

NEWS BULLETIN

RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO

Since 1926

VOL. LXV

JANUARY 2009

NO. 1

HAIL . . .



Incoming officers (from left) James F. Ward, Secretary, Marcella L. Morrison, 2nd Vice-President, Vaughn Barber, President, Steven A. Kailes, 1st Vice-President. Not shown: Arthur E. Keegan, Treasurer (See p. 29)

AND FAREWELL



Outgoing officers (from left) Marcella L. Morrison, Secretary, Vaughn Barber, Treasurer, Ethel Philpott, President, Walter Pilditch, Immediate Past President, Steven A. Kailes, 1st Vice-President, Veronica Chemers, 2nd Vice President

OFFICERS FOR THE TERM 2009-2010

- President.....Vaughn 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 ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS 2009-10

- John J. Garvey
Louise Ponce
Rita M. Naughton

RETURNING BOARD FOR THE TERM 2009

- Samuel Altshuler
Nathaniel Blackman Jr.
Veronica Chemers
Roy E. Coleman
Sherye Garmony-Miller
Mary Sharon Reilly
John J. Tintiango
Richard F. Tryba

RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO

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Executive Committee:

VAUGHN J. BARBER,

President

STEVEN A. KAILES,

First Vice President

MARCELLA L. MORRISON,

Second Vice President

JAMES F. WARD,

Secretary

ARTHUR E. KEEGAN,

Treasurer

ETHEL PHILPOTT,

Immediate Past President

Elected Directors

2009 - 2010

John C. Craig

Ruby J. Ford

John J. Garvey

Raphael A. Juss

Vera M. Paul

Louise Ponce

Rita M. Naughton

Helen C. Wooten

2009

Samuel Altshuler

Nathaniel Blackman, Jr.

Veronica Chemers

Roy E. Coleman

Sherye Garmony-Miller

Mary Sharon Reilly

John J. Tintiangco

Richard F. Tryba

Ex-Officio Board Members

Past Presidents:

Mae M. Hunter

Helen P. Johnson

Robert C. Konen

Arthur R. Lehne

Ned L. McCray

Edward A. O'Farrell

Ethel Philpott

Walter Pilditch

Zygmunt K. Sokolnicki

James F. Ward

Robert F. Bures, *Executive Director*

Rosemary Tirio, Editor

V.K. Brown, Editor Emeritus

Marion Hoffing, Feature Editor

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
Editor, News Bulletin.....	773-725-1087
Elder Abuse Hotline (State of Illinois).....	800-252-8966
Legislative Update, Insurance Counselor.....	312-939-3327
Law Line (Anne Chestney Mudd).....	312-502-3949
MetLife Dental Plan	800-345-7868 Option 4

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		for the April Issue is Feb. 15, 2009.	

A VIEW FROM THE TOP-2009
WHO IS THE NEW PRESIDENT OF RTAC?

CPS Experience:

- . Secondary School Teacher
- . Lobbyist - Springfield/Washington
- . Special Education - Administrator
- . Director of Neighborhood Youth Corp (NYC)
- . Director of Area B Programs
- . Attorney - Legal Division
- . Director of Real Estate
- . Former Trustee Chicago Teachers Pension Fund
- . Former Treasurer RTAC and Aide Fund

Presently:

- . Attorney - Private Practice

C H A L L A N G E S B E F O R E M E

- . Increase membership of RTAC
- . Oversee and Protect Pension Fund and Benefits
- . Seek legislation ensuring the rebate for pension health benefits.
- . Streamline delivery of services to retirees
- . Increase Gift Giving for the Aid Fund.



Executive Director Bob Bures (left) and incoming President Vaughn J. Barber (right) raise a toast to outgoing President Ethel Philpott.



Director Vera M. Paul proposing the toast at the RTAC Holiday Party Dec. 3.



Bob Bures and longtime RTAC Director Sam R. Altshuler raise their glasses.

We often imagine solutions, but we realize ambitions and dreams. RTAC is a team builder. Its membership, over 10,000 retired teachers, is a voice for one to act upon. We can utilize this strength in our interactions with local, federal and state governments. In addition we are often working closely with unions and school boards. RTAC is the leader in all aspects of retired teachers' lives. The organization exists to serve you. RTAC works closely with National Teacher Organizations and provides a means for mutual cares, labors for all teachers and administrators.

I am pleased to join this team of leaders.

Vaughn J. Barber

LUNCHEON BYLAWS VOTE ENDS NOMINATIONS FROM FLOOR

Noted parliamentarian, RTAC former Secretary and Second Vice President-elect Marcella L. Morrison conducted the voting on the amendment proposed by the Bylaws Committee, which she chairs:

Article VII. Elections, Section 3. Nominating Committee, item h.: Nominations for any position may be made from the floor, provided the nominee has filed a signed nomination form with RTAC's office a week prior to the Fall Association Meeting. Failure to provide such a form disqualifies the nominee.

The proposed amendment met the qualifications for bylaw amendments as stated in the bylaws. The bylaw amendment was adopted.

However, when voting for officers was about to be conducted, a member raised a point of order asking that the new rule be suspended for that day only, and it was so voted. There was only one nomination from the floor, that of John Butterfield for the office of secretary.

The uncontested offices and directorship were elected by acclamation. An election was held for the office of secretary with two nominees: James F. Ward and John Butterfield. The vote was a rising vote, and the winner was James F. Ward.



Marcella L. Morrison, Chairman of the Bylaws Committee, conducts voting on amendment changing requirements for nominations from the floor.

The newly elected officers and directors for 2009-2010 are: President, Vaughn J. Barber; First Vice President, Steven A. Kailes; Second Vice President, Marcella L. Morrison; Secretary, James F. Ward; Treasurer, Arthur E. Keegan.

Special acknowledgments were given to Veronica Chemers, retiring 1st Vice-President, and Esta Kallan, former Social Committee Chair. Veronica will continue as RTAC Director.



Helen P. Johnson, past president and longtime RTAC director is congratulated on being inducted into the Wall of Fame by Nathaniel Blackman and Marion Hoffing.



Accompanist extraordinaire and retired Board Member Thelma White returned to lead the assembled members and guests in singing "God Bless America."

HELEN JOHNSON JOINS WALL OF FAME



Past President and RTAC Director Ned F. McCray moved that the membership honor Helen P. Johnson as the 2008 Wall of Fame Awardee for the many years she has provided service and leadership to RTAC. The motion passed by acclamation. President Ethel Philpott presented Helen with a plaque, an RTAC watch and a \$100 check. "I'm happy I was able to help the organization grow," Helen said.

A NEW FRIEND IN THE LEGISLATURE

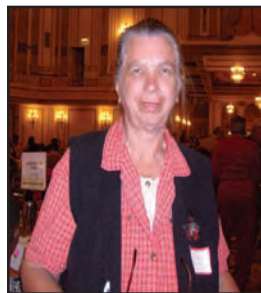


Executive Director Bob Bures introduced Michael J. Zalewski member of the Illinois House representing District 21 on the South Side. Michael said he would carry on the tradition of Bob Callero who asked him to help Chicago teachers whenever possible. "We need friends in the legislature to introduce bills for us," Bob said, adding that Michael Zalewski would be such a friend to RTAC.

LUCKY FALL LUNCHEON RAFFLE WINNERS RECEIVED BARNES & NOBLE GIFTCARDS



*Mary Kladis
Hurley School*



*Elizabeth R. Juska
Orr H.S.*



Maggie F. Jackson



Routhy Braden



Past President Bob Konen



Marie Salwonchik



*Avelino Martinez
Prescott School*



*Velma Anderson
Ryder School*



*James F. Kallas
Julian H.S.*

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Robert F. Bures

Happy New Year - 2009! I know I say it every year: "Where did the year go? Time sure flies!" It's true again this year - 2008 has come and gone. I guess we all have to be careful with time. It is our most precious possession.

Certainly everyone at RTAC had a great set of Holidays! RTAC hopes you did too!

In our last issue I stressed that we all vote NO on CON-CON, and we did it! We defeated the plan to possibly change our pensions! After all, our Illinois Constitution protects our pensions from ever being lowered. This is a very important element in our present constitution.

Of course, the BIG news is that President-Elect Obama is to be sworn in on January 20, and he has put it in writing that he supports the elimination of the GPO-WEP parts of Social Security. That would mean a great deal to those of us who are also eligible for Social Security benefits. Let's not let him forget his promise.

As I write this message, our Governor has been arrested and it does not look good for his avoiding prosecution. We'll have to read the newspapers every day to keep up with the developments. How this turns out may have a great deal to do with our health care appropriations in Springfield.

It will make a difference who the Governor (Blago or Quinn??) is since there will be many new faces in the Illinois General Assembly to get along with. Rest assured that RTAC will be welcoming new members of the House

and Senate in Springfield as well as greeting longtime friends in the General Assembly.

You have probably noticed in the press that our State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulis has proposed combining five Illinois pension systems under one umbrella pension board! The proposed plan would include TRS, the Judges, the General Assembly, State Universities and Illinois Municipal Workers. The legislation is not yet written, but it is being taken seriously by many legislators.

If we are not on this list, why should we be worried? Because it takes just 51% of the legislators to INCLUDE US! You can be sure downstaters, bankers, investment houses and the like want even more control of our pensions! That's why we need to be vigilant. That's why we need to communicate with our legislators. That's why we attend the legislative functions and meetings. RTAC's first and most important job is to protect and enhance our pension. We're out there every day lobbying our legislators.

We're still working on increasing our health care dollars, on raising the minimum pensions to a living level--particularly for our longest serving annuitants--and improving our other benefits.

This is a full legislative agenda! We'll be calling on you for help during the new year. Thanks in advance.

Sincerely,

Bob Bures



Robert F. Bures

BIOGRAPHER SEEKING MICHELLE OBAMA'S TEACHERS

Children's author Marlene Brill, who has already written a biography of President-Elect Barack Obama, is seeking the teachers of Michelle LaVaughn Robinson, aka, Mrs. Barack Obama. Ms. Brill would like to obtain background information on Mrs. Obama for a forthcoming biography.

If your present "claim to fame" is that Michelle Obama was once a student of yours, please contact the Executive Director Bob Bures at the RTAC office, 312-939-3327. Mrs. Obama attended Bryn Mawr School (now Bouchet Academy) and Whitney Young High School.

FAREWELL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF RTAC

The apprehension and insecurity I felt nearly three years ago upon learning that I was being nominated for President of RTAC has now almost completely subsided. These past two years now rank high among the most active, exciting, informative and productive of my life. As is typical during periods of great emotional intensity and involvement, the time has passed all too quickly.

To begin the customary incomplete retrospective on my term, I note that the building where our RTAC office was located for many years was purchased by the Federal government. After several extensions of time, we were forced to move--as it turned out, into quarters that proved to be uncomfortably small. Many of the "bugs" at our new location at 20 E. Jackson have now been worked out, however, and the office once again operates smoothly, thanks to the efforts of our highly capable and hardworking office staff.

Our membership continues to increase, requiring more services to more people. The Aid Fund continues to locate and assist members experiencing unexpected need.

Our Service Committee continues to reach out to our most senior members at the loneliest time of their lives.

Our Web page at www.rtac.org continues to expand, helping to keep you posted on the latest information and job and volunteer opportunities.

Our quarterly News Bulletin continues to keep us up to date, thanks to our contributors and to our editors.

The planning of the Social Committee continues to make our luncheons in the Palmer House informative and enjoyable, and as economical as possible.

The CPS lawsuit seeking repayment from some retirees failed--in part, we were told, due to RTAC's intervention efforts.

RTAC members collaborated with other individuals and organizations to defeat the call for an Illinois Constitutional Convention. Such a convention would surely have imperiled our pensions.

The history-making election of our new U.S. President, the election of 50 plus Illinois State Senators and 118 State Representatives, and the retention elections of Illinois judges held the center of the political stage.

As immediate past president, I remain on the Executive Committee with the newly elected officers for the next two years. My role during this time will be to assist the Executive Committee, the RTAC Board of Directors and incoming president Vaughn Barber.

