

April
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Vol. 11 No.4

OSARC newsletter

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THE GRACIE MANSION TRIP

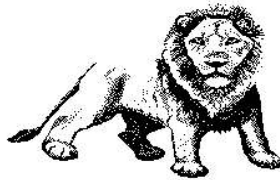


OSARC

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Retirees Plan To ROAR!

The last issue of this newsletter reported on OSA retirees Joel Fishelson and John Mazarella's proposal to COMRO (the Committee of Municipal Retiree Organizations) for a new effort to address the City's current fiscal crisis. As they conceived it, the effort would extend the fightback against the Bloomberg administration's proposed layoffs and givebacks to a previously underutilized resource – retirees.



Fishelson and Mazarella have announced the formation of a new organization, ROAR, short for Retirees Organized to Assess Revenues. ROAR's mission is to bring together retirees from many unions to analyze the potential for revenue enhancement and cost savings in various City agencies and make recommendations for policy changes that would avoid layoffs or givebacks.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a letter from OSA chairperson Bob Croghan inviting interested OSA retirees to attend an initial meeting of ROAR on June 3, 2003 at the OSA office, starting at 12 noon. Refreshments will be served. OSA retirees will be joined in the new group by retirees from the Managerial Employees Association and other union locals.

Also enclosed is a retiree survey. Please return the survey in the envelope provided no later than May 23, 2003. It's your opportunity to let the organizers know a little bit about your background and skills and to indicate your interest in participating in the effort. You may enclose your luncheon reservations/fees and officer nominations in the same envelope, but if you make nominations, please return the envelope early, so we receive the nominations by May 14th.

Next Meeting of the
Organization of Staff Analysts' Retirees Club
Wednesday • May 14, 2003 • 12:30pm

On The Agenda:
Round Robin – Celebrate Your Passions & Projects
Officer Nominations For 2003-4

OSARC Officers 2002-2003

Co-Chair.....	Dan Morgan
Co-Chair.....	Ana T. Vives
Vice-Chair/Treasurer.....	Louis Starkey
Co-Secretary.....	Betty Henderson
Co-Secretary.....	Renee Bash



Newsletter Editor.....Rob Spencer

We'll Be Seeing You In All The Old Familiar Places

Forty-two members and friends joined OSARC's trip to Gracie Mansion on April 30th:

Alice Allen, Leslie Allen, Jean Anmuth, Renee Bash, Regina Berry, Elizabeth Blackman, Elizabeth Borden, Ida Chin, Frank D'Aversa, Elizabeth D'Aversa, Joan Doheny, Beverly Freierman, Manny Friedman, Eli Gottlieb, Sybil Gowdy, Betty Henderson, Mary Hillman, Richard Kucera, Jean Kucera, Kaye Lee, Rosanne Levitt, Eileen Lovett, Toni Matijevich, Barbara Mont, Gloria Morales, Dan Morgan, Susan Piccirillo, Risa Puld, Jeanette Reid, Edna Riley, Stacey Rindler, Allan Rose, Stephen O'Brien, Trudy Stone, Sallie Stroman, Louis Starkey, Ana Vives, Carol Washington, Richard Walters, Donald Weinberg, William White, Isza Williams-Darlington.

We hope to see **you** at our next meeting.



A Leading Question

Will you volunteer to serve as an OSARC officer for the coming 2003-2004 season? Enclosed with this edition of the newsletter is a nomination form for OSARC officerships. You may nominate as many individuals as you like and you may certainly nominate yourself. If you nominate others, please check with them on their willingness to serve before submitting the nomination.

If there is a contested election, ballots will be mailed with the next OSARC newsletter. The new officers will be installed at the June gala luncheon.

Thus far, the following individuals have agreed to have their names placed in nomination: **Co-Chair:** Mary Hillman and Allan Rose; **Vice-Chair:** Ana Vives; **Treasurer:** Louis Starkey; **Secretary:** No nominees yet.

Return the nomination form by May 14, 2003 or make your nomination(s) in person at the May OSARC meeting.

OSARC Jumps In The "Lake" In June

OSARC will hold its annual gala luncheon this June 11th, starting at 12:30pm at the Hunan Lake restaurant, corner of First Avenue and 23rd Street. The luncheon will cost each OSARC member \$7. You may bring a guest at \$15 per person. Retirees who wish to attend, but who have not paid their yearly OSARC dues for 2003, can pay the annual OSARC membership fee of \$18 plus the \$7 member luncheon fee. Come meet us and try us out.

