

# NEWS BULLETIN

RETIREMENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO  
Since 1926

VOL. LXIV

OCTOBER 2008

NO. 4

## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF RTAC

I'm sure you are looking forward to enjoying the last warm days of autumn before the rigors of winter set in. However, there is a very dark cloud on the horizon of every retired public school teacher in Chicago and Illinois—along with all other public employees receiving a pension in this state.

That danger-filled cloud is nicknamed "Con-Con." This dark cloud's real name is the Constitutional Convention Question that WILL BE ON YOUR BALLOT in November 2008!

Back in 1970, Illinois replaced its 100-year-old Constitution with a new document. In that new 1970 version, a clause was inserted that mandated asking Illinois citizens the question of having the Constitution revisited every 20 years. In 1990, Illinois citizens said: NO! Now, 20 years later, we have this question again and RTAC says, VOTE NO!

In Illinois, ALL public pensions—including ours—are State Income Tax Free! Efforts are being made to change this valued benefit! ***RTAC wants to keep it the way it is!***

After years of working hard under the difficult circumstances in our schools, retired Chicago public school teachers deserve this benefit!

If a Constitutional Convention is approved, there is NO LIMIT to what, who and how much can be taxed.

Our current Constitution protects us from having our pension lowered. . . AND it will be lowered if CON-CON is approved.



*Ethel Philpott*

WE MUST WORK TO DEFEAT THE CON-CON QUESTION IN NOVEMBER! Starting NOW, RTAC is actively working to defeat CON-CON and making sure NO MISCHIEF takes place in Springfield to remove the constitutional protection we have against taxing our pensions!

Beginning today, start talking to your neighbors, relatives, friends, former colleagues and anyone else you can think of to tell them of this situation. Remind them to JUST SAY NO to CON-CON in November.

**PROTECT YOUR PENSION!  
VOTE NO ON CON-CON!**

Remember, as Lobbyist Dick Lockhart has said: "No Man's Life, Liberty or Pension is safe while the Legislature is in session!"

Got Questions? Write to RTAC – NO CON-CON/RTAC, 20 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1500, Chicago, IL 60604 or email at: Office@RTAC.org.

As we get closer to November we will be conducting phone banks at RTAC to call our faithful members to remind them to VOTE NO ON CON-CON! Please think about volunteering in this effort.

*Ethel Philpott*

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**RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
OF CHICAGO**

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- STEVEN KAILES,  
*First Vice President*
- VERONICA CHEMERS,  
*Second Vice President*
- MARCELLA MORRISON,  
*Secretary*
- VAUGHN J. BARBER,  
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- |                       |                         |
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| Sherye Garmony-Miller | Roy E. Coleman          |
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*Past Presidents:*

- |                  |                       |
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| Helen P. Johnson | Edward A. O'Farrell   |
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**Robert F. Bures**, *Executive Director*  
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*Annual Membership \$30; free from age 85 and up.*

**RTAC SERVICE DIRECTORY**

RTAC Office (HOURS: 10 AM to 3 PM school days.) .....	312-939-3327
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 (203 N LaSalle St. 60601-1216) .....	312-604-1400
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# SO YOU THINK YOU HAVE A PENSION....

By V K Brown, Editor Emeritus

Well, up until now, maybe you did. But a little-noticed proposition on next month's ballot could easily change all that.

In January of 2006, we published an article titled "**In The Crosshairs: YOUR PENSION.**" (See excerpts below) In it, we called attention to the hundreds of thousands of American retirees who have already lost part or all of their lifetime pensions. *Perhaps worst of all, this plunder carries the blessing of Congress and the courts.*

Now it looks like they're coming for you, a former public employee. **Your awareness is your only defense!**

Illinois public employees now enjoy *defined benefit* pension plans. Their benefits are fixed far in advance, and for as long as they work, funds are put aside to pay them. For Chicago Public School teachers alone, the amount reserved for this purpose is now more than \$11 billion. We can only guess at the total amount involved for all Illinois public employees – police, firemen, Dept. of Transportation, etc.

Lots of folks out there would cheerfully under-

take the future care and feeding of these enormous sums if they could. Why haven't they persuaded the legislature to unfreeze these funds yet?

The answer is simple: ***The existing Illinois Constitution prohibits tampering with public employee pensions!*** (You can easily check this yourself: Google up "Illinois Constitution" on the Internet, and read Article XIII, Section 5.)

Some folks would now like to throw out the Constitution completely, and start all over from scratch. They want you to start this process with what's called a **Constitutional Convention. You will vote this up or down in November 2008.**

If the call for a Constitutional Convention passes, the existing Constitution dies, to be replaced by one that's all new. It may, or it may not, provide the protection of Article XIII, Section 5 for public employee pensions. With all those hungry pension fund raiders out there, are you willing to take that chance?

We're not. We're voting "No" on the proposed Constitutional Convention, and we hope you will, too.

## Excerpts From: In The Crosshairs: YOUR PENSION [First printed Jan. 6, 2006]

Hundreds of thousands of U.S. retirees have lost pensions and health benefits that they were "guaranteed for life" by corporations that have sought refuge in bankruptcy. . . .

There are basically two kinds of pension plans: Defined contribution plans and defined benefit plans. Under a defined contribution plan, you contribute a regular fixed amount into the plan, and your pension is determined by whatever assets the plan has when you retire. Under a defined benefit plan, you are promised fixed benefits at retirement, and if the plan's assets are not sufficient, somebody has to make up the difference. Chicago teacher retirees have a defined benefit plan that currently has about 81% of the funds needed; under current law the Board of Education must contribute enough to bring that level up to 90%.

Lawmakers and the laws they pass play a crucial role in pensions, private as well as public. Current law actually invites firms to declare bankruptcy, dump their pension obligations, reorganize and start over again. They are also destroying the defined benefit pension plan itself. Considering the declared financial condition of the State of Illinois, can our pensions be far behind? It all seems to be happening because nobody is watching.

Consider that 20,000 CPS retirees have our endangered defined benefit plan, but less than 600 of them (the Letter A Month Club members) are committed to writing even 12 letters per year to those who control their futures. Is it any wonder that a few politicians feel free to pick our pockets at will?

## PAST PRESIDENT HELEN JOHNSON TO BE HONORED AT FALL LUNCHEON

In addition to the usual luncheon festivities this year, longtime Board member and Past President Helen Pomerance Johnson, RTAC's own Renaissance Woman, will be named to the RTAC Wall of Fame. Helen was nominated for the honor at the August Board meeting by fellow Past President Mae Hunter, Co-Chair of the Honoraria Committee. Her motion was seconded by the other Co-Chair and fellow Past President, Ned L. McCray. The Wall of Fame was introduced during Ned's term at his "instigation," as he said, "as a way of honoring people who made significant contributions to RTAC."



Helen P. Johnson

Helen brought her tremendous energy and efficiency to RTAC "as soon as I retired in 1977." Helen had spent her 35-year career teaching Elementary School Physical Education. She attended an RTAC luncheon and volunteered to help send out membership renewals for the next year. At the first mailing session, Helen remembers, "I was astounded. It took three days to send the mailings out....I couldn't stand it." Soon, Helen's "take charge" personality won her the task of sending out mailings for the next luncheon. She recruited 12 of her fellow retired P.E. teachers, and they did the job that had taken three days in just three hours. From then on, Helen was in charge of mailings. So began her 31-year record of service to RTAC,

It wasn't long before Helen was introducing more innovations. While volunteering at the Museum of Science and Industry, Helen discovered computers. "I didn't know the first thing about them, but I knew they would be good for us." She found out that DeVry Institute students would help and soon, five DeVry students were trooping into the RTAC office to assist in setting up the computer. Later, Helen enlisted the aid of Tate Yoshida, a friend she'd made during her long volunteer involvement at American Youth Hostels. Tate programmed the computer, set up a data base and the tedious mailings were done by the new computer with comparative ease.

It was not surprising that when a vacancy occurred, Helen was voted onto the RTAC Board to fill it. During Ned McCray's presidency, and at his insistence, Helen became the first acting Executive Director of RTAC. The President's Wall was established, and Helen took on the task of finding and framing the photo of every RTAC president since its inception in 1926. She researched through old *News Bulletins* and even went to the Chicago Historical Society to get one former president's photo. Another president's photo could only be obtained by borrowing it from Hyde Park High School where he had been principal many years before and having it copied. It was an arduous task, but Helen got it done.

Soon after becoming a Board member, she was nominated for President. During her presidency (1991-1992), she continued her quest for innovations. She attended a downstate teachers convention and learned about the dental plan that eventually became one of RTAC's member benefits. She also learned about providing simple legal services such as will preparation to members and she found an attorney who was willing to work with RTAC members.

Certainly, one of her greatest contributions was naming V.K. (Ken) Brown editor of the *News Bulletin*, an association that lasted for over 15 years. V.K. continues to serve as Editor Emeritus.

"I feel when I came in it [RTAC] was just a little club," Helen said, "but moving it ahead, I feel, has been rewarding. I brought it up to the 20<sup>th</sup> century."

It would be difficult to think of anyone who has made more significant contributions to RTAC or who is more deserving of this honor than Helen P. Johnson. RTAC salutes you, Helen, and thanks you for your many years of devoted, capable and innovative service!

(See page 39 for Fall Luncheon reservation form.)

# REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Robert F. Bures

## NO!

It's as simple as "Just say NO!"

On Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 4th, just say NO! to the question on all ballots in Illinois regarding the need for a Constitutional Convention.

Every twenty years this question comes up for a vote. So ... vote NO!

Our CTPF pension is currently constitutionally protected from ever going down or being eliminated. If we have such a convention, all parts of the Constitution will be open to change!

I know our Board of Education hates the fact that our pensions are protected. I know that the general public has pension envy and jealousy. The political classes in Illinois would very much like to see pension protections eliminated so that it would free up our money for their pet projects.

What will future teachers in Chicago and in Illinois say about us in twenty or so years from now? They will be asking, "What were those folks back in 2008 thinking about letting our pension benefits slip away? Were they sleeping at the switch?"

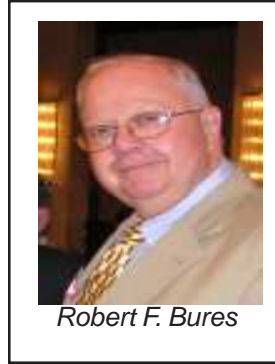
What's YOUR answer? I know my answer is JUST VOTE NO! on Con-Con on Nov. 4th!



**Con-con NO!**

## YES!

The answer is YES! The question is, "Shall I meet my friends, former colleagues, pals from the teaching days and learn a great deal about the Con-Con proposal and have a great meal and loads of fun?"



Robert F. Bures

RTAC's 82nd Fall Luncheon, General Member's Annual Meeting and Election of the Board of Directors will take place on Wednesday, October 29th in the Grand Ballroom of the Palmer House Hilton Hotel, on Monroe between State and Wabash. This is the place where we bring you up to date

on Pension issues, the dangers of another Constitutional Convention in Illinois, find out about RTAC's financial condition (very good, by the way), see who will be running RTAC for the next two years, and catch up with pals and colleagues.

Check out the invitation on the inside of the last page of this *News Bulletin* and send it in today. Because of the Con-Con crisis we expect a full house--1,000 RTAC members and guests. This is going to be a super meeting, so send in your reservations today, and bring a friend.

See you at the Palmer House on the 29th of October --11:45 a.m.--SHARP!

I know I would love it if you came up to the podium and said "Hello!"



**Luncheon YES!**

Sincerely,

*Bob Bures*

TROUBLED ABOUT THE FINANCIAL MESS YOU READ ABOUT IN THE PRESS LATELY?

NEED TO TALK WITH SOMEONE ABOUT YOUR TAX SHELTERED ANNUITY? I ALWAYS TAKE CALLS FROM RTAC MEMBERS AND I'M WILLING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THIS ISSUE. I'M NOT A CERTIFIED FINANCIAL ADVISOR, BUT OVER THE YEARS I'VE ACCUMULATED SOME FINANCIAL WISDOM THAT WE CAN TALK OVER. CALL ME CAUTIOUS, BUT I THINK IT'S ALWAYS BETTER TO TALK IT OUT A BIT! CALL ME AT 312-393-3327 X 007--I ALWAYS RETURN ALL CALLS!

# REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE – 2009/2010

Dear Colleagues,

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the below listed persons as their recommendation for RTAC Officers and RTAC Board Members for the 2009-2010 term. After diligent and exhaustive interviews, as well as through discussions by the committee, the choices are unanimous.

