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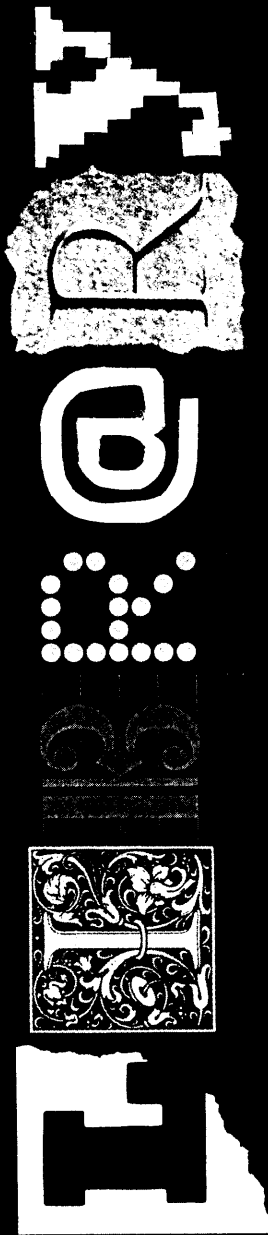
The New York Public Library Retirees Association Newsletter

Issue 6, July 1995

Staff Celebration

Saturday May 20, 1995

The New York Public Library Celebrating Its Second Century



Please wear your
Bookmark for entry

One hundred years! We were there, at least for part of it. Our 90 year olds go back to the 1920's, when the Library was young. Our 80 and 70 year olds, many go back to the 1930's and 1940's, the Great Depression, the War Years. Many go back to the postwar years of optimism, personal revolt, the Cold War.

Many are still there working as volunteers, writing letters to save Library budgets, visiting legislative offices. Some still attend library and political conferences. Many still make libraries part of their lives, something more than an occupation.

With pride we look back on the part of the hundred years we were there. We felt like celebrating, and we appreciated being invited to the centennial festivities. For those who live close enough to attend, it was a great party, overflowing with friends who remembered us. We also appreciate the yearly retiree's reception, especially elegant this year. If you have not yet retired, you do not know how much it means to see the people with whom we worked for so many years.

It is the appreciation toward us that means the most. Retirees are often forgotten. Our names are not carved in the Library's marble. Perhaps the marble could not hold all of them, so many worked to make it a great library. The Library itself is our only monument, and we the unknown soldiers.

Destruction of Federal Arts and Humanities Endowments

The House of Representatives votes to eliminate them within two years.

You have already heard that after 1997 we may no longer have the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). At present the Federal appropriation for the National Endowment for the Humanities is \$172.1 million. The National Endowment for the Arts receives \$162 million. These are tiny amounts in comparison to the rest of the national budget, but they are to be further reduced for the next year. The arts and humanities funding passed by the House on July 18 gives each of the endowments only \$99.5 million for 1996 and 1997; after 1997 all Federal money will be cut off. More than money is involved here; the recognition of an institution as worthy of a grant has helped generate money from the private sector. Such encouragement is especially needed now, because the decreased private giving is not making up for government cutbacks.

A complication is the inclusion of NEH and NEA in the Interior Appropriations omnibus bill that provides Federal funding for dozens of Federal programs, including the entire Interior Department, the Forest Service and a good part of the Energy Department. This fact makes voting against the bill difficult. Nevertheless it is believed that the New York City Republican Representatives did not give adequate support to the NEH and NEA at an earlier stage when the house voted on what was to go into the final bill. This is astonishing because of the large number of jobs generated in the New York metropolitan area by the arts and other cultural institutions. They are the second largest "industry" in New York City, second only to the health "industry."

Especially sad is the effort to kill the endowments because of a few small amounts that went to what is considered sexually explicit material, ignoring the many thousands of grants to libraries, museums, dance centers, children's arts programs and the like.

