

# THE GREEN RTAC NEWS BULLETIN

VOLUME XLV

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2009

NO. 3

## NEWS BULLETIN GOES GREEN

Welcome to RTAC's experiment in publishing: *The Green News Bulletin*.

No, it will still be black and white, but, since it will be traveling through cyberspace, not the U.S. mail, it will save lots of "green \$tuff" for RTAC. Because only 12 pages of actual paper have been used for this issue, the lives of some green trees have also been spared.

So, as RTAC attempts to keep up with the changing times, we hope our members will bear with the new conditions. Please phone, mail or email any comments or suggestions for improvements to the editor. We will appreciate and consider your valuable input.

## LET'S BE BUDDIES

Congratulations! If you are reading this on the RTAC website, you must have both the equipment and the know-how to get with the new program: going paperless, going green-er and delivering the *News Bulletin* at less than half the cost of the former 30+ page print editions.

Since you have been blessed with these capabilities, and so many other RTAC members have not, would you kindly download and print two copies of this issue and give or mail them to members who are not online and can enjoy only the very abbreviated print edition? That would be a great service to RTAC as well as to your former colleagues.

## THE SPRING LUNCHEON 2009: A GOOD TIME HAD BY ALL



Marna Shapiro, former Chairman of the Counseling Department at Lincoln Park High School joined former Director of Guidance for District 31 Jules Binder to enjoy the festivities.



RTAC Director Raphael A. Juss enjoyed talking about old times with friends and former colleagues Audrey Mivelaz, who served on the RTAC Board of Directors for many years, the last as First Vice-President, and Dr. Rose J. Gordon, Board Psychologist.

# ETHEL PHILPOTT HONORED AT SPRING PARTY



Inscription on Ethel's Rocking Chair

Retiring President Ethel Philpott "tries on" her retirement gift of a lovely inscribed rocking chair. It fits. The NB staff wishes you lots of happy rocking, Ethel.

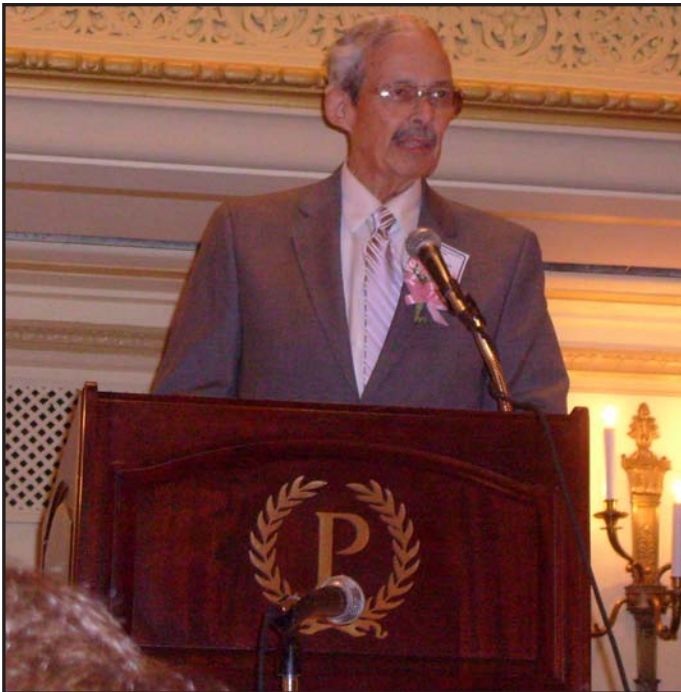
## OUR DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



RTAC President Vaughn J. Barber welcomed over 700 members and guests to his first Spring Luncheon as President of the organization.



Kevin Huber, Director of the Chicago Teachers Pension Fund, reminded members that, despite difficult financial times, no one has missed their monthly pension check.



RTAC Director and Pension Board Trustee Walter Pilditch urged members to submit names of teachers who may need help from the RTAC Teachers' Aid Fund. See page 6 of print issue for article and form. Walter is a candidate for the CTPF election which will be held by mail in November.



V.K. (Ken) Brown was inducted into the Wall of Fame for his 15 years of outstanding service as Editor of the RTAC *News Bulletin*. "The *News Bulletin* gave me a special gift--10,000 friends, and I love every one of them," he said. V.K. continues to conduct the Letter-a-Month Club through which RTAC members communicate with legislators on a regular basis. To join the Letter-a-Month Club, contact V.K. at [rtaceddie@ameritech.net](mailto:rtaceddie@ameritech.net).