When you join, you receive invitations to the remainder of the year's Club events, as well as the rest of the year's newsletters, including the first fall issue which will include a full color collage of photos from the June 11th luncheon

A separate flyer is enclosed with this newsletter that includes a coupon to reserve your spot at the luncheon. Please return it by May 23, 2003. You can return your nomination form in the same envelope if you wish, but in that case, please return both by May 14th.



Springtime For OSARC



The famous round robin, in which OSARCers report on their retirement activities returns in May, so bring news of your projects and passions to share.

OSARC still seeks at least *ten* volunteers for each of the working committees. A reminder of committees already established: **Newsletter/Notice Mailing • Membership • Monthly Luncheon • Annual June Special Luncheon • Sunshine • April Trip.** To volunteer or find out more about committee responsibilities, call Dan Morgan at (718)768-8963 or Ana Vives at (718) 843-4732.



A Cheap Date

Rush tickets to concerts by the New York Philharmonic Orchestra are available from the Avery Fisher Hall Box Office – up to two per person – to seniors, students and disabled concertgoers on the day of the performance, starting at 10am. Matinees are not included. To verify ticket availability, please call the Philharmonic's Customer Relations Department on the day of the concert at (212) 875-5656. You must bring identification.



Social Security Solvency Up, Medicare Solvency Down

The Social Security Board of Trustees announced in its annual report issued in late March that Social Security is projected to be fully solvent through 2042, one year longer than in 2002, while Medicare's Part A Hospital Trust Fund is projected to be fully solvent through 2026, down from 2030 last year.

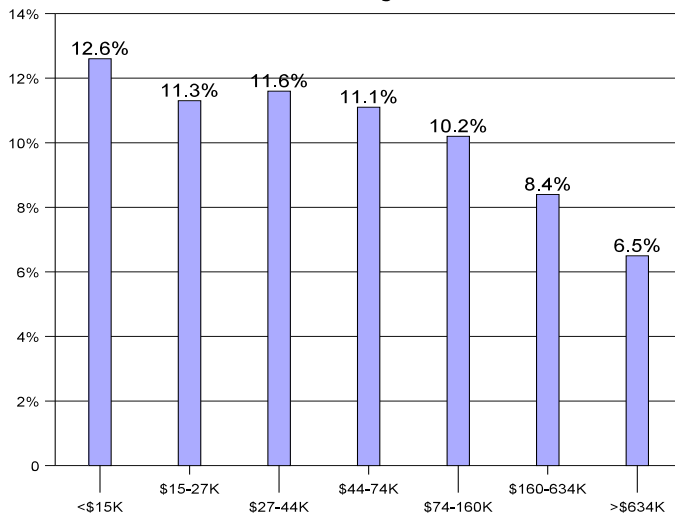
National executive director of the Alliance for Retired Americans, Edward Coyle, said "Social Security is financially sound now and will remain so for almost 40 more years. After that, it will have at least 73% of revenues needed to pay promised benefits indefinitely."

The Medicare solvency drop resulted from a decline in payroll taxes due to higher unemployment and a jump in hospital costs. Medicare Part B, which covers doctor rather than hospital services, is "adequately financed into the future."

On a related issue, a study issued by the Urban Institute in March found that Medicare has been more effective than private insurers in restraining healthcare spending over the past 30 years. From 1970-2000, Medicare's average annual spending growth per enrollee was 9.6% compared to 11.1% for private insurers. Services not provided by both programs were excluded from the comparison.

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The Richer You Are, The Less You Pay NYS & Local Taxes As Percentage Of Annual Income



The Fiscal Policy Institute data above forwarded by the Working Families Party shows that the wealthiest New Yorkers pay a lower percentage of their income in state and local taxes than do working class, middle class and poor New Yorkers.

Protest Pataki's Budget

As this newsletter went to press (5/1/03), Governor Pataki was promising to veto a budget proposed by state legislators for FY 2004 that included an increase in both the sales tax (a regressive move) and the income tax on wealthier New York State residents (a progressive move).

While the new budget proposal was far from ideal, Pataki's original budget proposal would slam poor and working class New Yorkers with service cuts and layoffs while letting corporations and the wealthy completely off the hook.

The Fiscal Policy Institute has estimated that state tax reductions enacted since the early 1990's have left the state with \$13 billion less in revenues in the current fiscal year than it would have without the tax reductions, more than enough to have closed any state budget gap.

