PENSION SUPPLEMENTS
RETROACTIVE TO SEPTEMBER 1995

BY JUANITA DOARES

We did it! At a press conference on June 5, 1996 the Governor, the State Comptroller and the legislative leaders announced that a settlement had been agreed upon that will make the pension supplements contained in Chapter 119 of the Laws of 1995 retroactive to September 1995. The agreement was signed into law on June 6 as Chapter 124 of the Laws of 1996.

The Governor has also dropped the court suit and will not raid the pension supplementation fund. (The Comptroller and retirees who brought the suit had won in the courts, but the Governor had appealed it to the Court of Appeals.)

Those who meet the following eligibility requirements will receive the supplement: Retired before January 1, 1990; age 62 or age 55 and retired for at least 10 years; retired on disability before January 1, 1990 regardless of age.

If you are eligible, you will have received a letter from Comptroller McCall telling you what your monthly supplemental benefit will be. The Comptroller has also told you the amount of your onetime retroactive payment to September 1995, which should have been included in your June check.

We want to thank all the members of our association who wrote letters to the Governor and their legislators urging that retirees be given this modest and well deserved supplemental pension benefit. Our Legislative Committee, chaired by Belle Weinberg, has played a very active role.

We are particularly grateful to: The Retired Public Employees Association (RPEA) and to its Executive Director, Bill Floyd, and officers, who took a leading role early on and would not give up; the Alliance for Public Retiree Organizations (APRO) and its president, Ed Curran, who has been steadfast in his determination and has been a good friend of our association; Comptroller McCall, a good friend of all retirees of New York State, who saw from the beginning of his term of office that he must join us to achieve pension justice; the State Legislature and its leaders; and the Governor.

Letters of appreciation have been sent to all of them in behalf of The New York Public Library Retirees Association, telling them that our association looks forward to working with them to continue improving pension benefits even further for public retirees of New York State.

GOOD NEWS UPDATE ON NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING

The FY 1997 budget adopted by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and the City Council restored $3.1 million to The New York Public Library, which will continue six-day service in all branches and research centers. The restoration also prevents cuts to the materials budget, the Connecting Libraries and Schools Project (CLASP), the literacy program, and the maintenance and security personnel. This remarkable budget also includes two dozen new capital improvement projects in the Branch and Research Libraries, including several branch renovations and initial funding for a new Bronx Borough Center. Many thanks to all those retirees who wrote letters and made telephone calls to their elected officials.

In Albany, the State Legislature passed a budget that contains an additional $2 million for libraries and library systems statewide for the “Electronic Doorway Library” program. The funding can be used for telecommunications to link libraries to the Internet, purchase computers or other equipment, or train librarians in accessing electronic resources. This additional funding is a major achievement for libraries, and it would not have been possible without the support of library advocates statewide.
LILLIAN MORRISON READS HER POETRY

Lillian Morrison read her poetry at the association's meeting on January 15, 1996. She began her library career as a file at The Research Libraries in 1939 and went on to be a “continuous cataloger” (government documents). After library school she went to Seward Park and then to Aguilar. At the 58th Street Branch were the founders of young adult work, Mabel Williams, Amelia Munson and Margaret Scoggin. Lillian Morrison joined them as the Vocational Schools Specialist. When Miss Scoggin retired, Lillian Morrison became Coordinator of Young Adult Services, the position she held until her retirement in 1982.

Lillian Morrison has written seven books of poetry and has edited six collections of folk rhymes and four anthologies, including the well-known “Yours till Niagara Falls,” the most ordered title for young adult collections. Her “Sprints and Distances,” a sports anthology, was the first of its kind, and her poetry has appeared in sports magazines. Her “Sidewalk Racer,” a poem, has been reprinted 147 times. Some of the titles popular among teenagers and children are “At the Crack of a Bat,” (baseball), and “Break Dance Kids,” (sports). Her latest book of poetry was published in 1992, “Whistling the Morning In.” At present she is publishing a book of folk rhymes about food called “I Scream, You Scream.” One of her most admired works is “The Ghosts of Jersey City.”