# WINNERS,



Nate Blackman made the presentation.



Elba Rodriguez, Pablo Cassals, won the Four Seasons gift certificate



Nathaniel Blackman Jr. called the winning numbers while Marion Hoffing presented prizes.



Richard Kinzie, Bogan, won the Palmer House Gift Certificate.

# WINNERS



Karen Crotty Marquette



Ms. Rutto, Parker Academy



Jules Binder District 31 Guidance  
Coordinator



Pat Ball, Curie H.S., won the  
\$50 gift certificate sponsored  
by the events committee.



Norb Zook, Tilden



Rosemary Culverwell, Rogers



Rita Berry, Tanner



Sylvia F. Asllani, Pickard Principal

# WINNERS

# AND MORE WINNERS!!! Congratulations to All!



A very lively Pat Kenny (left), Bunche, with Nate (center) and Marion (right).



Roxie Lee, Madison



Jackie Salammes, Bennett



Mary Costello, Crane

## **PENSION NEWS from James F. Ward**

CPS lost some Social Security numbers. Result: CTPF may no longer access CPS payrolls by direct computer.

In March of 2007, CPS switched to a new payroll system without testing it. Result: CPS has been unable to certify payroll data to the Pension Fund as required by law.

Some teachers who retired in June 2007 still receive estimated pension checks while awaiting accurate records from CPS. The pension office has no certified annual records for fiscal 2008 or 2009. In addition, 5000 employees paid during the summer of 2008 were paid and erroneously classified as pension eligible. This issue must be resolved before 2008 reconciliation can be performed for them. Pension statements will again be delayed as a large majority would be in error due to the flawed information transmitted by CPS.

To date, it is estimated that the Board of Education's failure to satisfy its obligations under the statute have cost the Fund over \$400,000 in additional administrative costs.

Finally, on July 16, the Pension Trustees voted as follows to file a lawsuit against the Chicago Public Schools for failure to reconcile payroll data for years 2007, 2008 and 2009. Ayes: Linda Goff, Lois Nelson, Reina Otero, Mary Sharon Reilly, Maria Rodriguez, James F. Ward and Nancy Williams (7); Nays: Alberto Carrero, Peggy Davis (2). Abstain: John O'Brill, Chris Kotis, and Dr.

*[Abridged versions of these Pension News articles appeared in the September print issue.]*

Walter Pilditch (3). The measure passed 7 to 2 with abstentions not counted. The lawsuit asks for damages of \$400,000 to cover pension office costs and to pay interest to members. The pertinent section provides:

"WHEREFORE, the Pension Fund asks the Court to order the Board of Education (a) to pay interest to contributors whose pensions or refunds have been delayed and underpaid as a result of the breach of fiduciary duty by the Board of Education; (b) to retain an outside accounting firm chosen by the Fund (at the Board of Education's expense), which will provide, if necessary, a calculation and certification prepared manually from a review of each retiree's and employee's wage records and personnel files; (c) to provide the required certified payroll information to the Pension Fund in the future on a monthly basis, and (d) to reimburse the Pension Fund the extra administrative expense it has incurred since March 2007 as a result of the breach of fiduciary duty by the Board of Education."

CPS representatives say that the lawsuit is not necessary as there is no way it will speed the resolution of the payroll problems. Even if that is so, the sections cited above will go a long way to making whole the Fund and the members who sustained significant damages due to CPS negligence. Perhaps we should include the then CPS CEO in the lawsuit? Maybe in his new role at the federal level, we may see quicker results than promised by the CPS and its consultants.

---

## **PENSION NEWS from Walter Pilditch**

Our Pension Fund has experienced rises in the value of our fund over the past few months and it now stands at \$8.8 billion. The increase in our fund since the first of this year stands at 3.6% and this would forecast a good improvement for 2010 if this continues the rest of this year.

Governor Quinn has formed a pension fund task force and it has on its agenda five items: revision of the annual increase for

pensioners, raising the age for retirement, setting up a two-tier pension system, making eight years of service necessary for a pension and revising the present pension formula amount (ours is now 2.2%).

In addition, health insurance is on the minds of most retirees, and this will be covered soon in mailings as well as citywide meetings in the fall.