Officers	President.....Vahghn J. Barber
	First Vice-President.....Steven A. Kailes
	Second Vice President.....Marcella L. Morrison
	Secretary.....James F. Ward
	Treasurer.....Arthur E. Keegan

Returning Board Members 2009-10	John C. Craig
	Ruby J. Ford
	Raphael A. Juss
	Vera M. Paul
	Helen C. Wooten

Newly Nominated Board Members 2009-10	John J. Garvey
	Rita M. Naughton
	Louise Ponce

Returning Board Members 2009	Samuel Altshuler
	Nathaniel Blackman, Jr.
	Veronica Chemers
	Roy E. Coleman
	Sherye Garmony-Miller
	Mary Sharon Reilly
	John J. Tintiangco
	Richard F. Tryba

Nomination Committee: Sherye Garmony-Miller, Chair, Arthur E. Keegan, Raphael A. Juss,  
Board of Directors

Cheryl Washington, Patrick Kenny, General Members of RTAC

## Meet the Candidates...

*The following RTAC members have stepped forward to run for three vacancies on the Board of Directors. They will serve two-year terms. The News Bulletin welcomes them and wishes them well.*

**John J. (Joe) Garvey** holds degrees in Humanities, History and Educational Leadership. He was a Social Studies teacher at the Audy Home, Waller (now Lincoln Park) High School and he served as Assistant Principal at Roosevelt High School. He was Principal of the Arnold Upper Grade Center, Oscar Mayer Elementary School and Foreman High School. He has also been an adjunct professor at Northeastern Illinois University.



*John (Joe) Garvey*

Joe was a CTU delegate for five years, and he has held offices in the Principals Association. He

is active in his church and is a member of Kiwanis. Golf, fishing, reading and travel are among Joe's leisure activities.

As an RTAC director Joe hopes to work towards safeguarding our pension funding and keeping tabs on the legislators so that nothing they do will adversely affect our funding in any way. "I also feel strongly that the most elderly of our pensioners who are on a very reduced pension should receive an adequate increase."

is active in his church and is a member of Kiwanis. Golf, fishing, reading and travel are among Joe's leisure activities.

**Rita Marie Naughton** taught fifth and sixth grades at Hearst, McClellan and Burbank Schools.

She was a Special Education teacher at Hanson Park and then became a Counselor/Case Manager there. She holds degrees in Education and in Guidance and Counseling.



*Rita Marie Naughton*

**Louise Ponce** taught at McCutcheon School and Prussing School before becoming area 19 High School Reading Coach and Citywide Elementary Reading Coach.

Louise holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and has two master's degrees, one in Reading and the other in Administration and Supervision. She belongs to the International Reading Association, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and the



*Louise Ponce*

She is active in her church, and in her spare time enjoys ballroom dancing, theater and travel. Her hobbies include golf, fishing and reading.

"Keeping our pension safe, that's of paramount importance to me," Rita said. "I worked 40 years for the Chicago Public Schools, and that's my prime reason for volunteering to work with RTAC."

Edgebrook Chamber of Commerce.

Since retiring, she has worked as an Adjunct Professor at both Loyola and Concordia universities. In her spare time she enjoys golf, biking, swimming and walking.

Louise hopes to "maintain and increase membership as well as keep members aware of the critical issues RTAC monitors and strives to influence."

*This 'n' that*

**RETIREES SOUGHT FOR  
ELECTION JUDGES**

Serve as a gatekeeper of democracy. Election judges are needed in suburban Cook County to make sure that the Nov. 4 presidential election is carried out fairly, honestly and accurately. As an election judge, you are responsible for supervising the conduct inside the polling places and helping voters.

Election judges can receive up to \$170 every election. This includes working Election Day, your election judge training and assisting with the set up before Election Day.

To work in suburban Cook County, call the Cook County Clerk David Orr's office at (312) 603-0965 or visit [www.voterinfonet.com](http://www.voterinfonet.com) to download an application.

***DID YOU KNOW?***

Peel a banana from the bottom and you won't have to pick the little 'stringy things' off of it. That's how the primates do it...Take your bananas apart when you get home from the store. If you leave them connected at the stem, they ripen faster.

*[Courtesy of Trustee Art Keegan]*

*On the lighter side. . . .*

**THE 84-YEAR-OLD BRIDE**

The local news station was interviewing an 84-year-old lady because she had just gotten married—for the fourth time.

The interviewer asked her questions about her life, about what it felt like to be marrying again at 84, and then about her new husband's occupation. "He's a funeral director," she answered.

"Interesting," the interviewer thought. He then asked her if she would mind telling him a little about her first three husbands and what they did for a living.

She paused for a few moments, needing time

**RTAC MEMBERS ATTEND CON-CON DEBATE**



*Photo courtesy of Veronica Chemers*

Second Vice President **Veronica Chemers** shakes hands with former Illinois State Senator Dawn Clark Netsch before the luncheon forum held at the Union League Club of Chicago July 11. Netsch debated Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn arguing against the proposed Constitutional Convention referendum which will be on the November ballot. In 1970 Netsch was a delegate to the last Constitutional Convention held in the state. Also in attendance at the event were President **Ethel Philpott**, First Vice President **Steven Kailes**, Treasurer **Vaughn Barber**, Secretary **Marcella Morrison**, Past President and Pension Fund Trustee **Walter Pilditch**, Executive Director **Bob Bures**, Pension Fund Trustee **Mary Sharon Riley**, and Board members **Vera Paul**, and **John Tintiangco**.

to reflect on all those years. After a short time, a smile came to her face and she answered proudly, explaining that she first married a banker when she was in her early 20s, then a circus ringmaster when in her 40s, later on a preacher when in her 60s, and now, in her 80s, a funeral director.

The interviewer looked at her, quite astounded, and asked why she had married four men with such diverse careers.

"Easy, son," she smiled. "I married one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready and four to go."



## Retired Driver Ed. Directors luncheon a success

*By Ed O'Farrell*

On Thursday, July 10, a luncheon at the LaVilla Restaurant, 3638 N. Pulaski Rd., enticed 38 former Driver Educators to enjoy a delicious Italian buffet while sharing memories of their experiences in the Chicago Public Schools Driver Education Centers during the past 50 years. Also included was the recognition of former directors who have “gone ahead.”

Those who attended included the luncheon committee members, Jim Artese (Bogan), Jerry Conforti (CVS), Sam Clemente (Wells) and Ed O'Farrell (Central Office), and other former directors: Don Breitenreiter (Washington), Edmund Cook (Spalding), John Costello (Fenger), Don Fontana (Mather), Jim Foreman (Dunbar), Mike Hionis (Taft), George Hoey (Fenger), Kendall Hutchinson (CVS), Bill Keenan (Kennedy), Steve Kotis (Spalding), Frank Krasnowski (Kennedy), Mike Levey (Wells), Barbara Lewis (Central Office), George Lindley (Roosevelt), Jake Maciag (Harrison), John Mahoney and his son Mark (Spalding), Loretta Martin (Central Office), Bob Miller (Central Office), George Nahabedian (Roosevelt), Jack Neville (Curie), Ken Olsen (Lane), Dick Ovington (Central Office), Angel Rivera (Wells), Ed Rybicki (Harrison),

Chuck Saieva (Westinghouse), Gloria Smith (Carver), Hank Soltysinki (CVS), Fran Williams (Carver), Bill Woodrow (Fenger), and Yosh Yamada (Englewood).

The Master of Ceremonies, Sam Clemente, also provided remarks from Bill Harden (Harrison and Central Office), George Leddy (Lane), Mel Lloyd (Prosser), and Stu Templar (Amundsen), former directors who were unable to attend but wished to be remembered.

By the time the informal program ended, four hours had quickly passed, and everyone agreed it would be a good idea to meet again next year. It was also suggested that the event be expanded to include other retired Driver Education teachers who might be interested in attending a similar luncheon next summer. When the arrangements are made, an article with all the pertinent details will be presented in a future edition of this publication.

The committee also wishes to thank the Retired Teachers Association of Chicago (RTAC) for the assistance and generousities provided in the planning and conduct of the meeting.

## NATIONAL-LOUIS LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

As you probably know, experts agree that a vital part of a healthy retirement is keeping the brain and body in motion. That's why National-Louis opened the door to its Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI). Founded in September 2006, the program currently has over 240 members and offers adults 55+ the opportunity to engage in a learning community.

For retired school teachers, the program has proven to be very rewarding. LLI member Dee Hannan, a former Evanston District 65 school teacher affirms, “I love the mental stimulation I don't find anywhere else in my life. I can't imagine what retirement would be like without LLI.”

The Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) follows a peer learning model. In our program, members propose and coordinate the study groups that are offered. Each week, members volunteer to lead the discussion in those study groups. The key is learning from one another. No grades, no exams – just exploring new subjects and exchanging opinions and ideas with contemporaries who consider learning an integral part of life.

If you go to our website at [www.nl.edu/lifelonglearning](http://www.nl.edu/lifelonglearning), you can see a copy of our fall catalog and some additional information about our program. In the meantime, if you have any questions please call (224) 233-2366.

## LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out, both at home and worldwide, to the victims and their families of the current violence—whether caused by weather, terrorist acts, or war.

This past September 2-8, presidents and executive directors of state retired educator associations were provided the opportunity to attend the NRTA National Leadership Conference held in conjunction with AARP's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in Washington, D.C.

**Gleanings:** For suggestions and information regarding the digital television changeover (HDTV) scheduled for February 2009, visit the Federal Communications Commission website <http://www.dtv.gov>.

One of the outstanding informational speeches, "The Global Future," was given by Fareed Zakaria, editor of *Newsweek International*, wherein he discussed the impact of diversity on inclusion of the non-western nations in the global community.

In the state presidents' groups, as we discussed the opportunities and challenges in this century, there appeared to be a realization that, as humans being human, regardless of degrees or pedigrees, nationwide and worldwide, we all face the same or similar issues and concerns.

Although the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress recently held hearings on repeal of the GPO/WEP Social Security offsets (read "penalties on public employees"), the bill was not called for a vote. The impact on an aging population, with its fixed incomes, of ever increasing living costs was discussed at length, along with possible solutions.

To no one's very great surprise, it seems that at both the state and national levels there are many politicians and other crafty individuals who "generously" offer to share our pension monies with us. We retired Chicago Public School teachers are far from being alone in having our pensions at-

tacked, although we know of no other state willing to throw out its entire Constitution in its determination to take control of the monies set aside for the state's retired public employees.



*Ethel Philpott*

Personal responsibility was discussed at length and in many different contexts. The present intensely political climate demands the highest order of astute and analytical attention when dealing with the flood of intermingled truth and misinformation spewing forth from the media.

Our collective response may in fact determine the future of our nation. Will we pass on to our children and grandchildren the best of those ideals and values of Democracy upon which our great country was founded? ***It is entirely up to us!***

As voters, we must look beyond the deliberately misleading distractions that nearly all politicians today hide behind, and seek out those responsible ones who may be expected to support the values we most treasure. Since most politicians try to conceal their innermost convictions, you will probably find that a visit to the meticulously non-partisan ***Project Vote Smart*** on the Internet, or a telephone call to them at **1-888-Vote-Smart (1-888-868-3762)** is far more informative than any amount of listening to the candidate's speeches. We doubt very much that you will find serious attention paid by Vote-Smart to such compelling national issues as pregnant unmarried teen-age relatives or to lipstick use by farm animals.

**November 4<sup>th</sup> is your last chance** to avert the very real threat to your pension! If the Con-Con proposition passes, the 1970 Illinois Constitution (which guarantees your pension) will be dead. No amount of pressure on your Congressman or State legislators will help; they have no authority in the matter. Since canceling a constitution is not a crime, there is no recourse to the court system.

Again, it's up to you, and — it's now or never.

# PENSION NOTES

From James F. Ward, Trustee

## EIGHT REASONS I WORRY ABOUT THE CPS

1. The Chicago Public Schools (CPS) lost some Social Security numbers. Result: Chicago Teachers Pension Fund (CTPF) may no longer access CPS payroll records by computer. For years such access greatly aided records exchange and provided for the accuracy needed to pay pension benefits.

2. CPS seems unable to obey Sections 17-130 and 17-132 of the Pension Code, which state: "There shall be deducted from the salary of each teacher a total of 9% of salary. Such amounts shall be included as part of the Fund." The CPS "shall formulate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to give effect to the provisions of this section" Sec. 17132 covers "Payments and certification of salary deductions. An Employer [CPS] shall cause the Fund to receive all teachers' pension contributions within 15 business days of paydays."

Latest word from the pension office is that 200 of 1700 persons retired in June 2007 still receive estimated pension checks awaiting accurate record certification from CPS. What is 2008 like? CTPF has payroll information only through the pay period ending September 1, 2007. That means CTPF has only five of 26 payrolls certified from CPS for the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2008.

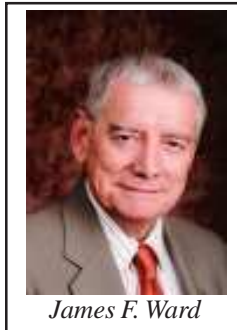
The pension office has NO certified annual records for the 480 retirees who retired at the end of fiscal 2008. They are receiving estimated pension checks. How difficult must it be to teach accuracy and punctuality to Chicago children and then find that your own payroll and pension records are inaccurate and a year late? That is why I made a motion on the Pension Board to sue the CPS to force them to provide timely and accurate records to the Pension Fund, something they had easily done for over a century.

3. CPS grants end-of-career pension increases year after year, greatly increasing the liabilities of the Pension Fund. A few years ago I asked the Pension Actuary to calculate how long it would take for the Fund to run out of money without any further tax or public money sources. He said, "Twenty-five years." Today we are paying pensions at an annual rate of \$936 million: that's about a billion. The assets of the Fund are now about \$11.6 billion. You do the math.

