

# NEWS BULLETIN

RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO

*Since 1926*

VOL. LXI

JANUARY 2005

NO. 1

## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF RTAC

When I walked into my classroom 310 at Kelvyn Park High School in 1963, I never thought I would be sending a message like this some 43 years later.

This is my last message to you as RTAC President. It has been an honor to hold this office after so many years with the CPS, the Pension Office, the Pension Board, and RTAC. Now, as a life member of the RTAC Board of Directors, I shall continue to work on the mutual cares, labors, and dangers of all retired Chicago teachers and administrators.

I report to you today on the state of our 79 year old Association and of our 110 year old pension system. Both are very strong and are what accountants call **going concerns**. The year 2004 showed how strong we can be when working together. We had our health care rebate bill HB1269 passed into law during a bad time in the State's financial history. The pension system stands (June '04) at 86 percent funded with \$10.4 billion. This is despite serious market downturns during 2000-2003. Our Association also weathered these rough times just fine, with a strong treasury today of over \$4 million, and \$1.25 million in the RTAC Retired Teachers Aid Fund, an all time high. We started our Committee on Political Education Fund for future legislative and lobbying expenses. It will help us help our friends in the Legislature. Perhaps I am proudest of the referendum law that was passed to stop a takeover of our assets by the city treasurer's office. It requires a majority vote of pension fund members before our assets can be transferred to another entity. It remains on the books today. I also wish to again thank those who voted for me in the September 2002 election.

During these last few years our Association

and pension system have worked just right. As a defined benefit system, the Pension Fund took the market losses while our pensions remained intact, along with regular increases. Our Association worked to pull us together to focus, fight, and win the rebate battle. I believe this has been two good years for us.



*James F. Ward*

But problems, some new in kind or degree, will persist. As I look to the future I see at least four years of 70% rebates for our health plans. That will give us enough time to introduce and pass improvements like a 75% constant rebate that won't have to be repeatedly renewed by the legislature every few years. Downstate retirees already have it; why shouldn't we? Other urgent needs are pension increases for our lowest benefit pensioners and a moratorium on end-of-career pension formula windfalls for each successive generation of retiring teachers. These have been evident in the last decade. Illinois should make sure it can pay the pensions already in the law before passing new ones that jeopardize all benefit promises. Another item I will be watching carefully is the continuing effort of the Chicago Public Schools to legislate away the responsibility for ultimate solvency of our pension system as passed into law in 1995.

At the national level, we must watch prescription drug laws and changes to Medicare for effects they will have on our health plans. The current prescription law helps virtually none of us. During a national election we heard little of how leaders proposed to pay for the large entitlement programs at the federal level over the long term. Will AARP ever help us repeal the WEP and GPO which reduce federal benefits to us simply because we were teachers? I think we must repeal these ter-

*(See President, page 3)*

**RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
OF CHICAGO**

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	James F. Ward



**Robert F. Bures**, *Executive Director*

**V K Brown**, *Editor/Webmaster*

*Annual Membership \$15; free (NOT automatic) from 85 up.*

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**RTAC SERVICE DIRECTORY**

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RTAC Fax Line .....	312-939-0145
CRTAF Aid Fund .....	312-939-3364
ID Theft Reports (Call AIG Group: Use Policy # 916240) .....	866-434-3572
Chicago Teachers Pension Fund (55 W. Wacker Dr., 60601) .....	312-641-4464
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Elder Abuse Hotline (State of Illinois) .....	800-252-8966
Legislative Update, Insurance Counselor .....	312-939-3327
MetLife Dental Plan .....	800-345-7868

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<p><b>The News Bulletin invites YOU</b> to email your typed contribution (<b>editor@RTAC.org</b>), fax it (773-624-0794), or mail it to the editorial office (below). If NOT typed, please mail it to the RTAC Office for typing and forwarding to the editor. <b>April '05 issue deadline: February 23, 2005.</b></p>	
<p><b>Mr. V. K. Brown, Editor</b> Suite 2516 N 4800 S Chicago Beach Chicago IL 60615-2170</p>	

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## EDITOR VACANCY

Having recently figured out that he is not likely to be the world's first immortal, the Editor is currently searching for a replacement who will be available to take over in the event of an emergency.

- ✿ Replacement requirements include:
- ✿ Excellent writing skills;
- ✿ An eagle eye for typos and misprints;
- ✿ Excellent computer skills;
- ✿ Familiarity with the Internet;
- ✿ Ability to compose and maintain a high quality web site;
- ✿ Willingness and time to monitor other sites important to RTAC members (CTU, Pension Fund, Illinois State Legislature, Thomas website [U. S. Government records], AARP, NEA, etc., etc.);
- ✿ Familiarity with Adobe Pagemaker, Adobe Distiller, File Transfer Protocol (FTP), Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word (or equal);

- ✿ An active, intelligent, innovative mind.

In addition, the successful candidate must supply his/her own office, all equipment (high-end personal computer, scanner, printer, backup hardware, and other necessary or desirable peripherals), software, supplies and broadband internet service. A keen sense of humor is **vital**.

The present editor will train the successful candidate in any or all of the above insofar as he is able.

The job is enormously rewarding for anyone who truly cares about retired teachers, and who also enjoys facing constant challenge. The current editor is having the time of his life, he says; he never had 9,500 friends before. It must be noted, however, that the editor (present or future!) is unlikely ever to present any substantial financial threat to Bill Gates.

If you're at all interested, please feel free to call the present Editor (773-624-6264) and chat about the job. Straight answers guaranteed!

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NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

MARCH 2005

**FRANCES ELIZABETH CAROLINE WILLARD** 1839-1896

An American educator and social reformer, Miss Willard was born at Churchville, N.Y., graduating from Northwestern Female College, Evanston, IL. After teaching several years, in 1871 she was appointed President and Professor of Aesthetics of the Evanston College for Ladies, which in 1873 became part of Northwestern University. She resigned in 1874 to become National Corresponding Secretary of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Five years later she was chosen National President, and was reelected every year until her death.

She devoted much of her time to lecturing and supporting women's suffrage. She also served as President of the National Council of Women and Vice President of the Universal Peace Union and of the Association for the Advancement of Women.

The State of Illinois presented her statue to Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C., in 1905. She was the first woman to be so honored.

---

*(President, continued)*

rible laws without them. Our requests for their help have fallen on deaf ears thus far.

What new problems will surface? Who can know? I was born in 1938 and was in grade school during World War II, so war is not unusual to me. Still, I pray our service women and men will com-

plete their missions and return home just as soon as possible. Chicago retirees are and always will be in my heart. My term as RTAC President ends December 31, 2004. Please remember you have a friend on the board and your cards, letters, and phone calls are very welcome and much appreciated. JFW, 312.527.3338, urokward@yahoo.com.

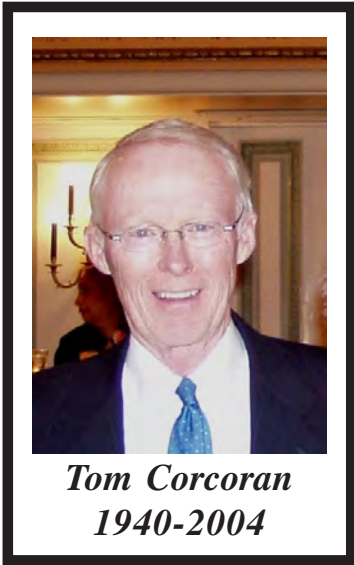
# 2004 Fall Luncheon



After long-time RTAC stalwart **Bob Abson** gave the invocation at the beginning of the luncheon and President **Jim Ward** greeted the guests, Vice President **Audrey Mivelaz** began the business portion of the meeting. She eulogized the late

**Tom Corcoran**, erstwhile RTAC Second Vice President, who died suddenly on August 3, 2004. Tom, the retired Secretary of the Chicago Board of Education, had been the architect of and the chief energy source for the unprecedented coalition of the Board of Ed., the Pension Fund, RTAC and the CTU. It achieved the nearly impossible:

Passage of HB 1269, restoring most of our health care insurance subsidy, probably until at least 2007. Audrey presented a generous check from RTAC



**Tom Corcoran  
1940-2004**

to Tom's wife, **Rita**, and his daughter **Theresa**. Rita then presented the check to Dr. **Mae Hunter**, President of the Aid Fund, in Tom's memory. Mae accepted the check graciously.

**Kevin Huber**, Acting Executive Director of the Pension Fund, then summarized the condition of



*Past President **Bob Konen** listens as Presidential candidate **Walter Pilditch** makes a point.*

the Fund. Assets have again passed the \$10  
(See **Luncheon**, next page)



*Tom's daughter **Theresa** (l) and wife **Rita** are introduced by Social Committee Co-Chair **Audrey Mivelaz**.*



***Jean O. Williams Bradford**, **Felicia G. Browne**, **Willa M. Biglow** and **Mildred E. Johnson** watch festivities.*

(Luncheon, continued)

billion mark. Pensions are now funded at a strong 93%; they were fully funded in 1999, before the market drop. Contributions come from active teachers, investments and the State; Kevin presented percentage figures for each source. He noted that the fund's well diversified investment profile is in good condition.

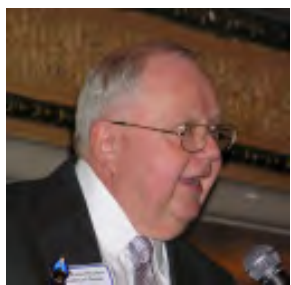


Kevin Huber reports on the Pension Fund.

Kevin referred to the funding drop from 100% to 93%, noting that making unused sick days creditable and maintaining the Early Retirement Option

have both been very costly to the Fund. He expects that additional funding will soon be necessary to keep the level high.

Kevin also observed that the Fund has a current legislative objective of a minimum pension of \$18,000 per year for teachers with 20 or more years of service. Annuitants who retired in 1980



Executive Director Bob Bures addresses the group.

and before urgently need such a guarantee. The objective for health insurance rebates is to change state reimbursement from the fixed dollar amount under which we have been functioning to 75% of the premium cost. Any such change probably could not occur before January of '06.



Pension Fund President Pat Knazze awaits her turn.

Pat Knazze, President of the Pension Fund Board of Trustees, spoke next. She explained that Mike Nehf is on a leave of absence until January and that Kevin Huber is functioning in Mike's stead. Pat says that the information system is up and running, and the phone system is being worked on. She said the Fund welcomes input from members.

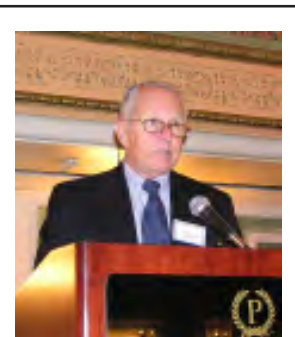
Pat praised the work of Walter Pilditch as Chair of the Disability and Legislative Committees



Aid Fund President Mae Hunter presents her report. (Staff photo)

of the Pension Fund. Pat is credited with refining the committee system of the Fund, which saves much time at meetings. In the then-upcoming election for active teacher trustees, Pat asked guests to urge their active teacher friends to support her.

Dr. Mae M. Hunter, President of the Aid Fund, then presented that group's report. She noted that it is a 501(c)3 corporation, a classification that confers many tax advantages. Mae noted that during the health care insurance crisis, the number receiving assistance rose by 50%, with those who were forced to drop their health insurance entirely being the most critically urgent cases. Aid Fund payout is currently running about \$60,000 per year. Some bequests are into 6 figures, requiring the fund to



Ed O'Farrell presents the Treasurer's Report.

use professional people with its auditing. Mae introduced the other members of the Aid Fund Committee:



We don't THINK Stewart Brekke (l) is mad at Betsy and Art Cervinka.

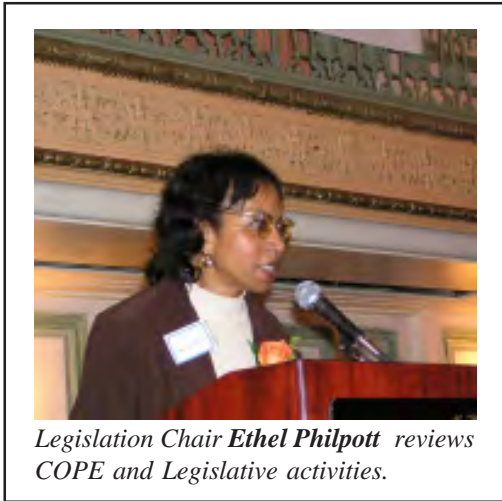
Audrey Mivelaz, Jewel Koch, Vaughn Barber, Bob Konen, Jim Ward, Steve Kailes, Nancy Makowski, Walter Pilditch and Veronica Chemers. Mae also noted the highly valuable assistance of RTAC Executive Director Bob Bures and the office staff.

