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OSARC newsletter

Insurance Planning

The first OSARC meeting of the fall season features a presentation on the importance of securing adequate insurance coverage to protect yourself, your family and your possessions from the various perils you face in your life.

Ralph Messenger, a Certified Financial Planner with the New York City Deferred Compensation Plan, will discuss the definition of risk and how insurance of various sorts can protect or reduce your exposure to a variety of risks.

Mr. Messenger's presentation will cover life, health, long term care, home, and automobile insurance. Several action lists will be provided to help OSARCers become more proactive in their insurance planning.

Mr. Messenger presented a well-received program on "Estate Planning" at the May OSARC meeting. He is in his second career as a financial planner, after 30 years of service in the New York City schools as a high school economics teacher. He earned his CFP® designation in 1998 and previously worked as a New York City pension advisor and a financial representative for Nationwide Financial Services.

Be sure to bring your concerns and questions, especially those that may yield information of help to the group as a whole.

And remember that a Deferred Compensation Plan representative will be back to address the October 13th OSARC meeting with a presentation on Social Security and Medicare, including your options on when to begin collecting Social Security and how becoming Medicare-eligible affects NYC employees' health benefits.



Next Organization of Staff Analysts' Retirees Club Meeting

Wednesday • September 8, 2010 • 12:30pm – 2:30pm

Insurance Planning

*Guest Speaker: Ralph Messenger, Certified Financial Planner
New York City Deferred Compensation Plan*

OSA Union Office • 220 East 23rd Street • Suite 707

OSARC Officers 2010-2011

Co-Chairs.....Regina Berry, Fred Ranzoni
Co-Vice-Chairs.....Fred Lieber, Saul Weber
Treasurer.....Dan Morgan
Secretary.....Joyce Cleveland
COMRO Representatives.....Edna Riley, John Ost, Jim McKeon



Newsletter Editor/Photos.....Rob Spencer
Contributing Writers/Reporters.....Gail Weiss, JoAnn Ambrogio

We'll Be Seeing You in All the Old Familiar Places

Approximately ninety-one (91) OSARC members and friends attended the June gala luncheon at SPQR Ristorante Italiano in Little Italy and all of them can be seen on the wonderful collage handcrafted by OSARCer Jean Anmuth that is enclosed with this issue of the *Newsletter*. Other photos from the luncheon taken by Rob Spencer appear throughout this issue and on page six.

We look forward to seeing *you* at our next OSARC meeting.

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In Memoriam

The union has been informed recently of the deaths of ten retirees. **Marsha Ballard** retired as an Associate Staff Analyst at HRA in 2009. MEBA retirees **Alf Solaas** retired as a Captain with DOT and **Francis Narbutt** retired as an Assistant to the Captain with DOT. **Barbara Hurst** retired in 1994 as an Associate Staff Analyst at HRA.

MEBA retirees **William Lubich** retired as an Engineer with DOT and **Gary Sherman** retired as a Captain with DOT.

Victor Boyle retired in 1996 as an Associate Staff Analyst with the Department of Finance. **Alma Pugliese** retired in 1992 as a Staff Analyst with the Department of Sanitation. **Frank Musumeci** retired in 1989 as a Staff Analyst with the New York County District Attorney's office. Finally, **Marian Konstan** retired in 1996 as an Associate Staff Analyst at HRA.

The Newsletter extends its sincere condolences to the families and friends of our brothers and sisters.

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Sunshine Wishes

The *Newsletter* extends its best wishes for a speedy recovery to OSARCers **Hank Mandel** and **Joe Sperling**, each of whom suffered health setbacks this summer. We understand that each is on the mend and we look forward to welcoming them back as soon as they are able. We also send best wishes and greetings to **Richard Walters**, a mainstay of OSARC's mailing and dues processing work, who has relocated to Florida and who is facing health challenges of his own.

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Medicare Part B Reimbursements Issued

For those OSARCers on Medicare, the waning days of summer each year are marked by the receipt in the mail of a nice check from the City, representing reimbursement for Medicare Part B premiums paid for the prior calendar year. All Medicare-eligibles who were Medicare-eligible for the full 2009 calendar year should have received a payment of \$1156.80, equal to twelve monthly payments of the basic 2009 Medicare Part B premium of \$96.40. If you were Medicare-eligible for only part of the year, multiply the number of months times \$96.40.

For those who were lucky enough to have higher incomes in 2009 and whose premiums were therefore subject to a surcharge, you have another step to take to gain full reimbursement and you should do so as soon as possible.

The surcharges for 2009 applied if you filed an individual tax return and your annual income was more than \$85,000, or if you were married and filed a joint tax return and your annual income was more than \$170,000.