*Continued on next page.*



## LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

*By James F. Ward*

The RTAC legislative program to improve benefits for 2009 was introduced in the General Assembly and, due to the recession and its effects on state and local budgets, went absolutely nowhere. Instead, by the end of the session, both RTAC and the Pension Fund were struggling simply to keep what we currently have. By way of review and with an eye towards further legislative sessions in 2009 and 2010 the RTAC program is listed here in abbreviated form.

SB 1709, introduced by Senator Kwame Raoul, 13th District,

1509 E. 53rd St., Second Floor, Chicago IL, 60615, 773-363-1966, will extend the rebate allowance from \$65 million/year to \$75 million.

HB0711, introduced by Michael J. Zalewski (D) from the 21st District, 7676 West 63rd St., Summit, IL, 60501, 708-728-9922, will grant pension increase to pensioners retiring from 1973 through 1979 (the "Ad Hoc Lite").

HB2586 introduced by Joseph M. Lyons (D), 19th District, 5205 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago, IL, 60630, 773-286-1115, and also introduced as

HB0578 by Angelo Saviano (R), 77th District, 14 Conti Parkway, Elmwood Park, IL, 60707, 708-453-7547, would change the insurance rebate from a maximum rebate to a 75% fixed percentage of insurance costs.

HB0961, introduced by Marlow H. Colvin (D) 33rd District, 8539 S. Cottage Grove, Chicago IL, 60619, 773-783-8492, will increase the number of retiree trustees on the pension board from three

to four.

HB2584, introduced by Joseph M. Lyons (D), 19th District, 5205 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago, IL, 60630, 773-286-1115, would change the 3% AAI to 4% for current and future pensioners.

The talk of a pension "holiday" during which no public monies would be paid to the Fund did not materialize into bill form as yet. The CPS did try to smooth out their statutory contribution schedule into a flat 9% increase per year starting in 2010, but it also failed in the Legislature.

As of mid-Summer, the RTAC membership should be watching the "six month budget" passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. It contains only half of the \$65 million annual appropriation to our health insurance rebate fund which is used to maintain our rebate at 70% of our costs. With 24,000 retirees today the \$65 million does not go as far. The trustees were already preparing to reduce the rebate to a sustainable 50% with the \$65 million yearly state appropriation. Unless the Legislature passes another "second half" appropriation, the rebate will have to be lowered below 50%, perhaps to 40% or lower.

Please dust off your stationery and WRITE YOUR LEGISLATOR. Please do it now. Better yet, visit a lawmaker for the personal touch. A copy of the RTAC letter to Governor Quinn and Mayor Daley is available at RTAC.org, or email me at urokward@yahoo.com for talking points or sample letters.

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The Pension Fund Board has just voted to sue the Board of Education over the issue of lack of accurate data for the computation of pensions for the 2007, 2008 and 2009 school years.

Nationwide the investment news shows a few signs of improvement. The equity markets show a turnaround against the lower levels of the past two years. In contrast the unemployment figures are

increasing gradually and a level of ten percent is expected soon. Broad index figures show gradual improvement with experts indicating full recovery is some distance away. Worldwide, the equity markets posted strong returns, even better than ours in the U.S. It is too early to tell how these important measures will be in the future, but there is now more hope for improvement than there was over the past two years.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM**

Please use this form to change your permanent address or call the RTAC Office (312-939-3327)

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

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

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

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

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

If you live elsewhere for part of the year, please circle the issues JANUARY MAY SEPTEMBER you would like to have delivered to your part-time adress: \_\_\_\_\_

**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 minimum donation to any of the funds is \$10 for each name listed.

This donation is made (please check below):

- In memory of \_\_\_\_\_
- In honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- Happy birthday/anniversary to: \_\_\_\_\_
- Celebrating: \_\_\_\_\_
- 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORIAL DONATIONS TO  
CHICAGO RETIRED TEACHERS AID FUND, INC.  
 FEDERAL TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

In amounts of \$10 and over  
 (from April 16 to August 14)