The New York Public Library receives over \$4.1 million from NEH and nearly \$300,000 from NEA to support 12 projects in the Center for the Humanities, the Library for the Performing Arts and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, according to the letter from Paul LeClerc, President of the Library, written to the Library's Volunteers, dated June 22. At the writing of this newsletter, the Senate has not yet voted on the funding of the endowments, and the House of Representatives will still be involved in the conference bill which will go back to both houses and ultimately to the President. There is still time to write your U.S. Senators and Representatives to ask them to support funding of the NEH and NEA. Those who live in New York State can use the following addresses for U.S. Senators:

Honorable Alfonse M. D'Amato
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building
Suite 520
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Daniel Patrick Moynihan
United States Senate
Russell Senate Office Building
Suite 464
Washington, DC 20510

In addition to the Paul LeClerc letter, the sources used include *The New York Times* of July 18, 19 and 23, 1995

Medicare and Medicaid Cuts

The House and Senate budget proposals at the time of this writing are in conference committee. If the committee reaches agreement, Medicare will probably be cut by \$269 billion and Medicaid by \$180 billion between now and the year 2002. This Retirees Association urges its members to write their legislators to ask that they vote against these cuts, and we further urge that members try to see their legislators when they are home during the summer.

Pension Supplementation Bills Passed

The supplement was renewed for another two years, but the bill to extend the supplement to those who retired through 1989 contains complications.

by **Juanita Doares**

The Legislature has passed a bill to renew the present pension supplement for another two years until August 31, 1997. This bill should not be confused with another bill that would extend the supplementation's coverage. Last year the Legislature, almost unanimously, had voted for such an extension bill, but Governor Pataki, going against his campaign promises, vetoed it, and the Republican legislature refused to override. This year the Legislature has again passed a bill that amends the present supplement bill, increasing the pension supplement for those who retired before 1983 and extending the supplement to those who retired through 1989.

The New Bill

This new bill (S5363/A8082) does support a modest increase for retirees who retired through 1989, although it is not the same as the bill (A929) the Governor vetoed last year. The new bill benefits primarily older retirees who retired in the years 1965 to 1969. The increase for retirees who retired through 1970 to 1989 is 30% smaller than the provision in the old bill. In the new budget, a typical retiree of 1969 might see his yearly pension grow by \$5400, and a typical retiree of 1985 might see his pension grow by \$400.

Eligibility

Those eligible for the supplementation include employees who retired prior to 1990, all disability pensioners, other pensioners who have attained age 62 or have been retired for 10 or more years and have now attained age 55, and all eligible beneficiaries. The retirement supplement is computed on

the first \$12,500 of the annual retirement allowance.

Duration of the Bill

This supplementation addition lasts only two years. The two year count begins on the date the bill becomes effective. Here is the serious complication. That effective date will depend upon whether court action is taken against the bill. If no court action is taken, the effective date will be September 1995 (expiration date August 1997). If court action is taken and the bill is declared valid by the courts, then the effective date would be the first month that begins at least 30 days after the court decision. If court action is taken and the bill is found to be illegal or unconstitutional, the effective date will be September 1996 (expiration date August 1998). In other words, the bill has a built-in punishment for suing, but the State Comptroller, Carl McCall, has declared that his duty as the Comptroller leaves him no choice but to bring suit, which he has now done.

The Reason for Suing

The reason for the suit rests upon the fact that the bill contains a gimmick. In addition to using the Pension Supplement Fund to pay for this year's supplement and the supplementation enhancement, the use for which the fund was created, the bill also allows the money in the Pension Supplementation Fund to be used to help balance the state budget. In this suit the comptroller is also challenging the delay in the implementation of the increase.

The Governor's Raid

This fund was created by the state

legislature in 1970 to be used only for pension supplements and enhancements. Over the years since the fund's beginning it has collected interest and now amounts to \$360 million. It has never been used because lawmakers have not been able to muster enough votes to tap it. Governor Pataki wants to take \$230 million (\$270 million by the Comptroller's calculations) from this fund to repay the state and local governments for the money they put into the fund since 1978 thus helping him balance the state's budget.

