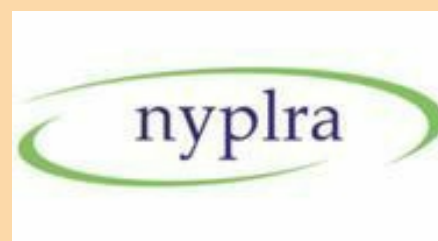


New York Public Library Retirees Association Newsletter



Spring 2017

Issue 39

REMEMBERING MR. BAY



Osman Bayazid, whose career in The New York Public Library began in 1955, died on January 6, 2017, in New York at the age of 92. At NYPL, he was known simply as Mr. Bay. To the outside world, he was Osman Bayezid Osmanoglu, or Osman Bayezid Efendi, 44th head of the Ottoman family and heir to the Ottoman Empire. Much can be found on the internet about the royal line from which he descended and about the formation of the Republic of Turkey, which revoked the citizenship of the Ottoman dynasty and sent his family into exile in 1924.

A more personal story can be found in notes and a recording from interviews conducted as part of the NYPL Retirees Association Oral History Project. This article is based on notes from interviews conducted by Hara Seltzer and Brigid Cahalan during February and March of 2012 and on the recording of an interview conducted by Agnes Babich on July 27, 2012. In addition to Hara, Brigid, and Agnes, Bosiljka Stevanovic and Robert Foy were consulted for this article, and the pieces were combined and edited for publication by Mary K. Conwell.

Mr. Bay was born in Paris in 1925, although in one newspaper account he proudly claimed to have been conceived in Turkey. This story was heard often by his friends and colleagues. After the death of his father, his mother married an American. The couple traveled extensively, and during one of their trips, Mr. Bay's stepfather became alarmed about the possibility of war. He suggested that he return to America to find a place for the family to live and that his wife return to Paris to pick up the children and their nannies and join him in America. However, just as she was making these arrangements, Germany invaded France, and the family was caught in Paris under German occupation. Although his mother and two of his brothers were American and could have left, Mr. Bay, his older brother, and their nannies were Turkish citizens and were unable to leave. "Finally," Mr. Bay said, "mother sat with one of my nannies on the Gestapo doorstep and said, 'I'm not leaving until you leave a *laissez-passer* to my children and my nanny.'" They agreed to give her forty-eight hours to leave but later changed their minds about the timing and forced the family to set out that very night to make their way to Portugal.

It was in Portugal that Mr. Bay learned one of his many languages. "But I learned it with a doorman and the elevator boy," he said, "and I didn't realize how horrible my Portuguese was until I saw a Portuguese lady in our Foreign Language Department. I thought I was greeting her, and she said, 'Oh, my God; what are you saying to me?' I was really using very bad slang words, you know, so after that I was thinking, I'll take, maybe, Portuguese lessons."

After Mr. Bay and his family arrived in New York, Eileen Riols, who was the branch librarian at

Kingsbridge and a friend of the family, suggested that Mr. Bay apply for a job at the Library. He began his career in 1955 at the Hudson Park Branch, where, he said, “I did practically everything.” He had fond memories of the branch librarian, Mrs. Alice Vielehr. Her father was an engineer who worked on building a railroad from Turkey to Persia, and she was born in Constantinople, now Istanbul. “Mrs. Vielehr is the one who taught me that you have to incorporate the neighborhood into the branches. So she would have community meetings; she had a theater in the branch and an art gallery.” Mr. Bay remembered helping to hang the paintings for the rotating exhibits of local artists. On her free days, according to Mr. Bay, Mrs. Vielehr would work with the League of Women Voters compiling the voting records of candidates. At Hudson Park Mr. Bay also enjoyed working with the children’s librarian Gertrude Robinson. She was a protégé of Pura Belpré, who taught her puppetry. “So we did the puppet show for the Hudson Park Library, and we took it to other branches that wanted to have a puppet show. On our free day, we would take it to orphanages and halfway homes for children where the parents drop their children and pick them up during the holidays.” The two puppet shows he remembered best were “The Amiable Giant” (in which he played the giant in a mask and wig) and “The Reluctant Dragon.”

“I must have stayed at Hudson Park five or six years, and then I went to Ottendorfer.” Mr. Bay’s memories there were of Mercy Kellogg. “People didn’t like her too much, but she was a fantastic person. Besides being a very good librarian, she could handle any situation. We were very close to the Bowery, and we had a lot of drunks. My job—I was the only man there, and you were not supposed to touch them—was to take them nose-to-nose to the door with their bottle, so I would get drunk by just breathing! We had one who came in drinking. Once after I threw him out, he came back with a bayonet on his shoulder (he had been a Green Beret or a soldier) and said, ‘Knock it off.’ Miss Kellogg heard that. She came all the way from the back and said, ‘Let me handle this.’ To the man she said, ‘Come with me.’ I had taken the bayonet and put it in the wastepaper basket. Now, an hour later, he goes out, and about another half an hour he comes back with four people. I thought, ‘Oh my God; we’re going to get it.’ The man said, ‘I want to talk to that nice librarian; I don’t want to talk to you. Where is she? I want her to meet my friends.’ So he came in and introduced the drunks to Miss Kellogg,

and they became readers. They would come in and sit on the four chairs we had at the beginning of the library, downstairs, and they would read a book or a magazine.”