Among the several thank-you notes Mae read was one from a 90 year old blind man now working as a piano tuner. His hearing aid had dropped and was destroyed, and he needed help to buy a new

(See Luncheon, next page)

(Luncheon, continued)

one. Mae noted that the fund continuously deals with cases of this sort of urgency, and the many thank-you notes she receives are often heart-rending.



Legislation Chair **Ethel Philpott** reviews COPE and Legislative activities.

Because Treasurer Vaughn Barber was unable to attend the luncheon, Past President **Ed O'Farrell** presented the treasurer's report.

He noted that we have hired a new auditor, John E. Wilson, Ltd. Referring to the statements on each table, Ed noted that net assets have risen by over \$500,000 in a year. Bequests to RTAC, never predictable, dropped sharply from \$335,000 in 2002 to \$0 thus far in 2004. Ed opined

that the minute-to-minute and week-to-week changes were not significant. He said our goals were to increase investment income and the rate of investment.

Legislation Chair **Ethel Philpott** thanked members for their support of U S legislative objectives, including HR 594 and S 349, bills that would repeal penalties on the Social Security pensions of public servants. She also urged contributions to RTAC-

COPE, providing a way to support legislators who support us.

Special Events Committee Chair **Veronica Chemers** reported on the Spirit of Chicago cruise (see p. 8). The next event is planned to be a



Second Vice President **Veronica Chemers** talks about past and future Special Events.

Casino trip. Veronica expressed special thanks to **Marion Hoffing** and **Audrey Mivelaz** for their hard work in putting together RTAC's semi-annual luncheons.

The Nominating Committee's slate of officers and directors was

accepted by acclamation. The names of the new directors are included on p. 2; see their pictures on p. 36.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.



Social Committee Co-Chair **Marion Hoffing** and Past President **Helen Johnson** settle a momentous question about door prizes, under the watchful eyes of Pension Fund Acting Exec **Kevin Huber** (background, left) and RTAC President Elect **Walter Pilditch**.



One very important reason for RTAC's legislative successes: Lobbyist **Dick Lockhart**. Notice how he's always watching what's going on?

# LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE

By Art Keegan, Chair, Insurance Committee

Responding to high member interest, the Insurance Committee has investigated this field.

Long Term Care insurance is a tailor-made product, crafted to the individual's needs – no one policy is likely to be the same as any other. Benefits issues are diverse, and members will have to do some homework. For example, when do benefits begin, what triggers care, how long is the wait for benefits to begin, to whom will they be paid, must the beneficiary be in a nursing home or can you stay in your own home with a caregiver, how long do benefits continue, is the percentage inflation benefit increase simple or compounded? Further, are special services included, like haircuts, nail care, special dietary needs, linen, maid and prescription services, and the like? Remember also to look carefully for clauses that say “may pay” instead of “will pay” – there is a difference.

Additionally, be aware of what spousal benefits are included; whether premiums are returned



Art Keegan

if the policy is not used, and if so to whom; can you buy a single premium (lump sum) policy; and is there a return of premium after 10 or 15 years?

It is most important for members to investigate and compare policies from a number of companies, so that they may obtain the range of benefits best suited to their own needs and get the best package for the premium. Two companies — American Express (312-542-9617 – Richard Pollock) and Planned Employee Benefits (312-922-3264 – Michael O'Malley) made presentations to the Insurance Committee; both offered 5% discounts to RTAC members. Other firms offering LTC policies include AARP's insurance division, General Electric Capital, Golden Rule and John Hancock. All insurance companies are rated; select from those companies with the highest rankings from A.M. Best, Standard & Poor's, and Moody's.

Because every individual has unique needs, no one insurance company is best for all. For this reason, the Committee makes no specific recommendations.

*We missed getting the name lists from a few tables, but they're nice people, too. And some of the faces are familiar...*



Way in the back, we found **Louise Welker**, **Lori Nolan** and **James P. Maloney**, but it wasn't a very exciting part of the program.



...and outgoing President **Jim Ward** got a plaque from Past President **Helen Johnson**...

# A CRUISE WITH SPIRIT

You may possibly remember that Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, was a spectacular day in Chicago. The air was unusually clear, the temperature about 72° F, and there was a brisk wind from the northeast. It was a perfect day for a cruise, as 181 RTAC members found to their delight.



*They brought it to you! Special Events Chair **Veronica Chemers** (l) with members **Peg Olson**, **Art Keegan** and **Nancy Makowski**.*

cluding a brief fun encounter with Executive Director **Bob Bures**, of which your editor was unaware until too late to get a picture. (All of us are the poorer for that lost opportunity.)

In consideration of the brisk wind, the ship stayed inside the breakwater, because of much rougher water beyond it. All the other cruise ships did the same, which made for superb photo ops as we all paraded around in circles as though on a merry-go-round. Even inside the breakwater, passengers found walking about required unusual care.

The group sailed at noon on the sleek cruise ship, *The Spirit of Chicago*, for another RTAC-



*Some of the luminaries: **Nancy Makowski**, **Jim Ward**, **Vera Paul**, **Vaughn Barber** (back row), **Aretas Collymore** (front), **Bob Bures** and **Carol Bures** (foreground).*

sponsored luncheon cruise. So many RTAC members were aboard that it seemed as though we had a chartered liner.

Friends were everywhere, engaging in spirited conversation (pun intended).

High on the list of topics of those conversations was the food served to the buffet diners. All seemed to agree that it was outstanding, contributing greatly to making the cruise an excellent bargain at \$38 per person.

The servers/performers and the disk jockey provided excellent music and entertainment, in-

As the last entertainment, the performers called



*Line dancing!*

on passengers to join in line dancing. This was an instant hit, as nearly everyone aboard joined in stomping on a jam-packed dance floor. When the ship docked at the end of the cruise, smiles were every-

where. Notably, there was none of the usual flood of people trying to be the first to disembark. We don't remember ever seeing that before, and we count it a measure of the success of the cruise.



*Remember the Windy?*



*The Spirit of Chicago, as seen from the Navy Pier Ferris Wheel.*

We're counting on seeing you on the next cruise! You'll love it!





# A REPORT FROM THE AID FUND

By Mae McDonald Hunter, President

Many greetings to you for the New Year!

During the Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah and New Year holiday season, your aid fund has been here and active with its vital work. Just as we give thanks to you for your generosity, our recipients show their gratitude through their many letters, calls and visits to the RTAC office.



Mae M. Hunter

We have been blessed with some very large contributions. The largest of these was a bequest of over \$700,000, from the estate of **Mildred L. Mueller**, the last of three siblings who had no survivors. You'll read more about her in the April *News Bulletin*. What a wonderful gift to her fellow teachers, and teachers to come, as a safety net against adversity! My hat goes off to her.

The Aid Fund's tax-free status as a philanthropic organization is the result of its being what is called a 501(c)3 corporation. To maintain that

status, the Aid Fund must have donations from many sources (the amounts are not critical). We are much too close to the lower limit of the number of sources, so your contributions are still absolutely vital to the continued operation of the Aid Fund. As always, they are also deeply appreciated.

When I assumed the Presidency of the Aid Fund in January of 2003, the audited balance in the Aid Fund was \$483,346. As I leave this office, the balance stands at \$1,273,401.13. This figure is taken from figures supplied by Mr. **James F. Ward**, CFA, outgoing RTAC president. As our recipient list grows so does our outgo, but we continue to be in a strong position and well able to meet the need.

Many thanks are due to you for your contributions, your love and your support. Know that I wish each one of you well.

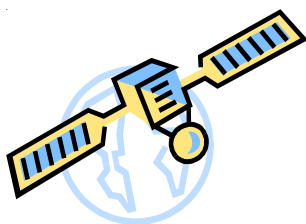
*Mae M. Hunter*



*That Ferris Wheel makes for great photo ops!*

## SATELLITE DOINGS

### FLORIDA IS STILL HERE!



The Florida Satellite Group I of the Chicago Retired Teachers is still functioning, with **Ferdinand Barclay** as President and **Annette Brown** as Secretary of the group. Its membership is growing. Usually in March, the group meets in Ocala, Orlando or Palm Coast, with members and guests coming from Central Florida. Since they meet once a year, news of the group may not appear in every issue of the News Bulletin, but you may be sure they are quite active, working, traveling and/or volunteering in their communities or just enjoying retirement.

Educators and friends living or visiting in or near Ocala are invited to join them in March 2005. Please contact President Mr. Ferdinand Barclay, P.O. Box 350533, Palm Coast, Florida 32135, or telephone him at 386-445-0913 for specific location, date and time of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Annette D Brown, Secretary  
CRT Florida Satellite Group I*

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### SAN DIEGO

The San Diego Satellite had its fall luncheon on October 12, 2004 at La Costa Glen in Carlsbad, California. Mrs. **Zelda Sweet** made arrangements with the dining hall as she lives in the facility and vouched for the accommodations and food. Three entrees were available—Boston Salad with fruit and chicken, Maryland style crab cakes and Cornish hen with wild rice and mushrooms. In addition there was soup, salad, vegetables and desert, all for \$14.00. Everyone agreed with Zelda: The food was delicious and the accommodations wonderful.

We were fortunate to have 32 people in attendance. **Rita Evoy**, president, introduced **Marion** and **Peter Casa**, **Georgine Foster**, and **Linda** and **Paul Mooney** as first time attendees. Rita also spoke about the passing of **Thomas J. Corcoran** and his unselfish work over the years for

all of Chicago educators.

After the luncheon, **Sam Dolnick**, treasurer presented the financial report. The parent RTAC was lauded for assuming the costs of mailing and copying the reservation forms.

Sam referred to the July 2004 *Pension News* announcing the Governor's signing of the bill allowing pensioners to receive 70% reimbursement of our medical premiums. He then went on to explain the 2005 Health Insurance Open Enrollment Handbook. Sam noted that with Medicare premium going up 17.4% and the increase on our social security is only 2.7% we'll be lucky to receive a \$2.00 increase in our social security checks. It was pointed out that anyone enrolled in Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois medical plan would have an automatic reimbursement for their health premium appearing on each pension check each month. Those enrolled in any other health plan in California should be sure to save their receipts for all their health premium payments, as they will have to forward documentation to the pension office to obtain their reimbursement. It was stressed that Oct. 31 was the deadline if anyone wanted to change his or her health provider.

There was a discussion about the change from Walgreens to Prime Therapeutics as the provider for medications. Home delivery service for non-HMO members will begin on November 1, 2004. The cost of a 90-day supply of generic and brand name drugs will remain the same, and Walgreens will forward those prescriptions needing refills to Prime Therapeutics.

The RTAC dental program was also presented. Each person, depending upon their dental needs, would have to determine which plan, if any, would best suit his or her needs.

After the question and answer period, Rita Evoy made an announcement that received a tremendous round of applause. The marketing department of La Costa Glen had just informed her that they would pick up the bill for the luncheon, the total of which was \$392.00. She also mentioned that anyone who wanted to take a tour of the resi-  
(See **Satellite**, next page)

# REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Robert F. Bures

Happy New Year! 2005 ... and another year has gone by!

One of my favorite movie lines is when Henry Fonda in *On Golden Pond* responds on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday to a request for him to say something to his friends and family: "How did it all go so fast?" It's so true. When I speak to so many of you who call the office, I know you also feel the same way. I retired in 1993, so it's eleven years. Many of you have succeeded in second careers, enjoyed your children and grandchildren in leisure, traveled, and reminisced about your time with the CPS! I always enjoy your calls. *If you ever want to just talk about the good old days at CPS just call me — 312.939.3327!*



This is only right and proper after long careers of devoting themselves to Chicago's schoolchildren.

Of, course there are other bills we will sponsor, but this bill – nicknamed *Ad Hoc Lite* – will be at the forefront of RTAC's efforts in 2005.