The Governor's Previous Plan

Governor Pataki's effort to get money from the Pensions Supplement Fund has a history. He originally wanted to use it to help pay those debts of the state and local governments incurred by an illegal calculation in 1990 that had reduced their pension fund payments to zero. When the courts in 1993 forced the state government to return to its old method of calculating payments, the employers were required to pay back the \$3 billion in pension obligations they had escaped plus another \$1 billion in interest. Governor Pataki thought that by taking \$230 million from the Pension Reserve Fund, he would repay some of this \$4 billion, and thus add money to his sagging budget.

There was an outpouring of objections to this move, and Governor Pataki's administration therefore came up with the present plan that is essentially the same but uses a different excuse for giving back the money and helping balance the state budget.

What next happens to the supplement addendum is up to the courts.

FIFTY YEARS AT N.Y.P.L.

by Fred Noeske
edited by Eleanor Herling

Installment number 2

Continued from *Newsletter* number 5, January 1995

Fred Noeske continues his account of his long tenure at The New York Public Library, "the first and only job I ever had," and the move to the building at 42nd Street. His devotion to the Library and his pride in his work are very clear. The editing has consisted primarily of inserting punctuation to help make the meaning clearer, or breaking up overly long paragraphs.

---Eleanor Herling

After my first year in service at the Astor Library I kept on advancing in my work. In the third or fourth year, about 1906 or 1907, I got Mr. Bonn's job of shelving books, as he was transferred to Lenox, the other library, both of which were moved together into the new Central Building in 1911.

Now I had charge of all the shelving of books, and with two or three assistants we put all books taken out by readers back on the shelves each day. This took from half to a whole day each day, depending on how many books were called for each day by readers. If we had time left over, why, then we did other work, too, as there was always some kind of work to be done in our spare moments.

My work, therefore, went on for the next few years rather well. I learnt several kinds of work plus shelving books, and most of this work I rather enjoyed. Now, in regard to my salary in the Astor Library, or rather, the old building, as it was called when we got to the new building in April-May 1911. I started with \$18.00 a month. Then, after one year's service, I was raised to \$20.00, six months later to \$25.00. And then, every year \$5.00 more, so that in January 1911 I was earning \$55.00 per month, which in those days was a fair salary, and I now was twenty-two years of age. Then, in May, when we had moved to the Central Building, I was advanced \$15.00 more, so my monthly salary now was \$70.00, and that was considered exceptionally good in those days.

When we got to the new, or Central Building, I learned some other kinds of work, plus what I already knew. Also, I was sent to what then was the Accession Department and did

no more shelving of books. This work was now taken over by the Stacks Division. I was glad, as I found my new work far more agreeable and pleasant. Out of this new work gradually evolved the "Preparation for Shelf Section," of which I am now the head.

One of the most interesting jobs I have had is making up pamphlet volumes. I did this work for about nine years, and was very proud of it. I made up thousands of such volumes in that time and was sorry when the pressure of other work forced me to turn it over to someone else. My other work slowly started me on the way to forming our present "Preparation for Shelf Section" by having me revise books, with only two or three in my charge. But, gradually, it increased

more and more, with other kinds of work being included, till now our section requires five to seven full-time workers or, say twelve to fourteen part-time workers, as now only about four of us work full-time and eight to nine, part-time.

Accessioning, which formerly was a special job, is now included in our section. Books began to be perforated only about twenty-five years ago, as we had no perforating machines to do this work. Also, here in the Central Building, as we have now our bindery, pressboards were first made up some years after we got up here, but now several hundred are made up on an average each month. They are made up from manila rope. The Music Division also has pressboards, but

TAPESTRY

Did Penelope sometimes at night,
when she once again undid her day's weaving,
weep at the beauty destroyed,
weep not for the wandering Ulysses,
but for the artist Penelope,
whose skill increased each day of her deception,
whose tapestries glowed with creative fire?
Did she sometimes share with Telemachus
her secret sorrow,
showing him the intricacy of thread and design,
garnering his praise and love
before the nightly destruction?