Among its many cuts, Pataki's preferred budget would drop \$1.2 billion in school aid, eliminating pre-kindergarten funding, and would reduce Medicaid spending by \$1.6 billion, eliminating access to home care for many elderly patients. It would reduce funds for higher education by \$600 million and libraries by \$13.3 million.

A few statistics courtesy of New Yorkers for Fiscal Fairness and the Working Families Party:

State employees to be laid off under the Governor's budget	5,000
Hospital jobs lost under the Governor's proposed budget	15,000
Teaching positions lost under the Governor's proposed budget	15,000
Number of NY households earning less than \$20,000/yr	1.7 million
Percentage of their income they pay in state/local taxes	12%
Number of NY households making over \$20,000/week	25,000
Percentage of their income they pay in state/local taxes	6%
Annual savings by each of these households from Pataki tax cuts	\$8,230
2002 savings by each of these households from Bush tax cuts	\$11,000
Amount Pataki wants these households to contribute to closing the state budget gap	\$0
Change in corporate tax payments, 1994-2000	-31%
Official NY State corporate tax rate	7.5%
Average state tax rate paid by The Gap	0.8%
Average state tax rate paid by Radio Shack:	0.4%
Average state tax rate paid by Toys R Us	- 0.1%

Last year the stock transfer tax was collected in New York	1981
Amount raised by the tax that year	\$800 million
Amount it would raise today if reinstated at half its 1981 rate	\$3.8 billion
Stock owned by average household	\$8,000
What a stock transfer tax would cost that household, per year	\$4

To send Governor Pataki a letter saying you would prefer a budget that preserves services and jobs and asks the wealthy and corporations to pay their fair share, go to www.betterbudgetny.org.

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It Costs Too Much To Be Sick

A new AARP survey released April 29th found that fully one-third of all people with disabilities over age 50 postponed receiving health care over the past year because they could not pay for services, up from 21% five years ago. The survey was conducted by Harris Interactive in September 2002 as part of an ongoing series of reports by AARP called "Beyond 50."

Of the respondents, 68% had a disability limiting physical mobility, 21% had a disability involving hearing or vision and 18% had a cognitive or emotional disability.

The survey found that inadequate health insurance coverage posed a major problem among those surveyed. One-third of participants said specific medical needs such as medical equipment are not covered by their health plan. Forty-nine percent of respondents said they receive regular assistance with daily activities, and 53% said they had been unable to do an activity they needed or wanted to do in the past month.

Among AARP's recommendations are more home modifications for people with physical disabilities, more public funding for in-home or community-based care and better community accessibility for people with disabilities.

You can order a print copy of the full report on independent living and disability from AARP Fulfillment, 601 E St., NW, Washington, DC 20049. Mention "Beyond 50.03 (Stock #D17817)" in your order. You can also download the report from the AARP website at: http://research.aarp.org/general/beyond_50.html

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Bush, Congress Attack Overtime

The Bush Administration's attacks on working Americans continue. After freezing previously negotiated pay raises for unionized federal workers, excluding 170,000 federal workers from union protections and announcing plans to privatize more than 800,000 federal jobs, Bush has now announced plans to diminish workers' overtime pay. Congress, likewise, has mounted an assault on overtime.

On March 27th, the Bush Administration proposed new rules that would take away the right to overtime pay for large numbers of workers, in addition to eroding the 40 hour workweek. The overtime proposal would:

- exclude previously covered workers, reclassifying them as managers, administrative or professional employees ineligible for overtime pay.
- eliminate certain middle-income workers from overtime protections by adding an income limit, above which workers would no longer qualify for overtime.
- remove many workers in aerospace, defense, healthcare, high tech and other industries from overtime protections.

The administration says its proposal would extend protection to millions of lower-income workers currently excluded from overtime protection but admits that for every two workers for whom protection would be added another worker would be dropped from protection.

Five bills have been introduced by Republicans in Congress with the support of employer groups that would limit overtime pay.

S237, S495 and S292 would exempt some occupations from the minimum wage and overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

HR 1119 and S317 would let workers choose paid time off or overtime pay but would give an employer "ultimate control over when - or even if- a worker is allowed to use earned comp time" according to the AFL-CIO. The bills do not protect employees against employers demanding they take time instead of money.

An analysis of the bills by the Economic Policy Institute reveals, "not only will employees who substitute comp time earn less, so will employees who refuse comp time and insist on being paid overtime at the time they work it. Employer will assign overtime preferentially to those who accept comp time, depriving workers who need extra cash, the work."