That's where YOU come in! We are going to wage an effort that is going to include asking you to make calls, write letters, send e-mails and faxes to your state legislators. YOU know this works. YOU were successful in passing HB1269, saving our medical insurance rebate! YOU can do it again. Remember, by helping others we really help ourselves. We have lined up legislators to introduce this legislation, we are lining up the votes, but we will still need your assistance with the critical need to secure all the votes needed to pass these bills. It's not a one shot deal – bills must be passed in both the House and the Senate, and then the Governor must sign it into law.

But being retired a longer time from the CPS also can bring economic distress for many. Did you know that of the many thousands of annuitants from our Pension System — almost a fourth of us — have worked a full career and have pensions of less than \$1,000 per month! That's poverty level ... eligible for food stamps! This is a disgrace! Of course, RTAC sponsors our Aid Fund, which can assist a limited number of annuitants, but that's not enough and it's certainly not fair!

Our annuitants have the need; YOU have the ability to get this done! Read about RTAC's Legislative Agenda on page 13 in this issue. So-o-o-o-o ... watch for our special mailing to you to help convince the legislature and the governor to *DO THE RIGHT THING*.

That's why RTAC is placing as Number ONE on its legislative agenda a bill in our 2005 General Assembly that will raise the pensions of those earning the smallest amounts to a reasonable figure... to, say, \$16,000 a year.

Let's all work together so that ALL annuitants can have a Happy New Year!



*(Satellite, continued)*  
dential facility would be accommodated.

Sam said that within the following week he would reimburse each attendee for the cost of the meal. A motion was then made, seconded and unanimously approved to keep the money in the treasury and apply it to the luncheon to be held on April 12, 2005. A second motion was made, and

passed unanimously, to send \$50.00 to the RTAC Aid Fund in memory of **Thomas J. Corcoran**.

The luncheon/business meeting then adjourned. Many attendees remained to chat while others toured the facility.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
Sam Dolnick

# PENSION NEWS

by Carole Nolan, Pension Fund Trustee

The Pension Trustees have many issues to consider as they enter the new year.

We must perform a search for a new Executive Director and also conduct a search for a new Investment Consultant. RFP's are currently being prepared.

**Pat Knaaze** and **Rose Mary Finnegan** were reelected as Teacher Pension Trustees and **Terri Katsulis** was reelected a Principal Trustee.

The Board reelected its officers and they are as follows: **Pat Knaaze**, President; **Walter Pilditch**, Vice President; **Ernestine Murphy**, Recording Secretary; and **Rose Mary Finnegan**, Financial Secretary.

There were some questions regarding the Teacher Pension Trustee election and the committee on elections will be looking into the questions.

This was the first time that the Trustees used a mail ballot for Teacher Pension candidates, and it was also the first time that an outside agency was hired to conduct the election.

Our lobbyists, Mr. **Barnes** and Mr. **Anselmo**, reported that no legislation was brought forth during the veto session.

The strategic planning session that was held in the fall was very successful, and committee meetings are regularly scheduled. This structure has already produced better meetings, and it allows Trustees to study issues in depth.

Please continue to keep us aware of your pension concerns. We welcome your letters, and have gleaned many very useful and valuable ideas from them. I in particular enjoy hearing from you.

Thanks in advance!



Carole Nolan



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

### BOOKER TALIAFERRO WASHINGTON 1856-1915

Mr. Washington is certainly one of the greatest of American Negroes. He was an outstanding educator, reformer and writer. Born a slave on a plantation in Virginia. He worked in the salt works of West Virginia during the day and attended school at night. At the age of 6 he walked almost 500 miles from his home to Hampton Institute in order to further his education. He worked his way through school graduating in 1875. He taught school for a while at Maiden West Virginia and later at Hampton Institute. Here he showed such ability that in 1881 he was chosen to organize a similar school for Negroes at Tuskegee, Ala. He opened his school with only 10 students, but in time it grew into

the famous Tuskegee Institute, with thousands of students. This school contributed to educational theory and practice in the United States by successfully combining academic and industrial work.

Mr. Washington also was an excellent speaker and addressed audiences throughout the world on such subjects as the problems of the Negro. His written works include: Up From Slavery and The Future of the American Negro.

Mr. Washington was a mentor to thousands of young people, and someone any of us would be proud to have known.

## A PRAYER FOR THE AGES

God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

by Ethel Philpott, Legislative Chair

The great election is over, and you strengthened both RTAC and our government if you were involved in the process. By now, I hope that you have contacted your current legislators and congratulated them on their victory. (You can check on who they currently are at Project Vote Smart, telephone 1-888-868-3762.) Even if your candidate lost, be sure you contact the winner, introduce yourself, and congratulate him/her. Then, keep in touch, by a quick call, a short note, or a fast visit to their offices - volunteer to help, so that your name has a 'face' should you later ask for their vote on an important piece of legislation. Be certain to they have your name, address, phone number, and RTAC affiliation, so they will know you are interested in legislation affecting CPS annuitants.



Ethel Philpott

RTAC's Committee on Political Education (COPE) monitored the November "Veto Session" of the Illinois Legislature carefully, but no legislation affecting our members was considered .

RTAC-COPE has been working diligently on its Legislative Agenda for 2005. Although the details have not yet been fleshed out, they are proposing the following:

In the Illinois General Assembly, we shall continue to press for passage of a bill that adjusts pensions upwards for our most needy annuitants. Over twenty per cent of our annuitants receive less than \$1000 a month in benefits. This is a disgrace. We want the legislature to set a humane minimum pension, using an equitable formula.

RTAC-COPE also supports legislation requiring our Pension Board to have four annuitant trustees instead of our present three. Annuitants are becoming a larger percentage of those covered by our pension system; equity demands a greater

proportion of annuitant representatives. Also very high on our list of legislation is changing our health insurance rebate formula from a fixed dollar amount to a percentage of premium cost, similar to the rest of the teachers in our state. This would eliminate the nearly annual crisis that surrounds this issue. We shall also propose changing the Chicago School Reform law to include an annuitant member on Chicago Board of Education. Many of the Board's decisions have a major, direct impact on annuitants. Further, our experience and institutional history would bring a fresh and useful perspective to that body.

In the United States Congress, we shall continue working on repeal of the unjust WEP-GPO Social Security provisions, that penalize those of us who receive a Social Security check just because we worked a second or third job to keep our heads above water. The new Congress will address this issue because we have many sponsors, so far, as well as lots of support from other organizations of retired public employees around the USA. We shall continue to work with these other groups, making an all-out effort to have these onerous provisions completely repealed.

The legislation that RTAC-COPE expects to have introduced in the Illinois Legislature in 2005 was placed in the hands of the Legislative Reference Bureau last November. Be ready for necessary actions as we continue refining and finalizing strategies. We'll keep you up-to-date on the legislation as soon as the sessions resume.

Stay healthy, active and informed; join our Letter A Month Club; and share your ideas. As your representatives, we need your input, as well as your help. Remember, our voice is as powerful as **you** choose to make it!





Marion Hoffing

THE RTAC NEWS-BULLETIN ONCE AGAIN PROUDLY PRESENTS

The astonishing MARION HOFFING'S quarterly monumental opus

THE CHICAGO SCENE

to enjoy during January, February and March

COMPUTER USERS PLEASE NOTE:

The Events page on RTAC's web site (http://www.rtac.org/events.htm) now carries DIRECT LINKS to the venues listed! Just click on the name!

ADLER PLANETARIUM & ASTRONOMY MUSEUM 1300 South Shore Drive 312-922-STAR
http://www.adlerplanetarium.org

Max Adler, Chicago businessman, established his namesake Planetarium in 1930, the first in the western hemisphere. Today, the Planetarium boasts the world's first Star Rider Theatre, an imaginary trip into outer space; Stars of the Pharaohs, how the heavens affected the architecture, religion and politics of the time; The Future's Wild, which images the earth millions of years from now, and many dazzling computer technology exhibits to impress visitors

ART INSTITUTE of CHICAGO Michigan at Adams 312-433-3600
http://www.artic.edu

Welcome to James Cuno, new Director and President of the Art Institute of Chicago!

- Unbuilt Chicago. Drawings, plans and architectural projects that never happened. Thru 1/16
Hero, Honk And Open Hand. American Indian art of the ancient Midwest and South. Thru 1/30
Chicago Architecture: Ten Visions. A dynamic exhibition that graphically illustrates a range of ideas concerning the future of Chicago and its built environment. Thru 4/3

CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN 1000 Lake-Cook Rd., Glencoe 847-835-5440
Recorded announcements 24 hours a day. http://www.chicago-botanic.org

Black And White Photos Capture Raw Beauty Of Trees, Earth. Conservation, diversity and ecology are the focus of two black and white photography exhibits opening at the Garden. Meet the artists: Jill Metcoff (Earth/Fire/Air/Water) and Miles Lowry (images of old forests) at a free reception and slide lecture at 2:00 pm on Sunday, January 16. The exhibits are open from 9 am to 5 pm daily at the Gallery in the Garden.

Lily Series For Sunday Afternoons
You're invited to learn how to maximize the impact of lilies in your home garden. Beginning 1/16
These free monthly interactive slide shows and lectures are offered by the Wisconsin-Illinois Lily Society at the Garden on Sundays, Jan. 16, Feb. 13, March 6 and April 24, at 2:00 pm.

Celebrate The Trees!
Tu B'Shvat, the Jewish Festival of Trees, with special family activities. Enjoy a variety of fun, free educational activities focusing on the joy trees bring to us. Create and decorate a paper tree. Pot up a tree, take it home and watch it grow. Play tree "BINGO" by finding trees in the South Greenhouse, and enjoy a reading corner filled with books about trees and Tu B' Shvat. Come join the festival of trees!
The list of interesting activities for January, February and March is endless. Please call for information on programs such as Painting Techniques, Guest Chef Cooking Classes (French, Italian, Spanish and Asian), Anatomy of Plants, Home Garden Planning, Latin Dance Class, Garden Photographic Society, Wellness Events, Botany for Beginners, etc. For more information, call 847-835-5440.

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT of CULTURAL AFFAIRS 312-744-1424
(See Scene, next page)

(Scene, continued)

Taste of *Special Programs*

**Chicago Winter Delights.** Themed weekends with events at locations around the city, including the Chicago Cultural Center and other Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs locations. The week-ends are:

<b>Stir It Up</b> (Food & Cooking)	1/6-9
<b>Paint the Town Blue</b> (Blues)	1/13-16
<b>Play It Cool</b> (jazz)	1/20-23
<b>Just Say Cabaret</b>	1/27-30
<b>Clown Around Town</b>	2/3-6
<b>Embrace Opera</b>	2/10-13
<b>Act On It Theatre</b>	2/17-20
<b>Let's Dance</b> (Dance)	2/24-27

EXHIBITIONS:

Photographs: Excursions of Tourism, includes historic, whimsical postcards of Niagara Falls and images by Ansel Adams. 1/22-3/27

CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY North Ave. & Clark Sts. 312-642-4600  
<http://www.chicagohistory.org> FREE Mondays  
**A Compassionate Eye.** Photographs of Declan Haun, 1961-69. Photos drawn from the artist's most prolific period. Thru 3/13  
**Latin Jazz: La Combinación Perfecta.** Tracing the music's roots and routes to its current booming international popularity. Thru 3/13  
**Coming Of Age.** Photographic records of a rite of passage for teens and the clothes associated with it. Thru 1/29

CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Symphony Center 312-294-3000  
220 S. Michigan at Adams <http://www.cso.org/>  
**Rosenthal Archives** of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.  
The collection of audio-visual materials, programs, photographs, newspaper clippings and administrative records, documents the activities of the CSO and Chorus, The Civic Orchestra, and other Orchestra Hall events. By appointment: 312-294-3055

COLLEGE OF DUPAGE, McAninch Arts Center 630-942-2321  
425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn <http://www.cod.edu/ArtsCntr/>  
**A Day In His Life.** Celebrating John Lennon. 1/8  
Mentalist Marc Salem's **Mind Games.** 1/15  
Stageworks: **Witness for the Prosecution** 1/21-30  
**The Marriage of Figaro** DuPage Opera Theatre 1/26,28,29  
**International Guitar Night** Brian Gore etc. 1/30  
**Arts Center Jazz Ensemble** Warren Chiasson 2/4  
**Jim Peterik World Stage** Chart topping music 2/5  
**Score Siti Company** Bernstein's music 2/11  
**Leahy: Nine Brothers & Sisters** Music! Music! 2/12  
**The Parsons Dance Company** 2/17  
**Buffalo Theatre Ensemble** Lost in Yonkers 2/18-3/19  
**Trio Voronezh** Three fiery Russians make music on the domia, the double-bass balalaika and the bayan (accordion). 2/18  
**National Acrobats of Taiwan, R.O.C.** 2/20  
**New Philharmonic** Orchestra Night Conga & Contra 2/25,26  
**Guess How Much I Love You** Nova Scotia Mermaid Theatre 2/27  
**New Classic Singers** Jonah and the Whale 3/5

(See **Scene**, next page)

(*Scene, continued*)

<b>Ladysmith Black Mambazo</b> , Traditional Culture, S. Africa	3/8
<b>Mary Black</b> , Irish Singer, Solo, 9 Platinum Solo Albums	3/12
<b>Arts Center Jazz Ensemble</b> Kidjazz	3/18
<b>This Land is Your Land</b> Folk Music of the 60's	3/20
<b>HMS Pinafore</b> N. Y. Gilbert & Sullivan Players	3/23

**GAHLBERG GALLERY**

Adjacent to the McAninch Arts Center Lobby, is a glass enclosed space for the exhibitions of paintings, sculpture, and other visual arts media. It is free and open to the public. Lectures are offered to complement the exhibit schedule. Lectures and tours are available during regular hours and by appointment (call 630-942-2321).