The extra premiums for 2009 ranged from \$38.50 a month for those individuals with incomes between \$85,001 and \$107,000; \$96.30 for those with incomes between \$107,001 and \$160,000; \$154.10 for those between \$160,001 and \$213,000 to \$211.90 for those over \$213,000. The income brackets for those married and filing jointly were double the amounts cited. So, for example, a married couple filing jointly would pay the highest premium surcharge of \$211.90 a month for income over \$426,000.

To obtain reimbursement for the extra premiums paid, you must go to the website of the Office of Labor Relations' Health Benefits Program at www.nyc.gov/html/olr/html/health/health_benefits_prog.shtml. There is a link on the page labeled *IRMAA Medicare Part B Reimbursement (Instructions & Form)*. Print the forms out, complete the cover sheet and mail it to the address provided, along with the two photocopies requested (1) a copy of your end-of-2008 statement from the Social Security Administration (SSA) showing what your income-related monthly adjustment amount would be for calendar year 2009 and (2) a copy of your Form SSA-1099 issued by the SSA at the end of calendar year 2009, as proof of the monthly Medicare Part B premiums actually paid for 2009.



The June Gala Luncheon at SPQR Ristorante.

Feds Issue \$250 Medicare Part D Rebate Checks

As those who closely followed the debate on the national health insurance reform legislation may recall, one immediate feature of the new law was a one-time, tax-free \$250 rebate in 2010 for eligible Medicare beneficiaries whose drug costs are so high they have reached the Medicare Part D “doughnut hole.” By one estimate, about a quarter of all enrollees fall into that gap. Next year, those who fall into the doughnut hole are to receive a 50% discount on brand name medications, with further steps taken to close the doughnut hole over the years 2011 to 2020, when it is to be eliminated entirely. How/if these changes will affect City health plans remain to be seen.

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No-Cost Preventive Health Care Due Under Traditional Medicare in 2011

Starting next year, Medicare enrollees will be eligible to receive certain preventive health care services at no out-of-pocket cost. These services include colonoscopies, mammograms, and annual physical exams, referred to in the law as an annual “wellness visit.”

Beneficiaries will be able to receive all preventive care that received the top two levels of recommendation from the US Preventive Services Task Force, a panel of experts in primary care and preventive medicine. Aside from the tests mentioned above, bone mass measurement and nutritional counseling for those at risk for diet-related diseases like diabetes are included. The annual checkup is to include a health risk assessment and a review of the patient’s functional and cognitive capacity.

Since the requirement for free preventive coverage applies only to traditional Medicare and not to Medicare Advantage plans and many City health plans already provide free preventive services, it remains to be seen how and to what extent the various City health plans for Medicare-eligible retirees may incorporate these changes.

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Believe It Or Not

Winter is coming. Soon enough, cold weather will be upon us, along with the need for warmer clothing for homeless New Yorkers. I’m still volunteering with the Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen and their social services unit still needs items for homeless New Yorkers, especially sneakers (men’s sneakers are really needed), shoes, jackets, towels, socks, shirts, etc. Trust me, what one gives, one gets back. Please bring donations to the September OSARC meeting and ask me for a tax letter if desired. You may also drop items off at the union office at other times and I will see to it that they are put to good use. Thanks. — **Jean Anmuth**



LOST NEW YORK

Newsletter contributing writer JoAnn Ambrogi sent us a note on a postcard that featured the image above. It was too good to pass up the chance to share this turn-of-the-twentieth-century New York City street scene with you. Can you identify the location and some of the buildings/structures? The answer is on page 10.

Labor Day Parade OFF; Labor Mass ON

The usually annual Labor Day Parade has been cancelled for 2010 by the New York City Central Labor Council because it would have fallen on the Saturday after Labor Day, which this year coincides with the ninth anniversary of the World Trade Center disaster on Saturday, September 11. The Central Labor Council promises that the parade will be back next year.

However, the annual labor mass will go on as scheduled Saturday morning, starting at 8:30am at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Fifth Avenue between 50th and 51st Streets.



The June Gala Luncheon at SPQR Ristorante.

Join March For Our Nation's Future in Washington DC on 10-2-10

A broad range of more than 170 unions and grassroots civil rights, faith, youth, environmental and progressive groups has coalesced as One Nation, Working Together to organize a national march and rally in Washington DC on Saturday, October 2, 2010.



The goal of the event is to draw hundreds of thousands of Americans to the nation's capitol to demand jobs for all, a strong, stable economy, access to healthcare, and the strengthening of public education. Ben Jealous, head of the NAACP told the *Washington Post* that One Nation's goal is to "demonstrate to Congress that these agenda items have support across multiple demographics." A major focus will be to urge more government spending on job creation.

The organizers say "One Nation is about reordering our nation's priorities to invest in our most valuable resource – our people. We believe everyone deserves the opportunity to achieve the American Dream – a secure job, a safe home, and a quality education — but bankers and corporate lobbyists have made off with trillions of public dollars while small businesses can't get loans and cities are laying off teachers, police, and firefighters. In this time of economic crisis, it is easy for fear-mongers to pit groups against each other and to find convenient scapegoats for the problems that plague us. One Nation seeks to transcend our superficial differences and bring us together in a common quest for equal opportunity and justice for all."