—Phyllis King

Accepted as a finalist in the *Betty Hall
Cobb Memorial Poetry Prize*, January 9, 1995.

Published in *Penelope Flowers*, Weird Sisters Press, Buffalo, 1995

these are made up of gray cardboard, and lettered on the back with white ink, whereas all other pressboards have typewritten labels on the upper left-hand of their covers, giving author, title, etc.

After we had been settled in the Central Building about nine years, say around 1920, our Accession Room



(200A), Cataloging Room, Serials (200-201), also Documents, and several smaller divisions were all consolidated into the now very large Preparation Division, the largest division of the Library. Now also, more and more members were added to the staff, and what was my division had to be transferred to Stack 6 Southwest, where we still are today, for 200A became too small for all of us to remain in it.

At first, I did not like this change at all, for 200A was so cozy and home-like, fit for about twenty members to work in it comfortably. Now, however, it has many more and is rather crowded, so now, of course, I would not want to go back to it. Here in Stack 6 SW we are also now overcrowded. The same is true everywhere in the whole Library, and the new additions for enlargement cannot come too soon for all of us.

Our own section now began slowly to grow, until it became as it is now, about fourteen members, mostly part-timers. Since about 1920, or twenty-eight years, we have been in the Stacks, and in the Central Building thirty-seven years (1948).

Our section, the Preparation for Shelf Section, is about as important as any of the other sections of the large Preparation Division. It is the go-between of all the work done in the whole Preparation Division and the readers. When the finished work leaves us, it goes directly to the Stacks or Rooms, is checked up just once more by the Inventory Section, and then the material goes direct to the shelves and is ready for the readers.

One new feature of the last ten years is films, mostly of newspapers, but also of material in very poor condition. They too are going through, more and more, and the Library now has already quite a few thousands of them.

As the work of our section has grown more and more, so has my interest in it. I feel just about as keen about the work as when I started, and hope to continue this way till my pension period arrives.

—To be Continued

LIBRARIAN'S RETIREMENT

The book opens and slams shut.
I am inside trying to read
the important next page.
Should a breeze lift the cover
to let in a momentary ray
I might just know
what I am supposed
to do next.

—Phyllis King
July 20, 1994

Jean Blackwell Hutson 80th Birthday Tribute

Schomburg Chief Librarian Honored

On January 28 the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture honored Jean Blackwell Hutson's 80th birthday. The tribute included a reception, a program and a dinner. Narrators and Presenters were Amiri Baraka, Stanton F. Biddle, Charles L. Blockson, John Henrik Clarke, Howard Dodson, Jeanne Faulkner, David A. G. Johnson, E. J. Josey, Ernest Kaiser, Paul LeClerc, The Honorable H. Carl McCall, August Meier, Sonia Sanchez, The Honorable Percy Sutton, Robert Wedgeworth, and Dorothy Porter Wesley.

Under the guidance of Jean Blackwell Hutson, as Curator and later Chief, the Center developed into the world's most comprehensive collection of materials documenting the history and culture of peoples of African descent.

She graduated as valedictorian from Douglass High School, and after three years at the University of Michigan transferred to Barnard College where she graduated in 1935. She received an M.A. from the Columbia School of Library Service the following year and began working for the Library. After various positions in The Branch Libraries, including Harlem, Hamilton Grange, Washington Heights and Woodstock, she went to the Schomburg Collection in 1948. She retired in 1984. In 1941 she received a teacher's certificate from Columbia University and later was associate adjunct professor in the History Department at the City College of New York from 1962 to 1971. In 1964 she accepted an invitation from the president of Ghana to develop the Africana Collection at the University of Ghana. She has been active in many professional and cultural organizations and was a founding member of the Black Academy of Arts and Letters. Among many honors, she was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters by King Memorial College in Columbia, South Carolina in 1977 and the Barnard College Medal of Distinction in 1990.