Best wishes for the New year. Stay healthy, alert and, in particular, active in your continued support of RTAC and your retired colleagues. It figures to be a difficult year.



Ethel Philpott

LAWLINE AVAILABLE TO RTAC MEMBERS

Did you know that Attorney Anne Chestney Mudd, 3958 Hampton Ave., Western Springs, is available for consultation and other free and/or discounted legal services to RTAC members?

Between January and September of 2008, Ms. Mudd was contacted by 125 RTAC members. She conducted 76 consultations, prepared 18 wills and 50 powers of attorney and wrote 78 letters on behalf of RTAC members. She fielded questions

regarding real estate, guardianship, wills and estate planning, medical issues, domestic relations, property damage, landlord/tenant agreements, credit/consumer problems and other miscellaneous legal matters.

If you are in need of legal advice or services, Attorney Anne Chestney Mudd is just a phone call away: 630-. This is another great benefit of RTAC membership.

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

As 2009 dawns amid the gloomiest predictions seen in decades, the usual chorus of “Happy New Year” economics begins to sound more like a collective prayer than any sort of a prediction. Add our contribution to the chorus, too, and add a note that it is a special wish, intended just for you.

As we are constantly reminded by the news media, the vast majority of the seven billion people on the planet are much worse off than are we. While our thoughts and prayers continue to go out both nationally and worldwide to those who suffer extremes of weather, terrorism and/or violence, we must not neglect the effort it takes to maintain our existing comfort level. As The Red Queen in Lewis Carroll’s *Through the Looking-Glass* observed to Alice, “It takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place.” Get ready for some big-time running, folks; they’ve found us.

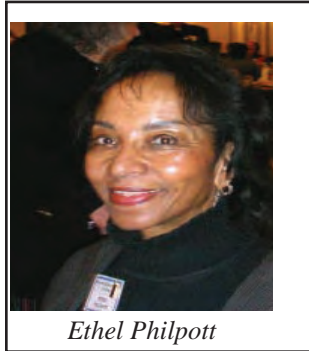
Our lobbyist, Dick Lockhart, calls to our attention a publication you probably never heard of, but which goes to all Illinois state legislators. A recent issue highlights the fact that only three of our United States do not tax pensions.

Guess who one of them is.

Put yourself in the shoes of a state legislator for a moment. Taxpayers are screaming for relief; state funded budgets—even sacred ones—are being slashed all around. Even Governors seem to be caught up in the frenzied search for innovative new revenue sources. Pensions present a virgin long-term revenue stream, ready and waiting to be taxed. How can you resist? No; forget about resisting; the only real question now is—how much?

Dick has frequently reminded us of the Legislature’s habit of putting off any unpleasantness until the end of the session, when it is hoped it can be buried in a huge bill and no one will notice it until it is too late. Watch out for those thousand-page catch-all bills, like Illinois House and Senate 750 of the last couple of years. Those bills would

have increased State education funding partly by redefining retirement income as “taxable income.”



Ethel Philpott

How have we gotten away with tax-free pensions for so long? The best guess we’ve seen says that seniors are alert and politically active. You couldn’t prove it by us. Out of more than 20,000 retired CPS teachers, less than 170 have computers and have joined the Letter-A-Month Club. If every one of them wrote a Letter A Month, each legislator would get about one more letter each month. That’s politically active?? On the plus side, it wouldn’t take much to triple that level of activity. Sit down NOW and call your state representative and your state senator. Tell him/her that you understand that a move may be made to tax Illinois pensions, and, as a retired CPS teacher, you’re very interested in how your legislator feels about that. WARNING: NEVER threaten a legislator; that amounts to a dare.

Also noteworthy:

The Board of Education has asked for and received an extension of time to file their brief in their lawsuit seeking partial repayment of pensions from some retirees. We shall keep you informed.

GPO/WEP repeal. RTAC continues to join with other retiree associations and groups, nationwide, for a collaborative push toward repeal of these onerous Social Security penalties on public servants.

As the recession deepens, it would be extremely wise for all of us to remain alert for any new legislation from our U.S. Congress having to do with taxes on “windfall investment profits.” Our pensions, remember, are made up partly of investment profits.

Live within your means, stay healthy and whip out your computer and send your name and phone number to letteramonthclub@RTAC.org. Join now; be part of the solution!

Ethel Philpott

FINANCIAL NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR 2009

By Bob Bures

There is not one of us who has not suffered in the current economic downturn and hasn't wondered what to do, how to protect our investments, save and invest in troubled times, and generally how to deal with the situation in a rational way, for ourselves, our future and our heirs. I have been working with a certified, licensed financial planner and advisor since I started teaching in 1961. Together we put together a set of ideas to consider during these turbulent times in the economy and in the financial markets. We have seen large declines in security prices. We have read of the large number of employee lay-offs along with negative news about the economy, especially in the financial and automobile manufacturing sectors.

1) Generally, we should avoid over-reacting out of anxiety. It can be comforting to remember the long-term growth we have seen in our economy and financial markets in the past and to reflect on the basic productivity of our economy. Long-term investors may be able to benefit from future market and economic conditions. 2) Specifically, remember that you have control over the timing if when and upon what schedule to take the Required Minimum Distributions from tax-sheltered supplemental retirement accounts. Although the future pattern of securities prices is uncertain, those who anticipate market upturns during the year may wish to do the selling required in order to take the taxable distributions as late in the year as possible.

3) Legislation governing charitable contributions from IRAs has been extended through 2009 for charitable gifts if you are 70-1/2 years of age and over. This means you do not have to report charitable contributions (up to \$100,000) from IRAs as taxable income. The advantages are that (a) money sent from an IRA to a charitable organization is not taxed, and (b) simultaneously this amount goes toward satisfying the Required Minimum Distribution amount.

4) Although the procedure outlined in Item 3 above, applies only to IRAs, it may be desirable to make transfers from other tax qualified plans such as 403(b) plans and 457 deferral compensation plans into an IRA in order to use this procedure.

5) Include the factors of both taxation and possible future inflation when choosing between continuing a tax-qualified supplemental retirement account and removing money from this account to place it in a non-qualified fixed investment such as a Certificate of Deposit or similar investment. The non-qualified investment has the likelihood of protecting the investor from possible future securities market declines, but the interest will be taxable in the year received. Also, future market increases to keep pace with or exceed inflationary price rises are often unavailable in fixed investments.

6) Use periodic portfolio reviews and analyses on a routine basis in both up and down markets. Your needs and preferences change. Everyone should use regularly scheduled reviews to see if adjustments can and should be made.

Having written this rather lengthy article, with plenty of advice, keep in mind that we all have a degree of inertia that prevents our acting in our best interests. My Dad used to say, "The ideas that are hardest to understand and that require the most attention are those that are most important." If you wish, call me at RTAC and we can talk. I will NOT refer you to my financial advisor, but I do think that talking is the first step to action to preserve and protect your financial future. My number is 312.939.3327 ext 007.

Have a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

[PLEASE be reminded that I am not a financial planner or advisor. ALWAYS consult your tax advisor and always consult your financial planner or advisor. REMEMBER that in all investments you can lose part or all of your money.]

PENSION NOTES

From James F. Ward, Trustee

The Insurance Rebate Story

Decades ago the retirees and the active teachers were in the same health plan and premiums were calculated on the entire group, young and old. It was similar to many plans throughout the country. The working teachers and pensioners knew that the premiums were a bit high during working years but they were a bit low in retirement. In the early 80s the CPS realized that they could reduce their premiums if they threw out the retirees.

As they then said, "There is no reason we should subsidize the pensioners." The Pension Board sadly shopped for insurance and made contracts with insurance carriers, but premiums were high with only older pensioners in the group. Some relief was necessary, so we amended the pension law by passing an insurance rebate law, now section 17-142.1, Article 40, of the Illinois Compiled Statutes. See <http://www.ilga.gov/> on the internet.

Section 17142.1 states that, beginning in 1988, the Pension Board may pay a partial reimbursement of pensioners' health insurance. Total payments in any year may not currently exceed \$65 million. It was only \$3 million in 1988. Total payments may not exceed 75% of the total cost of health insurance each year. Percentage rebates have been as high as 90% of costs, as low as zero. Currently, they are 70%. The law says the Pension Board may pay the rebate out of the Fund. Ah, there's the rub.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations tell sovereign states that their pension funds must not use any pension monies for non-pension purposes such as health insurance. The Teachers Retirement System of Illinois (TRS) was allegedly fined \$10,000 by the IRS for doing so. TRS then transferred their health plan to another state agency, Central Management Ser-

vices. They are still having difficulties funding it.



James F. Ward

Why didn't Chicago Teachers Pension get a fine? We can say we are not using pension monies but the separate appropriation from the state under section 17-127 which states that the General Assembly finds that for many years the State has contributed to the CTPF an amount between 20% and 30% of the annual State contribution to the TRS, and the General Assembly declares that it is its goal and intention to continue this

level of contribution to the Fund in the future. Total payments are \$65 million each year because that is the limitation imposed by section 17-142.1.

The CPS recently sued to have section 17-127 declared unconstitutional. The latest word is that the judge threw the case out. With their legal armies, I bet CPS will appeal. They usually do.

Then the money ran out. In 2003 we had \$45 million to spend but it was not enough. In 2004 we went back to Springfield and changed the limit from \$45 million to \$65 million with the right to roll over and earn interest on any funds not used each year.

From 2004 to 2008 things went swimmingly. A new cloud has now appeared. The rebate fund is running out of money again. Latest projections, assuming 10% increases in premiums in 2009 and 2010, will exhaust the fund in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010. Without a change in the law, the rebate percentage will likely go down. On legislative calendars, that isn't much time.

A study of the rebate question must consider section 17-129 which requires the CPS contribution to the Fund to be made in each fiscal year in an amount determined by the Fund to bring the total assets of the Fund up to 90% of the total actu-

(Please see Insurance page 12)

PENSION NOTES

From Walter Pilditch, Trustee

Chicago Teacher's pension fund report

Assuming each of you is keeping up with the fast changing economic news in our country, the results of the last quarter should not surprise you.

Our Chicago Teacher's Pension Fund has again dropped just about 1.3 billion dollars between July 1 and September 30. This leaves the fund with a \$10.1 billion value at present. This represents a drop of about 8.8% for the quarter, which does outperform the public funds universe.

In terms of the Russell 3000 Index, our fund outperformed other funds as well. Behind this record several of our domestic equity investments did exceed our expectations in spite of the current economic climate. The four with such a record are: Holland, Lynmar, Lombardia and Zevenbergen.

In the field of international equity we had several funds do better than their benchmarks. These include Brandywine, Earnest Partners, Morgan Stanley, Lazard and MFS. In the fixed income area all funds lagged their respective index measures.

After several detailed discussions with our managers, the trustees have decided to delay any investment in hedge funds as we announced earlier. Funds invested in the infrastructure area are about level and gains will wait until the investments are several years old.

Our other investments, private equity and real estate funds, are about all on target with what we should expect, given the market conditions of today.

In the final area of investments, our minority and women-owned manager of managers program, two firms exceeded their goals and they are Progress Investments and the Attucks Fund.



Walter Pilditch

Total Market Commentary

There is a continued general weakness in the United States economy that is measured by rising unemployment, home price declines and the failure of many well-known financial institutions. Prices have been rising at the annual rate of 2.6% and the price index for finished goods increased 8.7% over the past year. Unemployment rose this quarter to 6.1% against 5.5% for the spring quarter.

One bright spot in this news is that the price of oil went from just over \$147 a barrel down to below \$100 a barrel in September. The trend in this measure seems downward for the immediate future.

Public confidence in the economy continues shaky as we hear of names: Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch, AIG and Washington Mutual. How can we understand such unbelievable developments during the past few weeks and months?

After some discussion by both houses of Congress, a \$700 billion bailout bill was approved this quarter. This development does not stop at our borders. International equity markets dropped about 20% this quarter with all countries sharing in this trend. The two countries with the worst record were Ireland (42.1% drop) and Austria (41.2% drop). One can only hope financial trends will improve in 2009.