EPI says "under HR 1119, an employee who works overtime hours in a given week might not receive pay or time off for that work until a year later at the employer's discretion."

With a 160 hour a year overtime maximum in the bill, a typical company with 200,000 workers might get 160 free hours at \$7 per hour from each, the equivalent of a loan from the workers to the boss of \$224 million interest free. EPI estimated the savings at \$13 million over their costs if they had to take out a commercial loan at 6% interest. Workers could also lose banked comp time if the employer went out of business or declared bankruptcy.

Under S317, the 40 hour week disappears and workers would not be eligible for overtime pay until they work 80 hours over two weeks.

Both bills allow employers to push mandatory overtime totals up, since they would not have to pay outright at time and a half but could pay in comp time at a later date.

EPI says the legislation is “nothing more than a scheme to allow employers to avoid paying for overtime – a scheme that will result in longer hours, lower incomes and less predictable workweeks for American workers.”

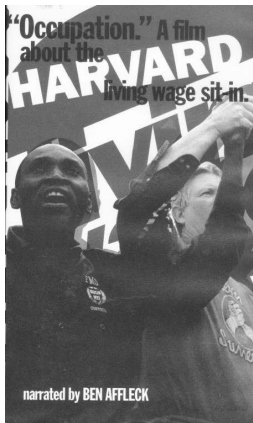
Call your Senators at 1 (800)718-1008 and your Representatives at 1 (888) 280-6279 and tell them to protect overtime pay and oppose HR1119 and S317.

Then send a letter to President Bush opposing his new overtime rules by visiting the website –

www.unionvoice.org/campaign/overtimepay.

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Spring Film Series Concludes



LaborFilms, winds up its Spring 2003 schedule with screenings on May 16th and June 6th. On May 16th, the series presents *Occupation (2002, 44 min)* and *Trading Democracy (2002, 58 min)*. *Occupation* is a rousing documentary about the alliance between students, workers and community during the three week sit-in by the Harvard Living Wage Campaign in support of an end to poverty level wages for staff workers on the Harvard Campus. In *Trading Democracy*, Journalists Bill

Moyers and Sherry Jones take a close look at the impact on democracy of the North American Free Trade Agreement's little-known Chapter 11, which permits transnational corporations to sue government over environmental, labor and health laws that threaten to reduce their profits.

On June 6th, filmmaker John Sayles' *Matewan (1987,*

142 min) traces, in fictionalized form, key events of the early 1920s West Virginia mine wars. Chris Cooper (recently an Academy Award winner for his work in *Adaptation*) plays Joe Kenehan, a pacifist, United Mine Workers of America organizer and former Wobbly who arrives in Matewan, WV seeking to help organize the miners. He finds he must unite the Appalachian miners with immigrant and African-American workers brought in as strike-breakers.

Kenehan has problems, to say the least, in achieving unity, but eventually brings the miners together even as Baldwin-Felts detectives hired by the coal operators massacre striking miners.

Screenings start promptly at 6:30pm at the union office, 220 East 23rd Street, Suite 709. Admission is free. Light refreshments will be available. Informal discussion will follow each screening.

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Union Density Declines Again . . . But Union Members Still Earn More

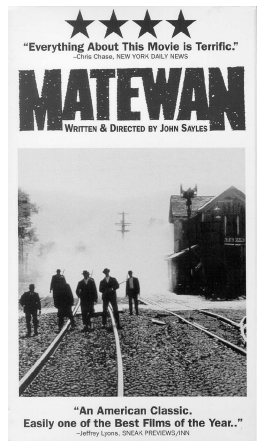
The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported in March that the total number of union members in the U.S. continued a decades-long decline in 2002. The total dropped by 280,000 to 16.1 million union members or 13.2% of wage and salary workers, down from 13.4% in 2001 and 20.1% in 1983, the first year for which the BLS has comparable data.

The percentage of private sector workers in unions dropped from 8.8% to 8.5% last year. The only bright spot was public sector unity density which held steady at 37.5%, virtually unchanged since 1983. A larger percentage of African-Americans are in unions than hispanics or whites.

The highest union density was in local government – 42.8%; the lowest union density was in the finance, insurance and real estate industry – 1.9%.

In 2002, union members who were full time wage and salary workers earned 26% more (median weekly earnings of \$740) than non-union full time wage and salary workers (median weekly earnings of \$587).

