

March
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OSARC

220 East 23rd Street • Ste 707
New York NY 10010
(212) 686-1229
(212) 686-1231 Fax
(212) 330-8833 Hotline
www.osaunion.org

OSARC newsletter

Get Up And Off Your Ass – Time To Move, Retirees Of The Working Class

OSARC meetings tend to focus on issues requiring the use of the mind: politics, labor, taxes, health concerns and treatment, and the like.

In March, we will take a break from these pursuits and focus on the use of the body. Guest speaker and exercise program ambassador Dolandre Williams will help OSA retirees explore his wellness program “Dance Exercise & Rhythm (D E A R).” The program is, says Williams, “a therapeutic self-expression of a natural inner desire to thrive” through wellness. The program seeks to “enrich lives through music and exercise.”

Says Williams, “we all need to do some form of exercise everyday. It is important to keep moving and to keep good use of our extremities.

Sitting all day long is no good for any of us. Even those with various disabilities benefit from exercise. When you hear the music you move naturally, allowing the blood to flow once again and to circulate to all the necessary body parts.

Williams notes that his program is suitable for people of all ages and abilities, including children. The music he chooses is fun and light and familiar and crosses many cultures and generations.

He says that his program has been very successful and has been accepted at many facilities in New York and abroad. He has a variety of fitness certifications and has worked extensively with senior groups.

Williams observes that “my goal is to touch as many lives as possible through this program, bringing love, light and sunshine everywhere I go.”

This program promises to be somewhat different than OSARC’s usual fare and a good deal of fun. So, join us and participate.



D E A R's Dolandre Williams

ALSO ON THE MARCH AGENDA

In addition to Dolandre Williams’ presentation and exercise session, March is Women’s History Month and OSARCer Sallie Stroman will have a short presentation celebrating Women’s History. As usual, we will also have a COMRO report and address various administrative matters.

Next Organization of Staff Analysts’ Retirees Club Event
Wednesday • March 11, 2019 • 12:30pm - 2:30pm

Dance, Exercise and Rhythm

Guest Speaker: Dolandre Williams, Founder of the D E A R Program
Also: Sallie Stroman Celebrates Women’s History Month

OSA Union Office • 220 East 23rd Street • 7th Floor (Between Second and Third Avenues)

OSARC Officers 2019-2020

Chair.....Helen Hanigan-Kosuda
 Vice-Chair.....Bob Pfefferman
 Treasurer.....Hattie Thomas
 Secretary.....Theodore White
 COMRO Representatives.....Joan Garippa, Mark Lewis, Jay Warshofsky



Newsletter Editor/Writer/Photos: Rob Spencer
 Reporter/Writer: Ted White, Sallie Stroman, Kathryn Nocerino Art: Ted White



Welcome: Recent OSA Retirees

We welcome the following recent retirees to the post-employment world and encourage them all to join the OSA Retirees Club, if they have not done so already.

Attend our upcoming meetings and events and please consider becoming active in your Club. The meetings are fun and informative and a way to stay in touch with your union brothers and sisters.

DOHMH	Angel LaPaz	Staff Analyst
Finance	Michael Fox	Staff Analyst
DDC	Margaret Stolfa	Staff Analyst
Parks	Edwin Vargas	Staff Analyst
ACS	Faith Davison	Associate Staff Analyst
DOT	Louis Puccio	Associate Staff Analyst
Finance	Howard Wallrick	Administrative Staff Analyst
HRA	Winston Hoppie	Administrative Staff Analyst
HRA	Kevin Robinson	Administrative Staff Analyst
NYPD	Jeanne Biroc	Associate Staff Analyst

Welcome to all of the recent retirees!



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

Forty-six (46) members and friends attended the February OSARC luncheon/meeting:



Pranab Das

Albida Ali, Sybil Allen, Roger Bachrach, Iris Bailey, Renee Bash, Jacqueline Bradnock-Merveil, Sofiya Brand, Marcia Brown, Colleen Cox, Pranab Das, Joan Doheny, Joan Garippa, Eizabeth Henderson, Hilary Hudson, Camille Isaacs, Barbara Jones, Roslyn Jones, Rosanne Levitt, Patricia Lynch, Michael Manzolillo, Alan Naider, Kathryn Nocerino, Dolores Parson, Eileen Pentel, Fred Ranzoni, Vera Reale, Francisco Rios, Nilsa Rios, Cora Ross, Margarete Rousseau, Leon Rozenbaum, Nancy Russell,

Barbara Schwartz, Andrew Sessa, Saundra Sidberry, David Silverman, Velma Small, Debbie Smith, Tomi Smith, Louis Starkey, Sallie Stroman, Edward Tennant, Hattie Thomas, Jay Warshofsky, Teddy White, Margaret Williams McClammy



In Memoriam

We regret to report the passing of four (4) retirees. **Edward W. Smith** retired in 1995 as an Associate Staff Analyst at the Human Resources Administration. **Scot H. Oestreich** retired in 2010 as a Senior Healthcare Program Planner/Analyst at NYC Health + Hospitals' Kings County Hospital Center. **Sonia Garrastegui** retired in 2004 as a Staff Analyst at the Dept. of Transportation. Finally, **Albert DeCruz, Jr.**, a member of the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association and the OSA Welfare Fund, retired in 2018 from DOT. *The Newsletter* extends its condolences to the families and friends of our late brothers and sisters.



Reminder: March Is The Start Of The Census

Earlier this year, OSARC hosted a guest speaker from the US Census Bureau who reminded us of the importance of an accurate Census count in NY City and State. Aside from determining how many congressmembers New York State will have in the House of Representatives, it will help determine the size of federal spending on Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP and other social supports. An accurate count is especially important for programs serving older New Yorkers. For the first time this year, the Census will be conducted largely online. Between March 12th and 20th, most households will receive a postcard with information about how to complete a census form on the internet. If you do not complete the Census online, you will receive a traditional Census form by regular mail. If you do not complete and return that form, a Census worker will be sent to your household to obtain the information in person. Some number of people will receive the traditional paper form in the mail rather than the initial postcard. Please don't ignore the card when you receive it.



Ed Tennant



OSARC Secretary Teddy White and former Co-Chair Colleen Cox.

OSARC Calendar: April 15, May 13, June 10

In March we will have a movement/wellness class at our OSARC meeting and in May we will discuss the intersection of the labor movement and environmental justice/climate change. The dates for those meetings are March 11, 2020 and May 13, 2020, each as usual from 12:30 to 2:30pm.

The April trip will take place on April 15th, the third Wednesday in April. We will be going to the KGB Espionage Museum on West 14th Street. We will gather at the museum at 1:15pm.

