh Branch was in the Todt Hill housing projects but is now far from there in the Westerleigh neighborhood. The Richmondtown Branch was supposed to replace the Great Kills Branch, but community protest ensured that Great Kills remain open. It was renovated and expanded in 2005. The New Dorp Branch began as a community library in a church. Later it provided

service in the real estate office of James Watson Hughes, in a building provided by the realtor's wife, as a substation of NYPL. The present building was built in 1926 and renovated in 2000. Before moving to its current location, the South Beach Branch was in the South Beach Houses and then on Sand Lane. The Dongan Hills Branch moved from a storefront to a new building in 1975 and was renovated in 2008. A councilman wants to put a branch library in the Charleston mall, but the idea has yet to materialize. The Mariners Harbor Branch will be the newest Staten Island branch library with an architectural award-winning plan.

Staten Island's rich literary past is reflected in its libraries, beginning from when Edwin Markham, a prominent poet of his day, submitted a poem for the opening of the Port Richmond Library to today when Staten Island OutLOUD presents programs such as shared readings, where a book is passed around and each participant reads a paragraph, or fully staged productions in libraries and parks all over Staten Island.

An impressive group of authors and publishers lived on Staten Island or visited it; Harper's editor George William Curtis (a high school is named for him,) Ralph Waldo Emerson, Edwin Markham, Henry Thoreau, Bill Nye (a late 19th century humorist), Herman Melville (his brother was governor of Snug Harbor), Langston Hughes, Paul Zindel, and Audre Lord.

Henry Thoreau, before living by Walden Pond, spent the summer of 1843 tutoring the son of Staten Island judge William Emerson, brother of Ralph Waldo Emerson. Thoreau spent May to December walking the woods of the island. Using a likely Staten Island setting, Herman Melville wrote his final work, a character sketch, Daniel Orme, which appears to take place on a Staten Island hill overlooking the Narrows.

Mark Twain used the experiences of a brief resident of Staten Island's Snug Harbor, Captain Ned Wakeman, in his 1909 novel, *Extract From Captain Stormfield's Visit to Heaven*. Twain spent 40 years working on the novel, which was the last he published during his lifetime. Wakeman is most often remembered for hijacking the paddlewheel steamship *New World* from an East River dock with a party of police officers on board. The police, assigned to secure the ship until outstanding shipyard bills were paid, were overpowered by the crew off Staten Island. Forced to wade ashore, the officers took the ferry back to Manhattan. Both the real captain and Twain's fictional captain had Snug Harbor connections. Wilson is currently working on a book of his own



Mariners Harbor Branch Library architectural Plan (from Flickr)

about Captain Wakeman and his relationship with Twain.

In 1922, Langston Hughes dropped out of Columbia University because of discrimination and found employment on a Staten Island farm run by Greek immigrants from the Northern Aegean island of Lemnos. Wilson wrote about that in a *Staten Island Historian* article: "Langston Hughes: A Season on Staten Island." He has conducted programs about these events at NYPL with local school groups. Hughes' Staten Island poems and letters are reproduced here:

<http://www.historicrichmondtown.org/the-historian>

We left this lecture with a deep appreciation of Staten Island's history, libraries, and literary heritage.

NOTES FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings!

I have been looking at our website, www.nyplra.org – specifically at the first Newsletter – which was printed in June 1993 when the association was first formed. Those who began the association stated that the independent association was "open to all who have retired from The New York Public Library," and so it has remained to this day. The interim executive committee included Agnes Babich, Juanita Doares, Morita Leah Frederick, and Betty Gubert. Juanita Doares spearheaded the association, and Larry Murphy was Newsletter editor.

The new association used the Library's *Staff News*, as well as word of mouth, in a membership drive to bring in new members. Larry Murphy reported in that first Newsletter that there were one hundred twenty members living in sixteen states. NYPL retirees were happy to join the association right from the beginning. Today we have nearly three hundred members!