PENSION NOTES

From Mary Sharon Reilly, Trustee Pension Law & Rules Committee

Legislation is the primary concern of the Pension Law & Rules Committee. The board of trustees are currently reviewing, formulating and voting on proposals for the new session of the General Assembly. Some of the issues that continue to be of concern to retirees include:

Increase the maximum total payments for health insurance rebate to \$75 million (as health insurance costs rise and the number of those receiving a pension increases, the need becomes more urgent).

Provide ad hoc lite increase for those on pension prior to 1980 (these long-time pensioners receive benefits that do not provide a minimum standard of living because salaries were considerably less at that time).

Provide minimum survivor bene-

fit payable upon death of teacher or pensioner which occurred prior to 12/31/86.



Mary Sharon Reilly

Automatic annual increase of 3% beginning one year following retirement.

In cooperation with the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU), issues that impact on active teachers will be developed by the CTU and those relevant to retirees will be presented by CTPF. In addition, the Retired Teachers Association of Chicago (RTAC) and the Chicago Principals & Administrators Association will attempt to work together to convince legislators of the needs of Chicago Public School Teachers and Retirees.

The Pension Laws and Rules Committee will also be working to revise the Bylaws and Rules of the Board of Trustees. This activity is performed periodically to meet current needs.

(Insurance continued from page 10)

arial liabilities of the Fund by the end of fiscal year 2045. Beginning in 2046, the CPS contribution for each year shall be the amount needed to maintain the total assets of the Fund at 90% of the total actuarial liabilities. Any contribution by the State to the Fund, including, payments under section 17-127, shall be a credit against any contribution required to be made by the Board of Education.

In summary, section 17-129 is the resource to fund our pensions into the future, making the CPS ultimate guarantor. Section 17-142.1 gives us a rebate from the Fund, but the Pension Board may or may not do it.

Lastly, Section 17-127 states it is the intention of the State to continue to appropriate money each year that we use for insurance rebates. The law does not require them to do it. It all sounds like an optional gift that may be given or may not be given, depending on state and local financial conditions.

I offer one solution. Change the wording of section 17-142.1 (see above) as follows: "Total payments shall be ~~may not exceed~~ 75% of the total cost of health insurance each year."

That deletion of three words and addition of two makes the benefit part of the statute and therefore guaranteed by the Illinois Constitution. Please let me know if you have another idea.

RTAC MEMBER HONORED BY LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

The Lions Club International Foundation has informed RTAC that Dr. Virginia M. Frank Snickers has been named a Melvin Jones Fellow. Named for the founder of Lions Clubs International, it is the highest form of recognition conferred by the foundation.

Virginia was a Special Education teacher of the blind and partially seeing. She retired from CPS in 1990.

Congratulations, Virginia!

SWEDISH AMERICAN MUSEUM SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

The Swedish American Museum, located at 5211 North Clark Street in Andersonville, Chicago's historic Swedish neighborhood, is seeking volunteers for 2009-2010. Hours are flexible and no experience is necessary.

The Brunk Children's Museum of Immigration - Education Position. To apply, please contact the Museum's Education Manager, Jessie Aucoin, at JAucoin@samac.org or 773-728-8111 ext. 26.

Swedish American Museum - Curatorial Position. To apply, please contact the Museum's Curator, Karin Andersson, at KAndersson@samac.org or 773-728-8111 ext. 22.

Development Position-To apply, please contact the Museum's Development Manager, Kirstin Gaspar, at KGaspar@samac.org or 773-728-8111 ext. 30.

Membership Position-To apply, please contact the Museum's Membership and Volunteer Manager, Benson DuPriest, at BDupriest@samac.org or 773-728-8111 ext. 28.

Store Position-To apply, please contact the Museum's Store Manager, Ann Cutler, at ACutler@samac.org or 773-728-8111 ext. 23.

TAX-SAVING IDEAS

On Oct. 3, 2008, Congress passed and the President signed the Emergency Saving Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (H.R. 1424), legislation that includes a two-year extension of the IRA charitable rollover. The provision, originally enacted as part of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA), permits IRA owners starting at age 70-1/2 to make tax-free charitable gifts totaling up to \$100,000 per year from the IRAs directly to eligible charities, including schools, colleges and universities.

An eligible retiree who owns a 403(b) Tax Sheltered Annuity (TSA) may transfer their account to an IRA and take advantage of this law.

IRS Notice 2007-7 provides guidance on several provisions of the Pension Protection Act. Section IX (pages 13-16) answers frequently asked questions relating to the IRA charitable rollover. Among other points, the IRS guidance clarifies that checks may be delivered to a charity by the IRA holder as long as the

JFW urokward@yahoo.com

RETIREE ORGANIZES VOLUNTEERS FOR ASSOCIATION HOUSE

By Bob Kos

I am a retired CPS teacher. I taught in three Chicago Public High schools for 37 years and I am currently organizing volunteers for the Adult Literacy GED program at the Association House of Chicago.

I would like to invite anyone that may be interested in helping us to please contact me at 773-772-7170 ext. 3002 or e-mail me at rkos@associationhouse.org. The students attend our program from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Our evening program meets from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

I truly enjoy helping these students to improve their skills. The association House of Chicago is located at 1116 North Kedzie Ave. Chicago Illinois 60651 and has been

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

Adler Planetarium	(Chicago)	312-542-2411	Maria Christus
Alex Haley Academy	(Chicago)	773-371-3661	Karen Demots
American Red Cross (CPR & First aid)	(Chicago)	312-729-6227	Tina Green Rounds
Aquinas Literacy Center (ESL, Literacy)	(Chicago)	773-927-0512	Alison Altmeyer
Blue Gargoyle Community Services (Literacy)	(Chicago)	773-955-4108x308	Ashley J. Hobbs
Brookfield Zoo	(West)	708-485-0263x366	Regi Mezydlo
Burr Oak School	(South Suburbs)	708-388-8010	Natashia Harris
Catholic Charities (Tutor) (Cook and Lake Counties)		312-655-7412	Albert Curtis Jr.
Chicago Architectural Foundation	(Chicago)	312-922-3432x225	Barbara Hrbek
Chicago Cultural Center	(Chicago)	312-744-7096	Marianne Wolf
Chicago Foundation for Education	(Chicago)	312-670-2033	Sarah Hoppe
Chicago Humanities Festival	(Chicago)	312-661-1028	Annie Tully
Chicago Symphony Orchestra	(Chicago)	312-294-3160	
Child Services	(Cook, Lake & DuPage)	773-693-0300	Greta Nielsen
Christopher House (Youth Tutoring/Literacy)	(Chicago)	773-472-1083x3067	Cortney DeArmond
Count Me In!	(Chicago)	773-381-6024	William N. Black
Court's Special Advocate (Child Advocacy) (Cook County)		312-433-6997	Imogene Harris
DuSable Museum of African American History	(Chicago)	773-947-0600x239	Kay McCrimon
Field Museum	(Chicago)	312-665-7505	Mary Ann Bloom
Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust	(Chicago)	708-848-1976	Kent Bartram
Friends of the Parks	(Chicago Central)	312-922-3307	Laura Ronneberg
George Armstrong School	(Chicago Northwest)	773-534-2150	Kim Bendig
Glenkirk (Developmentally Disabled)	(Northbrook)	847-400-8569	Roberta M. Rekus
Heartland Alliance Vista	(Chicago Central)	312-696-4500x4085	Carol McNeill
Ill. Action for Children (Children's Advocacy)	(Chicago Central)	312-986-9591	Rebecca Klipfel
Ill. Parents Anonymous (Parental Counseling)		312-649-7301	Melinda Crosby
Inner Voice Learning Center	(Chicago near West)	312-666-8110	Antoinette Toliver
Junior Achievement (Chicago)		312-715-1300x269	Cherie Russ
KIPP Ascend Charter School (Tutors & Mentors)	(Chicago West)	773-261-9972	Sheri Barrette
LaRabida Children's Hospital	(Chicago Jackson Park)	773-256-5985	Judi Blakemore
Lifelong Learning Institute at National Lewis Univ.	(North Suburbs)	224-233-2366	Joan Marks
Lira Arts (Polish)		773-508-7040	Katharine McJimsey
Little Brothers Friends of Elderly	(Chicago)	312-455-1000	Gerri Mead
McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum (Guides)	(Chicago)	312-222-5963	Danielle Estler
MetroMentors	(Wheaton)	630-784-4810	Gregory O'Donnell
Midwest Palliative & Hospice CareCenter	(North Suburban)	847-556-1982	Elizabeth Grantner
Naperville Settlement	(Naperville)	630-420-6010	Diane Ernst
North Shore Senior Center	(Northfield)	847-784-6000	Paul J. Luzwick
Oriental Institute, University of Chicago	(Chicago Hyde Park)	773-702-1845	Cathy D or Terry F
Prologue Adult Education (Literacy Tutoring)	(Chicago North)	773-728-7221	Christina Mang
Recording for the Blind Chicago, Orland & Naperville)		312-236-8715	Joanne C. Ruxin
Roseland Community Hospital	(Chicago Roseland)	773-995-3470	Jennifer Seldon
School Children's Aid Society		773-247-1311	Margaret Paul



THE RTAC NEWS BULLETIN ONCE AGAIN JOYFULLY PRESENTS
The irreplaceable quarterly anti-ennui shielding provided by

THE CHICAGO SCENE

MARION HOFFING

to enjoy during January, February and March

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

ONE WORLD, ONE SKY

Sesame Street residents bond with a new Chinese friend while star gazing.

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 INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO 111 S. Michigan Ave. 312-443-3600

DRAWN TO ITALIAN DRAWING: 130 Renaissance and Baroque works

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

A WALK THROUGH THE GARDEN'S GREENHOUSES

Come inside and refresh yourself as you discover the healing and spiritual properties of hundreds of unusual plants!

CELEBRATE WINTER

In winter, a well-designed garden tells a story of texture, color, and shape. It speaks through evergreens and berries, textural barks, and colorful stems.

CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT Thru Feb. 28

Your winter calf workout; lace up and let loose; ice rinks are open in neighborhoods across the city. See Chicago Park District.com for locations and fees. Also, see Millennium Park.

CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER 78 E. Washington St. 312-346-3278

New CHICAGO PUBLISHERS GALLERY - More than 1,500 books, magazines, journals, comics and more, most of them by Chicago writers or publishers. Free to visit and open to the public at all times.

PIONEERING PUBLIC COLLECTION of Chicago Photos - 150 images, more than ever shown before in the city, from 77 years of picture taking from the LaSalle Bank collection.

- CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM 1601 N. Clark St. 312-642-4600
www.chicagohistory.org
 19TH and 20TH CENTURY GRAND DAMES - Costumes from the Costume Vault - In purchasing and having these costumes made, the Grand Dames of Chicago hoped to redefine the grimy, gang-ridden Second City as a fashionable metropolis.
- CHICAGO MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY 600 S. Michigan Ave. 312-663-5554
 In 2007, photographer Michael Wolf held a residency at the MOCP, snapping images of Loop life at increasingly closer range. The result is a stunning, surreptitious look at our city.
- COLUMBIA COLLEGE 806 N. Michigan Ave. 312-742-08908
 Scott Fortino, a Chicago cop since 1980 as well as a noted photographer, presents a new series of images providing glimpses of nature in an urban setting. Fortino pairs an artist's eye with a police officer's sense of social complexity. Thru Feb. 1
- FIELD MUSEUM of NATURAL HISTORY Roosevelt Rd. at Lake Shore Dr. 312-922-9410
www.fieldmuseum.org
 AZTEC WORLD - Nearly 300 artifacts and art objects, many exhibited for the first time outside of Mexico. Exhibit recreates the capital of the Aztec Empire, birthplace of numerous technological and architectural advances. Truly an awe-inspiring community and people. Thru 4/10
- KOEHNLINE MUSEUM
 OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE 1600 Golf Rd. Des Plaines 847-635-2633
 PASTELS CHICAGO
 The Chicago Pastel Painters presents its Second Biennial National Juried Exhibition. This installation features 100 works by prominent pastel artists from across the United States , representing a diversity of visual styles and subjects. February 5 – March 27
- LYRIC OPERA Civic Opera House 20 N Wacker Dr # 860 312-332-2244
 MADAMA BUTTERFLY - Giacomo Puccini's lilting melodies of this deeply romantic tragedy, where the geisha girl gives up family, fortune and honor to marry the handsome officer.
 JAN. *29 7:30 p.m.
 TRISTAN - Richard Wagner's ecstatic musical voyage of pure desire, forbidden love between a Celtic princess and the knight who is sworn to deliver her safely to the king she pledged to marry.
 JAN. 27, 30 6 p.m.; FEB. 4, 8* (1p.m.), 12, 16, 20, 23 and 28
- Experience white hot passions and red hot revenge in these two Italian shockers.
 CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA - Pietro Mascani Jealous lovers, sobbing mothers, infidelities at every turn--tv's *Desperate Housewives* pales by comparison.
 PAGLIACCI Ruggero Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*— the famous play-within-a-play where the clown who makes others laugh is sobbing inside.
 FEB. 14, 18, 25 6 P.M. 22 (2 P.M.) MARCH 4*, 9, 17, 20, 23 and 27 (7:30 p.m.)
- ABDUCTION FROM THE SERAGLIO - The opera that made Mozart a star. He was madly in love, the toast of Viennese society, 26 years old, and finally free from his overbearing father.
 MARCH 2, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19*, 22*, 25 and 28

***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.

Thru 2/1

MUSEUM OF MEXICAN ART 1852 W. 19th 312-738-1503
Chicagoan Juan Carlos Macias creates small paintings including saints and miracles that recognize the miraculous in everyday life

Thru Jan. 25

Pedro Mayer Retrospective and exhibition of prints spanning four decades of the photographer's career. Opens simultaneously in dozens of museums worldwide.

Thru Feb. 1

NEWBERRY LIBRARY 60 W. Walton St. 312-943-9090

Artifacts of Childhood presents 65 prime examples including the first illustrated version of Aesop's Fables (1485) and the First Edition of Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventure in Wonderland (1865) all culled from the library's extensive collection of Kiddies' Literature.

Thru January 17

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

Shedd is more alive than ever with animal encounters, special events and amazing opportunities to make connections around every turn.

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.

SMART MUSEUM OF ART 5550 S. Greenwood 773-702-0200

"THE WRITING OF MODERN LIFE"

The etching revival in France, Britain and the United States from 1850 to 1940. Forty-five works exploring the intertwining art of etching and writing from the 1850s to the 20th century.

Thru April 19

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO 5550 S. Greenwood Ave. 773-702-8068

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESENTS CONCERT SERIES

Pacifica Quartet 3 p.m. Jan. 11

Myra Huang, piano and Nicholas Phan, tenor 7:30 p.m. Jan. 16

Vladimir Feitsman, Piano 7:30 p.m. Jan. 23

Pomerium Rockefeller Memorial Chapel 7:30 p.m. Feb. 6

Hilliard Ensemble 7:30 p.m. Feb. 19

Takacs Quartet 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20

St. Paul Chamber Orchestra 7:30 p.m. March 6

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THEATER

APOLLO THEATRE

2540 N. Lincoln Ave.

773-935-6100

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET This newcomer musical has the kind of jaw-dropping performance that lifts your feet from the floor. Based on an actual night in 1956 when Jerry Lee Lewis showed up for a jam session and it contains two dozen iconic numbers.

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.

Thru 4/20/09

CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie

847-673-6300

CAPITOL STEPS makes it easier to leave public office. They will inaugurate our new president with musical/political satire.

Jan. 22 - Jan. 25

CHICAGO THEATER

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG

312-559-1212

Broadway musical in the history of everything. The best family musical since THE LION KING. The most fantasinegarical Broadway Musical.

Feb. 11 thru Feb. 15

CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER

800 E. Grand Ave.

312-595-5600

THE INVESTIGATION (from Rawanda)

Jan. 21 - Jan. 31

SWEET WILLIAM (from England)

Feb. 3 - Feb. 27

THE TABLE (Stolik) (from Poland)

April 30 - May 18

COURT THEATER

5535 S Ellis Ave

773-753-4472

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.

Thru 3/8/09

DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY

7900 W. Division, River Forest

708-488-5000

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

THE TURTLE ISLAND QUARTET - The grammy-winning exploration of John Coltrane's musical legacy, "A Love Supreme."

3 p.m. Jan. 25

DRURY LANE - OAKBROOK

100 Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace

630-530-0111

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. Find out for yourself why MISS SAIGON is one of Broadway's longest running musicals of all time!

Thru 3/8/09

DRURY LANE - WATER TOWER	175 E. Chestnut Street	Box Office: 312-642-2000
XANADU		Fax: 312-642-2012. www.drurylanewatertower.com Starts Jan. 16
GREENHOUSE THEATER	2257 N. Lincoln Ave.	773-404-7336
THE LITTLE FOXES		Jan. 8
BLUE SURGE		Mar. 19
GOODMAN THEATRE	170 N. Dearborn St.	312-443-3811
DESIRE UNDER THE ELMS by Eugene O'Neill featuring Brian Dennehy and Carla Cugino.		Starts Jan. 17
MAGNOLIA by Regina Taylor directed by Anne Shapiro		Starts March 4_
LIFE LINE THEATRE	6912 N Glenwood Ave.	773-761-4477
FLIGHT OF THE DODO		www.lifelinetheatre.com Dec 20, 2008 – Feb 22, 2009
MARRIOTT THEATRE LINCOLNSHIRE	10 Marriott Dr., Lincolnshire	847-634-0200
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.		
		Thru Feb. 14
LES MISÉRABLES		
Thousands of people around the globe have been swept away by the power of the story, the passion of the music and the triumph of the human spirit that is <i>Les Misérables</i> – one of the greatest musicals of our generation.		
		February 13 - May 11
MC ANINCH ARTS CENTER	425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn	630-942-4000
AT COLLEGE OF DU PAGE		
ITALIAN-AMERICAN RECONCILIATION		8 p.m. thru Feb. 8 at 2 p.m.
BEGGAR'S OPERA - A Ballad Opera		8 p.m. Feb. 6, 7; 3 p.m. Feb. 8
CLUB MAC AND LASCIVIOUS BIDDIES		8 p.m. Feb. 13, 14
SHAKESPEARE'S HENRY V		7 p.m. Feb. 15
MYSTICAL ART OF TIBET: Sacred Music and Dance		8 p.m. Feb. 20
GUITAR BLUES		8 p.m. Feb. 21
MAD SCIENCE Recreation for 9 and older; audience participation		2 p.m. Feb. 22
		Continued on page 16
MC ANINCH ARTS CENTER Continued from page 15		
RUSSIANS RETURN		8 p.m. Feb. 27, 28
DAVID MUNNELLY BAND (Irish music)		8 p.m. March 6, 7
ASWAT-THE GOLDEN AGE OF ARAB MUSIC		8 p.m. March 13
WAR OF THE WORLDS narrated Garrison Keilor		8 p.m. March 21
HUBBARD STREET DANCERS		8 p.m. March 27, 28
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."		
		Thru Feb. 15

NORTHLIGHT THEATRE 5115 Church St. Skokie 847-673-6300
northlight.org
 PO BOY TANGO World Premiere Jan. 7 thru Feb.15
 A celebration of the human spirit and the joy of cooking, Po Boy Tango tells the story of Richie Po - a Chinese immigrant who turns to his estranged friend Gloria to help him recreate his mother's "Great Banquet." Despite the challenges of shark fin soup, duck po boy sandwiches and underlying cultural tensions, Richie and Gloria find common ground through their shared humor and the interaction of traditional Taiwanese cuisine and African-American "Soul Food." With the help of lessons from Po Mama's television cooking show, the two discover a deeper understanding of food, culture and the nature of friendship.

NORTH SHORE CENTER 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie 847-673-6300
 FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
 CAPITOL STEPS makes it easier to leave public office. They will inaugurate our new president with musical/political satire. Jan. 22 thru Jan. 25

STEPPENWOLF THEATRE 1650 N Halsted St 312-335-1650
 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. Thru 2/8

THE WRITERS THEATRE 664 Vernon Ave. Glencoe 847-242-6000
 THE MAIDS A Classic thriller about a pair of sisters in service to a socialite. Based on a real case in 1933, it shocked the provincial town of Lyons. Thru April 5

THEATRE OF WESTERN SPRINGS 4384 Hampton Ave., Western Springs 708-246-3380
 THE ENCHANTED APRIL Kane Campbell's story of four women who try to escape from their lives in England for a month in a secluded Castle in Italy. In the sunshine of Italy, the women experience unexpected and enchanted turns in their otherwise cloudy lives. Jan. 22 thru Feb. 1

BOOK OF DAYS by Lanford Wilson. A mystery about a murder in a small town and the community theatre production of Saint Joan that drives its principal actress to try and solve it. A fascinating play that has facile plots, twists, and turns. Feb.12 thru 22

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NEW YEAR'S WISHES
 FOR OUR READERS

If I could have a word to say	You'd never need to doubt
about the kind of cheer	'cause every day would bring
that you would find on January 1	happiness, love and good health.
and all throughout the year	Isn't that the best of everything?

Courtesy of Marion Hoffing

RTAC HONORS BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

In commemoration of Black History Month (February) and Women's History Month (March),

Chicago Scene editor Marion Hoffing offers the following articles.

THE FAR-REACHING LIFE OF GORDON PARKS

Excerpted from an article by Roy Rowan in The Smithsonian Magazine Special Anniversary Issue November 2008.

At an age when most men are resting on their laurels if not simply resting, Gordon Parks has written another memoir called "A Hungry Heart," and another illustrated book of poetry called "Eyes with Winged Thoughts," both scheduled for publication by Simon and Schuster this month in time for his 93rd birthday. He is also composing a sonnet for the celebration of his Yo-Yo-Ma cooking for friends and presiding over a lively scattered family of three children, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren who all call him "Pepe."

Parks called his first memoir, a fictional account of his Kansas boyhood, *THE LEARNING TREE*. The book and the subsequent movie directed and scored by him are now considered classics. But it was his second autobiography called "A Choice of Weapons" that describes how his mother taught him to use love and self-respect against the racism that caused him to be beaten, scarred and called "nigger."

After her death in 1928, he followed an older sister to St. Paul, Minn. Her hard-boiled husband soon kicked him out of the house, forcing Gordon to spend his nights riding public transportation and scrounging food to continue going to high school.

Later, as a self-taught musician, he played the piano in a bordello eking out just enough tips to rent a room. He worked as a busboy in the Hotel Lowry, a song writer for Larry Funk's band, a semi-pro basketball player with the St. Paul House of David and as a dining car waiter on the *North Coast Limited*. It was on a train that he came across a copy of *Vogue Magazine* that inspired him to try fashion photography, a decision that led him to Roy

Stryker's talent pool of farm security administration photographers that included Dorothea Lange, Walker Evans and Carl Mydans. Working for the SSA, Parks took the photograph he still considers his most important--of a poor black cleaning woman standing with mop and broom in front of an American flag--a pose reminiscent of Grant Wood's *American Gothic*.

In 1949, he was hired by *Life Magazine*, breaking the color barrier. His assignments ranged from covering gun-packing Harlem gang members to the stars of Hollywood where he later became the first black director financed by a major Hollywood studio.

"When I was shooting stories for *Life* or directing movies," Parks says, "black people would look at me, and I knew I was setting an example. It was a tremendous responsibility. If they confided their bitterness to me about life's injustices, I'd say, 'You can fight back, but do it in a way to help yourself, not destroy yourself.'"

Parks's artistic endeavors were often responses to tragedy. The death of his son Gordon Jr. in a plane crash while filming in Kenya inspired a sonata; an encounter with a sick and starving Brazilian boy in Rio's slums inspired a *Life* photo essay and subsequent book, *Flavia*.

To memorialize the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., Parks wrote the music and directed the ballet *Martin*. More recently, Pope John Paul's death prompted a poem that will appear in his forthcoming book.