“From Ottendorfer—and also from Hudson Park—they would send me to different branches to fill in for people who went on vacation; so I would spend a month here and a month there. Among the branches I remember: Epiphany (with branch librarian Beulah [Bee] Sheets), Tompkins Square (with branch librarian Alice Alexander), and Muhlenberg where I met Miss [Cassindania] Eaton for the first time. And after that I was asked by Miss Eaton and Mr. [Walter] Roziewski, from the Manhattan Borough Office, to



apply for Donnell Foreign Language. Eventually I did, and my job was doing all the languages that other staff couldn’t. We were seven people, and we knew nine languages perfectly well—except we had eighty languages!”

At Donnell, Earl Gladden was head of the Foreign Language Department, as it was called then. Mr. Gladden, according to Mr. Bay, was a man with a remarkable facility with languages. He could find mistakes in languages he didn’t actually know, languages such as Hebrew, Turkish, and Yiddish. “Well, Mr. Gladden would call us up and say, ‘Oh by the way, you’re doing the Armenian.’ That’s the one I remember best. And I said, ‘I don’t know it.’ He’d say, ‘Yes, you do.’ I said, ‘No I don’t.’ ‘Yes, you do.’ And he gave me a dictionary and a grammar and said, ‘Go and buy the books; the *Library Journal*’s

annotation is due in two months.’ So I went, and I actually learned, more or less, the transliteration of the language, and, with the help of the bookstore in the Armenian Cathedral on 34th Street, I got my annotation, and Mr. Gladden said, ‘Don’t put your name on the annotation because it will be adding insult to injury, being a Turk.’ So we put, ‘Bought and annotated by the staff of the Foreign Language Library.’”

According to Mr. Bay, the French language was always covered by the Donnell Foreign unit heads, and Sylvia Goldberg took the Italian. Mrs. Goldberg also covered the Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish titles, and she was often asked to events at those consulates and developed several friendships with the people who worked there. Mr. Erwin Buttler, the Spanish specialist, was actually from Hungary. Mr. Bay called Mrs. Zillions an unforgettable, unique character, originally from Lithuania. Later, Mr. Bay enjoyed working with Bosiljka Stevanovic and Hung Yun Chang.

“I was able to transliterate from Indian languages into Roman letters. We had eleven Indian languages, so I did those.” When the Russian specialist, who was Ukrainian, left, Mr. Bay even did the Polish list, and “then I did the Latvian list.”

Every now and then, one of the readers would want to know who did the cataloging. At that time, the staff did the cataloging because there were no computers, and the Library did not yet have a book catalog. “I remember I was doing the Farsi language, and they sent a very nice man, a Persian librarian, who came in to check on the catalog. I said to the staff, ‘Don’t you dare tell him that I did the catalog.’ He was at the catalog and every two minutes, ‘Oh, my God, Oh, my God.’ So after three or four days of that, I said, ‘God is too busy; he is not interested in your catalog. What’s wrong, with your Oh, my God?’ He said, ‘Somebody put *ou* instead of double *o*.’ I said, ‘Big deal. Who is going to know except you and maybe me? The readers don’t read the transliterations; they read their own language.’”

Mr. Bay officially retired in 1989 but came back on a part-time basis on the ROAR program. That program was discontinued in 2008, and, according to Hara Seltzer, Anne Hofmann (who was head of Mid-Manhattan) came to tell Mr. Bay that he was being laid off; he said to her, “I’ve had a pretty good run,

considering I retired twenty years ago!” Hara says that Anne was very gracious and that Mr. Bay was “pretty funny.” He certainly was undaunted—he continued to work as a volunteer for several more years.

Of his career, Mr. Bay said, “It was really a fantastic time for me, and I was so grateful to Miss Riols, who got me that job. She was a friend of my family for almost sixty years. Two of my mother’s nephews fell in love with her. That was in the 1930s, I think. Both of them said they would change their religion from Muslim to Catholic—she was dyed-in-the-wool Catholic—and she said, ‘No, you would only change this because you want to marry me, and not because you really feel.’”