Finally, on June 10, 2020 we will hold our annual gala luncheon. We will return to Tony's DiNapoli on the Upper East Side, a location about which most OSARCers have been very enthusiastic.

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Spy Vs. Spy II Are You Joining Us On OSARC's April 15 Trip?

On April 15th, OSARC will visit the **KGB Espionage Museum**. OSARCers will meet at 1:15pm at the Museum, which is located at 245 West 14th Street, between 7th and 8th Avenues. Admission is \$17 per person for seniors and, according to Trip Committee Chair Renee Bash, can be paid on location on the day of the trip. Take the #1 train to 7th Avenue and 14th Street or the A,C,E trains to 8th Ave and 14th.

As of the February 19th meeting, 22 OSARCers and guests had indicated they plan to join OSARC for the trip: *Sybil Allen, Adrienne Alpert, Renee Bash, Vidyadhar Bhide, Sofiya Brand, Colleen Cox, Joan Doheny, Rosanne Levitt, Jacqueline Merveil, Eileen Pentel, Bob Pfefferman, Fred Ranzoni, Carl and Reasa Semper, Andrew Sessa, Sandra Sidberry, Velma Small and a guest, Sallie Stroman, Hattie Thomas, Ruth Verbit, and Eric Wollman*

There will be a general talk at the beginning of the visit, and then people will be free to roam and explore the Museum on their own. A recent article in the *Chelsea Clinton News* described the museum as "a literal walk through the history of the Soviet surveillance state, starting with the pre-KGB NKVD, the KGB itself, and the post-KGB, FSB. Compelling exhibits illustrate its history, its practices and its tools for enforcing loyalty and punishing non-conformity."

If you would like to join OSARC on the trip and your name is not on the list in this article, please either email Rob Spencer at robspencer@osaunion.org or John LaGuardia at jlaguardia@osaunion.org (or call either of them at 212-686-1229) by April 8th so we have an idea of how many folks are coming.

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Hillary Hudson

OSARC Has A Taxing Time At February Meeting

by OSARC Secretary Theodore 'Teddy' White

On a day with the most beautiful of blue skies, although the New York City temperature was quite cold, Colleen Cox gave a warm welcome to those gathered for our monthly OSARC luncheon. Colleen, our esteemed former OSARC Co-Chair, joined me in "hosting" as we sent well wishes to OSARC Chair Helen Hanigan-Kosuda and Vice-Chair Bob Pfefferman, who were unable to attend the February meeting.

Colleen praised Helen for all of her committed work and effort in prepping the meeting and the luncheon, even though she could not attend. Bob was in Florida and we truly appreciate his leadership.

Colleen saluted the hospitality committee, and OSA's stalwart staff member Carol Moten, for the fine buffet, and expressed our well wishes for Apinya, who was unable to join us today. Colleen searched for any new members, but we were all OSARC veterans. A big Happy Birthday was sung to Rosanne Levitt and Barbara Jones!

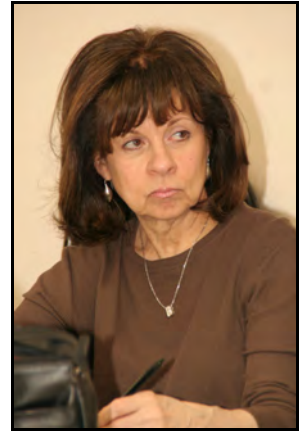
Joan Garippa was asked to present the COMRO report. She mentioned that there is a new 1040SR tax form related to senior citizens; it has larger print. Mel Aaronson of the United Federation of Teachers discussed Social Security and Joan mentioned that, when it started, State workers were left out of the program. In the 1950s public workers were allowed to join the program, but 15 states did not opt in and, today, do not deduct Social Security from teachers.

In 2019, the SECURE law was passed which pushes Required Minimum Distributions from 457 and 401(k) plans to 72 from 70 1/2. Those who inherit an IRA now must spend the money in the account within ten years, which has tax implications. Joan was happy to say this leads well into the OSARC guest speaker who is a tax expert.

This year, 2020, the government will begin to use some of the money from the reserve accounts of Social Security. That may cause a deficit in about fifteen years. This is being monitored by many and ways to fight it are growing!

A new piece of legislation, the Social Security 2100 Act would adjust the basis of the Cost-of-Living Adjustment and may provide as much as \$200 in extra benefits per month. It would adjust the amount of earned income subject to FICA tax for those making considerable sums.

I welcomed Lloyd Feinberg,



Barbara Schwartz



Marcia Brown



**Tax Preparer
Lloyd Feinberg**

who made a presentation on taxes to OSARC last year. I have a special place in my heart and a fondness for Lloyd who once was my supervisor and, then, manager because when I passed the Associate Staff Analyst examination in 2000, he kept me in our department so I didn't have to get tossed into the HRA job pool. Lloyd reminisced about his long career with HRA, his retirement, and his talent in providing tax preparation for many, many years.

He reminded us that the last tax reform, pushed by President Trump in 2017 and in force for the 2018 tax year, remains largely the same this year. There is no major difference in preparing the tax return forms for 2019.

New Yorkers and other high-tax state residents continue to get screwed out of the State and Local Tax (SALT) deductions.

Make sure you list your beneficiaries carefully on your deferred compensation, IRA or bank forms. You will get a 1099-R form reporting your income from any distributions to the IRS.

Be aware of the IRA rules on distributions as they now apply. Box 7 on your 1099-R should usually show a code 7 for "normal distribution." However, it will show code 4 if the distribution is death benefits.

The minimum distribution is calculated by the firm that holds your IRA, 401k or 457. If you borrow money from your IRA, you have to start paying it back at age 70.5. As you age, your RMD amount increases.

Lloyd mentioned using resources on the NY State Department of Taxation website at www.tax.ny.gov, and he strongly recommends Publication 17 from the IRS, the tax guide for individuals.

Some of the items that are no longer allowed as deductions on the federal form may be allowed on the state tax forms, so consult your preparer.

Feinberg asked how many people had to pay additional taxes last year. He said all income must be considered including 85% of Social Security benefits, depending on whether you file as married or not. He is comfortable withholding 25% of income at the source. This will help you meet your tax obligation and avoid underpayment of taxes. He said the subject of tax penalties can be complicated, so he encourages you to consult your tax preparer.

If you will be getting large amounts of money from investments or RMDs, he recommends making quarterly estimated tax



Velma Small

payments using forms 1040 ES and IT 2105 for the IRS and NY State respectively. By paying a set amount every quarter, you can help prevent yourself from being penalized.