4. At the same time that they are inflating pensions, CPS sued to reduce pensions granted from 1999 to 2004. It lost the suit after RTAC intervened, but now is appealing the case. Will RTAC be able to pay high appeals court attorney fees? We may need defense fund-raising events.

5. CPS is also suing to invalidate one of the two sections of the law that provides money to the Pension Fund. Please see the July 2008 issue of the *News Bulletin* for a full explanation of CPS lawsuit #08CH09640. A Cook County Circuit Court Judge, the Honorable Mary Anne Mason, has been assigned to the case. Two interveners, the State Teachers Retirement System (TRS) and the Attorney General have filed briefs for dismissal of the case, and their arguments ring very true. (Hooray!) By the time you read this in October I hope to get the Pension Board to intervene as well.

In 1995 the Legislature transferred full control of the CPS to the Mayor of Chicago. In 2008 the CPS is suing while the Attorney General has filed to dismiss. Maybe City Hall and CPS could improve coordination of effort and avoid legal fees. The CPS brief pointedly holds that pensions are not part of the costs of educating our children. Isn't a pension deferred compensation of a teacher? Isn't teacher compensation part of the cost of education?



James F. Ward

*(Continued on page 13)*

## PENSION NOTES

From Walter Pilditch, Trustee

### BAD NEWS WITH A BRIGHT SPOT

To answer the often asked question, our fund has decreased about \$80 million since the previous quarter and this leaves us with an \$11.4 billion total for our value. This drop was far less than the previous quarter, but it is a drop nevertheless.

The reasons for the reduction are obvious in our overall economy. Noted during the spring quarter was an increase of about 50% in home foreclosures, an increase in unemployment up to 5.5% at present, and the slowing of credit along with a rising inflation rate. This all adds up to problems for most pension funds as well as your own savings.

According to Mercer Investments, our consultants for the Chicago Teachers Pension Fund, the federal short-term rate was lowered again in April to 2.0% and this resulted in a rise in the treasury funds. Commenting on consumer prices, an increase of 1.1% was noted for June alone. This rate is expected to remain high through the rest of this year.

Near the beginning of the quarter the stock market posted gains, but higher oil prices resulted in a downward trend in all the major measures of the markets. Of all stocks during the quarter, the mid caps did the best with a 4.7% increase. In the various sectors of the market, energy performed the strongest and the financials came out the weakest with a decrease of 16.9% over the past quarter.

Both bonds and Treasuries fell during the spring months. Only our international investments showed general increases with a rise of about 2%. European investments fell as well as Asian, with the increases in Australia and Japan helping the averages along with Latin America's emerging markets showing the strongest gains. The private real estate market showed a gain of 1.8% this past

quarter. One strong performer was agriculture with an 8.6% gain and this was in spite of the widespread flooding of farms this past early spring.

The one bright spot in all of this gloomy news is the spring quarter was an improvement over the winter quarter that was reviewed in the previous issue of this publication. Rising energy prices helped overcome the declines of the financial and the industrial sectors of our investments, just to mention the two lowest performers. The total fund value dropped by 0.4% for the spring quarter and this was better than the reference indexes would have predicted. Our fund has benchmarks for each of our investments and to mention the outperformers, New Amsterdam Performers, Piedmont, Waddell and Reed, along with Holland, Lynmar, Harris and Lombardia are included.



Walter Pilditch

Moving to small caps, Seligman and Zevenbergen exceeded their expectations for the quarter. Rising above the Russell 3000 index measure, Attucks, Northern Trust Global, and Progress showed good gains in our list of managers for minority- and women-owned investments. The three top stock gainers were Conoco Phillips, Western Digital and National Oilwell. Four funds did well in our international equity and they are Acadian, Earnest Partners, Morgan Stanley and UIM. Concluding with our fixed income investments, Lehman Brothers along with Taplin, Canida & Habacht, and Western all outperformed their benchmarks.

The Board of Trustees just approved the new figures from our consultants, Segal, for the health insurance rates for 2009. Overall the rates averaged an increase of 5.1% over this year's rates with some as high as 13% and some others remaining the same. All of the necessary details for you will be in our usual mailing of health insurance information in about a month. If you are in the Chicago area, local information meetings will be held in various locations and these details will be in your booklet.

Have a pleasant fall, Walter Pilditch

## PENSION NOTES

### From Mary Sharon Reilly, Trustee Pension Law & Rules Committee

On election day, Nov. 4, 2008, there will be issues on the ballot that need our attention as Americans and as participants in the Chicago Teachers Pension Fund (CTPF).

Of primary importance is the presidential election, a uniquely historic event with the first African-American presidential candidate on the Democratic ticket and the first Republican woman vice-presidential candidate. It is the duty of all Americans to become well informed on the candidates and the issues. On Nov. 4, exercising the right to vote cannot be ignored.

Also on the ballot is an issue that is vital to all participants in the CTPF as well as to all public pension funds in the state of Illinois. Voters will be asked to decide whether Illinois should convene a Constitutional Convention (Con Con) to rewrite our state constitution. This could threaten benefits of annuitants and contributors of all Illinois public pension funds. In the current constitution our pensions are guaranteed.

The Chicago Teachers Union and the Illinois Federation of Teachers have presented other reasons to VOTE NO ON CON CON:



Mary Sharon Reilly

A Constitutional Convention would cost Illinois taxpayers as much as \$100 million--money that would be better spent on education and critical services.

A CON CON could take years to complete and would further delay legislative action on important issues like education funding reform and funding for public services.

The state constitution can already be changed by amendment. In fact, Illinois voters have amended the current constitution 10 times since 1970 using the amendatory process.

Therefore, on Nov. 4, vote for the candidate of your choice and VOTE NO ON CON CON.

On Nov. 12, the General Assembly will reconvene for the veto session. When the spring session adjourned, no pension legislation had been enacted. Hopefully, HB 4342, which would raise the maximum allowable payment for health insurance from \$65 million to \$75 million, will be passed by the House and be sent to the Senate for passage. RTAC members may be asked to contact their legislators to urge passage of this bill.

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*(Continued from page 11)*

6. CPS introduced a bill in the General Assembly to transfer their responsibility to fund the system under 17-129 of the Pension Code of the State of Illinois. The concept of a lead balloon comes to mind. It went nowhere.

7. The old Pro-Plan was initiated by CPS thinkers a few years ago to merge the CTPF (founded in 1895) into the TRS (founded in the 1930s). This didn't make it to bill form.

8. Health insurance costs will go up by an average of 5% in January. Some health groups will

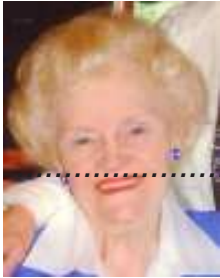
be more, some less. Some pensioners' rates will rise as much as 13%. That is why we need our rebate law. Last year we were almost able to pass a \$10 million increase in our rebate allowance, from \$65 to \$75 million. CPS nixed it in Springfield. Now they want to make a deal. If we (1) let them change the definition of a member of the Pension Fund and (2) allow them to make an audit of the health plans to see that they are not too generous, then they will approve the \$10 million. The trustees are being very careful on this offer. With the CPS record, can you blame them?

JFW at [urokward@yahoo.com](mailto:urokward@yahoo.com)

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Many retired teachers find that working for a worthy cause as a volunteer is extremely satisfying. The following organizations are among those who have asked us for help in recruiting. A more complete list appears on our web site at <http://www.rtac.org>. The Retired Teachers Association of Chicago **does not endorse any organization**; potential volunteers must make their own judgments.

A. C. E. S.	Chicago	Eric Werge	773-535-6922
AARP	Chicago	Loretta Hilsher	847-571-5514
AHS (Adult ESL and Literacy)	Chicago North	Robbin Kotajarvi	773-293-8139
Cabrini Connection (Mentor Tutor)	Chicago Near North	Daniel Bassill	312-467-2889
Chicago Cultural Center	Chicago Central	Marianne Wolf	312-744-7096
Chicago Distance Classic	Chicago Central	Dani Chitwood	217-390-1163
Chicago Humanities Festival	Chicago Central	Annie Tully	312-661-1028
Chicago Lights (Tutoring)	Chicago Central	Regina D. Grant	312-981-3560
Christopher House (Youth Tutoring & Adult Education)	Chicago North	Cortney DeArmound	773-472-1083x3067
Court Appointed Special Advocates	Cook County	Sheila C. Russell	312-433-6987
DuSable Museum of African American History	Chicago South	Kay McCrimon	773-947-0600x239
Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust	Oak Park	Kent Bartram	708-848-1976
FreshStart (GED Tutors)	Southwest Suburbs	Donna Thomas	708-205-1334
Glenkirk (Programs for the Developmentally Disabled)	Northbrook	Roberta M. Rekus	847-400-8569
Ill. Holocaust Museum & Education Center	Evanston	Hallie Rosen	847-491-0905x113
International Visitors Center of Chicago		Lexy Sobel	312-254-1800x102
Jesse White Tumblers (tutors)	Chicago Central	Yvonne C. Jones	312-943-4846
Junior Achievement Chicago	Chicago	Cherie Russ	312-715-1300x269
Kohl Children's Museum	Glenview	Charlene Podolsky	847-256-6056
LaRabida Children's Hospital	Chicago Jackson Pk	Judi Blakemore	773-256-5985
League of Women Voters	Chicago Central	Courtney Balok	312-939-5935
Literacy Volunteers of DuPage	DuPage County	Tana Tatnall	630-416-6699
Loyola Museum of Art	Chicago Near North	Ann Meehan	312-915-7604
McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum (Guides)	Chicago	Danielle Estler	312-222-5963
Naperville Settlement	Naperville	Diane Ernst	630-420-6010
National Runaway Switchboard	Chicago North	Molly Billette	773-880-9860x218
Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum	Chicago Lincoln Park	Jennifer Labows	773-755-5141
Recording for the Blind	Chicago, Suburbs	Joanne C. Ruxin	312-236-8715
Red Cross	Chicago Area		312-729-6100
Roseland Community Hospital	Chicago Roseland	Jennifer Seldon	773-995-3470
Salvation Army Group Home	Chicago Central	Frank Massolini	312-455-8059x200
School Children's Aid Society	Chicago	Margaret Paul	773-247-1311
Science Fair (Judges)	Chicago	Angela Dumas	773-553-6318
Swedish American Museum	Chicago North	Tina Harris	773-728-8111x28
University of Chicago Hospitals	Chicago Hyde Park	Nancy Frazier	773-702-5673
WilPower (Retirees helping Retirees)	Northfield	Minnie Morton	847-501-2939
WITS (one on one early childhood reading)	Chicago Central	Lindsey Giacherio	312-606-2032
Youth Service Project	Chicago Humboldt Pk	Esther Prins	773-535-6922



Marion Hoffing

THE RTAC NEWS BULLETIN ONCE AGAIN JOYFULLY PRESENTS  
The irreplaceable quarterly anti-ennui shielding provided by MARI<sup>©</sup> H<sup>©</sup>FFING

# THE CHICAGO SCENE

to enjoy during October, November and December

NOTE: The Events page on RTAC's web site (<http://www.rtac.org/events.htm>) now carries DIRECT LINKS to most venues listed. Be sure to check schedules before you attend any events in these pages. **CHANGES DO HAPPEN!** Also, remember to ask for your **SENIOR DISCOUNT**, and enjoy your city!

ADLER PLANETARIUM 1300 South Shore Dr. 312-922-STAR  
COSMIC COLLISION narrated by Robert Redford.  
Tour of the universe's crash-filled past.

Also, SHOOT FOR THE MOON, A LOOK AT LUNAR MISSIONS with the restored Gemini 12 Centerpiece Ongoing

ART CLUB OF CHICAGO 201 E. Ontario 312-787-3997  
MARCEL BROODTHAERS (1924-1976) - An installation and a slide projection are at the Center of an exhibition for the late Belgian artist a pioneer of installation art and the institutional critique. Thru 12/19

MAGDALENA ABAKANOWICZ-*Reality of Dreams*-Selections from 30 years of drawing by the Polish sculptor best known in Chicago for the monumental figure grouping at the South end of Grant Park. Thru 12/14

ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO 111 S. Michigan Ave. 312-443-3600  
HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON - ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY OF PARIS The Centenary of the birth of one of the greatest lensmen of the 20th century is celebrated by showing his photojournalism with the works of painters and photographers in this milieu. Thru 1/4/09

LUNCHTIME SERIES - Noon time performances, readings and lectures. Art from the diverse areas of the Art Institute's collection with musical performances. The place where art and culture meet.

THURSDAY NIGHT 6 P.M. - There's something to experience every Thursday night. The stage for global discourse, the role of the encyclopedic Museum - 360 Degrees Art Beyond Borders. Come and hear renowned scholars, provocative thinkers and history of globalization and its role in today's culture.

CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe 847-835-5440  
[www.ohwow.org](http://www.ohwow.org)

Trains, Tricks & Treats - October  
Fine art of Fiber Show & Sale - November  
"Reindog" Parade and Wonderland Express - December

CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER 78 E. Washington St. 312-346-3278  
MADE IN CHICAGO - Photographs from the Bank of America/LaSalle Bank collection of 150 images--more than ever shown before in the City--from 77 years of pictures taken here and amassed in one of our pioneering public collections. Thru 1/4/09

CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM 1601 N. Clark St. 312-642-4600  
[www.chicagohistory.org](http://www.chicagohistory.org)  
CATHOLIC CHICAGO looks at the faith and its two million followers. Thru 1/4/09  
CHICAGO'S ART @40 on the city's namesake Rock Band Thru 12/7

FIELD MUSEUM of NATURAL HISTORY      Roosevelt Road at Lake Shore Drive      312-922-9410

[www.fieldmuseum.org](http://www.fieldmuseum.org)

FAMILY FIELD DAY - Third Sunday of every month. Take part in a FREE art and science activity. Hear a story or sign up for a family workshop. To plan a visit or learn more about other family programs call 312-922-9410.

#### NATURE UNLEASHED: INSIDE NATURAL DISASTERS

Earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis. From California to Krakatoa, these immense forces of geology and weather have shaped our planet and our world. These natural events that have occurred through the centuries are caused by the forces behind the earth's geology and meteorology. While human beings cannot stop these forces, our actions have a strong impact on how frequently they occur and on how damaging they are when they happen.      Thru 1/4/09

CROWN FAMILY PLAY LAB offers curious children imaginative fields to roam, ancient artifacts to investigate, natural wonders to discover and inspiring activities to tackle in a captivating, friendly environment.      Ongoing

AZTEC WORLD - Nearly 300 artifacts and art objects, many exhibited for the first time outside of Mexico.      10/31 thru 4/19/09

GAHLBERG GALLERY      425 Falwell Blvd. Glenn Ellyn      630-942-4000

#### JEFF CARTER: CATALOG

Chicago artist Jeff Carter's ongoing sculptural investigations of travel and landscape have recently led him to wonder how a trip to IKEA relates to tourism. The exhibition *CATALOG* is informed by the IKEA catalog itself, and consists of several components made from abstractly reconfigured shelves, tables, bookcases and flooring. The resulting forms retain a sense of utility, yet incorporate elements of landscape, movement, and the Internet, suggesting that the global design of IKEA is also an aesthetic of "placelessness."

10/16 thru 11/22

#### STUDIO ART FACULTY EXHIBIT

An exhibition of new work by College of DuPage studio art faculty teaching in painting, sculpture, drawing, design, printmaking, photography, jewelry and more.      12/4 thru 1/10/09

LYRIC OPERA - Civic Opera House      20 N Wacker Dr # 860      312-332-2244

*MANON* in French with English Titles

October 1, 4\*, 7, 11, 15\*, 18, 21, 24, 27, 31

Two megawatt stars and music that intoxicates

*THE PEARL FISHERS*

October 6, 10, 13, 16\*, 19\*, 22, 25 November 1, 4

Heavenly, exotic, performance music that transports former listeners to ancient Ceylon.

*LULU*

November 7, 10, 15, 19, 22, 25, 30\*

Meet Lulu, opera's most dangerous heroine.

*PORGY and BESS*

November 18, 21, 23\*, 26\*, 29 December 3, 5, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18\*, 19\*

Glorious music, topnotch cast sweep you away from Catfish row.

*MADAMA BUTTERFLY*

December 13, 17, 20

Shunned by her family, shamed in her community, rejected by her lover, M. Butterfly sees only one way out

**\*Dates marked with asterisks indicate matinee performances.**

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART      220 E. Chicago Ave.      312-280-2660

JENNY HOLZER: PROTECT PROTECT - the largest exhibition in the U.S. for the American artist in 15 years presents recent works in several media including LED technology, sculpture, light projection and paintings.

10/25 thru 2/1/09



MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY 600 S. Michigan Ave. Columbia College  
 Between 2003 and 2006, artist Dave Anderson made more than 50 trips toting films from Vidor, Texas, where he photographed the reputed KKK stronghold and its residents. *Rough Beauty* serves as an extended portrait of an American community. Also, there is a film titled "On the Road" with images many of which are iconic.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY 57<sup>TH</sup> & Lake Shore Dr. 773-684-1414  
[www.msichicago.org](http://www.msichicago.org)

FAST FORWARD.... INVENTING THE FUTURE is a new Museum of Science and Industry interactive permanent exhibit that showcases cutting-edge innovations designed by inventors and scientists from around the world. Within the exhibit guests learn how ingenuity and creativity are being used to shape and advance our society in the areas of agriculture, transportation, entertainment, energy and much more—while they examine the work of these groundbreaking inventors through interactive activities, video presentations and prototypes.

ALL GREEN HOUSE

Visit the only ALL GREEN HOUSE in the Museum's backyard - 3000 square feet of smart and grand living. Technology that harnesses the power of the sun. A waste water system, a rooftop lawn, a house that works your energy system, a remote control that keeps you comfortable at all times regardless of weather, furniture and furnishings green and beautiful and practical. Visit this home of the future.

Thru 1/4/09

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD and HOLIDAYS OF LIGHT 2008

A time-honored celebration featuring more than 50 dazzling trees, displays, and creches that celebrate holiday customs from around the world. Call for specific dates.

SHEDD AQUARIUM 1200 S. Lake Shore Dr. 312-939-2438

THE CORAL REEF - Coral is the foundation of any reef system and Shedd's live coral exhibit is the largest public display in the Midwest. It has blossomed in a sunshine-bright 5,000-gallon habitat in large part thanks to the Aquarium's successful propagation program.

MARINE MAMMAL PRESENTATIONS

Go on a dolphin- and whale-watching trip. See some of the amazing natural behaviors of dolphins and whales such as diving, spyhopping and tail walking.

UNITED CENTER	1901 W. Madison St.	312-455-4500
TINA TURNER	10/3 - 10/4	8 p.m.
MADONNA	10/26 - 10/27	8 p.m.
RINGLING BROS. CIRCUS	11/18 - 11/30	

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO 5550 S. Greenwood Ave. 773-702-0200

MANDEL HALL	1131 E. 57th St.	773-702-8068
The St. Paul Chamber Orchestra	Pierre-Laurent Aimard conductor/piano	Oct. 3 7:30 p.m.
John Bruce Yeh, clarinet; Cho-Liang Lin, violin; G. Hoffman, cello; C. Taylor, piano		Oct. 5, 3 p.m.
Guarneri String Quartet		Oct. 31 7:30 p.m.
Katarina Livijanic voice-direction-text adaptation and musical reconstruction		Nov. 7 7:30 p.m.

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY 5811 S. Ellis 773-702-8670  
 Francis Alys - The Belgian artist who lives in Mexico will show an animation with all the drawings that made it and video that pointedly cross Renaissance society. Thru 12/14

# THEATER

## BAILIWICK THEATRE REPERTORY

1229 W. Belmont Ave.

773-883-1090

*A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE* explores the life of a bus conductor in Dublin who enchants his passengers with poetry readings by day and spends his evenings directing the local community theatre in plays by his idol Oscar Wilde. Through the course of tumultuous rehearsals for a production of Wilde's *SALOME* he learns much about life and art, and begins to come to terms with his own true nature.

This compelling story by playwright Terrence McNally brims with passion, humor and sexual awakenings, coupled with a gorgeous score by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, with Irish-inspired music, verse and dance.

Thru 4/20/09

## BLACK ENSEMBLE THEATER

4520 N. Beacon St.

773-769-4451

*THE OTHER CINDERELLA* - In this African American version of the timeless children's story, Cinderella was born in the projects, her mother works at the Post Office, her stepsisters are "ghetto-fabulous," and her Fairy Godmother is Jamaican. The laughs are non-stop when the king declares that his son must find a wife. In this kingdom, everybody's got soul.

Opens 10/19

## CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER

800 E. Grand Ave.

312-595-5656

*AMADEUS* by Peter Shaffer directed by Gary Griffin

Eighteenth-century Vienna is the setting, and two popular artists of the day are the protagonists in this award-winning drama based on the music and intertwining lives of the brilliant Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and his jealous rival, Court Composer Antonio Salieri.

Thru 11/9

### *EDWARD II*

Shakespeare's brilliant contemporary and rival playwright, Christopher Marlowe, penned *EDWARD II* at the end of his brief life. Now, the talented, young Chicago director Sean Graney brings a contemporary perspective to the play with his promenade production—where actors perform among standing members of the audience who are free to move about the space. This 75-minute exploration of power and persuasion marks a CST debut for both Marlowe and Graney.

10/1 thru 11/9

*A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* in Chicago Shakespeare's Courtyard Theater

A theatrical event like no other, Tim Supple's *DREAM* combines the astonishing skills of 23 actors, dancers, martial arts experts, musicians and street acrobats from across India and Sri Lanka. In eight languages (with half performed in English), this bold, revelatory production caused a great sensation in India, and has played to sold-out houses at the Royal Shakespeare Company and across the world.

11/25 thru 12/7

*MACBETH* in Chicago Shakespeare's Courtyard Theater

Unrelenting—from its dark beginning to its tragic conclusion—*Macbeth* is one of Shakespeare's most enduring and haunting plays. In this story infused with superstition, ghosts and madness, Macbeth murders his king and all who might make claim to the throne. Canadian classical actor Ben Carlson returns to CST in the title role, following his Jeff Award-winning performance here as Hamlet in 2006.

12/31 thru 3/8/09

## DRURY LANE - OAKBROOK

100 Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace

630-530-0111

*MAME*-Set in the roaring '20s, *MAME* is one of Broadway's most beloved musicals. Enjoy the unexpected as wildly eccentric Auntie Mame provides a rather unconventional upbringing for her 10-year-old nephew Patrick. A notable score by Jerry Herman includes such favorites as *Bosom Buddies*, *That's How Young I Feel*, and *We Need a Little Christmas*. Embark on this timeless classic now and "Live, live, live!"

10/9 thru 12/21

*MISS SAIGON* - Set in war torn Saigon in 1975, and created by “Les Miserables” team Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schonberg, this Broadway blockbuster is a love story of epic proportions. This extraordinary and soul-stirring musical renders haunting melodies such as *The Heat is on in Saigon* and *The American Dream*. Find out for yourself why *MISS SAIGON* is one of Broadway’s longest running musicals of all time!

12/31 thru 3/8/09

DRURY LANE - WATER TOWER

175 E. Chestnut Street

Box Office: 312-642-2000

Fax: 312-642-2012.

[www.drurylanewatertower.com](http://www.drurylanewatertower.com)

*BUDDY: THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY* - The immensely popular jukebox musical makes every Drury Lane chandelier swing. Thru 11/2

*MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS* - set at the turn of the century as the Smith family anticipates the coming of the World’s Fair, as well as a number of changes within the family. The score includes the beloved songs *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*, *The Boy Next Door*, and *The Trolley Song*. 11/12 thru 1/4/09

GOODMAN THEATRE

170 N. Dearborn St.

312-443-3811

*TURN OF THE CENTURY* - From the writers of *JERSEY BOYS* and directed by Tommy Tune, *Turn of the Century* is the season’s star-studded romantic musical comedy. Written by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice, it features Jeff Daniels and Rachel York. When a cocktail pianist with a roving eye and an aspiring chanteuse with a penchant for the standards are brought together by fate—100 years before their time—the impossible happens. Don’t miss this romantic romp through time—and the American songbook—including music from Irving Berlin, Rodgers and Hart, Rodgers and Hammerstein and so many more of your favorite composers from the 20th century. Thru 10/26

#### *RUINED*

Written by Lynn Nottage and directed by Kate Whoriskey. Tickets go on sale for this WORLD PREMIERE Friday, October 3, 2008. Set in the present-day Democratic Republic of the Congo, *Ruined* is the captivating story of Mama Nadi, a savvy businesswoman who, in the midst of a complex civil war, both protects and profits from the women whose bodies have become battlegrounds. 11/8 thru 12/7

#### CHARLES DICKENS’ *A CHRISTMAS CAROL*

Goodman Theatre’s *A Christmas Carol* has delighted Chicago audiences since the very first production 31 years ago when the Chicago *Tribune* raved: “magic took over the show.” Charles Dickens’ classic story, the exceptional actors and the miraculous stagecraft have made *A Christmas Carol* a beloved Chicago tradition. Every year, audiences look forward to the “Bah Humbugs,” the arrival of the ghosts, the music and dancing and Scrooge’s joyful discovery of life and love. Whether this is your first or your 31st visit to *A Christmas Carol*, this timeless play will put the magic in your holiday season! 11/21 thru 12/31

HARRIS THEATER

205 E. Randolph St.

312-334-7777

JERUSALEM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Israel

11/11 7:30 p.m.

ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

11/16 3 p.m.

LAR LUBOVITCH DANCE COMPANY

11/22 7:30 p.m.

DANIEL BARENBOIM IN RECITAL

12/18 7:30 p.m.