In that first Newsletter, one headline said, "Retirement is not Playtime." The article went on to say that for some it was a time of worry over dwindling income and medical bills. And it is still a worry for some. The editor stressed the fact that articles included in the Newsletter would reassure retirees and give them information they would need during their retirement to help meet their needs, including pieces on health care reform, social security, and benefits. Other articles discussed advocating for libraries — traveling to Albany, meeting with legislators for additional funding for libraries, and demanding that libraries must be kept open six days a week.

In the second Newsletter, which came out in July 1994, members had elected officers, and committees had been formed. Included here is the listing from that Newsletter.

The association was growing and expanding. NYPL Retirees enjoyed getting together since they had formed close bonds with one another during their working days. Reflecting on their library careers, they wondered how they would keep track of what they had done and who would remember them and their separate and interesting career paths. The executive committee later formed a small Oral History Project, but only a few people were interviewed. Today, we have our Oral History Project running smoothly, with committee members working as fast as they can to interview and preserve the stories of our time at New York Public Library. We all have our histories to tell.

Juanita Doares became the first president of our association; she was a very passionate activist and protestor on many issues, but her first love was for the library, the staff and their issues, and the NYPL Retirees Association. After eleven years as president, Juanita retired in 1995.

And now a reminder to you all: this year, 2013, we will be celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the NYPL Retirees Association. The date on which our festivity will be held is Friday, October 25th, from 2:00 - 5:00 pm at Mid-Manhattan Library, 6th floor, conference rooms B & C. We do hope many of you will join us.

We have excellent entertainment planned. Tantalizing refreshments will be served, including delicious sweets prepared by retiree Marcia Loyd. There will be plenty of time to speak with friends too. And if you know of NYPL retirees who are not yet members of our association, please let us know their names and emails, or bring them as guests. Remind them that we are an independent association, separate from the Library. And everyone will be welcome.

Please let either Estelle Friedman (718-543-9060 or estellefriedman@earthlink.net) or Agnes Babich (718- 335-3881 or agnesbabich@aol.com) know that **YOU** plan to attend our 20th Anniversary Celebration. **Please do join us!**

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 inquires:

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.

The executive board and I wish you all a wonderful and happy fall and winter. Enjoy your latest Newsletter, and please keep in touch. Everyone loves to hear from you!

Becky Eakins Koppelman 212-874-6199
blekopp@gmail.com

Tibetan Museum, 338 Lighthouse Ave, Staten Island, NY 10306

The above are highlights of the series and are not official NYPLRA outings. For more information, see www.statenislandoutloud.org or phone (718) 907-0709. Hope to meet you at one of these events!

UPCOMING EVENTS

POE PROGRAMS

We will not be going as a group, but you may want to attend one or more of these free events presented by Staten Island OutLOUD with a grant from NEA.

Sun, Sep 29, 2013 3:00pm
Nevermore and Evermore
Unitarian Church of Staten Island

Sat, Oct 5, 2013 2:00pm
Poe's Ladies
Alice Austen's House

Sun, Oct 6, 2013 2:00pm
Poe and the Witch of Staten Island
Historic Richmond Town, 441 Clarke Ave, Staten Island, NY 10306

Sun, Oct 27, 2013 3:00pm
A Descent Into the Maelstrom
Noble Maritime Collection

Sat, Nov 2, 2013 8:00pm – 10:00pm
The Pit and the Pendulum
Staten Island Makerspace

Sun, Nov 3, 2013 3:00pm – 5:00pm
Al Aaraaf and other Poe works

RETIREES ABOUT TOWN

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

On June 25, 2013, twenty-four members and friends of the Retirees Association travelled to Washington, DC, for a tour of the National Archives. We had been invited by David Ferriero, the Archivist of the United States (AOTUS) and former Director of The New York Public Library. It was a brutally hot and humid day in DC, but all who made the trip agreed that it was well worth it. When we arrived at the Archives, we found that the security guards had been alerted to our arrival and efficiently ushered us through the check-point to a waiting area. There we were met by David's Special Assistant, Sam Anthony, and a volunteer tour guide, Dave Hall, who led us upstairs to David's office where David greeted us and chatted with us for about fifteen minutes. We learned that, beginning in 1934, Franklin Delano Roosevelt mandated that records from all three branches of government be collected by the Archives; some are classified and unavailable to the public, while others have been placed in depositories, including the presidential libraries, located throughout the country. When a president leaves office, all documents, including digital material (e.g., email), are sent to the archives and can be viewed later but not changed.