A question about selling some of your stock led to the realization that before 2011, the IRS didn't get direct information on the value of the stock or mutual fund, but now that information is reported by the mutual fund company or stock broker (Form 1099 DIV) and you must ensure that if you do not take dividends and roll the money into purchasing more stock or mutual fund shares, you report it accurately to avoid paying extra taxes.

As for the RMD, all income is taxable. You must begin taking RMDs when you turn 72 but in no case later than six months into the year after you turn 72.

Unlike a traditional IRA which uses pre-tax dollars, a Roth IRA uses after-tax dollars and is not taxable if you do not withdraw any money for a minimum of five years after the creation of the Roth IRA.

If you are gifting money to others, check with your preparer to determine the current allowable threshold (about \$15,000 in 2019).

A tax credit of up to \$500 is available for non-business energy property, such as residential exterior doors and windows, insulation, furnaces, central air conditioner, and water heaters.

Colleen thanked Lloyd for being our guest speaker and thanked OSARC member Andrea Behrens, who introduced OSARC to Lloyd. Andrea is enjoying a world cruise.

Feel free to contact Lloyd Feinberg either for his tax preparation services or to answer a question you may have at lloydfeintax@gmail.com or 917-374-6293.

As for the April trip, the destination will be the KGB Espionage Museum (see separate article). Some KGB Museum fliers were available at the meeting.

Next, I introduced OSARCer Sallie Stroman, who gave us one of two Black History Month presentations. She said she decided to speak about a person who is still alive as opposed to someone who died, as is common in most Black History presentations. She said she wanted to be a little more "upbeat." See her remarks elsewhere in this issue.

Then it was time for me to speak about Black History and my remarks are also reprinted in this issue.

We also had a wonderful report from Eileen Pentel who discussed an effort to preserve a house located at 227 Duffield Street in downtown Brooklyn. The home was owned at one time by a prominent abolitionist family, Thomas and Harriet Truesdell. During the time they lived there in the 19th century, there is speculation that they were part of the underground railroad. The railroad apparently went through a number of houses in Brooklyn and some have been torn down. Activists are now seeking to preserve the Duffield Street house as historically significant for its role in the railroad and as the home of major abolitionists. Eileen asked,



**Joan Garippa delivers
the COMRO report.**

"what more evidence do we need, a basement full of dead slaves?!" There was great applause.

To round out the meeting, there was a touching tribute in remembrance of longtime OSARC activist and officer Dan Morgan. Betty Henderson, who met and developed a relationship with Dan through OSARC that lasted two decades, came to the microphone and asked that those who knew Dan come forward and share memories of him.

She reminded us that there was an article about Dan in the February *OSARC Newsletter*. Betty shared a story about Dan being asked by an earlier girlfriend (long before he met Betty) to stop drinking or she would stop speaking to him. Dan did not like the AA meetings, but instead began participating in various retiree activities at the OSA office. So, he began his long association with the union as an alternative to Alcoholics Anonymous!

Next, Lewis Starkey and Sallie Stroman told us that they loved serving with Dan when he ran the mailing committee. Lewis and Sallie have been with OSARC for more than 15 years and served as officers as well as on the mailing committee. Lewis said he started helping at the office in 2000. Dan was a great person to work with and Lewis had fond memories of Dan.

Hattie Thomas, our current Treasurer, was next and she told us how she also worked closely with Dan who was an earlier OSARC Treasurer. She said Dan used 'colorful' language when he got frustrated or tired. Hattie said Dan would call her to wish her a Happy New Year yearly, even after his health challenges prevented him from attending OSARC meetings. She said she was genuinely surprised and happy to have received a call from Dan to say Happy New Year.

OSA Exec Director Sheila Gorsky encouraged everyone to take a look at the beautiful cake celebrating Dan, and to take photos before the slicing. This was a very warm, soulful gathering. The cake was very tasty too!

A final announcement was made by Rob Spencer reminding attendees that COMRO rep Joan Garippa was seeking volunteers to help contact OSA retirees who now reside in Florida in order to increase the success rate for labor-friendly candidates there. If you are interested in helping the political process, contact Rob Spencer at the OSA office at 212-686-1229 or robspencer@osaunion.org. If there is sufficient interest, volunteers will be invited to phone bank OSA retirees in Florida.



Margarett Rousseau



Nilsa Mangual Rios

How Important Is Social Security, Anyway?

A new report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities confirms that Social Security reduces poverty in every state in the nation. The impact of Social Security on poverty is, in fact, greater than any other program. Subtract Social Security from the mix and 21.7 million more Americans would live in poverty, including 15 million seniors. According to the report, without Social Security, more than 40% of people 65 and over would be in poverty in a third of the states.

Robert Roach, Jr., President of the AFL-CIO affiliated senior lobby, the Alliance for Retired Americans observed "the report shows that Social Security is particularly important for elderly women, blacks and Latinos, who have fewer retirement resources outside of Social Security. We need to keep fighting to expand Social Security benefits and keep all Americans from poverty as they age."

TABLE 1
Effect of Social Security on Poverty (Official Poverty Measure), 2018

Age Group	Percent in Poverty		Number Lifted Above the Poverty Line by Social Security
	Excluding Social Security	Including Social Security	
Children Under 18	17.8%	16.2%	1,197,000
Adults Ages 18-64	13.5%	10.7%	5,653,000
Elderly Age 65 and Over	37.8%	9.7%	14,810,000
Total, All Ages	18.5%	11.8%	21,661,000

Source: CBPP analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau's March 2019 Current Population Survey

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Let's Not Get Mikey, Thank You

As we went to press, several candidates for the Democratic nomination for President dropped out of the race, including Amy Klobuchar, Pete Buttigieg and Michael Bloomberg. As you will recall, OSARCer Kathryn Nocerino penned a summary of some of Mayor Mike's less-than-fine points for our last *Newsletter*. Mayor Mike's unimpressive debate and Super Tuesday primary performances mean we won't have him to kick around anymore. However, Kathy asked if we would add the following postscript to her article:



Kathryn Nocerino

"Over the past few weeks, news coverage has been reminding me of more blots on Mayor Mikey's record. Let us not forget the profound attack on civil rights and personal dignity represented by the Bloomberg administration's "stop and frisk" program. There ought to be a way to ensure public safety without labeling the entire Black population of this City as an imminent danger. The damage and mistrust created by this program, combined with a national trend among some

police forces to “shoot first and ask questions later” has, I believe, contributed greatly to the present anti-police atmosphere. Both the police and their surrounding communities deserve the security of a better selected, trained and monitored force.