Theresa Casile

IN MEMORY OF MORITIA-LEAH FREDERICK

On July 2 we lost Moritia-Leah Frederick, a member of the committee that founded this association. Moritia, known as Freddie to her colleagues and friends, had a long career in the Library beginning in the Epiphany branch in 1945. She went on to work for both the Research Libraries and The Branch Libraries in public service and technical service. In 1967 she bought and assembled the science materials of the new Mid-Manhattan Library, where she was chief librarian of the Science Collection until her retirement in 1972. In 1987 she returned as a ROAR (Return of Active Retirees) librarian at the Science and Technology Research Center and then at the Mid-Manhattan Library until her “second retirement” on June 28 of this year. Under her guidance the Health Committee set forth the association’s backing of a single payment plan for national health. In everything she did she combined intelligence, intellectual curiosity and a desire to serve. All of these qualities made her an outstanding librarian, beloved colleague, and a “Renaissance Woman.”

IN MEMORY OF FRED GEE

On May 11 the Association lost its faithful former treasurer, Fred Gee, who died of a sudden illness. A native of San Francisco and an anthropology graduate of the University of California he came to the Library in 1966, and for the next 25 years worked in various Bronx branches, including Sedgwick, Westchester Square, and Melrose. As our treasurer, he applied his meticulous talents to reorganizing our accounting and establishing a new method for membership renewals. On the Executive Committee, he patiently put forth new ideas and helped with future plans. Fred was a prolific reader and enjoyed classical music. He loved traveling and collecting art, both of which took him to adventures throughout the world, as did also his life in the U.S. Army, where he served two years in Korea. He was known for his keen, droll sense of humor about life. We miss a devoted worker and friend.

HIGH LIGHTS

The disclosures of the frigidare, invented meals, the letter from Paris, these will not be the highlights of the day.

It is the sun climbing over the Palisades transforming highrises into glinting megaliths, the river into blue, quivering tin foil.

It’s the high high light of the sky that my mind is attempting to emulate, the unboundaried sky with its soft clarity

and small clouds moving by, decorative, unimportant. It is the poem, it is the friend who will arrive who wants to hear it.

Lillian Morrison

MY CUP OF TEA

(a triolet)
I often lose my cup of tea walking from room to room.
I do not know why this should be.
I often lose my cup of tea.
I have a good forgettery.
I also lose the spoon.
I often lose my cup of tea walking from room to room.

Lillian Morrison

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BEWARE THE GOVERNMENT-CUTTERS
Edward Di Roma

Several decades of studying government and human nature have convinced me that while most government officials are honest, there are enough scoundrels to make it necessary for all to be monitored. I am convinced further that government programs should be reviewed regularly to confirm 1) that the need for each still exists, and 2) that the agencies involved are operating as efficiently as possible.

But even when governments operate under these conditions, the growth of population and inflation inexorably raise costs and, in turn, result in increases in taxes. This thorny problem plagues political jurisdictions at all levels—local, state and federal—but solutions can be found through careful study and responsible debate.

Quick fixes do not work in the long run, especially the panacea suggested by politicians whose only solution is the indiscriminate elimination of as many government offices as possible and the downsizing of all others. This slash-and-burn approach often is accompanied by a campaign to denigrate democratic government and undermine the people’s faith in public officials.

Of course our government is not perfect at any level, but contrary to what the slashers and burners would have you believe, our political institutions are the best in the world. Most of our government agencies exist because as the nation grew, experience demonstrated the need for them.

While that need should be confirmed regularly, we should be aware that eliminating programs indiscriminately may save taxpayers some money in the short run, but the practice usually costs more in the end, because of the social destabilization that follows.

It is heartening that significant numbers of wealthy people support most economic, social and cultural programs of government even though they could get along well without them. Why do the affluent do so? Because they understand correctly that such programs enrich, strengthen and stabilize society. Take away these programs, and life for the middle class and the poor becomes harsher.

And that despair often results in social unrest, more violence and more crime. On the other hand, everybody benefits when democratic governments help people improve themselves so that they can become productive members of our society and economically independent.

Beware of the politician whose only solution to every problem is to cut government.