**STUDIO ART FACULTY EXHIBITION** An exhibition of works by College of DuPage full-time studio art faculty working in sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, drawing, painting, printmaking, photography and more. 1/6-2/12

**Shona MacDonald** creates "Inscapes" based on her experiences of travel and living between cultures. Imagery is fragmented then seamed back together in this group of drawings and paintings. Visual referents are sought from maps, aerial photographs, magical realist fiction, fractals from nature and photo documentations of specific locals. 2/17-4/2

**DU SABLE MUSEUM of AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY** 740 E. 56th Pl. 773-947-0600  
<http://www.dusablemuseum.org>

Founded in 1961, this is the nation's oldest non-profit institution devoted to the collection, preservation, interpretation and dissemination of African and African-American history and culture. The Museum's permanent collection includes more than 13,000 items, ranging from slave documents and African wood carvings to photographs and art work. The Museum hosts six temporary exhibitions each year.

Chicago artist **Allen Stringfellow** currently presents collages and water colors at the museum. Thru 3/6  
They give a lively historical and personal perspective on African-American life in Chicago.

**FIELD MUSEUM of NATURAL HISTORY** Roosevelt Rd. at Lake Shore Drive 312-922-9410  
<http://www.fmnh.org>

**Night Visions.** The Secret Designs of Moths. Original art work in the form of stunning color prints. Thru 1/9

**Machu Picchu.** Unveiling the mystery of the Incas. One of the most mysterious and captivating places on earth. Imagine archaeologist Hiram Bingham's excitement when he rediscovered the lost city of the Inca royalty, high in the Andean clouds, in 1911. Enjoy panoramas of the snowy peaks of the Andes and the high Peruvian cloud forest through computer interactives that give you a virtual tour of the site. See riches in gold and silver, ceramics, wood, textiles and stone exhibits. The largest exhibition of Inca culture ever presented in the United States. Thru 2/3

**Jacqueline Kennedy** The White House Years. A look back at an era when style and grace were embodied in the person of a First Lady who captivated the world. Discover the passion for art and history that heightened American culture at home and made her an effective Ambassador abroad. Thru 5/8

**THE NEW GOODMAN THEATRES** Dearborn St., between Lake and Randolph 312-443-3800  
<http://www.goodman-theatre.org>

**In The Owen:**

**Mariela In The Desert**

José and Mariela live in a ruined artists colony in the desert. When their grown daughter arrives from L.A., the ghost of their young son will not remain silent and the Blue Barn will finally reveal its mystery. 1/29-2/27

(See **Scene**, next page)



(**Scene**, continued)

HELLENIC MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER      801 W. Adams 4<sup>th</sup> Floor      312-655-1234  
Monday-Friday 10 am - 4 pm      <http://www.hellenicmuseum.org/>

**Greek Art.** 600 of Princess Marie of Greece's drawings are being featured in the exhibit "Katoufs" at the Hellenic and Cultural Center. Katoufs, the name the princess gave her collection of drawings, loosely translates to "making faces." The Katoufs From Royal Times to Nursery Rhymes are on display.

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF SURGICAL SCIENCE      312-642-6502  
1524 N Lake Shore Drive      <http://www.imss.org/>

**God's Prototype** By Ian Crawley      Thru 1/21  
Self Portrait Series #3: **Congenital: Grafts** by Jason Lazarus.      Thru 1/21  
**Supporting Structure:** Understanding the spine and spinal surgery      Ongoing  
**Windows to the World** The science of Sight and the Ophthalmic Art

LIZZADRO MUSEUM OF LAPIDARY ART      220 Cottage Hill, Elmhurst IL      630-833-1616  
<http://www.lizzadromuseum.org/>

The Lizzadro Museum displays over 233 pieces of jade and hard stone carvings featuring several internationally famous pieces. They include a fine nephrite jade imperial altar set completed during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and an exquisite cinnabar screen encrusted with carved gemstones, a birthday gift to the Chinese emperor, Qianlong (Ch'ien Lung) in 1791.

LYRIC OPERA      20 North Wacker Dr.      312-332-2244  
<http://www.lyricopera.com/home.asp>

**Wedding** by William Bolcom. The most madcap reception you've ever attended.      1/5,8,12,14,17,21.  
**Fidelio** by Ludwig van Beethoven. Overwhelming in its grandeur, passion and humanity.      1/18,22,26,30;  
2/2,5,8,11,15,18,21.  
**Tosca** by Giacomo Puccini. A tempestuous diva who lives for art, her firebrand lover who dies for liberty, and a villainous police chief who shrouds his lust in a veil of piety.      1/31, 2/4,6,9,12,14,  
2/16,19,22,24,26.

MEXICAN FINE ARTS CENTER & MUSEUM      1852 W. 19<sup>th</sup> St.      312-738-1503  
<http://www.mfacmchicago.org/>

**Magia de la risa y el juego.** Ancient antiquities from Vera Cruz, from the ancient indigenous people. First glimpse of a realistic four-ton Olmac stone head carved in 1200 BC. The museum is the show's only U.S. venue.      Thru 2/6

MUSEUM of CONTEMPORARY ART      220 E. Chicago Avenue.      312-280-2660  
<http://www.mcachicago.org/welcome/>

**In Soft Edge:** Subtle visual qualities and organic materials characterize the sculpture, painting and photography in this exhibition.      Thru 1/9  
**Fiona Tan Corrections** A video installation that includes several hundred filmed portraits of prisoners and prison guards.      Thru 1/23  
**Kai Althoff: Kai Kein Respekt (Kai No Respect)** The first Museum survey of work of the German artist featuring his delicate and evocative water colors, pencil drawings, and inventive collages and paintings.      Thru 1/23

MUSEUM of SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY      57th & Lake Shore Dr.      773-684-1414  
<http://www.msichicago.org>

**An Adventure In Movie Making.** Guests may get behind the big screen and onto authentic movie sets to learn about the art and technique of the film industry. Try to operate a real      Thru 1/9

(See **Scene**, next page)

(*Scene, continued*)

movie camera. Drive like a stunt driver, try on costumes and appear in your own movie.

**OMNIMAX THEATRE: Forces of Nature.** Awesome spectacles showing nature's power. Thru Feb.  
**Christmas Around The World and Holiday Lights.** A holiday tradition for more than six Thru 1/9  
decades. Both activities celebrate traditions from around the world; a popular and  
impressive show for all ages to see.

THE NEWBERRY LIBRARY 60 W. Walton St. 312-943-9090  
[www.newberry.org/](http://www.newberry.org/)  
**Outspoken.** Chicago's free speech tradition. Nearly 150 items: artifacts, photos and Thru 1/15  
ephemera that reveal Chicago's history of political culture and artistic dissent.

NORTHLIGHT THEATRE 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie 847-673-6300  
<http://www.northlight.org>  
**The Immigrant** by Mark Harelik. The year was 1909, and a young man flees from the Thru 1/9  
pogroms of Russia to the Baptist community of Hamilton, Texas.  
**Permanent Collection** by Thomas Gibbons. Provocative question: which holds more artistic 1/26 - 3/6  
value; a Renoir painting or an African Mask?  
**Red Herring** by Michael Hollinger. A "noir" comedy caper filled with intrigue and romance. 3/16 - 4/24  
It's 1952, and Ike and Adlai are battling for the Presidency while McCarthy's hearings fill the  
airwaves.

OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE 847-635-1600  
1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines <http://www.oakton.edu/>  
**Jazzin' Around** 2/4  
**The Vagina Monologues** 2/10-12  
**Ralph's World** (Kid's Concert) 2/19 4:00 pm  
**The Bad Examples** 2/19  
**Something Old, Something New** 2/24  
**Joe Egg** 3/3-13  
**A Midsummer Night's Dream** 3/19-4/3

PARADES:  
Chinese New Year Wentworth from Cermak to 24<sup>th</sup> 1 pm, 2/13  
St. Patricks Day Parade Columbus, Balbo to Monroe 12 pm, 3/12  
Southside Irish Parade S. Western, 103<sup>rd</sup> to 113<sup>th</sup> 12 pm, 3/13

ROCKFORD ART MUSEUM 711 N. Main, Rockford 815-968-2787  
<http://www.rockfordartmuseum.org/home.html>  
**Reuniting an Era: Abstract Expressionists of The 1950s.** Undoubtedly America's Thru 1/22  
largest contribution to 20th Century art. Works by more than 35 artists are included  
and it's the first time many of the artists have been shown together.

JOHN G. SHEDD AQUARIUM 1200 S. Lake Shore Drive 312-939-2438  
<http://www.shednet.org>  
**Sea Star Quest** Reach for the stars before they wave goodbye. Experience this fantastic Thru 1/9  
hands-on exhibit while you still can. See bizarre and beautiful sea creatures like sea urchins,  
sea cucumbers, feather stars, and sand dollars.  
Then visit the **Wild Reef**, a re-creation of an Indo-Pacific Island that includes face-to-face Ongoing  
encounters with a pool of sharks. **Shedd** is the world's largest indoor aquarium so there  
are hours of thrilling fish, sharks, reptiles, insects, birds, etc., to see during a future visit.

(See **Scene**, next page)

## TIPS ON USING ACROBAT READER

Ever increasing numbers of RTAC members are just now buying or are still learning about their computers. Experienced users agree that the time so spent is richly rewarded.

From time to time, we'll offer tips that may help. This is one of those times.

On the RTAC web site ([www.RTAC.org](http://www.RTAC.org)), we are now posting each copy of the News Bulletin in **Adobe.pdf** format. (PDF stands for Portable Document Format.) This format is very widely used for large documents on the Internet. Special software (**Acrobat Reader**) is necessary to read these files, and fortunately Adobe passes it out free – they make their money selling the software that allows people to create those .pdf files. Once you have downloaded Acrobat Reader to your computer, it automatically loads itself every time you need it.

When you go to RTAC's web site, you can click on the underlined January News Bulletin on the Home page. (An underscored phrase that takes you somewhere else when you click on it is called a link.) A little time will pass while your computer loads Acrobat, and then you'll see a smaller screen inside the larger "browser" screen (Microsoft Internet Explorer, SBC Yahoo or whatever). There are two toolbar lines at the top of the Reader screen; the top one has a floppy disk icon at the far left, labeled "save a copy." (All the stuff above that toolbar is part of your browser window.) The image of the News Bulletin in the window may

be much too small to be visible, but you can fix that. The lower, second Reader toolbar has a little window in the middle that tells you the percent magnification of the image. At the right of that window is a circle with a + sign, and another circle, with a – sign, is at the left. Click on the plus sign to magnify the image, and just keep clicking until you're happy.

There are lots of options for bringing up other pages. You can use the regular slider bar at the right hand side of the screen, but with a large number of pages in the document that slider is *awfully* sensitive. Notice that the cursor turns into a glove when it's over the image of the page. If you push the left button down, the glove "grabs" the page and you can push it left, right or upward to get to what you want to see, or to the next page.