“Also, lest we forget, the Republican National Committee decided, in 2004, to hold its national convention here, at Madison Square Garden. I remember having the feeling that New York City had been transformed into an armed camp. Bloomberg added an additional 10,000 police, whom he called “Hercules Teams,” for the express purpose of providing “security” to the conventioners. Lawful public demonstrations resulted in about 1,800 arrests, including a large number of people just walking around in the wrong place at the right time. Contemporary reporting, preserved on Wikipedia, calls the conditions of their detention “terrible,” including overcrowding, exposure to toxic materials, sleep deprivation, caging, lack of access to food and water, and being held incommunicado for over 24 hours. Most of the charges were withdrawn. Mikey seems to have forgotten all of this.”

And it cost the City more than \$18 million to settle the lawsuits that arose out of the City’s mistreatment of GOP convention protestors.

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Museum Of the Woof Woofs

by OSARCer Sallie Stroman



I had nointention of visiting the American Kennel Club’s Museum of the Dog. It just so happened that I was passing the Museum’s new building on Park Avenue and I wandered into their current exhibit on sled dogs. The Museum, which originated in New York City, has spent the past three decades in St. Louis, Missouri, but has reopened this year at 101 Park Avenue.

The day I visited, the Museum hosted members of the New York City Police Department’s Canine Unit, who were on premises to discuss their jobs and how they work with their dogs. There are only five breeds that the department uses for its Canine Unit, which is comprised of 150 police officers, including five women. The dogs go home with their human officer colleagues, but if the officer’s family has a dog of its own, the dogs are never together. The NYPD Canine Unit is world renowned and trains other canine units in countries all over the world.

However, my focus was on the sled dog exhibit. The exhibit celebrates the work of these dogs while tracing the history of dog sled racing around the world. The exhibit, entitled “Mush! A Tribute To Sled Dogs from Arctic Exploration to the Iditarod” runs until March 29th.

There are five breeds of snow dogs used for sled teams and racing – the Alaskan Malamute, the Chinook, the New



“Leonard Seppala and his Dog Team”
(unknown photographer, 1925)

Foundland, the Samoyed, and the Siberian Husky.

In 1925, the first dog sled team traveled from Anchorage, Alaska to deliver antitoxin serum to Nome, Alaska during an outbreak of diphtheria affecting the town’s 1,400 inhabitants. The sled teams ran between the two towns, saving the people of Nome. Two of the most famous of the sled dogs that took part were lead dogs Togo and Balto – heroes of the day. Dog sled teams also were used to transport mail across remote snowy regions.

Today, the use of sled dog teams is honored by the famous Iditarod dog sled race which sends teams in competition over a 1,000 mile route across Alaska’s frozen landscape.

Also on display are statues, paintings, photos, videos and old newsreel footage depicting the early days of dog sled racing.

The Museum of the Dog is located at 101 Park Avenue in Manhattan, with an entrance on 40th Street. The Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 10am-5pm. The rate for seniors is \$10. For information, call 212-696-8360.

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Some Thoughts For Black History Month

by Theodore ‘Teddy’ White

At OSARC’s February meeting, OSARC Secretary Teddy White delivered remarks in honor of Black History Month. We reprint them here:

Like millions of people, I am very proud to have witnessed the presidency of Barack Hussein Obama, who served two terms from 2009 through 2016. His decisions and his policies were not perfect. What is perfect? The fact is he served as a role model for America in civility. He was a leader to those of us of African or Native American descent,



Teddy White makes a presentation for Black History Month.

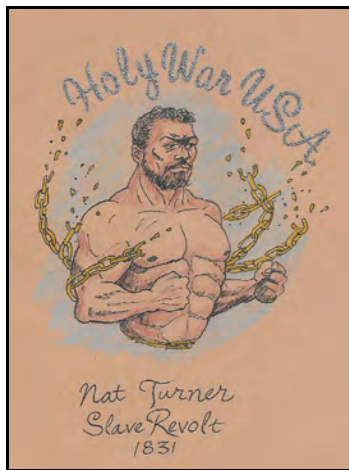
encouraging the pursuit of education, engaging in public service, and seeking non-violent solutions to problems.

Mr. Obama reached the highest office in the land, born the son of a Black father and a White mother. He was well aware and saddened by the fact that racism persisted in America, as White police officers, in various states, shot and killed so many unarmed men (and even boys) of color.

We the people, implored the affected governors and mayors to stop the assassinations. Some of us stood with our civil rights organizations, such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the National Action Network (NAN), and others, desperate to end the killings and harassments of 'Stop and Frisk' tactics.

Recently, a Black man shot New York City police officers without provocation. The president of the police union screamed 'assassination attempt!'

Were the shootings a form of revenge? The victims were White. The NYPD protested the violence just like we do as civilians. Will they cease shooting or choking unarmed African-Americans?



Nat Turner as envisioned by Teddy White

What if Black cops killed unarmed White men? What would *that* protest look like? Interestingly enough, the cops did not kill the man who shot the police officers; they arrested him. He even vowed to shoot more of them once he gets out of jail.

I'm just a simple man, an artist. I don't really get into psychology or conspiracy theories, but it seems strange to me that the police have been able to arrest large numbers of members of street gangs and organized crime members, without killing them. These hoodlums were

heavily armed. But, the cops kill unarmed people of color, and call it an accident.

We want justice! We want police officers who kill unarmed people to be arrested and brought to trial. No more cover ups. No more hiding behind a badge.

The violence goes all the way back to when America held us as slaves. Africans, Native Americans, Asians and, yes, others, were brutally snared in slavery. The beatings, whippings, rapes, torture, separation of families, and killings went on for many generations. Some gained their freedom, but the story was wickedly different for Africans.

There were documented cases of individual slaves escaping from their cruel owners. Before Nat Turner led an 1831 slave rebellion in Virginia, there had been numerous efforts to escape slavery. However, Turner shined a very bright light on the nightmarish problem.

Turner was a slave preacher and a mystic. On August 21, 1831, he and his followers rose up and swept through Southampton County and killed approximately 60 Whites within 24 hours. The rebels went from plantation to

plantation in the town of Jerusalem, killing Whites and recruiting more slaves to the rebellion.

Retaliation against all Blacks in the area was severe. Troops overpowered his small band. Fifty-five Blacks were later executed and another 200 lynched. Turner, himself, was hung on November 11th.

The Nat Turner revolution did two things: it forced a discussion of the need to abolish slavery, and it brought more attempts by slave owners and their supporters to control the activities and movements of African Americans, even Blacks who were free.