The walls of David's office and its anteroom are hung with a plethora of photographs and documents. Occupying the wall opposite David's desk is an oil

painting of Franklin Delano Roosevelt whose library in Hyde Park, New York, was the first presidential library. Among the documents presented to David upon his appointment as Archivist was a letter he had written to Lyndon Johnson, commending him on the passage of the Civil Rights Act and an inquiry about the Peace Corps sent to John F. Kennedy. David said that his new job is “super” and gave examples of the comprehensiveness of the holdings of the Archives. Not too long ago, for instance, the Russians accused the United States of not having paid for Alaska in 1867. Staff was able to produce the actual cancelled

check as proof positive. The fact that documents as personal as letters from a single citizen and as important to United States history as the purchase of Alaska can be retrieved from the vast holdings of the Archives illustrates not only how all-encompassing the collection is but also how well organized.

After our meeting with David, we split into two groups and were guided around the exhibition area for about an hour and a half. As we walked around, other tourists joined us in exploring the wide-ranging, interactive exhibits, including the Richard Henry Lee



Caroline Oyama, Becky Koppelman, Estelle Friedman, Jennine Porta, Jane Kunstler, Polly Bookhout, Susan Chute, Sandra Payne, Fu Mei Yang, Yolanda Bonitch, David Ferriero, Susan Maldonado, James Briggs Murray, Caroline Oyama’ daughter, Mary Anne Corrier, Mark McCluski, Sharon Hyman, Dorothy Lourdou, Mary K. Conwell, Donna Abbaticchio, Margaret Hetley, George Koppelman, Peter McCallion, Beth Wladis

resolution that preceded the Declaration of Independence by a day and a display of typical requests for information sent to the Archives together with the documents that answered these requests. The tour was informative – and exhausting — but only scratched the surface of what the Archives has to offer. We'll just have to return for another visit – in a cooler season!

SUMMER BASEBALL

On June 19, 2013 ten NYPLRA members and guests enjoyed a night game, played at the Richmond County Bank Ballpark, between the Staten Island Yankees and the Brooklyn Cyclones played at the Staten Island Yankees Field. We had good seats behind home plate and the weather and view were both lovely, as was the good company.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT INTERVIEWING WORKSHOP

An interviewing workshop designed for both new and experienced Oral History Project interviewers took place on August 21 at the Mid-Manhattan Library. The workshop was conducted by Erica Fugger, a



**Becky Koppelman, Erica Fugger,
Mary K. Conwell at the
Oral History Project**

candidate for a master's degree in oral history at Columbia University. Special attention was given to the differences between conversation and oral history interviews, the importance of forming questions that elicit stories rather than simply facts, the use of pre-interview and follow-up interviews for a rounded history, and the special challenges and rewards of peer interviewing.

The twelve attendees received readings ahead of time that helped prepare them for the three-hour session, which involved a combination of lecture and interview practice. Comments from participants included, "Even after having conducted several interviews for the Project, I came away with new techniques and renewed enthusiasm," and, "My arm was twisted, and I reluctantly attended the workshop. I never thought I'd have the confidence to conduct an interview; now I can't wait."

We hope all of you Association members who have yet to be interviewed are looking forward to sharing your stories with the Oral History Project!

FROM TOTAL REWARDS OFFICE

*Here are important numbers next of kin should call when a retiree dies. First would be NYPL HR Service Center (212) 621-0500, prompt 4 (for general NYPL benefit questions); DC37 (212) 815-1234 for union benefits information; and NYSLRS (866) 805-0990 for pension questions.

*Next, the NY State Retirement System must be informed. It is important for the retirement system to know the date of the person's death. They will also require a death certificate as proof of death. The Retirement System can be reached, toll-free, at (866) 805-0990.