The writer is a retired chief of the Economic and Public Affairs Division.
This article is reprinted from the Rockland Journal News, June 9, 1996.

SEPTEMBER ASSOCIATION MEETING

As stated elsewhere in this newsletter, the first meeting of the fall will be Monday, September 16 at 3 PM in the first floor conference room of the Mid-Manhattan Library.

We are fortunate in having as our speaker Esther Hautzig, who will speak about the moving search for her uncle in Eastern Europe after the Holocaust. She is also a children’s author and a volunteer at the Donnell Library. Following the program we will remember our dear colleagues and friends, Morita-Leah Frederick and Fred T. Gee. If you plan to attend, please call Agnes Babich at 718-335-3880 or Juannita Doares at 212-666-5737.

VOLUNTEERS BEWARE—YOU CAN BE SUED
Mercy P. Kellogg

The New York Times on May 19, 1996 published an article by Debra Nussbaum warning volunteers about the increase in suits being brought against them. Even if the judgment favors the volunteer the legal expenses are high.

Volunteers are urged to ask organizations whether they are covered by the group’s insurance policy. Anyone serving on the board of an organization should have protection known as director and officer liability insurance. Organizations should keep some kind of record so that volunteers are known officially.

Some states have laws shielding volunteers from suits, and all states have laws governing liability, but there are gaps in the protection.

If volunteers need to rely on their own insurance, most renters’ and homeowners’ policies provide $100,000 which can be increased to $300,000 for as little as $10 a year. A second tier of protection is provided by an umbrella policy which may also cover cases of libel, slander and false arrest. They run from $150 up per million dollars. Personally, I had some difficulty in getting an umbrella policy after the age of 65. The younger you are the less it probably costs.
THE WEBSTER BRANCH LIBRARY AND
THE BOHEMIANS
Library Service for Immigrants
by John S. Robotham

When the New York Free Circulating Library was consolidated with The New York Public Library on January 1, 1904, the Webster Free Circulating Library of the East Side House Settlement, 76th Street and the East River, became the Webster Branch. Its twelve thousand book stock and entire staff were transferred, with Edwin White Gaillard as Branch Librarian. An innovative man, he had become the librarian of Webster in 1897 at the unusually young age of 25.

Gaillard was also an enthusiastic member of the Atlanta Boat Club, which raced on the Harlem River. When his club was defeated by the Bohemian Boat Club he became friendly with some of these young Bohemians, many of whom were readers at the Webster Free Library, and he felt the need for a Czech collection in New York. In 1898, $30 was appropriated, and from this beginning grew the Czech collection that became "one of the best collections of its kind in the world."1

At that time, about 30,000 Bohemians (or Czechs, the words were used interchangeably until about 1918) lived east of Second Avenue, from about 60th Street to 80th Street, centered at about 72nd Street. Many worked in the local tobacco factories, breweries, or pearl button shops owned and operated by their countrymen. There were Czech newspapers and a Czech bookstore, so it seemed natural to Gaillard (but not to everybody) to establish a library collection in a language spoken by many members of the community. In 1902 he wrote a defense of the idea in The New York Times: "...libraries are not for the poor, nor the German, nor French, nor Bohemian. Libraries are not for the rich nor the educated, nor for the novel reader or student. Libraries are not for the individual at all, but for the entire community, rich and poor, learned and ignorant." He went on to say that many of the books had been selected to aid the immigrants' understanding of America. "They are poor...but they vote and they pay taxes, and generally are self-respecting American citizens. Because they cannot afford the time to study English is the very reason that they should be provided with good books in their own language."2

At the time of consolidation with The New York Public Library, the Bohemian community was afraid the change would be the end of the collection, but the Webster Library's policy was endorsed by two influential people: Arthur E. Bostwick, The New York Public Library's first Chief of the Circulation Department, who had been the director of the Free Circulating Library, and the publisher William W. Appleton, who had been a board member of the Free Circulating Library and was now on the board of the consolidated library and the chairman of its Circulation Committee. Bostwick and Appleton supported the idea with money. Money was also contributed by the public, books were donated, and about 1,500 books were purchased in time for the opening of the new building of the Webster Branch on October 24, 1906, located at 1465-1467 Avenue A, now York Avenue. The Czechoslovak collection occupied the entire third floor of the new building.