Joseph Cinque led a slave revolt aboard the slave ship Amistad in 1838. Joseph and his colleagues avoided being dumped at the intended port of slave sales. He was captured eventually, put on trial with the other rebels, and found guilty of mutiny.

In 1841, with former US President John Quincy Adams acting as counsel and arguing before the US Supreme Court, Cinque and the others were found not guilty and allowed to return to Africa as free people.

Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery in 1849 and, over the next eleven years, helped more than 300 slaves escape from slavery in the US South to freedom in Canada. Her technique was called 'the underground railroad.' God's people were ushered under cover of darkness and stealth from one secret location to another until finally reaching freedom.

I am a member of the Frederick Douglass Democratic Association in East Elmhurst, Queens. Frederick Douglass never knew who his father was, and barely remembered his mother. He was born in 1817 in Maryland. His mother had been sent away to work on a farm some distance from her child. At the time, it was common for slaveholders to part children from their mothers at a very early age - usually within the first twelve months.

The only thing Frederick knew for sure about his father was that he was White. Douglass lived with his 'grandparents' Betsy and Isaac Bailey, for his first seven years. The Baileys were responsible for raising the children of the plantation slaves so that their parents could work in the fields. Douglass only saw his mother a few times, because she lived so far away and risked being whipped if she was not back to her plantation on time for work in the morning.

As was customary for slave children, when Douglass reached the age of seven, he was forced to move from his grandparents'



Betty Henderson speaks about Dan Morgan



Louis Starkey and Sallie Stroman remember Dan Morgan



OSARC Treasurer Hattie Thomas remembered one of her predecessors, Dan Morgan

house to the plantation. Too young to labor in the fields, Douglass was kept busy tending the cows and chickens, keeping the barnyard clean, and running errands.

A household slave named Aunt Katy, whose job was to supervise slave children, had a quick temper and often hit Douglass with a stick or kicked him when she was angry. She also used starvation as a punishment, forcing Douglass sometimes to go a whole day without any food. Even when he was fed it was just corn mush (boiled corn meal) in a large wooden tray set on the ground for the children to fight over like

pigs at the trough.

Douglass suffered much more from the cold than hunger, he wrote later, as he had no shoes, socks, pants, or jacket - only a coarse cloth shirt that hung to his knees. On the coldest nights, he slept headfirst in a burlap corn storage bag on a dirt floor.

In 1825, Douglass was sent to the Aulds, relatives of his master in Baltimore, where he found kindness, including food, clothing, and a warm bed. He was taught to read and count. Two years later, his master found out about the lessons and told Sophia Auld it was forbidden to educate slaves. He told Douglass he was forbidden to read, but Douglass did just the opposite. He read everything he could get his hands on, including newspapers from trash cans - all in secret, of course.

In 1833, Douglass was ordered back to the plantation by a new master. He was sad to leave the Aulds and his friends - both Black and White - in the bustling port city of Baltimore.

When the other slaves found out that Douglass knew how to read, they begged him to start a Sunday school for Black children. One Sunday morning, the lessons were broken up by an angry mob of local White men, including his master, Thomas Auld.

A week later, Douglass was sent to the farm of Edward Covey, who was considered the best slave breaker (one who 'tamed' slaves into submission by breaking their spirit) in the state. After six months of abuse, which included being worked seven days a week, starved, and beaten, Douglass ran away briefly from Covey's farm.

He knew he would be whipped, perhaps beaten to death, when he returned. The day after Douglass came back, Covey



Sandra Sidberry

attacked him in the barn. This time, Douglass did not turn the other cheek. He fought back and, after two hours, Covey gave up. Douglass did not get whipped again in his remaining six months at Covey's farm. It was Covey, not Douglass, who had been broken.

Douglass escaped again and it was not long before he gained his freedom from slavery. In addition to his roles as an abolitionist, writer, and orator, Frederick Douglass also was appointed to numerous high-ranking federal positions in the decades during and after Reconstruction. These appointments included US Marshal for the District of Columbia (1877-81), Recorder of Deeds for D.C. (1881-86), and Minister Resident and Consul General to Haiti (1889-91).

Do not get me started on the Alliance of Blacks and Jews. Since ancient times, Blacks and Jews have identified with each other's life experiences. Both have endured racism and enslavement on a massive scale. Many Blacks compare their enslavement in the American South to that of the Jews in ancient Egypt, aligning with them in religious beliefs expressed in Black spirituals, such as 'Go Down Moses.'

The desire for an African-American exodus inspired the recognition of 'Zion' in the names of many Black Churches. Black Nationalists of the 1800s used the Zionist Movement as a mold for their Back-to-Africa movement. From the start of the Civil Rights Movement, Blacks and Jews took to the streets, arm-in-arm. In 1909, W.E.B. Debois, Julius Rosenthal, Lillian Wald, Rabbi Emil G. Hirsch, Stephen Wise and Henry Malkewitz formed the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Less than a year later, Jewish and Black leaders created the Urban League.

In closing, getting from the slave ship, to the outhouse, to the White House, required great prayer. Remember this hymn: "O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain; for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain! America! America! God shed His grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea! O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life! America! America! God mend thine every flaw, confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law."



Sybil Allen



Albida Ali

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Black Surgeon Ben Carson

by OSARCer Sallie Stroman

A second presentation for Black History Month was delivered by OSARCer Sallie Stroman, who profiled Benjamin Carson, a noted black surgeon.

Benjamin Carson was born in 1951 and raised in Detroit's inner city. Carson credited his mother with inspiring him to become an outstanding student. He attended Yale University on a scholarship, earning his Bachelors of Arts in 1973. He next went on to earn his medical degree from the University of Michigan in 1977.

Carson completed his internship in general surgery and his residency in neurosurgery at Baltimore's Johns Hopkins Medical Center, becoming the hospital's first-ever Black neurosurgical resident.

In 1983, he moved to Perth, Australia to become senior neurosurgical resident and the Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital.

In 1985, at the age of 34, Carson returned home to become Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins. He gained international acclaim in 1987 when he successfully separated a pair of Siamese Twins who were joined at the back of the head. In the landmark operation, which took 22 hours, Carson led a team of 70 doctors, nurses and technicians.

Today, he is the Secretary of the federal Department of Housing & Urban Development in the Trump administration.