Becky Koppelman, Agnes Babich, Beth Wladis, Brooke Watkins, Carol Reisner, Anne Hoffman, Estelle Friedman at the Workshop

*Retiree Health Plan Open Enrollment for City of NY Plans takes place in even-numbered years only: the next open enrollment will be in 2014.

**"Health Advocate" is a free confidential service offered to our staff and retirees enrolled in a health plan. It can help with questions on health insurance claims or enrollment issues, second opinions, setting up home health care, and more. Please call them at (866) 695-8622 if you have insurance questions or issues.

*Medicare B Reimbursement letters for those eligible retirees from last year were sent out a few weeks ago.

Since most of the staff receive this letter from DC37, please ask everyone to be patient, as they are just moving back into their offices this July due to the severe damage from Hurricane Sandy

This reimbursement is never guaranteed but is reviewed closely each year to ensure adequate funding is available for this and other important benefits.

The reimbursement requires proof of payment as described in the letter, and it is only on the base amount; any additional amounts due to income adjustments are not reimbursed. The application and additional documents are due back before the end of the year.

IN THE MEDIA

The New York Public Library and the Brooklyn Public Library have been very much in the news lately. For several months, two groups have been organizing protests against library closings and the Central Library Plan. To get up-to-date information, visit their websites:

Committee to Save the New York Public Library
<http://www.savenypl.org/>

Citizens Defending Libraries
citizensdefendinglibraries.blogspot.com

You can find links to past articles in newspapers and magazines, blog entries, and radio broadcasts on our website: <http://www.nyplra.org>

RETIREE NEWS

CAROL ANSHIEN

Since 2011, I have been an active participant in, and a volunteer on, the Advisory Council of my local West Side NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Community), affiliated with Goddard-Riverside Community Center and the Visiting Nurse Service of NY. Seniors in three buildings in my neighborhood (at

94th Street and Columbus Avenue) with populations of 50% or more of older residents comprise this community. NORCs are funded through the Department for the Aging and are intended to keep people living, as long as possible, in their neighborhood homes by providing appropriate health and social work services and programs, as well as arts and cultural events. I participated this past spring in a delightfully energizing intergenerational dance workshop (seniors and pre-teens) led by Naomi Goldberg-Haas; I also have a weekly qigong class.

In July 2013, I completed certification for a Jewish Mindfulness Teachers Training Program, sponsored by the Institute for Jewish Spirituality (IJS). It included studying Buddhist and Jewish texts and weeklong silent retreats. I have been substitute teaching at the Makom Center of the JCC in Manhattan where I hope to begin a regular teaching schedule. I would like to hear from other retirees who have an interest in meditation and mindfulness practice.

My other creative side has flourished in a small Book Arts class given at the National Council for Jewish Women (NCJW) on west 72nd Street. I am learning various techniques of folding paper; sewing signatures and bindings; choosing, pasting, and collaging covers and end papers, etc. I have designed and made many different styles of books (over 20 so far). The work is very focused and satisfying.

DAVID BEASLEY

David Richard Beasley, former librarian in the Economics and Public Affairs Division and first president of the New York Library Guild, Local 1930, received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal on November 18, 2012, from the Honourable Diane Finley representing Governor-General Johnston in Simcoe, Ontario. The citation reads: "In recognition of his extensive writings on the arts and politics, as well as his contributions to the documentation of international and local history." Dr. Beasley's novels

and non-fiction books are described with reviews on his web site: www.davuspublishing.com, from which his books may be ordered through PayPal, or read on Kindle, or downloaded.

WILLIAM LEO COAKLEY

Although the Branch Libraries have honorable roots in the Central Building (as I still think of it), it does seem foolhardy to dismantle two vigorous satellite libraries and spend far too much money on the new plan, money which could be better used for such projects as the digitalizing now underway, which will bring the Library into the future.

I recently won the Der-Hovanessian Prize (2013) from Boston's New England Poetry Club for a translation from the Greek of a Constantine Cavafy poem.

JULIE CUMMINS

I have a new children's book that's just out: *Flying Solo: How Ruth Elder Soared into America's Heart*, published by Roaring Brook. So check it out! We're loving our new home, still in the same town, but all brand new.