If you know the page you want to see, go to the little window at the bottom of the screen that tells you what page you're on. Highlight (click on) the numbers in that window and type in the number of the page you want. Hit "Enter," and presto!

You can also hit the little arrows at either side of that page window to go forward or backward one page, or the arrow-bar icon to go to the beginning or the end.

If this information is of interest to you, *please* contact the Editor and tell him so. At the same time, let him know what other tips you'd like to see. If nobody cares, we won't waste the space in future issues.

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*(Scene, continued)*

SPERTUS MUSEUM OF JUDAICA

618 S. Michigan Avenue

312-322-1747

<http://www.spertus.edu/museum.html>

**Eternal Light:** The 2004 Phillip and Sylvia Spertus Judaica Prize: Exhibiting Jewish Life in America.

Thru 2/13

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Mandel Hall

773-702-8060

1131 E. 57<sup>th</sup> St

<http://chicagopresents.uchicago.edu/>

**Pianist Christopher O'Riley Plays Radiohead**

1/20, 7:30 pm

**Miro Quartet** with Christopher O'Riley, piano

1/21, 7:30 pm

**Netherlands Wind Ensemble**, Bert Schneemann Narrator

2/11, 8 pm

**Sequentiaen Ensemble for Medieval Music**

2/8, 8 pm

**Kalichstein/Laredo/Robinson Trio** with Mathieu DuFour, Flute

2/25, 8 pm

**IMPORTANT!** Be sure to CHECK SCHEDULES before you go! CHANGES DO HAPPEN! Also, remember to ASK FOR YOUR SENIOR DISCOUNT. **ENJOY YOUR CITY!**

## GPO? WEP? WHAZZAT?

In 15 states, including Illinois, those who get government pensions (teachers, police, firemen, etc.) do not receive all of the Social Security benefits they may have earned through other, Social Security covered, employment. For just one example, Social Security spousal benefits owed to retired teachers because of a spouse's Social Security-covered employment are reduced (and often eliminated) because the retired teacher also has a state or local government pension. This penalty is called the **Government Pension Offset** (GPO).

The **Windfall Elimination Provision** (WEP) applies to those who are entitled to a social security pension from their own covered employment, as well as a teacher's (or policemen's, etc.) pension. If you worked under Social Security for 40 quarters, you are entitled to a pension at age 65. If you also worked as a teacher or firefighter and get a pension from that work, your social security pension is reduced. In theory this penalty is assessed because you didn't pay Social Security for your teaching years – *but there would be no such penalty if you had been on welfare for all those years*. In other words, you are specifically penalized because of your public service.

For a more complete (and, we admit, a more even handed) explanation of the GPO, see <http://research.aarp.org/econ/govpen1.html> on the World Wide Web. More Information on the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) is obtainable at [http://research.aarp.org/econ/fs64\\_windfall.html](http://research.aarp.org/econ/fs64_windfall.html).

In the last session of Congress, bills to repeal both the WEP and the GPO were introduced, one

in each house. The bill in the House of Representatives, HR 594, attracted 300 co-sponsors, more than enough for passage, but it was held up in committee. A motion to force the bill out of committee failed, supported by 190 Democrats but only one Republican. Since the House is now even more conservative, little chance is seen for the success of any new repeal attempt in the upcoming 109<sup>th</sup> Congress.

A complicated bill (HR 4391) that would lessen the penalties of the WEP was introduced in May of 2004. It would give much less relief, but it appears to receive wider support. The newer bill leaves the GPO unchanged. We expect it will be reintroduced in the new session.

While RTAC would obviously prefer, and will continue to urge, full repeal of WEP and GPO, we support the weaker bill as being better than nothing — which currently appears to be our choice.

**Meanwhile, we see that the Federal Government is riding to the rescue!** According to the NEA's Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> *Education Insider*, a new law (Public Law 108-203) requires state and local government employers to disclose the effect of the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset to employees hired on or after January 1, 2005 in jobs not covered by Social Security.

Thanks to this wonderful new inducement for the best and the brightest to seek public service employment, legislators 25 or 30 years down the road can then tell those who complain, "Well, you can't say you weren't warned."

Your tax dollars at work.

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## SENN HIGH SCHOOL REUNION, CLASS OF 1955

The Reunion Committee of the Senn High School Class of 1955 is searching for all surviving classmates, and particularly teachers, to invite them to a 50th year reunion party on September 16<sup>th</sup>(?), 2005.

Anyone able to assist in this search is asked to contact a Reunion Committee member. Call **Carlene Blumenthal** (773-736-1702) or **George Willhite** (217-359-5341), or email **Rich Aleskow** at [Aleskow@attglobal.net](mailto:Aleskow@attglobal.net).



**MEMORIAL DONATIONS TO  
CHICAGO RETIRED TEACHERS AID FUND**  
*FEDERAL TAX DEDUCTIBLE. Amounts of \$10 and over  
(from August 30, 2004 to November 22, 2004 )*

<u>DONOR:</u>	<u>IN MEMORY OF:</u>
Rosemary R. Stiglitz	Jenny Palermo
Joan Galiak	
Mary Nomellini	
Arlene Zoscak	
Margaret Lynch	
Lorraine Hill Thalman	Audrey Sims
Elizabeth I. Benson	Elizabeth T. Vogenthaler
Mildred N. Zeitz	Marie Steiner
Dorothy G. Kozeluh	Madeline G. Sheridan
Eugene Jerkatis	June Heintz
Nathan Ryals Elder	Harry J. Paul Emmett M. Murphy Richard J. Arado Jr. So many friends gone ahead from Lakeview, Manley, Farragut and Harper High Schools.
Herbert E. Tellfors	Marie Steiner
Bryna N. Comsky	Louise Valiquet
Richard F. Tryba	Patricia Biernat
Judith L. Baker	Marie Steiner
Bernadette M. Benson	Dr. Lorraine De Voe Arthur Small Harriet Smith
Melaine R. Wojtulewicz	Rae Takekawa
Spero Xanos	Virginia Carley Dorothy L. Sheridan
Ina Wolf Rosenblatt	Shirley Lamm
John Moscinski	Sharon Goldberg Kenneth Cink Harry Erickson
Jaclyn Z. Boyle	Thomas J. Corcoran
Sandra J. Socha	Thomas J. Corcoran Charlotte P. Winch
Bernadette Urbanski	Toni Ozog Richard Urbanski

Mary K. Dowd	Alice Stanton Mary Therese Fallon
Anonymously	Emma Thornton
Rose Ann Mulhern	Ruth Quigley Barbara O'Malley Cynthia Ruggmeier
Gloria W. Turner	Margaret T. Reed
San Diego Satellite	Tom Corcoran
Madeline Betker	Elsie M. Johnson
Eileen A. Mc Nulty	Mark Jackson
Le Roy Weathersby Sr.	Sidney Fisher George E. Goodridge Charles A. Hester Henry Mayberry Elbert Mitchell Eunice Roberts John M. Sheehan Bennye Mae Tillman Albert Washington Alice B. Weathersby
Dianne K. Nichols	Belle Reilly
Georgia M. Young	Cleo & Charles Bournigue Edward Crute Dorothy Luckett Doris Moore Maurice Moore Sylester O'Dell Savanah Reams George Talley John Tardif Annabel Williams Margaret Wills
Bryna Comsky	Harry J. Hirschhorn
Joseph J. Eckl	Leonora Wojtan Josephine Taheny
Andrew J. Penn	Charles Keenan
La Verne A. Nichols	Mamie Mobley
Loraine & Dick Ellison	Marie Steiner
Yvonne F. Vish	Adela Bishop
Robert C. Konen	Thomas J. Corcoran

*(Donors, continued)*

Mary F. Russell	Charles Nolan
John G. Arazan	Ken Stevens Max Schwartz
Marjorie S. Carlson	Jean Spletzer
Yoshiko Mori	Belle Reilly
Emerson W. Bush	Lonnie Hubbard Elmo Jones
Isabel H. Schechter	Frances F. Fioretti
Patricia H. Weisberg	Madeline Sheridan Savannah Reams
Robert E. Riemenschneider	Robert Bell
Grace Scipio	Wilbert Scipio Lizzie Mc Kivey Irene Phillips
Ann S. Coyne	Tom Corcoran Ralph J. Crusick Bruse Gorlick Mort Lesser Marian Panos Karl Siewers Departed WTS Faculty members
Maggie F. Jackson	Harriette Smith
Patricia P. Rozanski	Elizabeth Edwards Delores Hart
Retired Women Principals	Evelyn Carlson Eleanor Duffy Loretta Francis Elsie M. Johnson Ann Lally Bernice Boye Cathleen Carton Madeline Sheridan Genevieve Massey Beverly Tunney Joan Wright Lorraine Mc Fee Chesna Weisberg Eleanor Brazier
Jeanne H. Pinter	Adele Sitas Patricia P. Raleigh Jean R. Spletzer

Eileen A. Mc Nulty	Arthur Davidsen Minnie Kamer
Patricia C. Reidy	Patricia Raleigh
RTAC	Thomas J. Corcoran
Rita Corcoran	Thomas J. Corcoran
Joan Goliak Mary Nomellini Rosemary Stiglitz Margaret Lynch Arlene Zoscak	Samuel Palermo
Eugene Jerkatis	Thaddeus Cagney
Herbert Herman	Sam Sperling
Jeff Gusel	Ms. Virginia Rice, Master Teacher
Mary J. Nothdurft	Shirley Lason

***SPECIAL DONATIONS TO  
CHICAGO RETIRED TEACHERS AID FUND***

<u>DONOR:</u>	<u>OCCASION:</u>
Anonymously	General Purposes
Rina M. Naddeo	In honor of Dr. Concetta Romanow, Professor of Psy- chology at Chicago State University.
Nathan Ryals Elder	Celebrating my 83 <sup>rd</sup> Birthday Dec. 18, 1921. Moving back home to Atlanta GA, at end of year after 48 years in Chicago.
Marna Shapiro	General Purposes
Bernadette M. Benson	In honor of deceased parents — both teachers — Thomas & Lila Benson
Banker C. Traylor	General Purposes
Anonymously	General Purposes
Ruth D. Gillies	General Purposes
Anonymously	General Purposes

*(Donors, continued)*

Peggy D. Stith	General Purposes
Mary R. Perrin	General Purposes
Rosemary Shepherd	General Purposes
Joseph J. Eckl	In honor of the Hard Workers at RTAC.
Joseph J. Eckl	Happy Birthday Barbara Mohapp (103 years young)
Joseph J. Eckl	55 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the Great CTC Class of '50.
Delphine Johnson	General Purposes
Bernie & Ellie Babka	Honoring the 80 <sup>th</sup> Birthday of a dear friend, Marie Wolf Jensen.
Maggie F. Jackson	General Purposes
Anonymously	General Purposes
Mary Kelly Dowd	General Purposes
Marcella E. Gillie	General Purposes
Lucia Long	General Purposes

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS TO  
RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION of  
CHICAGO**

*FOR THE GENERAL EXPENSE FUND  
NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE. In amounts of \$10 and over*

DONOR:

John Demczyk

Charles A. Tauchman

Eileen B. O'Malley  
Alice Keane

Eileen B. O'Malley

Bob & Lenore  
Hammerman

Richard P. Carroll

Anthony A. Aslanides

John José Tintiangco

IN MEMORY OF:

Mary Marnell  
Alice Urbaniak  
Lenore Putilov  
Alexander Burke

Dora Birdette  
Theresa Romaniszak

Mary Jane Schuler

Josephine Dunn  
(Grimes)

Mary K. Drew

Roy Littner  
Verlena Washington

Stanley T. Ptak

Cecilia Elizabeth  
Daniels

**SPECIAL DONATIONS TO  
RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION of  
CHICAGO**

DONOR:

Jewel B. Koch

Anonymously

Evangeline A. Jouras

Marion W. Taylor

OCCASION:

General Purposes

General Purposes

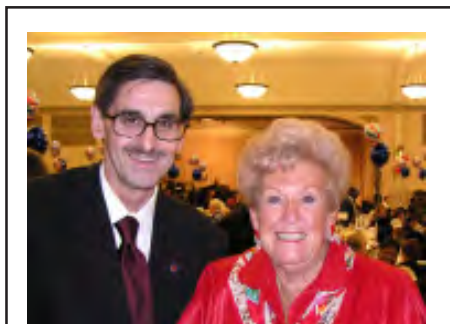
General Purposes

General Purposes

**CTU EVENTS**

About 1,000 attended the Chicago Teachers Union's Legislators and Educators Appreciation Day (LEAD) dinner at Plumbers Hall on October 22, 2004. At-

tendees heard from Illinois House Speaker **Michael Madigan**. Many other legislators were in attendance and had a chance to schmooze with



*CTU V. P. Ted Dallas and Retiree Functional V. P. Jacqueline Mooney at the LEAD dinner.*



*...And it was every bit as much fun as it looks! (Staff photo)*

some of their teacher constituents.