"My perspective keeps changing. I see the same events differently than I did 40 or 50 years ago," Parks told the author. Asked if he hadn't achieved enough for one lifetime, Parks replied, "No, if I stop creating things, I'll die."

DOROTHY MAYNOR RENOWNED AFRICAN AMERICAN OPERA STAR

Dorothy Maynor was born in 1910 in Norfolk, Va., a daughter of a Methodist clergyman. She first sang in the choir of her father's church.

When she was 14, she entered Hampton Institute, where she studied to be a teacher. Her courses included some music, but she spent most of her time studying home economics and hand-crafts. It was only by chance that she tried out for the Institute's famous choir. Later she accompanied the choir in a tour of Europe and America. After the tour, the choir director persuaded her to take up music rather than teaching as a career. He arranged a scholarship for her at Westminster Choir School of Princeton, N.J.

In 1939, Dorothy Maynor attended the Berkshire Music Festival where Serge Kousseditzky conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra occasionally gave a hearing to talented young musicians. She persuaded him to listen to her.

Her voice so electrified him that he had her sing before his annual picnic for noted critics and musicians the next day. As a result, she received an engagement to sing with the Boston Symphony Orchestra the following season.

Within three months she had appeared with four of the country's leading orchestras, and frequent concert appearances followed.

This gracious, talented artist, was discovered by chance, heard by millions and acclaimed by Serge Kousseditzky who claimed she had a voice "of musical revelation."

WE APOLOGIZE

The names of Frank Delancey and Laura DaMata in memorials from Mary K. Dowd were misspelled in the October issue. The News Bulletin regrets the errors.

CORRECTION

Since the October issue of the *News Bulletin* was published, RTAC member Paul S. Kerman has probably been quoting famed American author Samuel Langhorne Clemens' (Mark Twain's) response to an erroneous obituary printed in the *New York Journal* in 1897: "Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated."

The *Journal* editor had apparently read a death notice for Twain's cousin, Samuel Ross Clemens, and confused the two.

We are happy to report that the obituary of Mr. Kerman listed in the "Friends Gone Ahead" section of the October issue was equally erroneous, and he is still very much among the living.

When the error was discovered at the Pension Fund office where all obituary information originates, no less a personage than Patricia A. Hambrick, CFO/COO of the Chicago Teachers Pension Fund, contacted the *News Bulletin*:

"Mr. Kerman was mistakenly marked as a deceased member here at the Pension Fund. Although that error was later corrected here at the Fund, it is possible that the periodic listing of deceased members that you receive from us included his name."

How can such an error occur? Frances Radeneic, Pension Fund office manager, explained that with 27,000 active teachers, 23,000 retirees, and thousands of survivors and persons with disabilities to deal with, an occasional mistake is bound to occur.

Also, and possibly more confusing, is the large number of people with exactly the same name including the same middle initial. (Do you remember the confusion caused when two or three teachers had the same surname when you were teaching?)

The *News Bulletin* regrets passing along the erroneous information about Paul S. Kerman received from the CTPF.

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.

Alicia Anderson Eleanore Ball Leatha Brooks Catherine Bushbacher Kathryn Chilis Victoria Christmas Mary Ann Clifford Eileen F. Crowley Betty Jean Curtis Christine Czarnecki-Jones Margaret Deutschman Marlene H. Doukas Marilee Eppley Lavenia J. Galloway Sally A. Grenz Carol A. Griffy Brenda A. Hammond Steven Hara	Jo Ann W. Harper Enid Hauser Ronald P. Hauser Marcia M. Hayes Marjorie D. Heard Emmanita R. Hendricks Laura Hudson John A. Jakob James E. Jones Susamn Lee Klein Patricia E. Lech Sarah S. Levin Debra List Elizabeth Lizzio Sarah Loftus Nivia I. Maldonado Judy A. Marion Sandra McCann-Beavers Wayne McGlashan Jane Bloomquist McMillan	Gary M. Moriello Lucy S. Morris Ronald Oberman Joan M. Papp Jahn D. Phillips Marjorie A. Preston Alleyne Pryor Margaret D. Reed Geraldine Rizik Susan Rosenthal Iris D. Schrey Melver L. Scott Joseph G. Shableau Mary Margaret Shea Deborah Smith Susan J. Smolak Louisea Storey Larry J. Thomas Wynetta J. Thomas Anita M. Ward

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 page 2).

HARD TIMES BRING MORE REQUESTS TO AID FUND

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

Just this week the Aid Fund has received yet another request from a middle class retiree--a homeowner as many of us are. This applicant as the others with their small pensions is now overburdened with the sudden combination of increased mortgage payments and property taxes, increased utility costs, and increased medical and prescriptions costs not covered by any CTPF plan.

All we RTAC members must be prepared for the even more future clients who are in a similar situation because of these unusual economic times. Your help is needed.

We are fortunate in having Vaughn J. Barber,

RTAC President, able to assist and advise those who wish to participate in shared giving. In our new quarters, these donors will be permanently remembered for their devotion, concern and generosity. Attorney Barber can be reached at (773) 363-9049.

The Aid Fund is continually appreciative of the efforts of our present and past leaders who were successful in sharing their concerns with our members and were able to reach people who wanted so generously to help. We owe much to our retiring RTAC President Ethel Philpott, and to Dr. Mae M. Hunter, Helen P. Johnson, Robert C. Konen, Dr. Arthur R. Lehne, Ned L. McCray, Audrey U. Mivelaz, Edward A. O'Farrell, Walter Pilditch, Zygmunt K. Sokolnicki, and James F. Ward.

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 SEPTEMBER 6, 2008 TO DECEMBER 11, 2008)

<u>DONOR:</u>	<u>IN MEMORY OF:</u>		
Eugene Jerkatis	Grace A. Luedke	Penelope A. Robinson	My two sisters: Ray and Sabonga
Susie M. Ward	Alva M. Bullock Louise R. Devault	Isabel Schechter	Bernadette McCracken
Rita T. Pedone	Sheila Dwyer Barbara Doss	Marion Shortino	Veda Stern
Eva Nickolich	Ed Knapp Nereida Bonilla	Rosemary Tirio	Walt Rogers Veda Stern
Belkis M. Santos	Isaura H. McNelly	Jewel T. Sims	Rosemary Johnson Barbara Doss
June R. Kakacek	Adeline Janik Joseph Shagg Dorothy Walsh	Patricia Weisberg	Virginia F. Lewis
E. Robert Olson	Helen M. Bertha Joseph J. Connery Sheila M. Dwyer	Virginia Wood	Bonnie Mayhew
Wally Schreiman	The 9 boys from Cal Cool Hall Taft High	Anne W. Bannor	Diana Golomb
Rina M. Naddeo	Ted Washington Dr. Bebe L. Goodall	John Demczyk	Jack Bayer Dale Lamos
Elizabeth T. Smith	Eula Beck Emma L. VanZandt	Mary K. Dowd	Frances R. Clark Josephine Dennis Isaura McNelly Jane Rezek Ramona Riemer Patricia Zamzow
Mary K. Dowd	Eileen Burke	Joseph J. Eckl	Joseph Connery Drew Walker Eleanor Straka
Bill Little	John Hacker	Anonymous	James L. Foley
Jack Adams	John Hacker	Patricia S. Hanlon	Marita Hogan
Ruth P. Artisuk	Donald C. Giersch Harry Hildebrandt	Don and Jean Hill	Alice Nakazawa Howard Sloan
Robert Riemenschneider	Barney Beard	Judith Kesler	Diane Golomb
Kurt Kopfstein	Emmanuel "Muggs" Migliorisi Marvin Brooderson	Stanley F. Krzyzanowski	Sol Wernick
Therese Martyn	Petra Harris	Lawrence Laughlin	Edward Knapp
Thelma Miller	Dorothy Diane Jones	Karen Lemke	Tanna Mattingly
Delores Partekel	Grace Luedke	Angela F. Lui	Nathalia E. Payne
		Retired Women Principals	Nereida Bonilla Frances Knaphurst Norma Magers
		Barbara L. Gurdon	Patricia Zamzow Robert Wooten Isaura McNelly Joan O'Kane
		Eva Nickolich	Arline Hersh Willard Uber

Freedom Club	Lorraine LaForce
John Butterfield	Willard Uber
Eileen McNulty	Ron Henja

MEMORIAL DONATIONS TO
RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION of
CHICAGO
FOR THE GENERAL EXPENSE FUND
NOT FEDERAL TAX DEDUCTIBLE. In amounts
of \$10 and over

(from September 6, 2008, to December 11, 2008)

SPECIAL DONATIONS TO
CHICAGO RETIRED TEACHERS AID FUND, INC.

<u>DONOR</u>	<u>OCCASION</u>
Frank C. McClenahan	General Purpose
George A. Kolovos	General Purpose
Sylvia Kayser	General Purpose
Dr. Jeannie Gallo	In Honor of Dr. Arline Hersh Ted Washington
Anonymous	General Purpose
Anonymous	General Purpose
Martha Delcampo Semisch	General Purpose
Marilyn Quas	General Purpose
Sandra Maison Rosen	General Purpose
Karen A. Svendsen	General Purpose
Anonymous	General Purpose
Esperanza Calderon	General Purpose
Jerry A. Clarizio	General Purpose
Bernice B. DeFlorio	General Purpose
Joseph J. Eckl	In Honor of CTC Grads, Class of 1950 Celebrating America: Indivisible and Everlast- ing
Anonymous	General Purpose
Anonymous	General Purpose
John and Bonita Lyles	General Purpose
LaVerne A. Nichols	My teacher, friend, and mentor—Mrs. Vera Pitts Morris. She was my high school teacher in 1954 and she's still enjoying life.

<u>DONOR:</u>	<u>IN MEMORY OF:</u>
Shirley A. Waters	Grace Luedke Helen T. Toff
Frances M. Layo	Grace Luedke
Paul E. Collins	James H. Collins Laura S. Collins
Georgia J. Chrisos	Helen T. Toff
Candace L. Benford	Dr. Rachelle K. Burch Leonard I. Burch Richard J. Burch
Elaine and Mort Elenbogen	Sol Wernick
Betty A. Quinn	Ed Quinn
Alberta (Jankowski) Gresh	Joyce Dabbouseh
The Henry Suder Club	Grace Luedke
Wes and Jeri Rose, Don Rose and Family	Marilyn Fitzgerald, School Nurse
John Demczyk	Dr. Rev. Caesar Mitoraj Mary Marnel Maria India
Ronald E. Ring	John Hacker

SPECIAL DONATIONS TO
RETURED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF
CHICAGO

DONOR	OCCASION
Paul E. Collins	In Honor of Robert Abson
A. J. Kemp	General Purpose
Peter Matthew Merwin	In Honor of Lawrence McBride Lawrence McBride, Jr. Agatha and Walter Merwin
Joseph J. Eckl	General Purpose
Flora Moreno Soto	General Purpose

THE WEBMASTER'S REPORT

by Roy Coleman

The RTAC website has been active in the past few months. Pages referring to the problems which might occur if there were a Con-Con were regularly visited.

A number of new job offers were received and posted including one offering jobs to English teachers in Korea and another for English teachers in Honduras.

There were several additions to the 'Fun' page including several new cartoons and a new sec-

tion on 'Strange Facts'. A couple of examples of strange facts are 'What is the longest English word that can be typed on a single row of a typewriter keyboard?', 'Which hand does the most typing?' and 'Can you lick your elbow?'. (See the Fun page for the answers to these and other oddities.)

In addition, the 'Pun' page is quite popular (If a frog double parked would it be toad?). Please visit the RTAC website at RTAC.ORG and then contribute some of your own humor.

OBITUARY FOR COMMON SENSE

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm, life isn't always fair, and maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and reliable parenting strategies (adults, not children are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well intentioned, but overbearing, regulations were set in place. Reports of a six-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate, teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch, and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job they themselves failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools

were required to get parental consent to administer aspirin, sun lotion or a Band-Aid to a student, but could not inform the parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, churches became businesses, and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason. He is survived by three stepbrothers: "I know my rights," "Someone Else is to Blame," and "I'm a Victim."