The AFL-CIO is among the national endorsers, as is the NAACP. Local unions including DC37, TWU Local 100 and the UFT have begun outreach for the event. For more info, visit www.onenationworkingtogether.org

1.2% Pension COLA In September Checks

The cost-of-living adjustment for city pensions is based on the rate of inflation, year-over-year as determined in March of each year. The COLA rate is set at half the rate of inflation, with a minimum COLA of 1% and a maximum COLA of 3%, affecting only the first \$18,000 of your pension.

For 2010, the COLA is 1.2%. Eligible retirees are service retirees who are at least 62 years of age and retired five years or 55 years of age and retired 10 years. Disability retirees will receive COLA upon their 5th year of retirement.

So, the maximum COLA this year will be \$18/month (.012 x \$18,000 = \$216 divided by 12).

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Say Bye Bye To Mott's Products For Now

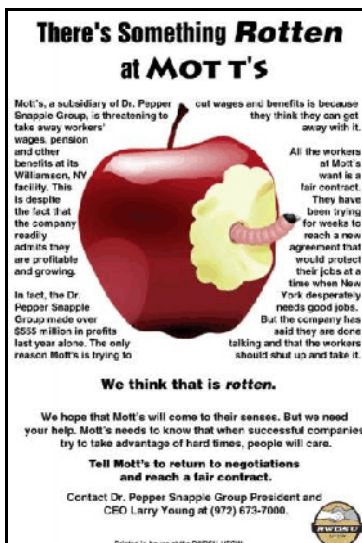
Since late May, more than 300 workers at the Mott's plant in upstate Williamson, NY have been on strike against their employer, the well-known manufacturer of apple sauce and apple juice products, which is itself a division of the corporate conglomerate Dr. Pepper Snapple Group.

Although the company reported a net income of \$555 million in 2009 and paid its CEO some \$6.5 million in compensation last year, when it came time to bargain with the union on a new contract, the company demanded wage cuts that would amount to \$3,000 per worker, the end to pensions

for new hires, cuts in the company's 401k plan contributions and increasing employee health plan costs.

The question to ask Dr. Pepper Snapple is why they would seek to diminish their workers' living standards at a time when they are highly profitable. Mott's manufactures Mott's Apple Juice and Sauce, Hawaiian Punch, Margarita-ville, Mr. and Mrs. T. Products, Rose's Lime Juice, Snapple cans, Mott's Fruitations, Mott's Garden Cocktail, Holland House, ReaLemon/ReaLime, and Clamato products and the parent company makes many more well-known products.

What can you do? Visit www.iuf.org/cgi-bin/campaigns/show_campaign.cgi?c=513 where you can send a letter to Mott's management. Call Mott's at 1-800-426-4891 and tell them you support the workers in Williamson, NY and ask them to return to the bargaining table and treat the workers fairly in negotiations. Let them know you won't be buying Mott's products while the workers are on strike. Tell your supermarket manager not to carry their products and buy other brands while the strike continues. Pass the word around.



Another scene at the June gala luncheon.

Simpson Perspective on Social Security is “Udderly” Offensive

Former Wyoming Senator Alan Simpson, co-chair of President Obama’s National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform has gone and done it again – shooting off his mouth about Social Security in a way that program supporters say betrays his contempt for senior citizens and the social insurance program that celebrated its 75th birthday in August.

Simpson, who has referred in the past to seniors as “greedy geezers” and labeled lower-income Americans as “lesser people in society,” sent an email to Ashley Carson, executive director of the Older Women’s League (OWL) in reply to an article she penned for the *Huffington Post* website. In it, she had criticized Simpson for his prior comments on Social Security and cited statistics that showed that President Bush’s tax cuts on the wealthy and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were largely responsible for the ballooning deficit – not Social Security.

In his email, Simpson told Carson, “if you have some better suggestions about how to stabilize Social Security instead of just babbling into the vapors, let me know. And yes, I’ve made some plenty smart cracks about people on Social Security who milk it to the last degree. You know ‘em too. It’s the same with any system in America. We’ve reached a point now where it’s like a milk cow with 310 million tits! Call when you get honest work!”

OWL, the National Organization for Women, the Campaign for America’s Future and the AFL-CIO-affiliated Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA) all called on Simpson to resign from the Commission or be fired by the President. The call was echoed by Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Pete DeFazio,

OWL said “Mr. Simpson suggests that anyone supporting people who most need help and who deserve the benefits they paid for must be dishonest or stupid. Such open contempt goes beyond the pale and cannot be tolerated from someone in such a position of authority.” OWL has established a petition to President Obama seeking Simpson’s dismissal.