The occasion has its roots in the long past days of the Men Teachers Union, before it became  
*(See CTU, next page)*

## FROM THE SERVICE COMMITTEE

By Betsy Clayton

One of the heaviest burdens of aging is loneliness, as friends and family pass on. To help ease this isolation, the Service Committee sends birthday and holiday cards to members 85 and over. That this thoughtfulness is welcomed is shown by these excerpts from the replies received. Their courage and spirit inspire us all.

**Ellen Brachtl Perry** (CA) is very happy with her living arrangements. She and her sister Valasta Williams live together by a small lake in a charming resort community. A third sister lives kitty-corner from them and was joined recently by a retired daughter and son-in-law. Other members of her family come and go, so she never feels alone.

**Ina Rosenblatt** (IL) has written a book of poems at age 94! Now she's busy writing her memoirs. She also wrote *Chicken Soup for the Teacher's Soul*. Sounds like you keep very busy, Ina.

**Lucille Glickman** (Chi) lives at the Breakers, a retirement home. Her family and close friends have all passed away. She finds this sad and difficult. We're sorry, Lucille.

**Genevieve Fahey** (CA) writes, "My home is a short drive to Yosemite, and I've been fortunate to visit it several times."

**Hazel Kott** (AL) says she is very lucky to enjoy good health. She walks very well; exercises three days a week, one hour each time; does some volunteer work; is active in her church and a book club. She also spent five weeks in the Chicago area this summer. Way to go, Hazel!

**Mabel Warner** (FL) celebrated her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday on Carnobil Glory in St. Thomas. Hope she had a lovely time.

**Joy O'Laughlin** (IL) opened her birthday card with mixed emotions. It was nice to be remembered but on the other hand, it meant she was a year older. In her heart and mind, she surely couldn't be more than 35. She finds this feeling pretty common among her peers. Ah, yes, Joy!

**Mary Perrin** (IL) has many fond memories as well as those of the aches that were a normal part of her 40 years of service with the Chicago public school system.

Also sending their thanks:

**Rose Resnick** (Chi)  
**Charles J. Pell** (IL)  
**Hendrene Gansevoort** (Chi)  
**Dorothy Armbruster** (IL)  
**Helen Smith** (IL)  
**Bernard Verwiell** (IL)  
**Sylvia Dombeck** (IL)  
**Jean B. Sachs** (Chi)  
**Bess Delich** (FL)  
**Lillian Stephens** (GA)  
**Thelma L. Walls** (Chi)  
**James D. Burke** (NV)  
**Ann Aiuppa** (WA)  
**Lorine C. Mays** (Chi)  
**Rosemary B. Wolf** (IL)  
**Agnes M. Shortino** (Chi)  
**Marion R. Shortino** (Chi)

(CTU, continued)



It was for sure a party...

co-ed. It was formerly called the Men's Corned Beef Dinner, and still features excellent corned beef and cabbage and pitchers of beer on every table. It is still a thoroughly

convivial occasion.

On Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2004, the Retired section held its Holiday party and luncheon at the



Are we having fun yet? Shirley Anderson, Diana Sheffer, Bob Bures and Mary Sharon Reilly sure are!

(See CTU, next page)



DONOR FORM

Retired Teachers Association of Chicago  
220 South State Street, Room 2100  
Chicago IL 60604-2180

**PLEASE NOTE:** Sorry, but **WE CAN NO LONGER ACCEPT MONEY ORDERS.**

My enclosed **check** for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is to cover (please check below as appropriate):

- Political Education Fund (**not** tax deductible; make check payable to **RTAC COPE**)
- Chicago Retired Teachers Aid Fund (tax deductible; make check payable to **C.R.T.A.F.**)
- Retired Teachers Association of Chicago (**not** tax deductible; make check payable to **R.T.A.C.**)

Donor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*All donations are gratefully accepted, but the following choices require a \$10 minimum donation, either to the Aid Fund or to RTAC, for each name listed.*

This donation is made (please check below):

- In memory of \_\_\_\_\_
- In honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- Happy birthday/anniversary to: \_\_\_\_\_
- Celebrating: \_\_\_\_\_
- For general purposes.
- Anonymously; please do NOT publish my name.

**OPTIONAL:** Please notify

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

that this donation has been made.

**PLEASE REMEMBER the Retired Teachers Association of Chicago  
or Chicago Retired Teachers Aid Fund in your will.**

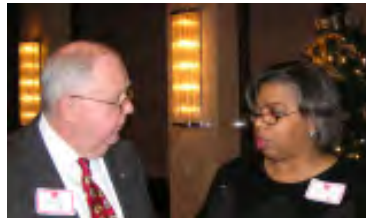
*(CTU, continued)*



*Erika Marshall sees CTU President Marilyn Stewart's lighter side...*

Westin Hotel on N. Michigan Blvd. Guests heard

from CTU President **Marilyn**



*... while RTAC Exec Bob Bures and Marilyn hold a more serious discussion. (Staff Photo)*

**Stewart**, who urged support for the Equal Rights Amendment (which has still not passed the Illinois Senate) and the threatened Early Retirement Option.

*(See CTU, next page)*



*It's not hard to find John Keating...*

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Please use this form to change your **permanent** address.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Please include your last mailing label, OR fill in your OLD address:

No. & Street \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Effective date of change (month, day, year): \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

### "SNOWBIRD" NOTICE

(**Please** use this form if you will spend part of this year in one location and part of it in another.)

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

The *News Bulletin* is mailed to arrive on approximately the first of January, April, July and October. *Please show below the issues you want mailed to each address:*

These issues \_\_\_\_\_ should be mailed to me at:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

(My telephone there is ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ )

These issues \_\_\_\_\_ should be mailed to me at:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

(My telephone there is ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ )

**Please mark this box  if these instructions apply every year.**

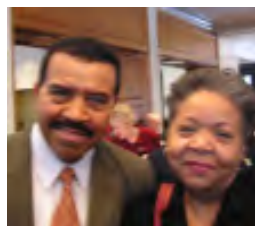
(**CTU**, continued)

A I I agreed that Retired Section Vice President **Jacqueline Mooney** hasn't for-



*The Peterson School Chorus, directed by Michelle Thomas, drew a standing ovation from an appreciative crowd. (Staff photo)*

gotten how to throw a mighty fine bash!



*Monroe Morgan and Vera Young.*



*John strikes again! Nancy French, John Keating and Eileen Murphy.*



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Many retired teachers find that working for a worthy cause as a volunteer is extremely satisfying. The following organizations have asked us for help in recruiting. The Retired Teachers Association of Chicago **does not endorse any organization**; potential volunteers must make their own judgments.

A. C. E. S.	Chicago - All	Eric Werge	773-535-6922
AARP Illinois Center	Chicago - Loop	Carole Aston	312-458-3604
Cabrini Connection	Chicago	Daniel Bassill	312-467-2889
Centro Loyola	Chicago - Pilsen	Daniel Loftus	312-226-7887
Chicago Academy Sciences	Chicago - All	Susan Carlson	773-549-0606x2026
Chicago Botanic Garden	Glencoe	Linda Doede	847-835-8281
Chicago Cultural Center	Chicago - Loop	Marianne Wolf	312-744-7096
Chicago Humanities Festival	Chicago - All	Annie Tully	312-661-1028
Chicago Symphony Orch	Chicago - All		312-294-3160
Du Page Historical Museum	Suburbs W	Mary Johnson	630-682-6746
Evanston NorthWest Healthcare	Evanston	Ronna Jacobson	847-570-2840
FreshStart (GED Tutors)	Maywood	Donna Thomas	708-205-1334
Garfield Park Conserv Alliance	Chicago - West	Kirsten Akre	773-638-1766X24
Glessner House Museum	Chicago - Nr S	Clare Schaecher	312-326-1480
Inner Voice Learning Center	Chicago - Nr W	Antoinette Toliver	312-666-8110
Junior Achievement Chicago	Chicago - All	Cherie Russ	312-715-1300x269
Kids Voting	Chicago	Ellen Solomon	312-332-3107
KIPP Ascend Charter School	Chicago - West	Sheri L. Barrette	773-261-9972
Kohl Childrens Museum	Wilmette	Charlene Podolsky	847-256-6056
LaRabida Childrens Hospital	Chicago - South	Judi Blakemore	773-363-6700
League of Women Voters	Chicago - Loop	Courtney Balok	312-939-5935
Lincoln Park Zoo	Chicago - North	Elizabeth Wheeler	312-742-2125
Lincoln Park Zoo (Gardeners)	Chicago - Nr N	Robertta Goncalves	312-742-2124
Lira Arts (Polish)	Chicago - N	Katharine McJimsey	773-508-7040
Literacy Tutoring	Suburbs - N	Cathy Niemet	847-635-1426
Nat'l Runaway Switchboard	Chicago - North	Molly Billette	773-880-9860X218
Oriental Inst, Univ of Chicago	Chicago - South	Cathy D or Terry F	773-702-1845
PetCare Curriculum	Chicago - North	Julie Smith	773-784-5605
Polish Museum of America	Chicago - Nr N		773-384-3352
Prairie Ave. House Museum	Chicago - Cent	Michael Soet	312-326-1480
Prologue Adult Education	Chicago - N	Christina Mang	773-728-7221
Recording for the Blind	Chicago/OrlnPk	Joanne C. Ruxin	312-236-8715
Retired/Senior Volunteers	Nationwide		312-906-8600x214
Roseland Comm Hospital	Chicago - South	Jennifer Seldon	773-995-3470
School Childrens Aid Society	Chicago - West	Margaret Paul	773-247-1311
Spring Valley Nature Center	Schaumburg	Susan Findling	847-985-2100
Substance Newspaper	Chicago - Loop	C. Blumenthal	312-736-1702
Swedish-American Museum	Andersonville	Tina Harris	773-728-8111x28
Teen Connection	Chicago - Pilsen	Sara Manewith	312-226-0963x234
Terra Museum of Amer. Art	Chicago - Central	Katherine Bunker	312-664-3939
Travelers/Immigrants Aid	Chicago - All	Brian Harvey	312-629-4500x5011
Triton College (Literacy)	Suburbs - W	Carol Di Fatta	708-456-0300x3407
U of Chicago Hospitals	Chicago - South	Nancy Frazier	773-702-5673
WITS	Chicago	Barbara Pace	312-751-9487

# New Life Members

August 21 to November 17, 2004

Yvonne C Adams  
Deborah S Anderson  
Barbara L Baier  
Gloria Jean Bailey  
Joyce Bart  
Joseph K Bengtson  
Thelma A Berry  
Carol Block  
Linda G Bookman  
Carolyn Britten-Harris  
Margaret L Brown  
Helen D Bryant  
Carol J Buonamici  
Shirlynn Carter  
Edward F Casey  
Lynn Chaloupka  
James Connolly  
Jo Marie Cooper  
Dorothy B Cowan  
Rosalind Cox  
Susan M Crawford  
Linda D Dabney  
Roberta Dandurand  
Kay Davey  
Robert W Davis  
Christine H Dinwiddie  
Pilar M Donato  
Ludmyla Doroshenko-Slobids  
Patricia L Drozt  
Diana Eingorn  
Catherine A Ference  
Nancy J Fischer  
Sharilyn Freeman  
Georgia Gavaris  
Stuart M Gold  
Connie Gountanis-Rigas  
Birdie M Gray  
Verna L Gray  
Anne M Greaney