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

[Courtesy of Treasurer Art Keegan]

THE BERTHA FAMILY: 22 TEACHERS, MORE THAN 450 YEARS OF TEACHING

When Constance Martin, retired principal of the Tanner School, read “A Family of Teachers” in the October *News Bulletin* about the five teachers and more than 150 years of teaching of the Conron/Clark family, she was impressed by that family’s values and educational productivity. It reminded her very much of her own family.

Constance was the sixth of 12 children born to the late minister and postal worker Rev. William Bertha and Marguerite Bertha, a stay-at-home mom who taught all her children to read prior to their entering school. The Bertha children were guided with a strong belief in God and in getting a good education.

All 12 children attended the Chicago Public Schools, 11 attended college and nine received one or more degrees. In spite of being a brilliant 16-year-old who was fifth in her graduating class, Gladys Bertha Johnson, the eldest, was denied her dream of attending Teachers College due to race. Rev. Bertha took her to Central YMCA College (now Roosevelt University) and gained Gladys’ admittance from President Sparling when he arranged to have her work in the college library in lieu of tuition.

Rev. Bertha made Gladys promise to assist financially with the next sibling’s tuition once she began her career; that became a family tradition, each sibling helping the next in line to attain their education. Gladys Johnson ended her career after 42 years at Doolittle School as teacher, head teacher and acting assistant principal. Her late husband, Leroy Johnson, also taught school for over 20 years.

William Bertha Jr. was a CPS counselor, assistant principal, staff assistant at a district office and Model Cities consultant. William’s late wife, Helen Bertha, was a CPS assistant principal. William retired after 30 years, and Helen retired after 36 years. Additionally, their daughter, Marla James, once taught music for CPS.

The late Vivian Bertha Lunford taught at Ruggles, and her husband, Nathan Lunford Jr., taught at Simeon Vocational. Their daughter, Lynne Rone, is a retired CPS English teacher and Attendance

Office coordinator with 35 years of service. Her daughter, Traci Barnes, briefly taught at Wadsworth.

The next sister, Gwendolyn Bertha Woods, resisted the lure of the classroom, but her late husband was a teacher. Thomas Woods retired from Simeon Vocational after a 22-year teaching career. Herbert Bertha is next in line, but it is his wife, Adell Bertha, who is a retired teacher after 34 years of CPS service.

Then came Constance who began her 45-year career as a primary teacher and ended as the principal of Tanner Elementary. Constance’s husband has not been a teacher, but his name may ring some bells with readers: He is Leroy Martin, former Chicago Police Superintendent.

Next is Yvonne Bertha White. Both she and her husband, Leland White, are retired teachers. After 40 years she retired from Hinton School, and after 35 years he retired as the director of the Department of Insurance for CPS.

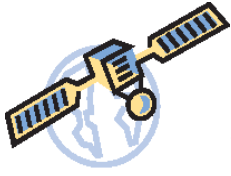
Lawrence Bertha retired from CPS after 25 years as a seventh and eighth grade math teacher. The brother who followed him, Chauncey Bertha, retired after 30 years and was principal at Sexton Elementary. His wife, Bertha Bertha (that’s right – *Bertha Bertha* – a source of family chuckles), retired from Warren Elementary after a 35-year career.

Warren Bertha was a CPS substitute teacher for a short time. His wife, Bessie Bertha, retired after 35 years as a CPS teacher. Their daughter, Adrienne Loury, has been a speech pathologist for CPS for eight years.

Although youngest brother Dwight and his wife did not teach, their daughter, Sheriece Redmond, once taught for CPS.

This brings the final tally to 21 CPS teachers. A Bertha great-grandchild, John Rone IV, presently teaches in another school district. Thus the total number of educators this family has produced is 22. “The Berthas strongly believe in educa-

(Please see Bertha Family Story, next page.)



SATELLITE DOINGS

SAN DIEGO SATELLITE

By Sam Dolnick

On Tuesday, October 14, 2008, the San Diego Satellite had a luncheon/business meeting at the Olive Garden Restaurant in Carlsbad, California. Fifteen people were present.

The participants were Jack and Fran Blumenthal, Sam Dolnick, Sylvia Kayser, Nancy Lewis, Carol and Paul Mooney, Barbara Perkins, Ellen Perry, Evalyn and Arthur Schiff, Irene and Angelo Sharres, and Vlasta Williams.

Arrangements for the luncheon were made by Carol Mooney. Sam Dolnick presented the treasurer's report and reported on the latest information from RTAC and the Chicago Teachers' Pension Office. Mention was made, by some present that PrimeMail Therapeutics has improved significantly in sending out medications in a timely manner.

Also, the information sent with the prescriptions for renewing prescriptions is extremely helpful. It appears that they have resolved all the difficulties that occurred when they first took over the mail order service.

The next luncheon/business meeting will be held at noon on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at the Olive Garden Restaurant on Carmel Mountain Road. If any of our colleagues, in San Diego County, are not receiving reservation notices, please contact Sam Dolnick at 5706 Baltimore Drive, Unit 348, La Mesa, CA 91942, 619-697-4854, sandolnick@juno.com.

We hope that all our colleagues had a pleasant Thanksgiving and we wish all to have a very happy and HEALTHY YEAR TO COME.

S. W. FLORIDA SATELLITE

Gail Obie reports from the Naples-Ft. Meyers area of Florida that things are quiet for the S.W. Florida RTAC Satellite. Since many members return to Chicago for the holidays, their next meeting will take place in March 2009. In the meantime, Gail will be recuperating from knee replacement surgery, which she underwent in late November. We wish her a speedy recovery

Arthur E. Keegan smiles after being elected RTAC Treasurer at the Fall Luncheon in the lovely Grand Ballroom of the Palmer House Conrad Hilton Hotel.



(Bertha Family Story continued.)

tion," said Constance Martin. "We feel proud to have shaped and molded young minds since the 1940s. We also have a collective sense of humor and will tell you that the CPS should have a balanced budget now since most of us have retired."

The collective service of the Bertha family, their spouses, children and grandchildren all

adds up to almost 500 teaching-years. Twenty-two teachers, 500 years of teaching and a distinguished Police Superintendent, that's quite a contribution for one family in anyone's book!

[Editor's note: Thanks to Constance Martin for her meticulous research and reporting of this story.]

HEALTH NOTES

GOOD FATS - WHAT ARE HEALTHY FATS?

Those who say all fats are bad for you are, of course, dangerously incorrect. As it turns out, plant-based fats are powerful cancer fighters, and even saturated fats from plant sources are now being shown to offer extraordinary health benefits.

If you want to prevent cancer, or you're currently battling colon cancer, prostate cancer or breast cancer, it is essential to get plant-based fats into your diet on a daily basis. What kind of plant-based fats are we talking about? What are the healthy fats?

The healthy fats include extra-virgin olive oil, flax seed oil, and fats from plant sources such as nuts, seeds, avocados, and coconuts. These

healthy fats should be consumed with every meal. Failure to include these fats in a meal will result in many of the nutrients consumed during the meal not being absorbed by the body. That's because many nutrients are fat-soluble nutrients. Beta carotene, Vitamin D, and Vitamin E are three such nutrients that require fat in order to be absorbed and used by the human body, but there are many other nutrients that also need fats for human metabolism.

Incidentally, these oils do much more than just fight cancer; they also improve your cardiovascular health and fight weight gain and obesity. The benefits list is a long one.

THE PERFECT ANSWER

A mechanic was removing a cylinder-head from the motor of a Harley motorcycle when he spotted a well-known cardiologist in his shop. The cardiologist was there waiting for the service manager to come take a look at his bike when the mechanic shouted across the garage:

"Hey Doc, want to take a look at this?"

The cardiologist, a bit surprised, walked over to where the mechanic was working on the motorcycle. The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, "So Doc, look at this engine. I open its heart, take the valves out, repair any damage, and then put them back in, and when I finish, it works just like new.

"So how come I make \$75,000 a year and you get the really big bucks (\$1,600,000) when you and I are doing basically the same work?"

The cardiologist paused, smiled and leaned over, then whispered to the mechanic...

"Try doing it with the engine running."

Courtesy of V.K. Brown

SUBJECT: TODAY'S TEACHER

After being interviewed by the school administration, the teaching prospect said, "Let me see if I've got this right: 'You want me to go into that room with all those kids, correct their disruptive behavior, observe them for signs of abuse, monitor their dress habits, censor their T-shirt messages, and instill in them a love for learning.

"You want me to check their backpacks for weapons, wage war on drugs and sexually transmitted diseases, and raise their sense of self esteem and personal pride. You want me to teach them patriotism and good citizenship, sportsmanship and fair play, and how to register to vote, balance a checkbook, apply for a job and make sure that they all pass the state exams.

"You want me to provide them with an equal education regardless of their handicaps, and communicate regularly with their parents by letter, telephone, newsletter, and report card.

"You want me to do all this with a piece of chalk, a blackboard, a bulletin board, a few books, a big smile, and a starting salary that qualifies me for food stamps. You want me to do all this and then you tell me *I CAN'T PRAY?*"

Courtesy of Art Keegan

FRIENDS GONE AHEAD

Requiescant in pace

ALDRICH, CELESTE M.

Neé McGlynn. In 1991, when Celeste retired from the Mt. Greenwood School, she had taught for 30 years. She was 75 years old when she expired on September 21, 2008.

ALLEN, AUDREY M.

Neé Boddie. When she retired in 1994 from the Libby School, Audrey had taught for 38 years. She was 78 years of age at her death on August 29, 2008.

ARMBRUSTER, DOROTHY.

Neé Fitzgerald. After a career of eight years, Dorothy retired from Roosevelt High School in 1975. She died on August 28, 2008, at the age of 99.

BLUM, FREDRICK.

His four-year teaching career ended when Fredrick retired from the City Colleges in 1996. He was 81 when his life ended on September 15, 2008.

BONELL, JAMES.

James resigned from the Richards Career Academy High School in 2003 after 34 years. He was 61 when he expired on August 22, 2008.

BRAXTON, DOROTHY L.

Neé Nash. After teaching 24 years, Dorothy resigned in 2000 from Drake. She succumbed at the age of 72 on September 22, 2008.

BROWN, BARBARA G.

Neé Grande Pre. Barbara ended a 33-year career when she resigned from Ruggles School in 1989. She died on September 4, 2008, at 79 years of age.

BROWN, RUFUS D.

Rufus resigned from the Banneker School in 1998 after a 14-year career. He was 74 years old when he died on October 27, 2008.

BROWN, GLORIA JEAN.

Neé Sims. Gloria Jean's 34-year teaching career ended when she retired from Nash in 2006. She passed away on September 8, 2008, at the age of 61 years.

BRUNI, LAURETTE.

Neé Dunne. Laurette left the Irving School in 1988 after a career that spanned 36 years. She expired at the age of 85, on September 16, 2008.

BURCH, RACHELLE.

Neé King. Rachelle was a teacher at Westcott when she resigned in 1988 after a 33-year teaching career. Her life ended at the age of 90 on October 1, 2008.

BURKHARD, ANNE M.

Neé Turvey. Anne taught at the Waters School until she retired in 1991, after 35 years. On October 1, 2008, she passed away at the age of 80.

CARRIGAN, ANNABEL.

Neé Robinson. When Annabel retired from the Pullman School in 1976, she ended a 31-year career. She expired on October 6, 2008, having achieved the age of 94 years.

CASEY, RITA M.

Neé McVeigh. Rita retired in 1978 from the Dawes School, after teaching 35 years. Her life ended on August 26, 2008, at the age of 92 years.

CERANEC, HAROLD W.

In 1985, Harold left Foreman High School after a career that lasted 34 years. When his life ended on November 2, 2008, he was 85 years of age.

CHRISTENSEN, LOUISE E.

Louise died on October 13, 2008, at the age of 99 years. She retired as an Administrator from the City Colleges in 1969 after a career of 23 years.

COLEMAN, LEROY W.

Leroy succumbed on October 28, 2008, at the age of 65. He served 34 years, resigning from the Morton Career Academy in 2002.

COMROE, RUTH P.

Neé Liberman. Ruth retired in 1982 from the Brennemann School ending a 27-year career. At the end of her life on September 24, 2008, she was 85 years old.