MARIE FERRIGNO

I am happy to report that I got a new laptop computer and am learning how to use it. Find it very different from a desktop. I am continuing to enjoy my Kindle. Now I could not live without it. There are so many books I still want to read.

GIACOMO GRANATA

I lost my lovely wife of 53 years December 23, 2010.

LYDIA LA FLEUR

Lydia LaFleur spent most of August at her son and family's summer house in Karuizawa. Karuizawa is in what is called the Japanese Alps, although the

mountains are not that high, and it's only an hour away from Tokyo by bullet train. It covers a vast region, mainly forests and rivers and is very beautiful, serene, cool in the summer (need a comforter at night), with lots of fresh air.

PATRICK HARDISH

I returned to my alma mater Queens College, City University of New York, for a course in orchestra conducting, which I audited last spring semester. Currently, I am composing a new work for bass flute to be performed in concert with three older works of mine next January (venue TBA).

DONALD LAUB

Donald Laub retired on January 19, 2013, after working at NYPL for 27 years, all of which were at branches on Staten Island. He is enjoying his retirement and is doing a lot of reading, walking, and socializing with friends.

On September 29, 2012, Donald was married to Kil Hyon Hwan of Manhattan and Seoul, South Korea, and on November 1, 2012, they moved to Pelham Gardens, Bronx, to be close to Kil Hyon's new job as a registered nurse at Jacobi Hospital. They both like their new neighborhood and especially enjoy trips to Arthur Avenue and City Island for some great food! Donald has become a library patron at the Eastchester and Van Nest branches, and he has recently joined the book discussion group at Van Nest.

This past July Donald traveled for the first time to Seoul, South Korea, where he met his step-son, step-daughter, and in-laws, and they all got along wonderfully! Aside from eating a lot of excellent Korean food, highlights of Donald's trip to Seoul were going to a superb Broadway-style (and quality) musical (in Korean) with his step-daughter and to a Korean baseball game with his step-son and brother-in-law.



**Kil Hyon Hwan and
Donald Laub**

JACKIE LAVALLE

Since I officially retired, I have sought to try different careers and I am still "seeking." I write for World Percussion and Rhythm (volunteer) on all matters relating to drums. I study "Bomba y Plena," Afro-Puerto Rican folkloric music, and the Conga and Bongo.

I have taught ESL, and I am not satisfied with my "career" at present. I am looking for work and would love a part-time job in the Library.

PHYLLIS MACK

Boy, did I have a busy and great time this summer, despite the extreme heat! In July, my eldest daughter, oldest granddaughter, and I attended our sorority's

(Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.), Centennial Celebration in Washington, D.C. We spent seven days attending star-filled events and workshops and touring DC's tourist sites. The Convention broke all attendance records for conventions of its kind, with over 38,000 registrants—excluding family, friends and visitors. I saw many of my college classmates for the first time in many years. My 15-year-old granddaughter was very impressed and will, hopefully, become a member of my Beloved Sorority!

The weekend following the sorority convention, descendants of my father's family (and his eight siblings) held its first reunion in Columbus, Ohio, where some of my cousins reside. My father's family is originally from Madison County, West Virginia. Since I'm an avid genealogist, primarily focusing on my own family's history, I was able to assist my California cousin in the preparation of a family booklet, which included writing our family history and sharing each individual sibling's family photographs. Unfortunately, we were unable to attend the reunion, but one of my brothers and his wife represented my father's descendants. This activity did assuage my curiosity since the booklet contained a photo of my father's parents, whom I had never seen or come to know because they were both deceased when I was a baby.

In August, my eldest daughter and my two teenage grandchildren toured China with the World of Money.org, a financial literacy organization for students, planned by EF Educational Tours. There were 84 in attendance, and I believe I was the oldest of the parents and students. The fast-paced trip was replete with strenuous activities, late hours, early mornings, and limited availability of palatable food, but I was able to keep up! We toured Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai, and Hong Kong, taking a 2-3 hour flight within China to each subsequent city. I still cannot believe that I climbed the Great Wall in Beijing, saw the Terracotta Warriors in Xi'an, and went to the top of the World Financial Center in Shanghai (100

stories). My grandchildren were eager to escort me whenever necessary!