Lois J Greenberg  
Diane E K Grissett  
Victor B Gruntwage  
Gertrude M Hanley  
Lazell Harris  
Sylvia Hart  
Eugene Henry Jr  
B Jean Holland  
Ann C Hollis  
Geraldine A Hollister  
Marcia M Hourston  
Elizabeth Hurtig  
Lillian Jefferson  
Zenobia T Johnson  
Candice Johnston  
Paul Jordan Jr  
Betty Joseph  
Patricia A Jurgens  
Ethel M Kaminski  
Mary T Keating  
Peter Kempfer  
Mary Ann Kerrigan  
Sharon Alexandra Khamis  
Donna L Klopke  
George T Kralka  
Thomas Lalagos  
Fausto E Lopez  
Martin Lulich  
Bonita C Lyles  
Maureen Lyons-Poulin  
Shirley J Macklin  
Richardine Maloof  
Mary Ann Mangano  
Joanne Manzi  
Ruby G Martin  
Mary T Mc Cormick  
Glena E Mc Donald  
Barbara H Mc Gee-Berry  
Rosemary C Mc Mahon  
Ellie T Nero

Jordan H Nevler  
Leonaard Newman  
Elena S O'Connell  
Thomas O'Connor  
Julia E Parris-Babbs  
Fran Perlman  
Mary E Perrin  
Gwendolyn Pope  
Louis N Pyster  
Elaine J Reynolds  
Glenda F Rowe  
Darlene M Ruffin  
Edward Ruyack  
Jerome M Sachs  
Jacquelyn Salley  
Marie Schilling  
Kaaren J Scott  
Henry T Shimabukuro  
Allan J Singer  
Nell Smetko  
Betty F Smith  
Marceine Street  
Annie M Swansey  
Christina W Tarr  
Dahlia Teshar  
Charles E Thomas  
Merle Tillery  
John J Tintiangco  
Robert C Todd  
Daniel G Tucker  
Nancy Valles  
Emma L Van Zandt  
Ernestine D Wagner  
Katheryn L Walker  
Rose Mary Walton  
Lorraine A Watt  
Patricia S Weiner  
Augustine B Williams  
Reginald E Willis  
Aline Young



IS THERE ANYTHING — and we mean **ANYTHING** — quite as annoying as a telephone answering machine that wants to strike up a conversation with you?

Or is it just us??

**FRIENDS GONE AHEAD**

*Requiescant in pace*

**ABELE, CHARLES A.**

After a career that spanned 31 years, Charles retired from Hyde Park Academy in 1988. He expired on July 10, 2004, at the age of 76.

**ADAMS, THELMA M.**

Née Pegram. Thelma died on August 8, 2004, at the age of 84 years. She retired from the Madison school in 1982 after a career of 21 years in Chicago and 2 more outside.

**ALLEN, AMY L.**

Née Lawrence. When she left Hirsch Metro in 1987, Amy put a 36 year career in Chicago and 2 more outside to an end. Her life ended on September 1, 2004, at the age of 81.

**ANDERSON, ROSANNE G.**

Née Garrison. Rosanne resigned from the Nettlehorst school in 1976 after 20 years. She was 88 when she expired on September 26, 2004.

**APRILL, JEROME A.**

Jerome was at Jones High when he retired in 1991. His career spanned 25 years, and he succumbed at the age of 85 on October 3, 2004.

**ARNOLD, LOUISE**

Louise's career of 28 years came to an end as she left Fermi in 1998. When she passed away on July 4, 2004, she had reached the age of 71.

**ASHTON, JOSEPH N.**

When he left Dunbar Vocational in 1993, Joseph put a 32 year career to an end. His life ended on August 29, 2004, at the age of 73.

**BATTENBURG, JEAN S.**

Née Smith. Jean died on July 3, 2004, at the age of 91. Her career of 36 years ended when she retired from the Bates school in 1978.

**BECK, HERBERT G.**

Herbert resigned from Lane Tech High School in 1972 after 19 years in Chicago and 1 more outside. He was 97 when he expired on August 16, 2004.

**BENDER, SHERWIN H.**

Sherwin's career of 6 years came to an end as he retired in 1998. When he passed away on August 27, 2004, he had reached the age of 63.

**BENTON, AGNES M.**

Née Anderson. After 27 years in the Chicago school system, Agnes retired from the Hayt school in 1966. When death took her on August 3, 2004, she was 98 years old.

**BERRY, MARY G.**

At the close of her life on August 12, 2004, Mary was 62 years old. A teacher for 30 years, she retired from Senn High School in 2000.

**BIERNAT, PATRICIA**

Patricia resigned in 1993 from Senn High School, ending a 36 year time span in the Chicago system. She was 80 at the time of her death on July 25, 2004.

**BODY, FRED P.**

Fred expired on September 7, 2004, at the age of 86. His career of 36 years ended when he retired as Principal of Park Manor school in 1977.

**BOLAND, GRACE C.**

Née Coombs. A teacher for 23 years, Grace was at Pullman when she retired in 1977. She passed on at the age of 92 on July 22, 2004.

**BOLTON, AGNES M.**

Agnes was 86 years old at her death on August 10, 2004. She resigned from Jones High School in 1983 after 36 years in Chicago and 2 more outside.

**BOWEN, JOHN J.**

After 20 years in the Chicago school system and 2 more outside, John retired as a college teacher in 1981. When death took him on August 2, 2004, he was 85 years old.

**BRIDGERS, RILEY F.**

At the close of his life on July 19, 2004, Riley was 66 years old. A teacher for 37 years, he retired from the Smith school in 2001.

**BRIGGS, CONSUELO**

Consuelo was affiliated with the Chicago Public Schools for 30 years when she retired from the Goudy school in 1994. At the time of her death on July 21, 2004, she was 78 years of age.

**BROWNE, YETIVE**

Death on May 12, 2004 at age 91 was the final event of Yetive's life, after resignation from Funston in 1976 ended a 16 year career.

**BUHMANN, JESSIE C.**

Née Cassada. After a career that spanned 11 years in Chicago and 1 more outside, Jessie retired from Carver Area High in 1978. She expired on September 21, 2004, at the age of 88.

**CADE, MARY A.**

Née White. After 10 years, Mary resigned from Sidney Sawyer in 1996. Death took her on September 25, 2004; she was 71 at the time.

**CADITZ, REBECCA**

When Rebecca retired as a counselor in 1969 from Roosevelt High, her career had lasted 38 years. Her life ended at the age of 96 on September 29, 2004.

**CAMPBELL, SUSANNE M.**

Susanne succumbed at age 74 on September 27, 2004. She worked for 44 years before retiring from Central Office in 1998.

**CARLEY, VIRGINIA A.**

Virginia retired from Robeson High School in 1997 after a career that lasted for 9 years. She expired on August 19, 2004, at the age of 72 years.

**CLARKE, DOROTHY H.**

Née Hollingsworth. Dorothy was at Hughes when she resigned in 1987 after 27 years in the Chicago Public Schools. She was 77 on July 24, 2004, when she passed on.

**CLEARY, MICHAEL P.**

Michael resigned from Roosevelt High in 1993, ending a 36 year time span in the Chicago system. He was 71 at the time of his death on July 26, 2004.

**COHEN, ROBERT**

A teacher for 26 years, Robert was at Ravenswood when he retired in 1988. He passed on at the age of 77 on July 18, 2004.

**COLE, LETHA M.**

Née McNeil. When she retired from Ross school in 1982, Letha ended a career that included 27 years in the Chicago system. Death claimed her on September 20, 2004, at the age of 88 years.

**COLEMAN, WANDA**

Née Credelle. In 1991, Wanda retired from Doolittle after 15 years of teaching. On September 14, 2004, she passed on at the age of 76 years.

**COLLINS, JAMES HENRY**

James was 91 years old at his death on August 9, 2004. He resigned from Mayo school in 1972 after 35 years in Chicago.

**COOK, LESTER H.**

Lester was affiliated with the Chicago Public Schools for 25 years when he retired as a college teacher in 1978. At the time of his death on August 18, 2004, he was 86 years of age.

**COUGHLAN, JAMES E.**

After 35 years, James resigned from Dunbar Vocational High in 1996. Death took him on July 14, 2004; he was 75 at the time.

**COZZOLINO, RONALD F.**

When Ronald retired in 2002 from Kennedy High, his career had lasted 40 years. His life ended at the age of 65 on July 31, 2004.

**CRAIG, WILHELMINA**

Née Turner. When she retired as Librarian in 1973 from the Central Office, Wilhelmina had taught for 24 years in Chicago and 14 more outside. She was 95 years of age at her death on July 20, 2004.

**CURTIN, THOMAS G., JR.**

Thomas succumbed at age 76 on October 12, 2004. He taught for 38 years before retiring from Bogan High in 1989.

**DANDRIDGE, AUDREY M.**

Née Cameron. Audrey retired from McDowell in 1991 after teaching for 31 years. On July 14, 2004, she died at age 69.

**DAVIS, LENORA J.**

Née Jean. In 1976, when she retired from the Doolittle Family Education school, Lenora ended her 8 year career with the Chicago school system. On September 15, 2004, her life ended after 93 years.

**DEADWYLER, THEODORE**

Theodore retired from the Westcott school in 1987 after a career that lasted for 24 years. He expired on July 16, 2004, at the age of 76 years.

**DONOGHUE, ROBERT**

Robert was at Whitney Young when he resigned in 1989 after 17 years in the Chicago Public Schools. He was 79 on June 10, 2004, when he passed on.

**DUNLEAVY, THOMAS L.**

When he retired from Jackson Adult Center in 1986, Thomas ended a career that included 21 years in the Chicago system. Death claimed him on August 14, 2004, at the age of 78 years.

**EINSENSTEIN, MARY**

Née DeStefano. A 22 year career in Chicago schools came to an end for Mary when she left the Skinner school in 1973. She died on August 31, 2004, at the age of 95 years.

**FAY, MILADA**

Née Zrna. A teacher at McCormick when she resigned in 1965, Milada had served for 34 years. She was 96 on the date of her passing, October 3, 2004.

**FLYNN, MARIE A.**

Ending a 41 year career, Marie left Marquette in 1967. When she died on August 8, 2004, she was 99 years of age.

**FOREST, PAUL H.**

In 1986, Paul retired from Washburne Trade School after 22 years of teaching. On July 19, 2004, he passed on at the age of 82 years.

**GARVIN, WILLIAM T.**

When he retired in 1987, William had taught for one year. He was 79 years of age at his death on September 3, 2004.

**GEORGE, WILBUR I.**

Wilbur retired from George Washington in 1991 after teaching for 38 years. On September 5, 2004, he died at age 83.

**GREDE, JOHN F.**

In 1980, when he retired, John ended his 23 year career as a college teacher. On July 22, 2004, his life ended after 86 years.

**GRIFFIN, MILDRED S.**

Mildred had taught for 36 years before she retired in 1971 as Assistant Principal of the Solomon school. She was 95 when her life ended on August 14, 2004.

**GRONER, JULIUS**

A 3 year career in Chicago schools came to an end for Julius when he left as a college teacher in 1989. He died on August 20, 2004, at the age of 85 years.

**HARD, DANIEL B.**

A Therapist at Spalding Branch when he resigned in 1977, Daniel had served for 24 years. He was 82 on the date of his passing, August 15, 2004.

**HARRIS, PERCY**

Percy ended a 36 year career when he left DuSable High School in 1993. When he died on August 17, 2004, he was 65 years of age.

**HEINTZ, JUNE E.**

When she resigned after 37 years in 1975, June was Assistant Principal of Kennedy High School. On August 28, 2004, she died at the age of 89.

**HOEFLINGER, INA J.**

Ina ended a 38 year career by resigning from the Dirksen school in 1993; and on September 7, 2004, expired after reaching 75 years.

**HOENER, WILLIAM E.**

William had taught for 15 years before he retired in 1991 from Austin High School. He was 74 when his life ended on July 28, 2004.

**JENNINGS, EDWARD JR.**

When he resigned after 26 years in 1984, Edward was at the Barnard school. On September 15, 2004, he died at the age of 75.

**JOHNSON, IRMA G.**

Née Clemons. Life ended for Irma at the age of 59 on August 15, 2004. She retired from Columbia Academy in 2003, at the end of a 33 year career.

**JONES, MARCIA H.**

Née Ramsey. After a career that lasted 35 years, Marcia retired as Coordinator of Outdoor Ed. & Camp. in 1978. She was 91 when she died on September 19, 2004.

**JONES, VONCILE**

Resigning from DuSable High School in 1998 after a career that lasted 34 years, Voncile passed on at the age of 67 on September 4, 2004.