Toward the end of his interview with Agnes Babich, Mr. Bay said, “In thirty-four years of working with hundreds of people, I think, I never met someone I didn’t like and who was not pleasant; great people, really. My mother, when she was bringing us up, said, ‘I want you to treat other people the way you want to be treated.’ I’ve followed that advice all my life.” His friends and colleagues especially remember Mr. Bay’s fondness for the music of Edith Piaf, his love of dining out with friends, and his joy in throwing parties for every holiday—with Halloween being his favorite. According to Brigid Cahalan, he would usually cram fifteen to twenty people into his small apartment and treat them to endless supplies of Turkish food, such as Çerkez tavagu, börek, and stuffed grape leaves.



Mr. Bay’s modesty, kindness, loyalty, and, especially, sense of humor will long be remembered by those fortunate enough to have known and worked with him. As Brigid commented, “Days when he was not at work were not nearly as much fun!”

FROM THE EDITOR

This is your newsletter!

Our next issue will be Fall 2017. Please let me know about the goings-on in your retirement. Did you travel somewhere interesting or meet a colleague from long ago? Do you have a fond (or not-so-fond) memory from your working days? Please share your stories. Please also send pictures that correspond to your stories if you have them or just a picture of yourself to share with your fellow retirees.

Emily Cohen

473 Jefferson Blvd, Staten Island, NY 10312

718-984-3790

ecohennypl@aol.com



SPARROW 2016

By Hara Seltzer



NOTES FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Sitting at my computer and looking out my window a few weeks ago, I thought, "Will this cold wind and rain ever stop?" Last week, still cold out, leaves were budding on the tree near my window. And today, the sun is out! All is beautiful! Leaves fill my tree! I think of hot summer days to come. I welcome them!

In May, we enjoyed another delicious annual luncheon at our favorite French bistro, La Mirabelle. On June 14, the Spring Reunion for Retirees and Longtime Staff will be held at the Celeste Bartos Forum. Hope to see many of you there to chat and reminisce.

Now, here is your newsletter, chock-full of interesting articles!

Wherever you are and whatever the weather, remember, keep in touch. We all love to hear from YOU!

Best Wishes to All,

Becky, the Executive Board, and Committee Chairs

THE ARCHIVE THIEF

BY ZAHAVA STESSEL, PH.D.



One of the rewards for a retired librarian is seeing, in the publication of a new book, that the author or the subject of the book was a library patron. In my case, it was the historian, Zosa Szajkowski.

Working at the Jewish Division of the Research Library on 42nd Street in Manhattan, I assisted Mr. Szajkowski with material from the rare book collection. Those books and manuscripts were fragile and valuable; some were the only copies in existence. The readers were seated in a special section to use them.

Mr. Szajkowski was known as a leading scholar of French Jewish history who rescued documents from France and Germany in the wake of the Holocaust. He was an intellectual who gained my great respect. As a Hungarian Holocaust-Auschwitz survivor myself, I felt honored exchanging a few sentences with such a great man. I made sure that all his requests were promptly provided.

Mr. Szajkowski had been in the library a few times. Leaving after one of his visits in September 1978, to the surprise of everyone, he was arrested as rare pamphlets were found inside his brief case. Shamed and exposed as a thief, Szajkowski drowned himself in a hotel bathtub. His wife and son survived him.

Szajkowski's history was published by Lisa Moses Leff, *The Archive Thief: The Man Who Salvaged French Jewish History in the Wake of the Holocaust* (Oxford University Press, 2016). The award-winning book deals with Szajkowski, a man who transformed from a leading historian to a thief of manuscripts, selling pages he had stolen to academic libraries. Ms. Leff is ambivalent as to whether Szajkowski is a hero, a thief, or possibly both.

The case remained in my consciousness for a long time with an utter disbelief. Even today, I am still saddened by Mr. Szajkowski's persona and fate.



Can you identify the NYPL retirees among these Mardi Gras celebrants?



MEET THE NYPLRA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Standing (l to r): Jane Kunstler, Sharon Hyman, Polly Bookhout, Jennine Porta, Estelle Friedman,
Seated (l to r): Larry Petterson, Emily Cohen, Becky Koppelman, Joe Zeveloff, Mary K. Conwell

MY DONNELL MEMORIES

BY HARA SELTZER

I was at Donnell from 1979 to 1982. In March or April of 1982, there was a snowstorm on Passover. My parents had planned a family dinner, and several people bowed out. My mother said that I should invite my friends at Donnell.

So Sandy Beye, Brigid Cahalan, and Christine Tooker took the train with me to Brooklyn. We had a fine evening.



Hara and Sandy in Brooklyn, 1982

Sandy went on to become branch librarian at Webster, then went back home to the Midwest where she died much too young. Christine went to work at libraries on Long Island and retired to Florida. Brigid is alive and well in Jersey City.