DONOR:	IN MEMORY OF:		
Yvonne D. McElroy	Elizabeth Rollins Emma L. Van Zandt Vera Anderson Robert Lewis Virginia F. Lewis	Mary Jane Arnam Noreen V. Briggs  Mary Ann Cox Mary Desmond  Joseph J. Eckl	Irene Howard Mary C. August Dorothy M. McCabe Peggy Malee Mary Royce Donald Edgar Glenn Evans Samuel Gogol
RTAC San Diego Satellite	Wesley (Rick) Buchwald		Marcos Mondragon
Margaret W. Ratchford	Ruth Janiszewski		Paul Zimmer
Mary Alice Dineen	Ruth Janiszewski		Flemme Mae Zagone
Genevieve F. Lober	Marianne Walther	Antoinette T. Garofalo	Roy Littner
Gloria Schwarzkopf	Marianne Walther	John Keating	Michael Kroll
Diane Markos	Judy Caruso	Kurt Kopfstein	Adaline B. Waines
Pauline Crout	Margaret Wysocki	Ruth B. Myers	Andrew Kuban
Mary K. Dowd	James R. Graves	John Krall	Dr. Chester Mitoraj
Johnnie M. Newton	Jean Marie Murphy	John Demczyk	Dale Lamos
	Mrs. June Finch		Roberta Husband
	Dr. William Finch		Edward W. Platkus
	Mr. Bernard Spillman	LaVerne Evans	Rita Radek
	Mrs. Gladys Ray	Betty Gansinger	Paul Zimmer
	Dr. William Gwynn		Eileen C. Knieps
John Willis	My wife		Betty W. Robert
Henry Suder Club	Judith Caruso	Alice Rifkind Gutenkauf	Lou Afable
Paul G. Bruce	Mildred Pignes		Beulah (Bobby) Gaffen
	Eileen C. Kneips		Petra Harris
	Rita Radek		
	Maria Yim		

Herbert Herman	Winnifred Blonsky	Constance Guardi	Willard Uber
Rina M. Naddeo	Guy Brunetti	Bernadine Bina Nadler	Diane Glomb
	Sherwood C. Daniels		Esther Bernstein
	Ronald Patterson		Betty Joseph
	Esther Bernstein	Charles and Betty Kerkorian	Julio Tiritilli
Eva Nickolich	Lourdes Afable	Peter J. Miscinski	Mort Rosenwald
	Peggy Little	Anne W. Bannor	Douglas Moderow
Phyllis Pruitt	Erma Morris (mother)	George J. Richter	Sheldon Barron, Jean Murphy
Ronald Pastryk	Kay Geiger		Mary Broderson
Anonymous	Ms. Eva Mae LueRett		Velma Junell
Natalie K. Weiman	Sheila Joy Jaffe		Ted Washington
	Joel Regulus		Doug Moderow
Isabel Schechter	Helene Yassinger		John Scotese
	Rosemae Snow		Bob Kirkpatrick
John A. Butterfield	Gerard Heing		Tom McElroy
	Phil O'Donnell	Donald J. Cosmano	Fred Konrath
	Ron Patterson		Ronald G. Patterson
Alberta Fuller	Lorraine Harrison Buller	Barbara A. Hamilton	Esther Bernstein
Robert Riemenschneider	Berniece Matthews	Reginald Simon	Arnold E. Mach
	Lorraine Roberts		Burton Hirsch
Stephen E. Herzog	Lourdes B. Afable		Jerry Polacek
Richard P. and Hannelore Friend	Ms. Velma S. Junel		Patrice Clifford
Rosemary Dowd	Sheila F. Hager	David T. Peterson	Gerard Heing
Constance Guardi	Houston Grace Lillian Frauman	John L. Adams	Wm. (Bill) Little
	Eugene Swetin		

SPECIAL DONATIONS TO CHICAGO RETIRED  
TEACHERS AID FUND, INC

DONOR	OCCASION
Rochelle D. James	General Principles
RTAC San Diego Satellite	General Principles
RTAC San Diego Satellite	In Honor of Sylvia Kayser
	Carol and Paul Mooney
	Ellen Perry
Cheribelle W. Byrd	Georgia C. Young Celebrating our long friendship. Thank you
Joseph J. Eckl	In honor of CTC Grads of 1950
	Betty and Joe, Celebrating five years of Mature Reinvention
Sandra Maison Rosen	General Principles
Anonymous	General Principles
Anonymous	General Principles
Anonymous	General Principles
Anonymous	General Principles
Penelope A. Robinson	In honor of Louise G. Daugherty, My First Principal
Rosemary Dowd Bonita and John Lyles	General Principles- General Principles
Eugene Jerkat	In honor of All CPS Employees who served honorably in the armed forces of the United States