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Public Sector Workers Cite High Job Satisfaction As Well As High Job Stress

The National Institute on Retirement Security released a new report in February examining how state and local government employees view their jobs, pay and benefits. The main findings were:

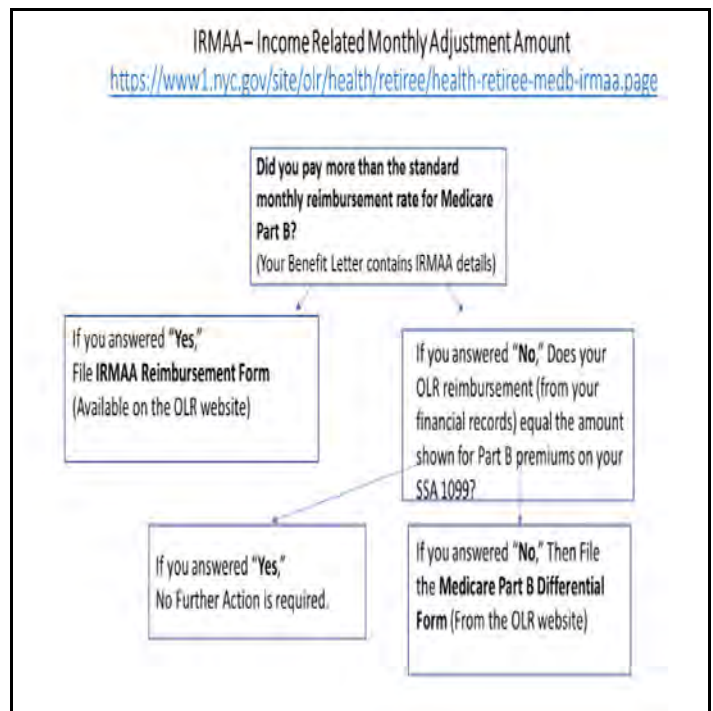
- Employees place a high value on serving the public and their community, and are generally satisfied with their job despite high stress: 89% are satisfied with their ability to serve the public, 85% are satisfied with their jobs, and 71% say their jobs are stressful.
- Benefits are important. Health insurance is very important to 78% of employees, and retirement benefits are very important to 73%.
- The vast majority of state and local government employees agree they could earn a higher salary in the private sector and a pension improves the competitiveness of their compensation. Only 22% say their salaries are very competitive.
- Almost all state and local workers (93%) say pensions incentivize public workers to have long public service careers; 94% say offering a pension helps attract and retain employees. Nearly 90% say they plan to stay with their current employer until retirement or they can no longer work.
- 94% of state and local employees have favorable views of defined benefit pensions.

- Most public workers (72%) feel they will be financially secure in retirement, but the vast majority are highly concerned about cuts to retirement benefits (86%) and government underfunding of pension plans (85%).
- More than half of state and local employees (58%) say that switching them out of a pension into a defined contribution plan like a 401(k) would make them more likely to leave their job. 79% say they would be more likely to leave their job if healthcare benefits were cut.
- Millennials in state and local government generally share the views of Baby Boomers and GenXers on their job, serving the public, pay, and benefits.

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Medicare Part B Premium Reimbursements For 2019

The following summary of Part B Premium reimbursements was prepared by OSARC Vice-Chair Bob Pfefferman, Ed Hysyk of the DC37 Retirees and Stu Eber of COMRO.



New retirees and even current retirees may not know that the City reimburses your Medicare Part B premiums. New York City law requires that eligible retirees and spouses be reimbursed for the "full cost" of Medicare Part B. Eligible retirees and spouses must enroll for this reimbursement by filling out a form available on the website of the Office of Labor Relations (OLR) and by providing a copy of their Medicare card showing that they are in the program. The form is also available on the OSA website at www.osaunion.org on the Retirees tab.

In April, 2020, the City of New York Office of Labor Relations (NYC OLR) will send you the basic Medicare Part B premium reimbursement for 2019 by either direct deposit

(into the same account that your pension payment is directly deposited) or by mail in the form of a paper check.

The City is required by law to reimburse retirees for the "full cost" of Medicare Part B. However, the amount the City sends you in April may be less than what you paid for Medicare Part B during 2019.

To determine if the City still owes you money, compare the payment you receive in April to the amount shown on your 2019 SSA-1099 that you received by mail in January, 2020 from the Social Security Administration.

If the two amounts agree, do NOTHING because you have received the correct reimbursement.

If you were reimbursed less than the amount you paid you must complete either the 2019 Medicare Part B Reimbursement Differential Request Form or the Medicare Part B IRMAA Reimbursement Form. (These forms are available on the OLR website at www.nyc.gov/olr. They are also on the OSA website on the "Retiree" tab.)

To determine which form to use, look at the Social Security Benefit letter that you received in November. This letter will explicitly state if you are subject to IRMAA, which is a surcharge for high income retirees. If your "Benefit Letter" shows this surcharge, submit the Medicare Part B IRMAA Reimbursement Form. Otherwise, submit the Medicare Part B Reimbursement Differential Request Form. Under no circumstance should you submit both forms for the same year.

Even though you enroll in the reimbursement program



OSARC remembered officer and activist Dan Morgan at the February meeting.

only once, you have to submit paperwork each year that you are owed more than the standard reimbursement.

NOTES: (1) Do not use the previous year form by crossing out the previous year and writing 2019 on the form. **USE THE CORRECT FORM.** The correct forms for 2019 are already online at www.nyc.gov/olr (2) Mail the appropriate form to the address that is listed on the form.(3) Make sure that you attach the required documentation. (4) Please keep a copy of any forms that you send to the NYC Health Benefits Program.(5) It is not necessary to send the form(s) by certified or registered mail. (6) For additional info, please go to the NYC OLR website at www.nyc.gov/olr.



Happy Birthday to OSA Retirees Born in March

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Karmelita L. Walker
Linda Walker
Dorothy Wallace
Rita P. Walsh
Thomas M. Walsh
Thomas J. Walsh
Arlanda Walton
Carolyn Walton
Joy M. Walton
Joan Wan
Yih-Lu Charlie Wang
Eisee W. Ward
Joseph P. Warfield
Ellen R. Warmstein
John P. Warner
Jay W. Warshofsky
Lorraine D. Washington