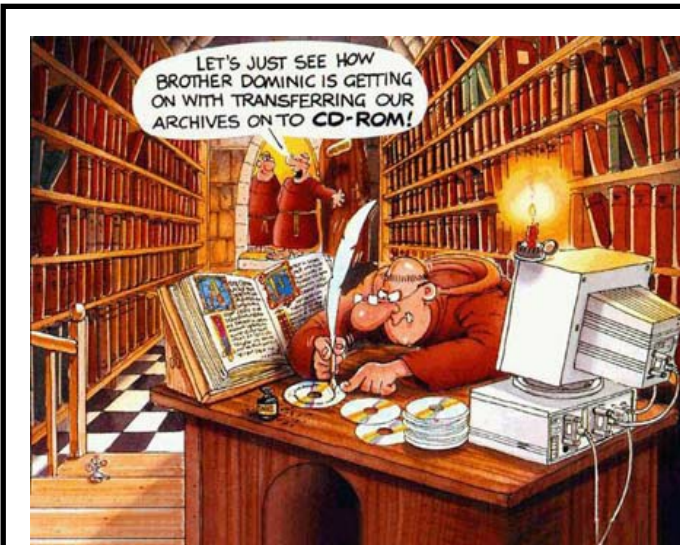
These people and many others are the life-long friends I made at the New York Public Library.

SHARON WASHINGTON



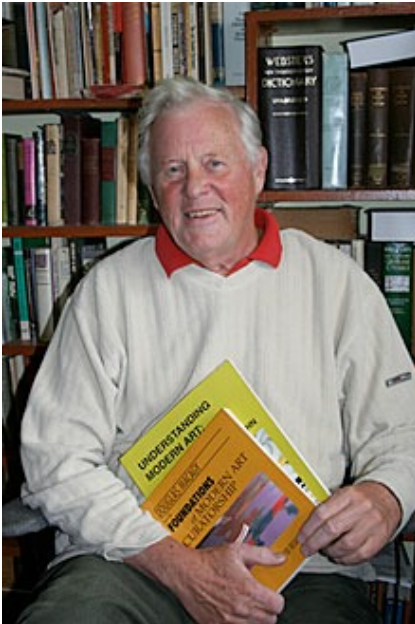
Sharon Washington, an actress and playwright, grew up in the apartment on the top floor of the St. Agnes Branch of the Library, where her father was the custodian. Next spring, she will be appearing in *Feeding the Dragon*, a solo autobiographical play that “revisits her time growing up there” and “examines how both the power of forgiveness and her lifelong love for the written word have helped her battle dragons of all forms.” The Association is considering organizing a theater party during the run of the play at the Cherry Lane Theatre in the Village. We will send out a notice when the tickets go on sale.

Sharon has been interviewed for our Oral History Project.



RETIREE NEWS

DAVID BEASLEY



Michelle and I drove from Simcoe, near Lake Erie, to Summerside, Prince Edward Island, for the United Empire Loyalist Convention last July.

Descendants of Loyalists from the American War for Independence [known also as the American Revolution] keep their traditions going and tell stories of the more than two

centuries during which their families built the colonies before the War that caused them to flee for their lives to Upper Canada, the Maritimes, and elsewhere. My creative nonfiction, *From Bloody Beginnings, Richard Beasley's Upper Canada*, deals in part with the Loyalists at the time of the Revolution, so I have become interested, although not to the extent of wearing costumes from the 1780s. We took in Les Isles des Madeleines, ferried to the Gaspé, and drove down the North Shore of the St. Lawrence to Quebec City where we stayed with Michelle's sisters before driving back to Simcoe.

In August-September, we cruised with Regent Seven Seas from Athens to Rome--taking in ancient cities on the Dalmatian coast--to Venice and back around the boot. I was impressed with the rebuilt Monte Cassino and disappointed in Pompeii, which, although more unearthed, lacked the frescoes and inlaid tiles that I had seen in 1955—now transferred to museums for preservation. Monte Cassino on its mountain is where the Germans held up the allies' advance to Rome for three months and caused enormous casualties. A New Zealand commander thought the Germans had taken refuge in the monastery, so the Americans bombed it. The townspeople, women and children, were in it, not the Germans, so there was slaughter of Italians as well. The eighteen monks took refuge in a stone tower

in which St. Benedict had lived while the original monastery was built; it was not hit! The Canadians were the last assault troops and took the place. Farley Mowat, the Canadian outdoors writer, was in the battle. Good to see it in peace with apartment rooms reserved for the Pope should he chance to visit.

David, who retired from the Research Libraries' Economics and Public Affairs Division, has just published "*Spiral*," an historical novel. The book sells for \$12 and can be ordered via his website at www.davuspublishing.com.