**KEANE, JAMES P.**

Life ended for James at the age of 68 on July 28, 2004. He retired from Arts of Living High School in 1991, at the end of a 24 year career.

**KOWALSKI, WALTER M.**

After a career that lasted 21 years, Walter retired from Juarez High School in 1982. He was 86 when he died on September 19, 2004.

**LEONE, THERESA A.**

Theresa resigned from Schurz High in 1970 after a 43 year career. She was 96 years old when she died on August 7, 2004.

**LESHYN, MARIE H.**

Née Hoffmann. Marie succumbed on October 9, 2004, at the age of 96. She served 44 years, resigning from Kelly High School in 1973.

**LEWIN, JUNE**

Née Esserman. On July 31, 2004, June passed away at the age of 85 years. She retired as counselor at Roosevelt High in 1985 after 25 years of teaching.

**LIGHT, SYLVIA J.**

Née Rosenblum. Sylvia left the Belding in 1978 after a career that spanned 25 years. She expired at the age of 88, on September 12, 2004.

**LONG, JUNE E.**

In 1980, June left Westinghouse Vocational school after a career that lasted 13 years. When her life ended on September 4, 2004, she was 87 years of age.

**LOOS, GERTRUDE W.**

Née Werner. Gertrude was associated with the Chicago schools for 30 years, the last at the Sayre school, where she was when she retired in 1969. She was 93 years old when death took her on August 21, 2004.

**LYONS, WILLIAM R.**

William resigned from the Spalding Branch in 1982 after an 11 year career. He was 83 years old when he died on August 26, 2004.

**MAHER, M. DENNIS**

Dennis succumbed on August 11, 2004, at the age of 90. He served 36 years, resigning as Area C Consultant in 1974.

**MARNELL, MARY C.**

After a career of 37 years, retired from Schurz High School in 1974. She died on August 8, 2004, at the age of 88.

**MARTIN, ROBERT A.**

On August 10, 2004, Robert passed away at the age of 77 years. He retired from Arai Middle School in 1993 after 38 years of teaching.



**MATHIS, DORIS B.**

On August 6, 2004, Doris passed on, at the age of 79 years. She had spent 27 years in the schools in Chicago and 6 more outside when she resigned from Cullen in 1983.

**MCERLEAN, ISABELLE**

Née Cox. When she retired from John D. Shoop in 1989, Isabelle ended a career of 13 years. She was 77 when her life came to a close on September 19, 2004.

**MCGINNIS, BURNETT**

Née Oberg. After 32 years in Chicago schools and 4 more outside, Burnett retired from the Doolittle school in 1962. She was 98 when she expired on September 2, 2004.

**MCHUGH, KATHRYN**

Kay ended a record 54 year career when she resigned from Amundsen High School in 1995. At her death on August 24, 2004, she was 85 years old.

**MINKOFF, SANDRA R.**

Née Cohen. Her career of 34 years ended when she left the Stone Academy as a counselor in 1993, and Sandra died on August 11, 2004, at the age of 68.

**MOELLER, EVELYN C.**

Née Coltman. Last assigned to Nightingale, Evelyn retired in 1968 after 33 years of service. She passed away on September 5, 2004, at 96 years of age.

**MOLINE, MARY L.**

Née Lyden. When she resigned from Gallistel in 1982, Mary capped a 32 year career. She was 79 when she died on July 25, 2004.

**MOONAN, JOAN P.**

Née Tucker. Joan was at Libby when she retired in 1989 after a 27 year career. She was 70 when she died on July 19, 2004.

**NELSON, EVELYN M.**

Née O'Brien. Evelyn ended a 35 year term in the Chicago system upon her retirement in 1975 from Neil. At her death on September 9, 2004, she was 89 years old.

**NEWTON, EDDIE L.**

Eddie left Carver High in 1998 after a career that lasted for 15 years. He expired at the age of 74, on September 13, 2004.

**O'HEARN, JOHN D.**

In 1972, John left the Parkman school as Principal after a career that lasted 36 years. When his life ended on August 13, 2004, he was 92 years of age.

**OWENS, WILLIAM E.**

William was associated with the Chicago schools for 21 years, the last at Chicago Vocational High School, where he was when he retired in 1988. He was 82 years old when death took him on October 9, 2004.

**PALERMO, JENNIE C.**

Née Caldara. Jennie was assigned to Bogan High when she retired in 1975 after 36 years in the Chicago system. She was 91 when she went to her reward on July 16, 2004.

**PARKER, GEORGE C., JR.**

After a career of 22 years, George retired from Hubbard High School in 1993. He died on July 30, 2004, at the age of 73.

**PETRY, ELIZABETH G.**

Née Radigan. After teaching 28 years, Elizabeth resigned from Harlan High School in 1986. She was 85 when death claimed her on September 14, 2004.

**PINKNEY, LORINE W.**

Lorine's 31 year career in the Chicago schools ended when she retired from Farragut Career Academy in 1991. On August 26, 2004, at the time she succumbed, she was 82 years old.

**POLLARD, CHARLSIE M.**

Charlsie retired in 2000 while at the City Wide, ending a 20 year career, and passed away on August 12, 2004, at the age of 62.

**POLLEN, HAROLD E.**

On August 21, 2004, Harold passed on, at the age of 81 years. He had spent 19 years in the schools when he resigned from Senn Academy in 1988.

**RALEIGH, PATRICIA P.**

Née Powers. Death came for Patricia on September 15, 2004, when she was 80 years old. She ended her career at Canty in 1984, after 29 years.

**REAMES, LEROY**

When he retired from Calumet High in 1968, Leroy ended a career of 30 years in Chicago and 10 more outside. He was 100 when his life came to a close on September 16, 2004.

**REILLY, BELLE M.**

Née Bird. Belle was a teacher at Portage Park when she resigned in 1985 after a 23 year teaching career. Her life ended at the age of 90 on October 8, 2004.

**ROSENBERG, MILDRED**

Mildred was Principal at the Cather school when she retired in 1973 after a 45 year career. She was 96 at the time of her death on August 8, 2004.

**RUDIS, EUGENE**

After 36 years in Chicago schools, Eugene retired from Marshall High School in 1999. He was 66 when he expired on July 22, 2004.

**SCHULER, MARY J.**

At the age of 77, Mary passed away on August 1, 2004. She was at Fulton in 1989 when she ended a 40 year career in the Chicago system.

**SCHUMANN, MARGARET**

Née Quanstrom. In 1975, Margaret resigned from the Clissold school after a 21 year career. When she expired on August 9, 2004, she was 84 years old.

**SELTZ, EVELYN**

Née Ginsburg. On July 25, 2004, life came to a close for Evelyn at the age of 88. She had been a substitute, retiring in 1978 at the end of a 22 year career in the schools.

**SHANOFF, ROSE M.**

Née Miller. A teacher in the Nettlehorst when she retired in 1964 after 37 years, Rose passed away on September 22, 2004, at the age of 105 years.

**SHERIDAN, MADELINE G.**

Madeline retired in 1978 as Principal of the Neil school, ending a 41 year career. At the end of her life on August 3, 2004, she was 91 years old.

**SHERMAN, BARBARA J.**

Née Irie. At her death on September 13, 2004, Barbara was 56 years old. Her 34 year career ended when she resigned as Assistant Principal of Lane Tech High in 2004.

**SIEPKA, CHARLENE A.**

On October 6, 2004, Charlene passed on. No other information is available.

**SILHAN, ARTHUR**

Arthur ended a 41 year career when he resigned from the Francis McKay school in 1990. At his death on August 16, 2004, he was 79 years old.

**SITAS, ADELAIDE R.**

In 1986, when Adelaide was at the Canty school, she retired after 38 years. She was 82 years old when she expired on September 13, 2004.

**SIZEMORE, BARBARA A.**

Née Laffoon. Barbara was at the Central Office when she retired as Coordinator in 1987 after 21 years. She was 76 when she succumbed on July 24, 2004.

**SKYLES, SOUBRETTA P.**

Née Powell. Soubretta retired in 1986 as Assistant Principal of the Jefferson school, after teaching 26 years. Her life ended on August 15, 2004, at the age of 88 years.

**SMITH, ANN L.**

Née Regan. At the age of 80, Ann passed away on October 16, 2004. After 21 years in the system, she resigned from Caldwell in 1986.

**SMITH, HENRIETTA L.**

Née Price. Henrietta retired from Dvorak in 1993 after a 22 year career. Death came for her at age 82 on August 14, 2004.

**SOWINSKI, VICTORIA A.**

Victoria was 89 at her death on June 5, 2004. No other information is available.

**SPANN, EULA M.**

Eula resigned from the Bass school in 1993 after a 35 year career, and died on July 18, 2004, at the age of 65 years.

**STANTON, ALICE D.**

Née Durkin. After teaching 37 years, Alice resigned in 1975 from Harlan High. She succumbed at the age of 92 on September 17, 2004.

**STEINER, MARIE**

Marie passed on at age 95 on August 16, 2004. She resigned in 1973 after a 43 year career that ended as Principal of Linne.

**SWIFT, LOUISE P.**

Née Pfefer. Her 24 year career ended at the Howland school in 1999 when Louise retired. Death came for her on September 12, 2004, at age 69.

**TAKEKAWA, RAE M.**

Née Matsuoka. After 14 years teaching in Chicago and 8 more outside, Rae retired from Young High in 1986. She died on October 8, 2004, at the age of 77.

**TERNENYI, NORMA P.**

Norma retired from the Blaine school in 1998, ending a 31 year career. On October 3, 2004, when she passed on, she was 73 years old.

**THOMAS, MARVIN L.**

Marvin died on September 18, 2004, at the age of 63. His career of 26 years ended when he left Collins High School in 2000.

**THORNTON, PAULINE W.**

Née Wilson. Pauline served the Chicago Public Schools for 32 years, retiring from the Jackson Adult Center in 1977. She was 87 when death took her on July 2, 2004.

**VAUGHN, EUZELIA**

A 27 year career in the Chicago Public Schools ended when Euzelia, who expired at the age of 56 on October 9, 2004, retired from Owens Academy in 2003.

**WALKER, CARROL A.**

Née Gipson. When Carrol retired from the Marconi school in 2002, she ended a 35 year career. She expired on July 21, 2004, having achieved the age of 58 years.

**WALTON, SURILLA**

Née Jackson. Surilla's 38 year career ended in 1994 when she resigned from Phillips. Death claimed her on October 1, 2004, at the age of 65.

**WEST, MARTINELE J.**

Having ended a 34 year career at Davis by resigning in 1993, Martinele expired on August 19, 2004, at the age of 80 years.

**WILLIAMS, BETTYE JEAN**

Née Watkins. Life ended for Bettye Jean on July 25, 2004, at the age of 61 years. She ended her 31 year career at the Metcalfe school in 1998.

**WILLIAMS, JR., SAMUEL L.**

Samuel passed away on August 14, 2004, at 51 years of age. No other information is available.

**ZARTL, MICHAEL**

When he resigned from Guggenheim in 1982, Michael capped a 22 year career. He was 82 when he died on August 24, 2004.

**ZUPNIK, EDITH G.**

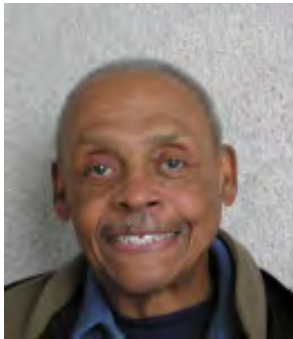
Née Gorden. Edith was 82 years old when she died on October 12, 2004. She was at Oakenwald South when she resigned in 1976 after a 10 year career.

## RTAC'S CHANGING FACES...

*The two ladies at right are leaving RTAC's Board of Directors. Each of them has been most helpful, and their help will be missed. **Aretas Collymore** (left) has added many Board members to her horde of friends; **Miriam Turner's** Co-Chairmanship of the Service Committee has been most valuable.*



*New additions to the RTAC Board starting in 2005 are ...*



***Nathaniel Blackman, Jr.***



***Marcella L. Morrison***



***Mary Sharon Reilly***

*(Unfortunately, no picture of New Director **Leroy Hansen** is yet available...)*

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**Retired Teachers Association of Chicago**  
**Room 2100, 220 S State Street**  
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