Barry A. Washington
Catherine Washington
Gregory C. Washington
Barbara Washington-Griles
Herbert Wasserman
Jacquelyn D. Watson
Howard J. Wattenberg
Nora Fran Weaver
Saul Weber
Edmund J. Weinblatt
Ruth C. Weiner
Regina C. Weiss
Olga R. Weiss
James F. Welby
Kevin Welch
Kenneth Wesley
Ronald N. West
Anthony Weston
Joyce S. White
Vanessa White
Theodore R. White
Grace White
Doris D. White
Joseph J. White
Rose Mary Whitehead
Stephen J. Whyte
Shirley Ann Wiggins
Ferdinand Wight
Sarah J. Wilborne
Ronald S. Willidigg
Laraine B. Williams
Yvonne C. Williams
Jacqueline L. Williams
Audrey Williams
Lucinda Williams
Darrell A. Williams
Jacqueline Y. Williams
Brenda M. Williams
Lyndon H. Williams
Herbert Williams
Isza Williams-Darlington
Margaret E.
Williams-McClammy
Dianne Williamson
Aaron Wilner
Ronald T. Wilson
Kay A. Wilson Bigelow
Marva Wilson-Garnes
Gary R. Wink
Irita L. Winston
Douglas G. Winston
Antoinette Witherspoon
Eric Wollman
Spencer L. Wong
Bassanio Wong
Nga F. Wong
Peter Wood
Janine M. Woodley-Brown
Judith Woods
Noel R. Worsell
Peggy C. Wright
Selma R. Wright
Benjamin Wright, Jr.
Peggy A. Wright-Noldon
Annette J. Wyre
Russell Yates
David Yerushalmi
Carol F. Yost
Linda Young
Anita B. Yurman-King
Robert T. Zappala
Leah M. Zeigler
Arthur Ziccardi
Margie D. Zinzi
David M. Zirman
Phyllis M. Zito
Jeffrey I. Zuckerman

ORGANIZATION OF STAFF ANALYSTS' RETIREES CLUB MEMBERS FOR 2020

As of March 3, 2020, we have received dues payments from the following OSARers:

August Abbondanza
 Samia A. Abdallah
 Chris P. Abramides
 Dena C. Abrams
 Alfredo Acevedo
 Sallie W. Adams
 Dolly I. Adams
 Risikatu Adebajo-Kassim
 Mark F. Adler
 Gerardo V. Afable
 Lazarus Agapides
 Prakash Aitawadi
 Timothy G. Alapo
 Yolanda Alayan
 Michaela C. Albanese-Finkelstein
 Thomas Albano
 George Alexander
 Lorraine Alexander
 Frederick C. Alexander
 Angela Alexander-Wilson
 Anthony Alfano
 Albidia K. Ali
 Tristan Allas
 Sybil M. Allen
 Kenneth Alleyne
 Carmelita Almodovar
 Adrienne D. Alpert
 Natividad R. Alvarez
 Hakimah Al-Zahra
 Socorro Amaro
 Jo-Ann Ambrogi
 Velma M. Ambrose
 Marsha Ambrose
 Michael Ambrosia
 Gus Anagnostakos
 Sonny K. Andersen
 Beverly E. Anderson
 Brenda M. Andrews
 John Angellilo
 Stephen P. Antonelli
 Florence Appelstein
 Elise Applewhite
 Arthur D. Aptowitz
 Arnold W. Aravena
 Maria Paz Asuncion Arce
 Francisco Armentales
 William A. Archipoli
 Henry Armendinger
 Robert Armstrong
 Elaine Armstrong
 Jimmy Arnold
 Jeannette Arroyo
 Clarissa Arroyo
 Patrick R. Ashley
 Ronald E. Asserson
 Madelyn Atlas
 Steven August
 Ernest Augustus Jr.
 Sharon P. Austin
 Mario Avvenire
 Elaine Ayers
 Howard B. Babich
 Roger Bachrach
 Jean Baden-Gillette
 John Baer
 Luz Baez
 Nancy Baez
 Mary Baez
 Iris Bailey
 Joann Baker
 Stuart C. Balavran
 Thomas Baldwin
 Steven Balicer
 Renee D. Bandison
 Norma Banks
 Yvette Banks
 Filippa Barcia
 Mary Bardy
 Lyle C. Baron
 Charles F. Baroo
 Beatrice L. Barr
 Ted Barra
 Edith Joan Barrow
 Theresa Barry
 Richard Barth
 Eileen Barkly
 Joseph F. Bartolomeo
 Nuris A. Barzey-Ramos
 Renee Bash
 Maxine Batie
 Earl Batts
 Marjorie J. Baum
 Malka Bazhan
 Leo Bazile
 Barry F. Bealick
 Kevin Beauchamp
 James A. Beavan
 Henry Beceiro
 Charles Beckinella
 Rose Beer
 Andrea Behrens
 Kevin Belin
 John W. Bell
 Denise Bell
 Claudia Bellavia
 Joanna Belt
 Lynn Bender
 Maureen E. Benson
 Barbara Berg
 Judith Berg
 David B. Berger
 Elaine S. Berk
 Harman R. Berkowitz
 Margarita Bermudez
 Michael Bermudez