LIFE LINE THEATRE

6912 N Glenwood Ave

773-761-4477

[www.lifelinetheatre.com](http://www.lifelinetheatre.com)

*THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY*

9/12 thru 11/2

*DUCK FOR PRESIDENT*

10/11 thru 11/30

*THE MARK OF ZORRO* [Theatre Building Chicago 1225 W Belmont Ave (773) 327-5252] 9/27 thru 11/23

MARRIOTT THEATRE LINCOLNSHIRE                      10 Marriott Dr., Lincolnshire                      847-634-0200  
*ALL SHOOK UP*  
 It's *Footloose*, *Grease* and *Happy Days* all rolled into one! So "Let Yourself Go" to *All Shook Up*, and you'll be jumpin' out of your *Blue Suede Shoes*.                      9/24 thru 12/7

*THE BOWERY BOYS*  
 A World-Premiere musical of a young man's quest for the American Dream. Follow the journey of Dick Hunter, a street-wise kid, and Mary, a young British heiress, through the tough streets of Manhattan.                      12/10 thru 2/14/09

MERCURY THEATER                      3745 N. Southport Ave                      773-325-1700

*THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS*  
 Set in a strikingly eerie, elegant and austere office in Hell, the play follows an urbane senior devil, Screwtape, who confidently dictates crackling good prose to his secretary, Toadpipe. The mission: To instruct a novice demon, Wormwood, on the fine art of tempting a young Christian away from "the Enemy" (Screwtape's name for God) and bring him safely down to the ravenous "our father below."                      10/2 thru 11/9

NORTHLIGHT THEATRE                      5115 Church St. Skokie                      847-673-6300  
[northlight.org](http://northlight.org)

*DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE* - New adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's classical tale. Smart psychological thriller.                      Thru 10/26

*GREY GARDENS* - Tony Award-winning musical, a brilliant and heart-breaking look at two indomitable women. An experience no passionate theater-goer should miss.                      11/12 to 12/21

NORTH SHORE CENTER                      9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie                      847-673-6300  
 FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

*A JEW GROWS IN BROOKLYN* - Jake Ehrenreich's autobiographical comedy musical comes to the North Shore Center for a limited one-week engagement.                      11/5 thru 11/9

ROYAL GEORGE THEATRE CENTER                      1641 N Halsted St.                      312-988-9000  
*FORBIDDEN BROADWAY* - winner of the 2008 Drama Desk Award.                      10/2 thru 11/30  
 Special Holiday Edition - *FORBIDDEN BROADWAY - CHRISTMAS*                      12/3 thru 1/4/09

STEPPENWOLF THEATRE                      1650 N Halsted St                      312-335-1650

*KAFKA ON THE SHORE* - Experience the unexpected in this fantastical tale about waking up to your own life.                      9/18 thru 11/16

*THE SEAFARER* - In this eerie, darkly humorous tale the celebrated playwright Conor McPherson examines how we face the demons of our past as we struggle to find redemption.                      12/4 thru 2/8/09

TIME LINE THEATRE COMPANY                      615 W. Wellington Ave.                      773-281-TIME (8463)  
*A HOUSE WITH NO WALLS*  
 From the author of *Bee-Luther-Hatchee* and *Permanent Collection* comes this inspired-by-real-life drama. Philadelphia wants to build its new American Museum of Liberty on the grounds of George Washington's Philadelphia home and slave quarters. Soon a conservative academic star and a liberal political activist are confronting each other with polarizing questions of African-American legacy and identity. Elegantly juxtaposed with this contemporary conflict is the true story of one of Washington's slaves as she contemplates escape. The result is a thought-provoking drama that asks vital questions about where we've been and where we go next.                      11/1 thru 12/21

# New Life Members

RTAC welcomes the following Life Members and applauds their commitment to lifetime membership in the only organization that is safeguarding our pension rights and benefits. Your membership makes us stronger and better able to make our voice heard.

Patricia Ball  
Mary Ann Clancy  
Sandra A.  
Dobrovolskis  
Joanne R. Dolejsi

Sunday M. Ikoh  
Borita Khim  
John M. Lacny  
Kenneth Moore Lenon  
Nancy M. Mc Kenzie

Anthony Pekar  
Elizabeth Rouse  
Sandra Rumbler  
Karen S. Strabel  
Patricia A. Turner

## YOU KNOW YOU ARE LIVING IN 2008 WHEN. . .

1. You accidentally enter your PIN on the micro wave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.
4. You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.
5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.
6. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the groceries.
7. Every commercial on television has a website on the bottom of the screen
8. Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't even have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.
9. You get up in the morning and go on line before getting your coffee.
10. You're reading this and nodding and laughing.



## CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

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

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

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

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

NEW phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Effective date (mm/dd/yy): \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

OLD Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_

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

OLD phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

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

address, and these \_\_\_\_\_ should be mailed to my NEW address.

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

*Please mail this completed form to the RTAC office (address on next page).*

# AID FUND

By **Steven A. Kailes**, President Teachers Aid Fund, Inc.

The Chicago Retired Teachers Aid Fund has recently received several inquires regarding "gift giving" to benefit retired teachers with specific needs.

Several bequests, which had been made by retired teachers several years ago, mostly as part of their estate planning or as direct bequests, have recently been received and placed in the Fund. These new funds will go a long way in helping retired teachers who may be experiencing the effects of a sagging economy on a fixed income. The Aid Fund helps retired teachers at all income levels.

Through the efforts of the Fund, people in need are provided assistance on a monthly basis or as a one-time grant.

The Fund treasurer, **Vaughn J. Barber**, has agreed to provide assistance to persons who may wish to explore or participate in a "shared giving" program. Call Attorney Vaughn J. Barber at the RTAC office 312-939-3327.

CRTAF is establishing a special recognition plaque, permanently affixed, with the names of those who have expressed their devotion and generosity to the Fund.



-----

## DONATION FORM

### Retired Teachers Association of Chicago

20 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1500  
Chicago IL 60604-2235

My enclosed **check** (no money orders please!) for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is to cover checked items below:

- Political Education Fund (**not** tax deductible; make check payable to **RTAC COPE**)
- Chicago Retired Teachers Aid Fund (Federal 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(s) \_\_\_\_\_

*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: \_\_\_\_\_
- Just on general principles.
- Anonymously; please do NOT publish my name.

**OPTIONAL:** Please notify the following that this donation has been made.

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

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

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS TO  
CHICAGO RETIRED TEACHERS AID FUND, INC.**  
*FEDERAL TAX DEDUCTIBLE. In amounts of \$10 and  
over  
(from June 20, 2008 to September 5, 2008)*

<u>DONOR:</u>	<u>IN MEMORY OF:</u>		
Ruth P. Artisuk	Mary Rapp James Yang	Lillian and David Nach	Alice Nakazawa
Eileen A. McNulty	Eileen Burke Gerry Pyster	William E. Woods	Theodore Stolarz Joe Barich Annette Figatner Margaret McCarthy Margaret Woods Josephine Komiak
Anonymous	Eleanor Wegloski	Noreen Briggs	Sheila Dwyer
Diane and Sandy Whiteley	Jeanette R. Schoer (Retired teacher and member of RTAC Diane's mother and Sandy's mother-in-law She is missed)	Seymour R. Rabens	Charles Avichouser John Duffy Ed Uhlig
Marion E. Riordan	Ramona Riemer	Grace Luedke	Iris Burke
John Demczyk	Dr. Helen Putko Dr. Joseph Ewald Rev. Dr. Chester Mitoraj	David Kawiecki	Gerald Pyster
Paul G. Bruce	Ruby Clarke Daisy Poindexter	Eddie Smith	Inez Gray Barbara White-Walker
Bernadette M. Benson	Ronald (Ron) Hejna	Joan B. Hampton	Rosemary Madeja
Florence Halprin	Helen Hauk (nee Lamb)	John Moscinski	Kenneth Cink Sharon Goldberg Albert Orenstein
Lorraine E. Body	Iris Burke (Kinzie UGC)	Paula Grissom	Mary Jane Burns
Ruth P. Artisuk	Patrick Geraghty	Linda R. Williams	Margaret and Grant Cotton, Jr.
Robert and Judith Ghidotti	Andrew A. Kuban	Charles and Betty Kerkorian	Harry Hildebrandt
Anonymous	Leocadia Aquino Lenore Dreuth Jeanette Schorr	Mary R. Perrin	Ramona N. Riemer
Hayt School Retirees	Alice Nakazawa	Ruth A. Alexander	Barbara J. Doss Emma Lillian Van Zandt
		John Krall	Andrew Kuban
		Janette Korecki	Ramona N. Riemer
		Janette Korecki	Dorothy Lilt
		Betty Gansinger	Marilyn Schaefer

		<i>SPECIAL DONATIONS TO CHICAGO RETIRED TEACHERS AID FUND, INC.</i>	
		<u>DONOR:</u>	<u>OCCASION:</u>
Georgia M. Young	Sarah Burke Charles and Cleo Burnigue Edward Crute George and Bernice Tally John Tardif Kenneth and Agnes Stewart Sylvester O'Dell Lawrence Moorehead Doris Moore Maurice Moore Margaret Wills Annabel Williams Joyce Willilams James Wood (was married to Alice Wood for 61 years)	Barbara Behof  Marilyn E. Quas  John and Bonita Lyles  Roger M. Koenig  Anonymous  Isabel Schecter	In honor of Geraldine Rizik  General Purpose  General Purpose  In honor of: Retired Teachers of John H. Kinzie/Kennedy H.S.  General Purpose  Celebrating a great guy Richard Englund
Eileen A. McNulty	Florence Bodanis Madelynn Martino	Marcella E. Gillie	General Purpose
Rina M. Naddeo	Dr. Carmen Carsello Ms. Agnes Siliger	Sandra Maison Rosen  Eugene Jerkatis	General Purpose  In honor of all CPS Personnel who served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States
Georgia M. Young	Albert Beasle Ross (was married to Mary Ann Ross for 61 years)	Jane Yakushiji	General Purpose
Rose Ann and Jim Skirha	Ed Quinn	Paula Grissom	Happy Birthyday, Mattie Young
Elizabeth and Rocco Smerialio	Emmanuel "Muggs" Migliorisi	Mary R. Perrin	In honor of Harion Hoffing Sam Dolnick James Ward
Rosemary L. Tirio	Nathalia Payne	Anonymous	General Purpose
Robert Konen	Eugene Griffin Joan O'Kane	Georgia M. Young	In honor of Dr. Nina Jones's 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday, August 3, 2008
Pat Faire Eugene Jerkatis	Anne Taylor Grace A. Luedke	Sandra A. Morrison	General Purpose
Mary K. Dowd	Leonard Jareczek Arthur Cervinka Fred Delancy Laura Damata Jane Cates Charles H Avichouser		



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

FOR THE GENERAL EXPENSE FUND

**NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE.** *In amounts of  
 \$10 and over*

*(from June 20, 2008 to September 5, 2008)*

<u>DONOR:</u>	<u>IN MEMORY OF:</u>
Irving Wishner	Allen Nelson
Maggie F. Jackson	Edna Murray Wilhelmina Coleman Olveta Benson
James Kielty	Donald Racky, Sr.
John Demczyk	David A. Schaible Dale Lamos
Charles Tauchman	Iris V. Burke John P. McGovern
Rozanne O. Deutsch	Dr. Bebe Jacquelyn Goodall
Lawrence Balsevicis	Richard Lubera
Robert P. Matthews	Jane Zarlenga
Angelo and Joan Magnavite	John Fiszer
Ellen Mallette	Grace Luedke
Georgia J. Chrisos	Grace Luedke

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

<u>DONOR:</u>	<u>OCCASION</u>
Anonymous	General Purpose
Anne W. Banner	Happy Birthday, Judith Kesler

**REPORT OF THE RTAC SERVICE  
 COMMITTEE**

*By Marcella Morrison, Service Committee Chairman*

Eleven members of the Service Committee met on Aug. 28 and addressed 132 birthday cards and messages to RTAC members celebrating birthdays in September. Of this group, only one special member reached the century mark. Birthday cards are sent to all RTAC members 85 years of age and older. Volunteers are always needed and welcome.

**THE WEBMASTER'S REPORT**

*by Roy Coleman*

The RTAC website (<http://www.rtac.org>) has the latest breaking news about legislation and other matters that may be of concern to our retirees. It is currently averaging several hundred hits per day. Please check it often.

If you are looking for a way to volunteer, check the 'Volunteer' page. If you are looking for a part-time or full-time job, check the 'Jobs' Page. If you are looking for reunions, check the 'Reunion' page. Job and volunteer opportunities are posted as they are received. Job offers remain posted for one year or until we are notified that the job offer has expired, withdrawn or been filled.

We appreciate your input with jokes, reunion news, job and volunteer opportunities and anything else you feel might be of general interest. E-mail your comments to [rtac-webster@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rtac-webster@sbcglobal.net)

**EX-EDITOR BROWN IN THE NEWS AGAIN**

Editor Emeritus **V.K. Brown's** letter-to-the-editor was published in the *Chicago Tribune's* "The Voice of the People" Saturday, Sept. 6. If you didn't catch it, it is reprinted below:

"A lot of folks seem upset by Barack Obama's lack of experience.

"I think we should be grateful. Nobody has more experience on the actual job than George W. Bush, and all he has to show for it is the worst approval ratings in history."

# THE RTAC DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

## CRITERIA FOR SELECTING CANDIDATES

*THIS AWARD IS TO RECOGNIZE NON-BOARD MEMBERS OF RTAC FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE.*

*CRITERIA FOR SELECTION ARE THE FOLLOWING:*

1. Members who share and exemplify the vision and mission of RTAC.
2. Members who, since retirement, contribute to local, state or national affairs with their time, talent and leadership.
3. Members who, even though retired, are still making an impact in the field of Education.
4. Members who contribute to the well-being of retired teachers.