By the time the new building opened Gaillard had been promoted to the Library's first Supervisor of Work with Schools. He was succeeded by Clara Sackett, formerly his First Assistant (she had become Mrs. Gaillard in 1902), who remained as acting Branch Librarian until November 1, 1906, when, just a week after the opening of the new building, Ziadée C. Griffin became Branch Librarian, a position she held until March 1939. To her is attributed the development of the branch. Lida Matulka, born in what was then Bohemia in 1893, was in charge of the Bohemian department, and she became famous for her hard work.

In 1911 the Czech collection had become so strong that a catalogue was printed, with brief notes in English, so that other libraries might be helped to build similar collections. More than 5,000 volumes were now available, as well as 25 magazines and newspapers. Under the direction of Karel Leitner, an outstanding music collection was developed. All the works of Dvořák and Smetana, for example, were represented, as were the popular operettas of Rudolf Friml. Musicians found scores which could not be obtained elsewhere in the United States, and the collection...
was used repeatedly by music lovers of many nationalities. The Library made available a special fund for the purchase of prints by Czech artists, and Rudolf Ruzicka not only advised on their purchase but arranged them for display. Children's books were purchased to encourage Bohemian children to retain or become familiar with the language of their forefathers. The children's reading room usage was about 2,000 a month, and story hours were held, with stories told in both Czech and English. For the Czech community, the library offered concerts, lectures, and poetry readings, as well as exhibitions of art, costumes, lace making and embroidery. Publicizing programs, or the collection, was never a problem. The editors of the two leading Czech newspapers, Karel Leitner of New York and Vaclav Sperakus of Hlas Lidu were tremendously interested in the Library and ran long articles, editorials and notices of all activities.

When the United States entered the First World War, the Czechoslovak collection became a source for propaganda material. Books were loaned to Washington, Chicago, Paris, and to such individuals as Edouard Benes, then the organizer of the Narodni Sdruzeni (National Alliance), later the first president of Czechoslovakia; they were being used as source material for the push to establish an independent Czechoslovakia. Many of these books were the only accessible source of information.

After the war, many famous people from Czechoslovakia visited the library, and by 1920 it was again possible to get books from abroad. Lida Matulka was able to go to Prague herself, making three visits in the years right after the war, and going again in 1930. By 1939 there were more than 12,000 volumes in Czech and in Slovak, many of them rare and costly. When Konrad Berociw was visiting the Library in the early 1920's he declared it to be "the largest Czech library in the country." More than 50,000 Czechs and Slovaks were then living in the area around Avenue A and East 78th Street, and this point was the civic and social center for Bohemians from all over the City. As one writer expressed it, "the navel" of that center was the Webster Branch Library.

Little use had been made of the Czechoslovak Department by Slovaks through the early years. For one thing, the Slovakian literature was small. Slovakia had been overrun by Hungarians in the 10th century, and held in subjection until the 20th. Even their language could not be used in the schools. Thus, few books were available. In 1912, a prominent Slovak resident in New York provided Zaida Griffin with a list of about 200 titles which she purchased, but being older works they were not much used. After World War I, some Slovak publishing began, but by 1937 the stock was still only 500. Then in 1938, Matica Slovenska, a literary society, made an indefinite loan to the Library of more than 2,000 volumes, stimulating the growth of the collection and an increase in its use. Matica Slovenska also began to have regular meetings in the Library, with lectures, readings and music.

Circulation of Czech and Slovak materials reached a height of more than 57,000 in 1932, declining thereafter. By 1939 Czechs were moving away, going to the outskirts of the City or to the suburbs. Many still returned to the Library, however, and more and more requests were coming in from other branches, possibly from the new refugees who fled after Hitler's invasion of their homeland.

By the end of the decade children at Webster were likely to be Italian, German, Irish and others, as well as Czechs. Things were changing. Less money was available. Another war intervened. And in 1939 Zaida Griffin retired after 33 years as Branch Librarian, having brought the collection to new heights. She had been decorated by the Czech government in 1927 with the Order of the White Lion for her service to the Czech people. During most of her career she had lived only a block from the library which was her life.