Richard N. Bernard
 George J. Bernett
 Thomas J. Berrigan
 Belinda A. Berry
 Deborah Bershad
 Cathy Berzin
 John I. Besignano
 Lauren Besignano-Malone
 Vidyadhar A. Bhide
 Joyce E. Bialik
 Edward Birch
 Kamel P. Bishay
 Haripal Bisnath
 Robert Bleiberg
 Lenitt Bligen
 Phyllis Blonder
 Bernadette E. Bonanno
 Roseann B. Boodhoo
 Joan Borovoy-Haimowitz
 Carmine Borzelli
 Edward C. Bowen
 Ventrice E. Bowen
 Carol A. Bowers
 Renee A. Boyce
 Jacqueline Bradnock-Merveil
 Harry C. Bragg
 Barbara Bragg
 Safiya Brand
 Judy M. Brantley
 Edward Braverman
 Connie Bray
 Wayne M. Breowski
 Maureen E. Brennan
 Brian E. Brennan
 Martin R. Brenner
 Ner Bresler
 Patricia D. Briggs
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 Carol L. Brooks
 Christine Brooks-Oliver
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 Frederic Brown
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 Linda E. Brown
 Jacqueline L. Brown
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 Jean B. Brown
 Carol G. Brown
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 Ronald L. Bruno
 Yvrose Brutus-Larios
 Barbara Buchanan
 Hillary Buckland
 Antonette Buckley
 Anna M. Budd
 Joseph E. Burden
 Joe Burgess
 Mildred Burgos
 Cordelia Burns
 Christina Burnusigis
 Kenneth Burton
 Patricia Burton
 Joseph J. Bushe
 Joseph O. Buster
 Nicolae D. Busuioac
 Richard Buthorn
 Dorothy Byrd
 James G. Cacopardo
 Carren Cain-West
 Joan A. Calandrella
 Roxanne M. Callinescu
 Lionel Callender
 Eugene G. Calvert
 Diana Calvert
 Viija Campagne
 Milton G. Campbell
 Denise A. Campbell
 Barbara E. Canning
 Joan Capel
 William Capers Jr.
 Joseph Cappiello
 Ismael Cardona
 Linda Cardwell
 Francisco B. Carlos
 Henrietta Carpenter
 Phyllis S. Carr
 Blanca Carranza
 Dorothy M. Carriero-Smith
 Annette J. Carrington
 Belinda L. Carroll
 Patricia J. Caruso
 Frank J. Caruso
 Jose R. Casais
 Donald Casiere
 Joseph Castagna
 Gerard E. Castagna
 Jesus Castro
 Jean-Claude Ceus
 Edward Chan
 Eve Charlack
 Kenneth V. Charles
 James E. Chaska
 Judith Chawkins
 Johnnie Cheatham
 Tsang-Sheng Chen
 Gary Chestaro
 Lily S. Cheung
 Wendy Cheung
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 Irwin M. Cohen
 George Cohen
 Sheldon Cohn
 Glynton Coleman
 Patricia Coleman
 Rosalee Coleman
 Linda Coleman
 Mary Ann Coleman
 Gloria Colon
 Harry T. Colter
 Geraldine Colucci
 Raymond Conboy
 Raffaella Conetta-+
 Marlene Connor
 Mary Contessa
 Luanna Conyers-Ramcharan
 Margaret A. Cook
 Geraldine Cooper-Brown
 Oscar Copeland
 Maria I. Cordero
 Keith Cottman
 Henrietta Council
 Cynthia Cousins
 Andrew V. Covella
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 Christopher Covella
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 Ted L. Cox
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 Esther J. Crayton
 Samuel Crescente
 Lynne V. Crockwell
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 Marguerite Cronin
 Roxanne Cruz
 Margaret Crull
 Ophelia E. Crump
 Santo Cuccia
 Richard Cunningham
 Antonio (Tony) Curotto
 James Curry
 Gerald Czermendy
 Joseph A. D'Aiello
 Linda M. Dail
 Carol J. Dailey
 Marilyn Daitzman
 Maureen B. D'Amato
 Lyudmila Danchina
 Graciela Daniel-Molette
 Nadine M. Daniels
 Dolores J. Daniels
 Pranab Das
 Prabhat Das
 Pratik K. Dasgupta
 Elizabeth D'Aversa
 Frances David
 Noreen L. Davidson
 Lilybeth Davila
 William D. Davis
 Kathleen Davis
 Edward Davis
 Alan S. Davis
 Faith Davison
 Frank T. Dazzo
 Louis B. De Armas
 Rufina De Guzman
 Gary De Liberto
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 Ralph J. De Mattia
 Christine DeCell
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 Erlinda Duque
 Maritza Durio
 Shawn J. Dwyer
 Dorothy L. Dye
 Martha Easparro
 Joseph Cook
 Sandra Eddy
 Alphaeus Edwards
 Althea Edwards
 William Edlington
 Philip C. Eisman
 Loyola T. Eleutiza
 Jane P. Ellis
 Terrence J. Ellison
 Mohamed Sami El-Sharkawi
 Jeanette Emmarco
 Edward J. Emono.
 Lisa W. Eng
 Laura S. Engler
 Foster Ephraim
 Diane Epple
 Zinaida Epshteyn
 Elisabeth G. Epstein
 Linda D. Erickson
 Ernesto Escalera
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 Tillie A. Evans-Ingram
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 Richard Fink
 James Finley
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 Philip B. Flaum
 Virginia C. Flores
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 Sandra O. Flythe
 Rosemary C. Fodera
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 Harold F. Fowler
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 Woodman B. Franklin
 Marion E. Franklin
 Edna Fraylon
 Sandra E. Frazier
 James L. Freaney
 Karen Frederick
 Alan M. Freilicher
 Margaret Lange Freud
 Manuel Friedman
 Brian P. Friezel
 Willie L. Fuchs
 Sebele Fye-Banks
 Faith Gabel-Simmons
 Armand Gabriele
 Grace Gabrielsen
 Esther Gaines
 Adenago Galarza
 Renee B. Galkin
 Jayne M. Galletta
 Kenneth Gallo
 John Joseph Gambardella
 Araceli Gamboa
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 DeJares L. Gant
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 Jeffrey Goldstein
 Jeffrey Goldstein
 Tatyana Golovitsner
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 Raisa Gutman
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 Gregory L. Hackett
 Myra Hailey
 Phyllis Hailstock
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 Edmund Hall
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 Ushah Hamid
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 Helen Hanigan-Kosuda
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 Holly Hansen
 George T. Hansen
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 Gussie Harris
 Carol A. Harvey
 Margaret C. Harvey
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 Mildred B. Hawkins
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 Marjorie Helms
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 Gwendolyn L. Henderson
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 Barbara E. Herrman
 Aurea Hernandez
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 John P. Herron, Jr.
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 Fred J. Herschkowitz
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 Sheldon Herzberg
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 Diane L. Hildebrand
 Susan A. Hillon
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 Perry L. Hilton

Sylvia Hodge
 Marie Holland
 Andrew Hollander
 Donna Holm
 Elena Holmes
 Isabell Holmes
 Jacqueline Holmes-Boyd
 George Hoo
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 Patricia Horan
 Polly B. Horton
 Marion E. House
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 Hilary Hudson
 William Hundley
 Lynette Hunkins
 Barbara Hunt
 Dorothy Hunt
 Robert P. Hurley
 Edmond Husbands
 Lorraine Iachetta
 Lawrence M. Iannozzo
 Maria A. Ibanez
 Lawrence Ikenga
 Victoria Illery
 Richard Immediato
 Margaret Ingram
 Raffaele C. Irace
 Josue Irizarry
 Ana M. Irizarry-Ibrahim
 Amparo Irizarry-Meyers
 Camille Isaacs
 Mark Isacoff
 Mohammed Tazul Islam
 Rosalia S. Jackson
 Evelyn G. Jackson
 Janyce Jackson-Jones
 Daniel J. Jacobson
 Linda I. Jaffee
 Marvel A. James
 Elsie T. James
 Calvin James
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 Janice James
 Alonzo Jamison Jr.
 Merlin Jean
 Ina C. Jenkins
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 Daniel P. John
 Louis A. Johnson
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 Lorraine P. Johnson
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 Sharon A. Jones
 Wilhelmina Jones
 Elroy Jones
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 Carl Jones
 Roslyn Jones
 Flora Jones
 Shirley Jones
 Kevin P. Jordan
 Brenda Jordan
 Glenn M. Joseph
 Karol I. Joswick
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 Amy Kahn
 William Kain
 Melvin Kalmanowitz
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 Jeffrey J. Keller
 Margaret D. Kelly
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 Barbara A. Kemp
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 David Lam
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