**NOMINATION FORMS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DEC. 31.**



### RTAC Distinguished Service Award Nomination Form

1. Please type or print all entries.
2. Use one form per nomination. You may duplicate this form as needed.
3. Include a single-sheet statement of why you are nominating this person for the award. Attach any other documentation you may have supporting your nomination.
4. Fill in this form completely.
5. Remember to sign the form.

NOMINEE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

IS NOMINEE AN RTAC MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING? YES \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ I DON'T KNOW \_\_\_\_\_

NOMINATOR'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP:

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAIL THE COMPLETED FORM AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION TO THE RTAC OFFICE, 20 EAST JACKSON BLVD., SUITE 1500, CHICAGO, IL, 60604-2235, ATTN: 2009 RTAC DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION

**ALL NOMINATION FORMS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY DEC. 31, 2008, OR EARLIER**

## LETTERS, WE GET LETTERS. . . .

Dear Marion [*Hoffing, Chicago Scene editor*],

I see that you have Cantigny Gardens listed as one of the Public Gardens to visit. [See Chicago Scene" July Issue] On behalf of my daughter, Diane, who is the Director of the Robert R. McCormick Mansion Museum at Cantigny, I would like to alert you to the fact that the Mansion often has concerts and other activities as well. I think you can find a list of all the activities on their website [www.Cantigny.org](http://www.Cantigny.org) or call at (630) 668-5161. Oh, and the Red Oak Room on the Golf course has great food. In addition they are opening a Cafe and Gourmet Coffee Shop Aug. 17 either in the First Div. Museum or in the visitors center. I suspect that our retired teachers would be interested in most of the activities as well as the garden, which by the way is quite beautiful as are all the grounds. Getting to Cantigny is really quite easy, I-88 to Winfield Rd., North on Winfield to just before Roosevelt Rd. Entrance on the right.

As for me, I have been doing some advocacy work as a State-appointed Surrogate Parent for wards of the State for the last 15 years or so. I am winding down and have only two at this time. Just got back from a tour of Istanbul and a boat tour of the Ukraine from Odessa, Yalta, Sevastopol and up the Dnieper River to Kiev. Otherwise I've been doing a bit of genealogical research on both mine and my husband's family, which involves spending lots of time on the computer. I don't know if anyone is interested, since it will be over by the time the next bulletin comes out, but I will be having hip surgery in August. I still see several former teachers of the Homebound and Hospitalized Handicapped children. There are still a few of us around.

Thanks,

Alice Rifkind Gutenkauf

Retired, Due Process Coordinator, Teacher Homebound and Hospitalized Handicapped Children, and former Teacher Burbank Spec. Ed.

*John Krall, a former CPS teacher and professional locksmith who now runs King Locksmith of Calumet City, wrote the following to advise News Bulletin readers that taping over your VIN number as the "What Will the Car Thieves Think of Next?" article on page 8 of the July issue suggested is not likely to prevent car thefts:*

### **AUTOMOBILE THIEVES ARE ALMOST OUT OF BUSINESS**

Placing a cover over your vin number on the dashboard will, in my opinion, be of little value in car theft prevention. In the late 1980s, General Motors developed the first transponder ignition for cars. Overnight, they reduced the theft of Corvettes from 70 percent to 5 percent. Today, transponders are in 85 percent of the vehicles on the road.

While the vin number of a car can be used to generate a key for a transponder car (or almost any vehicle for that matter), it would be valueless because a transponder key must be programmed into the onboard computer. The person generating a key from a vin number would, by law, be required to establish that the person requesting a key for a car has a legal right to the key. In the case of transponder keys, the programmer is also bound by the same law.

While this article is an oversimplification of this situation, the facts tell us that it is nearly impossible for some devious person to steal a car with a transponder just by having a its vin number.

Peace & happiness to my fellow retirees.

## HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, MILDRED FISHER

I am writing on behalf of MILDRED T. FISHER, my mother-in-law, who celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in Largo, Florida, on June 28, 2008. I know that your [Service] committee has already contacted her to complete an information form in recognition of her birthday. She seemed so pleased that she was remembered by you.

Mildred is an absolutely amazing centenarian! She and her husband, Ralph Fisher, were some of the first residents of Edgebrook on the North Side of Chicago, having built their house in 1938 when the roads were not yet paved and there were gas lamps lit by a boy on a bike making his nightly rounds. She was a longtime resident of Edgebrook, a member of Edgebrook Community Church where she taught Sunday School. Her classes were held in the church basement as the church sanctuary was being built after the war.

As you know by your records, Mildred taught elementary students in the Chicago Public Schools. She also was active as PTA President at

Edgebrook and Wildwood Elementary schools, as well as Taft High School where her three sons attended. Mildred and her husband moved from Edgebrook to Florida in 1972.

I am enclosing an invitation to her birthday party to give you a more complete picture of this outstanding woman. Some of her students might remember her. I hope that you might be able to print a story about her in an upcoming issue of your publication.



*Centenarian Mildred Fisher*

*Terry H. Fisher, Honolulu, Hawaii*

---

### AND PHONE CALLS. . . .

#### A HEALTH TIP THAT WORKED

Noreen Nagle called to say that the "Health Tip" article in last quarter's issue ("Humming Your Way to Clearer Sinuses"), actually worked for her. "I've had sinus problems forever. I've been humming ever since I got the [RTAC News] *Bulletin* and it's cleared up my sinuses."

#### CORRECTIONS

Susan Brian phoned to let us know that the information supplied by the CTPF regarding the passing of Joyce E. Fairbairn was incorrect. According to Susan, Joyce retired from the Sumner Elementary School, not Whitney Young High School as reported in the July "Friends Gone Ahead." Also, Joyce was 69, not 70.

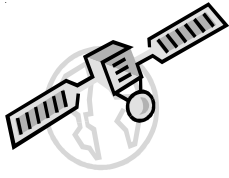
Elizabeth Smith informed us that the Black Ensemble Theatre is located at 4520 N. Beacon St., NOT 777 N. Green St. as listed in the July *News Bulletin*. We apologize.

#### MEDI-CHECK CARDS STILL AVAILABLE

Pete Mayer, founder of the Medi-Check International Foundation, called July 25 to report how delighted he was to receive applications for the Medi-Check Medical Emergency Card along with donations and notes from four RTAC members.

By July 30, nine more had also applied for cards, and by press time, a total of 20 members had sent for and received the emergency medical information cards. "That's a potential of 20 lives saved," Pete said.

Pete invites any other RTAC members who would like to receive the Medi-Check card free of charge to send a stamped, self-addressed #10 envelope to Medi-Check International Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 1062, Morton Grove, IL 60053. Please mention that you are an RTAC member. A small donation would be appreciated but is not required.



## SATELLITE DOINGS

# SAN DIEGO SATELLITE

By **Sam Dolnick**

The upcoming meeting of our San Diego RTAC Satellite group will be held on Tuesday, October 14 at the Olive Garden Restaurant. We are hoping for even more members to attend. We had an increase from 14 in October 2007 to 18 at our April luncheon/business meeting. Dare we to hope for 22 at our October meeting?

Thanks again to **Linda Mooney** who made all the arrangements for our upcoming meeting at the Olive Garden.

Thanks to the RTAC members who contacted us with the whereabouts of **Louise Daugherty** and **Yvonne Crute**. We were pleased to learn that Louise is now residing in a retirement home on the

South Side of Chicago, and Yvonne is living in a residential facility here in San Diego. If any RTAC members would like to contact either Louise or Yvonne, please feel free to contact me for their addresses.

We hope that all our colleagues had a wonderful summer, and we wish you a happy and healthy fall season to come.

With fondest regards.

*Sam Dolnick*  
5706-348 Baltimore Drive  
La Mesa, CA 91942-1654  
Phone/Fax: 619-697-485  
[samdolnick@juno.com](mailto:samdolnick@juno.com)

## HEALTH NOTES

### The Power of Antioxidants...

Most cancers don't develop overnight or out of nowhere. Cancer is largely predictable, the end result of a decades-long process, but just a few simple changes in your daily life can significantly reduce your risk. Here are some tips.

1. Add garlic to everything you eat. Garlic contains sulfur compounds that may stimulate the immune system's natural defenses against cancer and may have the potential to reduce tumor growth. Studies suggest that garlic can reduce the incidence of stomach cancer

2. Sauté two cloves of crushed garlic in two tablespoons of olive oil, then mix in a can of low-sodium, diced tomatoes. Stir gently until heated and serve over whole wheat pasta. The lycopene in the tomatoes protects against colon, prostate, and bladder cancers; the olive oil helps your body absorb the lycopene; and the fiber-filled pasta reduces your risk of colon cancer. They taste great!

3. Store cut-up pieces of cantaloupe in the refrigerator and eat several pieces every morning. Cantaloupe is a great source of carotenoids, plant chemicals shown to reduce the risk of lung cancer.

4. Mix half a cup of blueberries into your morning cereal. Blueberries rank number one in terms of their antioxidant power. Antioxidants neutralize free radicals, which are unstable compounds that can damage cells and lead to diseases including cancer.

5. Learn to eat artichokes. Artichokes are a great source of silymarin, an antioxidant that may help prevent skin cancer. To eat these delicious veggies, peel off the tough outer leaves on the bottom, slice the bottom, and cut off the spiky top. Then boil or steam until tender, about 30-45 minutes (10-14 minutes by microwave). Drain. Dip each leaf in a vinaigrette or garlic mayonnaise, then gently tear the fibrous covering off with your front teeth, working your way inward to the tender heart. Scoop the bristles from the middle of the heart, dip in a little butter or lemon juice, and enjoy!

## **FRIENDS GONE AHEAD**

*Requiescant in pace*

### **ALLEN, THELMA C.**

Neé Clay. Thelma retired in 1988 from the Douglas School ending a 37-year career. At the end of her life on July 17, 2008, she was 85 years old.

### **ALLEN, THEODORE M.**

Theodore resigned from the Tilton Elementary School in 1993 after a 38-year career. He was 78 years old when he died on August 4, 2008.

### **BANKS, CATHERINE.**

Neé Bailey. After 17 years in the Chicago School system, Catherine retired from the Melody School in 1998. When death took her on May 14, 2008, she was 80 years old.

### **BARBER, BERNICE R.**

Neé Rooney. When Bernice retired from the Beaubien School in 1968, she ended a 24-year career. She expired on July 13, 2008, having achieved the age of 99 years.

### **BEARD, BARNEY**

A teacher for 27 years, Barney was at Morgan Park High School when he retired in 1993. He passed on at the age of 79 on May 30, 2008.

### **BERTHA, HELEN M.**

Neé Mack. Helen was a teacher at Henderson when she resigned in 1993 after a 36-year teaching career. Her life ended at the age of 79 on June 8, 2008.

### **BIRCHETTE, FONTELLA L.**

Fontella ended an 11-year career by resigning from the Hyde Park Career Academy in 2000, and on July 28, 2008, expired after reaching 74 years.

### **BOI, NANCY J.**

Nancy was 69 at her death on July 5, 2008. She ended her 39-year career when she retired from Scammon in 2001.

### **BOYD, TONIETTA A.**

Neé Rhea. Tonietta was assigned to Jose De Diego when she retired in 2003 after 36 years in the Chicago system. She was 63 when she went to her reward on June 5, 2008.

### **BROODERSON, MARVIN H.**

In 2002, Marvin left the Rogers School as Assistant Principal after a career that lasted 51 years. When his life ended on June 25, 2008, he was 78 years of age.

### **BROWN, CHRISTANN.**

Neé Weddington. Christann succumbed on August 24, 2008, at the age of 65. She served 31 years, resigning from the Coonley School in 2006.

### **BURKE, EILEEN B.**

Eileen was at Cleveland when she retired in 1988 after 38 years. She was 90 when she passed away on July 6, 2008

### **CALLOWAY, PATRICIA A.**

In 2007, Patricia left the Spencer School after a career that lasted 32 years. When her life ended on July 6, 2008, she was 59 years of age.

### **COLEMAN, WILHELMINA.**

When she retired in 1991 from the Overton School, Wilhelmina had taught for 25 years. She was 90 years of age at her death on June 13, 2008.

### **CONNERY, JOSEPH J.**

Joseph succumbed on July 15, 2008, at the age of 85. He served 39 years, resigning as Assistant to the Deputy Superintendent of Field Management in 1984.

### **CRAIN, STEPHANIE.**

Neé Piorkowski. Stephanie's 36-year career in the Chicago schools ended when she retired from Hancock in 1975. On May 28, 2008, at the time she succumbed, she was 96 years old.

### **CREAN, JOSEPH G.**

Joseph was with the Chicago School System for 20 years, the last at Loop Junior College as Associate Professor when he retired in 1980. He was 89 years old when death took him on June 26, 2008.

**CRIMMINS, MARIAN B.**

Neé Schmitz. Marian was at Schubert when she resigned in 1980 after 23 years in the Chicago Public Schools. She was 91 on June 28, 2008, when she passed on.

**CROCKETT, GEORGE E.**

A 37-year career in Chicago Schools came to an end for George when he left the Marshall High School in 2000. He died on August 15, 2008, at the age of 68 years.