In Beijing, we visited The Dynamic English School where their young students performed using various Chinese instruments and their vocal skills, played games, and shared gifts. The World of Money youth also performed for them, showcasing their new Mandarin language skills, and shared small gifts and trinkets with their peers. We also visited a martial arts—kung fu—boarding school in Beijing. The school facility left much to be desired with peeling paint, dismal classrooms, and several other issues that would not have passed inspection in the U.S.

We visited and had dinner with a Hutong family. The husband was a famous martial arts expert, whose eldest son was currently living in Houston, Texas, and for the past six years teaching kung fu. The family's home was in a very traditional and historic area and had been in their family for over 150 years. In retrospect, the meal was the most delicious and appetizing of all of the cuisine we experienced in China. The family was quite gracious and welcoming! Afterwards, we had a rickshaw tour of the Hutong area. Several humorous events occurred, including when a very persistent vendor—who refused to be denied a sale—jumped on her bicycle and pursued us as we rode in the rickshaw.

On to Xi'an, where we were able to walk the Ancient Wall and even ride bicycles! My daughter and her son rode for almost three miles over very bumpy stones! She bemoans the fact that she was sore for several days that followed! One of the highlights of Xi'an is a visit to the Terracotta Warriors. The very modern facilities—which enclose the archeological find—and the grounds are magnificent. We spent quite a bit of time there, on a very warm sunny day, without benefit of air conditioning.

We toured the Shanghai World Financial Center and the German-named Bund with their historic buildings which house the numerous financial institutions. I

was extremely reluctant to cross the transparent floor on the 100th Floor of the Shanghai World Financial Center after I looked down and saw the street 474 meters [1,555 feet] below! I also needed my grandchildren's assistance to walk across the slippery stones in some of the sites we visited [Yu Yuan Garden] and also when we climbed the numerous steps to our various destinations, which seemed to occur daily. A visit to Shanghai must include a visit to a Buddhist Temple and the Yu Yuan Garden, where we also spent time in the Chinatown area shopping with the locals.

Most of our party departed for the U.S. following the nine-day tour, while 30 went on to Hong Kong, to experience torrential rains and heavy winds as a result of Typhoon Utor. It was quite a scare in Hong Kong, and a Typhoon Signal No. 8 Warning was issued. We did venture out to see some local sights and got drenched in the heavy wind and rain. The Typhoon was downgraded to a Tropical Storm Signal No. 3, which was finally lowered to Signal No. 1 by the time we departed. This snafu did curtail some of our sightseeing—and shopping!

As I planned to go on this 12 day trip—that was two years in the making—I wondered how I could exist when I do not eat much Chinese food. Well, I did sample some dishes and passed up most, as did my 13 year-old grandson. We ate western food (pizza and McDonald's), when we could find it and existed on granola bars and other snacks from home. I learned that most Chinese families do not have ovens, and thus most food is fried or steamed. Oh, how I missed my crunchy baked foods!

Another surprise for us was the squat toilets and the lack of toilet paper and paper towels in the restroom facilities. Even at the hotels and restaurants we frequented, the paper goods were rationed.

I did learn much about Chinese culture, saw incredible sights, and had the experience of a lifetime to share with my family and friends.



Phyllis Mack in China

RAYMOND MARKEY

Retirement in Hawaii continues to be a joy. The big decision every day is what T-shirt and shorts to wear. A two year old grandson and a baby girl born in June give us a good excuse to regularly visit Portland, Oregon.

PETER MC CALLION

At 70 years of age, I finally fulfilled my dream of being an archaeologist and attended a field school where I actually uncovered the bones of a man buried about eleven hundred years ago! With continued good health, I spend the winters in Oaxaca, Mexico, where I volunteer at the English language library, weeding the collection and leading book talks. Tanglewood



To Staten Island

and the Boston Symphony Orchestra continue to be my summer job.