The progressive website FireDogLake has gone a step further and started a petition drive to eliminate the Commission on Fiscal Responsibility in its entirety. You can sign on at <http://action.firedoglake.com/page/s/CanTheCatfoodCommission>.

In a letter to the President, ARA leaders wrote “the growing series of venomous comments by Mr. Simpson greatly compromises his ability to lead a panel that tackles these complex issues in a thorough and objective manner.”

AARP criticized Simpson’s statement as “offensive for several reasons, particularly for belittling a bedrock program that is the foundation of family security for all generations,” but did not go so far as seek his dismissal or resignation.

Sanders and DeFazio said “It is false and demeaning to say that these people, the vast majority of whom have worked their entire lives and contributed into the Social Security system, are somehow “milking” the system.”

Simpson quickly released an open letter of apology to

Carson saying “I know you care deeply about strengthening Social Security, and so do I, just as deeply. Over the last 40 years I have had my size 15 feet in my mouth a time or two.”

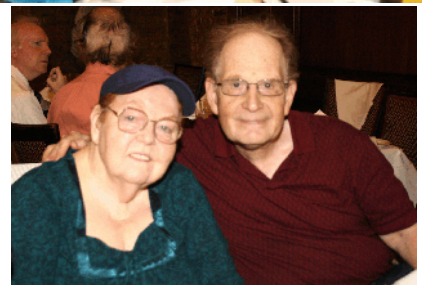
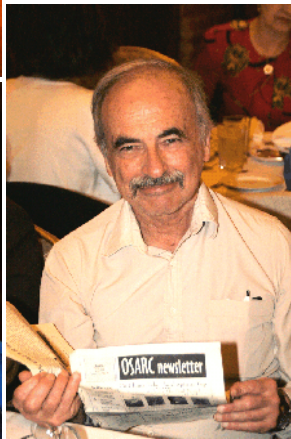
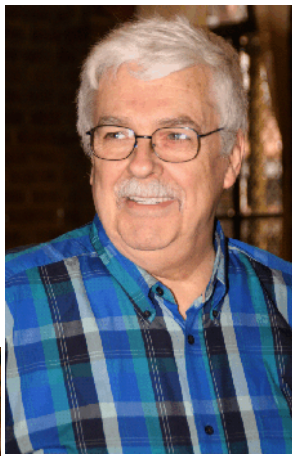
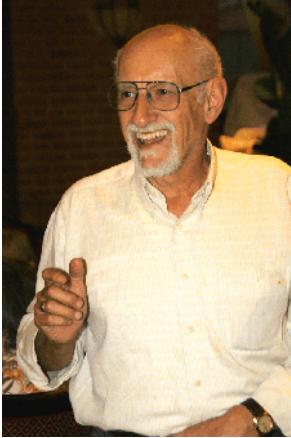
In celebrating the 75th anniversary of President Roosevelt’s signing of Social Security into law on August 14, 1935, ARA noted that “Retirees have much to be proud of as Social Security turns 75. It is a true American success story, one that has kept generations of seniors out of poverty, and allowed millions to retire with dignity and peace of mind. But this milestone anniversary is tainted by calls, in the name of deficit reduction, to cut Social Security benefits and raise the retirement age...the claims that Social Security adds to our deficit are just plain wrong. Social Security is fully-funded through payroll taxes on workers and employers. It has not added one cent to the federal deficit...raising the retirement age to 70 as House Republican leader John Boehner recently advocated, would be devastating to those who work in the construction, manufacturing and service sectors....45% of workers aged 58-69 are in physically demanding jobs. Moreover, Americans with lower income and education levels have not experienced any increase in life expectancy, unlike those in the top brackets...it is also disturbing to hear...(calls) for a privatized Social Security system tied to the whims of the stock market...ARA is...educating and mobilizing retirees to protect the Social Security benefits millions of seniors count on each month to make ends meet.”

This *Newsletter* has covered the President’s deficit-reduction commission since it was established early this year. It would be easy to conclude that co-chair Simpson’s remarks are simply a colorful mistake by someone who has faulty impulse control. But that would be much too easy and a big error. They represent a world-view which has little understanding of the critical role Social Security plays in many retired Americans’ lives, a world-view that could easily set the stage for Commission recommendations that would severely undermine Social Security or lead to a cut in its benefits.

It is time to remind your Senators and Representatives that simple solutions to the long term funding challenges of Social Security exist, such as raising or eliminating the cap on wages subject to FICA taxes, currently set at \$106,000. Make sure they understand you will not be fooled by claims that Social Security is the source of our deficit problems or that it is in imminent “crisis.”



A good time was had by those at the June gala luncheon.



OSARC Eats — and Installs Officers — at SPQR

It was a very nice event, actually. Approximately 91 OSARCers and their guests gathered at SPQR Ristorante Italiano in Little Italy on June 9 for the annual end-of-year gala luncheon. Featured at the event was (of course) good food, as well as great conversation and short speeches by union and OSARC leaders.