"The decline of a prominent family owing to alcoholism and impoverishment in Hamilton Canada in the early 1850s leads to threats of suicide in 1873 when a young girl is denied her inheritance. The story is set against problems imperiling the city such as crime, cholera, financial collapse and legal malfeasance. The courage and reliability of another member of the family help rescue its reputation and contribute to the restoration of the city's prosperity.

"Figures from the city's past walk its streets, inhabit its taverns, fall in love and contrive criminal enterprises to bring it to life once more."

JOANNE CONTE

Reading, of course, is my favorite hobby. I'm especially fond of historical fiction, and, since I worked with teens at Allerton and Morris Park Branch Libraries, YA fiction. My favorite time period is the 1940s. I'm involved in a fiction-writing group at Morris Park. I also volunteer at that branch, setting up displays and reading in neighboring parks during the summer months. I also volunteer at my church and babysit frequently for my four grandchildren.

I fondly remember a patron at Allerton, Victor. He would come in for classic movies, and he was instrumental in finding a classic movie that a friend of mine watched with her mom and couldn't recall. It was reverse advisory; this time the patron helped library staff!

MARY K. CONWELL



Viola Barrett and Mary K. Conwell

During a recent trip to Florida to visit friends, I was able to connect with retiree Viola Barrett, who lives part of the year in Stuart. We had a delicious seafood dinner and toured her lovely condo. Watching her maneuver on her trusty scooter is a sight to behold! Here is a photo of us at the restaurant.

FRED GIORDANO

In 2012, after 45 years in New York, my wife Joan and I moved to my home state of Massachusetts to be near our twin grandchildren. We are fortunate to live here in the Metrowest area of Boston in a country setting yet near Boston and all the history and culture (and restaurants) the area offers. Joan recently completed several years of volunteering for the Consumer Assistance Office while I continue volunteer work at the Wayland Board of Health and at Bethany Hill Place, an affordable housing complex whose residents have experienced homelessness, drug addiction, and many other challenges. One of these days, Joan and I hope we can tie in a visit to NY with an Association event allowing us to renew old acquaintances.

PATRICK HARDISH

Anton Rovner's interview with Patrick Hardish, "Patrick Hardish--Composer and Champion of International Contemporary Music," appears in the 2016, no. 3, issue of the publication *Music Scholarship, Russian Journal for Academic Studies*, pages 21-27. The text is in English.

Patrick Hardish's *Sonorities IV* for soprano saxophone was performed by Anthony Izzo at the Firehouse Space in Brooklyn on February 11, 2017, in a concert by the Swerdlin-Izzo Duo.

JANE KUNSTLER

On a bright and beautiful Saturday, the day after the inauguration of our 45th President, I joined several hundred thousand other women—with plenty of men and children as well—on the NYC Women's March to protest his views on women's rights, civil rights, social justice, equality, and all the other freedoms and programs we believe are in danger. The gathering place for the march was Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, but my friends and I decided to begin at one of the other access points, Grand Central Terminal. I was wearing my pussyhat, knit by Gennie Perez, who was also

there somewhere in the crowd. We stood, watched the masses, and chatted with those around us for an hour or two, until the marchers reached us. Our meeting place put us pretty close to the head of the march. The atmosphere was upbeat, friendly, and optimistic.



Everyone was taking photos; even the cops on the sidelines had their phones out. When we got to St. Thomas' on Fifth Avenue and 53rd Street, its bells were playing "We Shall Overcome," one of several songs they played as the marchers passed the church. The march ended at 55th or 56th Street, where we were made to turn towards Madison Avenue. All-in-all, it was an uplifting, hopeful event, encouraging all who participated to continue the fight.

LYDIA LAFLEUR

At 90, life is better than ever! Less than a year ago, I never dreamed I'd be saying that. I write all about it in my blog (stillupright.wordpress.com), on which I've been posting my experiences in aging these past three years. I would be so pleased if my former coworkers were to read it and delighted to receive comments, even if negative (a tad bit)! I feel so fortunate to have had a career as a young adult librarian in The New York Public Library, which I loved, and now to experience these very later years.

MICHAEL LOSCALZO

I thought the whole point of retirement was to do as little as possible!

MARK MCCLUSKI AND

JENNINE PORTA

"Wait, this isn't our red Honda Fit! Thanks for the auto upgrade, Emily and Allen Cohen!"



PHYLLIS G. MACK

An NYPL librarian and current member of Community Board 10, Manhattan, informed me that the Board would be honoring Past Chairpersons in February 2017. Known as a library advocate for many years, and after attending numerous Community Board 10 M meetings speaking on behalf of the library, I was elected President in 1989. I served on

the Board for four years, previously serving as second Vice Chair and first Vice Chair. It was so nice to be honored and remembered.