No doubt another reason for the circulation drop was the fact that many of the younger generation preferred to read books in English—or none at all. Finally, in 1957, the collection was dispersed. Many books went to the new foreign language collection at the Donnell Library. Music went to the Music Library. Other books went to special collections. Only a few stayed at Webster.

ALA CONFERENCE
NYC JULY 4-10
by Juanita Doares

After a ten year absence, the American Library Association finally returned to New York for its annual Conference. Many of our members participated in it and volunteered their services for the ALA Mid-Manhattan Local Arrangements Desk and the All Conference Reception held at the Center for the Humanities [formerly the "Central Library].

President Betty Turock's theme was "Equity on the Information Super Highways." Conference programs focused on the need for librarians to safeguard public and equal access for all citizens to electronic information. Libraries must be made an essential component of the national information infrastructure. The Telecommunications Act was revised for the first time since 1934, and also for the first time, libraries have been designated as universal service providers eligible for discounted rates under the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996.

The Telecommunications Reform Act also brings with it the Communications Decency Act. ALA has won the first round of an historic challenge suit upholding freedom of speech on the Internet. The Justice Department will appeal this decision to the Supreme Court.

We are grateful to our Association members who volunteered to help at the conference. They include Mary Brady, Alar Kraus, William Lee, Delores Noyes and Mary Margaret Regan.

THELMA THOMAS
STORYTELLING CALENDAR
September 29, Sunday 11-5, New York is Book Country Street Fair, Fifth Avenue (bet. 49th and 50th Sts.) Free. Call for approximate time of storytelling.
October 6, Sunday, 3-5 pm, Langston Hughes House, 20 East 127 St. (bet. Fifth & Madison Aves.) $10.00 Donation.
October 18, Friday, 7-9 pm, Muse Magic, 44 East 32 St. 11th Fl. (bet. Madison and Park Ave.) $7.00 Donation.
October 20, Sunday, 2-4 pm, Pass-It-On Workshop, Middle Collegiate Church, (Second Ave. and 7th St.) $10/5 donation
RETIREES IN ACTION

News from the Field

Items have been selectively compiled from the questionnaires that were filled out at the time of membership application or renewal. A few chose not to have their answers printed. Space limitations have required editing, and we beg your forgiveness for errors and omissions.


Luis Alcala: Activities: Collecting scale model warships and naval auxiliaries. Reading for pleasure instead of endless NYPL memos, watching gawdawful horror and sci-fi flicks on cable TV. Walking 5-8 miles per day. Complaining about Michigan's weather. Moved to East Lansing in September 1991. At 4 p.m. on most weekdays I volunteer to appear at the Harrison Roadhouse which has cute, perky barmaids who serve huge, very deadly martinis at $1.75. This is the hangout for many of the Lansing area's movers and shakers, so I pick up a great deal of information on local doings long before they reach the media. Besides, what other waterway has a kitchen manager who bestows free Buffalo meat upon me? Memories: Colleagues, good on both the personal and professional levels. Patrons, ranging from delightful to dreadful but very rarely dull. An administration whose top echelon often seemed indifferent or even hostile to us peons toiling in the branches.

Mary Barrett: Activities: Volunteer as theatre usher, school librarian, Eucharist Minister in nursing home. Work-paid, '82-'93 receptionist.

[Retiree requested name withheld] Activities: Sewing—making some of my clothes. Enjoy music, concerts, theatre, events at American Irish Historical Society, museum visits in NYC. Since 1985 have volunteered at Mid-Manhattan. Volunteer with my high school alumnae association. Helping neighbors, friends and relatives. Memories: Loved all the action. Of course Telephone Reference—whatever our faceless citizens would ask or just like to know—was my favorite!