New York remained the state with the highest percentage of unionized workers at 25.3%, North Carolina the lowest at 3.2%.



ACTIVE OSARC MEMBERS

[Continued from Page 8]

Martin Lewis
Joyce Liechenstein
William Linhart
Claire Linnie
Marilyn Liveric
Lillie R Lockhart
Eileen Lovett
Grace Seabrook Lucas
Hattie Lucas
Joseph Lucas
Flora Lucchese
Marvin Lutenberg
Rose Maconi
Leo Maher
Janet M. Mahoney
Lauren Malone
Henry Mandel
Angela Marino
Carol Marker
John Maroney
Donald Marshall
John A. Marsico
Roberta Martell
Ralph Martinez
Tirso Martinez Jr.
Martha Masnyj
Dennis Massey
Peter Mastropolo
Antoinette Matijevich
Constance G. Maxey
Letitia Maxwell
John Mazzarella
Weltha McCant
John J. McElroy
Thomas McEnery
Thomas McGann
Jannie M. McGill
Charles McHugh
Velma McLaughlin
Elaine McPartland
James J. McQuade
Carolyn McQueen
John McSherry
Ronald Meekins
Pearlie Mennell
Terrence Mennuti
Margarita Mercado
Samuel Merson
James Meyer
Michael Meyer
Carol Michaels
Joseph Mickens
Carolyn Miles
Helen Mitchell
Barbara Mont
Charles Montalbano

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Gloria Morales
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J.J. Murphy
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Thomas Rasul Murray
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Melvin Pascoo
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Vincent R. Polimeni
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Pauline Pon
Douglas Potts
Peter A. Prestia
Evelyn Marie Pridgen
Carl Prisco
Lon Protzel
Risa Puld

Morton Pupko
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Ambati Rao
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Joseph Reeves
Theodore Reich
Jeanette Reid
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Stacey Rindler
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Maurice Robinson
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Ophelia Rodriguez
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Allan Rose
John Rose
Lewis Rosenblatt
Norman Roth
Lloyd Rotker
Miriam Rubman
Anna Rudbarg
Ed Ruettiger
Eileen Rupel
Lorraine Beshel Russo
Geoffrey Ryan
Benjamin Salisbury
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Helen Samuels
Ana Sanchez
Gerald Sanchez
Joseph Sanchez
Sylvia Sands
Doris Sanky
Ruby Sapp
Anahid Sarkissian
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Therese Sbano
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Minna Scharff
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Adele Schlapik
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Linda Schwartz
Solomon Schwartz
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Edward Smith
Saundra Smith
Thomas Smith
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Stanley Spector
Christine Spencer
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Edythe Sternberg
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Betty Stewart
James Stewart
Cele Stolzenberg
JoAnn Stone
Trumilla Stone
James Story
Phyllis Stothers
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Penelope Stubbs
John Stumpf
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Frances Suddreth-Hart
Margaret Suite
Mortimer Sullivan
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Tuly Tanenbaum
Natalie Tannenbaum
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Marian Taylor
Kirsten Telemaque
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Shirley Wertheimer
Alyce White
Grace White
Herbert Williams
Laraine Williams
Margaret Williams
Yvonne Williams
Isza Williams-Darlington
Aaron Wilner
Bettye Wilson
Diana M. Wilson
Antoinette Witherspoon
Eric Wolferman
Bassanio Wong
Peter Wood
Geraldine A. Wooden
Noel Worrell
Benjamin Wright, Jr.
Simeon Wright
Naomi Wurzburger
Margie Zinzi
Phyllis Zito

ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF STAFF ANALYSTS RETIREES CLUB

Robert Adamenko
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Gerardo Afable
Hakimah Al-Zahra
Frederick Alexander
Carmen Alfaro
Tristan Allas
Alice Allen
Clifford D. Allen
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Aspacia Andros
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Jean Anmuth
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Hanacho Atako
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Mary Bardy
Mary Barlow
Charles Baroo
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Eileen Bartky
Renee Bash
Barbara Batts
Marjorie Baum
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Rose Beer
Judith Beiss
Ruth Bell
Joanna Belt
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Diana Benitez
Elaine Silodor Berk
Herman Berkowitz
Margarita Bermudez
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George Bernett
Carolyn Berry
Regina Berry
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Vidyadhar Bhide
Edward Bianchi
Saul Bick
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Robert Bleiberg
Andrea Bloom
Elizabeth Borden