Pension Justice Rallies

Rallies have been held throughout the state in response to the governor's veto of the pension supplement and his plans to use the Supplemental Pension Fund to help balance his budget.

by Betty Gubert

A rally to stop the raid of the state pension fund was held at Deer Park, NY on March 16, 1995. The rally was sponsored by the Alliance of Public Retiree Organizations of New York (NYPL Retirees Association is a member) and the Retired Police Association of the State of New York. Comptroller H. Carl McCall was the keynote speaker. Members of the New York Public Library Retirees Association who attended were Kay Casile, Moritia Frederick, Betty Gubert, Mercy Kellogg, and Belle Weinberg.

The rally was well attended, and Comptroller Carl McCall gave a dynamic rousing speech. He explained that the courts had declared illegal the 1980 pension raid of \$3 billion by Governor Cuomo. Now the payback of that has climbed to \$4 billion.

Some pensioners were introduced. One was an 88 year-old man whose monthly stipend is \$371, which includes his supplement. Another attendee was 98 years old. Our group was well noted: Ed Curran publicly acknowledged Juanita Doares for her organizational efforts, and two of the five of us publicly asked questions. After the program both Ms. Casile and Ms. Gubert spoke to Controller McCall about his help to their respective libraries, Belmont and Schomburg.

Many rallies were held around the state to oppose the raid of the Supplemental Reserve Fund by the governor. Juanita Doares and Belle Weinberg also attended a rally on April 28 in New York City sponsored by organizations including the Public Employees Federation (PEF) and the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) as well as Council 82.

Meetings of the Association

by Agnes Babich

The January meeting was held in the auditorium of the Donnell Library Children's Room to hear about its history from Angeline Moscat, its head librarian. She told her listeners that the room began in 1911 with the opening of the new Central Building. Located in the northeast corner of the ground floor, the use of so much space for a children's room was unusual, but later it became too small because its holdings grew considerably, and when space became available at Donnell it was moved there. Naomi Noyes, our retiree volunteer, gave a presentation of some old and rare children's books. Ms. Noyes pointed out that the collections were extensive, heavily used by the public, and included books in foreign languages.

The February meeting was held at the Mid-Manhattan Library. Officers were elected and a report was given on the Pre-White House Conference on Aging held at ALA Midwinter. The main event was the reading of her poetry by Phyllis King, and some of her poems are printed in this issue of the newsletter.

The March meeting featured the reading of poetry by Dorothy Swerdlove, retired Curator of the Theatre Collection. Her selections were made in celebration of Women's History Month. We plan to print some of these poems in future editions of this newsletter.

In April the association met at the Mercantile Library. Harold Augenbraum, the director, told us about the library and led the members on a tour. Special thanks go to Rose Marie O'Leary of the library's staff for arranging this meeting.

The May meeting returned again to Mid-Manhattan, where much of the time was spent writing letters to politicians urging them not to cut library funds.



Outings of the Association

by Agnes Babich

Sixteen members on a cold February 9 visited the new National Museum of the American Indian in the former U.S. Custom House at Bowling Green. After enjoying the many exhibitions featuring masterworks from the collection as well as contemporary Indian art, the group traveled to Chinatown for delicious Chinese dishes at the Mandarin Court.

NYPL Retirees Association members had the pleasure of visiting The Studio Museum in Harlem on April 21. They enjoyed a guided tour of the new exhibition, "Mothers, Fathers, and Legendary Ancestors: Selections of Classical African Sculpture," as well as the collection of Sam Gilliam's new monoprints.

The group had a delicious southern-style lunch at "Sylvia's," a famous Harlem restaurant on 126th Street and Lenox Avenue. Unfortunately, because of rainy weather the afternoon visit to the street vendors' area had to be postponed until a later date.

Retirees continued their exploration of cultural institutions and neighborhoods in New York City and ferried to Staten Island on June 2. The first stop was a visit to the unusual and unique collections at the Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art, as well as the beautiful gardens. Several Staten Island retirees then joined the group for a leisurely lunch at Bennett's Cafe at Historic Richmond Town. A guided tour of the Restoration concluded a trip which all agreed was a huge success.