Mary F Gibson: Activities: Gardening—fruit picking and preserving—sewing—knitting. Enjoying five grandchildren all under 12 years. Active in my church missions workshop—a group of 20 ladies who supply sweaters, caps, mittens (hand knit) for Navajo children in Arizona—rolling bandages for leper clinics in India—supplying personal helps for church retirement home in Pennsylvania. Memories: The ease with which I was accepted back into the workforce after 18 years of being a stay-at-home Mom. The friendships of librarians and clerks.

Catherine Marquard: Activities: Theatre, Travel, Baseball. Memories: After nearly 50 years in Room 315 of the Central Building, there are so many memories! In my early years, I was overwhelmed and impressed by the then card catalogue. We assisted scholars, authors, students, and of course the colorful "odd balls." Early days were brightened by VIP's going to the theatre Section, e.g., Marlene Dietrich, Helen Hayes, Grace Kelly. After an NBC nationwide.

This drawing was on a note sent to Mary Brady by Emma Cohn living in Paris. She writes:

Dear Mary,

Thanks for your note—New York's winter sounded incredible! Paris is mostly extremely wet and gray every winter—it's what is called a "temperate" climate: only a couple of dustings of snow, but that's why spring looks so good.

With best greetings,

Emma

ing in Branch Libraries, being in charge of the Bronx Bookmobiles and working with Manhattan children's libraries in my years as Children's Specialist in the Manhattan Borough Office.

Helen L. Prussin: Activities: I attend a poetry class and a Tai Chi class, enjoy shows and concerts. Memories: Enjoying the staff that I worked with. I made many friends from the library public.


John G. Soderberg: Activities: Traveling to visit relatives in USA and Finland. Woodworking. Listening to polkas and waltzes, also jazz when I'm tired of listening to polkas. Memories: My best memories are from the time I started to the time Mr. Shearer re-
improving) for four years. My thanks go to Ms MacDonald, Bonnie Williams and later Mary Purcell. Dick Virota was always there to help! Our Condo has a Women’s Club with more than 300 members, and I was corresponding Secretary and later recording Secretary for a few years. My husband and I were fortunate to visit China for 28 days. Last year we were in Singapore for three weeks and had one week in Bali. Memories: Enjoying my various experiences in the Branches, BOO, OAS and OBL. But most of all I worked for the finest people. I must make mention that in OBL there were Mr. Holmgren, Mr. Dana and then Ms MacDonald, Evelyn Jones, Theresa Martin and Don Allry. Work was a pleasure!

William C. Lee: Activities: Realizing that the buying power of my pension money will diminish in a few years, my current interest lies in finding ways to preserve and increase the value of personal savings. My hobbies are playing chess and reading novels.

Memories: I remember the many reference book presentations in which I participated. I also remember the reference collections I built at New Dorp regional branch and at St. George Reference Center.

Florence R. Levy: Activities: Local shows and symphonies. Community college courses and courses. I volunteer in a literacy program. Memories: The people I had the opportunity to meet.

Pauline S. Singletary: Activities: Wolftrap Theatre [Virginia]. Reading, water aerobics, Kennedy Center activities. Member Eastern Loudoun Regional Library Advisory Board. Every Tuesday volunteer work at the White House. Board member of Sugarland Run Homeowners Association, and some other activities too numerous to list.

Memories: My years as Regional Librarian in Central Harlem, and my years as Assistant Borough Coordinator with Mary Kay Connell.

Lewis Stark: Activities: Making occasional additions to my collection of early New Hampshire imprints (mostly pre-1820) now in the Special Collections of the UNH Library in Durham. Memories: Having the privilege of knowing and working with Wilberforce Eames, Harry M. Lydenberg and Gerald McDonald; and being responsible for the care of such Library “treasures” as the Gutenberg Bible, the Columbus Letter and the Bay Psalm Book.

Editor’s Notes

Since our last newsletter, this association has lost two of its officers. Moriti-Leah Frederick was a board member and one of our founders. Fred Gee was our hard-working treasurer. Obituaries are on page 2 of this newsletter. They will be missed both for what they have accomplished and for their enduring friendship.