CONLEY, SHEILA E.

Sheila died on September 5, 2008, at the age of 62. Her career of 31 years ended when she retired from the Orozco in 2004.

CONLON, ALICE E.

After 28 years in the Chicago School system, Alice retired from Gage Park High School in 1988. When death took her on August 29, 2008, she was 87 years old.

COOPER, LORAYNE.

Neé Rodriguez. Lorayne was 84 years old when she died on August 22, 2008. She was at Stone when she resigned in 2005 after a 41-year career.

CREAN, MARY E.

Neé Connolly. Mary resigned from the Dawes School in 1984 after a 36-year career. She was 88 years old when she died on September 6, 2008.

DAIGLE, EDWARD H.

Edward ended a 36-year career when he resigned from Farragut High School in 2000. At his death on November 19, 2008, he was 65 years old.

DEMURO, CAROL.

Neé Christensen. Life ended for Carol at the age of 87 on October 14, 2008. She retired from Harlan High School in 1991, at the end of a 32-year career.

DENHAM HARRIS,

Barbara J. Neé Carter. Barbara had taught as a Substitute for eight years before she retired in 2002. She was 69 when her life ended on October 26, 2008.

DEPRIEST, C. DANNETTE.

Neé Johnson. C. Dannette's 34-year career in the Chicago Schools ended when she retired from Ashe in 1998. On October 14, 2008, at the time she succumbed, she was 79 years old.

DEVINE, MARJORIE.

When she left Lafayette School as Assistant Principal in 1975, Marjorie put a 42-year career to an end. Her life ended on October 1, 2008, at the age of 99.

DI MARTINO, SAMUEL.

When he retired in 2001 as a Substitute, Samuel had taught for 10 years. He was 57 years of age at his death on September 23, 2008.

DOLAN, WALTER S.

Walter's career of 29 years came to an end as he left Lewis Elementary in 1993. When he passed away on August 27, 2008, he had reached the age of 83.

DONNELLY, RORY D.

After a career that spanned 4 years in Chicago and, 28 years outside, Rory retired from the State University Retirement System in 1978. He expired on March 25, 2008, at the age of 62.

DUFFY, HELEN S.

Neé Sheehan. In 1991, when she resigned from Shields, Helen completed a 20-year career. She was 88 when she died on November 2, 2008.

FITZGERALD, MARILYN C.

At the close of her life on September 6, 2008, Marilyn was 75 years old. A teacher for 37 years, she retired from the De Diego Community in 1993.

FOMBY, ERNESTINE.

Neé Christian. After a career that lasted 45 years, Ernestine retired from Wentworth in 2006. She was 69 when she died on November 5, 2008.

FREDRICK, ROBBIE A.

Neé Downey. On September 4, 2008, Robbie passed away at the age of 75 years. She retired from Gershwin in 1990 after 33 years of teaching.

FRITZ, RUTH E.

Ruth resigned in 1982 from Barnard, ending a 35-year time span in the Chicago system and six years' teaching outside the Chicago system. She was 92 at the time of her death on October 11, 2008.

FURJANIC, RICHARD J,

Richard was a Substitute when he resigned in 1994 after five years in the Chicago Public Schools. He was 77 on September 20, 2008, when he passed on.

GAINES, LYDIA S.

Neé Shane. Lydia retired from the Hayt School in 1985, after a 33-year career. She succumbed on November 4, 2008, at the age of 93.

GARDNER, FLOYD.

Floyd was at Milton Brunson School when he retired in 2002. His career spanned 44 years, and he succumbed at the age of 79 on May 1, 2008.

GERACE, PHILLIP.

After 20 years, Phillip resigned from Brenemann in 1991. Death took him on September 15, 2008; he was 78 at the time.

GILBERT, STEVEN J.

Steven was associated with the Chicago Schools for 35 years, the last as the Math/Science Director in the Area Instructional Office 1, where he was when he retired in 2007. He was 61 years old when death took him on November 3, 2008.

GLICKMAN, WILLIAM.

In 1987, William retired from Sullivan High School after 35 years of teaching. On September 22, 2008, he passed on at the age of 81 years.

GOLOMB, DIANA L.

Neé Lack. In 1975, Diana resigned from the Budlong School after a 40-year career. When she expired on September 27, 2008, she was 98 years old.

GREENE, CLARENCE E,

When he left Cregier High School in 1984, Clarence put a 16-year career to an end. His life ended on August 8, 2008, at the age of 86.

GUNDERSON, ARTHUR.

A Coordinator at Central Office when he resigned in 1986, Arthur had served for 30 years in Chicago schools and four years outside Chicago. He was 79 on the date of his passing, October 5, 2008.

HACKER, JOHN F.

John left Lane Tech High School in 1985 after a career that lasted for 29 years. He expired at the age of 86, on November 1, 2008.

HARRIS, ALECIA A.

A teacher for 35 years, Alecia was at Caldwell when she retired in 2002. She passed on at the age of 70 on November 25, 2008.

HARRIS, PETRA.

Neé Smith. Petra was an Administrator at Central Office when she retired in 1990, terminating a 44-year career. At her death on August 17, 2008, she was 85 years of age.

HATCHELL, MILDRED.

Neé Arthur. When she retired from King High School in 1979, Mildred ended a career that included 27 years in the Chicago system and two years in another school system. Death claimed her on August 11, 2008, at the age of 89 years.

HECHT, DONNA M.

Donna was 76 years old at her death on November 11, 2008. She resigned from Arai Middle School in 1995 after 38 years in Chicago.

HICKEY, EILEEN M.

Neé Murphy. Eileen retired from Medill in 1983 after a 22-year career. Death came for her at age 86 on October 17, 2008.

HODGES, SHARON V.

Neé Cooper. Sharon succumbed on September 2, 2008, at the age of 78. She served 39 years, resigning from the Douglas School in 1994.

HORNICK, RITA M.

Neé Hello. Rita was at Cuffe when she retired in 1993 after a 21-year career. She was 80 when she died on September 19, 2008.

HORWITZ, ADELLE.

Neé Scher, Adelle had reached 96 years of age when her life came to a close on September 8, 2008. Her 14-year career ended when she resigned from the Gale School in 1976.

HOSMAN, ELEANORE A.

Neé Borowski. In 1993, when she retired from the Jamieson School, Eleanore ended her 38-year career with the Chicago School system. On October 23, 2008, her life ended after 79 years.

IRWIN, THOMAS.

When he retired from Phillips High School in 1994, Irwin ended a career that included 34 years in the Chicago system. Death claimed him on September 21, 2008, at the age of 70 years.

JAQUEZ, JOSEPH G.

A 23-year career in Chicago Schools came to an end for Joseph when he left Lane Tech High School in 1993. He died on October 2, 2008, at the age of 75 years.

JENKINS, JOHN Q.

On November 14, 2008, John passed on, at the age of 73 years. He had spent 25 years in the schools when he resigned as Principal from the State Teachers Retirement System in 1996.

JOHNSON, SANDRA M.

Neé Green. Her career of 34 years ended when she left the Wright School in 2004, and Sandra died on August 7, 2008, at the age of 61.

JOHNSON, SHIRLEE G.

Neé Rowe. When her life ended on September 3, 2008, Shirlee was 86 years old. Her retirement in 1984 from Von Humboldt marked the end of a one-year career.

JONES, DOROTHY D.

Neé Blanchard. In 1986, Dorothy retired from Jackson after 36 years of teaching. On October 16, 2008, she passed on at the age of 80 years.

JONES, ELEANOR E.

Neé Elliott. Eleanor was associated with the Chicago Schools for nine years, the last at the McNair School, where she was when she retired in 2005. She was 65 years old when death took her on October 11, 2008.

JONSCHER, MARGARET.

Neé Breitenwiter. A 24-year career in Chicago Schools came to an end for Margaret when she left the Thorp School in 1998. She died on October 6, 2008, at the age of 73 years.

KITTRIDGE, WILLIAM.

William retired as Principal from Bogan High School in 1988 after teaching for 33 years. On September 27, 2008, he died at age 76.

KLOWDEN, ROSE L.

Neé Goldberg. When she retired from the City Colleges in 1975, Rose ended a career of 28 years. She was 94 when her life came to a close on August 29, 2008.

KUKLIN, LORETTA N.

Neé Niederman. Loretta passed on at age 94 on August 21, 2008. She resigned in 1970 after a 33-year career that ended at Lake View High School.

KUZELKA, AGNES C.

Neé Wooding. A teacher for 17 years, Agnes was at Gary when she retired in 1984. Her life came to a close at the age of 86 on November 7, 2008.

LACEY, MOZELLA NETTIE.

Neé Armstrong. Mozella Nettie was at Deneen when she resigned in 2005 after 31 years in the Chicago Public Schools. She was 64 on August 30, 2008, when she passed on.

LEESMAN, DIXIE.

Dixie resigned from the Lincoln School in 1969 after a 36-year career, and died on September 29, 2008, at the age of 99 years.

LEVY, EUGENIA.

Neé Hogan. Eugenia ended a 38-year term in the Chicago system upon her retirement in 1991 from Eberthart. At her death on September 16, 2008, she was 82 years old.

LEWIS, ISAAC J.

After 34 years in Chicago schools, Isaac retired from the Kennedy High School in 2002. He was 86 when he expired on November 18, 2008.

LEWIS, VIRGINIA F.

Virginia's career of 47 years came to an end when she resigned as Assistant Superintendent in 1972. When she passed away on October 12, 2008, she had reached the age of 101.

LITTLE, VIVIAN.

Neé Troupe. On October 20, 2008, when she was 84, death claimed Vivian. She had taught 27 years when she resigned from Dist. 32 in 1986.

LUCAS, JANET L.

Neé Watkins. A teacher in the Yale School when she retired in 2002 after 10 years, Janet's life closed on October 7, 2008, at the age of 70 years.

LUEDKE, GRACE A.

Grace was affiliated with the Chicago Public Schools for 36 years when she retired from the Byrne School in 1987. At the time of her death on August 26, 2008, she was 78 years of age.

LYNCH, WALTER A.

Walter retired from Taft High School in 1987 after a career that lasted for 31 years. He expired on September 19, 2008, at the age of 87 years.

LYONS, SHIRLEY H.

Neé Hackett. When she resigned from Fulton Branch in 1980, Shirley capped a 26-year career. She was 88 when she died on August 30, 2008.

MANNING, DONALD M.

Donald was affiliated with the Chicago Public Schools for 38 years when he retired from Dusable High School in 1993. At the time of his death on September 13, 2008, he was 81 years of age.

MAR ASHI, SULTAN A.

Resigning as a Substitute in 1979 after a career that lasted one year, Sultan passed on at the age of 74 on June 26, 2005.

MATTHEWS, MARGARET J.

Neé Pasckke. Margaret retired from Lane Tech High School in 1992, ending a 27-year career. On August 19, 2008, when she passed on, she was 80 years old.

MAYHEW, BONITA S,

Her 36-year teaching career ended when Bonita retired from Curie High School in 2002. She was 64 when her life ended on October 4, 2008.

MCGINNIS, MARY JANE.

Neé Murray. Mary was 89 at her death on October 30, 2008. She ended her 31-year career when she retired from Blair in 1979.

MESSINIDES, HAROLD.

Harold ended a 13-year career when he left the City Colleges in 1984. When he died on October 5, 2008, he was 93 years of age.

MITCHUM, JUANITA W.

Neé Wells. Juanita had taught for 38 years when she retired in 1986 from the Gillespie School. At the end of her life on October 1, 2008, she was 86 years of age.

MOORE, ELMA OPAL.

A 29-year career in the Chicago Public Schools ended when Elma, who expired at the age of 84 on August 26, 2008, retired from O'Toole in 2001.

MUNGUIA, THERESE S.

Neé Kopczak. Therese was at the Harrison/TRS School when she retired in 2000 after a three-year teaching career. She was 63 at the time of her death on September 12, 2008.

ODENTHAL, GERHARD.

A Substitute teacher for two years, Gerhard retired in 1968. He passed on at the age of 69 on September 8, 2008 .