**Honoring the Past and Present Chairs of
Manhattan Community Board 10
A Black History Month Event**

*Celebrating the 40th Year Anniversary of Community Boards
Hosted By CB 10 Chairperson Brian A. Benjamin*

 Brian Benjamin	 Henrietta Lyle	 Judge Frank Perry	 Barbara Atkins	 Lloyd Williams	 Jabara Osaro
 C. Virginia Fields	 Phyllis Green Mack	 Stanley Gileston	 Willie Walker	 Norreen Clark Smith	 Neal Clark Ed Fordham Eugene Giscombe William Sweeting

Thursday, February 23, 2017 || Reception: 6:00 - 7:00 PM || Ceremony: 7:00 - 9:00 PM
Harlem State Office Building || 163 West 125th Street, 3rd Floor

[Click Here RSVP: Honoring Past and Present Chairs](#)

After my brother raved about his journey to Dubai in 2010, accompanying his soon-to-be wife on her business trip, I added Dubai to my travel bucket list. Much to my surprise, I saw it come to fruition when my daughter Stephanie Mack-Cade and my two teenage grandchildren (cousins), Stefan and Nia embarked on a wonderful trip to the United Arab Emirates (Dubai, Sharjah, and Abu Dhabi) during

Spring Break (April 2017) . Both my grandchildren are honor students, and this venture was a reward for their accomplishments.

Apprehensive at first about traveling to the Middle East during world troubling times, I quickly acquiesced. We flew to Paris, then to Dubai, total thirteen and one-half hours. It proved to be a wonderful life experience. The weather at that time of year was hot but bearable. The travel company booked us at a hotel in the heart of the city, very convenient for everything we needed. The various tour guides led us on city tours, to spice markets, and to the Gold Souk. We first saw the Sultan's Za'abeel Palace from afar, not allowed to get close, the Burg Al Arab Beach with white sand (manmade), and many other sights too numerous to list. The skyscrapers with various architectural designs were stunning.

The next day my daughter and my grandchildren visited the very large Dubai Mall using public transportation. I was jet-lagged and stayed in to get ready for the Desert Safari at Al Madam, UAE, and BBQ dinner that evening. We drove in a 4x4 vehicle out to the desert, stopping at an outpost to get necessary items. "Dune Bashing," as it is called, involved riding up and down the desert sand dunes for an exhilarating experience. It was akin to a roller coaster ride; the added feature was that you felt as if the SUV would overturn at any minute. Really, it was not for the "faint at heart;" my granddaughter loved it, the rest of us didn't. The BBQ was replete with a belly dancer and a magician, and the food was delicious. The next day we drove to Sharjah, the "Pearl of the Gulf," where we visited the Islamic Museum, the Heritage Museum, the Souk Al Arsah (oldest), and the Souk Al Markazi (largest) where we bought souvenirs. That evening we went on the Dhow Cruise Dinner and saw the impressive ultramodern skyline of Dubai.

On Easter Sunday, we had a very full day with a trip to Abu Dhabi, also known as the Arabian Jewel. On the way we saw many manmade marvels; irrigation allowed for trees and plants. We saw, from a distance, where the immigrant laborers lived and learned much about their life styles through the tour guide who was from India. We stopped at the Ferrari Park where we able to purchase more souvenirs, and we ate at the Heritage Village; some toured the grounds. Then we were ready for our trip to the

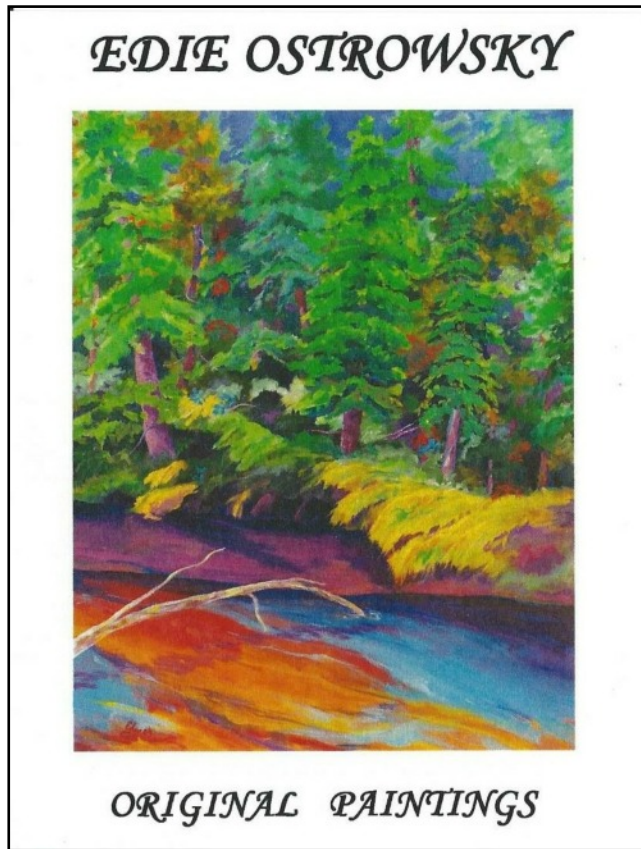
Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque. To enter the Mosque, proper attire was a requirement, and we had purchased the robe and head scarfs in Dubai and carried them with us. The sight of the Mosque outside and inside was breathtaking, awesome, beautiful, peaceful, and a cultural experience.