As everyone knows, the Library has opened the new Science and Industry Branch Library (SIBL) in the old B. Altman building at Fifth Avenue and 34th Street. In media reports about the opening one would think that installing a computer would automatically produce a great library and that there is no human contribution. Our uneasiness is enhanced by the selection of names chiseled in the stone of the library foyer. The Library does owe much to its donors, but what about the generations of people who instigated and built the outstanding science and economics divisions which were moved into the new location?

We were reminded of this flight from reality when we heard the speaker at one of the Library’s Public Programs, the computer specialist Clifford Stoll, the author of the 1995 book “Silicon Snake Oil.” In it he emphasizes that there is a need to have a sense of what is going on in the computer world. In his talk he went so far as to say that there is too much dependence on computers rather than librarians at SIBL.

Although Stoll does not understand the operation of a library and is therefore unaware of the computer’s great importance to library work, he is also aware that it is dangerous to expect from a computer more than it can give. A good example of this is the suggestion that we raise money to pay a costly computer into every child’s hand (a proposal, you will remember, of the Speaker of the House of Representatives), when we should be insisting on money for good teachers, school buildings, librarians, and books. Stoll emphasizes that basic education, not a computer, gives us lawyers, physicians, teachers, bankers, librarians, grocers, salesmen and the like. Computers are not useless by any means, but we need reality as well as dreams.

BOOK CORNER——

Most of the Library’s retirees are music lovers and many also play the piano. For both groups we recommend Piano Lessons—Music, Love & True Adventures by Noah Adams, host of National Public Radio’s All Things Considered (Delacorte Press, 1996). He tells of selecting, buying and learning to play the piano at age 51. He also includes general comments on music and many other things.

Another enjoyable book is Speaking of Pianists by Abram Chasins, the concert pianist and lecturer (husband of concert pianist Constance Keene) who for twenty-five years was music director of WQXR. Written for the general public as well as musicians, it is now available in paperback. Also in paperback is a book for the pianist and some general readers, the 1920 edition of Piano Playing by Josef Hofmann (Dover 1976). It includes selections from his popular questions and answers column on piano playing that ran for thirteen years in the Ladies Home Journal. Who would think of running such a column in a popular general interest magazine today?

A more specialized book is the newly published Piano Pieces (Farr, Straus and Giroux, 1996) by Russell Sherman, the concert pianist and teacher at the New England Conservatory. In a series of short items he writes his thoughts on music teachers, students, composers, music competitions (he is against them), and life in general.

Anyone interested in either music or mathematics or both should look into Emblems of Mind, The Inner Life of Music and Mathematics (Random House — Times Books, 1995) by Edward Rothstein, the chief music critic for The New York Times.

For the pianist, a paperback is Schnabel’s Interpretation of Piano Music by the pianist Konrad Wolff with an introduction by Alfred Brendel (Norton, 1979). And again for the active pianist, Piano Technique by Karl Leimer and his student Walter Gieseking (Dover, 1972).
REVIEW OF MEETINGS
by Juanita Doares

At our March meeting, Grace Iijima, a retired NYPL librarian, spoke to us about her work with the Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association (PPSEWA). The international association (including its USA subsidiary) is one of the ten original non-governmental organizations of the United Nations, and is the only international women's organization devoted to peace and understanding in the Pacific and Southeast Asia. Ms. Iijima spoke of her attendance at international conferences which are held approximately every three years, bringing members together for lectures, workshops and cultural programs concerned with women and families. The last conference was held in Tonga in 1994, which Ms. Iijima attended.

John Simpson spoke at our April meeting. He is in charge of senior citizens affairs in Assemblyman Scott Stringer's office. He told of the rent control hearings which were currently in progress and the rally planned for Albany. He also spoke of health concerns for the older New York State residents and the efforts of Assemblyman Stringer and Senator Franz Leichter to introduce a bill to defer the tax cuts that would curtail programs for senior citizens and the more vulnerable residents of New York State.

The May meeting was held at the Fordham Library Center in the Bronx. Renee Kotler, Adult Specialist of the Bronx Borough Office, gave an excellent slide presentation on the history of the Bronx libraries. Following the program and meeting, the group was given a tour of the Bronx Reference Center. We are grateful to Elga Cace and her staff for having made the arrangements for the meeting and for guiding us to an excellent pre-meeting lunch at the Bronx BBQ Restaurant.