**DENISON, IRENE.**

Neé Warren. Irene left the position of Coordinator in District #22 in 1977 after a career that spanned 32 years. She expired at the age of 96, on July 25, 2008.

**DILLARD, BOBBY G.**

Bobby was affiliated with the Chicago Public Schools for 31 years when he retired from the Mason School in 1998. At the time of his death on June 25, 2008, he was 70 years of age.

**DIVER, GENEVIEVE E.**

Her 40-year career ended at Kennedy High School in 1973 when Genevieve retired. Death came for her on June 14, 2008, at the age of 100.

**DIXON, LEOLA H.**

Neé Graves. A Coordinator in the Bureau. Of Teacher Personnel when she retired in 1984 after 36 years, Leola passed away on August 14, 2008, at the age of 94 years.

**DIXON, MARY L.**

Last assigned to Carpenter, Mary retired in 1990 after 35 years of service. She passed away on June 3, 2008, at 81 years of age.

**DONIAT, LOUISE A.**

Neé Anderson. Louise's career of 11 years came to an end as she left Kelly High School in 1989. When she passed away on August 18, 2008 she had reached the age of 86

**DRAVILLAS, ELAINE M.**

Neé Mezlison. Her career of 34 years ended when she left the Steinmetz High School in 1998. Elaine died on August 24, 2008, at the age of 66.

**DWYER, SHEILA M.**

Sheila passed on at age 71 on June 20, 2008. She resigned in 1998 after a 39-year career that ended at Mt. Greenwood

**EGAN, JANET G.**

Janet succumbed at age 70 on August 3, 2008. She taught for 22 years before retiring from Young Elementary School in 1996.

**EGELHOF, ARDELLE M.**

Neé Schroer. When she retired from Lafayette in 1984, Ardelle's career spanned 26 years in Chicago with eight years outside Chicago. At the end of her life on April 26, 2008, she was 86 years of age.

**EIDEN, ELAINE C.**

Neé Colfer Her 21-year teaching career ended when Elaine retired from Chalmers in 1988. She was 90 when her life ended on June 2, 2008.

**EMERY, CORINNE M.**

Neé Suttles. In 1986, when Corinne was at the Reavis Elementary School, she retired after 38 years. She was 86 years old when she expired on August 10, 2008.

**ESGUERRA, CRES C.**

Neé Cresenciano. At the close of her life on February 9, 2008, Cres was 70 years old. A teacher for 13 years in Chicago and 18 years outside Chicago, she retired from Tilden High School in 2003

**FELICIANO, MADELINE D.**

In 2008, when she retired from the Portage Park School, Madeline ended her 27-year career with the Chicago School system. On May 24, 2008, her life ended after 57 years.

**FISZER, JOHN.**

John was 77 years old at his death on June 10, 2008. He resigned from Lenart School in 1990 after 30 years in Chicago.

**FORD, MAXINE**

Neé Miller. Maxine was 86 years old at her death on July 10, 2008. She resigned from Bowen High School in 1981 after 21 years in the Chicago system.

**GIERSCH, DONALD C.**

On July 7, 2008, Donald passed on at the age of 75 years. He had spent 12 years in the Chicago Schools and 25 elsewhere when he resigned from Taft High School in 1991.

**GOODALL, BEBE J.**

Neé Bibb. At the age of 85, Bebe passed away on July 25, 2008. After 38 years in the system, she resigned from Doolittle East in 1992.

**GORDON, DEBORA D.**

Neé Danish. After a career that lasted 30 years, Debora retired from Webster in 1980. She was 93 when she died on June 5, 2008.

**GROGAN, JEANNETTE.**

Neé Hirschfield. Jeannette served the Chicago Public Schools for 45 years, retiring from the Sullivan School in 1971. She was 102 when death took her on August 5, 2008.

**HANLON, BARBARA G.**

Neé Grealis. Barbara was 101 years old when she died on July 20, 2008. She was at Cooley when she resigned in 1968 after a 27 year career in Chicago and seven years of teaching outside Chicago.

**HARRIS, OTHA L.**

A 17-year career in the Chicago Public Schools and four years' teaching outside the Chicago system ended when Otha, who expired at the age of 74 on May 8, 2008, retired from Jordan Community as a Counselor in 2005.

**HARVELL, CLARA M.**

Neé Burrell. When she resigned after 29 years in 1999, Clara was at Chicago Vocational High. On May 15, 2008, she died at the age of 60.

**HAYNES, DORIS M.**

Neé McGee. Doris had reached 94 years of age when her life came to a close on August 9, 2008. Her 15-year career ended when she resigned from the Morgan School in 1974. She also taught nine years in another school system.

**HEJNA, ROMUALD L.**

Romuald resigned from Hubbard High School in 1987 after a 29-year career in Chicago and two years' teaching outside Chicago. He died on July 3, 2008, at the age of 77 years.

**HENDERLEITER, WILLIAM M.**

William's career of 13 years as a Substitute teacher came to an end in 1992. When he passed away on June 20, 2008, he had reached the age of 81.

**HENDERSON, ZEPORA**

Neé Cobert. Zepora resigned from the Anderson School in 1992 after a 30-year career. She was 85 years old when she died on June 1, 2008.

**HILDEBRANDT, HARRY**

Harry retired from Taft High School in 1998 after a career that lasted for 34 years. He expired on August 6, 2008, at the age of 67 years.

**HILL, WILLIAM D.**

In 1991, when he retired from the Cuffe School, William ended his 36-year career with the Chicago School system. On, June 10, 2008 his life ended after 82 years.

**HOFFMAN, F VIRGINIA**

Neé Fritsch. After a career that spanned 22 years, Virginia retired from Edward White in 1976. She expired on June 20, 2008, at the age of 92.

**HOWARD, RUTH N.**

Neé Robbins. Ruth retired from Shoop in 1987 after teaching for 26 years. On July 12, 2008, she died at age 87

**HUGHES, BERTHA L.**

On July 21, 2008, Bertha passed on, at the age of 68 years. She had spent 34 years in the schools when she resigned from Jensen Academy in 2000.



**HUGHES, DEBORAH J.**

Deborah was associated with the Chicago Schools for 33 years, the last at the Field Primary School, where she was when she retired in 2001. She was 62 years old when death took her on July 3, 2008.

**HUTCHINS, ETHEL E.**

Ethe retired from the Carver Primary School in 1998, ending a 44-year career. On July 16, 2008, when she passed on, she was 81 years old.

**IORIO, JAMES R.**

James ended a 37-year career when he left Henry in 1982. When he died on June 3, 2008, he was 87 years of age.

**JOURAS, EVANGELINE**

When she retired from De Witt Clinton School in 1982, Evangeline ended a career that included 24 years in the Chicago system. Death claimed her on July 11, 2008, at the age of 92 years.

**KAHN, CARYL**

Caryl retired in 1992 while at the McCutcheon School, ending a 30-year career, and passed away on May 27, 2008, at the age of 87.

**KEATING, MICHAEL R.**

In 1992, Michael retired from the Industrial Skill Center after 35 years of teaching. On August 22, 2008, he passed on at the age of 74 years.

**KELLY, BERNARD T.**

When he left as a Principal in Dist. 158 in 1991, Bernard put a 10-year career to an end. His life ended on June 20, 2008, at the age of 73.

**KENNY, VIRGINIA H.**

Neé Harrington. Virginia resigned in 1980 from Ward, ending a 20-year time span in the Chicago system. She was 84 at the time of her death on May 21, 2008.

**KERMAN, PAUL S.**

Paul retired from Nixon in 2005 after teaching for 36 years. On August 5, 2008, he died at age 61.

**KIRKPATRICK, ROBERT**

When he retired in 1987 from the Stockton School as Assistant Principal, Robert had taught for 36 years. He was 79 years of age at his death on August 27, 2008.

**KNOPPEL, EVELYN F.**

Death came for Evelyn on August 3, 2008, when she was 92 years old. She ended her career at Greene in 1974, after 36 years.

**KOSIEK, LEONARD J.**

Leonard succumbed at age 82 on May 29, 2008. He taught for 34 years before retiring from Kelly High School in 1993.

**LEBOVITZ, EILEEN N.**

Neé Averbach. When Eileen retired in 1984 from Stowe, her career had lasted 22 years. Her life ended at the age of 79 on July 17, 2008

**LEVIT, GRACE E.**

Grace died on June 26, 2008, at the age of 81. Her career of 13 years ended when she retired from the Central Office in 2000.

**LUGO, FILOMENA**

Neé Vega. Filomena had taught for 29 years before she retired in 2007 from the Avondale School. She was 69 when her life ended on August 24, 2008.

**MACKIN, MELVIN S.**

When Melvin retired in 1981 from Peabody as Assistant Principal, his career had lasted 34 years. His life ended at the age of 91 on July 23, 2008.

**MADEJA, ROSEMARY.**

Rosemary resigned from Hurley in 2001 after 38 years. On August 3, 2008, she passed on at the age of 65 years.

**MANIOTIS, EVELYN**

Evelyn was at Foreman High School when she retired in 1992 after a 35-year career. She was 91 when she died on August 1, 2008.

**MARSH, MARIE A.**

Neé Nelson. When she resigned from Hilliard in 1991, Marie capped a 35-year career. She was 78 when she died on July 6, 2008.

**MARTYNIUK, ROMAN**

After a career of two years as a Substitute teacher, Roman retired in 2002. He expired on May 25, 2008, at the age of 67.

**MC ALEENAN, OWEN M.**

A teacher at Bogan High School when he resigned in 2001, Owen had served for 37 years. He was 65 on the date of his passing, August 26, 2008.

**MC CRACKEN, BERNADETTE**

Neé Wallace. After a career of 33 years, Bernadette retired from the Clinton School in 1972. She died on July 12, 2008, at the age of 96.

**MC ELROY, THOMAS D.**

When he resigned after 38 years in 1994, Thomas was Assistant Principal at the Disney School. On May 20, 2008, he died at the age of 75.

**MC GUAN, CATHERINE**

Neé Regan. A 28-year career in Chicago Schools came to an end for Catherine when she left Bogan High School in 1979. She died on August 26, 2008, at the age of 92 years.

**MELONEY, CHARLOTTE L.**

When she retired from Garvey in 2002, Charlotte ended a career of 34 years. She was 66 when her life came to a close on July 26, 2008.

**MIGLIORISI, EMMANUEL**

Life ended for Emmanuel at the age of 83 on August 15, 2008. He retired as a Coordinator from Central Office in 1987, at the end of a 38-year career.

**MOORE, LILLIE M.**

Neé Turner. Lillie retired from Robeson in 1999 after a 38-year career. Death came for her at age 75 on August 2, 2008.

**MORRISON, DELORES E.**

Neé Edwards. After teaching 38 years, Delores resigned from the DoolittleWest School in 1992. She was 78 when death claimed her on July 25, 2008.

**MORRISON, DELORES E.**

Neé Edwards. In 1997, Delores retired from Doolittle West after 24 years of teaching. On July 28, 2008, she passed on at the age of 78 years.

**MURPHY, BEATRICE L.**

Neé Lafferty When her life ended on August 18, 2008, Beatrice was 92 years old. Her retirement in 1982 from Beale marked the end of a 27-year career in Chicago with six years' teaching outside.

**NAKAZAWA, ALICE S.**

Neé Takahashi. Alice's 22-year career in Chicago with two years' teaching outside Chicago ended in 1988 when she resigned from Hayt. Death claimed her on July 22, 2008, at the age of 89.

**NELSON, ALLEN GEORGE**

When he retired from Altgeld School in 2006, Allen ended a career that included 35 years in the Chicago system. Death claimed him on June 20, 2008, at the age of 60 years.

**NELSON, ELIZABETH**

Neé McDermott. Elizabeth retired in 1989 from the Hale School, after teaching 38 years. Her life ended on August 23, 2008, at the age of 88 years.

**NEWTON, STEVE**

His 32-year teaching career ended when. Steve retired as Principal from Marshall High School in 2002. He was 65 when his life ended on June 22, 2008.

**NORVILAS, ANNE M.**

On June 2, 2008, life came to a close for Anne at the age of 65. She had been at the Peck School, retiring in 2002 at the end of a 37-year career in the Public Schools.

**ORTEGA, MARGUERITE**

Life ended for Marguerite at the age of 57 on June 1, 2008. She retired from Mireles in 2008, at the end of a 30-year career.

**PAYNE, NATHALIA E.**

At her death on July 22, 2008, Nathalia was 69 years old. Her 37-year career ended when she resigned from Whitney Young High School in 1993.

**PICHENY, DORA**

Neé Worthman. Dora retired from the Ray/Harte School in 1973, after a 21-year career in Chicago and 10 years in another school system. She succumbed on May 26, 2008, at the age of 100.

**PIERRE, CHARLES F.**

Charles resigned as a Substitute teacher in 1999 after 12 years. He was 70 when he expired on August 6, 2008.

**PORTER, DELORIS M.**

Neé McGowen Deloris was at the Penn School when she retired in 1993 after a 36-year teaching career. She was 78 at the time of her death on June 22, 2008.

**QUINN, EDWARD T.**

Edward resigned in 1994 from Hammond, ending a 25-year time span in the Chicago system. He was 71 at the time of his death on July 19, 2008.