Having dined at SPQR for three years in a row, OSARCers were familiar with both the venue and the menu. Fish, however, became an issue — and it wasn't because of the Gulf oil spill, either. While salmon was on the initial menu, it turned out that it had become too expensive for the four-course luncheon price OSARC had been quoted. So, we were offered sole francese and sea bass oreganata as alternative fish entrees, which proved to be satisfactory for most. The service was, as always, attentive and excellent.

The event also served as the inauguration for OSARC officers for the 2010-11 year. Co-Chairs Fred Ranzoni and Regina Berry return for third terms. Saul Weber and Fred Lieber begin their first cycle as Co-Vice-Chairs. Treasurer Dan Morgan takes his sixth spin in the green eye shade, and it's the first stanza for Secretary Joyce Cleveland.

Co-Chairs Ranzoni and Berry expressed OSARC's thanks and appreciation to a variety of OSARCers for their dedication to OSARC over the past year, notably trip committee chair Renee Bash for organizing trips to local institutions such as the Federal Reserve and El Museo del Barrio; Sallie Stroman for her reports to members on her museum visits around the city; Jim McKeon for his long service to OSARC, especially as COMRO representative; Mary Hillman for the consistently good food and service at our regular OSARC meetings; Dan Morgan for his continuing mailing committee and Treasurer service, and Edna Riley for her COMRO reporting.

OSA Chairperson Bob Croghan thanked the retirees for our role in the early days of the union, recalling a demonstration in the mid-1980's in which some 75 people showed up at the Department of Personnel to move a list from the ASA exam given the prior year. He reviewed the status of

9/11 Health Forum on 9/15

On September 15, 2010, the World Trade Center Environmental Health Center at Bellevue, Gouverneur and Elmhurst Hospitals - the Center of Excellence treating area workers, residents and students whose health has been harmed by the September 11, 2001 World Trade Center attacks - will be holding an educational forum in the Proshansky Auditorium at the City University of New York's Graduate Center at 365 Fifth Avenue between 34th and 35th Streets from 6 to 9pm. Doors open at 5pm.

Entitled *Surviving and Thriving After 9/11: Addressing the Health Impact of 9/11 on the Community*, the program will offer you the opportunity to hear from medical experts and community members on the health effects of 9/11, treatment for WTC-related health conditions available at no out-of-pocket cost and the latest information on services for those affected. Friends and family affected by 9/11 are welcome. Seating is limited. To register, visit 911healthforum.com.

contract negotiations with the City, which are not going well for any of the unions. The Mayor (as usual) is attempting to squeeze the workers, demanding give backs, especially in pensions and healthcare benefits.

Bob indicated that one of labor's responses would be an upcoming rally in City Hall park on June 16, 2010, organized by the Municipal Labor Committee. He urged retirees to attend and raise our voices in protest against threatened service cuts and layoffs. (*Editor's note: The rally ultimately drew about 10-20,000 workers who lined Broadway from Barclay Street to the Federal Building near Reade Street. A photo of OSARC Co-Vice-Chair Saul Weber at the rally appears on this page.*)

Finally, OSA Executive Director Sheila Gorsky thanked those who helped form OSARC 18 years ago and urged us to begin planning for a 20th anniversary gala in 2012. She reminded us that the 10th anniversary was a smashing success

And, thanks to OSARCer Jean Anmuth and OSA Communications Director Rob Spencer, photos were obtained of everyone present. You'll find your face on the remarkable collage Jean constructed, enclosed with this issue, and in the photos throughout this issue. — **Joyce Cleveland** (with additional reporting by Al Gundersheimer)

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Gotta Sing!

Have a good voice? Like to sing? Committed to the labor movement? You can combine your skills and passions by auditioning with the New York City Labor Chorus, which begins its 20th year of singing for social and economic justice this fall.

Auditions will be held on September 27 and October 4 at 6pm at 50 Broadway on the second floor. For further information, visit www.nyclc.org or call 212-929-3232.

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Newly installed OSARC Co-Vice Chair Saul Weber was among ten to twenty thousand city workers who rallied near City Hall park on June 16 against budget cuts, layoffs and the general attack on public sector workers.

CRUISING THE MEDITERRANEAN — FROM ROME TO VENICE TO LIVORNO

by Gail Weiss

In our continuing series about OSARC members' travels, we join OSARCer Edna Riley on a Mediterranean tour of Italy and neighboring countries.

century to the present. The Museo Nazionale di Capodimonte, a national gallery that displays Renaissance and Baroque Italian paintings, including works by

seum of Naples, which has one of the world's best collections of Greek and Roman antiquities, including mosaics, sculptures, gems, glass and silver, as well as wall paintings and objects removed from Pompeii, Herculaneum, and other archaeological excavation sites in the area.

- The Duomo, a 13th-century Gothic cathedral dedicated to Naples' patron saint, San Gennaro.