THE ASSOCIATION’S TOURS AND VISITS
by Agnes Babich

Jewish Museum focus of Early Spring Trip: To further explore the variety of museums in New York City, the NYPL Retirees Association traveled to the Upper East Side on March 21 to visit the Jewish Museum. A detailed tour of the permanent collections gave the group valuable background information on the history of Judaism. Sarabeth’s Kitchen on Madison Avenue proved to be a good place for a delicious lunch and conversation.

Musée du Barrio and Museum of the City of New York, Last Trip before Summer Break: On June 14 a group of hardy members of the Association trudged up to 103rd and 104th Streets and Fifth Avenue to visit two valuable, but sometimes overlooked, institutions. First stop was a tour of Musée du Barrio’s exhibit on Latin-American Photography, 1880-1992. Lunch followed at Hanratty’s Restaurant for tasty Latin and American dishes. An afternoon visit to the Museum of the City of New York covered a tour of exhibitions of doll houses and Broadway shows, as well as the special exhibit on the Irish in New York.

NEW MEMBERS Through July 1996
Judith Botnick
J. Frances Carey
Mark Carnevale
Catherine Halls
James W. Henderson
Robert W. Hill
Milada Klatil
Alar Kruus
Frances Lewis
Mary Margaret Regan
Patricia Smith
Sandra Spellman
Joan Treble
Bonnie E. Williams

MEETINGS SCHEDULE
At the March meeting, the members voted in favor of the executive committee’s recommendation of a change in our meeting schedule. We will no longer have a membership/program meeting every month. The association will instead rotate membership/program meetings with the association’s social outings and executive committee meetings. Depending on the availability of the Mid-Manhattan first floor conference room, we will have afternoon meetings in the hope of a larger attendance. The following is the schedule for September 1996 through June 1997:

September 16, 1996, Monday at 3 PM. Membership/Program meeting.
October 17, 1996, Thursday, 12 M. Executive Committee
November 15, 1996, Friday, time to be determined. Social Outing
December 12, 1996, Thursday, 6:30 PM. Holiday Party at Maison Japonaise Restaurant, 125 E. 39th
January 13, 1997, Monday, 3 PM. Membership/Program meeting
February 13, 1997, Thursday, 12 M. Executive Committee
March 13, 1997, Thursday, time to be determined. Social Outing
April 16, 1997, Wednesday, 5 PM (note 5 PM instead of 6 PM) Membership/Program meeting
May 16, 1997, Thursday 12M. Executive Committee
June 11, 1997, Wednesday, time to be determined. Social Outing

All Membership/Program meetings will be held in the first floor conference room of the Mid-Manhattan Library. Executive Committee meetings are open to all members and will be held at the HBO cafeteria. Places and times for social outings will be announced. Please put these dates on your calendar and join us.

The Newsletter is published at irregular intervals by The New York Public Library Retiree Association, Inc., an independent association. Information for the newsletter should be sent to Lawrence Murphy, Editor, The NYPL Retirees Association Newsletter, 137 East 36 Street, Apt. 16-B, New York, New York 10016. Officers of the Association—President: Juanita S. Doares; Vice President: Catherine Marquard; Treasurer: Mary T. Brady; Executive Board: Lawrence Murphy, Belle Weinberg. To join the NYPL Retirees Association, send annual dues of $10 to: Mary Brady, Treasurer, NYPL Retirees Association, 505 East 82 Street, Apt. 5-J, New York, NY, 10028. All other information and inquiries: Juanita Doares, NYPL Retirees Association, 401 W. 118th St., Apt. 3, New York, NY 10027 (telephone: 212 666-5737).

Committees of the Association: Health Care—Agnes Babich, Mercy Kellogg, Ann Moy; Legislative—Belle Weinberg (Chair), Lucy Eldridge, Nora Gorchoff, Theresa Castle, Ruth Kronmueller; Membership: William O. Lee (Staten Island representative); Social: Rose Marie O’Leary, Agnes Babich, Betty Guibert. If you would like to serve on a committee, contact Juanita Doares, 212 666-5737.