COMING UP.....TRIP TO LOWER EAST SIDE SITES IN SEPTEMBER

On Friday, September 15, The NYPL Retirees Association will visit the Tenement and Ukrainian Museums, with lunch at a Ukrainian restaurant. Those interested in ethnic foods and crafts will be given a list of some neighborhood shops. Call Agnes Babich at (718) 335-3881 if you wish to join the group.

Summary of Items in Earlier Issues of this Newsletter

Lump Sum Payment for Unused Vacation Time: At the time of retirement, the Library could have paid for unused vacation time by giving the retiree a check covering the entire amount. Instead of giving this lump sum, the Library chose to keep the retiree on the payroll after retirement until all vacation time had been paid for. After consultation with lawyers and legislators, this association found that the Library had been given the option of either type of distribution and had done nothing illegal. To obtain any of the lost money, a special act would have to be passed by the State legislature, a costly and difficult procedure that most likely would end in failure. This association decided instead to concentrate all of its efforts on getting a cost of living adjustment added to our pensions. Some retirees independent of the association have disagreed with this decision and have contested the Library's actions.

Health Care: The Health Care Committee of this association recommended that we endorse a single payer type plan of national health insurance. Copies of this recommendation were sent to all relevant congressional members.

Maintenance of Purchasing Power Bill (MOPP): This association actively supported this bill and its various forms in the 1994 legislature. They were never reported out of the Assembly and House Committees and thus died.

The Pension Supplement: In 1993 this association backed the renewal of the pension supplement for those who retired in 1982 or before. The supplement was approved and continues until August of 1995, at which time, according to vote of the legislature it will be renewed.

Representation: This association has been represented at legislative meetings in New York City, Albany and Washington, D.C. Among these have been the New York Library Association Legislation Day in Albany and the ALA Legislation Day in Washington, D.C.

Update of Items in Earlier Issues of this Newsletter

Municipal TV and Radio Stations: Many Library retirees not only listen to these stations but have at one time appeared on them. WNYC-TV is to be sold to a commercial buyer. WNYC-FM and WNYC-AM, are supposedly to be sold to the WNYC Foundation, which was set up for that purpose. During four days, May 31-June 3, the radio stations conducted a special on-air fund raiser to help meet the purchase price of \$20 million. It brought in \$1.6 million in pledges from 33,500 listeners, a record for public radio. Now commercial interests that want the radio stations and are willing to pay much more than \$20 million have brought suit to force their sale at public auction. A court decision is to be made in August.

Editor's Notes—The Powerful do not Live in our World

Governor Pataki's pounce upon the Pension Supplement Fund is a bitter reminder of today's popular attitude of meanness. Other reminders are the derision and distortion of facts by the media and the voters whenever anyone mentions the needs of those in the State Retirement System, whose average pension is only \$8,000.

What alarms us most is that this meanness is an attempt to turn government back to the world of our youth, the time of the great depression, the days that fostered much of our present social legislation. We suddenly realize that people in power today do not understand the importance of this legislation. Nearly all our government employees were born after the great depression, as were most of those in today's media, and most of today's voters.

As a result, the powerful of today have often been overly protected. They have not always experienced the suffering that had once been commonplace for people of all backgrounds and social status. The young of today have no way of remembering that without banking regulations or depositor insurance, nearly everyone's finances disappeared, sometimes at the same time jobs were lost, jobs that did not have the safety net of unemployment insurance. We remember the wretched orphanages and the long soup kitchen lines. We remember when there was no Social Security, and the elderly often were forced to live in their old houses behind facades that hid the lack of food and heat, houses that no longer had electricity, telephone, or even running water. We remember many other things. But in the past the government did often step in and with humaneness try to help alleviate some of the suffering. Government could sometimes realize it existed to protect the people it governed.