Leaving the Italian peninsula, the ship headed to Dubrovnik, Croatia, the city that George Bernard Shaw called "the pearl of the Adriatic." In Shaw's words, "Those who seek paradise on Earth should come to Dubrovnik."

Most visitors enter the old town through the historic Pile Gate, which contains a statue of St. Blaise, Dubrovnik's patron saint, and leads to the Great Onofrio Well, a large fountain constructed in 1438 by Italian architect Onofrio della Cava. The Franciscan Monastery, one of the oldest functioning pharmacies in Europe, has been in operation since 1391. Sponza Palace, which dates from 1522, houses the Memorial Room of the Dubrovnik Defenders, a



Castel Nuovo, Naples

Edna and her fellow travelers flew from New York to Rome, where, before boarding a Carnival Cruise Line ship, they took in the local highlights.

Amid the magnificent artwork and architecture of the Vatican, Edna was particularly mesmerized by a representation of Christ on the cross. "It seemed so real," she says, "as if he was following us with his eyes."

The next destination, reached by ship, was Naples, southern Italy's principal industrial and commercial center and the birthplace of pizza. The most bombed Italian city of World War II, Naples has recovered to become a thriving metropolis. Like Rome, it is rich in history, art, culture, architecture, music, and eateries. Sites include:

- The Castel Nuovo, a massive medieval castle that was completed in the thirteenth century and features the Alfonso I Triumphal Arch, considered the most important Renaissance work in Naples, as well as 14th-15th century frescoes, and paintings, silver, and bronzes from the 15th

Giovanni Bellini, Annibale Carracci, and Luca Giordano. A beautiful park surrounds the museum.

The National Archaeological Mu-



Edna Riley with her daughter, niece and a friend in Venice.

tribute to local citizens who were killed in the war (1991-1995) that began after Croatia declared its independence from Yugoslavia.

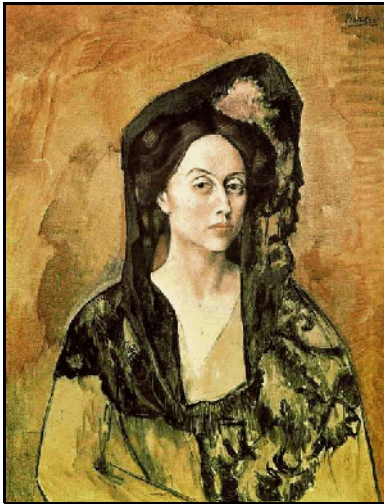
Next stop: Venice, Italy, one of the most popular tourist destinations on the map, with its many canals, bridges, and islands.

The Italian journalist Luigi Barzini, writing in *The New York Times*, described Venice as “undoubtedly the most beautiful city built by man.” Synonymous with romance and art, Venice offers numerous tourist attractions. Among the best known:

- St Mark’s Basilica, one of the world’s most renowned examples of Byzantine architecture, from the marble floors tessellated in geometric patterns and animal designs, to walls covered with bright mosaics containing gold, bronze, and a variety of stones. First built in the ninth



Venice, Italy (photo by Juliette Gibert)



**Pablo Picasso
Portrait of Senyora Canals**

century to contain the remains of St. Mark, the patron saint of Venice, the building was destroyed by fire, then reconstructed in the eleventh century in the Byzantine style.

- The Grand Canal. Starting from a lagoon near the Venice train station, the canal cuts a two-mile-long, S-shaped swath through the main districts of Venice. This route, lined with beautiful building and historic churches, ends at the Basilica di Santa Maria della Salute.
- Piazza San Marco, Venice’s principal square, is near St. Mark’s Basilica. A central landmark and gather-

ing place, the Piazza is extremely popular with tourists, photographers, and, alas, pigeons. A fifteenth-century clock tower, topped by two bronze Moors that strike the hours, stands at the north end of the square. A smaller square, the Piazzetta di San Marco, contains the pink and white marble Doges’ Palace and the famous Bridge of Sighs, which connects the palace with several prisons on the other side of a narrow canal.

Messina, Italy, stop number five on the tour, was founded by the Greeks in the eighth century B.C. The city was largely rebuilt after it was leveled by a disastrous 1908 earthquake that killed tens of thousands of inhabitants. The Santissima Annunziata dei Catalani, the only building to have survived the earthquake, dates back to the second half of the 12th century.

The cathedral where Richard the Lionhearted worshiped in 1190 en route to a Crusade was erected during the twelfth century, then reconstructed, although a few segments of the original walls remain. Among the twentieth century, post-earthquake additions are astronomical clocks by the Strasbourg firm of Unger-

er. Every 24 hours at midday, figures are set in motion and show scenes from the history of Messina, including Mary giving a letter of protection to Messinan diplomats in Nazareth, in which she wrote “We bless you and your city.”