OJIFINNI, GANIYU A.

Ganiyu retired in 2001 while a Substitute, ending a one-year career, and passed away on September 2, 2008, at the age of 66.

OLSON, FLORENCE M.

Neé Durkin. In 1977, Florence left the Bright School after a career that lasted 11 years. When her life ended on September 8, 2008, she was 96 years of age.

PANKRATZ, HERBERT.

When he resigned after 15 years in 1979, Herbert was at the City Colleges. On October 8, 2008, he died at the age of 90.

PICKENS, MAXINE.

Neé Robinson. Maxine's 21-year career ended in 1994 when she resigned from Kohn. Death claimed her on September 13, 2008, at the age of 57.

PRICE, HOLLY C.

Neé Chones. When she resigned after five years in 2004, Holly was a Substitute. On July 24, 2008, she died at the age of 85.

PRICE, THEODORE R.

Theodore resigned in 1981 as a Substitute, ending a three-year time span in the Chicago system. He was 87 at the time of his death on September 7, 2008.

PURCELL, HELEN N.

Neé Adams. Helen succumbed at age 85 on November 8, 2008. She taught for 24 years before retiring from Mulligan in 1981.

RAGINS, PEARL C.

Neé Lefkovits. On September 20, 2008, life came to a close for Pearl at the age of 86. She had been at the Ellington School, retiring in 1984 at the end of a 28-year career in the Chicago Public Schools.

REDWOOD, JEAN.

Neé Hopkins. Jean was assigned to Howland when she retired in 1981 after 25 years in the Chicago system. She was 87 when she went to her reward on August 24, 2008.

REYNOLDS, ALFRED.

When Alfred retired as an Administrator from Central Office in 1995, his career had lasted 30 years. His life ended at the age of 73 on September 17, 2008.

RIZZUTO, JUAL O.

Neé O'Hanley. After a 28-year teaching career, Jual retired from Duffy in 1975. She died on October 10, 2008, at age 88.

ROBERTS, DORIS A.

Neé Jarrett. After teaching 34 years, Doris resigned from the Locke School in 2004. She was 63 when death claimed her on October 4, 2008.

ROBINSON, FLORENCE.

Neé Majors. Florence resigned as Assistant Principal from Newton in 1980 after 32 years. On September 20, 2008, she passed on at the age of 93 years.

ROBINSON, HAZEL L.

Neé Wilder. Hazel died on November 10, 2008, at the age of 73 years. She retired from the Irving School in 2005 after a career of 30 years.

ROGERS, WALTER D.

After a career of 38 years, Walt retired from Amundsen High School in 1989. He died on November 9, 2008, at the age of 81.

RUBIN, ROSELYN.

Neé Walen. Assigned as a Coordinator to Central Office when she resigned in 1982 after 14 years, Roselyn passed away at the age of 88 on October 14, 2008.

SALVADOR, PABLO.

Pablo expired on September 2, 2008, at the age of 67. His career of 19 years ended when he retired from the Greeley School in 2004.

SAVOLT, FLORENCE M.

Neé Allen. Florence retired from the Swift School in 1984 after a career that lasted for 13 years. She expired on November 2, 2008, at the age of 94 years.

SCAVO, JOHN J.

At the close of his life on September 5, 2008, John was 83 years old. A Substitute teacher for 22 years, he retired from the Gunsaulus School in 1994.

SCHUCH, LUCILLE M.

After a career that spanned 15 years, Lucille retired from Schmid in 1982. She expired on September 10, 2008, at the age of 88.

SHAUGHNESSY, MARGARET.

Neé McKay. Margaret was at Twain when she retired in 1983 after 31 years in Chicago schools and an additional year teaching outside Chicago. She was 93 when she succumbed on October 26, 2008.

SHEIL, MARY J.

After six years, Mary resigned from Calumet High School in 1975. Death took her on October 11, 2008; she was 99 at the time.

SIEWART, PATRICIA ANN.

Neé Suaver. Patricia left Stone in 2006 after teaching for 35 years. She left us at the age of 74 on November 12, 2008.

SIGUNICK, ENID A.

Neé Gould. After 38 years in Chicago Schools, Enid retired from Tilden High School in 1993. She was 87 when she expired on August 14, 2008.

SIMPSON, PATRICIA.

Neé Nohelty. Her 33-year career ended at the Schubert School in 1987 when Patricia retired. Death came for her on August 27, 2008, at the age of 82.

SINKHORN, MARGARET.

Neé Kormos. At the age of 90, Margaret passed away on November 14, 2008. She was at Spaulding High School in 1983 when she ended a 30-year career in the Chicago system with five years' teaching in another school system.

SLOAN, HOWARD.

Howard was 88 years old at his death on September 13, 2008. He resigned from District 2 Office as District Superintendent in 1989 after 39 years in Chicago.

SMITH, ELEASE M.

Neé Mabin. At her death on November 5, 2008, Elease was 77 years old. Her 37-year career ended when she resigned from McDowell in 1993.

SMITH, EZRA.

In 1995, when he retired from Corliss High School, Ezra ended his 27-year career with the Chicago School system. On September 30, 2008, his life ended after 74 years.

SMITH, JOHNNIE M.

Neé Byne. Ending a 21-year career, Johnnie left Beethoven in 1985. When she died on November 12, 2008, she was 90 years of age.

SNIVELY, CARL M.

After a career that lasted 38 years, Carl retired as Office Manager of the Chicago Teachers Pension Fund in 1990. He was 85 when he died on October 23, 2008.

SPITZ, SHARI R.

Neé Rodnick. Life ended for Shari on October 3, 2008, at the age of 82 years. She ended her 31-year career at Collins High School in 1987.

STEPHAN, ESTELLE.

Neé Booth. Estelle retired from Ravenswood in 1986 after teaching for 33 years. On October 16, 2008, she died at age 88.

STERN, VEDA.

Having ended a 41-year career at Amundsen High School by resigning in 1973, Veda expired on November 2, 2008, at the age of 100 years.

SUTTON, MATTIE LOUISE.

Neé Valentine. Mattie's 34-year career ended when she left Fairfield in 2007. She was 74 years old when she died on October 6, 2008.

SVEYDA, MARY I.

Neé Leonhardt. A teacher in the McCorkle School when she retired in 1988 after 20 years, Mary passed away on November 12, 2008, at the age of 82 years.

TAYLOR, CORNELIA P.

Neé Montgomery. At the age of 82, Cornelia passed away on November 22, 2008. After 36 years in the system, she resigned from Gregory in 1992.

TENENBAUM, JEANETT.

Neé Ressman. Jeanett served the Chicago Public Schools for four years, retiring from the Jackson School in 1976. She was 98 when death took her on October 9, 2008.

TERRY, LONZO E.

Death on November 5, 2008 at age 63 was the final event of Lonzo's life, after resignation from Kellman School in 2001 ended a 29-year career.

TINDALL, MARIAN R.

Neé Rummell. When she retired from Schmid in 1969, Marian's career spanned 28 years. At the end of her life on October 26, 2008, she was 98 years of age.

TOFF, HELEN T.

When Helen retired in 1980 from Budlong, her career had lasted 35 years with another year outside the Chicago system. Her life ended at the age of 90 on September 5, 2008.

TOUCHSTONE, ROSELLA.

Rosella resigned from the Hilliard School as Assistant Principal in 1982 after 16 years in Chicago and 10 years in another school system. She was 91 when she expired on September 16, 2008.

TRAVERSO, BETTY L.

Neé Bultson. A teacher at Julian High School when she resigned in 2002, Betty had served for 35 years. She was 67 on the date of her passing, November 4, 2008.

TRAYLOR, BANKER.

Banker ended a 32-year career by resigning as Assistant Principal from the Scanlan School in 1988; and on October 4, 2008, expired after reaching 81 years.

TROTTER, ESTHER R.

Neé Green. Last assigned to Ross, Esther retired in 2000 after 34 years of service. She passed away on October 27, 2008, at 65 years of age.

TYLER, CLAUZELL.

Resignation in 2001 from the Haley School ended Clauzell's nine-year career. Death came on September 26, 2008, at the age of 69 years.

UBER, WILLARD L.

When he retired as Assistant Principal from Kilmer School in 2005, Willard ended a career of 37 years. He was 61 when his life came to a close on November 18, 2008.

WALCHIRK, OSCAR.

Oscar succumbed at age 89 on September 17, 2008. He taught for 22 years before retiring from the City Colleges in 1984.

WEINER, LOUIS M.

Life ended for Louis at the age of 82 on October 22, 2008. He retired from the City Colleges in 1993, at the end of a one-year career.

WELIN, CARL G.

On October 30, 2008, Carl passed away at the age of 94 years. He retired as Assistant Principal from Steinmetz High School in 1976 after 37 years of teaching.

WERNICK, SOL.

Sol had taught for 39 years before he retired in 1983 as the Principal of Chopin School. He was 83 when his life ended on October 8, 2008.

WILKINS, VERA.

Neé Wood. Vera passed away on November 15, 2008, at the age of 75 years. She retired from the City Wide School in 1993, ending a career that spanned 38 years.

WILLIAMS, PATRICIA.

Neé Jones. Death came for Patricia on October 10, 2008, when she was 62 years old. She ended her career at Prussing in 2006, after 38 years.

WOLF, PAUL F.

After 28 years in the Chicago School system, Paul retired from the Armstrong School in 2003. When death took him on September 3, 2008, he was 61 years old.

WREN, GLORIA J.

Neé Fletcher. On October 4, 2008, Gloria passed on, at the age of 89 years. She had spent 38 years in the schools when she resigned from Phillips High School in 1985.

~*~

OH, HAPPY DAY!



Past RTAC President and current Pension Board Trustee Walter Pilditch (right) is all smiles as Executive Director Bob Bures starts the November meeting with a congratulatory moment honoring the just-elected Barack Obama.

Joy abounded at the Nov. 5 regular RTAC meeting. Executive Director Bob Bures held up the *Sun Times* cover photo of the victorious Barack Obama. In an Oct. 22 letter to the National Education Association, then-Senator Obama expressed his clear support for repeal of the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision, the law that prevents government workers (such as teachers!) from receiving Social Security benefits while also drawing a state-funded pension.

Obama wrote: "Nobody should be penalized for serving our children, and that's why I support repealing the GPO/WEP and will work to do so as President."

Add the sound defeat of the proposed Constitutional Convention and you have a recipe for an unusually enjoyable RTAC meeting.

Thanks to all who supported RTAC's campaign to defeat Con-Con and protect our state-guaranteed pensions.

THE NEXT NEWS BULLETIN WILL BE PUBLISHED IN APRIL, SO RTAC LEAVES OUR READERS WITH A BIT OF POETRY TO TAKE US THROUGH THE WINTER.

New Beginnings

by Helen Steiner Rice

How often we wish for another chance

To make a fresh beginning,

A chance to blot our our mistakes

And change failure into winning—

And it does not take a new year

To make a brand new start,

It only takes the deep desire

To try with all your heart

To live a little better

And to always be forgiving

And to add a little "sunshine"

to the world in which we're living—

So never give up in despair

And think that you are through,

For there's always a tomorrow

And a chance to start anew.



Just a little hug for you
on St. Patrick's Day
Did you feel it?

First Day of April

On the first day of April if someone should say,

"I'll give you a monster, a basket of hay,

a ride in a rocket, and ten games to play," just
laugh and remember...

It's APRIL FOOL'S DAY!

Copyright by Vivian Gouled

Easter wishes,
warm and true,
And all of them
are just for you!



[The poems and inspiration for this page courtesy of Chicago Scene Editor Marion Hoffing.]

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.

RTAC WISHES EVERYONE A HAPPY, PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS 2009!

January 19 - Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday

February 2 - Ground Hog's Day

12 - Lincoln's Birthday

14 - Valentine's Day

16 - President's Day

22 - Washington's Birthday

25 - Ash Wednesday

March 8- Daylight Savings Time begins

17 - St. Patrick's Day

20 - First Day of Spring

April 1 - Fools Day

9 - Passover

10 - Good Friday

12 - Easter

**Retired Teachers Association of Chicago
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