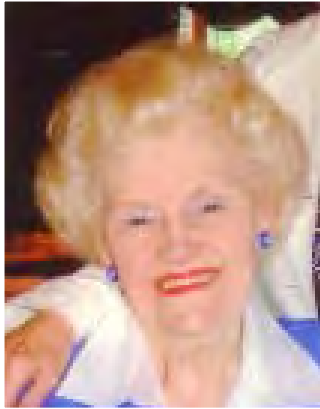
Marilyn Quas	General Principles
John Demczyk	Mary Marnel
	Arthur Drechney

MEMORIAL DONATIONS TO  
RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION of CHICAGO  
FOR THE GENERAL EXPENSE FUND  
NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE. In amounts of \$10 and over  
(from April 16 to August 14 )

DONOR:	IN MEMORY OF:
John Demczyk	Maria India
	John Beyer
Blaine DeNye	Dr. Sherwood C. Daniels
	Mr. Larry Hawkins
	Dr. Herschel Rader
	Mrs. Camille J. Roby
Charles A. Tauchman	Marion E. Riordan
Dolores Nagel	Ruth Janiszewski
Harold and Marjory Dwy	Dr. Lawrence Sommers
Diane Farwick	John Gelsomino
Lorraine E. Body	Lillian Kahn Glickman
Wilma Williams	Berniece Matthews

SPECIAL DONATIONS TO  
RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION of CHICAGO

DONOR:	OCCASION:
Jane I. Swanson	General Principles
Shirley Kremsner	Eugenia Levy
	Patricia Simpson



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

## THE CHICAGO SCENE

to enjoy during September, October and November

NOTE: The Events page on RTAC's web site ([rtac.org/events](http://rtac.org/events)) 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!

BRONZEVILLE ART DISTRICT TROLLEY TOUR	4317 S. Cottage Grove	773-373-8000
SOUTH SIDE COMMUNITY ART CENTER	3831 S. Michigan Ave.	773-373-1026
	Fridays Sept. 18 and Oct. 16	6 -9 p.m.

BLACK ENSEMBLE THEATRE	4520 N. Beacon St.	773-769-4451
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The remaining plays scheduled by BET are listed below. Opening dates are not yet known. Please call for more information.

THE MESSAGE IS IN THE MUSIC  
 THE NICHOLAS BROTHERS  
 NOTHIN' BUT THE BLUES  
 ALL IN LOVE IS FAIR - A TRIBUTE TO THE LOVE SONGS

CHOPIN THEATER	1543 W. Division	800-838-3008
POSEIDON		OPEN END

MARRIOTT LINCOLNSHIRE DRURY LANE	10 Marriott Dr.	847-634-0200
LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA		Thru Sept. 20
HAIR SPRAY		Sept. 23 thru Dec. 20
MY FAIR LADY		Dec. 9 thru Feb. 14, 2010

MARRIOTT OAK BROOK DRURY LANE	100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace	630-530-8300
CABARET		Thru Oct. 11
THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE		Oct. 28 thru Dec. 20

MC ANINCH ARTS CENTER'S	425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn	630-942-2800
PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY		Oct. 1
SCENES DE MEXICO		Oct. 4
FLYING KARAMAZOV BROTHERS acrobatics		Oct. 30
PLAZA SUITE by Neil Simon		Nov. 12 - 22
AMERICAN REVIVAL		Nov. 20
FAMILY CHRISTMAS ALBUM		Dec. 13
THE NUTCRACKER BALLET		Dec. 18, 19, 20

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY	5700 S. Lake Shore Dr.	773-684-1414
HARRY POTTER: THE EXHIBITION - Get a first-hand look inside the famous wizard's magical world.		Thru September 27

SMART HOME: GREEN + WIRED  
 The "greenest home in Chicago" is back with more new eco-friendly technology for 2009. Thru Jan. 3

PROFILES THEATRE GRACELAND****	4147 N. Broadway	773-549-1815 Thru Sept. 21
SECOND CITY STUDS TERKEL'S NOT WORKING ***1/2*	1608 N. Wells St.	312-337-3992 Open End
STEPPENWOLF FAKE	1650 N Halsted St	312-335-1650 Sept. 10 thru Nov.8
TIMELINE THEATRE THE HISTORY BOYS***1/2*	615 W. Wellington	773-281-8463 Thru Sept. 27
VITALIST THEATRE with PREMIER THEATRE 773-327-5252 THE NIGHT SEASON An Irish Tale of Love and Loss Starts Sept. 10		
WRITER'S THEATRE 6000	664 Vernon Avenue, Glencoe	847- 242- Sept. 29-Dec. 6 Nov. 17 - March 21, 2110
ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD OH, COWARD! (musical comedy review)		



Eugene Moore, Recorder of Deeds, was a surprise guest at the RTAC Spring Luncheon.