Once again leaving Italy, Edna and her companions arrived in Barcelona, Spain’s second largest city, which traces its history to the second century B.C. and now serves as Spain’s principal commercial and industrial center. The Museu Picasso, Barcelona’s most visited museum, contains numerous works from the artist’s early years, with works from the 1890s and canvases like *The Defenceless*. The second floor houses many of Picasso’s impressionist-influenced works. The haunting *Portrait of*



Olé! A matador joins Edna Riley (second left) and her daughter (left) and niece (right) on the Barcelona docks – and that’s no bull.

Senyora Canals (1905), from his Rose Period, is also on display. Medieval buildings in Barcelona include the Gothic Cathedral of Santa Eulalia, the Church of Santa Maria del Mar, which was badly damaged in the 1930s during the Spanish Civil War, and the tenth-century Church of San Pablo del Campo.

Cannes, the popular vacation resort on the French Riviera and the cruise's penultimate destination, is famous for its yearly carnival and film festival. The

oldest part of town, located near the harbor on the slopes of a hill, is the site of a medieval watchtower, a 16th-century church, and a museum. Other points of interest include the Musée Rothchild, the Church of Notre Dame d'Espérance, and the Musée Lycklama, with a notable collection of classical antiquities.

Last stop: Livorno, also known as Leghorn, located on Italy's northwestern

coast, near the beach resorts of Ardenza and Antignano. Inveterate souvenir hunters rarely leave Livorno without a Leghorn hat, made of fine braided straw. Several canals run through the city, which also houses the Italian Naval Academy, an eleventh-century round tower, and a twelfth-century castle.

Finally, for Edna, it was back to New York, with many new memories and stories to share.



COMRO Report

The Council of Municipal Retirees Organizations (COMRO) met on June 24th and discussed the fiscal struggles facing New York State and City. COMRO noted that Mayor Bloomberg is still pushing the municipal unions to accept a requirement that they pay a percentage of the health benefit costs for actives and retirees, now totaling about \$4 billion annually. Thus far, the Municipal Labor Committee (which brings together the various city unions) has been successful at rebuffing the mayor's overtures. The City claims that it may face a \$5.1 billion deficit in FY'11 despite a \$3.3 billion surplus in FY'10. It was also noted that negotiations with the teachers had stalled, with the teachers working without a new contract since the fall of 2009 and the mayor unilaterally imposing a wage freeze in June, in theory to avoid significant proposed teacher layoffs. DC37 has also been working without a new contract since March of this year and OSA's contract has just expired as you are receiving this *Newsletter*.

COMRO members saluted former Local 371 President Charles Ensley who died in mid-June after a battle with cancer. Ensley served as the local's leader from 1982 to 2008.

New York City Central Labor Council head Jack Ahern will be a future guest speaker at a COMRO meeting.

Finally, OSA needs additional volunteers to attend COMRO meetings as our representative. The commitment

is one meeting a month on the same Wednesday as the OSARC meeting, but earlier in the morning. In addition, a short report to OSARC members at the meeting is required. If you would be interested in becoming a rep, speak to OSARC co-chairs Regina Berry or Fred Ranzoni at the next meeting or call Rob Spencer at the union office at 212-686-1229.

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Lost New York Found

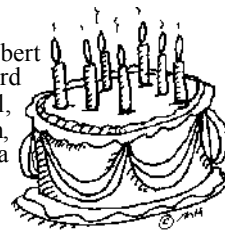
The location in the photo reproduced on page 3 of this *Newsletter* is the intersection of Fifth Avenue and 23rd Street in 1899. The Fifth Avenue Hotel, a luxury hotel built in 1859 is at the left (later replaced in 1909 by the Toy Center Building, which still stands today). It was the first hotel with elevators in the City, which were steam-powered. At the right is the Dewey Arch and colonnade. The Arch stood at this location, adjacent to Madison Square, from 1899 to 1901. Erected for a parade honoring Admiral George Dewey in celebration of his victory in the Battle of Manila Bay in the Philippines in 1898, the arch was constructed of temporary materials and was removed in 1901, after it had deteriorated significantly and funds were not raised to make the Arch and colonnade permanent. After WWI a similar temporary Victory Arch was erected at the same location.



Happy Birthday to OSA Retirees Born in August and September!