JEAN PINCKNEY

Unfortunately, my career at NYPL came to a close when one day some robbers accosted my retired husband in our apartment in Brooklyn. This made him want to return to his place of birth, South Carolina, where he had already acquired a home for us and was waiting patiently for me to retire. Well, as the song says, “You can’t keep a good man down,” so when I moved here, I immediately started working as a part-time Librarian at Trident Technical College for six years before fully retiring. I am now retired and taking care of my sick husband between periods of teaching Sunday School, computer classes, and doing missionary work for my church. I feel truly blessed and enjoy giving back to those less fortunate.

MARCIA PURCELL

I have been retired for a year-and-a-half and am constantly surprised by how quickly the days just zoom by. Happy to say, the morass of Social Security, Medicare, and medical care in general, seems to have been successfully navigated. Then, living in NYC, there is the happy side of life, where there are so

many cultural opportunities, particularly concerts and the ballet, and too many tempting restaurants. I also want to thank the NYPL Retirees for organizing many fine expeditions. A highlight was the tea at Gracie Mansion!

Recently, we were fortunate to visit friends living in Portland, Oregon. What a beautiful part of the country — three exceptional gardens, local vineyards, and Mt. St. Helens. I couldn't believe the eruption was so long ago, 1980!

KATE TODD

Kate Todd was the speaker for the ALA program, Understanding Leveling Systems, at the annual conference in Chicago this year. Kate will be teaching two online courses for ALA starting in October: Reading Instruction and Children’s Books (6 week course) sponsored by ALSC and Improving Library Services to People with Disabilities (4 week course) sponsored by ASCLA.

PHILIP WOLCOFF

I have contributed items to the newsletter. A few years ago I wrote about an article in a magazine my wife subscribes to, *Woman’s Day*. The March 3, 2009, issue had an article, “Library Made Me Healthier.” I thought that should make us happy to be in a profession that one could say helps to make us “healthier.” And may I also say “wealthier” and “wise.” It was a pleasure working over forty years for NYPL.

NEW MEMBERS

Alice Adameczyk
Dalli Bacon
Jean Bowen
Julio Castro
Daniel Chavez
Susan Chute
Julie Cummins
Phyllis Current
Susan Harrison
Glenderlyn Johnson
Nancy Krumholtz
Irina Kuharets
Donald Laub
Irene Martin
Sandra McDonough
Glenn Mills
Lillian Morrison
James Briggs Murray
Jayne A. Pierce
Susan Rappaport
Gene Shaw
Bonnie Sterling
Carol Thomas
Kate Todd
Robert Vanni
Jean West

REMEMBERING OUR COLLEAGUES

Emily Browne
Mildred Buglion
Mary Derowski
George Forella
Elizabeth Golden
Mena Gomes
Vivan Huyler
Jeanette Impastato
Edward Jackson
Gail Jawor
Ellen Kohl
Elaine Landau
Marilyn Lamar
Ellen Libretto
James Lott
Agnes Martin
Francis Mattson
Maria Proctor
Ruth Rausen
Clare Rodgers
Maria Trujillo
Robert Valeroso
Danny Zampino



**Our members at a night baseball
game on Staten Island**



Back Row:
Lydia LaFleur,
Ruth Rausen,
Marjorie Mir,
Front Row:
Mary Nicholaou,
Lillian Morrison

REMEMBERING RUTH RAUSEN

Ruth Rausen, born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, returned to be near her family when her husband of 60 years, John Rausen, a mathematics professor, died. She was coordinator of Young Adult Services when she retired from NYPL. Her colleagues remember her: "Like so many others, I gained from having Ruth Rausen as a mentor in my career as a young adult librarian. Her strength, wit and charm live on in so many NYPL staff and alumni." (Penny Jeffrey) "When I began my career at NYPL, Ruth Rausen was the Assistant Coordinator of Young Adult Services with Lillian Morrison as the Coordinator. As teen advocates, they were best models for how one serves teens in public libraries! Thank you, Ruth, for giving us the courage and service knowledge to stand up for teens and those who love them." (Sandra Payne) "I really liked Ruth. She was everything that was good about NYPL." (Rachelle Stein)

THIS NEWSLETTER is published twice yearly by the New York Public Library Retirees Association.

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