I have probably left out some of the places we visited, but it was the trip of a lifetime for me. My grandson has a new expensive camera and took 1800 photos (in addition to our cell phone photos). We will sort through them and make a photo album, as we do for our trips. My granddaughter was reluctant at first to embark on this trip but found it educational, informational, and enjoyable, and one she won't easily forget.



EDIE OSTROWSKY

My paintings will be on exhibit at Ti Arts Downtown Gallery, 119 Montcalm Street, Ticonderoga, NY. The gallery hours are Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10AM to 4 PM with an opening reception on June 16th from 5 to 7 PM.



BOSILJKA STEVANOVIC

I'm traveling and attending the opera, and I am in the process of writing about my NYPL career.

MIRIAM TULIAO

In January, I retired from NYPL and joined Penguin Random House's Library Marketing. I appreciate the opportunity to work with the creative team developed and formerly led by the remarkable, pioneering Marcia Purcell. I am beyond grateful to have had so many mentors throughout my career--among them Hara Seltzer, Bob Bellinger, Fran Rabinowitz, Joyce Ku, Yolanda Bonitch, Mary K. Conwell, Jenny Czarny, Marsha Howard, Harriet Gottfried, Tom

Alrutz, Brigid Cahalan, Jane Fisher, Susan Gitman, Cecil Hixon, Betsy Blatz, Ray Markey, Bonnie Farrier, Bob McBrien, Denise Hibay, Deb Trepp, Jeff Bayer, Don Baldini, Jeanne Lamb, and Christopher Platt.

NEW MEMBERS

Linda Caycedo

Hungyun Chang

Camille Croce Dee

Walter Grutchfield

Gail Morse

Nancy Thomas

Anthony Troncale

Miriam Tuliao

NYPL RETIREE BELEN GARCIA

The Retirees Association Board has heard from the family of Belen Garcia. She suffered a severe stroke in December and has been in rehab. Her family has set up a GoFundMe page to raise money for this costly program. If you want further information about this, go to the GoFundMe website:

www.gofundme.com/3c3mr08?pc=em_db_co2876_v1

For those of you who would like to send her a card or note, please mail them to her home address. She would love to hear from you.

Belen Garcia

1319 Morrison Ave. #1R

Bronx, NY 10472

ANNUAL LUNCHEON AT LA MIRABELLE MAY 12, 2017



Estelle Friedman and Larry Petterson have a warm welcome for each attendee.



Wonderful conversation!

Ma'lis Wendt and Fran Rabinowitz

It's time to enjoy socializing.



Becky Koppelman and her husband, George, are all smiles.



A chance to reminisce and catch up!

Irene Martin and Beth Wladis



Such congenial company!

Fran Nathan and B. MacDonald



Lunch is served. Delectable dishes! Yum!

You can see many more photos on the NYPLRA Facebook page.

Everyone is looking forward to next year's luncheon. Won't you join us?

IN MEMORY



We are sad to report the death of Athena Kendris on March 24, 2017. Athena died at her home in West Brighton, Staten Island, at the age of 95.

Originally from Chatham, NY, Athena was the oldest daughter of Greek immigrants. She received a master's degree in library science from New York

State College for Teachers in Albany. After her marriage to Thomas Kendris, she relocated to Staten Island in 1951. She began at NYPL in the early 1960s. She was a young adult librarian on Staten Island, primarily at the Port Richmond branch. Athena remained dedicated to working with teens and schools throughout her career. She retired from NYPL on August 2, 1993.

Athena was a familiar figure along Forest Avenue, as she walked everywhere she went. She enjoyed gardening, bird watching, and puzzles. Athena is survived by her son, Thomas, his wife, Donna, three grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and several nieces and nephews.

Here are a few of the messages posted about Athena in the online guest book of the Harmon Funeral Home.

Mrs. Kendris was my childhood librarian at the Port Richmond Branch. In 7th and 8th grades, my two girlfriends and I from St. Adalbert's would walk to the branch and do our homework in the Reference Room. Mrs. Kendris was that kind, motherly figure who would assist us in finding whatever information was needed. She would make sure that we checked out a book or two before we left. She made reading sound like such an adventure and hence, I am a librarian today. I am forever grateful for the gift of Mrs. Kendris in my life.