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Willie Bowman
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Maureen Brennan
Eddie Marie Brodie
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Yvonne Broughton
Angella Brown
Bertha Mae Brown
Carol Brown
Gloria Brown
Herbert Brown
Richard Brown
Rosemary Brown
James Bucchino
Joe Burgess
Brian Burke
Theresa Burke
Kenneth Burton
Patricia Burton
Joseph O. Buster
Dorothy Byrd
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Diana Calvert
Eugene G. Calvert
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Maxine Carter
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Peter Chan
Johnsie Cheatham
Kuttikkattu Cherian
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Arthur Chigas
Ida Chin
William Ciporen
John P. Clark
Josephine Clark
Joyce Cleary
George Cohen
Martin Cohen
Elsie Colon
Sarah Colson
Marlene Connor
William Considine
James Corleto
Hannibal Coscia
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Henrietta Council
Ted Cox
Robert Croghan
Sadie Culler
Stanley Cutchins
Elizabeth D'Aversa

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Marilyn Daitsman
Richard M. Dalrymple
Dolores Daniels
Frances David
Charles C. Davis
Edwin Dei
Mavis Delgado
Ralph Delise
Janet Deluca
Rochelle DiCristofalo
Vincent DiGesu
Marianne Dikeman
Anthony DiLeonardo
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Philip Flaum
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Allen Foster
Flora Foster
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Branda Fox
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Beverly Freierman
Manny Friedman
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Arthur Gaines
Ella Gales
Araleli Gamboa
Daphney Garrison
Lorraine Gewirtz
Marguerite Ghartey
Shirley Gilliam

Mary Giraldi
Edwina Glasco
Nicholas Gleason
Myrna Gonzalez
Pedro Gonzalez
Myra R. Goralski
Joan Gordon
Marjorie Gordon
Minette Gorelik
Sheila Gorsky
Eli Gottlieb
Sybil Gowdy
Stanley Granat
Eleanor Gray
Shirley Gray
Audrey Green
Susan Greenhouse
Lewis Greenstein
Stephen Gregor
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Mary Gropp
Marcia Grossberg
Frank Gulino
Mary L. Gunn Hardison
Tilak R. Gupta
Myra Hailey
Phyllis Hailstock
Claire Hall
Edmund Hall
Sandra Halstuch
Alicia Hamill
John Hannigan
Robert Hansen
Cleve Hanson
Frances Nadine Hapaz
Sandra Hardison
Marion Harnik
Michael Harris
Sharon Harris
Sandra Hartmann
John M. Haste
Chandra Hauptman
Stanley Hauptman
Mildred Hawkins
Charles Healy
Ben Heller
Nancy Hellman
Elizabeth Henderson
Jacquelyn Henderson
Robert Henke Jr
Carmen Henry
Paul Henry
Saundra Henry
John Heron
Mary Hillman
Solomon Himelfarb
David Hochstein
Joseph Holdampf
Andrew Hollander
Jacqueline Holmes-Boyd
Rita Honekman

Novell Hopkins
Marion House
Sherry House
Carolyn Hubbard
Barbara Hunt
Azeeza Hurston
Nadine Hurwitz
Myron Hyman
Maria Ibanez
Haydee Incan
Margaret Ingram
Ana Irizarry
Kate Isear
Brenda Ann Jackson
Evelyn Jackson
Janyce Jackson
Margaret Jackson
Valerie Jackson
Amelia Jefferson
Edwina Jenkins
Ina Jenkins
Mary Jennings Ludvigsen
Gloria Jimenez
Charlie Johnson
Cladie Johnson
Lorraine Johnson
Marilyn Johnson
Robert Johnson
Flora Jones
Hjalmar A. Jorgensen
Betty Joseph
Amy Kahn
Melvin Kalmanowitz
Herschel Kaminsky
Frances Keenan
Jeffrey Keller
John Kelly
Margaret Kelly
Sheldon Kier
Elizabeth Klaber
Alfred Klein
David L. Klipstein
Jules Kohn
Marian Konstan
Henry Korobelnik
Jerome Kraus
Irving Kreindler
Sandra Krentcil
Jane Kronholtz
Richard Kucera
Adele Kwaw
George Lang
Rita Langer
Dolores Lapin-Curley
Robert Lawrence
Judith Layzer
Kaye Lee
Joel Leichter
Nicholas Lesanti
Rosanne Levitt
Andrew Lewis

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