AUGUST

George Adkins, Hakimah Al-Zahra, Frederick Alexander, Dominick Altieri, Daniel Ambrose, Robert Angarola, Arthur Aptowitz, Joyce Bialik, Jack Blake, Robert Bleiberg, Timothy Bohen, Edward Braverman, Jeanette Brown, Joseph Burden, Joseph Bushe, Marie Butler, John Cala, John Campobasso, Philip Carroll, Michael Chakrin, Dolores Choate, Estelle Chodosh, Philip Cipriano, Charles Collier, William Considine, William Cronin, Ila Das, Ellis Deangelo, Don Delorenzo, Theodore DeSantis, Ana E Deya (Lugo), John Donlon, Marvin Dozier, Martina Elam, Gaber Elhefnaoui, Elizabeth Farrell, John Fleming, Renee Fox, Walter Freely, Frances Fultz, Armand Gabriele, Daphney Garrison, Thomas Geary Jr, Alexander Gelleri, Frank Gerace, Shirley Gilliam, Nicholas Gleason, Ernesto Gonzalez, Myra Goralski, Timothy Goss, Stanley Granat, Ira Greinsky, William Guarneri, Leslie Guthrie, Garry Guyer, Phyllis Hailstock, Marguerite Hajduk, Michael Harris, Mildred Hawkins, Sandra Henry, Lydia Hernandez, Sylvia Hodge, Richard Andrew Horn, Calvin James, Estella Jenkins, James Johnson, Wilhelmina Jones, Barbara Jordan, Fran Kastin, Jeffrey Keller, Carol Keyser, Jean Krampner, Fred Lieber, Gabriele Lioce, Marlene Lorraine, John W. Mackey, Rose Maconi, John A Marsico, Jeffrey Massey, Verna Maynard, Mary Katherine McEwen, Sheila McMahon, James J McQuade, David Mei, Leo Meyer, Carol Michaels, Gracie Michail, George F. Miller, Natalie Millner, Alice Mitchell, Anne Moffitt, Nimia Montanez Shipper, Anita Mullin, Michael Murphy, Anthony Napolitano, Charles Noto, William O'Brien, John O'Connor, Murray Olson, Linda Pasquali, Jack Perin, Millicent Perry, John Peterson, Theodore Phillips, Shirley Pope, Gertrude Porter, Michael Quinn, Addie Redman, Vera Reid, Jeanette Reid, Gwendolyn Riley-Roberts, Russell Rodriguez, Albert Roess, Richard Ronde, Allan Rose, Barry Rosenberg, Dorothy Royal, Flora Santana, Veronica Saunders, Ora Savoy, Marvin Schneider, Charles Schneider, Ina Schwartz, Jeremiah Schwarz, Mary Seabrooks, Myra Seltzer, Angela Smith, Gaye Snyder-Inkeles, Michael Spector, Christine Spencer, Mark Steffens, Mark Steo, Alfredo Tan,



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Phyllis Zito

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Lazarus Agapides
Prakash Allawadi
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Tristan Allas
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Leslie Allen
Adrianne Diane Alpert
Dominick Altieri
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Natividad R. Alvarez
Hakimah Al-Zahra
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Gilberte Ambroise
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Michael Ambrosini
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Charles Beckinella
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Carmen Bray
Wayne Brelowski
Maureen Brennan
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Everett Lawrence Brogdon
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Patrick Lok
Brenda Lomax
Lucille Long
Emil Loreaux
Marlene Lorraine
Michel Louis
Rosa Lovejoy
Eileen Lovett
Chien Sau Lu
Hattie Lucas
Joseph Lucas
Grace Lucas
Flora Luchese
Mary Ludvigen
Paul Lurie
Marvin Lutenberg
Rose Maconi
Leo Maher
Janet M. Mahoney
Lauren Malone
John Maloney
Henry Mandel
Nilsa Mangual-Rios
Thomas Manzo Jr.
Michael Manzollillo
William Marchuk
Angela Marino
Carol Marker
Claire Maroney
John Maroney
Robert Marshall
Roberta Martell
Claire N. Martes
Ralph Martinez
Tirso Martinez Jr.
Marylou Martucci
Edna Silas Marungo
Martha Masny
Shirley Mason
Wendell Mason
Denise Massey
Jeffrey Massey
Peter Mastropolo
Antoinette Matijevich
Eric Matusewicz
George Maurer
Constance G. Maxey
Letitia Maxwell
Morris Mayo
Winnifred Mayo-Pena
John Mazzarella
Weltha McCant
Michael McCray
Kathleen McDonough
Thomas McDonough
Mary Katherine McEwen
Joyce McFarlane
Thomas McGann
Stephen McGarry
Jannie M. McGill
John Dennis McGreen
Charles McHugh
Blanche McKee
James McKean
William McLain
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Velma McLaughlin
Amelia McNeil Jefferson
James J. McQuade
Carolyn McQueen
Matthew Meagher
Bruce Mednick
Ronald Meekins
David Mei
Velarie Melvin
Neil Mendelsohn
Pearlie Mennell
Runie Mensche
Margarita Mercado
Samuel Merson
John Mertz
James Meyer
Michael Meyer
Thomas Mezzatesta
Carol Michaels
Joseph Mickens
Renato Milani
John Milat
JOSEPH MILLER
Angelina Miller
Natalie Miller
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Richard Mitchell
Alice Mitchell
Geraldine Mitchell-Jones
Michael J. Molinari
Ralph Mondella
Barbara Mont
Charles Montalbano
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