- Debra Olsen

What a fine Young Adult librarian she was! One of the few I ever worked with who had a genuine love for that age group and a gift for reaching them. I'm so sorry that this fine colleague has left us.

- Mark McCluski

I worked with Mrs. Kendris and she taught me a lot. She was a Professional with a capital P and, more importantly, she was a wonderful person. I often met her on Forest Avenue when I moved to the North Shore. God bless. You touched so many people with your kindness.

- Terry Morgan



THANKS TO OUR OUTGOING AND INCOMING TREASURERS



The very conscientious and collegial Agnes Babich had been serving as the Treasurer of NYPLRA for quite some time when she announced a few months ago that she felt that she had to step down from the position. Oh dear! How could we carry on without a

Treasurer? Where could a replacement be found?

Our need was met when Larry Petterson stepped up to accept this vital office. By sharing her procedures with Larry, step-by-step, Agnes ensured that there would be a seamless transition. Larry not only has shown himself to be a quick learner but also has come up with a couple of good innovations.

To make the outcome even happier, Agnes will attend Executive Board meetings as Treasurer Emeritus whenever she is able. Thus, we will continue to have the benefit of her experience and her valued input during discussions.

Agnes is pictured above and Larry can be seen in photos on pages 6 and 13 of this Newsletter.

RETIREES ASSOCIATION OF DC37

SOME OF YOUR FREE DC37 BENEFITS

Reasons to Join:

- Each month you receive a copy of Public Employee Press with a special page dedicated to issues that concern the retirees.
- The organization advocates for us. It strives to protect and expand our benefits.
- You may attend general meetings. Speakers discuss important issues and you may make comments or ask questions. Meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month (except July and August) from 10 a.m. to Noon at DC37 headquarters, 125 Barclay Street, New York, N.Y. 10007. The next meeting is on June 13, 2017.
- Retirees living in Florida, North Carolina and Nevada can participate in sub-chapters there.
- Dues are just \$3 per month and can be deducted automatically from your pension checks if you request. There is a membership application in the Retirees section of the DC37 website which is www.dc37.net. The phone number of the Retirees Association of DC37 is (212) 815-1781. Rochelle Mangual is the President. The email address is retassn@dc37.net.

Death Benefit:

\$2000 will be paid to the beneficiary or beneficiaries selected by the retiree on a form filed in the Health and Security Plan Office. A Change of Beneficiary form may be filed and will void any previous designations upon receipt by the Plan office. Call the Inquiry Unit at (212) 815-1234 during weekdays or download the form on the DC 37 website. (www.dc37.net)

MELS (Municipal Employees Legal Services):

Lawyers provide many services such as drawing up wills and representing you when you buy or sell a one-family house, co-op, or condominium if it is your primary residence. They are based at DC37 headquarters, and their phone number is (212) 815-1111. These services are for you and eligible dependents. You must reside in N.Y.C., Or in the counties of Westchester, Rockland, Nassau, or parts of Suffolk. There is much more information on the DC 37 website.

The Personal Services Unit :

Professional social workers help with emotional and family concerns, coping with health problems, adjustment to retirement, etc. Phone (212) 815-1260 on weekdays between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

AN IMPORTANT ALERT

When New York State voters go to the polls on Election Day, November 7, 2017, they will see a question on the ballot for which they may mark Yes or No. It asks whether the State should hold a Constitutional Convention. The Retirees Association of DC37 and the Retired Public Employees Association are among the many groups urging that we vote NO. Such a convention opens the entire Constitution to changes. One section of the N.Y.S. Constitution guarantees our pensions from being diminished, and another provides that our pensions are exempt from N.Y. Taxation. We certainly want these kept unchanged. Spread the word about this to your friends and family in New York!

THIS NEWSLETTER is published semi-annually by the New York Public Library Retirees Association.

President: Becky Koppelman, 10 West 86th Street, Apt. 5B, New York, NY 10024, (212) 874-6199, blekopp@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Emily Cohen (718) 984-3790, ecohennypl@aol.com

Copyeditor: Jane Kunstler

FROM:

NY PUBLIC LIBRARY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

C/O EMILY COHEN

473 JEFFERSON BLVD

STATEN ISLAND, NY 10312

TO:

IN THE MEDIA

To keep up with library news in our city, visit our website, www.nyplra.org

On the **Library Advocacy** page, you can find links to active organizations, Citizens defending Libraries, and others.

The **In The Media** page will direct you to articles in newspapers, blogs, and magazines

NYPLRA Retirees E-mail: nyplra@earthlink.net

NYPLRA Website: www.nyplra.org

NYPLRA Facebook Page:

<https://facebook.com/pages/The-New-York-Public-Library-Retirees-Association/123598427801504>

The most important asset of any library goes home at night – the library staff.

– Timothy Healy