**RITCHIE, ELMER J.**

Elmer expired on July 8, 2008, at the age of 90. His career of 18 years ended when he retired from the Washburne Trade School in 1987.

**ROBERTS, DONNA KONA**

Neé Hines. Donna retired from the Best Practice High School in 2006 after a career that lasted for 23 years. She expired on July 31, 2008, at the age 60 years.

**ROCKFORD, MARION E.**

Neé Porter. Marion was at Westinghouse High School when she retired in 1992 after a 36-year career. She was 88 when she died on May 23, 2008.

**ROGERS, ANN R.**

Neé Rollison. After teaching 39 years, Ann resigned in 1993 from McDowell. She succumbed at the age of 73 on July 31, 2008.

**ROSE, GUSSIE M.**

Neé Hinton. Ending a 28-year career, Gussie left Chicago Vocational High School in 1994. When she died on August 12, 2008, she was 83 years of age.

**RUBLY, MARGARET R.**

Neé Rice. On June 12, 2008, Margaret passed away at the age of 94 years. She retired from Lake View High School in 1979 after 31 years of teaching.

**RYAN, LENORE D.**

Neé Drury. A teacher for 21 years, Lenore was at Eberhart when she retired in 1976. She passed on at the age of 94 on July 23, 2008.

**SANDOR, MARION.**

Resigning from the Warren School in 1978 after a career that lasted 21 years, Marion passed on at the age of 95 on August 4, 2008.

**SCHMIDT, ELIZABETH**

Elizabeth died on May 23, 2008, at the age of 95 years. She retired from the McCutcheon School in 1984 after a career of 25 years.

**SCHOER, LAVERNE M**

Neé De-Young. Life ended for Laverne on March 7, 2008, at the age of 90 years. She ended her nine-year career at the Garvey School in 1985. She also taught for six years outside the Chicago system.

**SCOTESE, JOHN R.**

After a career that lasted 38 years, John retired from Cook County Juvenile Detention School in 1986. He was 81 when he died on August 5, 2008.

**SMITH, EUGENE**

At the close of his life on July 5, 2008, Eugene was 69 years old. A teacher for 25 years, he retired from Crane High School in 2004.

**SMOTHERS, DORIS M.**

Neé West. In 1993, Doris resigned from the Pritzker School as a Social Worker after a 37-year career. When she expired on July 4, 2008, she was 81 years old.

**SOLOMON, JOYCE A.**

Neé Arkin. Joyce was affiliated with the Chicago Public Schools for 21 years when she retired from the Wadsworth School in 1983. At the time of her death on July 15, 2008, she was 80 years of age.

**SOPRYCH, CELIA**

Neé Rendak. Celia passed away on June 12, 2008. She was at Gage Park High School in 1993 when she ended a 36-year career in the Chicago system.

**STOLARZ, THEODORE**

Theodore was at The City Colleges when he retired in 1983. His career spanned eight years, and he succumbed at the age of 80 on June 3, 2008.

**STOREY, MARIE A.**

Marie ended a 34 -year career when she resigned from the Ebinger Elementary School in 1993. At her death on July 16, 2008, she was 75 years old.

**STRAKA, ELEANOR**

After a 41-year teaching career, Eleanor retired from Sullivan High School in 1971. She died on June 6, 2008, at age 99.

**STRASSMAN, BETTE**

After 34 years in Chicago Schools, Bette retired from Roosevelt High School in 1992. She was 71 when she expired on July 6, 2008

**STREET, ALFRED B.**

After 32 years, Alfred resigned from Julian High School in 1994. Death took him on August 6, 2008; he was 64 at the time.

**SVATOS, KENNETH W.**

After 22 years in the Chicago School system, Kenneth retired from the Bethune School in 1996. When Death took him on July 11, 2008, he was 72 years old.

**THO-MAZ, SYDNEY**

Sydney. was at Spaulding High School when he resigned in 2004 after 35 years in the Chicago Public Schools. He was 73 on May 23, 2008, when he passed on.

**TURLEY, MARJORIE F.**

Neé Frozeth. After 22 years, Marjorie resigned from Calumet High School in 1983. Death took her on May 18, 2008; she was 88 at the time.

**VAN ZANDT, EMMA L.**

A teacher at Douglas when she resigned in 1980, Emma had served for 28 years. She was 86 on the date of her passing, July 31, 2008.

**VAUGHNS, EDNA ROSE**

Neé Easton A teacher in the Kohn School when she retired in 1987 after 37 years, Edna passed away on June 22, 2008, at the age of 83 years.

**WALKER, DREW**

Drew left the Tilton Elementary School. in 1972 after a career that lasted for 41 years. He expired at the age of 98, on August 24, 2008.

**WASHINGTON, THEODORE M.**

On July 22, 2008, Theodore passed away at the age of 69 years. He retired as Principal from Randolph in 1998 after 39 years of teaching.

**WEATHERSBY, LEROY**

Leroy had taught for 37 years before he retired in 1989 from the Smyth School. He was 84 when his life ended on June 11, 2008.

**WINTER, RONALD**

After a career of three years in Chicago and 20 years outside Chicago, Ronald retired as a Substitute in 1999. He died on June 1, 2008, at the age of 64.



## A FAMILY OF TEACHERS

“God writes straight with crooked lines,” and nothing could be more true than the following story and how it found its way into the *News Bulletin*.

Ellen Clark, the sister of Mary Norinne Clark who passed away last December 4, phoned to ask that Mary’s name be entered in the “Friends Gone Ahead” section. A call to Frances Radencic at the Pension Board, explained the omission of Mary’s name in the December Death Report: she hadn’t yet retired.

Mary was still teaching Art at the Richard J. Daley School before her untimely passing. There she had received an Oppenheimer Grant to teach about art and artists throughout history. Mary’s students presented a “Millennium Fashion Show” dressing up as famous historical personages such as St. Thomas Aquinas and Joan of Arc. During her almost 30-year career, Mary and her students worked on many projects that will be long remembered. While at the Powell School, Mary restored a large mural and also created a 7-ft. by 9-ft. map of the world on another wall. A large quilt composed of panels about the lives of various people was another of Mary’s outstanding projects.

Returning Ellen’s call to explain that Mary did not qualify for the *News Bulletin*, we spoke with Mary’s mother, Margaret Mary Conron Clark, and so discovered a family that contributed five teachers and over 150 years of service to the school-children of Chicago.

The late Mary and her sister Ellen represent the third generation of CPS teachers in the Conron-Clark family. Norinne O’Connor Conron, their grandmother, went back to the days of the Great Depression when teachers were paid in scrip instead of money. The scrip was accepted by only a few merchants on Chicago’s South Side where the family has always made their home. Margaret remembers accompanying her mother when she and other unpaid teachers marched on City Hall. “My mother never got a pension and was never reimbursed for the money lost during the Depression,” Margaret said.

Nonetheless, Margaret pursued her dream of teaching in the Back of the Yards neighborhood.

After graduating from Chicago Teachers College, Margaret taught third and fourth grades at the Francis Parkman School. There she met her future husband, John Clark, who taught sixth grade. Margaret transferred to Hedges School where her mother had taught years earlier, and John was reassigned to Riis. Soon Margaret and John were together again when both were transferred to Edgar Allan Poe School.

After a year’s engagement, the young teachers married. They had seven children, “the longest maternity leave on record,” Margaret quipped. While Margaret cared for their large family, John worked two jobs and taught summer school and night school. “As soon as I could, I went back [to teaching],” Margaret said.

By that time, John was Assistant Principal at the Poe School, and the last of the Clark children was in kindergarten. When the principal at Poe needed a teacher for a particularly difficult second grade class, Margaret was drafted and “we were together again.”

“I got stuck with every problem in the building,” Margaret remembers. Teaching in a mobile unit and producing monthly musical assemblies despite not being able to play piano were just a few of the challenges presented to Margaret. “Anywhere they told me to go, I did,” Margaret recalls.

Both Margaret, now 83, and John, now 85, retired in 1990. Ellen and the late Mary both taught with their mother at the Pullman School. “Mary taught with me a couple of years,” Margaret said, “and Ellen taught for a year. She was in one sixth grade at the end of the hall, and I was in the other.”

Margaret taught for 25 years, John for 39, Margaret’s mother Norinne Conron taught 40 years. The late Mary taught 29 years and Ellen has taught for 20 years in the public schools.

So, instead of a brief entry in “Friends Gone Ahead,” this story will serve as both a memorial for Mary, and a tribute to a family of teachers who gave so much to the Chicago Public Schools.

# LEST WE FORGET. . .

THE NEXT NEWS BULLETIN WILL BE PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 2009, SO RTAC LEAVES OUR READERS WITH MANY GOOD WISHES, A BRIEF CALENDAR AND SOME POEMS OF THE SEASON.

- |          |                              |
|----------|------------------------------|
| October  | 13 - Columbus Day            |
|          | 29 - RTAC Luncheon           |
|          | 31- Halloween                |
| November | 2- Daylight Saving Time ends |
|          | 4 - Election Day             |
|          | 11 - Veterans Day            |
|          | 27 - Thanksgiving            |
| Dcember  | 21 - First Day of Winter     |
|          | 25 - Christmas               |

RTAC Spooky Fun!

The moon is full,  
It's time to prow!;  
Get your grin on,  
Give a howl!



Treat the goblins  
at your door  
That's what HALLOWEEN is for!



## *RTAC's Family Gathering*

*Tho' Thanksgiving is a special time  
And always means so much,*

*Just seeing you a while*

*Would really add that special touch--*

*Still you know you're thought of*

*When Thanksgiving Day is here*

*And wished a world of happiness*

*Each day throughout the year.*



## *Fall Leaves*

*How silently they tumble down  
And come to rest upon the ground  
To lay a carpet, rich and rare,  
Beneath the trees without a care,  
Content to sleep, their work well done,  
Colors gleaming in the sun.  
At other times, they wildly fly  
Until they nearly reach the sky,  
Twisting, turning through the air  
'Til all the trees stand stark and bare,  
Exhausted, drop to earth below  
To wait, like children, for the snow.*



## SPECIAL CAROLS FOR RTAC

*LET'S SPREAD CHRISTMAS JOY  
TO THOSE FAR AND NEAR,  
TO HOLD IN THEIR HEARTS  
THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR.*

### *Christmas Memories*

*Evergreens wreathed in lights  
sparkle days, twinkle nights  
Every year, new dreams dawn  
Christmas keeps shining on*



*It's the season of giving,  
the season of joy,  
it's easy to see  
in each girl and boy!  
Let's take a lesson from them,  
if we dare,  
Like a child, don't hold back,  
show everyone you care*



The Retired Teachers Association of Chicago  
invites you to join RTAC Friends and Board Members  
at the

**82nd Annual Fall Luncheon and General Business Meeting**

**AND ELECTION OF RTAC BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2009-2010**

**Wednesday, October 29, 2008**

**11:45 AM until 2:30 PM**

~\*~

**Palmer House Hilton  
Grand Ballroom (4th Floor)  
Monroe Street between State and Wabash**

~\*~

**~ SPECIAL GUESTS ~**

**Mr. John O'Brill, President, Chicago Teachers Pension Fund  
Mr. Kevin Huber, Executive Director, Chicago Teachers Pension Fund  
Mr. Richard Lockhart, RTAC's Chief Lobbyist in Springfield**

Parking is convenient at 55 East Monroe, the Grant Park North Garage at Monroe and Michigan  
or on Adams between State and Wabash.

**>>>> Many Door Prizes ~ Prizes ~ Prizes <<<<<**

✂✂✂✂✂.....Complete and cut here! Mail to RTAC today!.....✂✂✂✂✂

Enclosed find: \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_ member tickets at \$45 each and  
\$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_ guest tickets at \$50 each

**Although downtown hotel luncheon prices have gone up significantly,  
RTAC still subsidizes a sizable portion of each ticket's price!**

Any special dietary request must be made with this reservation.  
Only a very limited number of special requests can be honored.

Member's name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

To assist in an RTAC survey, please tell us the  
year you retired: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Paid Guests' names: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to: Fall '08 Luncheon  
Mail remittance and a stamped self-addressed envelope to:  
Retired Teachers Association of Chicago  
20 East Jackson Blvd. - Suite 1500 Chicago, IL 60604-2235  
For additional information call: 312.939.3327**

**Sorry, NO refunds for any reason. FINAL DEADLINE: October 17th  
WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCOMODATE WALK-INS!**

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

**NOT A MEMBER AND WANT THE SPECIAL LOWER RTAC MEMBER PRICE? CALL RTAC 312.939.3327 TODAY!**

NOTICE: Articles contained in this *News Bulletin* are included as being relevant to retired Chicago Public School teachers. They do not necessarily reflect any official position of the RTAC Board of Directors or the general membership.

***PLEASE JOIN US AT THE RTAC FALL LUNCHEON AND BUSINESS MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, AT THE GRAND BALLROOM OF  
THE PALMER HOUSE HILTON .***

***REMEMBER TO VOTE NOVEMBER 4***

***FOR THE CANDIDATE OF YOUR CHOICE. . . .***



***BUT PLEASE,***

***VOTE NO ON CON-CON!***



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