The IBM Gallery: Once a favorite of retirees and one of the most critically acclaimed art galleries, it is now gone. The building has been sold. The inner court, once the prime example of public space, now looks terrible. The glass panes need cleaning. The bamboo trees are dying. The Botanical Society shop is gone to a temporary location in Rockefeller Center, and the running water sculpture has no running water.

The New York Historical Society: We try to keep up to date on this because its library was a second home for many NYPL retirees. After years of trouble the Society in 1994 appointed a new executive director, Betsy Gotbaum, the wife of Victor Gotbaum, the retired labor leader and former head of the union that includes the Library. Ms. Gotbaum auctioned off \$16 million of the society's old masters and reopened the museum on May 11. Troubles are not over, but the situation has improved.

The New York Public Library Retirees Association, Inc.

An Independent Association

Officers

President: Juanita S. Doares

Vice-President: Catherine Marquard

Secretary: John Slade

(Mercy Kellogg, acting)

Treasurer: Mary T. Brady

Executive Board:

Moritia Leah Frederick

Lawrence Murphy

Belle Weinberg

*To join the NYPL Retirees Association,
send annual dues of \$10 to:*

Ms. Mary Brady, Treasurer

The NYPL Retirees Association

505 East 82 Street, 5-J

New York, NY 10028

*Subscriptions to the newsletter (only for
those not eligible for membership), send
fee of \$5 per year to:*

Ms. Mary Brady, Treasurer

The NYPL Retirees Association

505 East 82 Street, 5-J

New York, NY 10028

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Newsletter

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137 E. 36 St., #16-B

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All other information and inquiries:

NYPL Retirees Association

c/o Juanita Doares

401 W. 118th St., #3

New York, NY 10027

(telephone: 212 666-5737)

Directory of Members of the Association

The directory should come out in the fall. Again we request that anyone who does not want to be listed or anyone who wants only his/her name listed, please write.

NYPL Retirees Association

c/o Juanita Doares

401 W. 118th St., #3

New York, NY 10027

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

William O. Lee (Staten Island
representative)

Social Committee

Rose Marie O'Leary

Agnes Babich

Betty Gubert

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

212 666-5737

Library Program Budgets

Fundings are at varying stages at the time of this writing in June 1994. We therefore need to wait until fall before we can summarize the outcomes in the *Newsletter*.

The Association's New Members as of May 31, 1995

Mary Barrett

Donald Browne

Josephine R. Darmody

Frances Friscia

Ruth Ganeles

Ada Jackson

Helen Levine

Rose Marie Marino

Agnes Martin

Myrna Martin

Alvita P. Perkins

Virginia Swift

Mary Trevino

*Letter writing Campaign Against
Budget Cuts for Libraries:* Among those who helped in Mid-Manhattan and Donnell were the following association members: Delores Noyes, Fred Gee, Ann Moy, Mercy Kellogg, Ada Jackson, Ruth Rausen and Juanita Doares. Others helped in The Branch Libraries, and these included Georgette Lachat.

Central Building 100th Anniversary Celebration: Volunteers included Theresa Casele, Mary Brady, William O. Lee, and Juanita Doares. There were many volunteers in The Branches, including Mercy Kellogg.

Legislation Day: In March Juanita Doares and Ada Jackson participated in Legislation Day in Albany sponsored by NYLA.

White House Conference on the Aging

by Juanita Doares

The White House Conference on the Aging was held in Washington on May 1-5. During the conference, satellite meetings were held throughout the United States. One site was in New York City on May 3. Association members Moritia Leah Frederick, Mercy Kellogg, and Juanita Doares attended. There will be an opportunity for all of us to give our input on the recommendations which come out of the conference. Post conference events will be scheduled. Watch for

the ones to be held in your area. Remember that out of the last conference came Medicare and Medicaid.

Juanita Doares also attended a pre-White House Conference in conjunction with the American Library Association Mid-Winter Meeting. As NYPL retirees we must also find the opportunity to emphasize that libraries are important in the cultural life of older Americans. Make the point that libraries and library programs should be supported on the agenda of meetings on the aging.