Please plan to attend the RTAC 83rd Anniversary Fall Luncheon Wednesday, Oct. 14, 11:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Palmer House Hilton Grand Ballroom. Meet the RTAC-endorsed Pension Board Candidates:

- Walter Pilditch**
- Mary Sharon Reilly**
- James F. Ward**

**NEWS BULLETIN LOOKING FOR A NEW NAME**  
 Since so much of the content and format of the RTAC *News Bulletin* has had to be changed because of production cost considerations, RTAC Executive Director Robert F. Bures has announced the search for a new name. Please send or email your suggestion for a new name to the RTAC office: Name Contest, RTAC, 20 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1500, Chicago, IL 60604-2235 or Office @RTAC.org . The winner will receive two complimentary tickets to Spring Luncheon 2010.

***Editor's Request: To help RTAC get an idea of how many members are able to receive the News Bulletin online, would you kindly contact the editor at RTAC\_editor@comcast.net. Thanks for your continued interest in the RTAC News Bulletin***

# FAILING EYESIGHT?

*By V K Brown, Editor Emeritus*

That doesn't mean you have to give up your computer!

Most large screen TVs these days, including the 46" Sony as shown here, sport a PC input. This input will accept a VGA cable, the same type that leads from your computer tower to your monitor. If you like, then, you too can have a giant screen computer monitor as shown in the photo.

We don't recommend using it for intensely personal viewing if you have secrets from your spouse, however.

We added VGA cables and a VGA signal multiplier box, so that the monitors could operate independently. We also added a 3.5mm audio cable from computer to TV, and ran a 16 foot USB cable with a built-in signal booster (USB signals apparently weaken rapidly unless boosted) over to our budding TV-tray-based workstation. You may want to add a powered USB 2.0 hub here; you'll likely get a lot of use out of it.

There are several large-print USB based wireless keyboard and mouse combinations available today. We selected the high-visibility bright yellow with large black lettering combination sold under the name KeysUSee.



*V.K. at his workstation*

(We wish they used a healthier strain of mice, though; both our original and replacement mice expired within a week of being put in service.)

We didn't keep track, but we estimate the entire workstation setup cost about \$100 or so, not counting computer or TV.

Ten point print, and can't find my glasses?

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## *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.*

*Their membership makes us stronger and better able to make our voice heard.*

HETTIE M. ALEXANDER  
RITA BLANKS-MHOON  
ETHEL RAE BOONE  
EVA DANIEL-BRUCE  
LINDA DINN  
PEARLIE M. FARMER  
DAVID FRIEDMAN  
LORRAINE HARVEY-JACKSON  
DELORIS JOHNSON  
PATRICIA KNAZZE  
DEBORAH MC ENEANY

SVETLANA S. MCRTYCHEVA  
FREDERIC W. METZ  
MORRIS M. PALMER  
CAROLYN ROWE  
JEROME S. SALLAMME  
LEZLI M. SCHIFF  
DEBRA SHARROW  
VALERIE A. SHEDD  
RITA J. TAYLOR  
GLADSTONE TROTTER JR  
DIANNA J. UCHIDA



*It's coming and you'll need your*

## Snow Shoveling Kit

Exercise experts state that shoveling heavy snow requires as much energy as running nine miles per hour. In addition, being exposed to and breathing cold air makes the heart work harder. This is not necessarily a problem for healthy people, but it can be dangerous for a person who is over 45, is sedentary, smokes, has an elevated blood pressure, is overweight, and/or has a heart problem.

These people should seriously consider getting someone else to do the shoveling. This is not the exercise to use to start getting in shape. However, for the fit and hardy, here are some shoveling tips:

1. Pace yourself; take frequent rest breaks.
2. Bend your legs slightly, at the knee, and let your thigh muscles do most of the pushing and lifting work. This will reduce the strain on your heart and on your back.
3. Use a shovel with a small scoop. Keep your load small and light.
4. Wear a scarf over your nose and mouth to avoid breathing the cold air. Wear a hat to retain body heat.
5. Dress in layers so you can peel off clothing if you become too warm. Overheating puts extra strain on the heart.
6. Don't shovel snow after smoking, drinking or eating a heavy meal--these things all put an extra load on your cardiovascular system.

*[Courtesy of Marion Hoffing]*

Betty Smith of the Black Ensemble Theater Volunteer Committee informed the *News Bulletin* that anyone wishing to volunteer as an usher at the theater, 4520 N. Beacon St., can call 773-769-4451 now.

## SEASONAL CALENDAR

- OCT. 12 - COLUMBUS DAY  
THANKSGIVING DAY IN CANADA  
OCT. 14 RTAC FALL LUNCHEON  
OCT. 31 HALLOWEEN  
NOV. 1 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS  
(TURN CLOCKS BACK)  
NOV. 3 ELECTION DAY  
NOV. 11 VETERANS DAY  
NOV. 26 THANKSGIVING DAY  
DEC. 11 HANUKKAH BEGINS  
DEC. 21 FIRST DAY OF WINTER  
DEC. 25 CHRISTMAS DAY  
JAN. 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY

## CORRECTIONS

The re-election article for James Ward on page one of the 12-page print edition of the Sept. 2009 *News Bulletin* mailed to all RTAC members contains two errors. First, when Mr. Ward retired from the Pension Fund in 1997, the Fund controlled assets of over \$8 billion, not \$12.6 billion. Second, as stated in the October 1997 *News Bulletin*, in his first bid for election as a retiree member of the Pension Fund Board, Mr. Ward served as Executive Director of the Fund for only twenty of the thirty years he was employed there. The *News Bulletin* regrets the errors.

## SUBJECT: TALMUDIC LOGIC

After months of negotiation with the authorities, a Talmudist from Odessa was finally granted permission to visit Moscow. He boarded the train and found an empty seat.

At the next stop, a young man got on and sat next to him.

The scholar looked at the young man and he thought: This fellow doesn't look like a peasant, so if he is no peasant he probably comes from this district. If he comes from this district, then he must be Jewish because this is, after all, a Jewish district.

But on the other hand, since he is a Jew, where could he be going? I'm the only Jew in our district who has permission to travel to Moscow .

Ahh, wait! Just outside Moscow there is a little village called Samvet, and Jews don't need special permission to go to Samvet. But why would he travel to Samvet? He is surely going to visit one of the Jewish families there.

But how many Jewish families are there in Samvet? Aha, only two - the Bernsteins and the Steinbergs. But since the Bernstein's are a terrible family, so such a nice looking fellow like him, he must be visiting the Steinbergs.

But why is he going to the Steinbergs in Samvet? The Steinbergs have only daughters, two of them, so maybe he's their son-in-law.

But if he is, then which daughter did he marry?

They say that Sarah Steinberg married a nice lawyer from Budapest, and Esther married a businessman from Zhitomer, so it must be Sarah's husband. Which means that his name is Alexander Cohen, if I'm not mistaken.

But if he came from Budapest, with all the anti-Semitism they have there, he must have changed his name. What's the Hungarian equivalent of Cohen? It is Kovacs.

But since they allowed him to change his name, he must have special status to change it. What could it be? Must be a doctorate from the University. Nothing less would do.

At this point, therefore, the scholar of Talmud turns to the young man and says, "Excuse me. Do you mind if I open the window, Dr. Kovacs?"

"Not at all," answered the startled co-passenger. "But how is it that you know my name?"

"Ahhh," replied the Talmudist, "It was obvious."

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A Catholic guy goes into the confessional box. He notices a fully equipped bar with Guinness on tap, plus a dazzling array of the finest Cuban cigars. Then the priest comes in.

"Father, forgive me, for it's been a very long

time since I've been to confession, but I must first admit that the confessional box is much more inviting these days."

The priest replies, "Get out. You're on my side." *[Both stories courtesy of Marsha Schneider]*

<p>THE RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO INVITES YOU TO JOIN RTAC FRIENDS AND BOARD MEMBER AT THE <b>83RD ANNUAL FALL LUNCHEON</b> INCLUDING A GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING AND ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS <b>WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2009</b> <b>11:45 AM UNTIL 2:30 PM</b></p>
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